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## Telangana may experience respite from severe heat in the form of thunderstorms till May 7

Hyderabad: People in Hyderabad and districts can expect respite from intense heat wave-like conditions for the next five days. The Hyderabad MET department on Friday in its forecast has indicated widespread thundershowers along with gusty winds in 29 districts of Telangana State till Wednesday, May 7.

The weather department issued an orange alert of severe thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds of 40 to 50 kmph on Saturday for several districts such as Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Warangal, Hanamkonda and Jangaon.

## Youth brutally murdered in public view in Falaknuma

Hyderabad: Unidentified persons brutally murdered a youth in full public view at Bibi-ka-Chasma in Falaknuma in the old city on Friday. A previous enmity is suspected to have led to the murder. As per available information, the assailants approached the victim identified as Mohd Majid (27), who runs a pan shop near Metro Bakery and reportedly after an argument, attacked him with knives and other sharp weapons. He suffered multiple grievous bleeding injuries. Those who noticed the attack immediately rushed to his rescue and shifted him to the hospital, where the doctors declared him dead. On receiving information, the Falaknuma police rushed to the spot and took up investigation. The surveillance cameras at the crime spot and surroundings are being examined to identify and nab the killers.

## Modi relaunches Amaravati Greenfield capital in AP



GNS News Agency, May 2

Vijayawada: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated and laid the foundation for projects worth Rs 58,000 crore here, which also included re-launching the construction of the greenfield capital city of Amaravati, which is Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's 'dream project'. The Prime Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation for 94 projects, which included capital city institutions, national highways, railway upgrades and defence-related installations. As part of resuming the construction of Amaravati, the PM laid foundation for 74 projects worth Rs 49,000 crore, which encompassed the construction of the Assembly, Secretariat and High Court buildings and judicial residential quarters, along with housing buildings for 5,200 families.

He laid foundations for

infrastructure and flood mitigation projects featuring a 320 km long world-class transport network with underground utilities and advanced flood management systems in the greenfield capital city. The land pooling scheme infrastructure projects will cover 1,281 km of roads equipped with central medians, cycle tracks, and integrated utilities across the greenfield capital city of Amaravati. Likewise, the PM laid the foundation for nine Central projects worth Rs 5,028 crore, such as DRDO's missile testing centre (Rs 1,459 crore) at Nagayalanka in Krishna district, Unity mall in Vizag (Rs 100 crore), Guntakal - Mallappa Gate Rail overbridge (Rs 293 crore) and six national highway projects (Rs 3,176 crore). The missile testing centre will comprise a launch centre, technical instrumentation facilities, indigenous radars, telemetry and electro-

optical systems, enhancing the country's defence preparedness. PM Ekta Mall or Unity mall at Madhurawada in Visakhapatnam has been envisioned with the objective of fostering national integration, supporting the Make in India initiative, promoting 'One District One Product' initiative, generating employment opportunities, empowering rural artisans, and enhancing the market presence of indigenous products. The six national highway projects for which he laid the foundation include the widening of various sections of NH, construction of elevated corridor, half clover leaf and road over bridge among others. These projects will enhance connectivity, inter-state travel, reduce congestion and improve overall logistics efficiency. Likewise, the construction of rail over rail between Guntakal West and Mallappa gate stations aims to bypass goods trains and slash congestion at the Guntakal Junction. Similarly, the PM dedicated three railway projects worth Rs 254 crore to the nation, which included doubling and tripling projects. Further, Modi inaugurated eight national highway projects worth Rs 3,860 crore, which provide seamless connectivity to religious and tourist places like Tirupati, Srikalahasti, Malakonda and Udayagiri Fort among others.

## Delhi Court Issues Notice to Sonia, Rahul Gandhi in National Herald Money Laundering Case



GNS News Agency, May 2

New Delhi: A Delhi court issued notices to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in connection with the ongoing National Herald money laundering case. The development came during the second hearing at the Rouse Avenue Court, with the next hearing scheduled for May 8.

This marks a shift from the court's earlier stance on April 25, when it declined to issue notices to the Congress leaders. At that time, the court directed the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to submit additional relevant documents and rectify deficiencies in its filing. The case stems from a chargesheet filed by the ED in the Rouse Avenue Court, in which Sonia Gandhi, former Congress president, and Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, have been named as accused. Other individuals mentioned in the chargesheet include senior Congress leaders Sam Pitroda and Suman Dubey.

The roots of the case trace back to the National Herald newspaper, established in 1938 by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Once a symbol of the country's freedom struggle, the paper was published by Associated Journals Limited (AJL) but ceased operations in 2008 due to financial difficulties. Subsequently, in 2010, a new company—Young India Private Limited (YIL)—was formed, with Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi reportedly holding a 38% stake each. In 2012, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy alleged that YIL had fraudulently acquired AJL's assets, valued at over ₹2,000 crore, for a mere ₹50 lakh. He termed the transaction a case of fraud and money laundering, prompting a prolonged legal and investigative process.

## Political undercurrents mark Vizhinjam port inauguration by PM

GNS News Agency, May 2

The official commissioning of the Vizhinjam International Seaport by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (May 2, 2025) appeared marked by national and provincial politics. Mr. Modi, who dedicated the facility to the nation, seemed to take an oblique dig at the Congress' national leadership by observing that two prominent INDIA bloc leaders — Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Shashi Tharoor, MP, — shared the high-profile stage with him. "It might make some quarters uncomfortable," Mr. Modi quipped. The Prime Minister also joked about the translator missing the political punchline. Mr. Modi also satirically seized on State Fisheries Minister V.N. Vasavan's words for political point-scoring. Mr. Vasavan said the Kerala government had "found a partner" in Adani Ports to make Vizhinjam a reality. Mr. Modi said he saw some novelty in a Communist government reckoning a private sector entity as a reliable partner in a flagship infrastructure development project. "Private-government partnership is crucial to the country's development", he noted. Mr. Modi appeared to have used the moment to indirectly dispel Congress' criticism that the Central government



favoured the Adani Group. Mr. Modi commenced his speech by stating he was "fortunate to step on Padmanabhan's land", referring to the landmark Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram. He noted that the country observed May 2 as Adi Sankara Jayanthi, an eighth-century Hindu seer believed to have been born in Kalady in Kerala. Mr. Modi paid homage to the late Pope Francis in the predominantly Latin Catholic locality. He remembered St Thomas, one of the 12 Apostles, who Christians believe had arrived in Kerala in 52 BC. Mr. Modi saluted the crowd by stating 'Jai Bharath and Jai Keralam', signalling that the Centre was "in lockstep with the State" on welfare and development issues. Meanwhile, Mr. Vijayan sought to make a political point by underscoring that Kerala had borne 60% of the project cost. He noted that the Centre had limited itself to (a relatively less and repayable)

viability gap funding. Mr. Vijayan appeared to leverage the national stage to counter the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress' assertion that the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government was falsely taking credit for a Central scheme. He also highlighted the challenges the LDF had overcome to make Vizhinjam a reality. Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas stated that the presence of BJP State president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on stage at the behest of the Prime Minister's Office was "undemocratic." Mr. Riyas accused Mr. Chandrasekhar of political impropriety by allegedly attempting to turn the State function into "a BJP political event." Mr. Riyas asked journalists to turn their television cameras towards the stage where Mr. Chandrasekhar had seated himself well ahead of the function's commencement, raising his fist occasionally in support of BJP workers' loud sloganeering.

## BC leaders congratulate CM Revanth Reddy



GNS News Agency, May 2

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy received applause from the BC communities on the Centre's announcement of including caste census in the national census. Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, advisor K Kesava Rao, former MPs V Hanumantha Rao, Anjan Kumar Yadav, Madhu Yashki, MPs, Congress BC MLAs, and corporation chairmen met the Chief Minister today at his Jubilee Hills residence to congratulate him. BC Association National President Jajula Srinivas Goud and BC Association leaders congratulated the Chief Minister. The BC leaders congratulated the CM for his efforts to make caste census a national issue and consequently the Centre accepted the demand.

## Chandrababu addresses at Amaravati capital relaunch event, says it is a historic day

GNS News Agency, May 2

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has touted the reopening ceremony of Amaravati as a momentous occasion that will be etched in history. During his address, he expressed deep regret over the stalling of the capital project and the destruction that has transpired over the past five years. "The reopening of Amaravati marks a significant day — a day that will be remembered forever," stated Naidu. He recalled the foundation stone laying by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, highlighting the unfortunate halt in development efforts since then. "There has been destruction for five years, and it saddens me that there is no more auspicious day than this for Prime Minister Modi to return to Amaravati," he added.

## CM Revanth Reddy makes false claims over continuation of past government's schemes

GNS News Agency, May 2

Hyderabad: After abolishing the KCR Kits, KCR Nutritional Kits, Bathukamma sarees, and several other schemes, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has been making claims about continuing the previous government's welfare initiatives, while also inflating loan repayment figures within a month. To promote institutional deliveries, the previous government had implemented the KCR Kits and KCR Nutritional Kits. Apart from providing essential items like baby soap, powder, handbags, towels, and diapers, pregnant women received financial assistance of Rs 12,000 in three phases. In the case of a girl child's birth, an additional Rs 1,000 was given. Similarly, women were gifted sarees annually during the Bathukamma festivities. All these schemes



have now been discontinued by the Congress government. Although self-help group (SHG) women were promised two sarees annually, the scheme is yet to take off. Likewise, during the Assembly elections, the Congress party had pledged to offer one tola of gold along with Rs 1,00,116 under the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme.

Over the last 16 months, the Congress government has been distributing Kalyana Lakshmi cheques, albeit with significant

delays and to a limited number of beneficiaries. Yet, during the May Day celebrations at Ravindra Bharathi, the Chief Minister claimed that all welfare schemes, including the crop loan waiver, Kalyana Lakshmi, and Rythu Bharosa were being continued. However, the reality remains that these schemes are being implemented partially, not comprehensively.

Under Rythu Bharosa, the Congress had promised Rs 15,000 per acre annually

to farmers. However, this has been reduced to Rs 12,000 per acre. Furthermore, it was assured that the amount would be deposited in farmers' accounts before March 31 this year. Even this reduced assistance has not been extended to all farmers and is restricted to one village per mandal across the State. At the Rythu Mahotsavam programme on April 22 in Nizamabad, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao publicly apologised to farmers for the delay in releasing the Rythu Bharosa assistance. This incident underscores the Congress government's current stance on farmers' welfare. Similarly, under the crop loan waiver scheme, farmers were promised that loans up to Rs 2 lakh would be waived by August 15, 2024. Even after nine months, many farmers are still struggling to get their loans waived.

## Centre agreed to caste census due to Rahul Gandhi's pressure: Ponnamp

Hyderabad, May 2 : Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnamp Prabhakar said the Union government's decision to include the enumeration of caste in the next census is the result of the efforts of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He expressed that this action was taken by the Union government due to the pressure exerted by Rahul Gandhi, attributing all the credit to the Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi. Congress leaders, led by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) Mahesh Kumar Goud, met Governor Jishnu Dev Verma at the Raj Bhavan on Friday and thanked him for passing the Bill providing 42 percent reservation for BCs in the State and sending it to the President. Later, speaking to the media, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, who was also in the delegation, said the Telangana State has conducted a caste census in a transparent manner and it has set an example for the country in



this regard. "The Centre is carrying out the enumeration of castes alongside the national census because of pressure from the Congress party, regardless of what others may claim.

## Case booked on social media user for posting offensive content against CM



GNS News Agency, May 2

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad cyber crime police have booked a criminal case against a social media user for allegedly posting offensive and morphed content against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Earlier, a complaint was lodged by Kailash Sajjan, state secretary of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee's social media wing alleging that one "DigtvTelugu" had posted an edited image portraying the Chief Minister in a derogatory manner on "X" account. The complainant further termed the content was shared with malicious intent to defame the CM and the Congress party. Based on the complaint, the cyber crime police registered a case under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and took up investigation.

## Water Board bags Best Management Award

GNS News Agency, May 2

Hyderabad: On the occasion of International Labour Day, Hyderabad Water Board received the Best Management Award. Water Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy received this award from the hands of Telangana Chief Minister, Revanth Reddy.

According to Hyderabad Water Board officials, the Board is giving priority to the safety of workers. It ensures that safety standards are strictly followed in the workplace and also organises safety weeks annually in all divisions to create awareness about the precautions to be taken while performing duties.



# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Caste count

IN a bid to wrest the pro-OBC initiative from the Opposition, the BJP-led Centre has announced that the caste count will be part of the next Census. The surprise decision comes in the midst of a volatile situation -- the nation is expecting the government to up the ante against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack. The BJP, however, has shown that even the interests of national security won't make it lose sight of its electoral priorities. The short-term goal is to win the Bihar Assembly elections later this year; the larger objective is to upstage the Congress and other rival parties on the caste turf across the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had tried to simplify things when he said in December 2023 that there were only four 'biggest' castes -- women, youth, farmers and the poor. The saffron party, supremely confident about the power of polarisation, let the Opposition play the caste card. However, the underwhelming show in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was an eye-opener for the BJP, which managed to form the government only with the support of allies such as Nishit Kumar's Janata Dal (United) and Chandrababu Naidu's Telugu Desam Party. No wonder coalition compulsions have heavily influenced its decision on caste enumeration. Pressure from the Congress and other Opposition parties has also played a big role.

Another key factor is the tussle over BR Ambedkar's legacy. No party can afford to adopt a half-hearted approach to fulfilling his grand dream of social justice, least of all the BJP. The importance of a nationwide caste count cannot be overemphasised. It will help policymakers tailor welfare schemes according to the specific needs of communities rather than persisting with a one-size-fits-all strategy. Transparent collection and meaningful use of data can go a long way in addressing social inequalities. As of now, it is vital to fix a timeline for the exercise as the Census has already got inordinately delayed.

## Chief Secretary meets Assembly Speaker, Legislative Council Chairman



Hyderabad, May 2 K. Ramakrishna Rao, who has newly assumed charge as the Chief Secretary, paid a courtesy call on Gutha Sukhender Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Legislative Council, at his residence in Jubilee Hills on Friday. Telangana State Dairy Development Corporation Chairman Gutha Amit Reddy and Legislature Secretary Dr. Narasimha Charyulu were also present. Later, the Chief Secretary called on Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar at his official residence in Banjara Hills. On the occasion, the Speaker felicitated the Chief Secretary with a shawl and a bouquet of flowers upon his arrival at his official residence.

## Jupally unveils "Chandrabhaga" book

Hyderabad, May 2 Minister for Tourism and Culture Jupally Krishna Rao unveiled a book titled "Chandrabhaga," which features a collection of translated stories from Jnanpith Award recipients. The event took place at the Minister's chamber in Rabindra Bharathi on Friday.

During the launch, the Minister noted that the stories, translated by esteemed poet and translator Dr. Roop Kumar Dabbakar, serve as a representation of Indian short story literature. He extended his congratulations to Dr. Namuju Balachari, Secretary of the Telangana Sahitya Academy, and Dr. Roop Kumar Dabbakar for their exceptional contributions to literature through the publication of this book.

The Minister also received a copy of "Telangana Sahitya Grandha Soochi," a publication from the Telangana Sahitya Academy. Prominent writers Somasila Thirupal, Thangirala Chakravarthy, Anantharaju Mohan Krishna, and other literary figures participated in this programme.

## Kishan Reddy asks officials to complete land acquisition process for Uppal flyover

Hyderabad, May 2 Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy today inquired about the problems faced by the officials in the land acquisition process related to the construction of a flyover being constructed from Uppal to Ghatkesar. He suggested that steps be taken to ensure the speedy completion of the work of this project, which has been undertaken with priority for the convenience of people's travel.

Reddy said he was serious about the delay in the land acquisition for the construction of the Uppal-Ghatkesar flyover. He questioned the officials about the delay in the land acquisition process for the flyover being constructed from Uppal to Ghatkesar, which will be useful for the movement of lakhs of passengers. He issued instructions to the officials to complete the land acquisition immediately so that the project can be completed quickly.

He said the Amberpet flyover, built at a cost of Rs 400 crore, would be officially inaugurated by Union Roads & Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on May 5. On the occasion, Kishan Reddy instructed the officials concerned to make advance arrangements to avoid inconvenience to the people on the road under the flyover.

## ITC Dermafique Launches the Dermafique Indian Skin Health Report; reveals Indian Skin is Unique and Different from other Ethnicities



Hyderabad: For years, Indian women have explored skincare solutions built around global standards—that are not always tailored for their unique needs. Today, ITC Dermafique has endeavored to change the skincare narrative with the launch of the Dermafique Indian Skin Knowledge Centre (DISKC), dedicated to educate, inform, and build awareness around the uniqueness of Indian skin health and the need for customized solutions to address its care. As part of this initiative, the brand commissioned a survey with Kantar, to study the distinctiveness of Indian Skin, in a first-of-its-kind Dermafique Indian Skin Health Report.

Indian skin is unique and differs from other ethnicities – The Dermafique Indian Skin Health Report uncovers Indian skin truths, throwing valuable insights on how Indian skin requires focused solutions and innovation, specific to our unique concerns. Together, the Knowledge Centre and the Indian Skin Health report mark a pivotal moment in India's skincare journey—bringing Indian skin to the center of scientific research and consumer focus.

Sameer Satpathy, Divisional Chief Executive, Personal Care Products Business, ITC Limited states, "Indian skin is unique and requires customized solutions. With the launch of the Dermafique Indian Skin Knowledge Centre, we are committed to fostering awareness and education on the dis-

ting characteristics of Indian skin. Building on this initiative, the ITC Dermafique Indian Skin Health Report offers insights from Indian consumers, that highlight the need for skincare solutions specifically designed for Indian skin. ITC Dermafique has always focused on advanced innovation, offering differentiated products that are tested on Indian skin. This initiative is a significant step towards empowering Indian consumers with knowledge and solutions to make informed choices for their skin."

The report unveils some compelling findings that enables a better understanding of Indian Skin.

Wrinkles are often considered and understood as the first sign of ageing, but the report states nearly 50% of Indian women experience pigmentation, with a staggering 74% seeing it before they even hit 30 – long before wrinkles typically emerge. This is because Indian skin has more collagen\*, which delays wrinkles, but the presence of 50% more melanin in Indian Skin than Caucasians\*, predisposes Indians to pigmentation.

The study also reveals a curious gap between aspiration and reality when it comes to trends like "glass skin." While a staggering 98% of Indian women aspire to have glass skin, the reality is quite different. Indian skin has almost 4x larger pore size and close to 5x higher density of pores than Chinese, per independent research papers\*. The larger and greater number of pores lead to uneven texture and appearance of Indian skin, making the achievement of Glass Skin tougher. However, consumers are not aware of these unique Indian Skin characteristics as only 7% consider large pores a significant concern as per the Dermafique Indian Skin Health Report. While Indian Skin has more collagen than Caucasians\*, we also have a weaker skin barrier and lower moisture retention\* making us more prone to skin dryness. Indian skin has a higher concern of dryness as compared to Caucasian skin due to lower presence of Natural Moisturizing Factor\* - 80% of women experience dryness from environmental factors, and 87% struggle with under-eye dryness even after moisturizing, revealing a need for balanced hydration.

## Shankara Jayanti Celebrations at National Sanskrit University concluded in Grand manner..



“May 2 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator” The five-day Shankara Jayanti celebrations at the National Sanskrit University concluded with great grandeur. On this occasion, recitations of the commentaries on the Prasthanatraya and the worship and abhishekam of Adi Shankara were conducted. The University Vice-Chancellor, GSRK Murthy, participated as the chief guest and explained to the students the significance of Jagadguru Adi



Shankara's pilgrimage and the importance of the hymns composed by him. Registrar Kadiyama Venkata Narayana Rao elaborated on the prominence of the Tirumala temple visited by Shankara and expressed his wish that more students should come to the university and pursue their studies. “Academic Dean Rajanikant Shukla explained to the students about the four monastic seats (Chaturamnaya Peethas) established by Shankara and the uniqueness of the hymns composed by him. Financial Officer Radha Govinda Tripathi, Advaita Vedanta Department Head K. Ganapati Bhat, Advaita Vedanta faculty K.S. Satish, Nagaraj Bhat, Manoj Shinde Angad, Sriharidhaya Gude, and other faculty members from various departments also participated enthusiastically. Advaita Vedanta students actively took part in the five-day Prasthanatraya Bhashya recitations, making the event a grand success. “Tej Kumar, who excelled in the Govinda Bhagavatpada Acharya Vakyaartha competition, was awarded the title “Vakyaartha Chakravarti” to encourage the students. Finally, the Vice-Chancellor blessed all the participants, wishing that they receive the grace of Adi Shankara.

## Avinash Mohanty, IPS, & Dr Gajjarao Bhupal, IPS, Flag off SHE Teams Vehicles

Hyderabad, May 2 In a significant move toward women & safety and empowerment, and to strengthen public safety and ensure rapid response, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, IPS; Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Dr. Gajjarao Bhupal, IPS; and representatives from Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd (BGL) jointly flagged off 12 Honda Activa scooters for the SHE Teams. This initiative aims to enhance surveillance and ensure the protection of citizens—particularly women and children within the Commissionerate limits.

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd, through the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), donated the two-wheelers to the Cyberabad Police. The launch was led by Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty, who also serves as Chairman of SCSC. This initiative is designed to empower SHE Teams with improved mobility, enabling them to respond swiftly to sensitive locations, prevent crimes, and maintain law and order more effectively. The donation was made in partnership with the Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), highlighting the importance of public-private collaboration in advancing community safety goals. Key features of the initiative include enhanced patrolling, quicker emergency response, increased visibility of SHE Teams, and stronger operational synergy between Cyberabad Police and SCSC, backed by the strategic support of BGL.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including SB DCP Sai Sri; Women & Child Safety Wing (W&CSW) DCP Srujana Karnam; CAR Headquarters DCP Sanjeev; SCSC CEO Naved Khan; CAR Headquarters ADCP Shameer; W&CSW ACP Prasanna Kumar; SHE Teams Inspectors Ramana Reddy and Prathap Lingam; BGL Managing Director Ram Mohan Rao Karnati; BGL Director of Commercial Yelawarapu Danuta; BGL GM, Commercial & Marketing Rohit Garg; GM, CGD Omeshwar Kappala; OIC Hyderabad A. Ramakrishna; Manager, HR Sangram Pati; Manager, Projects & O&M Suraj Yedla;



Deputy Manager, Admin & Security Sai Prasad; MTO RIs Prashanth and Veeralingam; Traffic Admin BNS Reddy; members of the SCSC; and other senior police officials.

## Free coaching for GRE examination

Hyderabad, May 2 The Telangana Minorities Study Circle, Hyderabad, which is working under the control of Minorities Welfare Department, is providing free coaching for GRE Examination for pursuing Higher Studies in Abroad. Therefore, applications are invited from eligible Minority Candidates (Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain, Parsi & Buddhist) of Telangana State. The date of receiving applications is from May 3 to 17.

Registrations can be done at the office of Telangana Minorities Study Circle, Abids, Hyderabad. For details contact 040-23236112 and the Email:directormsccctelangana@gmail.com on all working days from 10.30 am to 5 pm

## 'DOST 2025' notification released

Hyderabad, May 2 The notification for the Degree Online Services Telangana (DOST) 2025 has been issued, announcing online admissions for degree colleges for the 2025-26 academic year. On Friday, the announcement was made by Prof. V. Balakista Reddy, Chairman of the Telangana Council of Higher Education and DOST Convener, along with A. Sridevasena, Commissioner of Collegiate Education.

With this, the admission process for BA, B.Com, B.Sc., BBA, and other traditional degree courses has begun in Osmania, Kakatiya, Telangana, Palamuru, Mahatma Gandhi, Satavahana, JNTUH, and Veeranari Chakali Ailamma Women's Universities in the Telangana State. The authorities have decided to conduct the admissions in a total of three phases. As part of the first phase, applications for the first phase will be accepted from May 3 to 21. Web options will be available from May 10 to 22. Seats will be allotted on May 29. Registration can be done on the website <https://dost.cgg.gov.in> In the second phase, applications will be accepted from May 30 to June 8, web options from May 30 to June 9, and seat allocation will be done on June 13. Similarly, in the third phase, applications will be accepted from June 13 to 19 and web options will be available from June 13 to 19. After allotment of seats on June 23, classes will start from June 30 in degree colleges.

Candidates seeking admission through a special category (PH/CAP/NCC/Sports/Extracurricular activities) are required to go to the university helpline centers for certificate verification on May 21 and 22. To this extent, the officials suggested that the students should go to the 'Dost' website, mobile app, Meeseva app, Meeseva centers and select options for admission in the colleges.

## TALIM invites applications for licensed surveyors training

Hyderabad, May 2 : Telangana Academy of Land Information and Management (TALIM) is inviting applications for Licensed Surveyors training from interested eligible candidates.

Interested eligible candidates can apply for license Survey training program at all Mee seva centers in Telangana. All the selected candidates will be given training for (50) working days at all District Headquarters. The qualification of the Candidates is Intermediate with Mathematics as one the subject with 60 percentage and above / ITI Draftsman (Civil)/Diploma (Civil)/B.Tech (Civil) and equivalent qualification. They can download application and prospectus from any Mee seva centers only by paying Rs.100/- from May 5 to 17. The late date of submission of filed application is May 17 in Mee seva centers only. The fee for license survey training is RS.10,000/- for OC/ Rs.5000/- for BC/ Rs. 2500/- for SC/ST. For any further information, please contact 9849081489, 7032634404 & 9441947339.

## Devesh Chaturvedi launches MOOC program on natural farming at MANAGE



Hyderabad, May 2 Devesh Chaturvedi, IAS, Secretary, Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare, virtually launched a three-month MOOC Program on Natural Farming: Principles and Practices, a joint initiative of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) and GIZ (German Agency for International Cooperation) on Friday. This on-line course is free to everyone and covers 36 topics on natural farming with very useful video lessons by experts supported by reading materials.

In his inaugural address, Devesh Chaturvedi, IAS, appreciated the initiative and highlighted that behavioural change of stakeholders is important for natural farming movement and stressed the importance of capacity building and sensitization of stakeholders. He recommended to include feedback module, testimonials from practitioners and suggested to translate the course in major Indian languages. On the occasion, Dr Hanuman Sagar Singh, IPOS, and Director General, MANAGE, said the program provides scientific basis for natural farming practices and covers all aspects of natural farming comprehensively. This program will benefit and encourage farmers, scientists, universities, KVKs, and students and will contribute better way in natural farming practices awareness, he said.

Dr N. Balasubramani, Director (CSA & CCA), MANAGE, briefed about the program and informed that the registration to this MOOC program is open to everyone from today till May 15. The program will run from May 16 to August 15, for three months. Rajeev Ahal, Director, NRM&E, GIZ; Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, Additional Secretary, MoA&FW, GOI; Franklin L. Khobung, IFOs, Joint Secretary (INM), MoA&FW, GOI; Navin Vivek Horo, GIZ, MANAGE faculty and MOOCs Lab staff and representatives from SAMETIs, EELs and SAUs and Master Trainers of Natural Farming participated in the program. Interested candidates may register for the course on MANAGE Website at the following link: <https://www.manage.gov.in/trgModule/emailRegn.asp?tpno=GKK&tpyear=FDFl>.

## Congress MLC Balmoor Venkat attends International event

Hyderabad, May 2 Congress MLC Dr. Balmoor Venkat Narsig Rao participated in an international event in Vietnam on Friday. The five-day international training programme at Da Nang in Vietnam was attended by delegates from 13 countries, who participated in the discussion on Sustainable Infrastructure and Housing and Inclusive and Green Building for Urban Planning. MLC Dr. Balmoor Venkat and Busa Anulekha attended on the second day of training session as the two representatives from India.

## TAAPMA organizes Polymers Conference 2025

Hyderabad, May 2 : The Telangana and Andhra Plastics Manufacturers Association (TAAPMA), a premier trade body representing over 90% of the plastics industry turnover in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, successfully organized on Friday the 4th edition of its flagship Polymers Conference 2025 at Park Hyatt, Hyderabad. Themed "Smart, Sustainable, Specialised: The New Phase of Plastics Innovation," the conference brought together more than 250 delegates from across India. The conference witnessed participation from several leading industry players including Cosmos Films Ltd, Kohli Printing, DIC India Ltd, and Windmüller & Holscher, among others.

Dr E. Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, Vice Chairman & Managing Director of Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC), inaugurated the conference as chief guest. Addressing the gathering, he emphasised the State's strong commitment to the polymers sector, citing Telangana as the largest polymers hub in South India. He announced that a second exclusive Plastics Park is being planned south of the Shamshabad Airport, further building on the success of the TGIC Mankhal Plastics Park.

Dr Reddy also highlighted the State's efforts in promoting women entrepreneurship through Mahilashakti Industrial Hubs in every district and emphasized Telangana's growing role as a circular economy leader. Responding to concerns raised by Anil Reddy Vennam, Senior Vice President of the All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA), regarding skyrocketing land prices, Dr Reddy assured that land rates in plastic parks are being frozen until 50% occupancy is achieved. To support MSMEs, he announced the rollout of

flatted factory sheds and plug-and-play facilities at subsidised rates, with three such units ready for occupation. Dr Reddy also announced Telangana's first dry port at Manoharabadi, which will be developed as a multi-modal logistics hub under a PPP model, with two more dry ports in the pipeline. Anil Reddy Vennam, Sr VP, AIPMA, pointed out that although the polymer industry should ideally mirror or outpace GDP growth, it has seen inconsistent performance. "Polymer consumption in 2024-25 stood at 20.4 million metric tonnes, reflecting just 4% growth over the previous year. Prices remain lower than pre-COVID levels, and domestic raw material producers are not adequately supporting local players," he noted. He further appealed to the government for the establishment of a dedicated plastics recycling park and allocation of 500 acres for TAAPMA-led development. In his welcome address, Narendra Balwa, President, TAAPMA, stressed the importance of innovation focused on sustainability, circularity, and advanced materials, while recognizing Telangana's industry-friendly policies. Shiv Kumar Gupta, Conference Chair, noted that environment and sustainability are now at the forefront of industry transformation.

"Telangana's forest cover of 24% is well above the national average of 21.71% — this is a significant ecological advantage," he said. The conference featured three technical sessions and panel discussions, exploring emerging trends and critical industry challenges. Other key participants included Prem Kankaria (Advisor), AVPS Chakravarthy (Panel Chair), Kamlesh Gupta (Secretary, TAAPMA), and Rahul Agarwal (Conference Co-Chairman).

## SCR GM inspects Vijayawada Railway Station

Hyderabad, May 2 Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway, conducted a detailed inspection of Vijayawada Railway Station on Friday. He was accompanied by Narendra A. Patil, Divisional Railway Manager, Vijayawada Division and other Senior Officials during the inspection.

Arun Kumar Jain commenced the inspection from Platform No. 6 of Vijayawada Railway Station, where he inspected passenger amenities, traffic facilities, safety aspects, foot over bridges and functioning of water troughs. The General Manager inspected the Crew lobby and interacted with Loco Pilots. He also interacted with staff and enquired regarding the issues, bottlenecks usually encountered during their day-to-day working and advised officials to resolve the issues. The General Manager also inspected the passenger amenities on platform No.1, Vijayawada Railway Station.

The General Manager inspected onboard the Train No. 22851 Santragachi - Mangaluru Express during its arrival at Vijayawada railway station, checked the Onboard House Keeping Service (OBHS), cleanliness and rake maintenance and so on and directed the officials to attend the watering and hygiene complaints promptly to improve the passenger satisfaction and meet their expectations. The General Manager also visited the Summer Kiosk set up on the platform for distribution of Water & Butter milk service to passengers during summer season and commended the service taken up by the Vijayawada Division Scouts & Guides Volunteers.



Later, the General Manager proceeded to Gunadala Railway Station by self-propelled inspection car (SPIC), conducted rear window inspection of track safety aspects. He thoroughly inspected the ongoing Amrit Bharat Station (ABSS) redevelopment works at Gunadala Railway Station with a cost of Rs 24.37 crore which includes a 12 metre foot over bridge, platform surface improvements, additional Cover Over Platform, provision of two Lifts, waiting hall, improvements to façade building & circulating area which are in progress where he was detailed on the upcoming facilities pertaining to several passenger amenities. The General Manager directed the officials to expedite the redevelopment works' completion on time.

## Pawan Kalyan heaps on PM Modi

Amaravati, May 2 AP Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has greeted PM Narendra Modi on behalf of the people of the State. Pawan said he was happy that the Prime Minister had come to Amaravati even amidst a busy schedule at a time when the country is facing critical situations. Pawan prayed to the goddess to grant Prime Minister Modi good health and more successes.

Pawan also said the farmers of Amaravati and the people of the State had won the battle of righteousness. On the auspicious occasion of the resumption of Amaravati works, Pawan thanked the farmers, who gave lands to the capital. Stating that they all remember the injuries suffered in the last five years, Pawan said the farmers of Amaravati had suffered many insults and injuries. "In the last five years, Amaravati farmers faced many difficulties. They have also been beaten with lathis. Amaravati farmers have fought an unforgettable struggle. We promised that Amaravati would be the capital of AP. We are resuming the work of the capital Amaravati with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, keeping our promise. The previous government destroyed the future of Amaravati. However, the Amaravati farmers have won the war of righteousness," Pawan said. Pawan also said the sacrifices of Amaravati farmers would not be forgotten. He said the role of Amaravati women farmers was crucial in the movement. Pawan claimed that the coalition govern-



ment was standing by the Amaravati farmers. He criticized the previous government for ignoring the sacrifices of the capital farmers. Pawan hoped that Amaravati would emerge as a world-class capital. He praised the capital farmers for not only giving land, but also giving a future to the State. Pawan said CM Chandrababu was the person who saw the metropolis in stones and rubble. He expressed confidence that just as Chandrababu created Cyberabad, he would develop Amaravati in the same way. Pawan reminded that even in difficult circumstances after the terrorist attack in the country, Prime Minister Modi came to Amaravati for them and added that this was a proof of Modi's commitment to AP.

## Online applications invited from SSC-passed candidates for admission into Intermediate

Hyderabad, May 2 : Online applications are invited from SSC passed candidates for admission into 1-Year Intermediate courses (English Medium) for the Academic Year 2025-26 at free of cost. The seats in MPC, BI, PC, MBC and CBC are 40 in each Group. Date of submission of First Phase online application is with effect from May 5 to May 20. For detailed schedule and information bulletin visit the official website of Model Schools Le. URL Address: <http://183.82.97.97/mstg>

to download the application. Online submission of applications through URL Address: <http://183.82.97.97/mstg> from May 5 to 20. Providing list of candidates applied/school wise from May 22. Selection list of candidates at respective schools duly following merit cum reservation from May 26, Verification of Original certificates /selected candidates from May 27 to 31. Commencement of classes from June 2.

## Yadadri Collector gifts bicycles to intermediate toppers

Yadadri-Bhongir: In an effort to encourage students who performed exceptionally well in the Intermediate examinations in the district, Collector M Hanumantha Rao gifted bicycles to five first-year Intermediate students who topped their respective groups in this year's board exams. Interestingly, three of the five top-performing students were from Government Junior College in Ramannapet. Dheeraj Kumar (98.09% in MPC group), Sreshta (93.40% in CEC group), and Nandini (98.80% in MLC group) of Ramannapet college secured the highest marks in their respective groups. Ganji Saraswathi (96.59% in BiPC group) of SV Junior College in Valigonda and Abhilasha (93.40% in HEC

group) of Government Junior College in Yadagirigutta also topped their respective groups. Collector Hanumantha Rao invited the toppers to his office, felicitated them, and presented the bicycles. The Collector also pledged to gift 50 bicycles in the next academic year if all colleges in the district achieve 100% results. He called upon the faculty and managements of government junior colleges to actively campaign for increased student enrolment in government institutions. Thanking the Collector for his motivating gesture, M Venkat Reddy, Junior Lecturer at Government Junior College in Ramannapet, said such initiatives would certainly inspire students to perform better.

## AP to dedicate 'Quantum Valley' on Jan 1, 2026 to Nation; MoUs signed with IBM, TCS & L&T



Amaravati, May 2 : In a historic step toward India's technological future, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu today announced that the State's pioneering Quantum Valley will be dedicated to the nation on January 1, 2026.

The announcement was made at a landmark event held at the Chief Minister's residence in Undavalli, where the Government of Andhra Pradesh signed MoUs with IBM, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), and Larsen & Toubro (L&T). These partnerships aim to establish India's most advanced and first-of-its-kind Quantum Valley Tech Park in Amaravati, anchored by IBM's cutting-edge 156-qubit Quantum System Two — the largest quantum computing system to be installed in the country. In his remarks, CM Chandrababu Naidu pointed out that just as Andhra Pradesh played a central role in India's IT revolution of the 1990s, it will now lead the global quantum computing revolution. He recounted his early initiatives like computerizing seven lakh government records, launching AP Online, and now advancing to "WhatsApp governance" where services can be delivered through voice commands.

"This is a historic day, not just for Andhra Pradesh but for India," he declared. "Now no one can stop quantum computing — it is the foundation for next-generation governance and innovation." Stressing the need to include academia, start-ups, and global partners, he called for a model akin to Silicon Valley, backed by real-time analytics and inclusive public policy. "We are analysing 1.7 crore families under P4, and TCS is already supporting us with vital data," he noted. He reiterated that financial constraints are not a hurdle and urged for an aggressive, time-bound approach to build a scalable, replicable ecosystem that serves as a national benchmark. The Chief Minister highlighted the importance of involving the Government of India and announced that he would soon brief Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has shown great enthusiasm for the project. "Among all politicians, Modi Ji and I speak tech," he said. Referring to Andhra Pradesh's past success in building Hyderabad'sHITEC City in 15 months, he expressed confidence that Quantum Valley could be constructed even faster. He confirmed that the site has been shown to L&T and directed simultaneous development of the main quantum facility and its innovation ecosystem. Two committees

will be constituted to fast-track execution: one focusing on infrastructure and another on ecosystem building. Jay Gambetta, Vice President of IBM Quantum, through a release expressed enthusiasm about deploying IBM's Quantum System Two in Amaravati, calling it a pivotal step for India's quantum journey. He emphasised that the collaboration with TCS and Andhra Pradesh would accelerate quantum algorithm development and bring the vision of "quantum advantage" closer to reality. Dr. Harrick Vin, CTO of Tata Consultancy Services, outlined TCS's hybrid computing strategy that integrates quantum with classical systems like CPUs and GPUs. "Quantum will catalyze breakthroughs in life sciences, materials, cryptography and more. This is a defining moment," he added.

V. Rajanna and C.V. Sridhar of TCS underscored their company's commitment to public innovation. Rajanna noted that under CM Naidu's leadership, TCS pioneered digital governance in the state, and that the Quantum Valley will now enable future-focused R&D. Sridhar added that TCS's COIN (Co-Innovation Network) and seven years of quantum research will now empower 43 research centers across 17 Indian states to work on real-world quantum use cases, ranging from cybersecurity to rust detection and supply chain resilience.

Scott Crowder, IBM's VP for Quantum Adoption, described the global significance of this partnership. He highlighted that quantum computing is the "second quantum revolution," and its applications — from EV batteries to anomaly detection in financial systems — will define the next era of industrial and scientific innovation. With more than 75 quantum systems already deployed worldwide and eight centers in operation, IBM's latest investment in India reflects the country's strong capabilities in both software and emerging tech. Katamaneni Bhaskar, Secretary of IT & RTGS, described the signing of MoUs with IBM, TCS and L&T as the beginning of a great transition — "from traditional to quantum computing." He noted that Andhra Pradesh is no longer a follower in tech but a leader shaping the nation's future.

L&T, tasked with construction, will begin immediate development of the main block and supporting infrastructure. The Government of Andhra Pradesh also plans to appoint global experts, develop quantum-enabled public services such as GST optimization and real-time census modeling, and create India's first quantum governance framework. The Quantum Valley Tech Park will act as a launchpad for high-end job creation, talent development, and global investment inflows into India's emerging quantum industry. With the dedication of Quantum Valley set for January 1, 2026, Andhra Pradesh has taken a decisive step toward becoming a global hub for quantum computing, research, and innovation — putting India firmly on the quantum map.

## Caste census in Telangana became a national model, forced Centre to Act: Shabbir Ali

Kamareddy, May 2 Senior Congress leader and Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Friday claimed that the caste census conducted by the Congress Government in Telangana has become a national model, compelling the BJP-led Central government to follow suit. He said the credit for this significant policy shift goes to Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who consistently championed the demand for a nationwide caste census as a tool for ensuring social justice. Shabbir Ali was speaking at a district-level meeting of the Congress party in Kamareddy, held as part of the nationwide 'Jai Babu, Jai Bheem, Jai Samvidhan' campaign. The initiative aims to uphold constitutional values, fight for social equality, and mobilise grassroots workers across the country. The meeting was chaired by District Congress Committee President Kailas Srinivasa Rao and attended by Jukkal MLA Lakshmi Kantha Rao, Yellareddy MLA Madan Mohan Rao, former MLA E Ravinder Reddy, Agro Industries State Chairman Kasula Balaraj, and district in-charges Satyanarayana Goud and Venugopal Yadav.

Praising the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Shabbir Ali said Telangana had set the national agenda with its state-level caste census, which produced critical data showing that more than 56% of the population belonged to backward classes. "This initiative has now become a model for the country. It demonstrated what is possible when a government is committed to transparency and social equity," he said. Referring to the Centre's recent an-

nouncement to include caste data in the national census - the first such enumeration since 1931 - Shabbir Ali said, "While Union Ministers are claiming credit for empowering marginalised communities, the truth is this decision was a direct outcome of the relentless efforts by the Congress party and the bold example set by Telangana. Without Rahul Gandhi's persistent advocacy and the pressure created through movements like Bharat Jodo Yatra, this shift would not have happened."

He also pointed out that Rahul Gandhi had not only demanded the caste census but also offered the Congress party's support in designing a transparent and inclusive framework for its execution. Taking a dig at the previous BRS regime, Shabbir Ali alleged that job drinking and irrigation water projects like Packages 21, 22, and 23 - initiated during his tenure as minister - were deliberately stalled. "Projects that required just Rs 300 crore were inflated to Rs 3,000 crore to benefit contractors," he said. He also highlighted the Congress government's Indramma housing scheme, under which 3,500 houses are being sanctioned per constituency, with plans to increase the number to 10,000. "We will provide houses to every eligible poor family without any discrimination," he assured. Calling for wider outreach of the 'Jai Babu, Jai Bheem, Jai Samvidhan' campaign, Shabbir urged party workers to take its message to every village. "It is our collective responsibility to strengthen the party. There should be no divide between old and new members. Every committed worker will have a place and a role," he said.

## WAVES declaration champion media & entertainment as channel for dialogue

GNS News Agency, May 2

The declaration adopted by World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 pledged to foster more people-to-people, culture-to-culture and country-to-country exchanges by championing media and entertainment as a channel for dialogue. "We aim to promote diverse voices, encourage innovation and build institutional capacities and inclusion in our media and entertainment ecosystems," the declaration adopted at the Global Media Dialogue said. The GMD was joined by the delegates from 77 countries which echoed the sentiment that films, depicting cultures across the world, hold an immense potential in bringing people closer, and participating nations appreciated the role of Indian films in this regard.

It added that the countries commit to protect and promote cultural heritage, celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity, and ensure that local knowledge remains accessible in a global media market. The declaration discussed means to narrow down digital divide and giving equitable opportunities to all communities. "We aim to prevent the spread of misinformation and disinformation, promote media integrity, fact-based journalism and responsible advertising towards enlightened public discourse. We support content that respects human rights, and cultural sensitivities, while fostering cross-border collaborations to deepen shared understanding. In doing so, we recommit ourselves to the Sustainable Development Goals, placing emphasis on human well-being, strengthened institutions, and partnerships that can drive lasting peace, progress and prosperity," the declaration stated. The declaration talked about encouraging the responsible use of emerging technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI). External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, participating in the GMD, said that despite beyond imagination possibilities in the emerging era of AI, there is a need for a responsible use of emerging technologies,



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while reducing bias, democratising content and prioritising its ethics.

"For a global workplace and global workforce, there is need for shifts in mindsets, frameworks, policies and practices", he said at the Global Media Dialogue at the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025. During his address, Jaishankar noted that the world order, which has a strong cultural dimension, is under transformation today. "It is essential that we give voice to our traditions, heritage, ideas, practices and creativity", he said. The Minister stated that technology and tradition must go hand-in-hand, as technology can strengthen awareness of our vast heritage and deepen consciousness about it, especially for the younger generations. "It is crucial that young talent is made ready for an age of creative collaborations through relevant skill development. Innovation is key to the leapfrogging that will build Viksit Bharat", he said.

# \*IDBI BANK LTD, Farooq Nagar Branch Supports C.C. Shroff Memorial Hospital donating "Ultra Sound Machine" through IDBI Bank's CSR Initiative.\*



IDBI BANK LTD, Farooq Nagar Branch (SOL 1345) is proud to announce its contribution to the improvement of public healthcare by supporting C.C. Shroff Memorial Hospital (a unit of Nandini Ramesh Gandhi Public Charitable Trust) through its CSR initiative.

An amount of Rs.20 lakhs has been sanctioned and disbursed on March 29, 2025, for the purchase of essential medical equipment. The CSR funds have been specifically allocated for the procurement of the "Samsung HS30 Ultra Sound System Architecture", a critical medical equipment. This facility will significantly benefit the poor and needy patients who rely on the hospital for diagnostics and medical care.

C.C. Shroff Memorial Hospital, a multi-specialty hospital and a non-profit organization established in 1976, has been at the forefront of providing quality and affordable medical care to the community. The hospital is recognized by various government and public sector organizations, including ECIL, NFC, Midhani, NIN, BDL, and NRSA, for the treatment of their employees.

A program for inauguration of the IDBI Bank's sponsored medical equipment was conducted today where meeting was graced and presided by Shri M Janikiraman, CGM & Zonal Head, Hyderabad Zone. The event was also graced by Shri Venkatesh Deevanapalli, DGM & RH, Hyd-II region, Shri Sandeep Patnaik, GM & Sr.RH, HYD-I region, Smt Kavitha V, AGM & Branch Head, Farooqnagar Branch(1345), Hyd-II region and Shri Naren Kandula, AGM & Regional co-ordinator, Hyd-II region and other staff members.

\*Also, Key Personnel at C.C. Shroff Memorial Hospital:\*

- Shri N. Sukumar – Trustee
- Shri K. Seshadri – GM Finance (Point of Contact)
- Shri A. Soma Reddy – GM Medical
- Shri P. S. N. Murthy – GM Admin
- Dr S. Satish Chandra – Sr. Medical Officer
- Dr Kiranmai – Sr. Medical Administrator

- \*Programme Schedule:\*
1. Arrival at Hospital by 3:00 PM (Travel time approx. 15 minutes)
  2. Welcome by Host to Bank Officials
  3. Inauguration of the Medical Equipment by Shri M Janikiraman Garu, CGM, IDBI Bank Ltd
  4. Speech by Shri N. Sukumar – Trustee (M/s Nandini Ramesh Gandhi Public Charitable Trust)
  5. Speech by Shri M Janikiraman, CGM & Zonal Head, Hyderabad Zone, IDBI BANK LTD.
  6. Felicitation of Key Personnel by IDBI Bank Ltd family presenting Plant & Shawl as a token of remembrance on occasion of CSR activity.
  7. Vote of Thanks by the Hospital and Smt Kavitha V, AGM & Branch Head, Farooqnagar Branch.

This CSR initiative is a significant step towards building a healthier and more inclusive society. Farooq Nagar Branch remains committed to supporting projects that create lasting social impact.

# Officers should visit the field level and find out the problems of the people



“ITDA officials should work for the development of the tribals”- State Minister Danasari Anasuya (Sitakka)“- Review with officers under ITDA in Mulugu“- Distribution of battery tricycles to the disabled“- Honor to students of the ashram school“-Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle“- Officers should visit the field level and find out the problems of the people and solve them, it is enough if they are satisfied with the work they have done, and there is no asset greater than satisfaction even if they earn crores of rupees, said State Minister for Panchayati Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, Women and Child Welfare Danasari Anasuya (Sitakka). Her suggested that officers of all departments working under ITDA should visit the field level in tribal villages and find out the problems of the people and inform the concerned officials. On Friday, a review meeting was held at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of ITDA PO Chitra Mishra with officials from various departments. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Seethakka, who participated in the meeting along with District Collector Diwakara TS and Library Society Chairman Banoth Ravichander, suggested that the officials of all departments in ITDA should coordinately contribute to the development of the tribals and constantly review the work undertaken for their development. He especially asked the officials of the education, medical and engineering departments to constantly visit the villages and bring about changes in their lifestyle by doing work according to the needs of the people. He said that wherever the officials work, they should move forward with the idea that they are working at their home and that they will get the respect of the people only when they are drying up in the sun, soaking in the rain and shivering in the cold, and that the people of the agency villages have the strength to withstand everything, which is why a terrible disease like Corona has not infected the people of the tribal villages. He said that even if they earn crores of rupees, nothing will be achieved, and there is no



property beyond satisfaction. A meeting of the Integrated Tribal Development Organization Governing Council will be held in the coming days, and officials of all departments are advised to attend this meeting with full information. Seethakka said that the details of the work undertaken in the six districts under the ITDA jurisdiction should be collected and included from now on. Similarly, Minister Seethakka distributed battery tricycles to four disabled people from Venkatapur and Govindaraopet mandals under the chairmanship of DWO K. Sirisha in the Collectorate. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that disability is only for the body, not the mind, and that these assistive devices have been distributed so that the disabled can take a step forward with self-confidence. He praised that the disabled are no less than the able-bodied and have different abilities. He revealed that the government is committed to the welfare of the disabled. “Students should cultivate culture along with studies: Minister Seethakka “State Minister Seethakka advised students to cultivate culture along with studies and study hard with passion to achieve their desired goals. Her said that the government is paying special attention to strengthening education. On Friday, a felicitation meeting was organized at the Collectorate under the chairmanship of ITDA PO Chitra Mishra for the students studying in the Ashram School in the district who achieved the best results in Intermediate and Class X. On this occasion, Collector Divakara TS, Additional Collectors Mahender G. Sampath Rao and Library Chairman Ravi Chander felicitated the students with shawls. Speaking on the occasion, Minister Seethakka said that Mulugu district stood first in the state in the Intermediate examination results and eighth in the Class X examination results. He urged the students to achieve the best results in the upcoming examinations and stand first in the state. The youth who have obtained higher education and got job opportunities should work to create illiteracy in tribal areas and increase literacy. Meanwhile, the Minister came to know that 22 lecturers at the Thadwai and Jaggannapet Ashram Junior Colleges in the district were facing difficulties in receiving their salaries for the last three years, and the lecturers felicitated Minister Seethakka for taking special initiative and paying them their pending salaries.

Later, the Minister felicitated 12 students who had studied in the Ashram School Hostels in the district and secured 541 marks and emerged as toppers with shawls. The Minister handed over the Light Motor Vehicle Learning License grant documents to 9 tribal youth who had applied as part of the Driver Empowerment Scheme under the ITDA. RDO Venkatesh, Tribal Welfare EE Veerabhadram, DD Pocham, SO Raj Kumar, concerned officials, teachers, lecturers, students, and others participated in these programs.

# Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty, IPS, and Jt. CP (Traffic) Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS, Flag Off SHE Teams Vehicles



Cyberabad May 2 Indian Chronicle In a significant move toward women's safety and empowerment, and to strengthen public safety and ensure rapid response, Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, IPS; Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Dr. Gajarao Bhupal, IPS; and representatives from Bhayanagar Gas Ltd (BGL) jointly flagged off 12 Honda Activa scooters for the SHE Teams. This initiative aims to enhance surveillance and ensure the protection of citizens—particularly women and children—within the Commissionerate limits. As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, Bhayanagar Gas Ltd, through the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), donated the two-wheelers to the Cyberabad Police. The launch was led by Cyberabad CP Avinash Mohanty, who also serves as Chairman of SCSC. This initiative is designed to empower SHE Teams with improved mobility, enabling them to respond swiftly to sensitive locations, prevent crimes, and maintain law and order more effectively. “The donation was made in partnership with the Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC), highlighting



the importance of public-private collaboration in advancing community safety goals. Key features of the initiative include enhanced patrolling, quicker emergency response, increased visibility of SHE Teams, and stronger operational synergy between Cyberabad Police and SCSC, backed by the strategic support of BGL.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including SB DCP Sai, Women & Child Safety Wing (W&CSW) DCP Srujana Karnam, CAR Headquarters DCP Sanjeev, SCSC CEO Naved Khan, CAR Headquarters ADCP Shameer, W&CSW ACP Prasanna Kumar; SHE Teams Inspectors Ramana Reddy and Prathap Lingam, BGL Managing Director Ram Mohan Rao Karnati, BGL Director of Commercial Yeeswarapu Danuta; BGL GM, Commercial & Marketing Rohit Garg; GM, CGD Omeshwar Kappala; OIC Hyderabad A. Ramakrishna; Manager, HR Sangram Pati; Manager, Projects & O&M Suraj Yedla; Deputy Manager, Admin & Security Sai Prasad; MTO Rls Prashanth and Veeralingam; Traffic Admin BNS Reddy; members of the SCSC; and other senior police officials.

# Dy Commissioner P. Mohan Reddy congratulates Serilingampalli Zonal Commissioner Hemanth Sahadeo Rao

“Serilingampalli May 2 On the occasion of Hemanth Sahadeo Rao assuming charge as the Serilingampalli Zonal Commissioner of Chandanagar Circle-21, Chandanagar Circle Deputy Commissioner P. Mohan Reddy cordially met him and congratulated him. ACP Nagi Reddy, AMC M. Vijay Kumar, tax inspectors and bill collectors participated in this program.



# Heavy rain and strong winds cause huge damage“- 351 poles uprooted“- NPDCL CMD Karnati Varun Reddy“- CMD inspects the field situation in Mulugu division

“Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle”: Due to heavy rain and strong winds in Mulugu and Bhupalpally districts for the past two days, electricity poles have been uprooted and supply to many villages has been disrupted, said NPDCL CMD Karnati Varun Reddy. On Friday, the CMD inspected the damaged and restored power lines in the areas of Regonda and Ganapuram in Bhupalpally district under Bhupalpally circle and Velthurlapally sub-stations in Venkatapur mandal of Mulugu district. Speaking on the occasion, he praised the staff for working hard all night, despite the rain, and taking up the power restoration work on a war footing and providing supply. He said that work is also progressing in other places. CMD Varun Reddy explained that so far, 351 electricity poles have been uprooted in the circle area, causing a loss of approximately Rs. 55 lakhs. He said that huge damage has been caused in the area of ??Regonda, Ganapuram and Velthurlapally sub-stations. He said that the electricity department suffers losses when there are heavy gusts of wind and rain. He clarified that the material has been made available and there is no problem anywhere. He said that the staff is working tirelessly to provide better power supply. He revealed that they are working hard to speed up the restoration work at the



field level with the cooperation of the people, and wherever there is disruption, staff are reaching quickly and providing power supply. CE Raju Chauhan, Bhupalpally Circle SE Malchur Nayak, GM A. Surender, Mulugu DE Nageshwar Rao, Bhupalpally DE Papi Reddy, MRT and Construction DE Sadanand, electrical staff, and others participated in this program.

# Arrangements for the NEET test ..“



“Warangal district (1) examination center ..” 240 candidates to take the exam in Jawahar Navodaya School Moamunur. “Examination time from 2 to 5 pm” “Permitting into the examination centers from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm” “Warangal District Collector Dr Satya Sarada “Warangal Bureau, May 02 (Indian Chronicle) : “Warangal district collector Dr Satya Sharada said all arrangements have been made to conduct the NEET examination in the district tomorrow. “Officials of the Police, Education, RTC, Electricity, Medical Health, Postal and others under the aegis of the respective departments have explained the arrangements, security and so on. “District Collector Satya Sharada said. Jawahar Navodaya School has been allocated an examination center in Mamunoor. NEET examination tomorrow (Sunday) and 240 candidates will be written.

It is said that from 11 am to 1.30 to enter in to the examination centers. Candidates are asked to reach the examination center in a timely manner. said that the gates of the examination centers would be closed at 1:30 pm and then the candidates would not be allowed into the examination centers under any circumstances. The test will be held on the 4th (Sunday) from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The police are to set up a strong bandobast at the examination centers, CC cameras, biometric attendance and examination centers. Officials are taking steps to avoid any difficulties in the district. Candidates who write the test do not bring any electronic goods. Candidates who write the exam should have the latest Passport Size photo with the admit card, in addition to another photo. Similarly, the Collector has advised the candidates to get the ID proofs with the latest photo.

# A1 in Sheep distribution scam case arrested by ACB sleuths

Hyderabad, May 2 (NSS): A key development has taken place in the sheep distribution scam case that has become a sensation in Telangana State. The principal accused Moinuddin, who has been facing serious allegations in the case since the beginning, was arrested by ACB officials at the Shamshabad airport on Friday morning. The Congress government handed over the investigation to ACB officials after it was found that large-scale irregularities had been committed in the sheep distribution scheme, which was ambitiously undertaken by the previous BRS government. While 17 people have been arrested in the case so far, the ACB officials arrested A1 Moinuddin today.

# Prime Minister Modi's portrait anointed with milk “- BJP leaders express joy over the Centre's decision to conduct a caste census

“Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: BJP district president Sirikonda Balam said that it is commendable that the BJP government at the Centre has taken the decision to conduct a caste census. On Friday, a portrait of Prime Minister Modi was anointed with milk at the Ambedkar statue near the bus stand in Mulugu, presided over by BJP Mandal President Rayanchu Nagaraju. Speaking on the occasion, Balam said that during the 60 years of Congress rule, no caste census was conducted in the country, the rights of BCs were trampled upon and reservations of BCs were suppressed. He said that the Congress rulers have not given appropriate place to OBCs, SCs and STs in the cabinet. He wanted to know at what level the Congress, which is saying that 42 percent should be allocated to OBCs, has allocated it in its cabinet. He said that the BJP government has given appropriate place to OBCs, SCs and STs in a scientific manner. He said that the caste census will be conducted with the aim of collecting details of all castes and formulating plans for their welfare. BJP ST Morcha State General Secretary Kotha Surender, District General Secretary Seelamantula Ravindrachari, Vice President Jinukala Krishnakar Rao, Treasurer Gangisetty Rajukumar, Office Secretary Donthi Reddy Ravi Reddy, OBC Morcha Dis-



trict President Venkanna, District Council Member Immedi Rakesh Yadav, leaders Gadam Kumar, Baikani Mahender, Yeruva Papireddy, Peraboyna Hemadri, Donthireddy Venkat Reddy, Elkathurthi Srihari, Raghupathi, Aggimella Srinu, Sagar, Udutha Devender, Komuravelli Satish, Mukund Krishnamurthy, Pawan, and others participated in this program.”.....

## Mumbai's Rani Baug zoo to revamp space left behind after elephant Anarkali's death



GNS News Agency, May 2

With the demise of the city's last elephant, Anarkali, in November last year leaving behind a vacuum of sorts at Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Vanaspati Udyan and Zoo in Rani Baug, the Mumbai civic body is planning to revamp the area spread over 4,000 sq m to accommodate new animal exhibits. The zoo authorities have written to a Thailand-based firm to create a new layout for the land parcel. After elephant Laxmi's death in 2020, the city's lone remaining elephant Anarkali breathed her last on November 10, 2024, bringing the curtains down on Mumbai's decades-old relationship with the gentle giants. Anarkali was 58 years old and had lived in the zoo for nearly five decades.

Senior officials of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the Byculla zoo will no longer house

elephants as Central Zoo Authority (CZA) guidelines now prohibit it. Last month, the zoo authorities wrote to HKS Consultants seeking new designs for the space. "We already have a list of approved animals from the CZA. The new proposal will be designed to accommodate species from this list. Since smaller species require much less space, the plan may look at redeveloping the elephant enclosure into a space that can house several species of animals. According to the design proposal, we will take further decisions and submit it to the CZA for approval," a BMC official told The Indian Express.

Currently, the zoo authorities are awaiting a response from the consultants. "They are finalising the terms of the tender for the upcoming exotic zone, spanning over 10 acres. Following this, they are expected to take up work on the redevelopment designs," an official added. The tender for the separate exotic zone, which lies adjacent to the existing 53-acre facility, is expected to be floated in the coming weeks. It will house animals such as cheetahs and white lions. Redevelopment plans are being drawn up for the 162-year-old Rani Baug facility after footfall and revenue at the zoo dipped to a three-year low. The visitor count has seen a drop of nearly 21 per cent in a year. While over 28.97 lakh people flocked to the zoo during the 2023-2024 financial year, it dropped to 23.57 lakh during 2024-25. This marks a significant decline from 2022-2023 when nearly 30 lakh people had arrived at the zoo, raking in a revenue of Rs 11.59 crore. Senior officials attributed the dip to the lack of new exhibits.

## MMRDA triples its non-fare revenue to Rs 122 crore through strategic efforts



GNS News Agency, May 2

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has almost tripled its non-fare box revenue (NFBR) – income generated from sources other than passenger fares – to Rs 122 crore in FY 2024-25 from Rs 42.5 crore the previous year. According to MMRDA, the 187 per cent hike indicates a healthy move towards developing a financially sustainable and commuter-centric metro rail system in Mumbai. The total operating revenue, comprising fare and non-fare revenue, increased from Rs 190 crore during FY 2023-24 to Rs 292 crore this fiscal, well above the Rs 200-crore target set at the start of the fiscal. The increase was mainly possible through licensing of optical

fibre cables (Rs 61.72 crore), advertisements at stations (Rs 23.95 crore), advertisements on trains (Rs 7.47 crore), retail shops and kiosks (Rs 8.22 crore), and naming and branding of stations (Rs 9.76 crore). Manpower deployment, telecom infrastructure, and small promotional activities contributed the rest.

Authorities stated that the major increase in NFBR highlights MMRDA's efforts to diversify revenues without burdening commuters. Revenue from fares also increased by 15.6 per cent, from Rs 147 crore to Rs 170 crore. MMRDA Chairman and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "The three-fold growth in non-fare revenue isn't just a financial success, it is a testament to our vision for a successful, contemporary Metro system. It reinforces MMRDA's absolute dedication to constructing strong infrastructure that enables economic development and better urban life for all Mumbaikars." Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA, attributed the achievement to their strategic planning. "This unprecedented revenue success was brought about through a well-planned NFBR strategy, facilitated by robust state government support. We exceeded our Rs 200 crore revenue target and reached Rs 292 crore, while maintaining Metro fares reasonable for the citizens," he said. In the future, Maha Mumbai Metro, operating Metro Lines 2A and 7, will also explore new revenue streams, including pillar ads, F&B space monetisation, and production shoot rentals across its 30 stations.

## Vehicle approaching expiry, get it scrapped from registered centre: Chandigarh admin

GNS News Agency, May 2

If your vehicle is approaching expiry and you plan to get it scrapped, then you can visit the authorised RVSF (registered vehicle scrapping facility) centre in Chandigarh, "Select Technical Services", at plot number-182/65, Industrial Area, Phase I, Chandigarh.

The Chandigarh Administration has fixed the concession in the Motor Vehicle Tax in Chandigarh in case the vehicle is registered against submission of "Certificate of Deposit", issued by the RVSF to the owner of a vehicle. When he/she deposits the vehicle with the RVSF for scrapping, there will be a concession of 25 per cent in the registration of non-transport vehicle and 15 per cent in the registration of the transport vehicle.

As per Gopal Krishan, owner of RVSF in Chandigarh, when the vehicle owner approaches their authorised centre, the form for scrapping the vehicle is filled through the Vahan application. An OTP (one time password) will be received on the mobile number of the owner which is linked with the Aadhaar card. The application will be logged in then and the form will be filled further. The value of the vehicle is assessed. The scrap value is assessed by the weight of the car, 90 per cent of the weight and then 10 per cent valuation varies as if the car has some alloy wheels or has a CNG kit. After this process is completed, the payment is



made online to the vehicle owner. Also, in the whole process, a COD (certificate of deposit) is generated to the owner of the vehicle, which confirms that the vehicle has been deposited at the scrapping centre of RVSF. Then the RC status turns from active to scrapping under process. The vehicle is then scrapped, and the chassis number is updated on Vahan application. The owner of the vehicle gets a message that the vehicle has been scrapped. The COD can be used by the owner of the vehicle at the time of buying another new vehicle. One must get the vehicle scrapped through the RVSF, so that the vehicle is not misused further, said Gopal Krishan.

## Be available on cellphone 24x7, Punjab Govt tells officers and employees

GNS News Agency, May 2

The Punjab government Sunday asked all its officers and employees not to switch off their mobile phones after office hours, on weekends, and holidays, and to be available for work even after office hours. In the order signed by the special secretary (Personnel), the Punjab Government said that if an official or employee is not available on the phone, it becomes a hindrance in completing essential administrative work and providing services and facilities to the general public.

"It has come to the notice that many officials are not available on their mobile phones after office hours. Their phones are either switched off, are in flight mode, out of coverage area or even on call diversion. Some works related to administration require immediate indulgence of the government. Hence, the availability of officers related to these works becomes necessary," said the order. "All Special Chief Secretaries, Additional Chief Secretaries, Financial Commissioners, Principal Secretaries and Secretaries are directed to ensure that all officers of your department are available on cell phones after office hours and on holidays to complete essential office administrative work so that these works can be completed in a timely manner," it added. A similar order was passed by former chief minister Amarinder Singh in the first year of his term in 2017. At that time, the government said the phone bills of employees are paid or reimbursed to ensure that they are available for 24 hours. The employees' phone bill has always been a bone



of contention between the government and them.

While the former SAD-BJP government introduced phone allowance for government staff in 2012, the Amarinder Singh dispensation in 2020 drew up a plan to rationalise expenditure by halving the cellphone allowance of its employees. The move was expected to help the government save about Rs 40 crore annually. The state had been spending Rs 101.2 crore annually on employees' mobile allowance. The allowance was then halved, and the cellphone allowance of Group A employees was reduced from Rs 500 to 250 per month. For group B employees, it was reduced to Rs 175 from Rs 300 per month. Similarly, for Group C and D employees, it was reduced from Rs 250 to Rs 150 every month.

## Mohali's Phase 6 bus stand remains underutilised, adds to commuters' pain

GNS News Agency, May 2

A state-of-the-art inter-state bus terminus (ISBT) in Phase 6, constructed at a cost of crores of rupees, stands eerily deserted as buses continue to bypass the facility and instead picking up and dropping passengers haphazardly on the main road. Even the bus terminal fees are being collected by Punjab Roadways staff stationed roadside, bypassing the designated infrastructure.

A visit by The Indian Express revealed that the company responsible for building the ISBT has converted the bus bays into paid parking zones, forcing drivers to avoid entering the terminus. As a result, buses halt arbitrarily on the main road, triggering traffic snarls and leaving commuters scrambling to board. Daily scenes of passengers sprinting toward moving buses have become a norm, raising serious safety concerns. The chaos often leads to accidents, while pedestrians and motorists face constant inconvenience. Molronically, hundreds of commuters continue to wait inside the swanky, air-conditioned ISBT, unaware that buses bypass the terminal entirely. "I wait here daily, but buses never stop here. We end up running to catch the bus," said Rajinder Singh, a Phase 5 resident who commutes to Ludhiana. Deepak, a municipal inspector from Phagwara, echoed the frustration: "The buses' refusal to use the terminal disrupts my daily commute. Authorities must enforce strict entry protocols." When contacted, Punjab



Roadways Manager Shiv Kumar acknowledged the issue: "The matter is under active consideration, and steps are being taken to resolve it," he said. However, commuters demand urgent action as the arrival of monsoon rains will exacerbate the daily struggle.

Built during the previous Badal government and touted as former Deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal's "dream project", the ISBT now languishes in neglect. Despite its modern amenities, buses either skirt the terminal or halt near the old Phase 8 stand, leaving the new facility obsolete. Even the incumbent AAP government, in power for three years, has failed to address Mohali's public transport woes.

## Fire breaks out in Nature Park, reduces trees to ashes

GNS News Agency, May 2

A sudden fire erupted in a pile of dried leaves in Mohali's Nature Park in Sector 62 which engulfed several trees. Multiple fire brigade vehicles rushed to the scene to contain the flames. The fire started around 3 pm and was contained about 6 pm. The authorities have yet to determine whether the fire was accidental. Mayor Amajit Singh Jitti Sidhu and Deputy Mayor Kuljeet Singh Bedi visited the site and demanded an investigation. "At first glance, it appears to be a case of arson. Drug addicts frequently gather here, and they may be responsible for this act. It's unfortunate as trees have been destroyed," the mayor said, urging the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) to designate a specific storage site for fallen leaves to prevent future incidents.

Reports suggest that while the Mohali Municipal Corporation has resource management centres (RMCs), the current contractor refuses to handle the seasonal influx of dried leaves. A newly built RMC at Jagatpura village intended for green waste remains underutilised, with leaf piles left unattended. Mechanical sweeping contractors collect leaves from roadsides, but without assigned dumping grounds, they discard them in vacant plots. Locals allege that the fire originated from one such pile. "Leaves were



dumped here haphazardly. They can self-ignite in rising temperatures or be set ablaze by miscreants," said Makhan Singh, a resident of phase 7. R S Baidwan, general secretary of the Environment Protection Society, demanded immediate action, including proper leaf disposal systems, to prevent future disasters and safeguard air quality. The fire has polluted Mohali's air, with toxic smoke posing health risks. A similar blaze on Saturday broke out at the Mauli village light point on Airport Road, requiring over 30 fire tenders to control it.

## Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva's security raised to 'Z' category

GNS News Agency, May 2

The Delhi Police have enhanced the security of Delhi BJP head Virendra Sachdeva from the 'Y' category to 'Z' after an assessment of the threat perception, said police sources Sunday. As per the 'Yellow Book' of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), which contains guidelines regarding security arrangements for VIPs and VVIPs, a 'Z' category protectee gets around 22-25 personnel, including personal security officers (PSOs), escorts, watchers, and eight static arm guards. A 'Y' category protectee gets eight to 10 personnel, including six PSOs and four static armed guards.

There are six grades of security cover: X, Y, Y Plus, Z, Z Plus, and the Special Protection Group (SPG). The SPG is exclusively for the prime minister and immediate family. The other security categories can be assigned to anyone for whom the Central or state governments have received intelligence regarding a potential threat.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and Minister for Environment, Forest and Wildlife Manjinder Singh Sirsa are the two other ministers with 'Z' category security in the Delhi Cabinet. Sachdeva, 55, has been active in politics since 1988 and has held several roles, including party general secretary and vice president, a position he was appointed to in 2020. He was appointed as the Delhi BJP president in



March 2023. Earlier, he had stepped in as the party's working president following its defeat in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) polls in 2022.

Sachdeva belongs to a Punjabi family that came to India after Partition. He was raised in Old Delhi's Chandni Chowk and has strong support from his community, as well as among traders in the capital. During the Assembly elections in February, Sachdeva led the BJP's campaign to corner the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). The BJP won 48 seats in the 70-seat Assembly, unseating the AAP and forming the government in the capital after 27 years.

## Punjab minister Hardeep Singh Mundian's gunman 'shoots self' at woman's house, dies



GNS News Agency, May 2

A 32-year-old Punjab Police constable, who was posted as a gunman with state minister Hardeep Singh Mundian, allegedly shot himself with his service weapon at the residence of a woman in a village in the Ludhiana district late Sunday. According to the Punjab Police, prima facie, Gurkirat Singh was in a "one-sided love affair" with the woman who got married around four years ago. The Khanna police said Singh, who was unmarried, shot himself in his chest in a fit of rage. Jyoti Yadav, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Khanna, said Singh was a native of Rampur village, and was posted with the Ludhiana police commissionerate. "Prima facie, the constable reached the house of the woman whom he had liked some years ago. The woman got married four years ago. He asked for the woman's number from her mother, but she refused to provide it to him, following which he shot himself with his carbine weapon," said Yadav. Inspector Akash Dutt, Station House Officer, Doraha police station, said a First Information Report (FIR) has been registered on the statement of the deceased's family for abetment to suicide against the

woman, her mother, and brother for allegedly harassing the constable. "According to his family, the woman's family used to harass him and even extort money from him for letting him speak to the woman over the phone. We have booked the woman, her brother, and her mother under Section 108 of BNS [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita]. Further probe is on," said Dutt.

## ED carries out raids at various locations in Hyderabad



GNS News Agency, May 2

Hyderabad: The Enforcement Directorate is carrying out searches at various locations in the city reportedly in connection with multi-crore Bhoodan Yagna Board land scam. Teams of the ED swooped on the houses of prominent land dealers linked to the scam in early hours of the day. The agency officials were escorted by the CRPF personnel. The searches are underway at Yakutpura, Santoshnagar and other locations in the older parts of the city.

## Lab grown skin gives robots the ability to smile



GNS News Agency, May 2

Hyderabad: A living skin developed in a laboratory is attached to the face of a humanoid robot, enabling it to smile and even give human-like expressions! This is not a movie scene from a sci-fi movie, but a reality. Scientists from the University of Tokyo, Japan, have created a human-like fleshy skin in a laboratory, enabling a humanoid robot to smile and give expressions. They have found a way to bind the engineered skin tissue to the complex forms of humanoid robots. The research by Japanese engineers, published in the prestigious journal Cell Reports Physical Sciences (July 2024), means that in the near future, whenever a humanoid robot gets injured, the skin can self-heal, will have sensing abilities and increasingly will look 'life-like' and not like a life-less robot.

Taking inspiration from human skin ligaments, the team, led by Professor Shoji Takeuchi of the University of

Tokyo, included special perforations in a robot face, which helped a layer of skin take hold. Their research could also be useful in the cosmetics industry and to help train plastic surgeons. Takeuchi's lab, the Biohybrid Systems Laboratory, has also created mini robots that walk using biological muscle tissue, 3D printed lab-grown meat, engineered skin that can heal, and more. It was during research on the last of these items that Takeuchi felt the need to take the idea of robotic skin further to improve its properties and capabilities, the University of Tokyo press release said. "During previous research on a finger-shaped robot covered in engineered skin tissue we grew in our lab, I felt the need for better adhesion between the robotic features and the subcutaneous structure of the skin," said Takeuchi. "By mimicking human skin-ligament structures and by using specially made V-shaped perforations in solid materials, we found a way to bind skin to complex structures. The natural flexibility of the skin and the strong method of adhesion mean the skin can move with the mechanical components of the robot without tearing or peeling away." According to the research scientists, this research will have long-term applications in several areas of medical research. "The idea of an organ-on-a-chip is not especially new, and finds use in things like drug development, but something like a face-on-a-chip could be useful in research into skin aging, cosmetics, surgical procedures, plastic surgery and more. Also, if sensors can be embedded, robots may be endowed with better environmental awareness and improved interactive capabilities," the researchers added.

## After encounter, Delhi Police arrest man named in 33 cases, including sexual assault

GNS News Agency, May 2

delhi police, sexual assault case, indian express The police said they received information that Javed would come to Wazirabad Saturday, and a team laid a trap in the area to arrest him. A missed shot at a head constable and a brief scuffle later, a man with 33 cases against him, including that of raping a woman at gunpoint, was arrested over the weekend by the Delhi Police.

According to the Delhi Police Crime Branch, Javed, 37, a man with a criminal record at the Khayal Police Station, was on the run since December 2024, when he committed the alleged rape. The police said they received information that Javed would come to Wazirabad Saturday, and a team laid a trap in the area to arrest him. Javed was spotted getting off his motorcycle at the Jagatpur Pusta road, and was asked to verify his identity. Instead of complying, the police said, Javed took out a pistol and shot at Head Constable Vikas, missing his ears by a whisker.

"Vikas caught hold of the accused Javed. Both got into a scuffle and then fell on the ground. Javed couldn't fire again and was then arrested," Harsh Indora, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) said. According to the police, Javed raped his friend's wife at gunpoint in the Nabi Karim area in December 2024. "The lady filed a complaint in January 2025, saying that in May 2024, she came into contact with a man. She got pregnant with his child, but the man



beat her, leading to a miscarriage. In December 2024, Javed came to her. He carried a pistol with him and raped her on gunpoint," Indora said.

Javed's friend was arrested in the case, but he was on the run, the police said. The police said Javed joined his father's garment in Chandni Chowk after dropping out in Class 5. After marrying a Hindu girl in 2013, Javed separated from his family, and committed his first crime in the same year, a robbery in Rajouri Garden. It would be the first of 33 cases lodged against him. "In 2021, he, along with his associates, committed a dacoity at gunpoint in a house in the Uttam Nagar area. He came out of jail in December 2024, and got married the second time in January 2025," Indora said.

## Another Nitish Kumar of Bihar rises — this time in JNU as its Student Union President

GNS News Agency, May 2

JNUSU New President News: For Nitish Kumar, the newly elected president of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU), the immediate task ahead is clear — restoring the spirit of inclusive public education on campus. In a closely fought JNUSU elections, the Left alliance of the All India Students' Association and Democratic Students' Front (AISA-DSF) won three of the four central panel positions. The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) won one post. Kumar of the AISA was declared the JNUSU president. DSF's Manisha was elected vice-president, Munteha, also from DSF, won the post of general secretary, and Vaibhav Meena of the ABVP was elected joint secretary.

Speaking to The Indian Express Sunday, Kumar said, "The first thing I will work on is pushing for bringing more funding into JNU. There have been a lot of funding cuts over the past few years. I will work towards bettering the infrastructure of the university. We will also work towards bringing back the JNUEE exam for admissions, push for the eradication of the CPO manual, which imposes fines on students for dissent and protests, and push for women students to get single-seater accommodation in the second year itself." Referring to the rise of the ABVP on campus, Kumar added, "The last time the ABVP entered the panel in 2015-16, JNU suffered an image of anti-nationalism. This time, we as a union will not let that happen."

Kumar, 26, is a third-year PhD student at the Centre for Political Studies, School of Social Sciences. His political journey, however, began long before his doctoral research — rooted deeply in the lived experiences of India's marginalised communities. According to a statement released by the United Left panel, "Nitish Kumar carries with him the lived experiences of India's oppressed communities." Hailing from a humble OBC family in Sheikhpura of Bihar's Araria district, Kumar grew up amid the agricultural hardships of rural India — his father is a farmer, and his mother a homemaker. The Left panel statement added during his schooling at Saraswati Shishu Vidya



Mandir in Forbesganj, he "first witnessed and understood the sinister nature of communal fascism penetrating educational spaces." After completing his BA in Political Science from Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Kumar joined JNU in 2020 for a Master's degree. His arrival coincided with what the party called "one of the most challenging periods for public education in India — the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath," accusing the JNU administration of "systematically excluding economically disadvantaged students from accessing education" through prolonged campus closures.

During this phase, Kumar emerged as a key organiser of the 'Reopen JNU' movement in 2021, mobilising students across departments to demand the resumption of offline classes, hostel allotments, and access to university facilities. In August 2023, he sat on a 16-day hunger strike demanding solutions to the acute hostel crisis — a protest that became a watershed moment in JNU's student mobilisation. As Secretary of the All India Students' Association (AISA) JNU unit, Kumar also led campaigns for raising fellowship amounts, reinstating entrance exams, and opposing politically influenced faculty appointments. His political work, the United Left Panel said, has been consistently anchored in "making JNU accessible and equitable for students from working-class, OBC, Dalit, and minority backgrounds."

Inderpuri. This is part of the Centre's flagship Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission scheme (PM-ABHIM), which has been implemented in the Capital. A total of 13 staff members, including a medical officer, will be appointed to the Inderpuri facility, as per an official order. Other staff members include a pharmacist, four auxiliary nurse midwives, a lab technician, a DOTS lab technician (for management of tuberculosis patients), a data entry operator, and a cleaner. The facility is supposed to maintain an essential drug list of 256 medicines. In-house tests will be made available for blood sugar, haemoglobin, blood group, urine, pregnancy, among others. Ninety other tests will be outsourced to Agilus Lab. While the coat of paint is

## JNUSU elections: ABVP shatters decade-long drought with historic gains



GNS News Agency, May 2

New Delhi: The Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) has carved a significant milestone in the annals of the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) elections. Vaibhav Meena, representing the ABVP, has ascended to the position of Joint Secretary, breaking a decade-long dry spell for the organisation. This victory is emblematic of ABVP's stellar performance, as it clinched an impressive 23 out of 42 councillor seats across 16 schools and special centres — a record-breaking achievement for any student body.

Amit Malviya, the BJP's National Information and Technology Department In-charge and Co-incharge for West Bengal, celebrated this victory on his X handle: "Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) conquered: Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) candidate Vaibhav Meena has been elected as Joint Secretary. And it doesn't stop there. ABVP has delivered an unprecedented performance in the JNUSU elections, winning 23 out of 42 councillor seats across 16 schools and special centres — the highest number of seats won by any student organization." Throughout the vote-counting process, ABVP candidates showcased remarkable dominance, leading in all four central panel positions and mounting a formidable

challenge to the university's entrenched Left-leaning political dominance. Although the ABVP fell short in securing the posts of President, Vice-President, and General Secretary, the narrow margins of defeat underscored a palpable shift in the campus dynamics. Vaibhav Meena's victory as Joint Secretary was secured with an impressive tally of 1,518 votes.

Nitish Kumar of the All India Students' Association (AISA) emerged as President, garnering 1,702 votes, while Manisha and Munteha Fatima, both from the Democratic Students' Federation (DSF), claimed the posts of Vice-President and General Secretary, respectively. Manisha secured 1,150 votes, while Munteha Fatima's win further solidified DSF's presence in the central panel by securing 1,520 votes. The ABVP fielded a comprehensive panel, with Shikha Swaraj, Nittu Goutham, Kunal Rai, and Vaibhav Meena contesting for the positions of President, Vice-President, General Secretary, and Joint Secretary, respectively. Their campaign reflected a strategic and determined effort to reshape the political narrative on campus. The elections, held on April 25 after delays caused by campus unrest, witnessed an enthusiastic voter turnout of nearly 70 per cent, with approximately 5,500 students casting their ballots. The multi-cornered contest was marked by intense competition among strategic alliances: the All India Students Association (AISA) allied with the Democratic Students' Federation (DSF), while the Students' Federation of India (SFI) joined forces with the Birsas Amedkar Phule Students' Association (BAPSA), the All India Students' Federation (AISF), and the Progressive Students' Association. This year's turnout of 68.3 per cent, though slightly lower than the record-breaking 73 per cent participation in the 2024 elections, still reflected robust engagement. Of the 7,906 registered voters, 5,400 exercised their franchise on election day. Polling was conducted in two sessions, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., across 17 booths on the JNU campus on April 25. The counting of votes commenced late on Friday night, with the results officially declared on Monday (April 28).

## Himachal Pradesh raises stipends of medical specialists

GNS News Agency, May 2

Medical-Specialists-Stipend-Hike Apart from upgrading medical infrastructure and adopting modern technologies, the government has announced a substantial hike in stipends for senior residents, specialists, and super specialists. In a push to improve healthcare facilities across Himachal Pradesh, the state government has introduced landmark measures to attract and retain specialist doctors. Apart from upgrading medical infrastructure and adopting modern technologies, the government has announced a substantial hike in stipends for senior residents, specialists, and super specialists.

A government spokesperson said, "The monthly stipend for senior residents and tutor specialists has been increased from Rs 60,000–65,000 to Rs 1 lakh, while for super specialists and senior residents, it has been enhanced to Rs 1.30 lakh—marking an increase of 50 to 170 per cent. Himachal Pradesh has six medical colleges and one super-specialty hospital. Institutions such as IGMC Shimla and Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College, Tanda, have been providing critical healthcare services with the support of Postgraduate Super Specialists and Senior Resident doctors. However, of the 751 sanctioned posts across the state's medical colleges, only 375 are filled, with



376 posts lying vacant, severely impacting healthcare delivery."

The state is also working to implement international standards for doctor-nurse-patient ratios and is expediting recruitment to meet these benchmarks. According to the health department, 9.5 lakh patients travel outside the state annually for treatment, causing a Rs 1350 crore loss to the state GDP. Strengthening in-state healthcare services is projected to save Rs 550 crore annually and offer timely care to patients.

## Once ashram of power whisperer Dhirendra Bramhachari, now home to the penniless in Gurgaon

GNS News Agency, May 2

Yoga classes by the district administration, a cricket ground for locals, a shelter for people with nowhere else to stay, and a haunt of dealers in scrap and second-hand furniture. This is what is spread across the 30-acre land in Gurgaon's Sector 30, which once held the Aparna Ashram of the late Dhirendra Brahmachari, the jet-setting yoga guru to the country's mightiest — and which the Haryana government has now moved formally to take over, passing a Bill that awaits the President's approval. With the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi among Brahma-chari's disciples, the ashram had flourished. Central grants over time helped it purchase this prime plot, now reportedly worth several hundred crores. Since Brahmachari's demise in 1994, though, the ashram has been at the centre of constant litigation, with competing sides laying claim to it. The only sign now of what is at stake is two constables posted at the site, from the Sector 40 Police Station, who guard the 5-acre section of the property that is already under state government ownership. This is the site where yoga classes are held in the open, and where the demolished remnants of the ashram's main building, including a former helipad, lie. Refusing to be identified, one of the constables says: "We have been here for two months now, but police have been guarding this place since February 2023, when the (ashram) building was demolished. The yoga classes started a month after that." A small tin shed built for the constables to stay on the property 24x7 means the encroachers have stayed away from these five acres. "Even if there is only one of us, no one will dare trespass," says the constable. Inspector Lalit Kumar, Station House Officer of the Sector 40 Police Station, says they have not received any complaints or had any issues relating to any attempted encroachments on the land where



the two policemen are stationed. "They have been deployed as a precautionary measure," Kumar says, adding that they had not received any fresh instruction from the district administration as regards the land, given the passage of the Bill. Away from the constables' eyes, on the other side of the disputed property, a settlement ironically called 'Indira Vikas Colony' is watching in apprehension as the construction of a boundary wall demarcating the former ashram land indicates the government's resolve to take over the premises. Afraid of inviting action, the residents talk only on the condition of anonymity. A group of scrap dealers, who have been staying and working out of this area since the start of the year, say they have not received any notices so far and are waiting and watching. "We have not faced any hassle. If any notice comes, we will see," says one of the scrap dealers. Their neighbours include three old furniture dealers from Uttar Pradesh, who say the notices have come to them. As a precaution, they have moved their shop from one site within the property to another.

## In Central Delhi, Ayushman Aarogya Mandir opens doors to public. What does it offer?

The walls are freshly painted in yellow with murals showing a doctor treating a child and assisting a pregnant woman, while the entrance sports newly installed railings, an iron gate and a board: This is the new Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandir (UAMM) in F Block, Central Delhi's Inderpuri, which has opened its doors to residents. Until recently, it was a mohalla clinic. Gone are posters of former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and former Health Minister Satyendra Jain. In fact, every sign identifying this clinic with the previous Aam Aadmi Party government's flagship scheme has been erased. The Delhi government has readied at least four such clinics — one each in Todapur, Bhanwar Singh Camp in Vasant Vihar, Mayapuri and

new, as is the board, change will take time. For now, residents who frequent the facility said it's the same as before. Sitting on a bench outside the clinic were two local residents, Amit Kumar and Sagar Mandal. "We live in the neighbourhood," said Kumar, a Delhi government employee. "This still seems like a mohalla clinic... Medicines, tests and consultation... everything is free so far," he added. On April 17, the clinic was locked because the doctor was on leave. "Whenever the doctor is on leave, the entire staff also takes off," Kumar claimed. "This is how mohalla clinics also functioned." Mandal added, "The staff register patients on their tabs and notebooks just like before." Saroj Devi, 65, who runs a grocery shop nearby, said, "jaise pehle

tha waise ab bhi hai (It is providing the same services as earlier)". After winning the Delhi elections, the BJP government had announced that it would convert 250 mohalla clinics running from rented accommodations to Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. State Health Minister Pankaj Singh had said, "We will also establish the centres near JJ clusters to ensure free primary healthcare for all residents in these areas." On April 16, the Delhi Health Department issued directions to the chief engineer of the Public Works Department to complete construction of 70 Ayushman Arogya Mandirs and make them functional by May 31. Last week, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced that a total of 1,139 Arogya Mandirs will be established across Delhi.

## At least nine killed in Vancouver after vehicle plows into Filipino festival

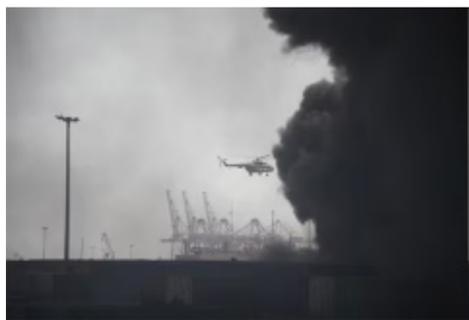


about 10 minutes until police arrived. The festival, celebrated especially in the central Philippines, honors Datu Lapu-Lapu, a Filipino chieftain who defeated Spanish forces led by Ferdinand Magellan in the Battle of Mactan in 1521. The government of British Columbia officially recognised April 27 as Lapu-Lapu Day in 2023, acknowledging the cultural contributions of the Filipino-Canadian community, one of the largest immigrant groups in the province. King Charles, Canada's head of state, said in a statement: "Both my wife and I were profoundly saddened to learn of the dreadful attack and utterly tragic loss of life in Vancouver, which took place as the Filipino community came together to mark the celebration of one of their most special festivals." The centerpiece of the festival in Vancouver is a multi-block street party in the Sunset neighborhood featuring Filipino food and traditions, live performances and cultural displays.

"I didn't get to see the driver, all I heard was an engine rev," Yoseb Vardeh, co-owner of food truck Bao Buns, said in an interview with Postmedia. "I got outside my food truck, I looked down the road and there's just bodies everywhere," said Vardeh, his voice breaking with emotion. "He went through the whole block, he went straight down the middle." Vancouver city councillor Peter Fry told CTV News he had also been at the event earlier in the day. "This was a great day. A wonderful event. Huge community event. And to have it end in tragedy like this, it won't break us or the community but it's horrible," he said. Reporting by Harshita Meenaktshi, Devika Nair in Bengaluru; Additional reporting by Karen Lema in Manila; Editing by Kim Coghill, Alex Richardson, Ros Russell and Mark Porter



continue like a "snowball rolling downhill." He said the administration was still working on a travel ban for citizens from multiple countries. Courts have stymied some of Trump's actions, drawing scorn from his allies and White House rebukes that those judges are thwarting the will of the head of the executive branch and the people who elected him. While Trump will continue to wage war with the courts and a government bureaucracy that his team views as too bloated and out of line with his world view, another official said he would put more focus in his next 100 days on trade deals and peace talks. The president launched an all-out trade war on numerous countries this year before putting reciprocal tariffs largely on hold to allow for negotiations with individual nations. His administration hopes to secure agreements within 90 days. Experts say that is extremely unlikely, noting that Trump has not yet secured a single deal. His rhetoric about talks, particularly with China, has often been at odds with what the other country says is true. The president will take an extended trip abroad next month, visiting Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, and continue to push for peace in Russia's war with Ukraine. Trump had promised to solve that conflict on "Day One," but peace has been elusive. The president conceded on Saturday that Russian President Vladimir Putin may not want to stop the war.



Red Crescent Society told state media the fire was 90% extinguished and officials said port activities had resumed in unaffected parts of Shahid Rajaei. Iran's crisis management organisation said that of the 752 people who had received treatment for their injuries, 190 were still being treated in medical centres early. A spokesperson for the country's crisis management organisation appeared on Saturday to blame the explosion on poor storage of chemicals in containers at Shahid Rajaei, adding that earlier warnings had highlighted potential safety risks. Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani cautioned against "premature speculation", saying final assessments would be shared after investigations. Negligence has often been blamed in a series of deadly incidents that have hit Iranian energy and industrial infrastructure in recent years.

## America First president is overturning the world order

WASHINGTON/TOKYO/BRUSSELS, GNS News Agency, May 2, He has launched an unprecedented global tariff war and slashed U.S. foreign aid. He has disparaged NATO allies and embraced Russia's narrative about its invasion of Ukraine. And he has spoken about annexing Greenland, retaking the Panama Canal and making Canada the 51st state. In the chaotic first 100 days since President Donald Trump returned to office, he has waged an often unpredictable campaign that has upended parts of the rules-based world order that Washington helped build from the ashes of World War II.

The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. "Trump is much more radical now than he was eight years ago," said Elliott Abrams, a conservative who served under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush before being appointed U.S. special envoy on Iran and Venezuela in Trump's first term. "I have been surprised." Trump's second-term "America First" agenda has alienated friends and emboldened adversaries while raising questions about how far he is prepared to go. His actions, coupled with that uncertainty, have so unnerved some governments that they are responding in ways that could be difficult to undo, even if a more traditional U.S. president is elected in 2028.

All this comes amid what the Republican president's critics see as signs of democratic backsliding at home that have raised concerns abroad. These include verbal attacks on judges, a pressure campaign against universities and the transfer of migrants to a notorious El Salvador prison as part of a broader deportation drive. "What we're seeing is a huge disruption in world affairs," said Dennis Ross, a former Middle East negotiator for Democratic and Republican administrations. "No one is certain at this point what to make of what's happening or what will come next."

This assessment of Trump's shakeup of the global system comes from Reuters interviews with more than a dozen current and former government officials, foreign diplomats and independent analysts in Washington and capitals around the world. Many say that while some of the damage already done could be long-lasting, the situation may not be beyond repair if Trump softens his approach. He has already backtracked on some issues, including the timing and severity of his tariffs. But they see little chance of a dramatic shift by Trump and instead expect many countries to make lasting changes in their relationships with the U.S. to safeguard against his erratic policy-making.

Some European allies, for instance, are looking to boost their own defense industries to reduce reliance on U.S. weapons. Debate has intensified in South Korea about developing its own nuclear arsenal. And speculation has grown that deteriorating relations could prompt U.S. partners to move closer to China, at least economically.

The White House rejects the notion that Trump has hurt U.S. credibility, citing instead the need to clean up after what it calls former President Joe Biden's "feckless leadership" on the world stage. "President Trump is taking swift action to address challenges by bringing both Ukraine and Russia to the negotiating table to end their war, stemming the flow of fentanyl and protecting American workers by holding China accountable, getting Iran to the negotiating table by reimposing Maximum Pressure," White House National Security Council spokesman Brian Hughes said in a statement. He said Trump was also "making the Houthi pay for their terrorism... and securing our southern border that was open to invasion for four years." More than half of Americans, including one in four Republicans, think Trump is "too closely aligned" with Russia, and the American public has little appetite for the expansionist agenda he has laid out, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on March 13. At stake, say experts, is the future of a global system



that has taken shape over the past eight decades largely under U.S. primacy. It has come to be based on free trade, rule of law and respect for territorial integrity. But under Trump, who has been scornful of multilateral organizations and often views global affairs through the transactional lens of a former real estate developer, that world order is being shaken up. Accusing trading partners of "ripping off" the U.S. for decades, Trump has set in motion a sweeping tariffs policy that has rolled financial markets, weakened the dollar and triggered warnings of a slowdown in worldwide economic output and increased risk of recession. Trump has called the tariffs necessary "medicine" but his objectives remain unclear even as his administration works to negotiate separate deals with dozens of countries. At the same time, he has all but reversed U.S. policy on Russia's three-year-old war in Ukraine and engaged in an Oval Office shouting match with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in late February. He has warned to Moscow and stirred fears that he will force NATO-backed Kyiv to accept the loss of territory while he prioritizes improved relations with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The administration's belittling of Europe and NATO, long the central pillar of transatlantic security but accused by Trump and his aides of freeloading off the U.S., has caused deep unease. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, after winning February's election, expressed concern about European relations with the United States, saying it would be difficult if those who put "America First" actually made their motto "America Alone." "This really is five minutes to midnight for Europe," Merz said. In a further blow to Washington's global image, Trump has employed expansionist rhetoric long avoided by modern-day presidents, which some analysts say could be used by China as justification if it decides to invade self-governed Taiwan. With his blustery style, he has insisted that the U.S. will "get" Greenland, a semi-autonomous Danish island. He has angered Canada by saying it has little reason to exist and should become part of the U.S. He has threatened to seize the Panama Canal, which was handed over to Panama in 1999. And he has proposed that Washington take over war-ravaged Gaza and transform the Palestinian enclave into a Riviera-style resort. Some analysts say Trump may be seeking to resurrect a Cold War-style global structure in which big powers carve up geographic spheres of influence. Even so, he has offered no details on how the U.S. could acquire more territory, and some experts suggest he may be assuming extreme and even over-the-top positions as bargaining ploys. "When you demand to take over a part of the Kingdom of Denmark's territory, when we are met by pressure and by threats from our closest ally, what are we to believe in about the country that we have admired for so many years?" Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen told a news conference in Greenland in early April. "This is about the world order that we have built together across the Atlantic over generations."

## Russia files terrorism charges against suspect in car bomb killing of army officer

GNS News Agency, May 2

Russian investigators have filed terrorism charges against a Ukrainian citizen suspected of killing a senior Russian military officer near Moscow, Interfax news agency reported. The Kremlin has blamed Kyiv for Friday's car bomb that killed 59-year-old Yaroslav Moskalik, the latest in a series of Russian military officers and pro-war figures to be assassinated since the start of the war in Ukraine. Ukraine has not commented on the incident. Interfax, citing Russia's Investigative Committee, said the suspect, Ignat Kuzin, had pleaded guilty to killing Moskalik and had said he was recruited by Ukraine's security services.

Moskalik, who was deputy head of the Main Operations Directorate of Russia's General Staff, was killed on Friday in the town of Balashikha, hours before U.S. President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff was due to hold talks with President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on ending the Ukraine war. The Investigative Committee said Russian authorities were trying to identify others who might have been involved in the killing of Moskalik. Russian war bloggers described Moskalik as a rising star. He had participated in several high-level Russian delegations that have met Western officials to try to negotiate a settlement to the conflict in Ukraine. He also dealt with Syria, presenting a report on



military-technical cooperation in Africa and the Middle East at a security forum in Moscow in 2021.

## China seizes disputed reef near key Philippine military outpost: report

GNS News Agency, May 2

The Chinese Coast Guard has seized control of a disputed reef near a major Philippine military outpost in the South China Sea, according to Beijing's state media, adding to longstanding territorial tensions with Manila. Beijing claims sovereignty over almost all of the South China Sea and has waved away competing assertions from other regional countries as well as an international ruling that its position has no legal basis. China and the Philippines have engaged in months of confrontations in the contested waters, and Manila is currently taking part in sweeping joint military drills with the United States that Beijing has slammed as destabilising. The Chinese Coast Guard "implemented maritime control" over the Tiexian Reef, also known as Sandy Cay, during the middle of April, state broadcaster CCTV reported. The tiny sandbank, part of the Spratly Islands, lies near Thitu Island, also called Pag-asa and the site of a Philippine military facility. CCTV said the Coast Guard landed on Sandy Cay to "exercise sovereignty and jurisdiction" over the reef, carry out an "inspection" and "collect video evidence regarding the illegal activities of the Philippine side".

The broadcaster published a photograph of five black-clad people standing on the uninhabited reef as a dark inflatable boat bobbed in the nearby water. Another shot showed four Coast Guard officials posing with a national flag on the reef's white surface, in what CCTV described as a "vow of sovereignty". The group also "cleaned up leftover plastic bottles, wooden sticks and other debris and garbage on the reef", the broadcaster said. The Financial Times reported an unnamed Philippine maritime official as saying that the Chinese Coast Guard had left after unfurling the flag. There do not appear to be any signs that China has permanently occupied the reef or has built a structure on it. In recent months, Beijing and Manila have blamed each other for causing what they describe as the ecological degradation of several disputed landforms in the South China Sea. China's state news agency Xinhua on Friday (April 25, 2025) cited a report from the natural resources ministry that it said "debunked" Manila's allegations that Beijing's land reclamation projects had harmed the local environment. Philippine forces are present on Thitu Island and Manila inaugurated a Coast Guard monitoring base there in 2023 in an effort to counter what it describes as Chinese aggression.

## Trump's next 100 days to feature trade deals, peace talks, 'torpedoes,' officials say

WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, May 2 President Donald Trump and his administration this week will highlight the accomplishments of his first 100 days in office, while looking toward the next 100 days with a focus on trade deals and peace talks, White House officials said. After a pace of changes that have thrilled allies and stunned adversaries, including in social policy areas such as transgender rights, one official said Trump has "torpedoes" in store but did not explain what those were. Trump has enacted sweeping changes on a wide range of U.S. domestic and foreign policy priorities since taking office on January 20. He has upended the world economic order with tariffs, slashed the federal government with job cuts and done away with diversity programs in the public and private sector. He has also attacked academia, law firms and courts.

This week, Trump plans to travel to Michigan for a rally to commemorate the 100-day milestone. The White House intends to highlight his economic vision, ejection of undocumented immigrants, changes to foreign policy, and work by billionaire Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency to purge the federal bureaucracy and cut what it sees as waste. Celebrating those moves will be part of a broad victory lap around Trump's second-term launch that the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, described to reporters as a conservative's fantasy. "Every morning I wake up, it's like living in a dreamscape," he said. While Trump officials laud the speed and breadth of his efforts to remake American society, critics say Trump has trampled on the rights of citizens and non-citizens, alienated allies and threatened U.S. supremacy in the world. The president has withheld funding from universities for what his administration considers tolerance of anti-Semitic behavior; cut back on transgender rights; and done away with diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs in the federal government and with federal contractors. This has had a broad knock-on effect throughout U.S. society. The official said there is more to come, with lots of "torpedoes under the water."

That includes more executive action, a hallmark of Trump's first 100 days, which the official said would con-

## Death toll from blast at Iran's Bandar Abbas port rises to 28

DUBAI, GNS News Agency, May 2, The death toll from a powerful explosion at Iran's biggest port of Bandar Abbas has risen to at least 28, with more than 700 people injured, state media reported on Sunday, as firefighters worked to fully extinguish the fire. Saturday's blast took place in the Shahid Rajaei section of the port, Iran's biggest container hub, shattering windows for several kilometres around, tearing metal strips off shipping containers and badly damaging goods inside, state media said.

The incident occurred as Iran held a third round of nuclear talks with the United States in Oman. Chemicals at the port were suspected to have fuelled the explosion, but the exact cause was not clear and Iran's Defence Ministry denied international media reports that the blast may be linked to the mishandling of solid fuel used for missiles. A spokesperson for the ministry told state TV the reports were "aligned with enemy psyops", saying that the blast-hit area did not contain any military cargo. The Associated Press cited British security firm Ambrey as saying the port received in March sodium perchlorate, which is used to propel ballistic missiles and whose mishandling could have led to the explosion. The Financial Times newspaper reported in January the shipment of two Iranian vessels from China containing enough of the ingredient to propel as many as 260 mid-range missiles, helping Tehran to replenish its stocks following its direct missile attacks on its arch-foe Israel in 2024.

Plumes of black smoke rose above the site on Sunday and pieces of twisted metal and debris lay scattered across the blast site. By early afternoon, the head of Iran's

## Why is UPI seeing frequent downtimes? | Explained



The story so far: In March and April, the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system went down three times, causing significant disruptions in payments on apps like GPay and PhonePe, which rely on the system. One of the downtimes was caused by individual banks flooding the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) systems with transaction status checks.

How does UPI work?

UPI payments work based on an architecture that was inherited from the Immediate Payment Service (IMPS). For UPI payments to work, a bank is required to join the UPI system and allow users to access their own accounts through a linked phone number, on a Payment Service Provider (PSP)'s app, like PhonePe or GPay. Practically every commercial bank, public or private, is on the UPI system. UPI is designed as an interoperable system, allowing any bank's account holders to sign up for the service on any app, and even multiple apps at the same time. This resembles a peer-to-peer system, where individual banks are all talking to each other, but in reality, practically every transaction is routed through the systems of the NPCI. "The NPCI is essential in this process," said Srikanth Lakshmanan, a member of the Cashless Consumer project, as it encrypts the PIN information — which only the bank knows — and sends the payment information forward to a payer's bank, which then executes the transaction. "So if there's a downtime in the NPCI, there's no way your bank would get your PIN. This is where it is a single point of failure."

Why did the NPCI have several outages?

The NPCI as an organisation is structured as a collective of banks, with public sector banks holding the bulk of its shareholding. This, Mr. Lakshmanan said, is because of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which mandates that organisations involved in clearing transac-

tions in bulk have to be majority-owned by public sector banks. Led as it is by banks, the implementation too is largely left to them, though the NPCI has played a big role in designing and presiding over the UPI system. In the last few weeks, individual banks reportedly flooded the UPI system with "check transaction" requests, which payer banks use to verify that a payment has been completed. That hit the single point of failure at NPCI, and took the system offline briefly. To reduce the impact of downtime like this, the NPCI has created something called UPI Lite, which allows users to set aside up to ₹2,000 for payments without having to punch in a PIN. But even such payments go through the NPCI's systems. "You don't do a PIN authentication, but other communication still goes through NPCI," Mr. Lakshmanan said. "The NPCI has to say this transaction originated from your device and so on. This is why even though UPI Lite doesn't involve the PIN entry and decryption, it is still routed through NPCI since it's fundamentally an interoperable system. While UPI Lite is light, it still requires NPCI to be in the middle."

Why are banks peeved?

Banks have historically had a rocky relationship with UPI. While the system has revolutionised payments in India — just on Friday, there were over 58 crore transactions worth over ₹73,000 crore — they are largely unable to collect any significant fees on transactions, even though there are costs attached to each of these. The RBI estimated that banks incur a cost of ₹0.80 per transaction, due to SMS notification costs (which telecom operators collect for commercial messages), and the costs incurred in maintaining and updating records of each payment. However, they are not able to charge a Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) for these services, leaving them with few incentives to keep to rigorous uptime standards. Individual banks go down far more frequently than the NPCI as a whole, and these outages result in increased payment decline events. System-wide downtimes are far fewer and shorter on commercial card networks like MasterCard and Visa, Mr. Lakshmanan said, as there is robust monitoring and service level agreements to enforce performance standards. However, he said, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has tried a "carrot and stick" approach, with its annual UPI incentive programme for banks, which comes attached with conditions that penalise banks whose performance suffers over the course of a year. The subsidy scheme compensates banks for their current inability to charge an MDR. "If you're at the bottom [in terms of uptime], you get nothing," Mr. Lakshmanan said.

## India and remaking of the global supply chain

iPhoneThe doubling down by the US tech major on its India operations — the company recently exported 600 tons of phones from India "to ensure sufficient inventory" in the US — sends an important signal about the country as an export hub, more so during these uncertain times. As per reports, Apple is now looking to make all its iPhones for the US market in India by 2026, as it attempts to bring down its reliance on China as an export base. If these plans fructify — the tech giant currently sells in excess of 60 million iPhones in the US — it would imply that roughly a quarter of all iPhones sold globally could be from India.

This doubling down by the US tech major on its India operations — the company recently exported 600 tons of phones from India "to ensure sufficient inventory" in the US — sends an important signal about the country as an export hub, more so during these uncertain times. Other companies with production facilities in countries such as Vietnam — the Southeast Asian nation has been slapped with a reciprocal tariff of 46 per cent — are also said to be exploring a similar move. This would be a significant development. Alongside these shifts, a strengthening of the supplier ecosystem in the country — for instance, a significant number of Apple's vendors and suppliers currently manufacture in mainland China — would ensure that the country captures a greater portion of the value added. India was not a big beneficiary during the first round of supply chain reconfigurations. As per a report from OCB, a Singaporean banking and financial services firm, "The ASEAN-6 region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam) has benefited from a diversification of global and regional supply chains as well as the adoption of 'China+1' strategies." FDI flows into these countries rose to a staggering \$236 billion in 2023, up from an average of around \$190 billion in 2020-22. The question, now, is: Can India grab a bigger share this time around? Can the gains in the mobile space be replicated across labour intensive segments such as apparel, footwear, toys and furniture? Can India use the uncertainty in the global economy to its advantage?

The current economic environment is indeed quite challenging. In its recent World Economic Outlook, the International Monetary Fund cut its forecast for global growth to 2.8 per cent, down 50 basis points. The outlook for both advanced as well as emerging market and developing economies has been slashed by 50 basis points each. Alongside, the Fund also lowered its projection of global trade by almost half. As per its assessment, it is the emerging market and developing economies that are likely to be affected the most. This slowdown in global growth comes at a time when the Indian economy is also showing signs of weakness. Household consumption is weighed down by the combination of subdued real income growth and high indebtedness. Private sector investments remain muted as companies await greater clarity over demand and remain watchful of a possible surge in exports from countries that will face difficulty in accessing the American market. Alongside, the Union government has committed to the path of fiscal consolidation, implying a contractionary pulse to the economy. The outlook for exports is also marred by uncertainty. However, as Shoumitro Chatterjee has argued (IE, April 4, 'How to Trump tariffs'), the country's priority "should be to grow its global market share — regardless of whether global trade itself is expanding." At a time when other countries are turning their back on globalisation, India's focus should be to emerge as a safe haven, a country that offers predictability of policy, and embraces openness and freer trade, not protectionism.

Signing a deal with the US will send the right signal. An editorial in this paper (IE, April 25, 'Seal the deal') noted that it will "help the country avoid reciprocal tariffs, and reduce uncertainty, providing clarity to both global and domestic firms." However, this alone is not enough. There is no room for complacency. India must push ahead with similar agreements with the EU and the UK and re-examine its position on Asia-centric trade deals such as RCEP. Further, as another editorial in this paper argued (IE, April



4, 'After the tariffs'), "the Indian government must also pursue a more ambitious and broader agenda for trade reform." But, even as companies step up diversification of supply chains, and India tries to emerge as a major global export hub, the criticality of China to the global trading system cannot be understated. As an editorial in this paper noted (IE, April 23, 'New give & take'), "China is at the centre of global manufacturing supply chains. In 2023-24, the India-China bilateral trade stood at a staggering \$118.4 billion." Moreover, companies looking to shift their production out of China are also likely to face some pushback. Reportedly, the plans of a fast-fashion company to relocate some of its production out of the country are being met with opposition from the Chinese government. These rapidly evolving trade dynamics, as an editorial in this paper noted (IE, April 23, 'New give & take'), will "require deft handling".

## Government bans manufacture, sale of 35 fixed-dose combination drugs

New Delhi: Apex drugs regulatory body CDSCO has directed drug controllers of all states and Union territories to stop manufacture, sale and distribution of unapproved 35 fixed-dose combination drugs that include painkillers, nutrition supplements and anti-diabetics.

They have also been asked to review their approval process for such fixed dose combination drugs (FDC) and ensure strict compliance of the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 and rules. FDC drugs are those which contain a combination of two or more active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) in a fixed ratio.

The regulator issued the directions after it found that certain FDC drugs have been licensed for manufacture, sale, and distribution without prior evaluation of safety and efficacy, posing a serious risk to public health and safety. In a communication sent on April 11, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) Dr Rajeev Raghuvanshi referred to the letter issued by his office on January 2013 where concerns were raised regarding the grant of manufacturing licenses for sale of FDC drugs that fall under the definition of a "New Drug" in the country without due approval from DCGI. The same concern has been raised from time to time and multiple letters have been issued to the respective state licensing authorities that granted permission for manufacturing and marketing of unapproved FDCs. The most recent such letter was issued in February this year. "It has come to the notice of this directorate that certain FDC drugs have been licensed for manufacture, sale, and distribution without prior evaluation of safety and efficacy as per the provision of NDCT Rules 2019 under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. This poses a serious risk to public health and safety," the letter stated. The approval of such unapproved FDCs compromises patient safety and may lead to adverse drug reactions, drug interactions, and other health hazards due to the absence of scientific validation, the letter underlined. Upon issuance of show cause notices to the manufacturers, they have stated that these licenses were granted by the respective drug licensing authorities and have not violated any rules, it said.

## 'Save the children': Guide who helped tourists escape recalls those terrifying 10 minutes at Pahalgam meadow



Over the sound of gunshots ringing across Baisaran, Chhatisgarh resident Lucky Parashar, his face on the ground, cried out to tour guide Nazakat Ahmad Shah for help. The firing in the Pahalgam meadow started just short of 2 pm on April 22. In barely 10 minutes, "three terrorists in dark clothes" shot dead 26 people, including a local pony ride operator, and injured several others. As cries of pain, shock and grief broke out, the terrorists melted into the forest nearby. Earlier that day, four couples and three children, including Lucky's family, had travelled with 31-year-old Nazakat to sightsee around Pahalgam, a one-day stop in their Kashmir itinerary. At the ticket counter, the guide greeted his cousin — 30-year-old Syed Adil Hussain Shah, the ill-fated pony operator — before entering the park.

Nazakat, who has been working as a tour guide since 2010, has known Parashar's family for years. For four months each year, his family sells shawls and other Kashmiri goods in Chhatisgarh. Two of his brothers, too, are involved in the tourism sector, helping yatis traverse the Amarnath route every year. At around 2 pm, Nazakat approached Lucky, who was near one end of the zipline that runs through the park, to ask if his family was ready to move to the next spot. "I wanted to take them to 'ABC' — Aru Valley, Betaab Valley and Chandanwari (in Pahalgam). Lucky said the children really loved Baisaran and wanted to stay there a while longer," says Nazakat, recalling how the three children in the group shrieked with joy as they ran all over the meadow.

As the gunshots grew louder, Nazakat knew he had to get out if he wanted to stay alive. In the middle of his exchange with Lucky, he remembers the echo of a loud 'crack'. It was followed by another. And then a volley of shots. "It took me a minute to realise what was happening. This place is so remote, so peaceful that even a local like me did not immediately realise that we were under attack," he says.

As soon as he realised the danger, Nazakat grabbed the youngest child in the group, a boy aged two, followed by the other two. Holding them close, he lay flat on the ground, just like the others lying prone nearby. While Lucky lay next to him, his wife and the rest of the group were elsewhere in the park. Chhatisgarh BJP youth wing worker Arvind Agrawal, who was also part of the group, had told The In-

dian Express earlier that his four-year-old daughter was among those Nazakat had shielded. As the gunshots grew louder, Nazakat knew he had to get out. The ticket gate was too far. As he looked around for another way out, Nazakat spotted a gap in the fence. "Lucky told me, 'what-ever happens, save the kids'. I have two daughters myself, he did not have to explain. I had spotted three people in dark clothes walking in the meadow earlier... I had to think about the children first," he says. Pahalgam guide 'hugged my children, saving their lives': Chhatisgarh BJP worker whose family had narrow escape Arvind Agrawal with Nazakat Amid the gunshots, Nazakat called up the driver he had hired to ferry the family, instructing him to take a different route and meet him "near the spring that flows close to the park". A split second later, he grabbed the three children, and, with Lucky, made a beeline for the gap in the fence. "The taxi driver had heard the gunshots too. He also took a while to realise that it was the sound of bullets," says Nazakat.

Running along the spring, Nazakat, the children and Lucky reached the car 10 minutes later. Once the children were inside, Nazakat turned around — back towards the meadow and the gunshots — to track down the remainder of his group. The gate near the ticket counter was open, he recalls, allowing those on the park's periphery to get away. At the fence, he saw pony wallahs rushing panicked tourists down the slope on ponies even as shots continued to ring. "It had rained two days ago. The path was still extremely slippery," he says. Despite the chaos, Nazakat managed to locate all seven remaining members of his group. He says he took the stunned tourists back to their hotel in Pahalgam. The next day, April 23, he accompanied them to Srinagar airport, nearly 80 km from Pahalgam. "They were scared. They wanted to leave Srinagar. I knew that no matter what I said, they would not stay back if they could leave," he says.

Srinagar airport was overrun with victims, their families, panicked tourists and VIPs. Lucky's family failed to get a flight out. "They were scheduled to leave on April 24 anyway. They ended up taking the same flight," he says. It was on his way to Srinagar on April 23 that Nazakat found out about his cousin succumbing to the bullet injuries he had sustained during the attack. Adil, too, was attempting to save some tourists in the park when he was shot. "It struck me then that in my rush to get the guests out, I had forgotten to check on Adil," he says. On Friday, April 25, three days after the attack, Nazakat was still in Pahalgam, still answering calls from "customers who are now friends". "They have been checking on my well-being since Tuesday. Many tourists who I've travelled with earlier have been calling too to check on me and my family." Before answering yet another "wellness check" from one of his "friends", Nazakat says: "People in the centre of the bowl (at the park) bore the brunt of the attack. I don't know how I would have lived with myself had one of my guests been injured or worse."

## Amid Waqf hearing in SC, a 400-year-old mosque near Delhi HC finds itself in the spotlight

On April 16, while hearing petitions challenging the amended Waqf Act, Chief Justice of India Sanjeev Khanna, who served as a judge at the Delhi High Court for 14 years, remarked in the context of waqf-by-user cases. "When we were in (the) Delhi High Court, we were told that the High Court itself is built on Waqf land." The mosque in question — built during Sher Shah Suri's reign in Delhi and located between Gates 4 and 5 of the Delhi High Court on Sher Shah Road — has been the subject of at least two petitions, one seeking its demolition and the other asking for construction activity on the premises to be halted. Between 2013 and 2015, multiple petitions were filed in court related to the mosque. Between 2013 and 2015, multiple petitions were filed in court related to the mosque. (Photo by Sohini Ghosh) The court's orders, records submitted by the government and Delhi Waqf Board documents, however, show that only the 0.12 acres on which the 400-year-old mosque stands — not the larger court premises — has been recorded as Waqf property. The second of the two petitions against the mosque was filed in 2015, by one Ajay Gautam, who sought the mosque's demolition on two grounds: one, that a court's precincts cannot be used for religious purposes and two, over the alleged entry of outsiders to the court premises to offer prayers at the structure. At present, those on the High Court premises, including lawyers, court staff and litigants, offer prayers at the mosque. Gautam, who claims to be a social activist, told The Indian Express, "All kinds of illegal activities, like encroachment, begging, etc., were going on along Sher Shah Road. It was a matter of security for all." A Delhi Gazette notification, dated December 10, 1969, mentions the mosque on the Delhi High Court premises. A Delhi Gazette notification, dated December 10, 1969, mentions the mosque on the Delhi High Court premises. In March 2015, a Division Bench of Justices Pradeep Nandraj and Pratibha Rani directed the production of "relevant record(s) containing the letters/order allotting land for construction of the main building of the Delhi High Court", including the "layout plan originally conceived when the main building of the Delhi High Court was constructed". Senior Advocate Anil Soni, the then Central government's standing counsel, says the layout plan, including maps maintained by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, were shown in court. A Delhi Gazette notification, dated December 10, 1969, and issued under the Waqf Act, was also placed before the court.

Accessed by The Indian Express, the Delhi Gazette notification, published on April 16, 1970, mentions the mosque as the only Delhi Waqf Board property on the court premises. The notification lists nearly 1,167 Waqf properties — a majority of them "by use". The Delhi Gazette notification lists the Sher Shah Suri-era mosque on the Delhi High Court's premises as a "Waqf Board property". The Delhi Gazette notification lists the Sher Shah Suri-era mosque on the Delhi High Court's premises as a "Waqf Board property".

Mentioned as a "mosque in Sher Shah Mess, Sher Shah Road" in the Gazette notification, the listing states "more than 400 years" under the column titled "the date of creation of Waqf". While "worship" has been mentioned in the column on the structure's nature of use, the "Delhi Waqf Board" has been mentioned as its "mutawalli (caretaker)", besides the property being "Waqf-administered by use" and "Rs 10,000" as its value at the time. When asked if the Delhi High Court was built on Waqf land, Azimul Haque, CEO, Delhi Waqf Board, said. "Going by the notification, it is only



The court's orders, records submitted by the government and Delhi Waqf Board documents, however, show that only the 0.12 acres on which the 400-year-old mosque stands — not the larger court premises — has been recorded as Waqf property.

The mosque. The court was also informed in 2015 that when land was allocated for the Delhi High Court near Sher Shah Road, the 0.12-acre mosque area, which is Waqf property, was excluded. All these records, which were submitted to the court nearly six months after its March 2015 directions, showed that the court premises were never considered Waqf property. Petitioner Gautam withdrew his plea after the gazette notification was brought on record and the court on September 11, 2015, asked Gautam how it could issue directions or regulate a Waqf Board property.

Two years before Gautam's 2015 plea, in 2013, a group of lawyers had sought the court's intervention on construction activity being undertaken at the masjid. On December 27, 2013, the Delhi High Court had directed that construction activity at the mosque be stopped and status quo be maintained. Mobin Akhtar, a member of the mosque's managing committee and an advocate, says, "Around 2013, the mosque committee decided to renovate and repair the masjid, which was in a shambles at the time. This resulted in the plea before the High Court." He adds, "The mosque is not on the Delhi High Court premises. In fact, the Delhi High Court is located around the mosque." Senior Advocate Anil Soni, who had appeared as the Centre's standing counsel in the 2015 case, told The Indian Express, "Construction (at the mosque) had started around December 2013. There was a plan to expand the mosque's boundary and construct minarets around it. There was also an objection to outsiders coming inside the High Court premises to pray. The High Court's administrative committee back then had intervened, deciding not to escalate the matter. Ultimately it was seen that the masjid was on Waqf land. The High Court had opined that it cannot issue directions or regulate Waqf land." Established in 1966 through the Delhi High Court Act, the court's main building was declared open on September 25, 1976, by then President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

## NIMHANS study identifies blood-based biomarkers for early detection of postpartum depressive symptoms



Perinatal depression, which includes both prenatal (during pregnancy) and postpartum (after childbirth) depression, affects a substantial proportion of women and can have long-lasting effects on both mother and child. Perinatal depression, which includes both prenatal (during pregnancy) and postpartum (after childbirth) depression, affects a substantial proportion of women and can have long-lasting effects on both mother and child. | Photo Credit: Getty Images

A study by researchers from NIMHANS has identified a panel of novel DNA methylation makers that can help predict the risk of postpartum depressive symptoms in early stages of pregnancy. The study was published in the *Journal of Affective Disorders* on April 24. Perinatal depression, which includes both prenatal (during pregnancy) and postpartum (after childbirth) depression, affects a substantial proportion of women and can have long-lasting effects on both mother and child. It often manifests as persistent sadness, low energy, anxiety, and disrupted sleep and appetite patterns.

The study, led by Kuppan Gokulakrishnan, Associate Professor of Neurochemistry at NIMHANS, is a collaborative effort with researchers from the Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (MDRF), Seethapathy Clinic & Hospital in Chennai, and the University of Warwick in the United Kingdom. The team focused on epigenetic changes, specifically DNA methylation (a biological process by which methyl groups are added to the DNA molecule - the levels of which help predict diseases) as potential early indicators of depressive symptoms. This study was funded by the DBT-Wellcome Trust India Alliance. Postpartum depression or

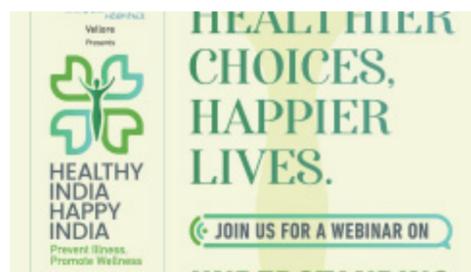
postnatal depression is different from the baby blues. It usually occurs two to eight weeks after giving birth but can happen up to a year after the baby is born. Feelings of intense anxiety are also a common feature of postpartum depression. Dr. Gokulakrishnan said there are currently no blood-based biomarkers available to identify postpartum depressive symptoms at an early stage of pregnancy. "Therefore, our discovery allows for earlier intervention, which can help reduce the harmful effects of depression. Our findings open up the possibility of a simple blood test during early pregnancy that could help identify women at risk, allowing for timely intervention and support," he said. Early detection could lead to personalised, preventive strategies in maternal mental health care and reduce the long-term emotional and developmental toll on both mothers and children, he said. The study involved 201 pregnant women with no prior history of depressive disorders, recruited from the STRatification of Risk of Diabetes in Early Pregnancy (STRIDE) study. "Participants were screened for antenatal depressive symptoms, and blood samples were analysed using the advanced Infinium Methylation EPIC array. This revealed 591 methylation markers significantly associated with antenatal depressive symptoms. From this data, a panel of seven methylation markers was identified using machine learning as a robust biomarker panel capable of distinguishing depressed women from controls with high sensitivity and specificity," the author explained. "Remarkably, this same panel was also able to predict postpartum depressive symptoms with impressive accuracy. The predictive power increased further when combined with patient-reported data. This is a significant leap forward in our understanding of the biological underpinnings of perinatal depression," said Dr. Gokulakrishnan. Pointing out that further studies with larger and more diverse samples are warranted to improve the robustness of the model, he said, "Additional analysis of the associated methylation patterns pointed to biological pathways such as inositol phosphate metabolism, notch, and calcium signalling pathways already known to play roles in mood regulation." Chinnasamy Thirumoorthy, who is one of the authors of the study, said the team is currently working on validating the findings in other Indian cohorts. "Our goal is to develop a point-of-care diagnostic tool based on these epigenetic biomarkers," he said.

## Smoking is a major risk factor for rheumatoid arthritis

Emphasising that delayed diagnosis of arthritis can lead to permanent joint damage and deformities in individuals, senior rheumatologists on Sunday urged people to seek early intervention as it helps slow down its progress. Speaking at a webinar on "Understanding Arthritis", they pointed out that smoking is a strong risk factor for rheumatoid arthritis and advocated lifestyle changes, exercises, yoga, and a healthy diet that is low on carbohydrate and sugar but rich in fibre and protein. The webinar was held as part of the ongoing "Healthy India Happy India" initiative of Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in association with The Hindu. Sunday's edition was the ninth in the series on the theme "Prevent Illness, Promote Wellness".

N. Raja, senior consultant in rheumatology, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, spoke on the importance of correct diagnosis of symptoms and timely treatment. He said arthritis was a grossly misunderstood clinical sign. "It does not denote a disease but is an inflammation of joints, including the knee, hip, wrist, shoulder, ankle, elbow and manifests as pain or swelling and stiffness that limits movements and affects daily activities," he explained, adding that the systemic condition could lead to eye inflammation, spinal fusion, and chronic deformities.

Throwing light on different types of arthritis - rheumatoid, psoriatic, osteoarthritis and gout - Dr. Raja said though often associated with ageing, it could affect any age group, and, therefore, it was important to seek proper specialist care to avoid misdiagnosis and delay in treatment. M. M. Kavitha, senior rheumatology consultant, Kauvery Hospital, Radial Road, Chennai, said awareness about arthritis was critical. People must be diagnosed during the initial win-



dow of opportunity to keep them pain and damage-free, she said.

Dr. Kavitha said there was no single test to diagnose arthritis. A combination of clinical history, physical examination, blood investigations, and imaging such as X-ray, MRI, PET and bone scan help in confirming the diagnosis and monitoring disease progression. S. Sham from Kauvery Hospital, Alwarpet, spoke about how treatment protocols had changed, and steroids and painkillers were not the main treatment for rheumatoid arthritis. "Disease-modifying agents entail different levels and combinations of drugs and take 8-12 weeks to start acting," Dr. Sham said. The doctors reiterated the importance of patient education and reminded that once arthritis sets in, it cannot be cured but can go into remission with regular follow-up, comprehensive approach to treatment, including diet, exercise, and psychological support.

## Assessing temperature-related deaths in urban heat islands



Cities having higher ambient temperatures than rural surroundings (known as the urban heat island effect) could offset some of the negative effects of increased heat-related mortality by reducing the number of deaths associated with cold exposure in some global cities, according to a study in *Nature Climate Change*. These findings highlight the importance of developing region- and season-specific strategies to mitigate the urban heat island effect. The urban heat island effect contributes to an increase in human heat exposure and subsequent death globally during hotter seasons. However, this phenomenon could also impact the rate of cold-related deaths in cooler conditions. This dual impact could vary across regions and seasons, but previous research has often focused on the effect at the local scale. In the context of climate change and rapid urbanisation, it is important to understand the broader impact of the urban heat island effect on both heat- and cold-related deaths for urban heat mitigation strategies.

Dr. Wenfeng Zhan from Nanjing University, Nanjing, China and others analysed multiple data sources, including remote sensing data and climate and socioeconomic factors (such as Gross Domestic Product), to establish mortality-temperature relationships across more than 3,000 cities worldwide. They found that the reduction in cold-related mortality under the urban heat island effect is 4.4 times greater than the increase in heat-related mortality in 2018.

The authors further observed that cities at high latitudes saw an even higher reduction - Moscow, for example, saw a reduction in cold-related deaths that was 11.5 times greater than those associated with heat. The authors further analysed the role of increasing vegetation and the reflectivity of buildings (albedo), which are current strategies to mitigate the urban heat island effect. They found that these strategies could result in an increase in cold-related deaths that surpasses heat-related deaths globally depending on the magnitude of the intervention and the season in which it is implemented. The authors emphasise that their findings should not be interpreted as downplaying the negative health outcomes of the urban heat island effect but instead offer crucial insights into the specifics of its impact across seasons. They further suggest that cities must take a seasonal approach to mitigating the urban heat island effect.

## Leaks, reports and rumours on iPhone 17: Here's what we know so far

Hyderabad: Tech enthusiasts eagerly await the launch of Apple's iPhone 17 lineup, which is expected to be unveiled later this year. Although the tech giant has not officially announced any details about the phone or its release date, several leaks and reports have been making the rounds well ahead of the much-awaited launch. If reports are to be believed, the iPhone 17 lineup will bring several notable design changes along with feature upgrades. Certain reports also suggest that Apple might introduce an all-new model called the iPhone 17 Air, a redesigned version of the Pro series.

The iPhone 17 'Air,' as the name suggests, may be aimed at sleekness and a minimalist design, in line with the MacBook Air and iPad Air devices.

## India's AI compute conundrum



The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology announced the launch of a continuous empanelment process for AI compute providers, which allows firms to apply on an ongoing basis to supply AI compute and related services. While this may seem like a good move in the short term, the process impedes market dynamics and creates bureaucratic hurdles for both providers and users of compute infrastructure. Allowing markets to function freely and offer services that meet consumer needs is necessary for long-term sustainability.

The IndiaAI compute mission follows a bidding process where empanelled vendors must match the lowest bid price for the AI compute and services. Some vendors undercut the market price by as much as 89% by "doing things that were never done before to reduce operational costs", as one vendor put it. In addition, the IndiaAI mission will subsidise up to 40% of the compute costs for eligible users addressing priority use cases such as healthcare and education. The government's move to empanel private compute providers and offer additional subsidies stimulates demand in the near term. This might support the development of India-based compute providers. In addition, if done well, the continuous empanelment process could prevent cartelisation among compute providers and allow newer providers to enter the market. However, it is worth asking if the bidding process that requires matching the lowest bid price is sustainable and how effectively it addresses the goals of developing sovereign computing infrastructure and encouraging innovation in priority areas.

The lowest bid tendering process creates incentives to compromise on the quality of service as operational costs need to be kept to a bare minimum. Slim profit margins will also leave little room for investments in research and development. Furthermore, the fact that many of the providers agreed to the lowest price seems to be a sign of low private market demand for AI compute in India. Yotta, an empanelled vendor providing a majority of the compute under the IndiaAI mission, claims that just 25% of the demand for their Nvidia H100 chips is from India. While government intervention might stimulate demand in the near term, the below-market prices and the additional subsidy

offered may cap private demand at what is available at the reduced prices. The end-user policy for AI services under the IndiaAI compute mission has several requirements to apply for the compute that create hurdles for users. This involves meeting various qualification criteria and a project and subsidy evaluation process. For instance, a startup applying for compute needs to be registered with Startup India or recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade. It will also need to demonstrate experience in AI/Machine Learning and have an annual revenue of ₹50 lakh-₹200 lakh or funding above ₹100 lakh. The monitoring and evaluation team would then evaluate the project and, based on several criteria, approve the allocation and any subsidy requested. Such a process is necessary to ensure accountability and due diligence, but it adds too much friction, which will hinder innovation. DeepSeek has been disruptive in building AI models comparable to frontier models developed by OpenAI at a fraction of the cost. Some reasons for its success were that it was incubated from a hedge fund, ran its own data centre, and had no business model. This allowed engineers to experiment without navigating through bureaucratic processes or internal coordination to get compute resources. India's choice to build its sovereign computing infrastructure may seem like a good move in the short term, as it provides ownership of computing resources and supports the development of a domestic infrastructure-as-a-service market. However, some concerns remain. To create a sustainable market, providers must compete for market share by offering solutions that meet consumer needs instead of just undercutting prices. In addition, the ₹4,500 crore earmarked for the IndiaAI compute pillar over five years will fund only the subsidy component for eligible projects. It is interesting to explore whether there is enough demand for projects that qualify for the subsidy. If not, a significant part of the budget allocation might remain unutilised. Finally, India's current compute capacity at ~19,000 GPUs pales compared to investments in compute in the U.S., EU, or China. Meta alone is building \$10 billion in a data centre. This seems to imply that India's focus is not on building the most capable AI models but rather on addressing Indian use cases, which is a practical choice. Concerns that must be prioritised include scaling up energy infrastructure as demands are likely to grow as compute utilisation grows. Further, any hurdles to importing compute infrastructure can also be an area that can be streamlined through government intervention. Market trends indicate that compute usage is moving from training to inference time, which requires different kinds of AI chips. As the hype settles down and competitors to Nvidia emerge, chip costs may also go down. Government interventions should leave the market as agile as possible to adapt to these shifts. Allowing private players to function freely will enable the market to keep pace with future developments and also provide a pathway for the transition after the IndiaAI mission sunsets.

## Tremors, seizures, paralysis: this brain disorder is more common than multiple sclerosis - but often goes undiagnosed

Imagine suddenly losing the ability to move a limb, walk or speak. You would probably recognise this as a medical emergency and get to hospital. Now imagine the doctors at the hospital run some tests and then say, "Good news! All your tests were normal, clear scans, and nothing is wrong. You can go home!" Yet, you are still experiencing very real and disabling symptoms. Unfortunately, this is the experience of many people with functional neurological disorder. Even worse, some are blamed and reprimanded for exaggerating or faking their symptoms.

So, what is this disorder, and why is it so challenging to recognise and treat?

What is functional neurological disorder?

Neurological disorders are conditions that affect how the nervous system works. The nervous system sends and receives messages between the brain and other parts of your body to regulate a wide range of functions, such as movement, speaking, vision, thinking and digestion. To the untrained eye, functional neurological disorder can resemble other conditions such as stroke, multiple sclerosis or epilepsy. But, unlike these conditions, functional neurological symptoms aren't due to damage or a disease process affecting the nervous system. This means the disorder doesn't appear on routine brain imaging and other tests. Functional symptoms are, instead, due to dysfunction in the processing of information between several brain networks. Simply put, it's a problem of the brain's software, not the hardware.

What are the symptoms?

Functional neurological disorder can produce a kaleidoscope of diverse and changing symptoms. This often adds to confusion for patients and make diagnosis more challenging. Symptoms may include paralysis or abnormal movements such as tremors, jerks and tics. This often leads to difficulty walking or coordinating movements. Sensory symptoms may involve numbness, tingling or loss of vision. Dissociative symptoms, such as functional seizures and blackouts, are also common. Some people experience cognitive symptoms including brain fog or problems finding the right words. Fatigue and chronic pain frequently coexist with these symptoms.

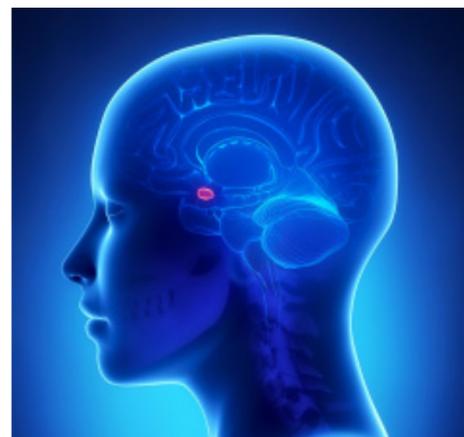
These symptoms can be severe and distressing and, without treatment, can persist for years. For example, some people with functional neurological disorder cannot walk and must use a wheelchair for decades. Diagnosis involves identifying established diagnostic signs and ensuring no other diagnoses are missed. This process is best carried out by an experienced neurologist or neuropsychiatrist.

How common is it?

Functional neurological disorder is one of the most common medical conditions seen in emergency care and in outpatient neurology clinics. It affects around 10-22 people per 100,000 per year. This makes it more common than multiple sclerosis. Despite this, it is often under-recognised and misunderstood by health-care professionals. This leads to delays in diagnosis and treatment. This lack of awareness also contributes to the perception that it's rare, when it's actually common among neurological disorders.

Who does functional neurological disorder affect? This condition can affect anyone, although it is more common in women and younger people. Around two thirds of patients are female, but this gender disparity reduces with age.

Understanding of the disorder has developed significantly over the past few decades, but there's still more to learn. Several biological, psychological, and social factors can predispose people. Genetics, traumatic life experiences, anxiety and depression can increase the risk. Stressful life events, illness, or physical injuries can trigger or worsen



existing symptoms. But not everyone with the disorder has experienced significant trauma or stress.

How is it treated?

If left untreated, about half the people with this condition will remain the same or their symptoms will worsen. However, with the help of experienced clinicians, many people can make rapid recoveries when treatment starts early. There are no specific medications for functional neurological disorder but personalised rehabilitation guided by experienced clinicians is recommended. Some people may need a team of multidisciplinary clinicians that may include physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists and doctors. People also need accurate information about their condition, because understanding and beliefs about the disorder play an important role in recovery. Accurate information helps patients to develop more realistic expectations, reduces anxiety and can empower people to be more active in their recovery. Treating common co-existing conditions, such as anxiety or depression, can also be helpful. The origins of the disorder are deeply rooted in the sexist history of its pre-scientific ancestor - hysteria. The legacy of hysteria has cast a long shadow, contributing to a misogynistic bias in perception and treatment. This historical context has led to ongoing stigma, where symptoms were often labelled as psychological and not warranting treatment.

Women with functional symptoms often face scepticism and dismissal. In some cases, significant harm occurs through stigmatisation, inadequate care and poor management. Modern medicine has attempted to address these biases by recognising functional neurological disorder as a legitimate condition. A lack of education for medical professionals likely contributes to stigma. Many clinicians report low confidence and knowledge about their ability to manage the disorder.

A bright future?

Fortunately, awareness, research and interest has grown over the past decade. Many treatment approaches are being trialled, including specialist physiotherapy, psychological therapies and non-invasive brain stimulation. Patient-led organisations and support networks are making headway advocating for improvements in health systems, research and education. The goal is to unite patients, their families, clinicians, and researchers to advance a new standard of care across the world.

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## Triathlon Paris Olympics gold medallist finishes 14th at London Marathon, enduring 'dark moments'



GNS News Agency, May 2

Alex Yee, the Londoner who won the triathlon gold medal at Paris Olympics decided to fulfill a childhood dream when he entered to compete at the London Marathon on Sunday. But he said he endured more "dark moments" on his 42.195 km run debut than during his Olympic triathlon title in Paris. He still declared it an experience of a lifetime, after ending 14th amongst elite athletes and second amongst British athletes, behind Maha met Mahamet.

The 27-year-old Londoner completed the race in two hours, 11 minutes and eight seconds. "It was seriously tough," said Yee, "but probably one of the best moments in my life. Just the feeling of everyone, that experience, I can't really put into words. The experience of running into London, the crowds," he said of the highs. However it was a

testing run. "Definitely a lot more dark moments, I'd say, more than Paris, today. Once I got to 32, 33k there's a lot of pain there. My legs are cramping and I just had to keep fighting through that. And yeah, (I'm) pretty proud to get to the finish line," he added. Yee told the media he has a "hard reset" in February, when he returns to triathlon ahead of the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles. "Hopefully I will evolve as a person, as an athlete. I wanted to do that in a unique way. I wanted to do this race all my life, the opportunity fell to do it, and I couldn't say no," he said of the effort less than a year after winning Olympic gold in the triathlon. "It was probably one of the best experiences of my life if I'm being honest. I expected the crowd to be good but they were another level. I am so proud to have completed the marathon," he reiterated. "An amazing experience but it was hard at the end. I am just proud to have done it. Emotions about time will come afterwards, but the main thing for me today was to enjoy it, do something unknown and embrace it. I did that to my best of my ability. I feel like I gave 100%."

This is bigger than running. It's an amazing day and I wanted to be a part of it. This was the perfect opportunity. "There is curiosity over whether he will go easy on the three event triathlon for the more soul nourishing marathons. "Definitely not," he told BBC. "I am still hoping for LA Olympics. This is just an experiment really to help me improve my run. I've worked hard over the years to improve my bike and swim to get to that level so it's nice to be able to work on this now," he said.

## Virat Kohli reminds KL Rahul of 'this is my ground' Kantara celebration after RCB beat Delhi Capitals

GNS News Agency, May 2

Remember that 'this is my ground' Kantara celebration that Delhi Capitals batter KL Rahul pulled out when he had led his team to victory over the Royal Challengers Bengaluru earlier this month at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru? In that game, KL Rahul had scored an unbeaten 93 off 53 balls to guide Delhi to victory over the RCB in just 17.5 overs while chasing a target of 164. During that game, two bits of celebration from Rahul had stood out. First, when he hit a six, he drew a circle on the ground with his bat and then thumped in the middle. Then, after he had guided the Delhi franchise to victory over Bengaluru, Rahul had thumped his chest and pointed at the ground to imply that this was his ground. Rahul had later said that the celebration was inspired by his favourite movie Kantara. It was Virat Kohli's turn to guide RCB to victory over Delhi Capitals at his home with a patient 51 as RCB chased down Delhi's target of 163 with six wickets intact and nine balls remaining.

During the post-match celebration while KL Rahul was talking to teammate Karun Nair, Kohli approached them and made it a point to do the Kantara celebration. However, there was no malice involved as the two India teammates then



burst into laughter. Explaining the celebration, Rahul had said: "This is a special place for me. That celebration was from one of my favourite movies, Kantara. So, ya, just a tiny reminder that this ground, this turf, this home is where I have grown up and that this is mine." Royal Challengers Bengaluru's six-wicket victory over the Delhi Capitals saw RCB leap to the top spot in the IPL 2025 standings while Kohli himself rose to the top of the Orange Cap charts, thanks to his match-winning 51-run knock. RCB are still unbeaten away from home in IPL 2025, but have been found wanting on more occasions than one this season.

## All-round Krunal proves he has the potential to be a match winner

GNS News Agency, May 2

Krunal Pandya grounds out six-wicket victory for Royal Challengers Bengaluru to send them top of the table after spinners restrict Delhi Capitals to a low total on a sluggish wicket. The buildup to this game was dominated by the homecoming of arguably the greatest cricketer this city has ever produced. Even as the expectant, boisterous crowd of the capital city continued to roar his name, it was impossible not to reduce the former Indian captain's 47-ball 51 to a well-anchored supporting role at best. It was Krunal Pandya on whose shoulders Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) marched to a sixth successive away victory to defeat the Delhi Capitals by six wickets here

They go top of the table with 14 points, their team coming together well, and their playoff chances now all but certain. Clawing themselves back DC felt they had a chance in defending their meagre total of 162 following a crucial late cameo from Tristan Stubbs, on a sluggish wicket where the ball was both turning and getting stuck in, with a three-pronged spin attack, RCB's struggles to tame spin in the powerplay certainly would have heightened those expectations. Jacob Bethell had made an exciting IPL debut, after replacing Phil Salt in the lineup, before he fell to Axar Patel in the third over. Devdutt Padikkal would chop the ball onto his stumps a few balls later, and a mix-up between Kohli and skipper Rajat Patidar would see the latter depart after being run out too.

Krunal Delhi Capitals team celebrates the run out of Royal Challengers Bangalore batsman Rajat Patidar during Royal Challengers Bangalore and Delhi Capitals IPL match at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi At 26/3 within the first five overs, RCB looked in trouble, but they were dragged out of it through a partnership between Kohli and Krunal Pandya. The allrounder from Baroda, it must be said, may well have played the ugliest match-winning innings in this tournament. He heaved, cut, mishit, remonstrated with himself, avoided dismissal purely through bad timing and a dropped catch. At the same time, he advanced through the gears and complemented Kohli's anchor role correctly, finding boundaries at the right time (especially against the spinners) to finish his innings with an unbeaten 47-ball 73. It may not have been pleasing to the eye, but had he not persevered, and stayed till a couple of late big hits from Tim David sealed the victory, RCB may have struggled to get to the finish line. There may have been plenty of anticipation for Kohli's return to his hometown, but it would be another Delhi boy — an unheralded, unconventional leg-spinner yet to make his first-class debut — who would make the impact for RCB. Suyash Sharma's figures 0/22 do not quite tell the story of how he befuddled DC's batters into failing to read anything that the 21-year-old threw at them, varying his deliveries and keeping his length tight, frustrating DC's faltering batting lineup with his consistency. After Abhishek Porel, who found the middle of the bat to tonk a few and make an 11-ball 28, departed, DC displayed no bite in the first innings. The rustiness showed for Faf du Plessis, making his comeback from a groin injury, who was tentative in his shotmaking and struggling for timing. A curious kind of partnership kicked off between KL Rahul and him. This surface may have been a tad sluggish, but on this batting-friendly small ground, boundaries mean everything. Instead, the two IPL veterans would combine for one boundary in a partnership that lasted 31 balls, and when Axar Patel would replace Du Plessis after the South African's ill-made 26-ball



22, results would not alter drastically. And Suyash was at the forefront of the squeeze from RCB in the middle overs, alongside the wiles of Krunal, and crucial wickets from Buvaneishwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood.

By the time Bhuvaneshwar — the only RCB bowler to be milked for runs at the start of the innings — sent DC's impact player Ashutosh Sharma's middle stump flying in the 17th over, having already got Rahul caught at long off a few balls prior, the home team's batting charge was all but over, left teetering at 120/6. By the time Bhuvaneshwar had Stubbs caught at point from the penultimate ball of the innings, the home team had been handed a reprieve of hope. The South African drove with a straight bat, pulled hard, upper cut and reverse-ramped his way to an 18-ball 34 that allowed DC something to cling to. There had been hope shortly, but DC were always 15-20 runs short here. Two losses in three, and the only victory via Super Over, shows that the team are yet to accurately assess the conditions at their traditional home patch, where they still have to play two of their next five games. It may spell trouble for the franchise that started this tournament so brightly.

## Winning toss was important, says Kevin Pietersen

HYDERABAD: "We lost the toss, I think we were also going to chase and I think that winning the toss was very important. I think batting got a little bit easier towards the end. I think it was a little bit harder in the first innings for us, just those middle overs." Delhi Capitals mentor Kevin Pietersen said after the team lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Delhi "Shot making I think was very difficult on that wicket. You've got to trust that the wicket isn't as easy to bat on at that particular stage," he said. "I always knew that when I was playing franchise cricket that no particular coach could change you over that four to six or eight-week period and I mean even with Abhishek, last night I was working on something. I said Abhi, I said this is not going to work for you tomorrow, it might not work for you the next week but if you keep working on it in the next month, two months, three months, four months, I promise you this is going to help," Pietersen explained. "I think a lot of these players are not going to play Test match cricket, so you're probably looking at it as a view and I do often as well, I look at it and I just think like this is just crazy, some of the shots that you see and how quickly these guys play the shots, it's just, it looks like utter madness but that's the form of the game," he explained.

## Who is Jan Louda, the Czech badminton player who nicked a men's singles win off Korea at Sudirman Cup



GNS News Agency, May 2

Jan Louda caused quite the stir at the Sudirman Cup when he gave Czech Republic a 1-0 lead against perennial team Championship powerhouse Korea, on Sunday. The 25-year-old saw his team go down 4-1 to the former champions, but he had nicked a point after beating Cho Geonyop 21-16, 21-16. While doubles is Korea's strongest suit always, new coach Park Joo Bong might've taken Czechia a tad lightly fielding Cho, ranked 142 against Jan, ranked 103. Jan has a career high of 39. Usually it's the little known Koreans who suddenly spurt up at team events and cause a stir. This time they were on the receiving end.

Jan has previous wins against Weng Hong Yang of China and Ng Yong Tze of Malaysia as he became a part of the first cohort of 4 Czech players to qualify for Paris Olympics. The east European nation has little history in the sport, and Jan took to badminton following his father and elder brother into the sport. He was mesmerised by the sport watching Lin Dan win the 2008 Olympics. "I remember the

2008 Olympics in Beijing. I was watching Czech players like Petr Koukal and Kristina Gavnholt; I remember sitting in front of the TV and supporting them," he had told BWF last year. "I also did other sports like swimming and skiing, but badminton was always No.1 in our family," he added.

The badminton hall was 15 minutes by bus, and Jan's first memory of badminton was playing with his father. "I used to go with him on the bus to the hall," he told BWF. "Four years ago when I started to become a better player and started to be more competitive at the international level, I was beating players who had participated in the Olympics, so I felt I can be the same. If I can beat them, I can also be there." The hyper bouncy player known to ambush unsuspecting opponents with his energy, has had to pay for that hoppy style with injuries. "I face injuries, so that was the hardest part, but I'm glad I could get through. I had an infection in my Achilles last summer (2023), it took two months and I couldn't prepare well for the World Championships. But that's part of sport, so I tried to be positive. It was after some good tournaments I had, so I felt OK, I could afford these two months and come back and I didn't feel it would affect qualification," he told BWF after making the Paris cut. Jan spends most of his training time in Czechia working with a Spanish coach. "Sometimes I need to find some sparring to get to a higher level. Sometimes I go over to France. Also I was in Dubai with Viktor (Axelsen) for one week after the Thailand Masters. Viktor had four weeks of training before the French Open, so it was really hard. We've really good conditions now in Czechia. I also play league matches in France. It's good to play there, because the French league is one of the best in Europe," he told BWF. He would celebrate his big Sudirman moment saying he was happy to register a first point against Korea for his nation.

## PV Sindhu snatches defeat from jaws of victory as India get thrashed 1-4 by Denmark

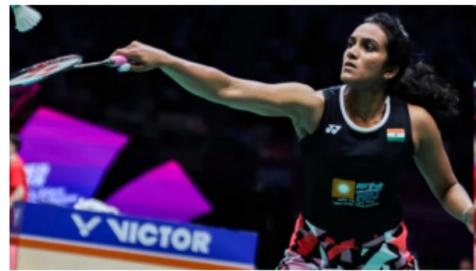
GNS News Agency, May 2

Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra objected with a defiant 21-13, 21-18 win in women's doubles, the fifth match of the Sudirman Cup tie. But otherwise, April 27th was threatening to go down as one of the worst days in Indian badminton, where the giants were humbled and rookies were offered an abject reality check of where they stood. India went down 4-1 to Denmark in their first group tie, and seldom has any Indian performance in shuttle, pointed to such hopelessness as on Sunday. Tanisha-Dhruv were shown the yawning gap between Top 20 and Top 10 in mixed doubles. HS Prannoy fought with fiery brimstone but never looked close to winning. PV Sindhu was twice on the verge of winning sets, but ceded 6 and 8 points in a row inexplicably. And Hariharan Amaskarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi realised in a rude awakening how simplicity in the form of a fast-paced, aggressive, flat game over a mere 6 exchanges in a rally, is still a long way off the elite level.

The men's doubles, both 21, and barely entering Top 50, will learn their lessons fast. But for India's Top 20 shuttlers, this plummeting of fortunes will be tough to swallow. India has never won a Sudirman Cup medal — probably the toughest team event that tests a country's capability (top range, not depth) in each of the five disciplines. But Sunday made it plain that not much was going to change with the available set of players, with Satwik-Chirag and Treasa-Gayatri not travelling due to injuries. Tanisha and Dhruv Kapila were declared team captains, but the freshly minted Top 20s got a swatting reminder of what Top 10s in mixed doubles is. Playing Danish World No 7s Jesper Toft and Amalie Magelund, the Indians ranked No. 17, were never the favourites. But the young duo will need to learn to compose their nerves quickly, and hit the road running in any tournament. Defensively tentative, and overwhelmed by the stage, the top pairing which has been making some headway on the circuit, could not stem the flow of points as the Danes, got cracking quickly and never took the foot off the pedal in a 21-13, 21-14 win in 33 minutes.

There had been some debate over whether Lakshya Sen stood a better chance than Prannoy against Anders Antonsen. Given their recent form, But the second-best Dane who turned 28 on the day, weathered a Prannoy second set storm where the Indian amped up the pace, and hit some well-positioned down the line smashes.

But Prannoy struggled in an area that has been daunting him through the past few seasons — he just couldn't go toe to toe with Antonsen after the 11th point break, and faded off 21-15, 21-16 in 49 blistering minutes. Dominating an individual rally he managed, stringing together a bunch of points, he couldn't. What's been depressing for India in the leadup is that Sen too has been out-manoeuvred in the endgame by Antonsen, a strangely resilient, heel-digging



player despite his restless antics. The men's doubles team lost 21-7, 21-4 in 21 minutes against former World No. 1s Kim Astrup and Anders Rasmussen. They have the heart for a battle, but were just far too taken in by the enormity of the occasion (and replacing Satwik-Chirag), to be able to settle down and regain their poise. Aggression and speed in flat games is all very well but not when the defense disappears. PV Sindhu led Line Kjaersfeldt 20-16 in the opening set. Then she frittered 6 points in the most irrational fashion to cede the opener 22-20. You would think she had regained her equilibrium leading 19-12 in the second set, but this time it was 8 straight points she allowed her opponent to snatch a win, in one of the biggest capitulations of her career. It was literally the lack of application in finishing the job, as she got waylaid by the leads and hoped for the last few points to fall in her lap. The Danish European champion stuck to basics, and sauntered past a crumbling opponent who had no clue about why she was crumbling. Commentators talking of her need to polish her skills and constant changing of coaches, was the final nail in the coffin, though the problem was specifically in finishing, turning the proverbial knife.

Nothing to lose Shruti and Tanisha had nothing to lose — not much to win either. And that seemed to liberate them from the pressure as they took to the court beaming away at the opportunity to play badminton. Natasja Anthonisen and Alexandra Boje were really no match to the scratch Indian pair, who matched aggression with execution. At one point, Mishra and Crasto converged and the former literally tackled her partner, pushing her inadvertently while chasing the shuttle to the back court. She won that point with spunk, and the duo couldn't stop grinning after that episode, haranguing the Danes with fast flat exchanges and cheeky net cord points. Maybe Indian badminton just needs players who enjoy the tiny skirmishes of each point against opponents and don't think too far ahead. Against formidable Indonesia, maybe Sindhu, Lakshya & Co could simply pursue that joie de vivre — the opportunity to represent India at a team event — and not stress the big stuff. Because pressure isn't doing them any good.

## How Arne Slot's men conquered Premier League for their coveted 20th English title

GNS News Agency, May 2

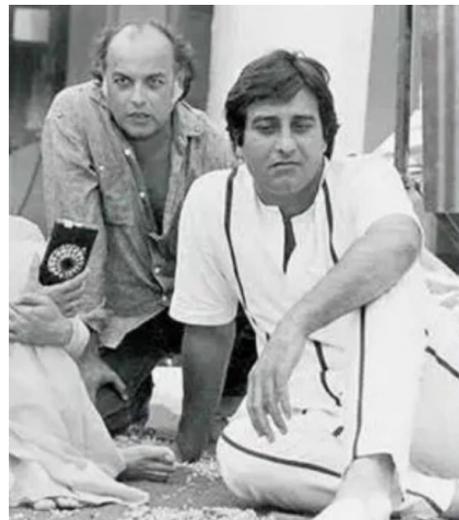
As Liverpool's season unfolded, submitting in their 20th league triumph at a canter with a 5-1 win against Tottenham on Sunday, the songs celebrating former Jurgen Klopp grew feebler. His face faded a little from the flags fluttering in the stands. Not that the faithful cruelly forgot the man who reacquainted the institution with success after decades of pain, turned them from a nostalgia brand to a genuine force. But they were fully embracing his successor Arne Slot, knee sunk in the raptures of an unforeseen march to the title, and dancing to the tunes of a bashful Dutchman who rarely moves on the touchline. On the day of their coronation, Liverpool barely flinched as Spurs landed the first punch. Instead of panicking, the Reds just turned on the afterburners to trash their woeful North London opponents with an alarming efficiency.

It was not meant to be the year of Liverpool or Slot. Premier League success tends to conform to a pattern. A new manager comes, feels, instills his ideals, builds and rebuilds, stumbles and staggers, before — if the owners are generous — they scale the promised land. The holy quartet of managers in the Premier League — Sir Alex Ferguson, Arsene Wenger, Pep Guardiola and Klopp — barely caught a glimpse of the trophy in their first season. Only four have ever enjoyed beginner's luck. Slot is the fifth, and arguably the least celebrated of the group that features luminaries such as Jose Mourinho, Carlo Ancelotti, Manuel Pellegrini,

Claudio Ranieri, and Antonio Conte. Thus, Slot and his merry men have effortlessly debunked the prevailing myths in the Premier League. Rather, in many ways, Liverpool's triumph was a contradiction of the accepted wisdom in winning the league.

He demonstrated that a new coach doesn't needlessly rebuild for the sake of it. Klopp had to because the team he inherited was a shocking mess. The Liverpool that Klopp bequeathed to Slot was ageing but an assemblage of highly-skilled talents. The squad had its flaws — among them a non-scoring centre forward, absence of a genuine holding midfielder, an accomplice for centre back Virgil van Dijk, and a bunch of injury-prone midfielders. But not an awful lot that required a makeover. How he stiffened out the perceivable cracks reveals his undermonstrative genius. To fill the holding midfield void, he retooled a No 8 into a No 6, harnessing the best of two worlds. Ryan Gravenberch has been one of his unsung heroes. He combined his supreme passing range, robust physicality, dazzling half-turns and technical prowess to perform the role of midfield duct, functioning as both the defensive screen and the back-line-midfield-forward-like link. He was the centre of Liverpool's universe, others revolving around him like obliging planets, with frictionless control. Halfway through the season, he became such an integral block of Slot's scheme that senior midfielders Alexis Mac Allister, Dominik Szoboszlai and Curtis Jones donned second-act roles.

# Mahesh Bhatt recalls Vinod Khanna's state when he returned from Rajneesh's ashram: 'He was too far gone'



me. Just the other day, my domestic help—a young woman from Darjeeling—smiled and said she had been a little girl when we filmed the Bappi Lahiri-composed song "Pyaar Pyaar Pyaar" there. Her words threw me back—back into those enchanted, golden times.

Later the two of you went separate ways?

Later, life took us down stranger paths. After his mother's death shook him, he began searching for answers. And I, broken by my own failures, took him to Bhagwan Rajneesh's ashram in Pune. We would drive from shoots in his Mercedes, stay at the Blue Diamond, seeking some refuge in that mystical air. Mahesh Bhatt recalls Vinod Khanna Mahesh Bhatt with Vinod Khanna.

You gave up on Rajneesh, he didn't?

When I turned away, he stayed—and then disappeared to Oregon. I even flew to America once, to try and bring him back. But he was too far gone. When the Rajneesh dream collapsed, he returned—broken. I met him again in a small flat opposite Jaslok Hospital.

What happened that evening?

We drank that evening till we were smashed. But he spoke little. The old fire was gone. He tried to find his footing in the movie world again, but the dizzying heights he had once scaled remained just beyond reach. He drifted into politics; I stayed with my stories.

No connection thereafter?

He would still call sometimes, usually late at night. His voice softened by a few drinks, still warm, still reaching across the years. Time had taken its toll. Distance had crept in. But the bond endured. And then—just like that came the bad news, as it often does these days. A journalist's voice on the phone: "Vinod has passed away." It hit me like a ton of bricks. Now, eight years later, what remains is not his fame, not the applause, but his silence, his charm, his lion-hearted generosity.

You sound very emotional?

He was truly one of a kind. It was a privilege to have known him, to have walked some of life's road with him. And I can say with absolute certainty—I would not have been who I am without having encountered a man as large as Vinod Khanna.

It's been eight years since he left. But I still hear him—like the sea inside a shell—not because it speaks, but because I am stitched together with memories that stir whenever someone whispers his name. When he died, it was like the way stars vanish when the sun rises—quietly, unapologetically—as if even the light had grown tired of pretending.

Your closest friend?

Yes, I regret not looking into his eyes, not holding his hand as he melted into the abyss of time. Some debts can never be paid. As a dear writer friend once said, "Insaan apne karz chuka sakta hai, lekin ehsaan nahi." His generosity watered my parched life, and made me live again.

Vinod Khanna starred in your first commercial film?

I carry the fondest memories of Lahu Ke Do Rang. Those days when we shot in Hong Kong, they still nourish

# Kevin Hart cancels India show in 'solidarity' with victims of Pahalgam terrorist attack, organisers promise to reschedule

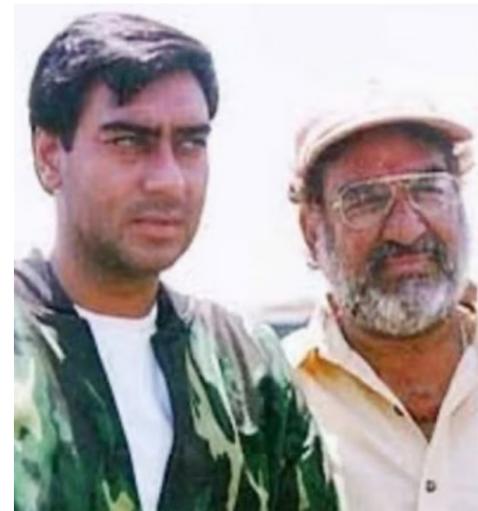
Hollywood comedian and actor Kevin Hart has cancelled his India tour for his comedy special, 'Acting My Age', following the heinous Pahalgam terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 tourists. Kevin was scheduled to perform in India as part of his world tour, with a single show planned at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in Delhi on April 30. However, in light of the tragic events, the comedian has now cancelled his trip.

The organisers shared the news on social media, while also hinting at the possibility of a future show, announcing that they are 'working closely with Kevin for a new schedule.' Their statement read, "Important update: In light of the recent tragic events, we, along with Kevin Hart's team, have decided to cancel the upcoming Delhi show scheduled for April 30th." They also promised a full refund for all ticket holders. The post added, "All ticket holders will receive full refunds, and the amount will automatically be refunded back to your original mode of payment. We are working closely with Kevin Hart's team on a new schedule and will share updates soon." The caption of the announcement emphasized that the cancellation was made in solidarity with the victims of the recent terror attack. It stated, "Due to the recent tragic events, Kevin Hart's Delhi show will be rescheduled. While we were looking forward to gathering with all of



you, we believe it's important to pause and stand in solidarity with those affected. Full refunds will be issued automatically. Thank you for your understanding." Kevin Hart's show was supposed to start at 7:30 pm on April 30 and was scheduled to run for two hours and thirty minutes. Ticket prices ranged from Rs 4,000 to Rs 20,000, depending on the seating arrangement.

# Ajay Devgn's dad advised Paresh Rawal to 'drink urine' to speed up recovery: 'My x-ray shocked doctor after 15 days, he asked ye kaisa hu'



Rajkumar Santoshi's Ghatak. The actor was rushed to Nanvati hospital by Tinnu Anand and Danny Denzongpa and doctors said it will take him about three months to get well.

That's when Veeru Devgan visited him while running another errand at the hospital. He found out that Paresh was also admitted there. Veeru suggested that the actor should consume the first urine of the day to aid recovery. "Veeru Devgan had come to visit when I was in Nanavati (hospital). When he got to know I was there, he came up to me and asked what happened to me? I told him about my leg injury.... He told me to drink my own urine first thing in the morning," Paresh said. He also recommended that the actor should avoid alcohol, red meat, and smoking during the healing process. Paresh Rawal shared about this incident during a conversation with Lallantop. "He said all action people do that," Paresh recalled.

Paresh opened up about how this unusual remedy helped him heal. "I had decided if I had to drink my own urine, I'll not have it at one go; I'll sip it like beer. Because I want to do it properly," shared the actor. He added, "I did this for 15 days. Fifteen days later, when the doctor took my x-ray, he was shocked. The doctor asked me, 'How did this cementing happen?' He could see a white line forming." Paresh said, "I was supposed to be discharged in 2-2.5 months, but I was discharged in 1.5 months. It was like magic." Paresh's claims left his fans shocked. "Paresh Rawal just ruined beer for me," wrote one. Another person said, "How is this even possible?" One more person believed that it must have been a prank, "This is information I really didn't need". On the work front, Paresh Rawal was last seen in the film The Storyteller where he played the role of Tarini Bandyopadhyay.

Actor Paresh Rawal has revealed that an unconventional advice of action choreographer Veeru Devgan, actor Ajay Devgn's father, helped him to recuperate faster after a knee injury that he suffered during the shooting of Rajkumar Santoshi's Ghatak.

Actor Paresh Rawal has revealed that an unconventional advice of action choreographer Veeru Devgan, actor Ajay Devgn's father, helped him to recuperate faster after a knee injury that he suffered during the shooting of

# Emraan Hashmi's film shows slight improvement, makes Rs 5 cr; earns 50 percent less than his last release



Ground Zero Box Office Collection Day 3: Emraan Hashmi's military drama Ground Zero had a slow start at the box office. However, the current situation in the valley and strong word of mouth seem to have given a push to the film at the box office. On Sunday, the film earned Rs 2.15 crores at the box office, performing better than its first two days. On Friday, the film earned Rs 1.15 crore, and on Saturday, it collected Rs 1.9 crore. After three days, Ground Zero's net India collection stands at Rs 5.20 crores.

Worldwide, the Emraan Hashmi starrer has earned Rs 3.65 crores in the first two days and its third-day col-

lection is awaited. While Emraan's last film, Tiger 3, starring Salman Khan in the lead, had earned in double digits, Rs 43.5 crores on its third day, his film Selfie, before that, had collected Rs 3.95 crores on its third day and over Rs 10 crore in the first weekend. His 2021 film, Mumbai Saga, had also performed better than Ground Zero and earned Rs 3.5 crores on day 3 and a shade over Rs 8 cr in the first weekend. Considering how films have been underperforming at the box office of late, Ground Zero has had quite a decent and promising start. But compared to Emraan's past box office trajectory, the film has failed to surpass his last few releases. However, the buzz for the film has only grown, which has led to an increase in its occupancy. On Sunday, the overall occupancy for Ground Zero was 17.25 percent with a total of 1669 shows.

Chennai had the highest occupancy of 67.25 percent with just 7 shows. The occupancy for the Emraan Hashmi starrer was also high in Kolkata, with 23 percent and 99 shows. In Delhi-NCR, the film has 422 shows, and its occupancy was 14.75 percent. In Mumbai, the film's occupancy was 18.75 percent with 274 shows. Earlier this month, Ground Zero had its premiere at a theater in Srinagar after 38 years. Other than Emraan Hashmi, the film also stars Sai Tamhankar. Directed by Tejas Prabha Vijay Deoskar and produced by Excel Entertainment, Dreamzkrft Entertainment, and Talisman Films, Ground Zero had its theatrical release on 25th April.

# Mohanlal's fan-favourite film crosses Rs 50 cr mark globally; earns almost four times the opening day over first weekend

Thudaram box office collection Day 3: In today's times, it is not every day that a film makes almost four times the numbers it made on opening day over its first weekend. But Mohanlal's Thudaram achieved exactly that on the back of tremendous positive reviews, managing to bring the audience back to the theatres in droves. Thudaram, which marks Mohanlal's maiden collaboration with Tharun Moorthy, has made a supremely impressive Rs 10.25 crore on Day 3 of its release, almost double the numbers it made on Day 1, which closed at Rs 5.25 crore. With the addition of Day 2's impressive Rs 8.6 crore to its tally, the domestic numbers of Thudaram is currently at Rs 24.1 crore. As per trade tracker AB George, the film has crossed Rs 50 crore mark globally in first weekend. Despite coming close on the heels of L2: Empuraan, directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, which became the highest-grossing Malayalam film, Thudaram has managed to find a wide audience for itself, mainly due to the genre of the film being closer to the hearts of Malayalam audience. While Empuraan was this globe-trotting action drama that centred around world building and character sketching, Thudaram is more grounded, and invariably, felt more rooted in the Malayalam cinema ethos. It is clear that the patronage the film is receiving is a compelling argument to make about audiences wanting to see their favourite superstars in roles that made them household names. The occupancy on Sunday was an impressive 77.18%, with the matinee and evening shows clocking in 80.52% and 84.46%, which is reflective of the presence of family audiences. In just three days, the film has entered the list of top 5 Malayalam



films, on the basis of net collection, in 2025. Thudaram is just a few crores behind Rekhachitram, Officer on Duty, and Alappuzha Gymkhana. But considering how it is already just second in terms of opening day and opening weekend collections, Thudaram might just race to the top as the week progresses. While Thudaram couldn't rub off the comparisons with Mohanlal's very own Drishyam franchise, the film has definitely stood on its own, and is slowly becoming a different kind of beast altogether. It would be interesting to see how the Monday fares for Thudaram, and if the film can hold on to the hype and goodwill that it has generated over the past three days, then there can be no doubt that this Mohanlal juggernaut will continue to roll on.

# Shah Rukh Khan to make history with Met Gala 2025 debut as first Indian actor to walk the red carpet

As excitement builds for the coveted Met Gala on May 5, it has been confirmed that Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan will make history with his first-ever appearance at the Met Gala, organised at the iconic Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York — in collaboration with none other than Sabyasachi, India's most celebrated fashion designer. The rumours of King Khan appearing at the Met Gala started after fashion watchdog, Diet Sabya, hinted at the superstar attending the annual event early in April. However, on Sunday, the Instagram account 'confirmed' that Shah Rukh will walk the steps of the Metropolitan Museum of Art at Met Gala 2025. The superstar will also make history by becoming the first-ever Indian actor to attend the Met Gala. Kiara Advani, who is expecting her first child with husband and actor Sidharth Malhotra, will also attend the event. They will be joined by actor-singer Diljit Dosanjh at the event



Confirming Shah Rukh's appearance at the Met Gala, Diet Sabya's post read, "National headlines. Threads in meltdown. Entertainment sites foaming at the mouth. Twitter frenzy et al. Time to shut it down lol. We at DietSabya can confirm: yes, that is indeed SRK — India's undisputed generational superstar — making his Met Gala debut in May 2025, wearing Sabyasachi (India's biggest luxury brand). But wait, was there ever a doubt? Are we excited? Or...? Catch you on the carpet." Earlier, actors like Deepika Padukone, Alia Bhatt and Priyanka Chopra had attended the Met Gala.

The rumours of SRK attending the Met Gala were started by the same anonymous Instagram account. Earlier, in April, they hinted at SRK attending the Met Gala as their post read, "STOP THE PRESSES!!! The impossible just happened!! Two titans of their craft — the greatest Bollywood superstar and the biggest designer of our gen-

eration — are joining forces for their Met Gala 2025 debut. And let's be real, this is HUGE. Monumental, baby! We're talking HISTORY in the making! This Bollywood icon is about to become the first Indian man to strut his 'dandy' on the Met carpet. Let the guessing games begin!" This year, the theme of the Met Gala is 'Superfine: Tailoring Black Style,' inspired by Monica L. Miller's book Slaves to Fashion. The dress code for the evening is 'Tailored for You,' and it will showcase how the guests interpret the evolution of Black menswear.

# Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas' Kishkindapuri announced; first glimpse on April 29

Hyderabad: Bellamkonda Sai Sreenivas is teaming up with director Koushik Pegallapati (Chaavu Kaburu Challaga) for a new mystery thriller titled Kishkindapuri. The makers revealed a striking poster on Sunday, April 27, and announced that the first glimpse will be unveiled on April 29, 2025. Anupama Parameswaran stars as the female lead, with Sahu Garapati producing the film under the Shine Screens banner. Music is composed by Ajaneesh Loknath.

