

Justice Rajasheker Reddy takes oath as Lokayukta of Telangana

Hyderabad, April 28 Governor Jishnu Dev Varma administered the oath of office to Justice A. Rajasheker Reddy, Former Judge of the High Court, as Lokayukta of Telangana, and to B.S. Jag Jeevan Kumar, former district and sessions Judge, as Upa-Lokayukta of Telangana, at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan here on Monday. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar, Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy and others were present in the oath-taking ceremony.The State government has recently filled the posts of Chairman, Lokayukta and Upa-Lokayukta of the Telangana Human Rights Commission, which have been vacant for a long time. Retired High Court Judge A. Rajasekhar Reddy as Telangana Lokayukta, BS Jag Jeevan Kumar as Upa-Lokayukta,

Prime Minister Modi's Amaravati visit to boost development momentum

GNS News Agency, April 28

Amaravati: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has called for a successful reception of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his upcoming visit to the state on May 2, which marks the restart of work on Amaravati, the capital of Andhra Pradesh. Naidu emphasised that Amaravati represents the pride and self-respect of the Telugu people, urging political leaders to ensure no inconvenience is caused to the public attending the event.The Chief Minister also conducted a teleconference with NDA leaders on Monday to discuss the strategic planning for Modi's visit and the capital's development.Naidu outlined the importance of Amaravati, asserting that just as a family requires a good home, the state needs a proud capital to showcase its development. He explained that the central government's decentralised development strategy led to the establishment of educational institutions across North Andhra, Coastal Andhra, and Rayalaseema since 2014. This approach aims to ensure equal development across the state. Drawing comparisons with other states, he highlighted that significant income comes from Hyderabad (Telangana), Bengaluru (Karnataka), and Chennai (Tamil Nadu), and that a prosperous capital would similarly boost Andhra Pradesh's revenue.The Chief Minister addressed concerns over opposition groups attempting to mislead the public about the capital project. He reiterated that farmers voluntarily gave up their land for the capital, and in return, the government is developing residential and commercial plots for them. "We are involving farmers as stakeholders in this development," he stated. The establishment of industries would provide ample job opportunities for the youth, while enhanced infrastructure would strengthen the economy.However, Naidu warned of conspiratorial forces spreading misinformation, urging leaders to keep the public informed and focus on the government's achievements, ensuring that welfare and development programs continue.

Naidu highlighted the government's progress within

Stri Shakti Awards 2025 honours 50 inspiring women leaders

Hyderabad, April 28 The Telangana Chamber of Events Industry (TCEI) hosted the prestigious Stri Shakti Awards 2025 at HICC, Madhapur, celebrating the remarkable achievements of 50 women shaping the world of events, culture, and creative industries. In its 7th edition, the Stri Shakti Awards have become a platform to recognize and honour women who have significantly contributed to various sectors, including hospitality, creative arts, and social change.

Chief guest Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Women & Child Welfare, led the award ceremony and felicitated the inspiring women, who are creating transformative change in their fields. During her speech, she highlighted the Telangana Government's emphasis on empowering women, particularly through initiatives like the Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme, which aims to foster entrepreneurship and self-reliance among women.

Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, Special Chief Secretary, spoke on the significance of the Cultural and Creative Industries (CCI), which are not only engines of entrepreneurship and innovation but also platforms for women to lead as creators, curators, and changemakers. He emphasized that the Stri Shakti Awards play a vital role in inspiring more women to step into leadership and entrepreneurial roles in these dynamic sectors.Divya Devarajan, IAS, CEO of SERP (Society for Elimination of Rural Poverty), expressed her pride in partnering with TCEI to recognize grassroots women entrepreneurs and announced that SERP had engaged TCEI to train women as event managers, providing them with essential skills to succeed in the event industry.Balaram Babu, President of TCEI, and Vishala Reddy, Convenor of the Stri Shakti Awards and Founder of Millet Bank, shared their excitement as the platform contin-

Congress govt working tirelessly to serve people: Uttam

Nalgonda, April 28 : Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday said the Congress government was working tirelessly to serve the people of Telangana, while former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao was trying to mislead the people after ruining the State during his 10 years of rule.Speaking alongside Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and other leaders at the foundation-laying ceremony for the additional block at Nalgonda Collectorate, Uttam Kumar Reddy said KCR, who pushed Telangana into a deep financial crisis, was now attacking a Congress government that was working hard to repair the damage.

Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Congress government lost nearly five to six months because of elections after coming to power, but had not wasted a single day since. "Since taking oath as a Minister on December 7, 2023, I have not taken even a single day's leave. We are working round the clock to serve the people," he said. He pointed out that the BRS government spent Rs 1.81 lakh crore on irrigation projects, but failed to bring any significant increase in ayacut. "They spent Rs 27,000 crore on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Project and Rs 9,000 crore on the Sitarama



just 10 months of taking office, fulfilling several election promises. This includes funds for the Polavaram project, the sanctioning of a railway zone for Visakhapatnam, and an allocation of ₹11,400 crore by the central government for a steel plant. Job creation for youth is a key goal, with industrial parks under development and numerous welfare schemes in progress. These include support for fishermen, SC categorisation, Annaprasadam schemes, pensions, and the release of notifications for 16,347 teaching posts.Naidu further revealed plans for industrial parks across 42 constituencies in the state, aiming for a "One Family, One Entrepreneur" model. The development of the Rayalaseema steel plant and enhanced infrastructure in the region, including highways and airports connecting to Bengaluru and Hyderabad, would position it as a logistics hub. The government also plans to develop Visakhapatnam as the financial capital and Tirupati as a spiritual city. Investments from ArcelorMittal in Anapalli and Erain-Ko Ramayapatnam will bring significant capital to the region, with two steel plants set to create a new record in steel production."We are committed to developing Rayalaseema into a hub for defence, electronics, automotive, drones, satellite launching, and green energy sectors," Naidu stated.The teleconference included key leaders from TDP, Jana Sena, and BJP, all of whom discussed the strategic roadmap for the state's progress.



ues to grow. They announced plans to introduce an exclusive conference on the Creative Economy in future editions of the awards, further amplifying the role of women in the creative industries.Special guests were: Prakash Reddy (IPS), Telangana Tourism, Z. Hanumant Kondiba, IAS, Director, Department of Tourism, Surat Singh Malhotra, Honorary Consul, Kingdom of Lesotho, Prashanth Nadendla, President, HYSEA Prathibha Kunda, Chairperson, FICCI, Dr Kiranmai (Pemmasani) Pendyala, Chairperson & Board Member, United Way, Hyderabad, Harshita Atluri, Associate Vice President, Design at Phoenix Group, Sangeeta Varma, Director, Reana Social Initiatives Foundation 50 exceptional women being honoured in four categories: Over 250 women from across India applied for the Stri Shakti Awards 2025, with 50 exceptional women being honored in four categories: Stri Ratna, Stri Murti, Stri Shakti, and a special SHG Women segment.

Lift Irrigation Project, but not a single acre received irrigation water," he noted.He said the Kaleshwaram project, for which nearly Rs 1 lakh crore was spent, turned out to be a disaster. "The Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages collapsed during the BRS regime due to poor design, poor construction, and poor operation and maintenance. In contrast, Uttam Kumar Reddy said, the Congress government was committed to completing all pending irrigation projects in a transparent and honest manner. "We are determined to complete the Srisailem Left Bank Canal (SLBC) project, which was neglected by KCR and BRS for ten years. SLBC will become a reality under the Congress government," he assured.

He also accused KCR of betraying Telangana's farmers by agreeing to an unfair Krishna water allocation. "KCR agreed to just 299 TMCs of Krishna waters during bifurcation, causing huge injustice to Telangana. Today, the Congress government is fighting to secure Telangana's rightful share in Krishan River," he said.Highlighting the achievements of the Congress government, Uttam Kumar Reddy said Telangana was on track to achieve the highest paddy production in the country.

KLU - PH.D/PDF Admissions

Hyderabad, April 28 (NSS): Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KL deemed University) has invited applications from eligible candidates for admission into Ph.D (full/part time)/PDF (full time) programs at its Hyderabad and Vijayawada campuses.

Ph.D in Engineering, Sciences and Humanities; and PDF in Engineering and Sciences. 100 full time Fellowships are available.Tuition fee waiver will be given to deserving full time candidates based on interview performance and Research progress. Last date for applications is 15th June 2025. Entrance test on 28th June 2025 (at Hyderabad/VJA campuses). Interview date 7th July 2025. Candidates can submit online applications at <https://www.kluniversity.in/applyonline.2.aspx>. For details contact: 08645 - 350 200, Extn: 1793/1228/1016.

CM Revanth meets Jana Reddy to discuss Operation Kagar, peace talks proposal

Hyderabad, April 28 The Telangana government has initiated the process of taking steps towards the proposal of peace talks with Maoists.In this context, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy visited the home of senior Congress leader and former minister Jana Reddy on Monday to talk about Operation Kagar, potential peace talks, a ceasefire, and other related measures.This action follows a meeting between the Peace Talks Committee and the Chief Minister at his residence on Sunday, during which the committee encouraged him to initiate peace negotiations involving the Union government and the Maoists.

Jana Reddy brings valuable experience in facilitating peace talks and ceasefires, having served as Home Minister during earlier negotiations and playing a key role in those discussions. The Chief Minister noted that he would seek Jana Reddy's counsel regarding the ceasefire and peace talks. In the course of the meeting with Jana Reddy, Revanth Reddy had a phone conversation with senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh. It is known that Digvijay Singh was the party in-charge of the combined Andhra Pradesh during the peace talks with Maoists in the past. Meanwhile, members of the Peace Talks Committee are appreciating the Chief Minister's prompt reaction to Operation Kagar.

On the other hand, former chief minister and BRS President K Chandrashekar Rao also responded to the issue of Operation Kagar at the BRS Silver Jubilee Celebra-



tions held in Warangal, demanding that the BJP-led Central Government end its operation targeting Maoists and to initiate peace negotiations with left-wing extremists. KCR expressed that the operation, primarily concentrated in the neighboring state of Chhattisgarh, was unjust and not in line with moral principles, stating that there was "no dharma" in the actions taken. He urged the central government to cease the violence and suggested that the Maoists be invited for peace talks to hear their perspectives. If the Telangana government takes a decision on the peace talks and ceasefire demanded by the Maoists, it will also have an impact on the remaining state governments. If the remaining state governments also respond quickly, the issue of peace talks will come to the fore. As pressure is likely to increase on the central government, peace talks are likely to take place.

KCR's speech lacked content: CM Revanth

Hyderabad, April 28 In response to the remarks made by former Chief Minister and BRS President K Chandrashekar Rao during his party's silver jubilee meeting in Warangal, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy stated that KCR's speech lacked any real content and was merely an expression of his frustrations.During an informal conversation with reporters on Monday, the Chief Minister asserted that the initiatives introduced by the Congress government are not being executed in any state across India, emphasizing that this topic will certainly be addressed over the next six months. He questioned the rationale behind sending BRS legislators to the Assembly if they are treated like children.

Revanth Reddy pointed out, "The previous BRS government had a track record of not arranging buses for Rahul Gandhi's past meetings, whereas the current Congress administration ensured that RTC buses were available for the event and instructed officials to provide as many as needed. If the RTC generates revenue, would we refuse them?" "I am dedicated to my work. I assured Congress leader Addanki Dayakar that I would secure him the MLC position, and I followed through on that promise," said Revanth Reddy.There is no greater warrior than former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She stands alone in having defeated a country in history. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao speak only to serve their own interests," he observed."We have fallen short in promoting the initiatives undertaken by the Congress gov-



ernment. We need to increase our efforts and demonstrate to the people that Revanth Reddy will deliver on his commitments. Unlike KCR, he will not engage in projects that begin and end without resolution," stated the Chief Minister.

Revanth Reddy also mentioned that he shares a strong rapport with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, emphasizing that he doesn't need to justify this relationship to anyone. He mentioned that certain MLAs are merely lingering in Hyderabad, emphasizing that they ought to be present in their constituencies and should visit Hyderabad only when absolutely required. Revanth Reddy further stated, "We have optimized the bureaucracy and are retaining some officers out of necessity."

BRS will return to power in Telangana: KTR



Hyderabad, April 28 (NSS): BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday declared that it is the Bharat Rashtira Samithi that will once again return to power in Telangana, buoyed by the massive turnout at the party's Silver Jubilee Public Meeting in Warangal.Addressing party workers and leaders, KTR expressed heartfelt gratitude to the lakhs of people, who attended the meeting, demonstrating their unwavering faith in the leadership of K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR). He described the Silver Jubilee Meeting as one of the largest public gatherings in Indian political history and a clear testament to the BRS's enduring public strength. Despite traffic mismanagement by the State police machinery, KTR noted that lakhs still reached the venue, showcasing the determination of Telangana's people. He emphasized that the success of the event despite logistical hurdles was a matter of great pride.

KTR made it clear that the Warangal meeting was just the beginning. With KCR vowing to personally lead future movements, KTR called upon the party cadre to prepare

for intensified struggles against the Congress-led government's failures, injustices, and corruption. He urged the party ranks and media teams to expose the government's inefficiencies and counter opposition propaganda at every step, bringing clarity to the people.Later, in a teleconference with party leaders across the State, KTR thanked every individual, who contributed to the success of the event, especially leaders, public representatives, senior activists, and workers from Warangal district and Husnabad.

Nation's future is in hands of youth: Chandrababu

Amaravati, April 28 : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu pointed out that the nation's future is in the hands of the youth, urging them to grab the opportunities provided by the government. He advised young people not to be content with just securing jobs but to aspire to establish companies. He announced that the capital development works will be restarted on May 2 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He mentioned that Andhra Pradesh is being developed as an Innovation Valley and Amaravati will soon be the address for a Quantum Valley. CM Chandrababu Naidu participated in the 'V-Launch pad 2025 - Startup Expo' at VIT University, inaugurating the Mahatma Gandhi Block, V.V. Giri Block, and Durgabai Deshmukh Block on campus.

CM Chandrababu Naidu praised VIT Chairman Dr. G. Vishwanathan for his journey from humble beginnings to extraordinary success. Dr Vishwanathan had also spent 20 years in politics, working alongside leaders like Annadurai, Karunanidhi, MGR, and Jayalalitha.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

IMF trims forecast

In a global economy reeling from geopolitical uncertainty and protectionist shocks, India stands out as a relative beacon of stability. The International Monetary Fund (IMF), while lowering India's FY26 growth projection from 6.5 per cent to 6.2 per cent, still affirms its status as the world's fastest-growing major economy. At a time when global growth is expected to slip to 2.8 per cent, that is no small achievement. The downward revision is not rooted in domestic weakness, but in international turbulence — most notably, US President Donald Trump's sweeping tariff regime. The IMF's warnings are stark: with tariffs at century-high levels and trade tensions escalating, the global economy faces "major negative shocks." India may not be at the centre of this storm, but it is certainly navigating through its edges.

Encouragingly, India's rural consumption and moderate inflation (projected at 4.2 per cent) provide internal stability. However, this resilience must now be paired with strategic diplomacy. In a world where multilateral trade frameworks are faltering, it is increasingly important for countries — including India — to negotiate bilateral trade agreements to cushion the blow of shifting global trade currents. One-on-one deals offer agility, economic insulation and a hedge against erratic global policies. China, the US, and the EU are already recalibrating their trade ties. India too must widen its portfolio by courting new markets in Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America, while reinforcing strategic partnerships with major economies. This approach not only helps absorb external shocks but also positions India as a proactive player in a rapidly evolving global order. India's economic fundamentals remain strong. But in a world marked by tariff wars and strategic realignments, growth must be protected with firm negotiation. India should strive to shape a more resilient and cooperative global economic future.

BUDIDA GANESH PRESENTS COMPREHENSIVE DISTRICT REPORT AT STATE-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' UNION.



P.S.ASHOKAN"INDIAN CHRONICLE"MANETHANI APRIL, 28"Marikal, Narayanpet District:"During the two-day State-Level Extended Conference of the Agricultural Labourers' Union held in Marikal town, Peddapalli District Secretary Budida Ganesh delivered a detailed and impactful presentation outlining the district's ongoing initiatives, key challenges, and strategic priorities for the future. In his address, Ganesh underscored several pressing issues affecting rural workers and agricultural labourers in Peddapalli district. He called upon the government to take immediate action to: "Reinstate and expedite employment guarantee (MGNREGS) works across all villages to ensure livelihood security." "Release long-pending wage arrears to labourers without further delay." "Disburse pending salaries to Field Assistants and MGNREGS staff who remain unpaid for months." "Ensure timely distribution of 'Aatmaitya Bharosa' welfare support to eligible rural labourers in every village." "He further emphasized the need for structural and social reforms in rural welfare and made the following demands: "Comprehensive loan waivers for farmers burdened by debt." "Allocation of house sites and swift construction of Indiramma homes for eligible underprivileged families." "Issuance of ration cards to all deserving beneficiaries." "Sanctioning of pensions to the elderly, widows, and differently-abled individuals without bureaucratic delays." "Immediate rollout of the Mahalakshmi Scheme, ensuring direct financial assistance of Rs. 2,500 to qualified women across the district." "Ganesh made a fervent appeal to the State Committee to stand in solidarity with the struggles of marginalised communities in Peddapalli and lend robust support to their ongoing agitations. He reiterated that sustained collective action is essential to achieve long-overdue justice for the district's working class. "He was accompanied by District Representative Yelupula Suresh, who also took part in the deliberations.

MLC Kavitha demands halt to 'Operation Kagar'

Hyderabad, April 28 BRS MLC K. Kavitha today demanded an immediate halt to 'Operation Kagar' in Chhattisgarh, against Naxalites. She emphasised that the ideology of Naxalism must be addressed through dialogue, not destruction. Kavitha said, "Operation Kagar is being carried out in Chhattisgarh and our party firmly believes that the ideology of Naxalism should be eradicated only through dialogue and not by the use of force. India must find a political solution to Naxalism. I believe the Central government should immediately call for a ceasefire, invite the Naxalites for talks, and I am very confident that every party in this country will support this cause."

Backing the reported Maoist proposal for peace talks, BRS chief KCR had earlier asserted that eliminating youth and tribals in the name of anti-Maoist operations is against the spirit of democracy. She urged the Union government to immediately halt Operation Kagar and seek a political resolution instead of armed confrontation. Kavitha said BRS firmly believes that lasting peace can only be achieved through negotiation, not force

District Collector Jitesh V. Patil: special activity for the development of tribal handicrafts.



"Gullakari Foundation founder Sushmita Kaneri visited the district to inspect the Nayakpod Arts and Crafts Unit and discuss the development guidelines. "Indian Chronicle, April 27, Bhadrachalam" "On the orders of Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collector Jitesh V. Patil, a special activity is being undertaken for the development of tribal traditional handicrafts in the district. As part of this programme, Gullakari Foundation founder Smt Sushmita Kaneri visited Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Sunday. She first met District Collector Jitesh V. Patil and took guidelines on the steps to be taken for the development of tribal handicrafts. Subsequently, she inspected the Nayakpod Arts



and Crafts Unit set up in Madaram village of Mulakalapalli mandal. The traditional handicrafts being made by the tribal artists here were reviewed directly. After the unit inspection, Sushmita Kaneri had an analytical discussion with Collector Jitesh V. Patil on the steps to be taken for skill development, market linkage, branding of products and popularity of tribal artists. Officials said that the collector is organising these programmes in a planned manner to ensure that the tribal wealth of Bhadradi Kothagudem district is recognised at the global level. Venkayya APM (Farm), DRDO Office, Hari Krishna, JDM, ITDA, Anjan, Nayakpodu, Arts and Crafts, Madaram, participated in this programme.

YOUTH CONGRESS DEFENDS MINISTER SRIDHAR BABU, LASHES OUT AT PUTTA MADHU FOR MALICIOUS REMARKS



"PS Ashokan"INDIAN CHRONICLE"MANETHANI APRIL, 28" "In a forceful rebuttal, Youth Congress leaders Sadula Srikanth and Yerukala Praveen came to the staunch defense of Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, denouncing the recent statements made by former MLA Putta Madhu as baseless, politically motivated, and deeply irresponsible. Addressing the media at the Division Press Club on Sunday, the leaders expressed dismay over Putta Madhu's attempts to malign the reputation of a leader who has consistently championed the cause of public welfare and transparent governance.

They categorically condemned his comments regarding the Maneru bridge at Adavi Somanapalli, branding them as distortions of fact aimed at misleading the public. "They emphasized that the said bridge, constructed during the tenure of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao under a Congress-led administration, has deteriorated over time due to age and heavy vehicular load. They asserted that blaming Minister Sridhar Babu for its condition, while conveniently

ignoring a decade of inaction during Putta Madhu's own tenure, reeks of hypocrisy and political vendetta. "The leaders went on to expose the failures and alleged misdeeds of Putta Madhu's time in office, citing the collapse of the Odedu bridge as a glaring example of substandard construction and corruption. They claimed that threats and coercion of contractors for kickbacks under his leadership led to compromised infrastructure, which ultimately endangered public safety. Furthermore, they accused Putta Madhu and his family of fostering a climate of fear and intimidation in the Manthani constituency, engaging in rowdiness, extortion, and the filing of frivolous legal cases against innocent citizens. "In contrast, they lauded Minister Sridhar Babu's exemplary service and visionary leadership over the past 16 months.

They highlighted his efforts in securing substantial government funding for the development of schools, hospitals, roads, and other critical infrastructure, along with his commitment to accessible healthcare, support for higher education among underprivileged students, and initiatives to boost youth employment. "They remarked that Sridhar Babu, walking in the footsteps of the late Sripada Rao, has earned the trust and affection of the masses by staying connected with grassroots communities and addressing their concerns with compassion and urgency.

The leaders issued a stern warning to Putta Madhu, urging him to refrain from launching unwarranted attacks born out of envy and political desperation. "After being decisively rejected by the electorate in three out of four elections, it is time for introspection—not defamation," they concluded. Youth Congress representatives Laishetty Raju and Chandru Vijay, President of the Suryapalli Village Youth Congress, were also present at the press conference.

Music Meets Purpose: Songdev and MG Sewa release music video

Video features students from AICB Captain Chandan Lal Special School for the Blind,



Hyderabad: Songdev, in collaboration with MG Sewa, has released an original music video featuring specially-abled students from AICB Captain Chandan Lal Special School for the Blind, Gurgaon, under the MG Taal programme. This initiative underscores the company's commitment to encouraging and nurturing inclusive opportunities and celebrating extraordinary talent. The track, which children voiced, draws inspiration from the renowned bhajan 'Vaishnav Jan To'. This video marks the culmination of a year-long partnership with the school to nurture musical talent among the children through dedicated mentoring sessions by professional music artists. The mentoring sessions tuned their vocals and provided industry insights, career guidance, and inspiration to pursue their dreams with clarity and motivation. The track has been launched on over 150 streaming platforms, such as Spotify, Apple Music, JioSaavn, Amazon, Snapchat, Instagram, Meta, and Songdev TV. Udit Malhotra, Head-Marketing at JSW MG Motor India, emphasized, "Our partnership with Songdev represents a forward-thinking commitment to cultivating the next generation of musical innovators. By providing a prominent platform for emerging talent, we are nurturing careers and actively shaping a vibrant and inclusive future for the music industry. This mentorship program for these exceptionally gifted artists instils enduring confidence and empowers them to achieve sustained success. We deeply admire these young individuals' unwavering resilience and determined spirit and are privileged to contribute to their

evolving artistic journeys." Commenting on the initiative, Ananya Khanna, Head of Product at Songdev, said, "At Songdev, we believe that music can make everyone feel inclusive. We are glad to be able to contribute and help empower these exceptionally talented kids. We salute their unwavering spirit and find ourselves very fortunate to have created this beautiful melody with them. Giving talent the opportunity it deserves is what we do, and it will be our earnest endeavor to help the talent of these kids shine." JSW MG Motor India is recognized for its innovative approach and commitment to creating exciting experiences. Beyond automotive excellence, the brand has integrated music deeply into its identity, supporting and promoting various musical talents and initiatives through its MG Taal platform. Three seasons of MG Taal have been completed successfully, providing emerging talent with a platform and fostering a vibrant community of music lovers and creators. Link to song: <https://song.link/s/5npAnjytk4YQnzkMuf0JY>

Retired employee duped of Rs 3,18,148

Hyderabad, April 28 A 76-year-old retired employee from Hyderabad, saw an advertisement on Facebook regarding the purchase of Kerala Government Lottery tickets. When he clicked on the advertisement, it redirected him to a WhatsApp number. Later, the fraudster contacted him via WhatsApp, explaining that a lottery draw was taking place in Kerala, an event usually conducted annually by the Kerala Government, and persuaded the victim to purchase tickets. Trusting the fraudster, the victim bought three tickets (ticket numbers: KL 624831, KL 336699, and KL 784212). After a few days, the victim received a message claiming that two of his tickets had been picked and that he had won lottery amounts of Rs 5,00,000 and Rs 12,00,000, respectively. Subsequently, the fraudster, contacting the victim from different numbers, informed him that the prize money could not be deposited into his account unless he first paid certain charges such as refundable tax and other fees.

Rs. 2.5 crore worth 72 red sandalwood logs seized

"Seven red sandalwood smugglers arrested. "April 28 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator" "The Task Force police seized 72 red sandalwood logs, one lorry and one car in the Srikalahasti forest area of Tirupati district and arrested seven smugglers. Under the guidance of Task Force Head L. Subbarayudu, the Task Force SP P. Srinivas and RSI C. Vinod Kumar team conducted a combing operation in the Srikalahasti forest area on Sunday. The entry and exit points were checked and vehicles were checked at Dommarapalem on Pangur Main Road within the Katuru Forest Beat area. On Monday morning, a car and a lorry behind it stopped at a distance and the people in it tried to flee. With this, the Task Force police reached and sur-



rounded them. When the lorry was inspected, 72 red sandalwood logs were found in it. Their value was estimated to be around Rs. 2.5 crores. When the people in the vehicles were arrested, four of them were identified as residents of Tirupati district and three others as residents of Tamil Nadu. They were taken to the Tirupati Task Force Police Station along with the red sandalwood logs.

The goal is to eradicate Child Marriages in the Country by 2030.



"Religion of child marriages is handed over to religious elders. Awareness seminar for religious elders "Share NGO Warangal and Hanumakonda districts co-ordinator Thota Shirisha "Warangal Bureau, April 28 (Indian Chronicle): "Share NGO Warangal and Hanumakonda districts coordinator Thota Shirisha said that. by 2030, the aim is to eradicate child marriages in India. A large-scale awareness seminar was held at the Warangal Center for religious elders, delegating the responsibility of prevention of child marriages. Co-ordinator Thota Shirisha said that the Share NGO is working for the protection of child rights and child marriages in the district. She said that. launched an awareness campaign with religious elders for the prevention of child marriages. She praised the contribution and support received from religious elders. The Akshaya Trutiya has insured that there will be no child marriages in the district. In view of the Akshaya Trutiya and Brides maids, the Warangal Rural and Warangal Urban districts of the country, the largest civil society institutions in the country, are the biggest civic organizations of the country, through the Just Rights for Children (JRC) she said that it was a success and that all religious elders were supported. The company said it had decided to enroll them with campaigns against child marriages, hoping that child marriages would not take place without Pandit, Padri, pastor and priest. If you look at the positive results, this Akshaya trutiya has not had a single childhood wedding in the district. Today there are boards written by all the temples in the district. JRC aims to eradicate child marriages from the country by 2030 "It is note worthy that the 'child marriage-free Indian campaign' is being carried out.

The JRC is a network of more than 250 civic organizations working in 416 districts of the country to protect and preserve child rights through legal intervention. It has stopped more than two million child marriages in the past years. And over five billion people swore against child marriages. In 2023-2024, with its partnership organizations, Share NGO has stopped 46 child marriages in the districts in 2023-2024 by co-ordinating and coordinating with local administration. The company is based on the book "Wen Children Haw Children" by JRC founder Bhuvan Ri Bhuvan to achieve the goal of India by 2030. The tip point is suggested to end child marriages based on strategy. There is a lack of awareness against the harassment of children in the country. Yet many people do not know that this is a punitive offense under 2006 by the Child Marriage Prohibition Act (PCGA). Serving or serving in any form can be imprisoned or fined for up to two years. In addition to the wedding team, the girl's behalf, the caterer, the decorator, the meeti, the gardener, the band player, the wedding, the wedding, Pandit, can be fined as partners in the crime. That is why the most important class of marriages is that the religious elders have decided to be aware of the priesthood. Children's vehicle is explained to them that children are nothing but rape. In marital relationships, even sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of eighteen. Sexual intercourse from sexual crimes (Poxo) law is rape. Realizing this, scholars and Milies are not only supporting the campaign but also the voice of child marriages. If the priest's category denies child marriage, this crime can be removed from the country overnight. We drowned with their immense cooperation and support in this campaign. With this in mind, the garden head has expressed hope that the goal of liberation from child marriages (Warangal Rural, Warangal Urban) will be achieved soon.

30 kg of ganja seized in a lorry.

Three people were arrested along with the lorry. “The value of the seized ganja is Rs 15 lakhs; the value of the lorry is Rs 20 lakhs.”Indian Chronicle, April 27, Bhadrachalam”The STFB team of the Excise Police of Hyderabad seized 30 kg of ganja from a lorry in the parking lot of the ITC company in Bhadrachalam on Sunday. The lorry driver Shiva, who was carrying three pieces of cargo required for the ITC paper mill, picked up Arjun, who was bringing the ganja from Orissa, and brought it to Bhadrachalam. Upon receiving this information, Hyderabad STFB team SI Nagaraju and the remaining members inspected the lorry parked in the ITC parking yard, and 30 kg of ganja was seized, said SI Balaraju. Driver Shiva and Arjun, a ganja trader from Ganj Orissa, have been accused in the investigation of selling ganja in Bhadrachalam on several occasions. As usual, this time too, the STF police have caught the ganja brought in, and the ganja smugglers have been caught. The value of the seized ganja is Rs 15 lakhs, and the value of the seized lorry is estimated to be Rs 20 lakhs. Driver Shiva, Arjun, who brought the ganja, handed over the ganja and the lorry to another person, Prahlad, at the Bhadrachalam excise station, said SI Balaraju. Enforcement Director VV Kamalahasan Reddy and B Team In-charge Pradeep Rao congratulated the STF B Team for seizing the ganja.



EVERYONE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE CONSTITUTION..... AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MOVEMENT.“PUTTAMADUKAR

PS ASHOKAN“INDIAN CHRONICLE“MANTHANI APRIL,29””Putt Madhukar, the former MLA of Manthani, called on the party workers to work towards bringing light to the constituency, inspired by the efforts of former Chief Minister and BRS leader KCR, who worked for the development of all sections of society in Telangana. While heading to attend the BRS party's Silver Jubilee celebrations in Elkathurthy of Warangal district, he inaugurated the BRS flag in front of the Government College in Manthani town. He flagged off the vehicles, marking the start of the event. Speaking at the occasion, he emphasized that the TRS party, which was established for the cause of Telangana statehood, had achieved significant success in governance over the last ten years. He mentioned that the TRS, now BRS, has completed 24 years and is stepping into its 25th year, highlighting the large participation from the constituency in the grand public meeting scheduled in Warangal. He noted the enthusiasm of the people who are eager to hear KCR's words, hoping that they bring about a change in the constituency. “He further recalled that the movement had been inspired by great leaders, and it was through Article 3 of the Constitution written by Dr. Ambedkar that the state of Telangana was formed. However, he pointed out that in the constituency, the Constitution's provisions were not being implemented. He criticized the practice of giving 40 years of opportunity to a single family, claiming that while the family might prosper, the people did not benefit, and the constituency lacked even basic amenities. Despite the independence movement and the movement for a separate



state, he claimed that true freedom had not been realized in the constituency. “Madhukar asserted that during the 10 years of BRS governance, substantial development had been achieved, but the Congress party, after being in power for 16 months, had failed to make any significant impact. He further criticized the lack of any tangible benefits from the ministerial position for the constituency, calling it mere decoration. He emphasized that only by understanding the Constitution and the significance of the movement could the administration in the constituency be understood. He expressed hope that KCR's direction during the Silver Jubilee celebrations would benefit the constituency. Despite several obstacles, including the removal of posters and wall writings, he assured that people and supporters were voluntarily heading to the public meeting.

JUNE MONTH SRIVARI SEVA ONLINE QUOTA TO RELEASE ON APRIL 30””•SENIOR SEVAKS AS "GROUP LEADERS"

“April 28, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator”The online quota for the month of June in Srivari Seva for different formats of Sevas is set to release on April 30. “The quota release includes, General Srivari Seva for both Tirumala and Tirupati at 11am, Navaneetha Seva exclusively for Women at 12noon, Parakamani Seva exclusively for Men at 1pm and the new one Group Leader Seva will be at 2pm. “Following the instructions of the CM of AP N Chandrababu Naidu to enhance the quality of service in Srivari Seva with an aim to provide better services to the multitude of pilgrims visiting Tirumala and Tirupati, a team of officials have visited Sri Satya Sai Seva Organisation(SSSSO)-Puttaparthi, Isha Foundation-Coimbatore and Art of Living-Bengaluru. “After the Study tour, the TTD mandarins have brought several reforms in Srivari Seva and in the first phase a few will be included while the new application by JIO is launched on April 30. Several other reforms will be included in the coming releases in a phased manner. “From the past two years, Sevaks who retired from various government institutions have been rendering services as Senior Sevaks. Those who are aged between 45years to 70years, shall apply under this category and these Senior Sevaks henceforth will be referred to as Group Leaders and they shall offer their services for a period of 15days or one month or upto three months by se-



lecting the option online of their choice. “These Group Leaders will play a vital role in streamlining the Srivari Sevaks by discharging the services of Supervision, taking attendance of Srivari Sevaks of the respective points allotted to them and finally evaluating the services of Sevaks as Excellent, Good and Average. “Similarly, a separate quota is opening up for General category of Male Sevaks, with a minimum qualification of Tenth Standard, to book online for Parakamani Seva also.

Government fall begins with the Silver Jublie Meeting “



“Thanks to the farmers who volunteered to manage the Meeting”-“It is worse that the police are not in charge of managing the meeting premises” “Motorists' difficulties with RTO checks at every step” “Congress leaders who have conspired to block the management of the meeting “ MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy. “Hanumakonda, April 28; (Indian Chronicle) :”

“TRS MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, former MLAs Dasam Vinay Bhaskar and Peddi Sudarshan Reddy said that.. the Congress government has begun to fall down with the silver jublie meeting held yesterday. A press conference was held at the TRS party office in Hanumakonda district center on Monday. On this occasion “TRS district presidents and former MLA Das...

Car overturns on PVNR Flyover

Hyderabad, April 28 (NSS): A road accident occurred on the PVNR Flyover, under the Attapur Police Station limits in Hyderabad, when two cars collided at Pillar Number 280 on the Mehdiapatnam-Aramghar Road.

One of the cars overturned in the crash, leaving the driver seriously injured. Police promptly transferred the injured driver to the hospital for treatment

Verification for Indiramma houses should be completed quickly.””-The list of eligible persons should be prepared for presentation.

“K. Mahipal“Indian Chronicle“Mulugu, April 29 : “District Collector Divakara T.S. said that the verification process for the selection of Indiramma house beneficiaries should be completed quickly. “A meeting was held with the mandal-level verification officers appointed for the selection of Indiramma house beneficiaries implemented by the state government at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Monday. Addressing the verification officers at this event, the District Collector said that four officers have been appointed as verification officers in each mandal. He said that so far, the selection of Indiramma house beneficiaries in the villages has been examined by the MPDOs along with the Indiramma committee members, and now the verification officers will examine it at the mandal level. He said that the details submitted by the panchayat secretaries are under examination at the state level. He said that the Indiramma Committee members and officials will examine the list of eligible persons in the three categories. They should register their details. He said that ration card is not mandatory for this scheme and the government guidelines on this have not been issued yet. He said that it is enough if the beneficiaries are BPL. The verification officials should follow the government guidelines in selecting the beneficiaries. The verification officials should enter the details of those in the verification list. If there are any doubts, they should enter them in the remarks column. The verification process should be completed within the deadline. If the verification officials have any doubts, they should ask the MPDO and Housing PD and resolve them. When they go to the field level for verification, they should also inquire about the people around them whether they are eligible or not, and all the details should be recorded correctly. They should take precautions so that no mistakes are made in the verification. The officials should carry out the verification process with commitment as per the government guidelines. The most destitute and homeless people eligible for the Indiramma



Indlu scheme should be selected. He said that applications for Indiramma Indlu have been received in the public administration. He said that the applications received have been divided into three categories (lists). In this, it has been divided into L-1 category, those with a house plot, L-2 category, those without a house plot and a house, and L-3 category, those who are not eligible. The final list for the Indiramma Indlu scheme should be completed after examining the qualifications of the applicants. After the verification process is completed, steps should be taken to display the list of eligible people in the Gram Panchayat offices. The most destitute people should be selected in the first stage for the Indiramma Indlu scheme. As part of the beneficiary selection process for the Indiramma Indlu scheme, the relevant authorities should conduct the verification in a transparent manner. Housing Department PD Surya Narayana, APD Venkata Narayana, MPDOs, MPOs, Gram Panchayat Special Officers, Gram Panchayat Secretaries, EDM Devender, concerned officials and others participated in this program.

GRAND FELICITATION CEREMONY HELD AT JAMEEL AHMED’S RESIDENCE; PROMINENT LEADERS FROM MANTHANI AND MINORITY COMMUNITY MARK THEIR PRESENCE.””



P.S.ASHOKAN“INDIAN CHRONICLE“MANTHANI APRIL,29””A prestigious tea reception was organized today at the residence of Telangana Congress Minority Cell State Secretary Mr. Jameel Ahmed. “The event witnessed the distinguished presence of Manthani Campaign Committee Chairman Mr. Vodnala Srinivas and Manthani Town

Youth Congress President Mr. Pentari Raju. “As part of the celebrations, newly elected President of the Manthani Arya Vaishya Sangham, Mr. Ellanki Vamshidhar, and Honorary President Mr. Vollala Satyanarayana were felicitated with grandeur and high regard. “The felicitation was led by senior minority leaders Mr. Khaja Mohiuddin (Malaria Babu Bhai), Mr. Sardar Khan, Mr. Md. Wasiuddin, and Mr. Md. Vali, who extended their heartfelt congratulations.”

“Adding further significance to the occasion, Manthani Mandal Minority President Mr. Aleem Khan, Town Minority President Mr. Ejaz, and key leaders including Mr. Mahboob, Mr. Hanif, Mr. Md. Mujeeb, Mr. Afroz, along with Youth Congress and NSUI representatives, graced the gathering. “Notably, international award recipient Mr. Md. Khaja Moinuddin was also present, enhancing the prestige of the event. “The ceremony reflected a spirit of unity, mutual respect, and shared commitment towards the growth and harmony of the community. “[7:04 pm, 28/4/2025] +91 96667 99952: ****

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu was shocked by Pakala accident.”



“As per the orders of the CMO, District Collector Dr. Venkateswar went to the scene of the accident and inspected the accident “April 28, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator “Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep shock over the death of five people in a horrific road accident that took place at Thotapalli in Pakala mandal in Tirupati district. As per the orders of the



CMO, he rushed to the scene of the accident along with District SP Harsha Vardhan Raju and inspected the accident, visited the injured who are undergoing treatment at SWIMS Hospital and instructed the District Collector to provide better medical treatment.

The government will and will stand by the affected families and reassured the injured.

Strict action should be taken against individuals engaged in unsocial activities such as cockfighting, gambling, and betting, in accordance with the law.

“Strong measures should be taken to prevent road accidents.”District SP Rohit Raju IPS visited Dammapeta Police Station. “RANJITH NAIK BHUKYA“INDIAN CHRONICLE, BHADRACHALAM, 28 APRIL. “Today, District SP Rohit Raju IPS visited Dammapeta Police Station. On this occasion, he inspected the surroundings of the police station. Later, he made several suggestions to the police officers and staff present there. He suggested that a special vigil should be set up against people involved in unsocial activities like cockfighting, gambling, and betting, and strict action should be taken against those caught as per the law. He said that vigilance should be increased on the movements of interstate gangs of thieves and efforts should be made to curb thefts. He suggested that places where road accidents occur most within the police station limits should be identified and preventive measures should be taken there. He said that everyone should work for the speedy resolution of pending cases. The officers working at the police station asked about the problems of the staff. He said that programs should be taken up to explain to the public the frauds being committed by



cybercriminals from time to time. He said that the people of the district should be alerted from time to time and a wide campaign should be carried out to prevent them from falling victim to cybercrimes. Aswaraopet CI Nagaraju Reddy, Dhammapeta SI Sai Kishore Reddy, and staff participated in this program.

Samskara Shibiram is very useful for students:DSP Bali Reddy.



““Summer camp received over whelmed response ““April 28, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator““The Sanskara Shibiram 2025 Summer Camp organized by Tirupati Ramakrishna Mission Ashram was inaugurated at Vivekananda Sabhangana on Monday. Speaking as the chief guest for the program, DSP G. Bali Reddy of Red Sanders Task Force said that concentration is needed among students and that yoga should be done for that. He said that personality development can be achieved through training programs during the summer vacations. Through these, they can increase the knowledge to solve some problems on their own. He cited moral stories saying that we should have the nature of thinking that whatever happens, it is for our good. Dr. N. Satyanarayana Raju, Director of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Sri Venkateswara Vidyalyaya, said



that many students who attended these camps have gone to higher levels. He praised Ramakrishna Mission for trying to impart the best values to the students. He said that people should read Ramakrishna Mission books and increase their knowledge. Speaking at the program, Ramakrishna Mission Secretary Swami Sukritananda Ji Maharaj said that the mission was started on May 1, 1897. He said that Swami Vivekananda inspired the youth. He said that summer camps have been organized since 2015. He reminded that Swami Vivekananda said that India should be in the place of the Guru. He said that the Vedas are about our culture. He said that goals should be achieved through concentration. Ramakrishna Mission Swamiji, students participating in the summer camp and their parents participated in this program.

Rotary Club Jubilee Hills donates 50 wheel chairs to Railway hospital, Lallaguda

Hyderabad, April 28 Rotary Club of Jubilee Hills donated 50 wheel chairs to the Central Hospital, Lallaguda, Secunderabad today as part of its CSR initiative of Shar projects in the presence of SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain, who was the chief guest on the occasion.

Dr Nirmala Rajaram, Principal Chief Medical Director, Lokesh Vishnoi, Divisional Railway Manager, Hyderabad Division, Dr I. Sivanaga Prasad, Medical Director, SCR and other Railway officials were present. Sharath Choudary, District Governor, Dr Raam Prasad, District Governor-Elect, Balakoti Reddy, president 3150 Rotary Club Jubilee Hills Branch and other Rotary Club members were also present on the occasion. The Central Hospital located at Lallaguda, Secunderabad catering to the medical needs of serving/

retired Railway employees, their wards and dependents residing in and around Secunderabad area and also caters to the medical needs of patients coming for treatment from across all the divisions viz., Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur and Nanded. Speaking on the occasion, Arun Kumar Jain stated as we all know Rotary Club is always in the forefront in organizing various social welfare activities through its CSR initiatives for the benefit of public, especially the needy. In line with the same, the gesture of Rotary Club in donating 50 Wheel Chairs to the Central Hospital, Lallaguda is appreciable. This act will immensely help in serving the patients attending the Railway Hospital, Secunderabad.Earlier, Sharath Choudary, District Governor, Rotary International District 3150 also spoke about the various initiatives taken up by their organization.

ED conducts raids on homes of Bhoodan land scam accused

Hyderabad, April 28 The ED raids are once again creating a stir in Hyderabad. The ED is conducting searches in the Bhoodan Land case. Inspections have also been carried out in the Maheshwaram land case. The ED officials conducted searches in the houses of Munawar Khan and Qadir Unnisa in the old city as well as Sarfan and Sukkur. Munawar Khan and Qadir Unnisa developed an illegal layout and sold the Bhoodan lands. It is known that IAS officer Amay Kumar was questioned by the ED officials in the same case earlier.

There is about 103 acres of land in survey numbers 181 and 182 in Nagaram of Maheshwaram mandal from Rangareddy district. However, a dispute has been going on over this land for some time now. It seems that about 50 acres of land has been encroached upon. After handing over this 50 acres of land to private individuals, they have divided it into plots and are currently selling it. However, this matter is in the court's jurisdiction. With this, the court has stayed the transactions related to those lands.However, ED officials have found that a large amount of money has changed hands in this matter. After a vigilance inquiry was conducted on this matter following the encroachment of the 50 acres of land, the ED officials are continuing the investigation based on that report. In the Bhoodan land case, the ED officials have issued notices to Amay Kumar, who previously served as the Ranga Reddy district Collector and

have questioned him several times. In addition, the ED also issued notices to the then MLAs and questioned them. After a long gap, the ED is again acting aggressively on the Bhoodan land case. However, the ED officials have also focused on those, who bought plots and sold them to real estate companies and those, who bought Bhoodan lands and sold them to others. As part of this, searches are currently being conducted in the old city. The ED officials have conducted searches in Yakatpura and Santoshnagar areas. The searches are mainly being conducted in the residences of Munawar Khan, Qadir Unnisa, and Sarfan in the old city.It can be said the role of Qadir Unnisa is very crucial in this case. Qadir Unnisa's father had previously donated this 50 acres of land to the Bhoodan Board. In 2021, the same Khadeer Unnisa came and filed a petition for the transfer of the 50 acres by claiming to be the heir of her father. Immediately, the revenue officials registered 50 acres of land in the name of Khadeer Unnisa. The then district Collector, Amay Kumar, along with lower-level staff, hurriedly transferred the 50 acres of land in the name of Khadeer Unnisa without conducting any investigation. The ED officials have identified this matter. In this context, Khadeer Unnisa and some others divided the 50 acres of land into plots and sold it to many people. Some Public representatives have also bought lands in this illegal layout. It seems that IAS and IPS have also bought lands.

Operation Kagar should be cancelled immediately..

“– Peace talks with the Maoist party should be held“–

Demand of the Coordination Committee of Tribal, Dalit, Tribal and Public Associations

“K. Mahipal”Indian Chronicle “Mulugu, April 29”The leaders of the Coordination Committee of Tribal, Dalit, Tribal and Public Associations have demanded that the Central Government, along with the Chhattisgarh Government, has put the lives of 3 crore tribals in danger and the military operations of Operation Kagar should be cancelled immediately. On Monday, leaders of tribal, tribal, Dalit and public associations met at the Royal Plaza in Mulugu under the chairmanship of Tudumhebbba State President Vattam Upendar. Speaking on the occasion, they said that the Central Government, along with the Chhattisgarh Government, is terrorizing the lives of tribals and that unarmed tribals, women and children are losing their lives due to the military operations of Kagar. They said that people there are facing difficulties in leading a normal life, and that they are dying because they cannot collect drinking water. They said that the central and state governments do not understand their living conditions and are providing irrigation water, drinking water, food and medical facilities to the people in the war-torn areas of the country. But the governments here are acting in a way that they are killing themselves by taking away food, water and medical facilities without even observing the minimum dharma towards the tribals, they said that it is against democracy. The leaders demanded that the central government immediately stop the military operation in Kagar and immediately hold talks with the Maoist party to establish development in the tribal area. On this occasion, they decided to organize a peace rally in Mulugu district center on the 30th of this month. Youth, women, public, caste and rights groups have been called upon to



voluntarily participate in the peace rally to be organized demanding an end to inhumane acts against the tribals and the withdrawal of central forces. The program was attended by Thudum Deb National Convener Ramanala Lakshmaiah, Gor Sabha National President Jai Singh Rathod, Thudum Deb State General Secretary Kabbaka Shravan Kumar, Soma Ramamurthy, MRPS National Leaders Guggilla Peeraiah, Tribal Social Awareness Forum State President Guguloth Kishan Naik, Gor Sabha State President Mangilal Naik, Mulugu District Sadhana Samiti President Munjala Bhikshapati, Tribal Democratic Federation State President Uday Singh, Thudum Deb State Vice President Gumpidi Venkateswarlu, LHPS State General Secretary Sammayya Rathod, MRPS National Leaders Nemali Narsayiah, leaders of various associations Jannu Ravi, Arem Lachu Patel, Koppula Ravi, Ipa Sunil, Vattam Kannaiah, Chinta Krishna, Puneem Balakrishna, Vattam Janardhan, Duggarap Veerabhadram and others participated. [8:03 pm, 28/4/2025] +91 98485 52224:

TPCC chief terms BRS silver jubilee meeting as utter flop

Hyderabad, April 28 Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud criticised the BRS silver jubilee meeting held in Elkatthurthy, labeling it a complete failure.During a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Monday, the TPCC chief took issue with BRS President and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao for blaming the Congress party as the antagonist in the Telangana State narrative.He stated, "KCR is, in fact, the primary and sole antagonist of Telangana. He assumed the role of Chief Minister due to the Congress party's blessings, and now, witnessing the successes of the Congress administration, he appears to be feeling uneasy."He further challenged KCR to engage in a debate regarding the governance of the Congress over a 15-month period compared to the 10 years of BRS rule. Mahesh Kumar Goud remarked, "You can choose the time and place for the debate—wherever suits you. I wonder if KCR has the courage to step

outside his farmhouse."He questioned who owns the farmhouses in Janwada, stating that the KCR family has amassed unprecedented wealth during the BRS administration. "The people of Telangana will not forget KCR's chaotic governance, and the KCR era has come to an end in the State," said Mahesh Kumar Goud.

The TPCC President went on to claim that there were more bottles of whiskey than attendees at the BRS Silver Jubilee meeting and noted the absence of women at the event.He cautioned that referring to the Gandhi family, who have made significant sacrifices for the nation, as fake Gandhis reflects the peak of KCR's reckless actions, stressing that KCR will face appropriate consequences."Criticism from KCR towards the BJP was superficial, much like striking it with a peacock feather. His remarks once again demonstrated that the BJP and BRS are essentially the same," Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted.

SCR GM reviews Security & Safety of train operations

Hyderabad, April 28 (SCR General Manager Arun Kumar Jain held a detailed review meeting on Security & Safety of train operations on the zone. Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR participated in the meeting along with all the Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) of all six Divisions i.e. Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur and Nanded joined the review meeting held through video conference on Monday at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.

Arun Kumar Jain conducted a detailed review of the Security & Safety of train operations across the zone. He instructed the officials to boost the Security at the Railway Stations & Trains with the deployment of security personnel i.e., Railway Protection Force and Govt. Railway Police wherever necessary for the safety of rail passengers. He also stressed upon the importance of installation of CCTVs

Premender mocks KCR’s public meeting held in Warangal

Hyderabad, April 28 : BJP State general secretary Gujjjala Premender Reddy today said a meeting of their party's State office-bearers and district presidents would be organized under the chairmanship of Union Minister and BJP Telangana State president G. Kishan Reddy today.He said BJP National General Secretary Sunil Bansal would attend the meeting as the chief guest. He added that in this meeting, along with the BJP's organisation's program, the current political situation in the State would be discussed.Commenting on former CM KCR's public meeting held in Warangal on Sunday, he mocked that organizing a meeting at a cost of crores of rupees, speaking indiscriminately in the meeting, leading to a discussion among the people, and appearing before the people with meetings once a year was the KCR model and the farmhouse model.

He also mocked that the BRS leaders were deluded that they had achieved success with meetings in the past and added that they were still wandering in the same illusion. He alleged that during the BRS regime, many mistakes were made such as phone tapping scam, lifting of

dharma chowk, and illegal arrests of those, who questioned the government's failures. Reddy said the Warangal's public meeting was the beginning of the internal turmoil that has started in the TRS.He claimed that the Central government had allocated crores of rupees for the development of Telangana and the united Warangal district and added that hundreds of crores of rupees had been released under the Smart City, Amrit City and Heritage City projects, the construction of the Rayagiri-Warangal National Highway, the construction of the National Highway from Kaleshwaram to Pileru, the construction of the Warangal Ring Road, the construction of the Mulugu Tribal University, Textile Park and Kazipet Railway Coach Factory."The Narendra Modi government has worked to bring UNESCO recognition to the Ramappa Temple. Under the Tourism Spiritual Circuit, funds have been allocated and developed for Ramappa, Laknavaram, Medaram, Bogatha Falls, Mallur Temple, Sammakka-Sarakka Temples.The central government has allocated hundreds of crores of rupees for the development of Warangal city through the Smart City, Amrit City and Heritage City projects," he claimed.

Summer camps to be held from May 1 to June 6 across Telangana State

Hyderabad, April 28 Sports Authority Chairman K Shivsena Reddy has informed that summer sports and training camps will be organised from May 1 to June 6 at all the stadiums in the twin cities and 33 districts in Telangana.The events are held in the collaboration with the Telangana Sports Authority. To mark the occasion, Chairman K Shivsena Reddy, along with the Government Sports Advisor AP Jitender Reddy and Vice Chairman and Managing Director Soni Baladevi, participated in the poster release and sports equipment distribution programme here on Monday. Speaking on the occasion, Shivsena Reddy said that as per the ideas of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Sports

Authority is making arrangements so that a large number of youth, athletes and students participate in this summer sports training camps. "

These summer camps are being organised in a way that students are interested in sports and that parents are also attracted to the sports grounds along with the students. Moreover, free training in yoga and Zumba dance will be provided to the parents of the students," he said.Shivsena Reddy said the training is being provided in more sports than before and the summer training camps, which were previously limited to district centers, will also be held in several urban centers this time.

IESA announces Ruchir Dixit as Chairperson for FY 2025-26 term

Hyderabad, April 28 The India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA), the premier industry body representing the ESDM sector in India, announced the new Executive Council and appointment of Ruchir Dixit as the Chairperson for the FY2025- 26 term. The announcement was made today at the IESA Annual Members Meeting, at Taj West End, Bengaluru.Dixit brings over 30 years of global leadership experience in both semiconductor and electronic design automation (EDA) industry. He currently serves

as the Vice President and Country Manager at Siemens EDA India.Prior to his new role as Chairperson, Dixit was Vice Chairman of IESA and played pivotal role in shaping the IESA community. With broad experience across product engineering, strategic alliances and technology innovation, Ruchir Dixit previously served in senior leadership positions at Mentor Graphics. Ruchir Dixit is an alumnus of Wayne State University, Michigan and Haas School of Business at University of Berkeley.

MINISTER DUDDILLA SRIDHAR BABU EXTENDS SUPPORT TO THE POOR BY SANCTIONING 4 LAKH FOR MEDICAL AID.

““P.S.ASHOKAN”INDIAN CHRONICLE“MANTHANI APRIL,29”“Telangana State Minister for IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, sanctioned financial assistance of ₹4,00,000 through the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to Smt. Panati Himabindu, a resident of Surayapalli village, Manthani Mandal, Manthani Constituency.“

“Smt. Himabindu, wife of Sri Chandupatla Ratnakar Reddy, is undergoing medical treatment at MNJ Hospital. Upon receiving a request for support, Minister Sridhar Babu facilitated the immediate sanction of ₹4 lakh towards her treatment expenses.““



Midterm Urology Workshop ‘STONE 360’: 19 patients operated on for kidney stone removal at AIIMS-Bathinda free of cost



GNS News Agency, April 28

Dr Kawaljit Singh Kaura, Head of the Department of Urology and Kidney Transplantation, AIIMS-Bathinda, led the conference. The Urological Society of India recognised him and his team for their efforts. Dr Kawaljit Singh Kaura, Head of the Department of Urology and Kidney Transplantation, AIIMS-Bathinda, led the conference. The Urological Society of India recognised him and his team for their efforts. The North Zone Chapter of the Urological Society of India (NZUSI) held its two-day midterm workshop, ‘STONE 360’, at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bathinda on April 19-20, with the focus on clinical train-

ing, academic exchange and free surgical treatment.

Nineteen patients received free surgeries for kidney stone removal using minimally invasive procedures during the workshop, which also featured academic paper presentations and a quiz competition for students. Inaugurating the workshop, Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria said, “AIIMS-Bathinda is making efforts to provide healthcare to poor patients.” He advised the audience to “maintain a healthy lifestyle to prevent kidney problems, including kidney stones.”

Addressing the gathering as the guest of honour, Advisor to the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) Dr Sandeep Singh Kaura said, “Continuous skill development in healthcare is essential. Initiatives like STONE 360 support the vision of a self-reliant India by bridging clinical practice with community health.” Dr Kawaljit Singh Kaura, Head of the Department of Urology and Kidney Transplantation, AIIMS-Bathinda, led the conference. The Urological Society of India recognised him and his team for their efforts. Dignitaries present included Director, AIIMS-Bathinda Prof Meenu Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Baba Farid University Prof Rajiv Sood, NZUSI president Dr AK Sanwal, secretary Dr Rishi Nayyar and Dean Academics Dr Akhilesh Pathak.

AAP govt directs ETOs to conduct four raids every month; SAD and BJP say ‘tax terrorism’

GNS News Agency, April 28

Opposition Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) and BJP on Tuesday alleged that the AAP government had directed 240 Excise and Taxation Officers (ETOs) to conduct four raids each month, targeting penalties of Rs 8 lakh per case, and called it a “goonda tax” and “tax terrorism” to “loot” small and medium traders. The former allies warned to hold separate “state-wide agitation against the government if the directive hat not been rolled back”.

The SAD, meanwhile, appealed to traders to gather in Ludhiana West during the ongoing by-election campaign. Addressing a press conference in Amritsar, senior SAD leader NK Sharma said, “We will not let Punjab traders be subjected to tax terrorism and be treated as criminals. SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal will lead the protest dharnas.” Sharma alleged, “The AAP government had directed 240 ETOs to conduct four raids each month, targeting penalties of Rs 8 lakh per case. This means 1,200 raids and a total annual collection exceeding Rs 1,100 crore. How can anyone do business in Punjab in such a situation?”

In Chandigarh, Punjab BJP General Secretary Anil Sareen alleged that the AAP government was using the taxation department as a “tool for extortion”, and warned, “If the government does not roll back this directive and stops forcibly extorting traders, the BJP will launch a statewide agitation.” “This will undoubtedly lead to arbitrary actions by officials and promote a culture of Inspector Raj and open cor-



ruption. The government has unofficially instructed officers to yield fines through the inspections. This isn’t merely harassment of traders, but a direct robbery of their hard-earned money,” Sareen said. Demanding the revival of the 2014 Rahat scheme introduced by then deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal, Sharma said, “The scheme ensured the dignity of traders and ended Inspector Raj.” Accusing Delhi AAP leadership of the current situation in Punjab, Sharma said, “The AAP’s loss in the Delhi Assembly elections was a black day for Punjab. Their central leadership is now milking Punjab dry.” Referring to “economic losses” due to the closure of the Shambhu border, Sareen criticised the state government for “failing to understand the challenges of a border state, choosing instead to intimidate the business community”.

Stalemate outside SSC: No breakthrough in talks as Mamata & Bratya make appeal

GNS News Agency, April 28

The stalemate between the state government and the protesting school employees, who were terminated from services by the Supreme Court, continued on Tuesday night. There was no breakthrough in the talks between the officials of the School Service Commission and a six-member delegation of the teachers as hundreds of protesters continued their gherao of the West Bengal School Service Commission office in Salt Lake. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urged them to return to their duty, assuring that they would continue to get their salaries.

At an administrative review meeting in Paschim Medinipur district, the chief minister, addressing the protesting teachers, said: “Why are you sitting under the scorching sun? Go back to school. Take classes peacefully. You don’t have to worry about your salary. Those who are inciting you will not pay you. The government will pay your salary.” Assuring that the government will file a review petition in the Supreme Court for reinstatement of their jobs, Banerjee asked them not to press for the release of the “tainted” and “untainted” list of candidates. On April 3, the top court invalidated the appointment of 25,753 teachers and staffers at state-run and aided schools, calling the entire selection process “vitiated and tainted”. The state government had earlier promised to release the list of “tainted” and “untainted” candidates of the 2016 SSC examination by April 21 (Monday) but failed to do so. “I have spoken to them (protesting teachers) at least 10 times since yesterday evening. If I was in Kolkata, I could have settled it in a second. Some people are adamant on getting the list of tainted and untainted published. Why are you stepping into all these? You don’t need to see who is eligible and who is not eligible. The state government is there to see that. There are courts. We will see what the court says. You work, you need to see whether you have a job or not. You need to see whether you are getting paid or not,” she said. “You can trust us on this. Trust those who have given back jobs. Don’t trust those who are taking away jobs... A few people are sitting in Bengal, just to take away jobs. They don’t do the people’s work. They just go to courts and file PILs (Public Interest Litigation). The court is not responsible for this. We give jobs, and they take it away,” the CM said without taking names of the Opposition parties. In Kolkata, state Education Minister Bratya Basu clarified that the government after consulting with legal experts, decided against publishing the list of “tainted” and “untainted” candidates, saying it would amount to “contempt of court”. “The state government is with the agitating teachers. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has assured all sorts of help. We are working in the interest of those who lost their jobs, and will continue to do so,” he said. “We are filing a review petition. So, I request the agitating teachers not to act in any way that may weaken our petition, violate the Supreme Court’s order, or result in contempt of court by them or us,” he added. “The Government will not take any strict action. We believe in talks. Have we used any force? We are hopeful that they will sit for talks. We are cooperating, but they have gheraoed the SSC office and are not allowing them to work. How can both happen? We don’t want a single innocent person to suffer. We would like them to withdraw the strike immediately,” Basu added.



Basu refuted allegations that anything had been said about the first three counselling lists being untainted. “Why are they (the protestors) talking about counselling when that was not even given in the Supreme Court’s order? The SC has clearly said that those who are not tainted can go to school. They are calling for trouble for their review petition,” he added. Meanwhile, after the meeting with SSC officials late Tuesday evening, Chinmoy Mondol, a leader of the protesting school staff, said: “They (SSC) cleared that all untainted teachers, irrespective of counselling, will get salary and take classes. We are not satisfied with this. Tomorrow, the court is going to hear a petition on OMR sheets publication. We are waiting for the hearing. We want a certified list and publication of OMR sheets, or our protest will continue.” TI adds: Protesting teachers Tuesday accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of making “false promises of job security”. They also alleged that the SSC has lost all credibility after its failure to publish the list of untainted candidates and, by extension, identify the deserving teachers, by the deadline of 6 pm on Monday. “The CM asked us not to be apprehensive about the list of the tainted and untainted. She said the government will take care of that. After they fail to come up with the list of untainted candidates on the SSC website as promised on April 22, do they have any more credibility?”

Kidney issues heighten stroke risk, experts warn

New Delhi: Metabolic risk factors such as hypertension, high blood sugar, obesity, and abnormal cholesterol are the major conditions that are linked to kidney problems, and worsen the risk of strokes in patients with kidney disease, said experts. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is independently known to exacerbate the risk of stroke. A recent study published in the European Heart Journal showed that people with kidney failure are many times more likely to have a heart attack or stroke. They also have a higher risk of dying as a result, the study showed. “Patients with reduced glomerular filtration rates (indicating kidneys are not filtering waste properly) face a 40 per cent higher likelihood of experiencing a stroke. In addition, proteinuria (excess protein in the urine), a common feature of CKD.

Join immediately or face action, Punjab govt warns transferred Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars



GNS News Agency, April 28

A day after transferring 56 Tehsildars and 166 Naib Tehsildars across the state and asking them to join their posting immediately, the Punjab government on Tuesday warned of “strict action” against those who failed to report to their new postings in time. Cabinet Minister for Revenue, Rehabilitation and Disaster Management, Water Supply & Sanitation and Housing and Urban Development Hardeep Singh Mundian said, “Many officials have not joined their new postings. They should immediately report to their new postings, or else strict action will be taken against them.” Sources said Mundian issued warnings after receiving phone calls from a few Cabinet colleagues, informing him that several Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars were not willing to join their new postings.

He said Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars were transferred in the wake of ongoing reforms in the revenue department. “I will check revenue offices from tomorrow, and if anyone is found absent from duty during the surprise checking, strict action will be taken against the officer/employee concerned,” the minister warned, “Indiscipline will not be tolerated at any cost.” Ensuring faster registration of sale deeds at district headquarters, registering over 50 sale deeds every day, the government posted two Joint Sub Registrars in 12 Sub Registrar offices in several districts. Also, the state government is undertaking to reform the revenue department as Sub Registrar offices are considered “dens

of corruption”. The AAP-led government, in its fresh crusade against corruption after the party lost the Delhi Assembly elections, had transferred 58 tehsildars and 177 naib tehsildars and divested them of registration work on March 5. Another massive rejig was done on Monday. “The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is committed to providing better administrative services to the people. There will be no compromise on administrative services being provided to the people. Hence, undue harassment of people at revenue department offices will not be tolerated,” Mundian warned officials. A revenue department officer said a confusion was created after two revenue officials were posted at one place with no addition infrastructure to accommodate the second one. “For instance, in Ludhiana, there is an office for only one Sub Registrar, but two officials have been posted as Sub Registrar and Joint Sub Registrar. In Ludhiana East, Ankush Singh has been posted as Joint Sub Registrar-I, Ludhiana East, and Arshpreet Kaur has been posted as Joint Sub Registrar-2 in Ludhiana East. There is confusion, as there is only one place for posting. How will these two officials join when there is no infrastructure and there are no separate offices? The work of a Sub Registrar means creating an ID online, which is a huge responsibility. These problems are being faced, and the minister is saying they should join immediately,” the officer said. However, a senior government officer said most of the transferred officers joined their new postings. “Those who do not have an office have been asked to report to the Deputy Commissioner concerned about their postings. If there is a problem, the DC is responsible for providing infrastructure to them,” he said. The officer added that in Ludhiana alone, at least 120 sale deeds were registered every day. “The work is being streamlined in such offices. Similar is the case in Kharar, Mohali, Zirakpur, Ludhiana West, Ludhiana East, Ludhiana Central, Amritsar I and Amritsar II, Jalandhar I and Jalandhar II, Patiala and Bathinda offices. All these offices see more than 50 sale deeds being registered every day. Hence, two Joint Sub Registrars have been posted in all these places.”

BJP puts up ‘MP missing’ posters in Ludhiana, Warring hits back

GNS News Agency, April 28

BJP youth wing workers Tuesday put up “missing” posters for Congress Ludhiana MP cum party’s state president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring across the city, criticising him for his “inaccessibility” and “lack of performance” since his election to the Lok Sabha. However, hitting back at the BJP, the Congress leader said that he did not need the BJP’s certificate to declare whether he was active as an MP or not. Accusing Warring of being inaccessible to the people of Ludhiana, BJP Yuva Morcha spokesperson Kapil Katyal said, “He comes in his multi-crore SUV, blows horns and vanishes. People didn’t vote for someone who forgets them once getting elected.”

Katyal alleged that even after ten months in office, “Warring remained largely unreachable. People don’t know where his office is, what his phone number is, or where to approach him. The MP is simply inaccessible. No one can meet him for any work.” Sharpening his attack, Katyal emphasised the alleged rift in the Congress and claimed, “Even Congress leaders are now openly speaking the truth about Warring.” Katyal also questioned Warring’s performance and challenged him to list any development projects or inaugurations he undertook in Ludhiana. “He has no achievements to show.” Hitting back at the BJP, Warring in a video message said, “I am seeing some media reports saying that Raja Warring is missing from Ludhiana. Please see my social media accounts as proof that for not a single day I have taken any holiday or an off day. I am constantly with the people and raising their issues.

“So those who are saying I am ‘gumshuda’ (missing)



are none the else but office bearers of the BJP. I want to ask what work did BJP people had with me that they want to meet me. You should meet your party leaders (Sunil Jakhar and (Ravneet Singh) Bittu. But still, if you need my help with any work, I can come and meet you. I was in Ludhiana a day before. Everyone in the city knows it. I don’t need a certificate from the BJP to declare whether I am active as an MP or not. The people of Ludhiana know that my office is in Bachat Bhawan, where I sit every Tuesday. Still, if the BJP people have any work, they can meet me anytime.” Later, Warring called Katyal and asked what he can do for him to which the latter replied that he should concentrate on working for the people and doing their works. However, then Warring said that he would like to meet him at his house and hours later Warring reached Katyal’s residence in Ludhiana. Warring then said that politics apart, he would always be available for every resident of Ludhiana, even if he/she is a political rival.

I’m just a proxy counsel, are you settling a score: Lawyer asks judge; ‘unwarranted’, says court, refers incident to HC

GNS News Agency, April 28

I’m just a proxy counsel, are you settling a score: Lawyer asks judge; ‘unwarranted’, says court, refers incident to HC. The court was hearing a case in relation to an FIR registered by the New Usmanpur police station in 2020. The trial in the case has been going on since 2021. After a Delhi court asked an advocate why he wasn’t prepared for cross-examination of witnesses in a 2020 Northeast Delhi riots case, the lawyer replied saying that “he was just a proxy counsel”.

Taking offence to his response, Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Pulastya Pramachala of Karkardooma court referred the matter to the Delhi High Court and the Bar Council of Delhi. The court was hearing a case in relation to an FIR registered by the New Usmanpur police station in 2020. The trial in the case has been going on since 2021. The accused have been charged with murder, rioting, causing disappearance of evidence, and being part of an unlawful assembly, among others, during the 2020 Northeast Delhi Riots.

“...Anil Kumar Goswami, advocate bluntly retorted back saying that ‘koi score settle kar rahe hai kya (are you settling a score)’ and that ‘mujhe kya malum aapne aur steno ne kya likha (how do I know what you and the stenographer wrote)’,” stated the order of ASJ Pramachala dated April 7. The court pointed out to the lawyer that the order sheets show that he had been appearing as a counsel for both of the accused in the case. He was also reminded that he himself had claimed that he signed vakalatnamas for the accused. “Such kind of response from Anil Kumar Goswami, advocate, is shocking and has compelled me to presume that he has come prepared in the court with some different intentions, and I have no second thought that such conduct on the part of an advocate cannot be termed as professional on the parameters of rules framed by Bar Council,” the judge said after hearing the lawyers “unwarranted” remarks. “...the conduct of Anil Kumar Goswami... is questionable and objectionable. Hence, same is referred to Bar Council of Delhi as well as to Hon’ble High Court of Delhi, for assessment... on the parameters of professionalism expected from a lawyer before the court, and on the parameters of scandalising the proceedings before the court,



while making some unwarranted remarks,” ASJ Pramachala added.

Major violations at two drinking water units, licenses suspended

Hyderabad: The inspecting teams of the Commissioner of Food Safety have reported major violations under Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) at two drinking water packaging units including S R Enterprises at Chengicherla and Sri Sai Ganesh at Boduppal, during recent inspections. Due to the severity of the violations, the license of Sri Sai Ganesh Enterprises, Boligudem, Boduppal, which packages drinking water (Kenbey brand) and also manufactures milk products including Khoa, will be suspended as per the provisions of the FSS Act, 2006, authorities said. At S R Enterprises, which packages water for top brands, the inspecting teams detected a lizard in the water filtration room near the tank, the entire floor was slippery and water got stagnated at the manufacturing area. The food handlers were not wearing head caps, gloves and aprons and the pest control records were not available. The medical fitness certificates of the staff were available but without date.

The judiciary is slow and clogged — it’s time to get outside help to fix it



Inducting experienced outsiders to streamline efficiency by taking on administrative tasks could be a step towards overhauling the justice system. The judiciary is slow and clogged — it’s time to get outside help to fix it. The country’s 688 subordinate courts, commonly called district courts, under whom hundreds of civil and criminal courts function, are burdened with staggering backlogs of more than 45 million cases, accounting for over 85 per cent of all pending cases. The appointment of a new Chief Justice of India offers an opportunity to address one of the country’s most intractable problems: The administrative bottlenecks choking the judicial system. Exactly one year ago, the Supreme Court’s Centre for Research and Planning (CRP) published a report, ‘State of the Judiciary’, in which the current Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna’s suggestions find a place. The two things he suggested were to “measure court performance” and “introduce robust processes to divide judges into high, above average, and below average performers” and to give “positive reinforcement to high performers”. As CJI, were he to push these goals, it could have a transformative impact.

The country’s 688 subordinate courts, commonly called district courts, under whom hundreds of civil and criminal courts function, are burdened with staggering backlogs of more than 45 million cases, accounting for over 85 per cent of all pending cases. The justice system has become a source of despair. Each postponement chips away at a litigant’s faith in courts, but like corruption or pollution, citizens have become inured to it. The extent of inefficiency within the system had been uncovered by the Delhi High Court’s Zero Pendency Courts project, supported by Daksh, a Bengaluru-based research organisation, which had found that 55 per cent of a judicial officer’s day in the criminal courts is spent on routine administrative tasks such as issuing summons and setting dates, rather than substantive judicial work. Time and motion studies from the states revealed the extent of administrative bloat that hampers judicial productivity. In an average district or subordinate court, about half of the 90 cases listed daily reportedly get adjourned. In the absence of consistent case-flow management systems, monitoring disposal becomes skewed. Poor infrastructure, including the shortage of courtrooms, a 21 per cent shortage of judicial officers in the district as well as civil judges’ cadres, and non-adherence to the timelines on recruitment, stipulated by the Supreme Court, have been documented officially. Despite a welcome focus on e-filing and digitisation, half the district courts still do not have video conferencing-enabled computers on the judge’s desk.

There is a 27 per cent shortage of non-judicial staff across the country. Some states like Bihar, Rajasthan and Telangana had shortages veering nearer to 50 per cent.

Adani Green’s US fundraise & Azure’s NYSE listing: Two reasons why the US is taking action in an alleged bribery scam in India

US prosecutors in New York have indicted Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani and seven others for orchestrating a scheme to pay over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials for securing power supply contracts in India. Simultaneously, the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) also moved court demanding a jury trial and other penalties against Gautam Adani, his nephew and senior Adani Green Energy executive Sagar Adani, and Azure Power’s Cyril Sebastian Dominique Cabanes—a French national—on the same charges. But the key question is why are US authorities taking such keen interest and action in an alleged bribery scheme thousands of miles away in India?

The reasons, as mentioned in the SEC complaints and the indictment, mainly pertain to the companies’ activities and presence in the US and them having American investors. The connection with the Adani group primarily pertains to an Adani Green corporate bond issuance in 2021, which involved US investors. As for Azure, even as it primarily did business in India through a subsidiary, it had securities listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). US laws, primarily the country’s Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), prohibits certain classes of persons and entities from making payments to foreign government officials obtaining or retaining business. In other words, it is unlawful for such persons and entities to offer, promise, or pay bribes to government officials in other countries. These classes of persons and entities include certain foreign issuers of securities in the US and companies whose stock is publicly traded on US bourses. According to the SEC, those named in its complaints also used “the means or instrumentalities of (US) interstate commerce” to communicate with each other regarding the bribery scheme. Communications using various modes—like email, text message, or fax—in or from the US come under the purview of US interstate commerce for the purpose of the FCPA. In its complaint against Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani, the SEC alleged that Adani Green in September 2021 told purchasers of its corporate bonds worth \$750 million—including more than \$175 million to investors in the US—that none of the company’s directors or officers had paid or promised to pay bribes to government officials or attempted to unduly influence those officials.

The SEC alleged that this was not true, adding that in the months and weeks before making these representations, Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani were “personally involved in paying or promising the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Indian state government officials”. Apart from this bond issuance, the indictment mentions that Adani Green and its arms raised dollar-denominated loans of over \$2 billion from lender groups comprising international financial institutions and US-based investors. “As alleged, the defendants orchestrated an elaborate scheme to bribe Indian government officials to secure contracts worth billions of dollars and Gautam S. Adani,

Without the tools to function, the best judicial officers cannot work, let alone do justice. And unless case flow is watched and managed, delays can never be overcome. No doubt the recent amendments to the erstwhile CrPC and CPC have introduced provisions to hasten faster disposal of criminal and civil cases, but without people to oversee the implementation, change may take years to fructify. If the courts are to be unclogged, something out-of-the-box must be done. The suggestion is to learn from three successful strategies. Old as they are, they make a point. The first is the Cataract Blindness Project of the 1990s, under which 11 million sight-restoring surgeries (using intraocular lenses for the first time) were conducted in seven states of India in just five years. The coordination needed was immense, as thousands of patients had to be transported from their villages to the district hospital, fed, housed, operated upon and sent home post-surgery. The logistics were successfully tackled by enlisting retired and locally available armed forces personnel to handle coordination. That freed up ophthalmic surgeons to focus exclusively on the operations. The project was a runaway success.

Even further back, in the 1960s, magistrates in Delhi balanced judicial, revenue and law-and-order functions and still disposed of 60 warrant cases each month. The only thing which worked was the intense scrutiny that their disposal was subjected to by the (then) single District Magistrate, Delhi, who read out individual performance reports in a meeting hall full of magistrates. This monthly meeting became the best tonic to boost performance. Indeed, to meet Justice Khanna’s maxim about measuring court performance, this is the only way of finding high (and low) performers. But it will materialise only if the High Courts that have supervisory authority over the lower courts start open reviews of case disposal. The high courts already have case-flow management rules that allow for a delegation of functions. But the implementation has been lacklustre due to a shortage of qualified people in the court registries. If the aim is to give judicial officers more time to focus on substantive judicial work, there is a temporary way: Inducting retired officials from the vast pool available within giant organisations like the Indian Railways, the countrywide postal services, senior accounts officers from the Indian Accounts organisation, would be efficient and economical. The resultant payouts would be inexpensive and cost-effective because pensioners can only receive their last pay drawn, minus pension. I have tried this and I know. Retired officers were inducted from the office of the Controller of Accounts by me; people who had never handled health or population and who had just retired. They managed every administrative task, big and small, in record time, because organisations and methods remain the hallmark of administration and work on the principles of workflow management. These do not change, be it in health, education, the railways or the courts. If the aim is to divest administrative responsibilities and give judicial officers more time to do substantive judicial work, available skills should be used before dreaming of cadres of court managers. Implementing such reforms does not require a structural overhaul of India’s legal framework — only administrative will. A collaborative effort between the state law secretaries, the high court registrars, district judges and requesting top organisations to help find suitable retired administrative officers could accomplish this or something even better. Only if judicial officers can focus on judicial work can one start to measure high and low performance. Is the idea of inducting experienced outsiders a radical one? Only if one considers streamlining efficiency to be radical. The result could be a leaner, faster, and fairer justice system — a goal worth fighting for.

Sagar R. Adani and Vneet S. Jaain (Adani Green managing director) lied about the bribery scheme as they sought to raise capital from US and international investors,” Breon Peace, the US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said while announcing the indictment.

In its complaint against Cabanes, the US securities market regulator accused the French national of violating the FCPA by being involved in the alleged bribery scheme along with the Adani group while serving on the board of a company whose stock was listed on a US bourse. Cabanes served as a director on the board of Azure Power Global as a representative of the company’s largest stockholder—Canada-based pension fund Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ). Azure is a limited company organised under the laws of Mauritius with India being its principal place of business. According to the SEC, for a large part of the period of the alleged bribery scheme—2020 to 2024—Azure stock traded on the New York Stock Exchange. It was delisted in November 2023 for “failure to file reports with the Commission (SEC)”. The indictment alleged that between 2020 and 2024, the “defendants agreed to pay more than \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials to obtain lucrative solar energy supply contracts”, which were projected to generate billions of dollars in profits. “On several occasions, Gautam S. Adani personally met with an Indian government official to advance the Bribery Scheme, and the defendants held in-person meetings with each other to discuss aspects of its execution. The defendants frequently discussed their efforts in furtherance of the Bribery Scheme, including through an electronic messaging application. The defendants also extensively documented their corrupt efforts,” the US Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of New York said in a release. “During this same period, Gautam S. Adani, Sagar R. Adani and Vneet S. Jaain allegedly conspired to misrepresent the Indian Energy Company’s anti-bribery and corruption practices and conceal the Bribery Scheme from U.S. investors and international financial institutions in order to obtain financing, including to fund those solar energy supply contracts procured through bribery,” it added. The alleged bribery scheme purportedly involved Azure in addition to Adani Green. The SEC alleged that senior executives and officials of the two companies schemed to pressure and bribe state government officials in India in order to get state power distribution companies to buy solar power at prices favourable to the companies. It is alleged that Azure’s share in the bribe paid or promised was one-third, while the remaining two-thirds was Adani’s share. The indictment also alleged that Cabanes and three others related to Azure and CDPQ conspired to obstruct the grand jury, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the SEC investigations into the alleged bribery scheme. Among other things, those four defendants agreed to delete electronic materials related to the Bribery Scheme, including emails, electronic messages and Bribery Analyses; caused the US Issuer’s Board of Directors to initiate an internal investigation into the Bribery Scheme.

The SECI solar bid at the centre of Gautam Adani’s US indictment



A novel tender floated by the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in 2019 is now at the centre of a US district court indictment that alleges Adani Group Chairman Gautam S Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and six others offered Rs 2,029 crore (US \$265 million) in bribes to Indian government officials. The bribes were allegedly made when SECI was unable to sign power supply agreements (PSAs) with state electricity distribution companies (DISCOMs) because of the “high energy prices contemplated”, after bidding concluded for the 2019 tender. Awarded to Adani Green and Azure Power, the manufacturing-linked solar tender consisted of 12,000 MW of generation capacity and 3,000 MW of module manufacturing capacity — among the first of its kind at the time that combined generation of electricity and manufacturing of modules (solar power panels) at the same time. According to US prosecutors, “the co-conspirators undertook extensive efforts to corruptly persuade government officials to cause state electricity distribution companies to execute PSAs”. The US prosecutors have also alleged that Gautam Adani personally met with an unnamed government official in Andhra Pradesh to advance the execution of a PSA between SECI and Andhra Pradesh’s state electricity DISCOMs, for which roughly Rs 1,750 crore was offered to the unnamed official.

After the tender was awarded, SECI had to sign PSAs with state DISCOMs, without which it could not sign power purchase agreements (PPAs) with Adani Green and Azure. SECI is a public sector enterprise under the Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. US prosecutors have alleged that “SECI’s inability to find purchasers jeopardized the lucrative LOAs (letter of awards), and corresponding revenue” that was anticipated by the two companies.

“As a result, in or about 2020, the defendants Gautam S Adani, Sagar R. Adani, Vneet S Jaain,... among others, devised a scheme to offer, authorize, make and promise to make bribe payments to Indian government officials in exchange for the government officials causing state electricity distribution companies to enter into PSAs with SECI,” the US district court in New York has alleged. Vneet Jaain is MD and CEO of Adani Green. The proceedings in the US started after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) — the American markets regulator — filed a complaint with prosecutors alleging that Gautam Adani and his nephew “engaged in a bribery scheme involving the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars to obtain contracts that benefitted Adani Green, while, at the same time, falsely

touting the company’s compliance with anti-bribery principles and laws in connection with a \$750 million bond offering” in the US markets.

‘Adani personally met Andhra CM’, SEC told court. According to SEC’s complaint, the PPAs with Adani Green and Azure were supposed to be signed within 90 days of issuing the LOAs, but it took more than 18 months and the PPAs were executed by SECI “only after Adani Green’s senior executives, Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani, undertook a massive bribery scheme to incentivize Indian state government officials to enter into contracts with SECI to buy energy at above market rates”. SEC also alleged that Adani Green was set to make billions of dollars from the execution of PPAs from different states including Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. “According to industry analysts, Adani Green was projected to earn billions of dollars of revenue and more than a billion dollars in profit by selling power capacity to SECI related to its Letter of Award and Manufacturing Linked Projects. To that point in its corporate history, Adani Green had earned only approximately \$50 million in revenue and had not recorded a profit,” it said. SEC noted that Gautam Adani personally met with the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in August 2021, and “at or in connection with that meeting, Gautam Adani paid or promised a bribe to Andhra Pradesh government officials to cause the relevant Andhra Pradesh government entities to enter into Power Supply Agreements with SECI for the purchase of 7,000 MW of power capacity”.

The indictment alleged that the defendants and co-conspirators kept extensive electronic documentation of their bribery efforts, and typically communication through electronic messaging. Adani’s nephew Sagar, for instance, allegedly used his cell phone to track specific details of the bribes offered and promised to Indian government officials, according to the documents. Rupesh Agarwal, former chief strategy and commercial officer of Azure Power Global, also prepared multiple analyses using PowerPoint and Excel to determine which payment option was best. One summarised the options suggested by Gautam Adani, and described the direct payment to the Indian Energy Company as a “Development Fee.” The defendants often referred to each other by code names. Gautam Adani was called “Mr A,” “numero uno” and “the big man.” Jaain was called “V,” “snake” and “numero uno minus one.” The indictment also alleged that some of the named defendants destroyed and concealed evidence, including a PowerPoint analysis and electronic communications, which impaired the availability of records for use in investigations. Earlier, manufacturing-linked solar tenders were criticised by some industry players for trying to force solar developers to get into the manufacturing of modules. “Manufacturing requires high equity and low lending, while on the other hand project generation focuses on low equity and high lending, therefore asking a single entity to handle them together successfully is asking a lot,” a leading module maker had noted in 2019. The problem with solar bids is also that newer bids tend to see a drop in prices, leading to DISCOMs often renegotiating earlier contracts. For instance, if one PPA is signed at an agreed tariff of Rs 2.5 per unit based on a discovered price by SECI and the discovered price in the next bid is Rs 2 per unit, then the buyer is reluctant to fork out the tariff agreed to earlier. A consistent fall in solar power tariffs due to the falling price of solar panels has led to DISCOMs waiting for a further fall in tariffs rather than contracting PPAs at current prices, according to experts. SECI often faces difficulty in finding buyers at discovered prices because DISCOMs expect the tariffs will continue to fall even further and many of them have already met renewable purchase obligations that their respective states are

5 tribal villages at epicentre of the unending ethnic conflict

Imphal/Churachandpur Muolvaiphei, Valpakot, Ngurte, Thenmol and Khawpuibing are non-descript Hmar dominated tribal villages in Manipur’s Churachandpur district, nearly 65 km away from the state capital, Imphal. They are also the epicentre of an investigation into a heinous crime and the site of possibly a new fracture in a state which has been wracked by 18 months of ethnic conflict.

The state government and security forces are convinced the five villages are home to militants who travelled almost 250km to Jiribam, a town bordering Manipur-Assam, attacked security forces on November 11, and killed two Meitei elderly residents. It is believed there were 30-40 of them; 10 were killed in an ensuing shoot-out with security forces. The survivors escaped, but with six Meiteis, women and children (the youngest was eight months old) whose bodies were found in various locations in Jiribam and across the border in Assam. Protests that have roiled Imphal over the past week, including the vandalism of the houses of legislators and ministers, are a sign of public anger at the state’s failure to rescue the women and children. For the Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribal residents of Manipur, the 10 are heroes and martyrs. The town of Churachandpur is dotted with photographs of the 10 men. There are posters, which read – Welcome Home. Others say, Honour to our fallen heroes.

On November 18 when the bodies were airlifted to Churachandpur by security forces, Kuki-Zo-Hmar legislators, including local MLA LM Khaute, also the former chief of Manipur police between 2016 and 2021, who received the bodies, dismissed allegations of the state government and security forces that the men were militants; their families claimed the men were all civilians, who took up arms to defend their villages in the wake of the ethnic conflict in the state. Read more: Manipur murders: Autopsy of all six bodies done; families not ready to accept them for last rites. Tinneilam, wife of Lalsemliin Hmar (34), one of the slain gunmen, said her husband is not a militant but a computer graphic designer. “We have a computer accessories shop in Churachandpur. Last year, he went to the frontline to defend the villages. He is a civilian to who took up arms in this conflict. Until the pandemic in 2020, he was in Delhi and did a computer course there. He is not a militant.” Ramhmasoum, who is the elder brother of slain gunman, Lalthanei Infinate (23), the youngest of the 10 alleged militants, said his brother is a painter. “I refuse to believe that my son and his friends abducted and later murdered the women and children. Before the conflict, he wanted to study and was ready to give his class 10 exam from National Institute of Open Learning,” said Vantleiphui, mother of Ruolnesiang (22). At least 250 people have been killed and over 50,000 rendered homeless in the ethnic conflict between the Meiteis and Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribal groups that started on May 3 last year. The five villages are on the radar of security agencies that believe they hold the key to identity of the men, behind the killing of the six women and children. “The truth behind the killing of the six women and children is in those villages. These are prominent Hmar vil-

lages, so the gunmen are all from here. All the 10 men killed, who are from the Hmar tribe, were from those five villages so one can assume that the 30-40 gunmen who went to Jiribam that afternoon are from there only. If the NIA manages to conduct raids in the villages, the identity of all the other gunmen will become clear,” said a senior police officer posted in Manipur’s Imphal valley. Following the protests in Imphal, the cases have been transferred to NIA, a federal agency. Images of decomposed bodies such as one showing the headless body of a two-and-half-year-old fanned tension in Imphal, prompting the government to black out the internet. The five villages are also being closely watched by security forces and intelligence agencies because they have suddenly become a meeting ground for all Kuki-Zo-Tribal leaders. The leaders have been meeting to discuss the killing of the 10, protest what they term as the slaughter of civilians by the central security forces, ways to encourage young men to stay on the frontline, defending their villages, and counters to the allegation that the Hmar gunmen killed six unarmed women and children. The Hmar Community has refused to bury the 10 men until they get copies of post-mortem reports from the government. Following the shootout, Kuki-Zo-Hmar tribals were quick to term the 10 men “martyrs” and announce that the bodies would be transported road from Silchar (Assam) to Churachandpur for tribals to pay their last respects; in response, security forces airlifted the body directly to Churachandpur fearing a potential breakdown in law and order. We believe the men were tortured and killed. This is why we are asking for the postmortem reports. If that is not done, we will not bury the bodies. If they deny us the reports, a second postmortem will be conducted at the Churachandpur district hospital,” said Ramneisang Faiheng, development secretary of the Hmar Students Association (HSA). Each of the villages in Churachandpur has sent groups of 15-20 to guard the Churachandpur district hospital to ensure that there are people to watch the mortuary. On a road leading to one of the villages, Mulovaiphei, the road is dotted with black flags and photograph of one of the 10 alleged militants killed, Lalthanei Infinate (22). “We have done this for all villages. They are not militants. They are village volunteers who went to defend our villages because a woman from our community was raped and murdered on November 7 there. Pherzawl district, which is thinly populated and shares its borders with both Churachandpur and Jiribam, became vulnerable to attacks from the Jiribam side so our village volunteers went there defend the Kuki-Zo people,” said a spokesperson from HSA. The killings of the six women and children may have turned public opinion against the Kukis. A senior officer from a security force posted in Churachandpur said, “During a peace meeting with the tribal community leaders here, we told them they made a mistake by killing those unarmed women and children. Nobody will forgive them for this crime. There is war going on in the state between these communities but even then, there is a code to be followed. We told them the national press and neutral people are now against them for the horrific killings. If they object to central agencies conducting raids in their village,



Diabetes insulin pens by Novo Nordisk to be phased out: How will it impact dosage and treatment?



Thirty-seven-year-old Nupur Lalvani, who has been living with Type 1 diabetes since the age of eight, was dependent on insulin pens and had of late been a regular user of Novo Nordisk's largest insulin brand, Human Mixtard. But now that the Danish major is phasing it out, the move is expected to disrupt Indian markets, where it is the largest seller, and affect patients like Lalvani.

As founder of Blue Circle Diabetes Foundation – among the largest patient-led communities for all types of diabetes – she has flagged concerns about changes in the insulin portfolio. “Doctors say alternative brands are available. Switching brands and delivery devices is not a seamless process, especially for those managing diabetes every day on tight budgets,” she says. As per an ICMR-INDIAB study, around 11 million individuals with diabetes are on insulin.

What is the pen all about?

It is a pre-filled insulin pen containing insulin aspart, a fast-acting insulin analog. It helps glucose get into cells for energy, lowering blood sugar levels. It should be taken at the start of a meal or within 20 minutes after starting a meal, regularly and alongside a healthy diet, regular exercise and weight management. It's available in 3 ml cartridges and

should be stored in a refrigerator (2-8°C) and not frozen. Does Novo Nordisk have a back-up in place?

Meanwhile, Novo Nordisk released an official statement saying though it was phasing out the 100 IU Penfills, which are fast-acting insulin solutions to high blood sugar levels, and FlexPens, cartridges containing 100 units of insulin per millilitre designed for use with insulin pens, its 40 IU vials of Mixtard will continue to be available in India. Vials need separate insulin syringes. “Other forms of insulin, including human insulins from Novo Nordisk, will continue to be available in vials and devices for patients across India. In order to meet increasing patient demand and ensure a stable supply of our medicines, we have decided to consolidate our insulin portfolio as this will create space needed in our global manufacturing network. Hence, in this process, we are phasing out the Penfill,” read the statement.

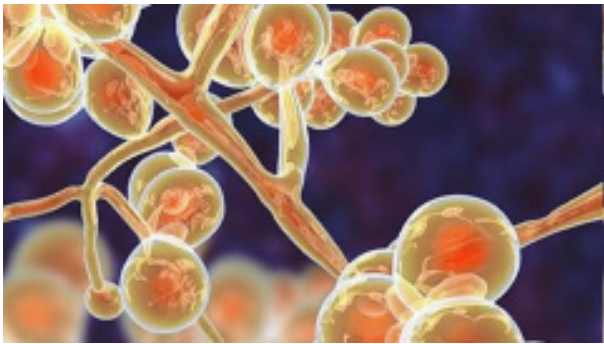
Why is the company withdrawing its human insulin pen?

Clearly the company is reworking priorities as it expands production of obesity and diabetes injectables. However, Lalvani says that since many people have relied on both Penfills and FlexPens, this discontinuation will disrupt patient experience. “I have personally used 100 IU Actrapid for years, and now I'll have to search for alternatives,” she says.

What about alternatives?

Dr R M Anjana, president, Madras Diabetes Research Foundation, says alternative brands are available. “Many companies in the market are selling the same type of insulin. Also, the withdrawal applies only to insulin pens, whereas vials will still be available. While these are more inconvenient, they are less expensive. So we will have to wait and see how this pans out,” she adds.

Surveillance, R&D innovation and communication are key levers for India to lead the fight against AMR



Antimicrobial resistance (AMR), often labelled as a silent pandemic, is one of the most pressing global health challenges of our time. As pathogens evolve to withstand the drugs currently available to counter them, our ability to treat infections is rapidly eroding. A recent study funded by Wellcome and the United Kingdom Department of Health and Social Care's Fleming Fund, estimates that bacterial AMR alone will cause 39 million (3.9 crore) deaths between 2025 and 2050, which translates to three deaths every minute – a shockingly stark statistic. AMR also threatens to undo decades of progress made against infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, typhoid and pneumococcal pneumonia, among others, with new multidrug resistant strains now in circulation.

In 2016, in response to the continually escalating global threat of AMR, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) convened its first High-Level Meeting (HLM) to address the root causes of AMR, develop national action plans, regulate antimicrobials, and promote awareness and best practices. With this mandate, many countries prepared their national action plans. India launched its plan in 2017, a six-pronged approach including improving awareness, reducing infections, optimising antimicrobial use, strengthening surveillance, increasing investment, and enhancing India's leadership in AMR. Last year, the UNGA reconvened for a second high-level meeting to review global progress on AMR. Its outcome was a strong political commitment by the 193 member countries to identify gaps, invest in sustainable solutions, improve R&D, strengthen surveillance, and ensure constant monitoring in the lead-up to the next review in 2029.

India, with its high population density, prevalence of infectious diseases, and over-the-counter availability of antibiotics, has a long and winding road to travel in order to counter AMR. It is meeting the challenge head-on. India has not only expanded and built on its genomic surveillance capabilities to stay ahead of AMR, but government bodies such as the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) have also established surveillance networks that focus on priority pathogen groups and communicate critical data to policymakers and researchers. However, while genomic sequencing can help track how pathogens evolve and acquire resistance, it still doesn't have direct utility in helping clinicians make difficult, and urgent, lifesaving decisions. India's genomic capabilities can be most effectively leveraged in two key ways. First, public health experts should use genomic data to anticipate microbial evolutionary trajectories and emerging AMR trends. This can inform the most appropriate choice of antibiotics when patients are treated empirically (which is mostly the case). Second, diagnostic companies should use large-scale population genomics to build precision tools that could be made available at, or near the point-of-care. For example, genomic studies on *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi (the bacte-

rium causing typhoid fever) reveal how the H58 lineage has acquired multidrug resistance over time. Researchers identified single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) from whole-genome sequencing data, which are now being used to create targeted molecular diagnostics. This enables faster and more cost-effective detection of drug-resistant strains, instead of sequencing each circulating strain. At the Christian Medical College, Vellore (CMC), the country's reference AMR institution, researchers are sequencing representative strains to generate important epidemiological data and trends. They are also using genomic markers for rapid and robust diagnosis, supporting the national AMR efforts under the mentorship of ICMR. In addition to enhanced surveillance and smart diagnostics, we urgently need new drugs. Developing new antimicrobials is scientifically complex, financially risky, and often commercially unattractive. India's robust biotech ecosystem, high burden of endemic infectious diseases, and proven capacity for affordable manufacturing create the ideal environment for innovation. When these strengths are combined, they will not only accelerate India's fight against AMR but also improve global access, especially for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

Recent breakthroughs from India, such as the introduction of novel antibiotics like cefepime-enmetazobactam, cefepime-zidebactam, nafithromycin, and levodifloxacin, mark a significant global advancement in the fight against multidrug-resistant pathogens, particularly the WHO's critical priority threats. These drugs offer new therapeutic options that can reduce reliance on carbapenems and last-resort agents like colistin. At a time when the world is looking at a fast-drying antibiotic pipeline, this progress offers a glimmer of hope. Such leadership in developing new antibiotics underscores India's growing scientific and regulatory capabilities, paving the way for increased international collaboration and faster global approvals.

A communication strategy Given the magnitude of the AMR crisis, genomic surveillance and integrated public health systems can only work efficiently if they are supported by a carefully designed communication strategy to improve awareness. In India, where antibiotics can often be bought over the counter without a prescription, innovative and human-centered advocacy should be prioritised more than it currently is. This includes antimicrobial stewardship among healthcare professionals, including both physicians, pharmacists and other unorthodox or informal practitioners that form an important pillar of frontline healthcare delivery. Moreover, it should be reiterated that vaccination is not just important in preventing viral diseases that do not require antimicrobial treatment or multidrug resistant diseases, but also in reducing antimicrobial usage. To communicate the gravity of the situation effectively, innovations that can simplify data and generate actionable evidence will play a central role. One such example is AMRSense, an award-winning collaboration between IIIT-Delhi, CHRI-PATH, and 1mg.com, which is using AI to collect data across the clinical, animal, and environmental axes in a true One Health approach and using predictive modeling to guide targeted interventions.

The challenge of tackling AMR is immense, and we are at an inflection point. Acting alone or in an uncoordinated and siloed fashion will not produce the desired results. India has the tools, the talent, and the urgency to lead the world in curbing antimicrobial resistance. But all scientific efforts need to be unified and communicated to the general public and experts alike, in ways that resonate with them. Only then will we be on our way to winning the fight against AMR.

A case of selective outrage in Karnataka



Recently in Karnataka, there were two instances of students from the Brahmin community facing hurdles at exam centres for wearing the janivara ('sacred thread'). In both instances, the students had come to the centres to write the Karnataka Common Entrance Test (CET) 2025, which determines eligibility for admission to professional courses such as engineering and architecture. In one instance, two students in Shivamogga were initially stopped from entering the hall wearing their 'sacred threads', but were later permitted to write the exam after authorities intervened. However, in another instance, in Bidar, a student ended up missing the exam because the authorities did not allow him to enter wearing the 'sacred thread'. Soon after these incidents, the authorities clarified that the 'sacred thread' was absent in the list of items that are not allowed inside the CET exam hall. They said that these were instances of "miscommunication" — by two Home Guards in Shivamogga and by a principal and a clerical staff in Bidar.

As the outrage over the two incidents escalated, the government responded swiftly. Those accused of creating barriers for the students were suspended in Shivamogga and dismissed in Bidar. The Bidar district in-charge and the Forest Minister, Eshwar Khandre, visited the student who missed his exam in Bidar. The Minister even offered a free engineering seat to the student, in his family-run college in Bhalki. Meanwhile, the Shivamogga Deputy Commissioner clarified that no one had "cut" the 'sacred thread' at the centre, contrary to claims circulating on several social media sites and TV channels. The government seemed to be on the defensive particularly because the controversy erupted days after the findings of the 'caste census' was tabled in the State Cabinet. The report has rattled the "upper castes" since it states that their population is "lower" than what they claim. A section of the media and the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party blamed the Congress government led by Siddaramaiah, known for championing the cause of AHINDA (minorities, Backward Classes, and Dalits). Brahmin groups

held protests across the State. They were joined by BJP leaders in some places, who argued that wearing the 'sacred thread' was part of the religious rights of the community and had been violated. The similarities between these incidents and a controversy in 2022, when colleges in coastal Karnataka shut their gates to girls wearing the hijab, did not seem to strike many people. It is true that the context of the hijab ban was different. The banning of the hijab was part of a move to prescribe a uniform at the Women's Government PU College in Udupi in December 2021. It was led by a BJP MLA to ensure "equality in classrooms". But soon, the ban spread to several colleges in coastal Karnataka. Many Muslim girl students quit college and did not write exams that year since they were asked to remove the hijab inside the institutions. In the present cases, 'sacred threads' were apparently not being allowed inside exam centres as part of attempts to curb exam malpractices. But these proved to be instances of overzealous invigilation. What is common between the two controversies, however, is the idea of religious rights.

Aliya Assadi, one of the five students of the Women's Government PU College in Udupi who protested against the college's ban on the hijab in classrooms, and who was a petitioner before the High Court and later the Supreme Court, sought to point out the different responses to the controversies. On April 20, she wrote on X: "Wearing a hijab is as important to us as wearing a janivara [is] to a Brahmin. Isn't the pain of a Brahmin [who is] prevented from writing an exam for wearing a janivara and the pain of a Muslim girl [who is] prevented from writing an exam for wearing a hijab the same? Then why this difference? Officers who stopped students for wearing a janivara [were] immediately sacked. No action was taken against those who closed the gates of education for hijab-clad girl students... This is our system." The hijab issue is pending in court. Hearing a petition filed by the students who were not allowed inside classrooms wearing hijabs, the Karnataka High Court upheld the institution's right to prescribe a uniform.

Can CT scans cause cancer? New US study says they could account for 5% of all cancer cases a year

A new study has sparked some concern as it says that computed tomography (CT) examinations in the US could result in 103,000 future cancers, which would account for 5% of all new cancer diagnoses. Study authors have projected that over 100,000 cancers would result from 93 million scans performed in 2023 alone. The study was published in JAMA Internal Medicine. Should we be worried? “First, this is a theoretical association and has not been evidenced by human real case studies. Having said that, CT scans use ionising radiation, unlike other imaging techniques like X-rays, digital X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasound. Ionizing radiation can damage DNA, which raises the risk of cancer, if done frequently over one's lifetime, for follow-ups of procedures etc. This is high in the US compared to India. However the amount of radiation in a single scan is very low,” says Dr Madhavi Nair, surgical oncologist, Manipal Hospital, Bengaluru.

How safe is a CT scan?

A chest X-ray exposes you to 0.06 to 0.25 mSv of radiation, a unit that measures radiation exposure. A mammogram exposes you to 0.21 mSv and a regular CT scan by comparison can expose you to 10 mSv. This radiation is more because a CT scan gathers more-detailed information. Still, this is very low and so far has not been shown to cause long-term harm in human subjects. Which is why this JAMA study data should now be validated by more studies on people who have had heavy CT scan use after 10 years. One CT scan is okay. But repeated scans could raise the lifetime risk of radiation-induced cancer. Doctors are aware of this and always do a cost-benefit analysis. They recommend a CT scan only when you need an imaging tool faster and in specific cases to study bones and



tissue mass. Since it is also a costly procedure for many average Indians, though lower than MRI, we suggest it only when there is a need for detailed imaging in emergencies, before biopsies and staging. In fact, as oncologists, we limit imaging to ultrasound and MRI on follow-ups of cancer patients.

Who should not use CT scans?

Pregnant women and foetuses are at risk from radiation. Those with chronic medical conditions requiring repeated imaging should minimise radiation exposure and go for other scans. If you are allergic to iodine contrast dye, used in CT scans, let your doctor know.

What are guardrails for CT scan abuse?

Doctors are very careful. But I had a patient who referred to ChatGPT based on his symptoms and since it recommended a CT scan, he went and got it himself. It was unnecessary. Always ask a doctor.

Brisk walking can prevent sudden cardiac arrest, says study: Here's how it regulates heartbeats



You may want to pace up while walking to avoid arrhythmia or irregular heartbeats, which mean the heart's electrical signals are not travelling properly. A new study in the British Medical Journal Heart shows that brisk walking may be a safe and effective exercise to reduce heart rhythm abnormalities, especially among higher-risk groups, and prevent sudden cardiac arrests. Researchers looked at the impact of different walking speeds on 4,20,925 participants from the UK Biobank over 13 years. A slow pace was walking at less than 4.8 km per hour, a steady or average pace was between 4.8 to 6.4 km per hour per hour and a brisk pace was more than 6.4 km per hour. Average age was 55 years and more than half were women. More time spent walking at an average or brisk pace was associated with a 35% to 43% per cent lower risk compared to walking slowly. How brisk walking is a workout for the heart

Prof K Srinath Reddy, professor at the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), explains that our heart rate begins to slow down as we age but brisk walking can keep the heart young. “It signals to the brain that the person is fit and functional, not frail and feeble. So all the control mechanisms strive to keep the heart well behaved to serve both body and brain without faltering in its beat,” Dr Reddy says. Explaining the science, Dr Reddy says the heart beat usually originates in the upper chambers of the heart (atria), initiated by an electrical current generated by a cluster of muscle fibres called the sino-atrial node. “From there it spreads in an orderly fashion to the lower chambers (ventricles). When this node is sluggish, abnormal rhythms can originate. Brisk walking keeps this node well charged and prevents harmful escape rhythms,” Dr Reddy said. “Walking is very accessible”

Prof Jill Pell, Henry Mechan Professor of Public Health, School of Health and Wellbeing, University of Glasgow, and lead author of the study, says, “While we can give people with arrhythmias procedures or long-term medicines, it is preferable to prevent them from developing arrhythmias in

the first place. Walking is very accessible. You do not need to spend money on gym membership or equipment. You just need to walk out of your front door and keep going,” she says.

Why is this study significant?

Limited studies investigate the relationship between walking pace and arrhythmia. Dr Vijay Natarajan, Director of Surgical Services at Bharati Hospital, Pune, feels that the study lends credence to walking as a good cardiovascular exercise that can add to the preventive routine of keeping blood sugar and cholesterol in control. The protective effects of steady and brisk walking were strongest in women, those under 60, those living with high blood pressure or two or more chronic health conditions and those not overweight. Brisk walking has other positive effects like reducing inflammation, blood pressure, body weight, abdominal fat and prevents damage to blood vessels. It also reduces anxiety and emotional stress that can trigger arrhythmias, adds Dr Reddy.

Is your summer 'thanda' in Hyderabad safe?

Hyderabad: People have an affinity to grab a 'thanda' to hydrate when temperatures consistently start to peak. Quite often, in the urgency to grab a cool drink, people, especially those who spend a lot of time outdoors, and even petty vendors tend to overlook basic precautions that are mandatory to ensure food safety and illnesses.

To avoid outbreak of food and water-borne ailments, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) in its advisory has been urging small food business operators to observe basic precautions while handling high risk food items like cut fruits, fresh juice, beverages and salads. The FSSAI has also urged vendors like juice shops to maintain basic good hygienic practices that are vital to ensure food safety and prevention of water and food-borne diseases during summer. Usually, FSSAI also makes it mandatory for petty vendors to register with them. The registration is usually granted by the authorities after being satisfied with the safety, hygiene and sanitary conditions of the premises.

However, recent inspections by Food Safety authorities at five juice centres in Ameerpet painted a very different picture. In addition to major food safety violations at several levels, at least three such facilities even did not have a valid FSSAI license to prepare and sell.

Gold prices cross Rs 1 lakh-mark for first time: What is driving surge in price of the yellow metal?



Gold prices are glittering above the Rs 1 lakh-level per 10 gm for the first time as the international prices surged after US President Donald Trump unveiled plans to overhaul the Federal Reserve. Gold consolidated its position as the best safe haven asset in the volatile global financial markets. The price of 24-karat gold (999 fineness) was quoted at Rs 101,350 per 10 gm in the Mumbai bullion market on Tuesday. The price of 22 karat gold was quoted at Rs 92,900 per 10 gm on Tuesday as global markets continued to remain jittery over Trump's tariff plans and his threat to revamp the US Fed that could lead to a spike in inflation and interest rates. Why gold prices crossed Rs 1 lakh-markGold prices in India generally follow international prices. Global gold prices continued to surge with rates crossing \$3,400 an ounce even as the US dollar tumbled. Gold has gained nearly 59 per cent since March 2024. A weaker dollar boosts demand for gold, since it makes the metal more affordable to investors holding foreign currencies.

Gold price today in New York is around \$3,486.85 per troy ounce. The gold price rally is largely driven by renewed uncertainty surrounding US monetary policy, after Trump unveiled plans to overhaul the Federal Reserve. The US President intensified his attack on Federal Reserve chief Jerome Powell for not cutting interest rates even as the US dollar sinks in the currency market. Meanwhile, the US Fed issued a warning that tariffs could threaten its dual mandate of maintaining stable prices and full employment, which further strengthened gold's safe-haven appeal. The surge in gold prices is also driven by escalating geopolitical risks, strong central bank demand, and persistent inflation concerns. There are heightened tensions on the Russia-Ukraine front too. This new layer of uncertainty is complicating the path ahead for the US Fed decision on the interest

rates. Jateen Trivedi, research analyst, LKP Securities, said the rally is being supported by escalating tariff tensions, concerns over the US economic outlook and the looming US debt crisis. Continued buying from China, global central banks and institutional investors has added momentum to the bullish sentiment, he said. The criticism of the US Federal Reserve by President Donald Trump has shaken the investor confidence pushing the dollar sharply lower and catapulting safe-haven gold to a record high. "These are stoking concerns about the independence of the Fed, sending ripples through financial markets. US Dollar (three-year low) and the risk-on equity markets takes a beating while gold stands to benefit," said NS Ramaswamy, head of commodities at Ventura.

Trump recently said that he can't wait to sack Powell for not cutting dollar interest rates even as the US-China trade war risks are crushing the dollar and spiking inflation. The US dollar continued its slide, falling to its lowest level since 2022, as global investors retreat from US assets in the face of tension between Trump and the Federal Reserve. The ICE US dollar Index which measures the greenback against a basket of foreign currencies, fell as low as 97.92 on Monday.

How big is the Indian gold market?

India is the second largest gold market in the world after China. Gold demand in the country in 2024 stood at 802.8 tonnes, as against 761 tonnes in 2023. China's demand was 985 tonnes. The total gold demand value in India went up by 31 per cent at Rs 5.15 lakh crore in 2024, compared to Rs 3.92 lakh crore in 2023, according to a World Gold Council (WGC) report. Gold holds a significant place in Indian culture, often being accumulated over generations. During times of financial need such as hospital expenses and college fees, individuals are more willing to pledge their gold holdings like jewellery to secure loans. "The slowdown in the economy in the last few months would have prompted consumers to pledge gold to meet the financial requirements. During periods of economic uncertainty like trade wars or inflation, gold is perceived as a stable asset, prompting individuals to opt for gold loans to meet immediate financial needs," said an analyst. The growth of digital platforms, apps and fintech solutions has also made gold loans more accessible and attractive, even in remote areas, contributing to their rising popularity. As gold prices continue to glitter, gold loans are likely to remain a popular financing option for individuals across the country.

Tariff war and aviation: A globalised industry braces for disruption; Boeing's troubles set to deepen

The past few days saw two Boeing 737 MAX aircraft meant for Chinese carrier Xiamen Airlines return from China to Boeing's production hub in Seattle. Boeing jets flying in and out of Seattle is a regular affair, but these flights were anything but routine. For they represented the tariff war flying right in face of the aviation industry, which is among the most globalised and internationally integrated sectors.

With heavy tariffs imposed by the US on China and Beijing returning the favour, the effective price of the aircraft for Chinese carriers would have skyrocketed. Besides, there have been reports that Beijing has asked its airlines to halt aircraft deliveries from Boeing, virtually locking out the US aerospace major from a top aviation market. Moreover, the development indicates potential disruption in aircraft deliveries even beyond China as the implications of American trade tariffs — and reciprocal levies — begin to play out. The international aviation sector would be bracing for headwinds due to the tariffs. To be sure, there is considerable uncertainty around the tariff war, mainly due to the mercurial behaviour of the Donald Trump administration. Much of the world, including the aviation and aerospace industry, would be hoping and praying for a quick dialling down of the trade tensions. But if the tariff war goes on unabated or intensifies, it could get painful.

A fleeting silver lining for some airlines?

While aviation industry insiders and trade experts warn that tariffs are particularly detrimental to a globally integrated sectors like aviation as they drive up manufacturing costs and complicate supply chains, among other negatives, there may be a silver lining for some Boeing customers including Indian carriers Air India Express and Akasa Air, at least in the short term. If Chinese airlines continue to refuse Boeing aircraft deliveries going forward, they could be up for grabs for other carriers who want to quickly expand their fleet to fuel growth. Over the past few years, Air India Express and Akasa Air inducted dozens of Boeing aircraft that were originally meant for other airlines—mainly Chinese carriers—who could not take deliveries on time. Both the Indian airlines still have a large number of Boeing planes on order with multi-year delivery schedules, and are expected to capitalise on opportunities to expedite deliveries. They are not alone though and might have to compete with carriers from other countries. Reports suggest that Malaysia Airlines is in talks with Boeing to acquire some of the 737 MAX jets originally meant for Chinese airlines. The status of aviation as one of the most globalised industries cannot be overstated. From facilitating worldwide transportation of people and goods to having a truly expansive international supply chain for aircraft manufacturing and maintenance, the sector is a true poster child of globalisation. And like for any globally integrated industry, international tariff war could hurt the sector — from aircraft manufacturers and their suppliers to airlines, and ultimately flyers.

For starters, the cost of producing aircraft could jump significantly. This is because aircraft manufacturers like Boeing and Airbus depend on global supply chains with highly specialised and difficult-to-replace component suppliers dotted across the world. So, while a Boeing jet may be assembled and readied in the US, it is actually manufactured in various countries as its components are sourced from various suppliers spread all over the world. US tariffs and potential retaliatory tariffs will make aircraft and component imports costlier, which in turn would bump up aircraft manufacturing costs, which may be passed on to airlines, and ultimately to passengers. Tariffs are also likely to add to logistical complexities, which could potentially slow down or disrupt critical supply chains, which would then impede aircraft manufacturing, apart from further inflating and complicating cost structures. Industry watchers caution that airlines may also be forced to delay aircraft purchases and deliveries due to higher costs, hurting demand for new aircraft while further heating up competition in the aircraft leasing market. Depressed new aircraft demand could then hit aircraft manufacturers, component makers, and their suppliers, potentially leading to capacity cuts and job losses in the sector.

Although the Trump administration wants to protect and encourage American manufacturing and exports, the



already embattled Boeing — among the country's biggest manufacturers and exporters — might be hurt badly by tariffs, much more than its European rival Airbus. Import tariffs primarily tax importers, which in this case would be Boeing as it relies on innumerable imported parts to assemble and roll out its Made-in-America aircraft. Boeing manufactures in the US, and tariffs on imports of components and specialised materials from anywhere in the world would drive up costs for the company, making its aircraft less competitive versus those of Airbus. And it would be next to impossible for Boeing to quickly swap foreign suppliers dealing in specialised material, machinery, components, and even software with American ones. It would be a herculean task that could take years, if not decades, and time is not a luxury a beleaguered Boeing enjoys. Airbus, while doing most of its manufacturing outside the US, would also be negatively impacted to some extent, as it has assembly lines in the US to cater to its American customers, and production costs at these units are bound to jump. Additionally, Airbus also has some US-based suppliers, and in the event of tit-for-tat tariffs, sourcing parts from these suppliers would get costlier. Beyond that, however, Airbus stands to gain significantly at Boeing's expense from a protracted tariff war as the European company's non-US manufacturing is unlikely to see major US tariff-related disruptions and cost inflation. Over the medium to long term, the European aerospace giant could potentially gain market share in aviation markets outside the US, while Boeing's footprint may progressively contract and be largely limited to the US market, industry experts and participants believe. China presents a massive opportunity for Airbus, which already operates an aircraft assembly line in the country. If China — the world's second-largest aviation market — stays off-limits for Boeing for an extended period, Airbus would be a major beneficiary. Even in other fast-growing aviation markets, including India, Boeing customers could be forced to knock on Airbus's door if Boeing aircraft are priced out of the market.

Adani-Hindenburg saga: How ‘Operation Zeppelin’ unfolded



New Delhi: Hindenburg Research, the forensic financial firm that challenged the Adani Group, took its name from the infamous airship that burst into flames upon arriving in New Jersey in 1937. And the counter to its damning report against the conglomerate was dubbed 'Operation Zeppelin,' named after the German dirigible airships used for reconnaissance and bombing during the First World War. In January 2023, Hindenburg published a scathing report describing the Adani Group, one of India's largest conglomerates, led by one of its richest men, as "the largest con in corporate history". The fallout was swift: stock prices plummeted, wiping out over \$150 billion in market value at the lowest point, and the group's biggest public offering was abruptly scrapped. For a moment, it seemed like Gautam Adani's empire was on the brink. But that impression didn't last long. The group staged a swift comeback, deploying a mix of public relations, legal maneuvers, and strategic tactics to counter the fallout and restore investor confidence.

The comeback was bolstered by a covert operation, believed to have involved assistance from an Israeli intelligence agency, according to people briefed on the issue. The Hindenburg report, which accused the Adani Group of stock manipulation and accounting fraud, dropped just a week before Gautam Adani was in Israel to finalise a \$1.2-billion deal to acquire the Haifa seaport.

The privatisation of Haifa Port was Israel's largest and most ambitious infrastructure and financial undertaking of the 2020s. Initially, 18 international bidders expressed interest, but only five were cleared to submit final proposals. The winning bid — after passing Israel's stringent security vetting — came from a joint venture between Gadot Masofim for Chemicals Ltd and Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, with the Indian firm holding the majority stake. The bids, evaluations, and clearances had taken 18 long months — and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was present at the signing on January 31, 2023. As the Hindenburg report dominated global headlines, a private conversation unfolded in a modest room at the Haifa port. According to sources, a top Israeli leader questioned Adani about the allegations, to which the Indian billionaire firmly responded that they were "absolute lies". Eshel Armoni — the outgoing chairman of the port and a former high-ranking Mossad official — was believed to have been present during the exchange. Some within the Israeli establishment viewed the Hindenburg report as a deliberate attempt to un-

dermine the Haifa port deal, which Tel Aviv considered strategically vital for the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a counterweight to growing Chinese influence in the region. Back home, Adani worked overtime to claw back the narrative by trimming debt through prepayments and repayments of borrowing, cutting back on the founder's pledged shares, bringing in both promoter and marquee investor equity, and refocusing attention on the group's core businesses.

Parallely, emerged Operation Zeppelin — a clandestine investigation launched to uncover the inner workings of Hindenburg Research and expose those backing it, sources said. The New York offices of Hindenburg Research and its founder, Nathan 'Nate' Anderson, a certified Chartered Financial Analyst, were watched, they said. Former intelligence insiders soon started connecting the dots as they stumbled upon a complex web of activist lawyers, journalists, hedge funds, and political figures — some allegedly connected to Chinese interests, others to Washington power brokers. Sources said the spies even infiltrated a premise in the suburban neighbourhood of Oakbrook Terrace, a small town in Illinois outside Chicago, which led to uncovering of encrypted communications between privately held alternative asset management firms and activists based in India, the US, Europe, Canada, and Australia. Sources said Adani was briefed about the covert operation during his private visit to Switzerland in January 2024. Adani did not react with noise — he responded with strategy. A team of attorneys and intelligence consultants to work alongside the ones during surveillance in the US, was assembled. Influential figures in the administration were briefed on the issue. In Ahmedabad, he set up a high-tech control room with cyber experts and analysts. His legal teams worked across international capitals. By October 2024, the Zeppelin Dossier on the collaborative network against Adani had swelled to 353 pages. Later that year, leaked documents purportedly showed links between US agencies and media platforms that were pushing anti-Adani narratives, they said. In late November that year, the US Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission charged Gautam Adani and key executives with being part of an alleged bribery scheme to secure renewable power supply contracts in India.

The Adani group denied all allegations. Simultaneously, the Adani Group prepared to launch legal proceedings in the Southern District of New York, against Hindenburg Research and Nathan Anderson. A seven-page draft legal brief, prepared by a white shoe law firm, was sent to Anderson's office. Sources said a meeting between the Adani's legal intermediaries and Hindenburg officials was proposed but it wasn't clear if the meeting at the Textile Building at 295 Fifth Avenue in Manhattan took place. On January 15, 2025, a week shy of the second anniversary of its report on Adani group, Hindenburg Research formally announced shutting down of operations. The entire gamut of Operation Zeppelin — modern-day counteroffensive that combined business, diplomacy, and cyber strategy — may never be known but it certainly will be considered the boldest comeback strategy in the corporate world.

Air India, IndiGo to operate 2 additional flights from Srinagar today; offer free cancellation, rescheduling till April 30

Pahalgam terror attack: Air India to operate 2 additional flights from Srinagar on Wednesday; offers free cancellation, rescheduling of Srinagar flights Tuesday's terrorist attack in which armed terrorists opened fire at tourists in Pahalgam had led to calls for evacuation of tourists wanting to leave the Kashmir valley. Following the terrorist attack on tourists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam, Air India and IndiGo will be operating two additional flights from Srinagar in Wednesday for those wanting to return from the valley. Air India, its budget airline arm Air India Express, and IndiGo have also announced free rescheduling and full refunds on flights to and from Srinagar.

Tuesday's terrorist attack in which armed terrorists opened fire at tourists in Pahalgam had led to calls for evacuation of tourists wanting to leave the Kashmir valley. Moreover, a large number of tourists have been stranded in the Valley for over three days as the Jammu-Srinagar national highway is closed due to damage caused by recent flash floods and landslides in the Ramban district. This, too, had led to calls from tour operators and travel agents for evacuation of stranded tourists by air. The highway, a critical lifeline connecting the Kashmir valley to the rest of the country, is likely to be closed for a few more days for repairs. This means that flying out of Srinagar would be the only viable option for tourists looking to leave the Valley. Fares for flights out of Srinagar have also shot up over the past few days due to a sudden surge in demand. "In view of the prevailing situation, Air India will operate two additional flights from Srinagar to Delhi and Mumbai on Wednesday, 23rd April. Details of the two flights are as under: Srinagar to Delhi – 11:30 AM; Srinagar to Mumbai – 12:00 noon. Booking for these flights are now open. All our other flights to and from Srinagar will continue to operate as per schedule," Tata group airline Air India said in post on social media platform



X (formerly Twitter). "Air India is also offering complimentary rescheduling and full refunds on cancellations to passengers with confirmed bookings till 30th April 2025 on these sectors," the airline added.

IndiGo, which is India's largest airline and operates flights between Srinagar and various Indian cities, also said that it will operate two additional flights to and from Srinagar, one each from Delhi and Mumbai. The airline has also extended waivers on rescheduling or cancellation for travel to and from Jammu and Kashmir till April 30. The waiver is applicable to bookings made on or before April 22. Air India group's budget airline Air India Express said: "In view of the prevailing situation in Pahalgam, Air India Express is extending full support to its guests flying to and from Srinagar. Guests booked to travel on Air India Express flights from or to Srinagar until 30th April 2025 are being offered the flexibility to reschedule their travel with a complete waiver of date change fees and fare difference. Guests may also opt to cancel their bookings and receive a full refund to their original mode of payment."

Labour Ministry issues advisory to states, UTs to take measures for workers

The Ministry has asked states/UTs and its other departments to conduct awareness sessions and training on recognising, preventing heat stress, and include heatwave-specific content in worker training modules. The Ministry has asked states/UTs and its other departments to conduct awareness sessions and training on recognising, preventing heat stress, and include heatwave-specific content in worker training modules.

Amid soaring temperatures across the country, the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has written to all states and Union territories (UTs) to take urgent steps to safeguard workers and labourers from extreme heatwave conditions. The Ministry has issued a heat wave advisory to all chief Secretaries of states and UTs to take adequate measures. States and Union territories have been advised to issue directions to employers, occupiers, industries, and construction companies to implement effective heatwave mitigation measures for workers. The Ministry has advised states to reschedule working hours to avoid peak heat times and ensure access to adequate drinking water to workers.

Among other measures, the Ministry has advised providing shaded rest areas and ventilation or cooling at worksites, conducting regular health check-ups, and supplying emergency ice packs and heat illness prevention materials. The advisory has asked states/UTs to focus on workers in factories, construction sites, brick kilns, and mines. "Underground mines where proper ventilation and flexible work schedules are crucial. There should be adoption of slower work pace and two-person crews during extreme heat," the Ministry said. Heatwave awareness sessions The Ministry has asked states/UTs and its other departments to conduct awareness sessions and training on recognising, preventing heat stress, and include heatwave-specific content in worker training modules. Hospitals and dispensaries under Directorate General Labour Welfare (DGLW) and Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) have been instructed to set up dedicated desks for heat stroke cases and ensure availability of ORS, ice packs, and other necessary materials to handle heat-related illnesses. Heatwaves in India occur



mainly from March to June and in some cases, July. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) in a statement on Tuesday said that heat wave conditions are seen likely over central India and plains of northwest India till April 28 and east India till April 26. According to IMD, a heatwave is declared when the "maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degree celsius or more for plains and at least 30 degree celsius or more for hilly regions."

Leon Mendonca, the Goan chess whiz known for Hawaiian shirts, attacking chess and appetite for big scalps



GNS News Agency, April 28

At the recently-concluded Grenke Freestyle Chess Open 2025, a new terror on the chess board emerged from India: 19-year-old Leon Luke Mendonca, who defeated players like Ian Nepomniachtchi and Richard Rapport and ground out draws against grandmasters like Alexey Sarana, Wesley So and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. After the nine-round event ended on Monday in Karlsruhe, Leon was 10th in the standings out of 297 players. Of these, 31 players started the event with a better rating than the ever-smiling, bespectacled boy from Goa with a penchant for Hawaiian shirts and attacking chess. For Leon, who became India's 67th grandmaster in 2020, moments under the bright arc lights on the global stage have been limited. His rise, after all, coincided with India discovering its golden generation with stars like world champion Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi.

Unlike a Gukesh or a Pragg, who hail from chess-loving Chennai, Leon took his first steps in the sport in the small town of Saligao in Goa. But his rise is also testament to the fact that the sport is spreading fast in India, at outposts away from the traditional centres. Before Leon, Goa had one more grandmaster in the form of Anurag Mhamal. The Grenke Freestyle Chess Open was Leon's second big-ticket event this year. He was part of the Tata Steel chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee earlier this year with the likes of Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa and Erigaisi. But that event had not gone as per plan with him winning just one game and finishing 13th out of 14 players. The event in Grenke, though, saw him play some of his best chess and that too in the freestyle variant, which most elite players agree feels like a completely different sport than regular chess. "It's my first time playing a freestyle chess tournament. This freestyle variant is the best thing. I hope this is the future of chess. It kind of forces players to focus on their own skills rather than memorizing opening theory," Leon told the tournament's YouTube handle right after beating Nepomniachtchi. Just to get a measure of how good Leon was at the Grenke Chess tournament, Nepomniachtchi held an advantage of 114 rating points on the Indian and was yet forced to resign in 36 moves in round 3. In the next round, Richard Rapport (rated 79 rating points ahead of Leon) was handed defeat in 35 moves. In his nine games, he lost just

once to end as the second best placed Indian at Grenke, behind Erigaisi.

Leon's first motivation to play the sport has echoes of Magnus Carlsen: they both wanted to beat their elder sisters on the battlefield of 64 squares. "His sister Beverly was first given a chess set as a gift, that's when we sent her to a class to get coaching. She would then teach Leon, who was just around four or five at that time, what she had learnt at the class that day. That's how he started," father Lyndon told The Indian Express. Even as his sister soon moved on to other pursuits, the boy was so enamoured by the sport that he would often play against himself at home. Back when he started to become good at the sport, Leon's biggest challenge was getting top-quality coaching in Goa, said Lyndon. So father and son became journeymen, chasing elite chess knowledge around the country. They lived with Akash Thakur in Nagpur for a while, where his basics were strengthened. With online chess coaching still not a thing back in those days, there were also other stints with Rajesh Bahadur in Madhya Pradesh and Shashikant Kutwal in Pune.

"Because at some point, we realized that we had to move on (from Goa). So, we started going to neighboring states like Maharashtra, Karnataka and then Tamil Nadu," said Lyndon. Around 2015, when Leon started to show serious potential, they approached grandmaster RB Ramesh to be his coach. Ramesh has shaped the careers of many elite players like Praggnanandhaa, Vaishali and Aravindh Chitambaram. But it meant plenty of days spent in Chennai to learn at one of the country's premier finishing institutes in chess: Ramesh's Chess Gurukul. Currently, Leon is being mentored by Vishnu Prasanna, the man who shaped the career of Gukesh, who last year became the world's youngest world champion in chess history. Leon also benefitted from being part of the first cohort of students at the Westbridge Anand Chess Academy, started by five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand. Lyndon said that what makes his son unique is that he never really complains about anything: no fuss about hotel rooms, no hissy fit over hectic travel itineraries, no rants about arbiters or tournament organisers. To illustrate this, he gives the example of the time both of them were stranded in Budapest for many months when the world shut down abruptly due to the coronavirus pandemic. Instead of going stir-crazy at being caught in a foreign land in one of the most uncertain times in living memory, Leon, accompanied by his father, chased his goals on the chess board, claiming the three norms that one needs to become a grandmaster during the pandemic in the chess-revering cities. "Raising Leon has always been a pleasure for me because he is very dedicated to whatever he does. He has come up the hard way. But with him, there are never any complaints. So, we never had issues even in those uncertain times, be it food or accommodation," said Lyndon who said that Leon even joined a church choir in Budapest with a second-hand violin that he had arranged for in exchange for giving the previous owner chess lessons.

How many wins does Barcelona need to win La Liga?

GNS News Agency, April 28

Barcelona pulled off a narrow yet crucial win in La Liga on Wednesday against Mallorca. The Blaugrana are in pole position to win the Spanish league, and currently sit on a seven-point lead over rivals Real Madrid. Even though Madrid has a game in hand, it appears that the title is Barca's to lose. The League leaders only have five more games left to play, with the final League game coming in on the 25th of May, roughly a month from now, against Athletic Club.

Barca inch closer to winning La Liga under Hansi Flick ever since Hansi Flick took over the club in May 2024, the Spaniards have been on an upward climb, playing attractive football. The club also has the youngest age in the Spanish top flight. With just five games to go, the Blaugrana's fate is in its own hands, unlike rivals Real Madrid. Barcelona can win La Liga if they go on to win all their remaining games. However, it is a difficult ask even for a club of Barca's proportions, given their packed schedule. If things go well for Barca and they win all of their remaining games, Flick and Co. will be crowned champions on the final matchday, irrespective of how Real Madrid performs. To make things more easier, Real losing their game in hand against Getafe on Thursday will give Barcelona the spectacular opportunity to win La Liga with a victory in the El Clasico on 11th May.

How can Real Madrid win La Liga?

The Los Blancos' painful elimination from the UEFA Champions League can only be masked by winning the La



Liga at the end of the season. For Real to lift the title, quite a few results, outside their control, have to go in their favour. With crucial fixtures in the UEFA Champions League semi-final against Inter in the first week of May, Flick's squad will be stretched thin. In La Liga, Barca has games against Real Valladolid, Real Madrid, Espanyol, Villarreal and Athletic Club. Failing to win any of these games will put Real within reach (one point), making the El Clasico on 11th may effectively the title decider. If Real manage to win against Getafe on Thursday, and against Celta Vigo on Sunday, victory in the El Clasico can put them within a points reach of the League leaders.

The Los Blancos then need to hope for to slip-up in any of its remaining 3 matches while winning all others on their plate. Even though a lot of hypotheticals and probabilities headline the title race, both Real and Barca, even more so, have a chance to add to their cabinets.



Rishabh Pant and his team Lucknow Super Giants were handed another defeat at home in Lucknow by his old IPL side, the Delhi Capitals.

cricketer-turned-analyst Ambati Rayudu wasn't buying Pant's reasoning. "I feel Rishabh Pant really needs to take the onus on himself. He really needs to take the decisions on his own. Sometimes these visuals are not really good if you are a good team. Because you want everything to be closed doors. You want everything to be said indoors. And also you don't want any dirty laundry to be washed outside. Pant really needs to take the control of the decisions that are being made at LSG. He needs to come up the order. He cannot give any more excuses. He is the captain. And it is a captain's sport. We all acknowledge that. Going forward, they need to make a few changes: maybe get Mayank Yadav in. Also Rishabh Pant has to be batting slightly higher. You are visibly quite tensed about the whole situation," Rayudu said on JioStar in his post-game analysis.

A contrasting night for the captains as Axar Patel stars in a thumping win for DC against Rishabh Pant's LSG



GNS News Agency, April 28

Synopsis: Axar Patel leads from the front with all-round display, KL Rahul makes a statement on return to Lucknow as DC outplay LSG in a comfortable 8-wicket win On a night filled with narratives at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow, it was Delhi Capitals who prevailed by 8 wickets in a run-chase of 160, reestablishing their credentials as contenders for the title this season. KL Rahul, returning to Lucknow for the first time since his less-than-friendly release from the franchise, hit a statement six to finish off the match, once again remaining unbeaten in a run-chase with a 42-ball 57.

Axar leads from the front LSG and DC both lost their second wicket in the 12th over of their respective innings. When a well-set Abhishek Porel fell, Axar Patel walked in. There really wasn't any real pressure on DC at this stage but a couple of wickets, and with new batters needing time to settle in, it could have gotten tricky. After four dot balls against Avesh Khan, Axar wasted little time to make an impact, he took down Ravi Bishnoi in the very next over with two sixes over midwicket region, his favourite shot against spin. Back against Avesh in the next over, again after being beaten by a couple of deliveries, he took the risk to try and clear the fielder at mid off, and succeeded by hitting a four. A six off Shardul Thakur was the standout shot as he picked up a not-so-short ball with the weight still on his backfoot to send the ball over long on. Axar Delhi Capitals' captain Axar Patel plays a shot during the Indian Premier League cricket match. (Agencies)

It wasn't just with the bat. Axar hadn't bowled as much earlier in the season because of a finger injury he had picked

up during the Champions Trophy, but on Tuesday, he stepped up to bowl in the powerplay... right through. Three overs of Axar in the first six went for just 19 runs, as he took the new ball to capitalise on the slowness of conditions early on. From the other end, three overs of pace went for 32 runs. The player of the match award eventually went to Mukesh Kumar for his figures of 4/33 but that was Axar's performance was arguably even more impactful, including the intangible aspect of leadership. On the other hand, when Lucknow's main man Nicholas Pooran was removed by Mitch Starc (for the fifth time in seven T20s, no less), the hosts sent in Abdul Samad in at No 4, with another right-hander already in the middle in Mitch Marsh. Their captain, Rishabh Pant, eventually came out to bat with two balls remaining in the innings and was out trying to play a reverse scoop off the last ball of the 20th over. "Idea was to capitalise on a wicket like that by sending Samad up, after that Miller came in... and we just really got stuck in that wicket. Eventually, these are the things we got to figure out and try to find our best combination going forward," Pant said later. His explanation for using Ayush Badoni as an Impact Sub for consecutive matches while batting first – despite having Mayank Yadav's raw pace available as a bowling sub option – also didn't quite make sense. Pant also had an ordinary day behind the stumps, when he gave into an overexcited LBW appeal from Digvesh Rathi against KL Rahul – the impact was so much outside the offstump that Rahul's planted front foot might as well have been in Delhi. While LSG's season is still pretty much on track for a playoff appearance, Pant is starting to appear increasingly rattled, his own poor form with the bat not helping matters. He took a nice return catch to dismiss Samad to ensure LSG's decision to promote him up the order didn't pay off. After being hit for three fours at the start of the 20th over by Ayush Badoni, he corrected his line to target the stumps and end a very useful cameo by LSG's crisis man in the middle order. And off the last ball, he got the better of an overly adventurous Pant. But the undoubted highlight of the match was Mukesh Kumar's sensational yorker to Mitch Marsh. End of the 14th over, Mukesh nailed an inswinging yorker that zoned in on the base of the offstump like a heat-seeking missile controlled remotely. The release was from wide of the crease, starting from well outside the offstump, before tailing in. Marsh looked stunned. In a season where yorkers are making a grand comeback, that might just be the best of the lot.

Dev Meena, who rewrote pole vault national record, has one request: 'please allow my poles in flights'

GNS News Agency, April 28

It was nearly twilight when Dev Meena soared over 5.35 metres to rewrite his own national record in the men's pole vault and establish himself as the country's brightest talent in the highly technical event. The pole vault, the first event of the afternoon session, began at 2:30 pm. By the time Meena set the new mark, his torso and hip well over the bar, it was nearly 5:45 pm. Eight finals were completed during this time. Meena was the only athlete to break a national record.

Till four years ago pole vault was not on Dev Meena's mind. He was a new inductee, focussed on the 400 metres, at the MP State Sports Academy in TT Nagar, Bhopal. But things were not going his way on the track and the farmer's son from Khede village in Dewas district was on the verge of looking at another career choice. Then came coach Ghanshyam Yadav. The coach is just 29 now, but he was entrusted with building a pole-vault talent pool and in Meena he spotted a flexible and strong athlete. One of Yadav's selling points was the lesser competition in pole vault compared to the 400 metres. Meena took the plunge and it has been rewarding. Tuesday was the second time this year that Meena broke the national record. If not for a light drizzle, Meena felt he could have cleared 5.45 metres. "I didn't want to risk injury because the grip was slipping and I had to change the grip often," Meena said. The 24-year-old was way ahead of the competition. M Gowtham, the silver medalist, finished at 5.15m.

Meena has been a steady performer. He holds the Under-18 and Under-20 national records too and is the only Indian pole vaulter to qualify for the Junior World Championships. When Meena switched from 400 metres to the pole vault he didn't inform his parents. "It took me nearly a year to get the hang of it. Only after that did I tell my parents that I am into pole vault," Meena said. He was also worried about the costly poles. "I told him don't worry. The academy will pay for everything. You just have to be dedicated and don't worry about anything else," Yadav recalled the conversation he had with Meena. On Tuesday, Meena wanted to start at 4:90 metres but his coaches Yadav and foreign coach, Cuba's Angel Eduardo Garcia, told him he was ready to open with 5 metres.

Since Garcia started coaching Meena a few months ago, his speed on the runway and the technique of planting the pole has also improved. "The problem with Indian pole vaulters is when they see the box (where the pole is planted) they sort of stop. Coach Garcia has made planting more smooth for Meena," coach Yadav said. Despite Meena literally soaring to new heights, he won't be on the flight for the Asian Athletics Championships in Gumi, South Korea, next month. The Athletics Federation of India has set a standard of 5.51 metres, a high bar for Indians. Meena is disappointed about missing the opportunity of competing at the Asian



Championships. He hoped the federation will be lenient to Indian pole vaulters still striving to make a mark overseas. "I felt the federation should have reduced it (qualifying mark) a bit, about 10 centimetres less so I can go and compete," Meena said. "But they know best. I know I will go much higher. Even today if not for the rain..." His use of the phone immediately after the event landed him in trouble. Meena got a scolding from former sports minister Yashodhara Raje Scindia for rushing to share on social media posts praising him for breaking the national record. "Tell him to keep his feet on the ground. And give him his phone only at the end of the day," Scindia, the driving force behind the MP academy, told coach Yadav while Meena listened over the phone speaker. The coach quickly asked Meena to hand over this phone. "The academy has supported Meena and me a lot. We wouldn't be where we are today without support from the MP academy," Yadav said. Transporting poles For Meena, the biggest challenge is not going higher in the pole vault but transporting the equipment. His newest pole is 5 metres long, which he wants to compete with at the World University Games in Germany in July. But flying out from India has been a challenge because it is difficult to convince airline staff to put the poles in cargo. The biggest setback was when he couldn't take his own poles by air for the World Under-20 Championships in Lima, Peru, last year. "Travelling when abroad with the poles is not an issue. But taking the poles when travelling out of India is. Flight people should know that it is sports equipment. If it is taken in the train then the TT asks 10 questions and sometimes uses bad language. Nobody understands," Meena said. For the Federation Cup, Meena's coach Yadav took the train with 10 poles as part of his baggage. He placed some of them between fans along the roof. Meena took a flight because it was easier on the body. "It is a constant problem. So many times I have had to call our sports minister or top officials because the poles were not being allowed on the train," coach Yadav said. Meena hopes he can compete with his own pole at the World University Games. "If transporting poles becomes easy then I don't have to worry and can focus on the next national record."

We were confident of chasing down the target, Porel

GNS News Agency, April 28

HYDERABAD: Delhi Capitals' Abhishek Porel, who scored a fluent 36-ball 51 in the win against Lucknow Super Giants, said he always had the confidence that they would chase down the target. "The wicket was playing well and we had also bowled really well, especially in the middle-overs. So, I was pretty confident," he said in the post-match briefing.

"I'm enjoying myself. I have had discussions with Hemang (Badani) sir and Kevin Pietersen. Whatever conversations I have with them, I just try to work on it and execute it during the match," Porel said. "The support staff obviously tells me to play with a free mindset. The coaches, captain and all the senior players have been very supportive, and everyone backs me," Porel further said.

Asked about his future goals, the wicket-keeper batter said, obviously, the ultimate goal was to play for India. "But right now I'm focusing on scoring runs for Delhi Capitals and helping the side win the trophy," he said. The 22-



year-old also praised pacer Mukesh Kumar for his bowling and said he was somebody who backs his strength. "He is a very hardworking person. He works a lot in practice, especially on his yorkers," he said. Delhi Capitals now have six wins and 12 points from eight matches and are placed at No.2 in the points table.

Ryan Coogler compares Marvel to vampires as he delivers one of the best movies of the year



When Edgar Wright dropped out of directing the first Ant-Man movie for Marvel, pretty much everybody agreed that it was for the best. He ended up making the wholly original Baby Driver instead. Ditto for Ava DuVernay, who passed on directing Black Panther for the studio. They went with Ryan Coogler, who delivered a true cultural touchstone; Black Panther became the first superhero movie to earn a Best Picture nod at the Oscars and catapulted Coogler into a club normally restricted to white visionaries such as Steven Spielberg and Christopher Nolan. But it seems like Coogler always knew that the invite was conditional; while his white counterparts could go on to do whatever they wanted next, as a Black filmmaker with one blockbuster under his belt, he'd have to provide further proof of his capacity to comply — a guarantee, if you will, before he could be allowed to make something as audacious as his fifth feature, Sinners.

Coogler's first original movie in over a decade, Sinners is many things. But it's also a reflection on his partnership with Marvel. Making one movie for the studio felt like a necessary stepping stone to get to where he wanted, but returning for a sequel, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, had the unmistakable whiff of contractual compromise. Even with a \$250 million budget at his disposal — for context, SS Rajamouli could make four RRRs for this amount — it still felt like Coogler was chained to master who was profiteering off of his culture. His two Marvel movies certainly did a lot for the Black community, but you can't ignore the fact that they also made a lot of white people a lot of money. The filmmaker literally wrestles with this conflict in Sinners, where the two sides of his personality are represented by the SmokeStack twins, played by Michael B Jordan.

One is clearly more cautious than the other. When he refuses to join hands with a group of white vampires — essentially a metaphor for assimilation — he is accused by his more cutthroat brother of lacking 'vision'. And when they wrestle each other to the ground in the film's blood-soaked third act, it is as much a battle of ideologies as it is a biblical beat-down. Smoke and Stack had rolled into town — rural Mississippi, circa 1932 — earlier that morning, claiming to have left behind their gangster ways in Chicago. They spent the day recruiting old friends and acquaintances to help them convert an old barn into a blues club. The grand opening

would take place the same evening, with a fully-stocked bar of Irish beer and Italian wine, and all the food that their working-class clientele could afford.

The main attraction is their young cousin Sammie, played by newcomer Miles Caton. The son of a preacher man, Sammie has the voice of an angel and a guitar that weeps so gently that God Himself would forgive us our trespasses. The film's opening voiceover alludes to rare talent like Sammie's, and music "so pure it can pierce the veil between life and death, past and future." Another stand-in for Coogler, Sammie embodies the age-old dilemma that must plague most artists. Should he pursue his passion and risk being exploited, or worse, persecuted? Or should he keep to himself, preserving his perceived superpower for those who will truly respect it? Sammie is warned by his father about the supernatural spell that blues music could cast on people, and is forbidden to play the guitar for fear that he unwittingly summons the devil — a representation of greed. In Sinners, this 'devil' is presented as an Irish immigrant vampire named Remmick, played by Jack O'Connell. He exists, literally, to leech off of folks like Sammie by luring them to his side with the promise of money and 'mauj'. Is it a stretch to draw a parallel between Remmick and Hollywood? Not really. Coogler admits that he sold a part of his soul to the devil by agreeing to make (at least one of) his Marvel films. The other half, represented by Stack, resisted this temptation. He was always the less calculating of the two, unburdened by the deep loss that Smoke has had to carry for the last decade. Earlier, when patrons asked for discounts on liquor and food, he allowed it despite Smoke's stern reminder that they are businessmen first. "This ain't no house party; this ain't no charity. We takin' cash," Smoke said to him. When Remmick offered them cold coins in exchange of an invitation into the establishment, Stack's eyes briefly lit up, but Smoke remained suspicious. He warned Sammie to leave worldly pursuits behind and retreat into a supposed haven for Black people — sort of like Wakanda — where he would be safe. He's seen what society can do to people like Sammie, a symbol of Black excellence with a voice so magical that it summoned a horde of actual vampires towards him. They offered him something quite undeniable: the opportunity to immortalise himself and his art. What is the role of a Black artist in America? Is assimilation the only option? Is dealing with the devil you know better than the devil you don't? "White folks like the blues just fine," says Delta Slim, an ornery old drunk who's seen it all. "They just don't like the people who make it." In Sinners, Coogler comes to terms with the fact that he will one day outlive his usefulness. The 'sinner' that he is, he will be cast out of Hollywood the moment he delivers his first stinker. But if the film's climactic scene is anything to go by, he doesn't regret contributing to the death of culture by making a highly questionable superhero sequel. If he's going to hell, he's going to save us all a seat. Post Credits Scene is a column in which we dissect new releases every week, with particular focus on context, craft, and characters. Because there's always something to fixate about once the dust has settled.

Dipika Kakar and Shoaib Ibrahim left Kashmir just few hours before Pahalgam terror attack, actor confirms: ‘Hum sab safe hain’

Television actors Dipika Kakar and Shoaib Ibrahim were vacationing in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam with their son Ruhaan, mere hours before a deadly terrorist attack claimed the lives of over a dozen tourists. Shoaib took to social media to assure their fans that they are safe, and had left Kashmir just a few hours before the incident occurred. Many of Dipika Kakar and Shoaib Ibrahim's fans expressed concerns over their safety following the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. After the news of the attack broke, fans took to social media to enquire about their safety, as they had been recently posting pictures from the tourist destination.

Just two days before the terror attack, Dipika had posted a video of herself strolling through Pahalgam. The couple shared many more photos and videos from the popular destination; some of the visuals also featured Ruhaan. On Tuesday evening, Shoaib took to Instagram to share that they are safe and had left Kashmir. "Hi guys, U all have been concerned for our well-being... Hum sab safe hain theek hain, aaj hi morning me we left Kashmir... (We all are safe, we left Kashmir this morning), and we reached Delhi safely... Thank you for all the concern.. New vlog coming soon," wrote the actor. Afternoon, a terrorist attack took place



near Pahalgam and at least 26 people, mostly civilians, were reportedly gunned down while many others were injured. The incident occurred around 3 pm. Dipika Kakar and Shoaib Ibrahim tied the knot in 2018, and the couple welcomed their first child, son Ruhan, in 2023.

From Nadodikkattu to Manichitrathazhu, and now Thudarum: Mohanlal, Shobana's definitive guide to phenomenal on-screen chemistry

How to know if you are in love? Well, there's an easy way! Watch the video song "Vaisakha Sandhye" from director Sathyan Anthikad's classic comedy-drama Nadodikkattu (1987). This idea might sound silly; yes. But give it a try. As Dasan (Mohanlal) and Radha (Shobana) revel in each other's endearment in the midst of their mundane, working-class lives — accompanied by Shyam's ethereal tune, Yusufali Kechery's passionate lyrics, and KJ Yesudas' soothing vocals — you would start reimagining the frames with you and your special someone, copying exactly what Mohanlal and Shobana are doing in those shots. In that moment, you would also realise with whom you want to recreate those moments. Surreal, yes; but a large number of Malayalees have done this at least once in their lifetime, and that's a fact! Of course, the way the narrative built up to this moment and the filmmaker's vision contributed significantly to the track's iconic status, but it's undoubtedly the unparalleled on-screen chemistry between Mohanlal and Shobana that made it what it is — a song born out of the beat that the heart skipped. Nonetheless, this wasn't the first (nor the last) movie or scene that spotlighted their phenomenal scene-stealing dynamic. And director Tharun Moorthy's Thudarum is the latest addition to the long list of films whose charm is heightened with Mohanlal and Shobana at the centre. From Raj Kapoor-Nargis Dutt, Dilip Kumar-Vijayanthimala, Prem Nazir-Sheela and MG

Ramachandran (MGR)-Saroja Devi to Amitabh Bachchan-Rekha, Kamal Haasan-Sridevi, and Shah Rukh Khan-Kajol, Indian cinema has never had a dearth of iconic on-screen couples. In fact, these jodis continue to enthrall even the younger generations of audiences, thanks to these actors' extraordinary ability to create magic on screen, both individually and together. What makes Mohanlal and Shobana's collaborations equally brilliant and endearing is their ability to form strong connections with each other on a very subconscious and emotional level, irrespective of the kind of dynamic they share on screen.

While they are a romantic couple in Nadodikkattu, the two are just close friends in Fazil's classic psychological thriller Manichitrathazhu (1993) — to be precise, Ganga (Shobana) met Dr Sunny Joseph (Mohanlal) through her husband Nakulan (Suresh Gopi), as the two men have been friends for a long time. Nonetheless, they manage to establish a deep rapport almost immediately while staying true to the dynamic between their characters. In their first proper on-screen interaction, we see Ganga and Sunny casually discussing all the inexplicable incidents that have been happening in the Madampalli mansion, widely believed to be haunted, and the legends surrounding it. In a scene that holds significant importance in the narrative, although the reason is revealed only towards the end.

Pratik Gandhi is surprised why there hasn't been a film on Phule yet: ‘Every social evil he fought against is still there’



Amid controversies and initial opposition from the Brahmin community, Ananth Mahadevan's period drama Phule will finally see the light of day this Friday on April 25. Based on the lives of legendary 19th century social activists Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule, the film stars Pratik Gandhi and Patralekhaa as the lead couple. In an interview with SCREEN, Pratik talked about playing larger-than-life real-life characters like Jyotirao Phule, Mahatma Gandhi, and Harshad Mehta, and how he manages to bring authenticity to each of them. That's the first question I asked my director when he offered me the role. He joked that a film on Phule hasn't been made because we were supposed to make it. Every social evil he fought back then is still there, in one or the other form. So something which is so relevant, nobody thought about it. I don't know who can answer this question. I just feel fortunate enough that I could do it.

With no reference point in Hindi cinema, how did you get into Phule's shoes?

My biggest reference point was a detailed, well-researched script. The reforms Jyotirao and Savitribai Phule have done are so huge that it's difficult to pin them down to 2 hours and 20 minutes. So one must read and research everything before compressing the character's life. That job was already done by Ananth Mahadevan and his co-writers. It gave me a complete idea of the world. Apart from that, I wanted to make sure I didn't make any mistakes in pronouncing Marathi. I also spoke to a lot of people who knew about his traits and qualities. That's how I went beyond the script with my performance.

Do you think why Hindi cinema hasn't had a film on the Phules is because unlike Marathi cinema, it shies away from depiction of caste?

No, I think films have been made on this issue, in the black-and-white era and even after that. But off late, I think after the 1980s, cinema changed. We moved towards a more limited definition of entertainment. That must be a reason why people didn't touch this topic or it was forgotten easily.

Do you think post the 1980s, we've also stopped going into the interiors of India? Like the late Manoj Kumar did. You did Dedh Bhiga Zameen last year and Phule now. Why do we lack representation of those sections of India?

Our stories should come from our society. The best part of India is that we have diverse cultures, so many of them, in terms of regions, religions, and languages. We should have representation from all walks of life. From '80s onwards, cinema became more of aspirational storytelling. I met a lot of people then who said, "Ye sab toh roz marra mein hota hi hai. Issey badhkar cinema mein kuchh dekhna hai" (This happens anyway in our daily lives. We want to see something that's far ahead in our cinema). They want to forget their struggles and have fun. But I also believe there should be some kind of representation of these people and their struggles.

Since you were a prominent Gujarati star and was introduced to the Hindi audience as another Gujarati character, Harshad Mehta, with Scam 1992, was it tough to break out of that mould and play say, a Bengali character in Do Aur Do Pyaar and a Marathi character in Agni and Phule?

For anyone coming from regional cinema, they'll be initially cast only in that kind of a role. So many good Bengali actors today are being offered only Bengali roles. Similarly, it happened to me too. It happens until someone shows enough faith to give you the opportunity to break out of it. Even though Harshad Mehta was a Gujarati character,

Akshay Kumar's film plummets to single digits amid historical inaccuracy backlash, passes Rs 50 crore mark worldwide

Kesari 2 Box Office Collection Day 5: Akshay Kumar, R Madhavan, and Ananya Panday's historical courtroom drama Kesari: Chapter 2 started on a promising note at the box office. However, this initial interest only seemed to last the weekend. From Monday, Kesari 2 has been witnessing a massive dip in its box office collections, while on Tuesday, day five, the Akshay Kumar starrer saw a very small spike; it only managed to earn another Rs 4.75 crore. On Tuesday, the total net domestic collection for Kesari 2 stood at Rs 38.75 crore, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. Worldwide, Kesari 2 earned Rs 56.6 crore. As per official collection figures announced by the makers, in four days, Kesari 2 has earned Rs 34.12 crore. While Kesari 2 has performed better than Akshay's other recent films, Sarfira and Khel Khel Mein, the film has not managed to surpass the collections of Sky Force. The overall occupancy for Kesari Chapter 2 on Tuesday was 23.25 percent, with a total of 4232 shows running all over India. Jaipur had the highest occupancy of 42.50 percent with 156 shows, followed by Chennai, where the film's occupancy was 30.33 percent with 35 shows. Delhi-NCR also had the third-highest occupancy of 30.25 percent, with 1088 shows running. In Mumbai, Kesari 2's occupancy was 23.25 percent with 802 shows. Surat has had the lowest occupancy of 15.75 percent with 274 shows.

Kesari Chapter 2: The Untold Story Of Jallianwala

Scam 1992 was equal to four films. So that helped people realise that I can do the full range of emotions and play different kinds of parts.

You managed to bring a ray of sunshine to even a scamster like Harshad Mehta. Do you feel it's also your job to show the chinks in the armour of a Mahatma like Jyotirao Phule?

I don't judge my characters. If I do that while performing, I'll colour them. You have to see it as just a character. My job as an actor is to make the character human, as in his logic and psychology should be completely clear in my mind. If I'm playing a serial killer, I have to be a serial killer in my mind. Anybody who's doing something that's largely perceived as something negative, they're convinced why they're doing it. If I play a serial killer with my morality, then it'll never work. So even when I'm playing a character like Phule, I don't have to treat him like a superstar right from the start. I just have to live his life. There's already a journey. I just have to show that journey.

Since you also play Mahatma Gandhi in Hansal Mehta's upcoming show, what similarities and differences have you observed in them, since they both opposed caste discrimination, thought in different eras?

They're both Mahatmas and fought crucial fights. Both of them had a lot of inner strength. They never thought about their own safety or their families. They had the courage to ask 'Why?' They both talked and walked non-violence. There's a dialogue in Phule, where he says that those who think we can fight the British with weapons are wrong, we can only fight them with education. Without emphasizing on non-violence, he actually practised it. I just felt like Gandhi is a reincarnation of the same soul. The difference, as per my limited knowledge and understanding, was the difference in context. Jyotirao had more of a fight within, before he started fighting against society. He was not against the Britishers. He believed that first, let's get our homes right.

We haven't seen too many depictions of Phule, but we've seen quite a few of Gandhi. So how did you make Gandhi your own?

I haven't tried to see Gandhi from whatever has already been depicted. I haven't followed anyone's style. I just stuck to the script primarily and tried to create Gandhi in the most possible organic way. Gandhi was a common man who had no clue how he's going to do what he's going to do. He was just exploring himself through his ideas. At least, that's how I've approached it.

You keep sliding in these comedies, like Madgaon Express and Dhoom Dhaam, between these serious roles. Does comedy liberate you?

I personally love doing comedy. It's a fun genre, but a very difficult one at that. So I keep testing myself whether I can still match the timing. Comedy doesn't need as much research and prep work as it does practice, discipline, sincerity, and experience. It's also good to surprise the audience once in a while. That way, they can't put you in a bracket. Whenever they've gotten over a comedy, you throw another one at them.

Jyotirao Phule educated his wife Savitribai at a time when women's education was a taboo. How did you build that gentle romance with Patralekhaa, who plays Savitribai in Phule?

That was a very fascinating thing we'd learnt about that couple. The definition of love was much broader for them. Jyotirao wanted his wife to get educated and think beyond certain norms. He wanted to liberate his wife in a social environment where female education and freedom weren't even thought about. There's a sense of respect between them. That comes through only when we respect each other as actors. So that it brings a lived-in sense of comfort to our romance.

There aren't too many male actors who take the back seat or have the female lead take equal footing in films. But you've done it with Do Aur Do Pyaar (Vidya Balan), Dhoom Dhaam (Yami Gautam), and now, Phule. What makes you so comfortable with this idea?

First of all, I don't see it in that way. Whether it's a 'strong' female character or a 'strong' male character. I see it purely in terms of the merit of the script, whether it works for me, if it engages me, and if there's enough meat for me to put into the script. For all the films you mentioned, I never looked at it from that angle. If the script works, even the smallest character works for me. But if the script doesn't work, nothing does. Merely a comparison whose screentime is more or whose character is stronger doesn't make sense because it'll kill the film.



Bagh has been directed by Karan Singh Tyagi and produced by Dharma Productions, Leo Media Collective, and Cape Of Good Films. The film stars Akshay Kumar, Ananya Panday, R Madhavan, Regina Cassandra, and Alexx O'Neill in important roles. Kesari 2 had a theatrical release on April 18.