

INDIAN CHRONICLE

10 May, 2025 Saturday | Volume No:13| Issue No: 73 Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹ 3

Panic at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad after bomb hoax over email

Hyderabad: Panic prevailed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) and its surroundings when a bomb threat mail was received by the airport authorities on Friday.Following information from the airport authorities, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, local police and bomb squad reached the airport and took up checking for the presence of any explosive substances.As per available information, the administrative wing officials had received a threat email on the official ID from an unidentified person claiming to be a terror sleeper cell. The caller threatened to blow up the airport at any moment and dared to inform the state government.

Securing own skies, breaching enemy airspace with ease: India's overhauled air defence system under Modi..

GNS News Agency, May 9

New Delhi: The unprecedented face-off at the Line of Control (LoC) and the border areas, after India destroyed nine terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan, saw a barrage of missiles, drones and other munitions being fired from across the border on Thursday night, but India intercepted and shot all of them in the air. Not a single missile could land on Indian territory, failing to reach intended targets.Days ago, the Indian armed forces carried out targeted and precision strikes on key terror hubs across the border, hitting and destroying them with clinical efficiency.This sent a clear message to the world – India was not only securing its skies but also had the capability to breach enemy airspace with clinical precision.The credit for India's overhauled air defence ecosystem goes to the Narendra Modi government, which has kept its thrust on revamping the security apparatus by phasing out the depleting war reserves and inducting a new, world-class arsenal.The Russian S-400 systems and Rafale jets, largely, accounted for India's success in countering Pakistan's multi-pronged attack.Interestingly, both of these became part of India's defence system under the NDA government and that, too, apparently at the insistence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.The rapid, coordinated response that the armed forces showcased was because of the air defence ecosystem — built painstakingly over the past 11 years under the Modi government.The Integrated Counter-Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) Grid, S-400 Triumf systems, Barak-8 missiles, Akash Surface-to-Air Missiles, and DRDO's anti-drone technologies came together seamlessly to create an aerial shield that thwarted all Pakistani attempts to hit military installations in India.When India hit terror hubs under 'Operation Sindoor', the security forces destroyed a Chinese-supplied HQ-9 air defence unit in Lahore, also damaging key radar infrastructure.The level of preparedness didn't materialise overnight. Since 2014, the government under PM Modi has systematically upgraded India's air defence architecture, made key Defence acquisitions and modernised



its warfare.In 2024, Man Portable Counter Drone Systems (MPCDS) were installed by the Army to jam and disable hostile UAVs.In 2018, a Rs 35,000 crore deal was struck for five S-400 Triumf squadrons. Three squadrons are now operational along the borders with China and Pakistan.In 2017, India got Barak-8 Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MR-SAM) as part of a \$2.5 billion deal with Israel. They are now guarding frontline bases like Bhatinda.The induction of indigenous Akash missile batteries and DRDO-developed counter-drone systems gave more ammo.Loitering munitions (kamikaze or suicide drones) were ordered in 2021 and are now manufactured in India. These drones executed simultaneous, precision strikes across sectors, taking Pakistan's defences by complete surprise.Additionally, Israeli-origin Harop drones — now locally built — were deployed to target and destroy air defence assets in Karachi and Lahore.These platforms, combined with the strategic deployment of Rafale fighter jets equipped with SCALP and HAMMER missiles, demonstrated India's capability to project power with surgical precision.Notably, 'Operation Sindoor' sent a clear message to the world that India is not just capable of defending its skies, it now controls them.And, it is the result of the consistent and persistent approach of the government to build a resilient, multi-layered ecosystem.

India-Pakistan conflict: Nadda reviews emergency health systems preparedness

GNS News Agency, May 9

New Delhi: In the wake of rising conflict between India and Pakistan, Union Health Minister J P Nadda on Friday chaired a high-level meeting to review emergency health systems preparedness to ensure uninterrupted healthcare services.Nadda called for a "a 24x7 control and command centre to monitor ongoing efforts and support states in the present times". "All medical emergency response health systems must be adequately equipped and functional at all times," the Union Health Minister said, stating that the Health Ministry is closely monitoring the situation."Ensure that ground-level linkages with all state governments particularly at the district levels, especially border states, be effectively established to ensure immediate emergency healthcare, if required," he said.

During the meeting, senior officers of the Health Ministry updated Nadda about the current status of medical preparedness for handling emergency cases.The Union Minister was also "apprised of the actions taken regarding deployment of ambulances; ensuring adequate availability of medical supplies including equipment, medicines, supply of blood vials and consumables; hospital readiness in terms of beds, ICU and HDU; deployment of BHISHM Cubes, advanced mobile trauma care units, etc," the Health Ministry said.Further, the Ministry has advised hospitals and medical institutions "to ensure availability of essential drugs, adequate supply of blood, oxygen, trauma care kits, etc". "AIIMS New Delhi and other central government hos-



pitals have mobilised doctors and nurses with supplies for ready deployment," it added.To strengthen the emergency response networks collaboratively, the hospitals have also been advised to coordinate with state and district administration, armed forces, and regional associations of doctors, nurses, paramedics, private sector hospitals, charitable institutions, etc.In addition, nationwide mock drills for disaster preparedness have been conducted at AIIMS, PGIMER, JIPMER, and other premier hospitals.For capacity building in emergency healthcare, additional training modules for CPR, first aid, and basic life support are also being rolled out with support from the Indian Red Cross Society, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFV), AIIMS New Delhi, and Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT).

India Condemns OIC Statement On Indo-Pak Tensions, Rejects External Interference

GNS News Agency, May 9

India has issued a sharp rebuke to the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC) regarding its recent statement on escalating tensions with Pakistan following the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) characterized the OIC's statement as "absurd" and asserted it was issued at Pakistan's behest. The diplomatic confrontation arose after the OIC failed to acknowledge the Pahalgam terrorist incident while urging both nations to "resolve differences through peaceful means." The organization's statement also controversially referred to Kashmir as a "dispute" rather than an issue, aligning with Pakistan's narrative.

MEA spokesperson



Randhir Jaiswal firmly rejected the OIC's intervention in matters considered internal to India. "The OIC statement, issued at the behest of Pakistan, is absurd in refusing to recognise the facts of the Pahalgam terrorist attack and its cross-border linkages," the official statement declared.India emphasized that this represented "yet another attempt by Pakistan, a country that has long engaged in cross-border terrorism, to manipulate and misguide the OIC to issue a self-serving statement."The OIC sparked controversy by calling on the international community to "intensify efforts to find a resolution to the Jammu and Kashmir dispute in line with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions," a position that mirrors Pakistan's stance. India has consistently maintained t.

Telangana EAPCET 2025 results to be out on May 11

Hyderabad: The Telangana Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET) 2025 results will be declared on Sunday, May 11. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Education department portfolio, will release the results at 11 am.

After the results announcement, candidates can view their rank and score card on the website <https://eapcet.tgche.ac.in/>. The Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU) – Hyderabad, which organised the test, conducted the EAPCET committee meeting on Friday and finalised the final keys and results announcement date.

Modi Chairs High-Level Security Meeting To Review National Preparedness Amid Regional Tensions

GNS News Agency, May 9

In response to escalating regional tensions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi convened a high-level meeting with Union Secretaries on Thursday, May 8, 2025, to assess India's security preparedness and strengthen inter-ministerial coordination.During the meeting, the Prime Minister emphasized the critical importance of maintaining vigilance, enhancing institutional collaboration, and establishing clear communication channels as India navigates through this sensitive security period. He reaffirmed the government's steadfast dedication to national security, operational readiness, and public safety.This strategic review follows the devastating April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam that resulted in 26 civilian casualties, and India's subsequent military response on May 7 targeting terrorist facilities in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Security forces have heightened surveillance and preparedness measures under the ongoing Operation Sindoor initiative.According to the official government statement, "All Ministries are fully prepared to respond to emerging situations," with departments identifying specific action points related to the conflict and strengthening institutional protocols accordingly.

The comprehensive meeting addressed various critical issues including enhancing civil defense systems, combating misinformation, and protecting vital infrastructure. Ministries were instructed to maintain close cooperation with



state governments and local agencies.Prime Minister Modi stressed the necessity of seamless coordination among government departments to ensure operational continuity and institutional strength. Secretaries have been directed to thoroughly evaluate their respective departments to guarantee uninterrupted essential services, with particular focus on emergency response capabilities and internal communication frameworks.The meeting was attended by the Cabinet Secretary, senior officials from the Prime Minister's Office, and Secretaries from key departments including Defense, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Power, Health, and Telecommunications.

Revanth Reddy's remarks on state finances spark discord within Telangana Congress

GNS News Agency, May 9

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's repeated remarks about the State's financial distress have not only drawn flak from various quarters but also sparked internal dissent within the Telangana Congress.Except for a few Cabinet Ministers who made an unconvincing effort to defend the Chief Minister's statements, most Congress leaders are distancing themselves from his remarks. Jittery Revanth Reddy slams Telangana government employees for protest plans, claims State is bankruptWhile there is consensus that the State's finances are strained, party insiders say the situation is not as dire as projected. "To convince employees' unions, he exaggerated certain aspects," a senior leader from Gandhi Bhavan observed."In trying to exert emotional pressure on employee unions, the Chief Minister became overly emotional. Statements like banks treating elected representatives as thieves are inappropriate," the leader added.

When asked how the party high command might react, the senior leader said the AICC could privately express disapproval over the remarks. "The high command has been lauding Telangana's caste census and encouraging the Centre to emulate it. At such a time, such statements on the State's finances could embarrass the AICC," the leader noted.Sources indicated that the Chief Minister's frustration was visible. Apart from dissent within the party, senior bureaucrats, particularly IAS officers, are reportedly not



responding to his directives—a fact he himself has acknowledged on multiple occasions.Recent reshuffles within the Chief Minister's Office and transfers of senior IAS officers in key departments also point to administrative friction.

The Chief Minister had earlier instructed MLAs and other public representatives to undertake an extensive grassroots outreach campaign from April 16 to June 2, aimed at publicising the Congress government's achievements.At the Congress Legislative Party meeting, he also announced plans to begin district tours from May 1. However, only a few MLAs complied. While the scorching summer is a factor, many legislators reportedly fear public backlash for unfulfilled electoral promises.

Hyderabad Police conduct patrolling for confidence building and area domination

GNS News Agency, May 9

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Police have conducted a foot patrolling for confidence building and area domination at various residential colonies in Asifnagar division on Friday.This initiative was part of ongoing confidence-building measures and area domination efforts, undertaken in view of the prevailing situation between India and Pakistan.Following instructions from Hyderabad Police Commissioner, the Station House Officers (SHOs) and Sub-Inspectors (SIs) from Mehdiapatnam and Asifnagar police stations, along with Armed Reserve (AR) personnel, conducted foot patrolling from Meraz 'X' road to Malleshwari 'x' road covering all sensitive and prominent locations.



7 terrorists shot dead in J&K's Samba as BSF foils infiltration bid

GNS News Agency, May 9Late on Thursday (May 8, 2025), the Border Security Force (BSF) foiled an infiltration attempt along the Pakistan border in the Samba sector of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), killing at least seven terrorists, according to a BSF official."At around 2300 hours on 8 May 2025, BSF foiled a major infiltration bid at the International Boundary in Samba district, J&K," BSF Jammu posted on X.Operations Sindoor LIVE: BSF says 7 terrorists killed in infiltration bid along border; Pak Rangers post destroyedThe infiltrators who were in a large group were trying to enter the country with the support of cover fire provided by the Pakistan Rangers from its Dhandhar post, the official said."Alert BSF troops thwarted the infiltration bid and killed at least seven terrorists, causing extensive damage to a bunker ahead of the Pakistan Post Dhandhar," said the official.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, FATIMA W/O MUBARAK BIN AMAR SARRAN (old name) born on 19-01-1955 at Jainoor earlier was Holding Passport No. S7774695, DT: 28-11-2018 hereby Changing my Name and henceforth in future I would be known as RAYEES SULTANA W/O MUBARAK BIN AMAR SARRAN (new name) H.No.8-1-402/A/17, AGN Colony, near: seven tombs, shaikpet, Hyderabad-500104, Telangana State.

DECLARANT.
RAYEES SULTANA
W/O MUBARAK BIN AMAR SARRAN
Place: Hyderabad
Date: 09-05-2025

AFFIDAVIT

I, Thanneeru Prameela D/o Kunchala Subbarao, Age: 45 years, Occ: Housewife, R/o Somarajupalle Vlg. Mdt. Singarayakunda, Dist. Prakasam presently R/o New Housing Board Colony Adilabad do hereby solemnly affirm & state on oath as under:
1) That, I am the deponent herein and hence will acquainted with the facts.
2) That, I am registered owner of Plot No. 73 vide Registered Sale Deed Document No. 5277/2023 Registered at JSRO Adilabad, Dist. Adilabad, but the Link Deed Document No. 3593/2007 dated 27-07-2007 has been lost by me while I was taking Xerox of above document at Xerox shop at Dasnagar village. I searched every where but in vain and now it is beyond recovery. Now I am in need of Certificate for Loss of Link Deed Document No. 3593/2007 to avail loan.
Therefore, I request kindly issue Certificate for loss of Link Deed Document No. 3593/2007 to me and oblige me.
The contents of the above affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, if anything is found to be incorrect or false, I will be held liable for prosecution.
Hence the affidavit.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Strikes to strategy

IN the immediate aftermath of Operation Sindoor — India's precision strikes on terror camps across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir — the government on Thursday projected unity and resolve, even as tensions remain high and retaliatory hostilities continue. In response to attempted strikes by Pakistan, India pre-emptively neutralised missiles aimed at 15 major cities and destroyed a key air defence system in Lahore.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's high-level review meeting underscored the gravity of the situation. Terming this a "sensitive period", he called for institutional synergy and citizen safety as top priorities. The Whole-of-Government approach — focussing on civil defence, countering disinformation and safeguarding critical infrastructure — signals readiness beyond the battlefield. The directive to ministries to ensure emergency response protocols and operational continuity reflects a sober understanding of hybrid threats, including cyberattacks and misinformation campaigns. Lending equal weight to the day was Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's detailed briefing to an all-party meeting, where he confirmed the neutralisation of at least 100 terrorists. The Opposition, notably the Congress and the AIMIM, displayed commendable maturity, putting aside political divisions to rally behind the national interest. This rare moment of bipartisan consensus sends a strong message to both domestic and international audiences: when India's sovereignty is challenged, its political fabric holds firm.

However, the larger picture remains fraught. With India stating that it has no intent to escalate but is fully prepared to retaliate, strategic restraint must continue to be balanced with credible deterrence. The emphasis must now shift from tactical victories to strategic stability. In the days ahead, civilian protection, diplomatic messaging and internal security will demand unwavering focus.

Government Must Sanction Financial Benefits Dues to Employees and Teachers: APTF 257



“May 9, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema coordinator” “The Andhra Pradesh Teachers' Federation (APTF) district president, Muralikrishna, demanded that the government immediately sanction the financial benefits due to employees and teachers, as the government has been showing negligence in this regard for the past few years. He also demanded the appointment of the 12th PRC Commission, which should have come into effect in 2023, the immediate announcement of a 30% interim relief, the release of thousands of crores of rupees in pending 11th PRC arrears, and the issuance of pending Dearness Allowances (DAs). He made these demands during a protest held in front of the District Collectorate on Friday. “Speaking at the demonstration, district honorary advisor S. Venkata Muni stated that while the previous government established six types of schools, the current government has introduced nine types, pushing the education system into chaos. He demanded that the government reconsider the new policy and take measures to prevent the weakening of primary schools. He pointed out that the previous government merged classes three, four, and five in high schools, and now this government is attempting to merge classes one and two as well. In the same village, they claim they will continue a separate school for classes one and two under the name of a foundation school, which he termed a completely unscientific approach. He urged the government to continue primary schools from classes one to five, as they have been operating in villages for decades. He requested the establishment of model primary schools with a minimum of two teachers regardless of the number of students, and an increase in the number of teachers as student numbers rise, along with the provision of Primary School Headmaster (PSHM) posts in these schools. He also argued that the student-teacher ratio should not vary for each type of school and that pre-primary education should be integrated with primary schools. He called for the continuation of the policy of having four School Assistant posts where classes six and seven are present in upper primary schools, and six School Assistant posts where classes six, seven, and eight are present. He further demanded the establishment of schools in municipalities, corporations, and newly developed residential areas in line with the increased population. He appealed to the government to continue the mother tongue as the medium of instruction in all schools, as mentioned in the National Education Policy and the Right to Education Act, and to abolish CPS and GPS. “District General Secretary Balasubrahmanyam stated that OPS should be immediately implemented for the 2003 DSC candidates as per Memo No. 57. He also urged the immediate appointment of the 12th PRC Commission and the announcement of a 30% IR, along with the payment of all types of financial arrears owed by the state government to employees, including the 11th PRC arrears, and the regularization of MTS teachers. “State Audit Committee member Venkatadri emphasized that the mother tongue in schools is like the soul of a ??? (jati - meaning community or nation), and its complete removal should be condemned by language enthusiasts and mother tongue lovers in a democracy. He also called for the protection of minority languages such as Urdu, Kannada, Tamil, and Oriya, demanding the continuation of their respective mediums of instruction, as well as the continuation of the Telugu medium in schools. “District executive members Bhuvaneshwari, Lakshamma, Madan Mohan, Gopal, Chenchu Raja Sheikh, Lakshmi Narayana, Sridhar, Jayaramaiah, state executive members, and presidents and general secretaries of various mandal branches, along with teachers, participated in the program.

Advanced CRM machine to Mulugu Hospital “- ECIL Hyderabad company handed over by Collector Divakara T.S.



“Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: As part of CSR, ECIL Hyderabad company handed over an operation CRM machine, Oat light, and fracture table worth Rs. 20 lakhs to the Mulugu Government Hospital on Thursday by District Collector Divakara T.S.

On this occasion, the Collector congratulated ECIL Hyderabad company for the great work done. He asked the representatives of the company to come forward to do



such good works that will be useful for the hospital in the future. In this program, hospital superintendent Dr. Jagadish, ECIL representatives C. Muralidhar, Sudhanshu Kumar, Ed (Finance), Ranjan Srivastava, AGM P Venu Babu, CMO, SDGM A Ramakrishna, D Shirisha, Officers Association representative, M Kumar, Union representative A. Sambamurthy, Corporate Government General Hospital Department, Doctors, Vinay, Shanti, Bikshapati, Bingi, Praveen Reddy, Naresh and other staff participated.

CPI(M) Affirms Unreserved Backing for Nationwide General Strike “District Secretary Y. Yakayya Criticizes Centre’s Anti-Labour Policies During Party Cadre Meet



“PS Ashokan “Indian Chronicle “Manthani, May 8” “A strategic assembly of Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] cadre was convened today at Kakarla Palli village in Manthani Mandal. The session was presided over by CPI(M) District Secretary Mr. Y. Yakayya, who addressed the gathering as the keynote speaker. “In his remarks, Mr. Yakayya articulated strong opposition to the regressive and anti-labour policies allegedly being perpetuated by the BJP-led central government. He stated that in light of these sustained attacks on the rights and welfare of the working class,

national trade unions have jointly declared an all-India general strike on May 20th—a call that CPI(M) unequivocally endorses. “He further asserted that since assuming power for a third consecutive term, the BJP government has consistently undermined the interests of workers and peasants through a series of legislative and administrative actions. Although the government publicly claimed to have annulled the contentious agricultural laws, Mr. Yakayya accused it of clandestinely attempting to reinstate these statutes under different guises. “Particularly alarming, he noted, is the imposition of four new labour codes, which he described as “legislative nooses” designed to erode foundational labour rights and protections hard-won over decades. He urged the public and progressive organizations to unite in resistance through the forthcoming general strike. “The meeting witnessed the participation of several senior leaders and party functionaries, including CPI(M) District Secretariat Member Ms. A. Maheshwari, District Committee Member Mr. Budida Ganesh, and local leaders such as Mr. Gorrenkala Suresh, Mr. Arla Sandeep, Mr. Manthani Lingayya, Mr. Budida Rajender, Mr. Bosalli Sadanandam, Mr. Manthani Sammayya, Mr. Budida Ravinder, Mr. Manthani Rajasekhar, among others.

Three jawans killed in bomb blast



“Greyhounds RSI Ranadhir seriously injured” “Maoists fire on police after blasting..!” “Policemen inundating forests” “Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: Three policemen were killed and Greyhounds RSI Randhir was seriously injured in a bomb blast that took place in the Wajedu forest area of Mulugu district on Thursday morning, according to information. Constables Pawan Kalyan and Sandeep were among the constables involved in the bomb blast. During the Kagar operation carried out by the Central and Chhattisgarh state security forces in the Karreguttala area, the police and Maoists came face to face and exchanged fire. Following the encounter that took place on the Telangana-Bijapur border, tense conditions prevailed in Bijapur district on the Chhattisgarh border since morning. The Kagar operation, which has been ongoing by the security forces for the past 17 days, has caused a lot of damage to the Maoists and the security forces. “Ten key leaders killed..?” “Maoists and security forces exchanged fire in the Lankapalli forest area of Usuru block, Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh border area in the Karreguttala area. In this incident, Maoist Central Committee Member (CCM) Chandranna, SWZ CM Bandi Prakash and Telangana State Secretary Damodar are also being propagated in the district. Along with them, it is being propagated that seven more Maoists were killed in the encounters between the police. However, the full details are yet to be officially disclosed by

the authorities. “Chandranna is a key leader among the Maoists” “Central Committee Member Chandranna is a key leader among the Maoists. State Secretary Damodar is playing a key role in the leadership of Chandranna in Telangana. It is reported that the entire operation is being carried out under the command of Chandranna in the caves in Karregutal. It is against this backdrop that Chandranna was also killed in an encounter on Thursday. “Dead policemen shifted to Warangal” “The bodies of three constables, Sandeep and Pawan Kalyan, who were killed in a landmine explosion in the Lankapelli forests of Wajedu mandal in Mulugu district, which is on the border of Telangana and Chhattisgarh states, were shifted to Warangal MGM mortuary by police officials in an ambulance. DGP Jitender and Greyhounds DG Stephen Ravindra paid tributes to the deceased policemen. After the post-mortem process was completed, the bodies were handed over to their family members. The Warangal Police Commissionerate police were alerted after the bodies of the policemen were shifted to Warangal MGM. Minister Seethakka paid tributes to the three policemen who died in a landmine explosion in Karregutta near Wajedu in Mulugu district by visiting the bodies at the MGM in Warangal district and laying wreaths. Minister Seethakka consoled the families of the deceased policemen. “[8:45 pm, 8/5/2025] +91 98485 52224:

Mettu Hasini of Manthani Qualifies for International Karate Championship in Malaysia.

“PS Ashokan “Indian Chronicle “Manthani, May, 8” “Mettu Hasini, a 19-year-old karate practitioner from Manthani, Peddapalli district, has qualified to participate in the prestigious International Karate Championship, scheduled to be held at the HypoCity Council Sports Hall in Malaysia from May 9th to 12th. She will be competing in both the Kata and Kumite categories. “Hasini is currently undergoing intensive training under the mentorship of Sensei Kaviti Sammayya at the Japan Shitoryu Karate Academy, Manthani. Her qualification has garnered praise from leading karate officials including Mr. Bharat Sharma, President of Shikokai Karate India; Mr. B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of Telangana Sports Karate-Do Association; Mr. P. Papayya, National Vice President of Japan Shitoryu Karate; Mr. Guntupalli Sammayya, State Execu-



tive President; Mr. M. Ramaswamy; and Mr. E. Srinivas. “She has also received commendations from her instructors Na Galli Rakesh, Kaviti Shiva Ganesh, Mooga Shivani, M.D. Taib, T. Harshini, K. Swetha Nandana, K. Vishnu, B. Vishnuvardhan, Nakka Raju, and P. Geya Sriram Teja Sriramulu, who have been instrumental in her preparation for the global stage.

CPM Demands Allocation of Reddy Cheruvu Government Lands to Dalits of Kakarlapalli “Y. Akayya, CPM District Secretary



“PS Ashokan “Indian Chronicle “Manthani, May 9” “A delegation from the Communist Party of India (Marxist) visited the government lands near Reddy Cheruvu in Manthani mandal and held discussions with the Dalit residents of Kakarlapalli to gather detailed information about the issue. “Speaking on the occasion, CPM District Secretary Y. Akayya stated that historically, these lands were cultivated by Dalits and were documented in official revenue records. Nearly three decades ago, Dalit families grew crops such as jowar, bajra, and ragi on this land. Despite their long-standing association with these lands, the Dalits have been relentlessly approaching revenue officials for rightful ownership and recognition. “He urged IT Minister Sridhar Babu to take personal initiative and ensure that these lands are justly distributed to the Dalits of Kakarlapalli. Akayya added that the CPM would directly meet the minister to press for immediate intervention. He strongly demanded that revenue authorities expedite the land distribution process and issue legal title deeds (pattas) to the rightful beneficiaries without further delay. “Among those present at the event were CPM District Committee member Anumula Maheshwari, District Committee member Budida Ganesh, party leaders Arla Sandeep and Gorrenkala Suresh, and Manthani leader Lingayya. Several Dalit representatives from Kakarlapalli, including Budida Ravinder, Boselli Shankar, Sadi Rajender, Sammayya, Rajasekhar, Srikant, Mounika, Swaroopa, and Lakshmi, also took part in the program.

Let's make K. Basavaraju the President of Siddique Nagar Association Committee.

“Kondapur May 9 Siddique Nagar Association Committee elections under Kondapur division will be held on 11th May from 7 am to 3 pm. The people of the colony will vote for K. Basavaraju as the President with a large majority by casting your precious vote on the serial number 3 clock symbol. Speaking in this context, he said that I know the problems of everyone in the locality and will work tirelessly to solve their problems and provide basic facilities in the colony. K. Basavaraju said that if the people of the colony win this time with a large majority, keeping in mind the development I have done in the past, I will work tirelessly for the devel-



opment of the colony. Ravi Yadav as General Secretary, Venkataswamy as Treasurer, and our panel candidates have similarly requested you to cast your precious vote for the serial number 3 clock symbol.

Miss World candidates to visit Ramappa on 14th “– Arrangements to know Telangana language, culture and flavors”– Visiting ban for tourists”– Collector Diwakara, SP Shabarish reveal details to media“



Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: In the backdrop of the Telangana state government hosting the Miss World pageant, the contestants will visit the UNESCO-recognized Ramappa Ramalingeswara Swamy temple in Palampet, Venkatapur mandal, Mulugu district on May 14, District Collector Diwakara TS revealed. Arrangements are being made to know Telangana language, culture and flavors, and officers and people have called for the success of this program. SP Dr. P. Shabarish spoke at a press conference at the Collectorate VC Hall in Mulugu on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that tourists will be banned from visiting Ramappa on the 14th and that no one will be allowed to enter from the arch in Palampet from 2 pm. Only villagers will be allowed. Contestants of the Miss World

contest from 35 countries will visit the Ramappa temple as scheduled from the afternoon of the 14th, along with personal assistants, photographers, videographers, etc., about 250 people are expected to come along with them. Special arrangements are being made and no one will be allowed inside the temple. A special stall is being set up for the media and only a limited number will be allowed. The Collector explained that arrangements are being made to promote the Telangana language, culture and food. He said that no one should fly drone cameras for photos and videos, and drones are banned within a radius of 5 km. Arrangements have been made to give a grand welcome to the world beauties and everyone should cooperate. Security arrangements will be made to ensure that no one faces any problems. He said that journalists are not allowed to take any photos or videos inside the Ramappa temple. He made it clear that journalists will be allowed only in the specially set up media center and will not be allowed to go to other areas. District SP Shabarish said that tight security arrangements are being made to make the event in Ramappa a success and that they want to cooperate in making the international event a success. He said that since Telangana is hosting the event, the police department is making key arrangements for security. He said that steps are being taken to introduce the culture and traditions of Telangana to the Miss World contestants who will be visiting Ramappa and that all arrangements have been completed in view of the visit of the beauties. He said that they are working hard to make the event a success by preparing a plan in advance to prevent any untoward incidents during the visit of beauties from various countries. District Public Relations Officer M. D. Rafiq and representatives of print and electronic media participated in the meeting.

Farmers should opt for organic farming“– Jayashankar Agricultural University VC Janaiah



““Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: Professor Jayashankar Agricultural University Vice Chancellor Aldasu Janaiah has called on farmers to opt for organic farming. On Friday, the VC attended and spoke as the chief guest at the program called Rythu Mungitlo Gyalamsari organized by the Telangana Agriculture Department in collaboration with the university in Jaggannapet village of Mulugu mandal. He explained to the farmers the precautions to be taken while purchasing seeds during the Kharif season and the precautions to be taken in cultivating crops. He said that

organic farming will bring benefits and will improve the health of the people as well as the soil fertility. He suggested that crop rotation should be undertaken. On this occasion, the VC answered the questions asked by many farmers. Warangal Regional Agricultural Research Institute ADR Dr. Uma Reddy, District Education Department Officer V. Suresh Kumar, District Horticulture Officer Anasuya, Farmer Convener Anji Reddy, Mandal officials, scientists, public representatives, farmers, NGO staff and others participated in this program.

District In-charge Judge Pattabhi Rama Rao visited Gattamma



““Mulugu, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: District In-charge Judge Dr. K. Pattabhi Rama Rao, Senior Civil Judge Kannayyalal and Junior Civil Judge Gunti Jyotsna visited Gattamma Talli near Mulugu on Friday. They offered turmeric and saffron to the goddess and broke coconuts and paid oblations. On this occasion, the chief priests of the Gattamma temple performed pujas at the temple according to the tribal Nayakpod tradition and presented the saffron to the goddess. The chief priests of the temple Kotha Sadayya, Surender, Arigela Sammayya, Kotha Ramesh, Ravi, Akula Ravi, Kotha Ravi and others participated in this program.

Early Teen Stress Tied to School and Identity, Study FindsEducation New Zealand - Media Release

Hyderabad:Teens starting high school and navigating their self-identity need more access to support and resources, says University of Canterbury researcher Dr Valerie Sotardi. A study of child health and wellbeing has revealed that starting high school and self-identity are the biggest causes of stress for young teens, and a University of Canterbury (UC) | Te Whare Wananga o Waitaha researcher hopes the results will shape future support services.

The 'Our Voices' study sought responses directly from approximately 1000 13-year-old participants about their experiences navigating adolescence in Aotearoa and has already released a series of findings as part of its Summer Snapshot series. Their families are participating in the Growing Up in New Zealand longitudinal study that aims to better understand the diverse and complex journey young people experience growing up in New Zealand.

The latest report to come from the Our Voices study, 'Navigating Rough Waters: Support Networks for Youth' led by UC Senior Lecturer Dr Sotardi, identifies key stressors and how teens overcome tough times. Dr Sotardi, a leading educational psychology researcher in New Zealand, helped identify the most common emotional, social and academic challenges 13-year-olds face, and what help mechanisms they use to overcome those challenges.

“What we found was interactions at school and un-

derstanding who you are, and self-acceptance were the most commonly reported challenges,” she says. The significance of the high school transition was reflected in the teens' responses. Workload or getting good grades, making new friends, and trying to fit in were the most common sources of stress. The teens were asked what helped them get through tough times, with nearly three quarters emphasising the importance of family and whanau support, friends, mentors and even social media influencers as key coping mechanisms. Many of the teens regularly used more than one coping strategy, with a quarter of participants using activities such as gaming to provide a distraction from the stress they were experiencing.

“We found that key social relationships were how the teens coped best, but also distraction and escapism were legitimate forms of coping as well - reading, music and gaming all helped regulate emotion and helped create space for teens to pause and reflect,” Dr Sotardi says.

By showing adolescence as a critical developmental stage that is marked with commonly experienced challenges, educators, community organisations and policy makers can make more informed decisions about future support services. “There is now the potential to develop programmes that promote positive relationships and reinforce how safe school environments contribute to stronger emotional wellbeing for young people across Aotearoa.”

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 distinct 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.

Government Committed to the Welfare of JournalistsMinister Ponguleti Assures TUWJ Delegation



Hyderabad:State Minister for Revenue, Housing, Information, and Public Relations, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, assured that the government is committed to the welfare of journalists and is working step by step to resolve their issues. On Friday, a delegation from the Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ), led by state president K. Viraahat Ali and general secretary K. Ramnarayana, met the minister in his Secretariat chamber to discuss various problems faced by journalists.

They expressed concern that while the Congress party had included journalists' welfare in its election manifesto, even after one and a half years in power, none of the issues had been addressed, leading to disappointment among

journalists. They pointed out that although the government had formed a committee to frame accreditation guidelines and the report had been submitted a month ago, no Government Order (G.O.) had yet been issued. As a result, journalists have been renewing old accreditations issued by the previous government for over a year and a half. They urged the minister to take immediate steps to issue new accreditations. Minister Srinivas Reddy responded positively to the issues raised by TUWJ and assured that necessary steps would be taken soon to resolve them. The delegation that met the minister also included TUWJ state secretaries K. Sreekanth Reddy and G. Madhu Goud, state executive committee member

High Alert in Tirumala...



““May 9, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator”““In the backdrop of the Indo-Pak war, TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) has declared a high alert in Tirumala. As part of precautionary measures, under the guidance of SP Harshavardhan Raju and with the cooperation of Additional EO Venkaiah Choudary, a mock drill was conducted under the supervision of Tirumala DSP Vijay Shekhar with Octopus, Police, SPF, Vigilance, Bomb Squad, and Dog Squad teams. As part of this, police forces conducted intensive checks at the local GMC Tollgate. Speaking on this occasion, DSP Vijay Shekhar said that stringent security measures have been taken in the context of the ongoing war at the India-Pakistan border. He explained that a total of 138 personnel from various police



forces were divided into four teams and conducted the checks.

Operation Sindoor: Pakistani media twisting the truth, says I&B Ministry



GNS News Agency, May 9

“Operation Sindoor was launched as a response to the attack that took place in Pahalgam, on April 22, killing 26 civilians. During the press briefing on May 7, India clarified its response as focused, measured and non-escalatory. It was specifically mentioned that Pakistani military establishments had not been targeted. It was also reiterated that any attack on military targets in India will invite a suitable response,” it said. The Ministry said: “What should have been a moment of international reckoning against terror has instead been manipulated into a disinformation war, where truth is the first casualty”. Flagging the “grossly exaggerated claims”, it said nearly all major Pakistani news channel such as “Geo News, Dunya News, ARY News, and SAMAA TV have been repeating the same unverifiable, inflated claim: that the Pakistan Air Force has shot down Indian drones”. “For instance: Geo News alleges 25–29 drones were intercepted without providing visual evidence or independent verification. Duniya News inflated that number to 32 drones. ARY News claimed 25 drones were

shot down, and also added drama by naming Israeli-made Harop drones allegedly used by India,” the Ministry said. “With no neutral tone and gross misrepresentation of facts, these are coordinated attempts to portray Pakistan as both the victim. There is no mention that these drones were targeting terrorist launchpads, not civilian zones,” it said.

The Ministry accused Pakistani networks of repeatedly emphasising “civilian casualties” “without offering concrete details or differentiating between civilian zones and terror camps” “HUM News and SAMAA TV extensively highlight emergency room visuals and civilian interviews from cities like Karachi and Lahore. Not a single channel admits that many of the targeted structures were identified Indian-designated terror facilities- the home to Jaish-e-Mohammed elements and Lashkar-e-Taiba remnants,” it said. The Ministry alleged that Dawn News “outrightly denied Pakistan launching any attacks or harboured militants involved in terror strikes inside India. ARY News and Duniya News call Indian media reports of Pakistani activity in Jammu & Kashmir ‘fake news’ and ‘propaganda’.” None of these channels mention terrorists reported killed during Operation Sindoor. These deaths would validate the strike’s strategic importance, yet completely censored in Pakistani coverage. “Express News ran dramatic segments alleging Indian missile strikes on the Karachi Port, claiming Pakistan Navy installations were targeted. Yet, no verified information is provided. Instead, terms like ‘shameful attack’ and ‘inevitable clash’ are used by the DG ISPR, Pakistan,” said the Ministry. In a stark contrast, the Ministry said the Indian army officially released a video confirming the shooting down of Pakistani drones along the western border, “in response to multiple coordinated attacks by Pakistan armed forces using drones and other munitions”. The Indian Army’s statement outlined that Pakistan launched a barrage of drone and missile attacks across the western front. Stating that there were numerous ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu & Kashmir and drone/missile attacks launched from Pakistan, the Ministry said: “the real evidence, including military footage, and official updates, shows that Pakistan started the attacks, and India responded in a controlled but strong manner”.

We are at war with terrorists: Indian Ambassador to U.S. Vinay Kwatra

GNS News Agency, May 9

India is at war with the terrorists and will bring justice to victims of the Pahalgam attack by holding the “lowlifes, subhuman monsters” accountable, Indian Ambassador to the U.S. Vinay Kwatra has said, underscoring that in no world would these terrorists be allowed a free pass. “The frame and the template in which we look at is the terror template. April 22 was the most heinous terrorist act,” Mr. Kwatra said in an interview to CNN on Thursday. “It is nobody’s case to say that these terrorists should be given a free pass, and that’s precisely what we did day before yesterday, held them accountable, brought them to justice,” Mr. Kwatra said. “We are at war with the terrorists, and we will, as I said, bring justice to the victims and hold them accountable,” he added. “Our foremost objective in this was (to) hold these lowlifes, subhuman monsters accountable and bring justice to the victims.” India launched ‘Operation Sindoor’ on May 7, striking terror factories at nine locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians and for which The Resistance Front (TRF), a front for the UN-proscribed Pakistani terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba, had claimed responsibility. Underscoring the fact that four terrorists backed by Pakistan killed 26 civilians, Mr. Kwatra said “in no world would you allow such terrorists to be given a free pass. And that is precisely what we did the day before yesterday.

“We carried out very precise, calibrated, measured response to these terrorists, to their factories, to their integrated facilities, which they run out of Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.... It is nobody’s case to say that such terrorists should be given a free pass, wherever they are located.” He added that from a large number of Congressmen, Senators to the whole world, they all appreciate that India should respond and bring accountability for these terrorists and justice for the victims. Mr. Kwatra asserted that the original escalation and the original breakout of tension happened on April 22, when four terrorists backed by Pakistan carried out brutal killings, subhuman, monstrous kind of killings of 26 civilians, including a Nepali national. He said the terrorists killed the civilians on the basis of religion, identifying and killing “all non-Muslims”. “So what we did day before yesterday was essentially our response to terror,” he said, adding that India’s response has been very measured, calibrated and proportionate.

‘Pakistan stands with terrorists’ Responding to a question on explosions being heard in Kashmir, Mr. Kwatra said



Pakistan has again decided to stand with the terrorists. “Rather than take action against them, they are essentially lending them support,” he said. “We wouldn’t be surprised if they are themselves involved in this, but that’s what is the message,” which Pakistan is telling the world that it is with terrorists, it is not with the rest of the civilised world, the rest of humanity. “Pakistan’s belief lies in perpetrating these proxies of terror killings, brutal killings of innocent civilians,” he said. ‘Denial and obfuscation’ To a comment that Pakistan has denied involvement in the attacks, Mr. Kwatra said that “denial and obfuscation” has always been the first part of Pakistan’s strategy. “They have this unique characteristic where they assume responsibility of their past actions in future, not in the present moment,” he said as he asked “where was” Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, who plotted the September 11 attacks in the U.S., found, the killer of American journalist Daniel Pearl or perpetrators of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks found. Responding to a question, Mr. Kwatra said that with Operation Sindoor, “we, from our perspective, had brought a certain finality to it, but it was, of course, subject to whether Pakistan has brought finality to it. Pakistan chose to escalate it further. Now it’s duty-bound for us to respond to that.” When asked how concerned the world should be that the tensions between India and Pakistan could escalate into a nuclear war, the Indian envoy said, “I think the world should be concerned about the fact that Pakistan’s support to terrorism and terrorist activities continues. I think that’s what the world should be concerned about. And I think that’s what the world should tell Pakistan — to stop supporting terrorism. I think that’s the crux of the question.” “That’s for you to ask Pakistan for that,” he said when asked if he thinks it could get to the point of nuclear weapons.

If I can do anything to help, I will be there: U.S. President Trump on tensions between India, Pakistan



Mr. Trump’s remarks came after the Indian military carried out strikes against terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan’s Punjab province on Wednesday. Pakistan army carried out one of the most intense artillery and mortar shelling in years targeting forward villages along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir. “Oh it’s so terrible. My position is I get along with both. I know both very well and I want to see them work it out. I want to see them stop and hopefully they can stop now. They have gone tit for tat, so hopefully they can stop now. I know both, we get along with both the countries very well. “Good relationships with both and I want to see it stop. And If I can do anything to help, I will be there,” Trump said in response to a question on the “war” between India and Pakistan. He was speaking on Wednesday (May 7) in the Oval Office after the swearing-in ceremony of David Perdue as U.S. Am-

bassador to China. Earlier, hours after the Indian strikes, Trump had said that India and Pakistan have been fighting for a long time and people knew “something was going to happen”. “It’s a shame, we just heard about it just as we were walking in the doors of the Oval (Office). Just heard about it. I guess people knew something was going to happen based on a little bit of the past. They’ve been fighting for a long time. “They’ve been fighting for many, many decades and centuries, actually, if you really think about it,” Mr. Trump said when asked about the attacks between India and Pakistan. When asked if he has any message for the two countries, he said, “No, I just hope it ends very quickly.” Meanwhile, a top American military commander has said that the US is “watching the situation very closely” after Indian military strikes. “It’s right now too early to opine on any of that. We’re watching the situation very closely. We’re nested with our higher headquarters and USINDOPACOM as the information about these strikes becomes more clear,” U.S. Army Pacific Commanding General, General Ronald Clark said during a digital press briefing Wednesday. India launched Operation Sindoor early Wednesday, hitting nine terror targets in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Punjab province of Pakistan in retaliation for the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people in Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam. Pakistan Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry said 31 people were killed and 57 others injured in the Indian missile strikes launched shortly after midnight.

Not revenge or retaliation, but a paradigm shift



GNS News Agency, May 9

The Pahalgam terror attack (April 22) has put Delhi and Islamabad into a different trajectory from the past, and is one that should alert the entire strategic community. This was the first such incident on this scale targeting civilians since the Mumbai 2008 attacks. The barbarity in Pahalgam, segregating men from women, identifying them by religion and then executing them is aimed not just at terrorising Indians, and crushing a slowly reviving Kashmiri economy but also of instigating a communal rift in the rest of the country. Unlike the “fidayeen” attacks of the past, where terrorists were sent in as cannon fodder, to continue to kill until eliminated by security forces, this attack seemed more precise, with an exfiltration plan in place. While a deeper inquiry into the lapses that allowed the attack to take place and for the terrorists to leave unchallenged is awaited, the government has announced diplomatic measures, which include the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT). It has also given the defence forces the green light to plan a military operation.

How does one craft a more long-term response, that does not just seek revenge or retaliation, but works as a deterrent in the short term and seeks to change patterns of cross-border behaviour in the long term?

To begin with, it is necessary to analyse India’s varied responses to attacks of a similar magnitude over the past few years for what was, relatively speaking, more effective in securing India’s security interests. While most analyses look at the responses to the Uri (2016) and Pulwama (2019) attacks, at least five different responses should be studied: this includes 2001, after the Parliament attack, when the Indian Army was mobilised during Operation Parakram. After the Mumbai attacks, the government launched an international campaign that pushed Pakistan to admit that terrorists had been raised and trained on its territory, and Pakistan was first put on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey-list for terror financing and money laundering. In 2007 after the Samjhauta Express train attack and in January 2016 after the Pathankot attack, India asked Pakistan to join the investigation, and a Pakistani team was even invited to visit the Pathankot air force base in March 2016. After the Uri attack, the government okayed cross-Line of Control (LoC) surgical strikes to attack terror camps in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK). And in 2019, the Indian Air Force bombed a terror camp in Balakot, outside PoK, which then saw a counter-mobilisation by the Pakistan Air Force, the capture of an Indian pilot, and a helicopter accidentally shot down on the Indian side.

Given that the Pahalgam attack appears to have been a deliberately planned provocation, another similar response from India will be expected, and would have been war-gamed already. This narrows strategic options for a strike that catches the other side unawares. Planners will not only need to eliminate the responses already tried in the past but they also must produce three separate strategies: a counter-terror strategy, a strategy for retaliation, and a strategy to manage Pakistan’s counter-retaliation as well.

Three other areas of misadventure and miscalculation must also be factored in, beginning with Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir’s apparent desire to escalate matters with India. A clear indicator of this were two recent speeches: calling for Pakistan to become a “hard state”, underlining religious differences between Hindus and Muslims that fomented the “Two-nation theory”, and the reference to Kashmir as a “jugular vein”. It must be kept in mind that Gen. Munir was commissioned in the Pakistani Army

WB govt issues notification of leave cancellation, warns against black marketing of goods



GNS News Agency, May 9

A day after the West Bengal government announced the cancellation of leave of all government employees, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday (May 9, 2025) warned the State administration and business community about black marketing of essential commodities in the wake of the Pahalgam situation. “A situation has arisen after the Pahalgam attack. Everyone, keep your stock ready. If something happens here, people should be prepared,” Ms. Banerjee said during a meeting with government departments cold storage associations and traders of various departments.

The Chief Minister urged the traders that this is not a time of making profits. “No one should do hoarding and black marketing at this point. Do not supply our produce through the borders to earn more money at this juncture. Keep eyes on the borders. The DGP should hold a virtual meeting,” Ms. Banerjee said. During the meeting the Chief Minister directed that the number of stores of Sufal Bangla (outlets providing essentials at subsidised rates) be increased. “In total, there are around 700 outlets and we will have 100 more. They have a store presence in many places and are doing a good job,” she added. The Chief Minister directed the Ministers and officials to monitor the markets regularly and reactivate the task force to control the price of essential commodities. “If there is a crisis, we will have a meeting again. Think of the nation as your home and take care of it. The ministers and the police should be vigilant,” she added.

On Wednesday the West Bengal Chief Minister extended full support to the Union government after ‘Opera-

tion Sindoor’ and added, “We are together in the war on terror”. Trinamool Congress representatives also participated in the all party meeting at Delhi on Thursday and expressed support to the Union government. The Chief Minister on Wednesday announced the cancellation of the leaves of all state government employees until further notice. A notification issued by the West Bengal finance department on Thursday cited the “current situation” as the reason behind the decision. The order applies to all categories of state government employees, and even those who had been sanctioned leave earlier will now have to report back to duty. Only employees on medical leave will be exempt from the directive, the notification clarified. “No official shall leave their headquarters without the written permission of their respective heads of the department,” it stated. The State government has urged private schools to declare holidays after May 9.

At the same time, India’s diplomacy has to double efforts to keep those counselling restraint, internationally, at bay, with the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia joining the chorus and attempting to mediate by calling on Delhi and Islamabad to “de-escalate”. Such calls will only get louder if there is a retaliatory strike by India. In addition, India’s decision to suspend the IWT could see a diplomatic pushback from the World Bank and others including upper riparian states such as China, and lower riparian Bangladesh.

At the UN Security Council (UNSC), India had to suffer a “watered-down” statement issued last month, that omitted references to The Resistance Force (TRF), the group linked to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) that initially claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack, and to the “Government of India” as the relevant authority to cooperate with, as Pakistan is a current member of the UNSC. Despite that, India must bring a listing request for a UNSC designation of the TRF and its leadership — as it did for the LeT after the Mumbai attacks and the Jaish-e-Mohammed after Pulwama — and convince the U.S. and others to list the TRF as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) in their countries. The FATF’s strictures on Pakistan have been an effective tool in the past and must be revisited. A diplomatic campaign for the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) that India first proposed in the 1990s could also be re-energised, possibly using Opposition leaders and the Jammu-Kashmir leadership to head delegations abroad to defend India’s responses, in the manner Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi (1971) and P.V. Narasimha Rao (1994) once did. LoC as the border Finally, it is time to reconsider an idea that was prematurely discarded nearly two decades ago — of sealing the LoC into a more formal border. For too many years, Pakistan’s military has used the LoC as a convenient conduit to bring over recruits for training and send over terrorists to carry out attacks in India — using both its permeability as well as its impermeance as a pretext to continue a proxy, asymmetric war. The TRF’s initial telegram message, claiming responsibility for the Pahalgam massacre, was that the attack was aimed at stopping “demographic changes” in Jammu-Kashmir. On its side of the LoC in PoK however, Pakistan has completed demographic change, settling non-Kashmiris, army officers and others in the areas, and hiving off Gilgit-Baltistan into a federally administered area. These areas would be virtually ungovernable by India, even if they were to be taken over coercively. It is, therefore, vital to call ‘time of death’ on Rawalpindi’s ‘jugular vein’ theory and dreams of unifying the now separate regions of Jammu-Kashmir and somehow annexing the Kashmir Valley. New Delhi must revisit the LoC agreement proposals of 2007, that sought to turn the LoC or ceasefire line, into a de-facto border, with a view to making it a permanent International Border in the future. The role of the international community, if at all, would be in ensuring that Pakistan commits to it — if it wishes to ensure a lasting equilibrium in the region.

Mr. Banerjee said that the government will ensure that the cancellation of leave does not affect the essential services. “We are together in the war on terror”, she said. Trinamool Congress representatives also participated in the all party meeting at Delhi on Thursday and expressed support to the Union government. The Chief Minister on Wednesday announced the cancellation of the leaves of all state government employees until further notice. A notification issued by the West Bengal finance department on Thursday cited the “current situation” as the reason behind the decision. The order applies to all categories of state government employees, and even those who had been sanctioned leave earlier will now have to report back to duty. Only employees on medical leave will be exempt from the directive, the notification clarified. “No official shall leave their headquarters without the written permission of their respective heads of the department,” it stated. The State government has urged private schools to declare holidays after May 9.

Telangana govt decision to consider CIBIL score for Yuva Vikasam loans will make differently-abled ineligible, says Forum

GNS News Agency, May 9

Sangareddy: Telangana State secretary of National Disable Rights Forum, M Adavaiah condemned the State government’s decision to consider CIBIL score while selecting the beneficiaries under Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme. The government wanted to extend Rs 6,000 crore worth subsidised loans to five lakh unemployed youth across the State under the scheme. The government received applications from 16 lakh unemployed people seeking the grant of these subsidised loans. However, Adavaiah said that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s statement on considering CIBIL score will make a majority of differently-abled ineligible for the benefit.

Dispute between neighbours over Instagram message ends in brutal murder of man in Pune’s Indapur



GNS News Agency, May 9

pune youth murderedThe police identified the deceased as Akash Musa Chougule, 25, a resident of Anthurne, whose family runs a small stationery business. A man in the Indapur taluka of Pune allegedly banged his neighbour’s head against a rock and strangled him Saturday following a dispute over an Instagram message in which the accused had sent a photo of the victim’s sister. The brutal murder took place around 7.30 pm in the Anthurne village of Indapur taluka, located around 130 km from Pune city. The police identified the deceased as Akash Musa

Chougule, 25, a resident of Anthurne, whose family runs a small stationery business. A First Information Report (FIR) in the case was registered based on the complaint of Chougule’s mother, Shantabai Chougule, 45.

The police arrested the accused, Rajesh Saybu Pawar alias Tatya, 21, who lives very close to Akash and works as a labourer, in the early hours of Sunday. He has been remanded in police custody until May 7. According to the FIR, Akash came to Shantabai Saturday evening and showed her an Instagram message from Pawar with a photo of her daughter. Shantabai and Akash then went to Pawar’s house to confront him about the message at around 7.30 pm, she told the police. When Akash confronted Pawar about the message, a heated argument occurred between the two, per the FIR. Pawar then allegedly dragged Akash out of the house and took him to an open space in front. Pawar allegedly banged Akash’s head against a rock on the ground and strangled him. Akash started bleeding profusely from the head injury, and moments later, he stopped moving, Shantabai told the police, adding that Pawar fled from the scene.

Shantabai said she raised an alarm and called some neighbours to him. Akash was then taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. “The incident was reported to the police late in the evening on Saturday. After the post-mortem and inquest examination, an offence of murder was registered in the early hours of Sunday,” an officer from the Walchandnagar police station said. The police invoked Section 103 (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against Pawar.

‘Lost Rs 3 crore in fire. How will I deliver bridal wear due for this month?’: fashion designer Riyaz Gangji of Mumbai’s Libas

GNS News Agency, May 9

Early on Monday morning, Libas Riyaz Gangji, a designer brand housed inside the Sukh Shanti Building at Peddar Road in Mumbai, caught fire. While no injuries have been reported yet, fashion designer and executive director of the brand Riyaz Gangji said that he faces a loss of Rs 3 crore. “I have lost everything, either it was burnt down or it has been soiled during the rescue operation by firefighters,” Gangji, 56, told The Indian Express over a phone call.

The Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) contained the fire by 8.10 am as it pressed six fire engines, eight jumbo tankers, and one turntable ladder, amongst other equipment. Mumbai Libas store fire Even though Gangji is waiting for the official report about the source of the fire, he said it seems to be “a short circuit or something in the electrical board”.

The incident, he says, must have happened at about 6.30 to 7 am. “I was sleeping at my home in Andheri and couldn’t be reached on the phone. My manager came home and woke me up around 8.30 am. I reached the store by 10.30 am and by then, everything was turned into ashes,” he shared. Even though he is waiting for the official report



about the source of the fire, he said it seems to be “a short circuit or something in the electrical board”. While Libas is a popular ready-to-wear brand, the 30-year-old Pedder Road store spread across 2,000 sq ft, specialised in custom-made and wedding couture. “Since Libas is a publicly listed company, the store and its stock were insured, but I am worried about deliveries. How will I make delivery of bridal wear for those getting married this month?” he asked, and added that it is very difficult to redo all the work.

Internal reservation in mind, Karnataka launches survey of SC sub-castes

GNS News Agency, May 9

caste survey, schedule caste, karnataka news, indian expressThe ongoing survey will ensure that members of these communities are enumerated properly under the correct SC sub-categories. The Karnataka Government has launched a survey of Scheduled Caste (SC) communities to enumerate the sub-castes within each parent group. The exercise is being carried out based on the recommendations of an interim report by the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission which was formed to submit a report on internal reservation for SCs in the state. The survey will be carried out in three phases: the first phase will be from May 5 to 17, during which door-to-door surveys will be done to collect empirical data, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told a news conference on Monday. The second phase will have special camps for those who have not been enumerated in the first phase, and it will be held from May 19 to 21. The government will also open an online mode in the third phase of the survey from May 19 to 23, under which members of SC communities can self-declare their sub-castes and respond to other queries in the survey questionnaire.

The handbook on ‘Comprehensive Survey of Scheduled Castes – 2025’ says that it will collect data on the number of members of an SC family, educational details including reasons for discontinuing studies, employment details, annual income, benefits derived from reservation policy in the education sector, assets owned by the family surveyed, source of drinking water, and nature of dwelling area among others. These details will be compiled under the 101 sub-castes listed in the SC category. “After getting exact data, we have asked the Commission to submit details in 60 days. Recommendations (on internal reservation) will be made after that,” Siddaramaiah said. Across the state, 65,000 teachers appointed by the deputy commissioners of respective districts will serve as enumerators. The survey was required as the state government did not have exact details on the population of Adi Dravida, Adi Karnataka and Adi Andhra communities, which was crucial to provide internal reservation. The ongoing survey will ensure that members of these communities are enumerated properly under the correct SC sub-categories, he said. The one-man Commission was formed in November last year, following a Supreme Court decision which empowered states to provide internal reservation for SC communities. States such as Telangana and Haryana have announced quotas within the SC category since the decision. After the Commission was set up, the government also decided to withhold issuing a fresh notification for government jobs from the Karnataka Public Service Commission until the issue of internal reservation for SC communities was settled.

The SC community, numbering around 1.3 crore in Karnataka, is classified under four heads: SC Left, consisting of the most backward communities; SC Right, who are less backward; communities such as Banjaras and Bhoavis; and other minor communities. Towards the end of its tenure, the previous BJP government had in March 2023 announced internal reservation for SC communities which was not implemented. Under the scrapped policy, the SC Left community was given 6 per cent of the 17 per cent reservation quota for SCs, while SC Right got 5.5 per cent, com-



munities such as Banjaras and Bhoavis got 4.5 per cent and other SC groups got 1 per cent. The announcement back then was met with violent protests in parts of the state.

Maharashtra HSC 2025 results out, pass percentage drops to 91.88% from 93.37% last year

GNS News Agency, May 9

This year, the Maharashtra state board examinations witnessed over 31 lakh registrations. The Konkan division topped all nine divisions with a pass percentage of 96.74 per cent. Maharashtra State Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE) declared the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Class 12 exam results Monday. The pass percentage dropped considerably from last year’s 93.37 per cent to 91.88 per cent this year. While some attribute this gap to the stringent anti-copying measures taken during the exams, according to the Maharashtra State Board, this drop is insignificant. Chairman Sharad Gosavi said, “With just 1.49 per cent, this is a very minimal drop. In fact, the HSC exam held in March 2023 had a recorded pass percentage of 91.25, which indicates that with a marginal gap, the result remains in a similar bracket this year, too.” But there are no students with perfect scores of 100 per cent this year. Last year, one student from Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar scored 100 per cent in HSC 2024. This year, 4,500 students across Maharashtra scored more than 90 per cent. As many as 2,0943 students received additional marks for excellence in Sports or Scout and Guide activities. As many as 14,27,085 students registered for the exam, which took place between February 11 and March 11, 2025. Of those, 14,17,969 students appeared for the exam, and 13,02,873 of them passed. As is often the case, girls performed better, achieving a pass percentage of 94.58 per cent, while boys recorded a pass percentage of 89.51 per cent. While the Konkan division topped all nine divisions with a pass percentage of 96.74 per cent, the Latur division ranks the lowest with 89.46 per cent. After consecutively ranked lowest among all nine divisions for three years, the Mumbai division jumped to third spot with a 92.93 per cent pass percentage this year.

Mumbai’s water stock goes below 25%, BMC to decide on implementing water cut later this week



GNS News Agency, May 9

The average water stock in the seven lakes that supply drinking water to Mumbai was 22.66 per cent on Monday morning – roughly 8 per cent lower than the reading of 30 per cent taken on April 15. However, Monday’s level was still higher than the combined water level of 17.54 per cent recorded on May 5, 2024. While the water stock stood at 23.01 per cent on the same day in 2023.

Issuing a statement, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday (May 5) said that the current stock is adequate to last till July 31 and at present, the authorities are monitoring the usage. The BMC has also urged Mumbaikars to use water cautiously. Being an island city, Mumbai draws its water from seven lakes – Tulsi, Vihar, Bhatsa, Tansa, Upper Vaitarna, Middle Vaitarna, and Modak Sagar. While two of these lakes are located within Mumbai, the rest are in the neighbouring districts of Thane, Palghar, and Nashik. The catchment area of these lakes gets filled during the monsoon, and the water is transported through tunnels to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation’s (BMC) filtration plant. After filtration, water is supplied to every household and commercial establishment through pipelines and reservoirs.

The seven lakes hold a total quantum of 14.4 lakh mil-

lion litres of water, and considering that the BMC supplies 3,850 million litres daily (MLD), the overall stock is supposed to last for 375 days. As of May 5, the water stock in the seven lakes is 3.28 million litres, and the stock is expected to last for 60 days. Officials, however, have flagged that due to rapid evaporation because of heat, the water levels are dipping faster than usual in the lakes. “The rate at which the stock is dipping shows that the overall percentage of water stock may hover around 15 per cent by the second week of May. The rapid dipping of stock is happening due to evaporation due to a rise in temperature, and considering the IMD (India Meteorological Department) officials have announced a rainfall alert this month for several parts of Maharashtra, we are hoping that there will be a respite and fast evaporation may not happen,” said an official. The official also informed that the BMC will hold a review meeting this week with IMD officials to ascertain the arrival of monsoon and decide if a cut in water supply should be implemented. “Usually, every one per cent of the overall stock leads to three days of supply. However, in the last two weeks, the stock came down by eight percentage points, which indicates that the water stock meant to last for 24 days got over in just 15 days. This is happening because of the heat, which is leading to faster evaporation, and the gap will widen when the temperature increases further as the month progresses,” the official added. The monsoon usually arrives in Mumbai on June 15. However, over the last few years, the city has witnessed delayed monsoon onsets, with rain picking up pace only during the last week of June. More importantly, catchment areas of these lakes are located in the districts of Palghar, Thane, and Nashik, where intense rainfall begins not before the middle of July. In the last week of March, the Maharashtra government allowed the BMC to use a reserve stock of 1.81 lakh million litres, which is expected to last roughly 48 days, considering the civic body maintains its normal quota of supply. However, if a water cut is imposed, the stock may last for a few more weeks.

Mamata appeals to Centre to ‘bring arrested BSF jawan back from Pakistan’

GNS News Agency, May 9

mamata banerjee, bringing arrested BSF jawan back from Pakistan, indian expressMamata Banerjee visited Berhampore on Monday and will go to Dhulian and Suti on Tuesday to see the violence-hit areas of Murshidabad. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appealed to the Central Government to bring back BSF jawan Purnam Kumar Sahu, who has been arrested by the Pakistani army. Constable Purnam Kumar Shaw, 40, who hails from Hooghly in West Bengal, was detained by Pakistan Rangers after he accidentally crossed the international border in Punjab’s Ferozepur district on April 23 while providing security to farmers.

The detention coincided with the diplomatic stand-off between India and Pakistan in the wake of the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed. Speaking on the way to Berhampore, she said, “It is indeed very sad news. Our MP Kalyan Banerjee is in contact with his family. Our government is also in contact with his family. We want him to be brought back as early as possible.” Banerjee visited Berhampore on Monday and will go to Dhulian and Suti on Tuesday to see the violence-hit areas of Murshidabad. The riots, which took place in the wake of the new Waqf law, claimed three lives – a man in police firing and a father and son in mob violence. The family of the father and son duo from Jafrabad who died in the violence is currently in Kolkata. Murshidabad police allegedly came to Kolkata to talk with the family, but the family refused to return to Murshidabad during the Chief Minister’s visit. Speaking on the issue, she said, “I have heard that



two family members went away. I have no problem with that. I will meet the families who come. They (BJP) may have given them money. The government also has plans to give them monetary help. I am supposed to give that. Those who come, I will give them money to build a house. Then, I will go to Suti. There will be a government distribution programme.” She also denied the Governor’s report about Murshidabad and his suggestion to impose Article 356 in West Bengal. “I don’t have such information. He is ill and I pray for his speedy recovery,” said Banerjee.

A controversy has also emerged over the newly inaugurated Digha Jagannath idol being made with wood from the original Puri temple idol. When asked about it, the Chief Minister said, “Don’t do this. We always respect the Puri temple. But there are many more Jagannath temples. Is there only one Shiv mandir in India? Why are people (BJP) so jealous of the Jagannath Dham in Digha?”

‘My son has failed in exams but not in life’: parents celebrate son after he scores 32% in Karnataka SSLC papers



GNS News Agency, May 9

Parents celebrate their son after he fails in Class 10 exam by cutting a cake to boost his morale in Bagalkote. Parents celebrate their son after he fails in Class 10 exam by cutting a cake to boost his morale in Bagalkote. Whenever the results of board examinations are announced, the stories that usually appear are those of students who ace their papers and the mantra behind their success. However, here is a story of parents celebrating their son’s failure in the Class 10 or Karnataka Secondary School Leaving Certificate (SSLC) exams.

Abhishek Cholachagudda, 17, a student of Basaveshwar English Medium School in Bagalkot, Karnataka, failed all six subjects and scored 200 out of 600 marks in his Class 10 board exams. While friends mocked him for securing only 32 per cent, Abhishek’s father, Yellappa Cholachagudda, decided to cut cakes to celebrate his son’s performance.

Speaking to the media, Yellappa said, “When Abhishek was one year old, he sustained severe burn injuries on his feet. It took him to a shock and he lost his memory. Since then, his memory levels have been very low. It is indeed an achievement that he has studied till Class 10. My son has failed in examinations, but not in life. I am very happy that he has secured 200 marks. I wanted to give him a message that the entire family is with him.” “I decided to celebrate and bought two cakes which mentioned his score. We are happy. I see a lot of graduates sitting at home without a job or work. But my son is strong and is willing to fight, which means a lot,” said Yellappa, who owns a small business.

Abhishek said he was happy that his family had been “a strong support”. “I will appear for examinations again. Even if I fail, I will not stop until I achieve something in my life,” he added. The Karnataka School Examination and As-

How 'Distinguished Gentleman's Ride' is changing conversations around men's health

GNS News Agency, May 9

Hyderabad: The Distinguished Gentleman’s Ride (DGR), a global movement where style meets purpose, bringing vintage motorcycles and sharp suits together to shine a light on men’s health, has become a powerful platform, tackling tough topics like prostate cancer and mental health with dignity, community, and impact.

Here is how the DGR is changing the conversation around men’s health: DGR isn’t about speed — it’s about intention. Riders across the world show up in their most dapper attire, shifting motorcycling culture from macho rebellion to refined expression. By doing this, DGR breaks stereotypes and opens up space for conversations that traditional “tough guy” biking culture rarely allows, especially about health, vulnerability, and emotional wellbeing.

From its humble start in 2012, DGR has grown to over 900 cities across 105 countries. It is no longer just a ride — it is a global brotherhood. This vast network connects men from all walks of life, offering a judgment-free space to talk about mental health, physical wellbeing, and shared struggles — often for the first time.

Backed by its long-standing partnership with the Movember Foundation, DGR has raised over \$45 million USD so far. These funds go directly into prostate cancer research, mental health programs, and early intervention support systems, giving countless men access to treatment, care, and hope.

BJP says Congress demoralising Indian armed forces after Ajay Rai calls for using Rafale jets ‘parked with nimbu-mirch’



GNS News Agency, May 9

BJP Accuses Congress on Rafale: Accusing it of demoralising the Indian armed forces, the BJP on Monday took on the Congress after its Uttar Pradesh chief, Ajay Rai, exhibited a toy aeroplane with lemons and chillies, supposed to exemplify Rafale fighter jets kept in hangars, and questioned when India would take the next step against Pakistan following the Pahalgam terror attack. Rai accused the BJP-led Centre of merely “talking big” and questioned when the Rafale jets, which were “sitting adorned with nimbu and mirch (to ward off the evil eye according to Hindu rituals)” would be pressed into service. “You brought the Rafale, which is parked with nimbu-mirch...I have not put the nimbu and mirch on them, the Central government did so, the Raksha Mantri has adorned them with nimbu mirchi. When will these be used, when will you wipe out terrorists and those who support terrorism?” Rai asked.

“The country wants to know this, those whose families were wiped out, whose children were martyred, their family members...want to know. This is why I have exhibited this (toy plane), to underline that it is time to use them and not to keep them parked with nimbu-mirchi,” he had added. Underlining tensions on the Line of Control, where the Pakistan Army is committing ceasefire violations on every opportunity, BJP national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused leaders from the Congress and those from its INDIA bloc allies of “continuously targeting the Indian Army through the ammunition of their statements” from within the country’s borders. Trivedi also compared the INDIA bloc of Opposition parties with Pakistan, which officially maintains that it is “peace-loving” but carries out anti-India activities.

“If the Pakistan Army believes that it can demoralise the Indian Army through such incidents, I believe that with the same intention, the INDI alliance and Congress leaders take to bombarding the Indian Army with their statements,” he told a press conference. “On the one hand, the Congress and INDI alliance leaders wear the mask of standing united with the government (of India), on the other, one after the other, their leaders give statements which are anti-India and seek to demoralise the Indian Army...I say with sorrow that this is similar to Pakistan undertaking its activities here but officially maintaining the stand that it has nothing to do with such actions, that it wants peace,” he added.

Similarly, he alleged that the INDIA bloc’s stand was that it was united with the government but their senior leaders—including Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramiah, former Punjab CM Charanjit Singh Channi and now UP Congress president Ajay Rai—were giving such statements. During its tenure, there had not been a single instance of the Manmohan Singh-led UPA government cancelling bilateral

conversations with Pakistan over terrorist incidents, he alleged. On the other hand, there has not been a single instance of the Narendra Modi-led government opting bilateral peace talks with Pakistan. “This is proof of how differently both think. I am pained by the statements being given by the Congress...Ajay Rai ji...tried to poke fun by showing a toy plane with Rafale written on it and nimbu mirchis...I want to tell the people of the country that just a few days before this, in the same Uttar Pradesh, the Rafale landed and took off from the Ganga Expressway—which was a direct answer to Pakistan and the enemies of our nation,” he said.

“Sitting on the same banks of the Ganga, the Congress party’s state chief makes fun of the same Rafale jet. This proves what the mentality of the Congress is...yes, it is believed in the Hindu tradition that nimbu-mirchi wards off the evil eye. But today, the Indian Army does not need protection from Pakistan’s evil eye; Pakistan’s Army is looking at the Indian Army with fear, but these INDI alliance and Congress leaders are doing so with an evil eye,” he added. While Pakistan was experiencing fear due to the roar of the Rafale, such statements were seeking to demoralise the Indian Armed forces, he alleged. Recalling that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had drawn the traditional Hindu symbol of the Swastika on the Rafale after these had been purchased in France, Trivedi added that such rituals were part of proceedings in the Indian Armed forces.

“Perhaps they do not know that in the Indian Army, procedurally, religious teachers are appointed. When our soldiers go to war, whatever their religious traditions and rituals allow for and practices in line with their religious beliefs are followed...I want to ask the Congress, what is it that you are actually making fun of?” he asked. “Are you making fun of the Hindu faith?...they should know that each regiment has a traditional religious war cry...today, the Congress and the INDI alliance have become like the fifth columnists of the Spanish Civil War...Pakistan is stronger than us in only one respect – that not even a single one of their leaders is trying to demoralize their forces, but there is string of such statements from our leaders here,” he added. The Pakistani media, he also alleged, was naming not only Indian political parties but specific leaders as those who were “not with Modi”. Asking the Opposition to mend its ways, Trivedi cited instances such as PM Modi, who was then Gujarat CM, taking on the then Pakistan PM, Nawaz Sharif, for his comments against former Indian PM Manmohan Singh in 2011-12. In 1995, when Pakistan had sought to bring in a proposal against India in the United Nations, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as Leader of Opposition, went to the United Nations General Assembly as the head of the Indian delegation against it and in favour of the Narasimha Rao government. “Benazir Bhutto had expressed surprise at the fact that Indian was one such nation where the Opposition was supporting the government...today, whether it is the (Pakistani) government or the Opposition, both are supporting their army but in India, the Opposition in trying to demoralise the Indian armed forces,” Trivedi alleged. “What is happening is sad...worthy of condemnation. We want to assure the nation, that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modiji, as he has said, the criminals behind this incident (the Pahalgam attack) will be hunted down to every corner of the world and will be punished in a way that it is unprecedented,” Trivedi said, appealing to the Opposition not to seek to “lower the morale of the defence forces and that of the nation”.

How a man’s grudge over his son’s death led to the murder of 7 members of a family

GNS News Agency, May 9

In January 2023, the bodies of seven members of a family were fished out of the Bhima River in Pune’s Daund taluka. Investigation by the Pune Rural police indicated that they were murdered by relatives. Subsequently, five people were arrested and a minor was apprehended for their alleged role in the murders. As per the First Information Report (FIR) lodged at Yavat police station on January 25 that year, Sub-Inspector Sanjay Nagargoje found the body of an unidentified woman in the river in Pargaon village around 12.30 pm on January 18. Subsequently, on January 20, the body of a man was found near the same spot. On January 22, two more bodies were detected, including that of a woman. A mobile phone found on the woman’s body led the police to determine that she was Sangita Mohan Pawar, 40, a resident of Gevrai in Maharashtra’s Beed district. Officers contacted her family members and the other three bodies were identified as that of Sangita’s husband Mohan Uttam Pawar, 45, their son-in-law Shamrao Pandit Fulaware, 28, and daughter Rani Fulaware, 24. The Fulawares resided in Hatole village, Washi, in Osmanabad district. The family informed the police that Shamrao and Rani had three children and they were missing. Further search led the officers to find the bodies of Ritesh, 7, Chotu, 5, and Krushna, 3, in the river on January 24. The probe revealed Mohan’s mobile phone was active at Nighoj in Ahilyanagar district on January 17 and at Pargaon on January 18. It also revealed that Sangita’s mobile phone was active in Nighoj on January 17 and at Shirur in Pune on January 18.

Meanwhile, family members expressed doubts regarding Mohan’s relative Ashok Kalyan Pawar’s involvement in the murders. As stated in the FIR, Ashok had lost his son Dhananjay Pawar in an accident but he believed that the youth was murdered by Mohan. Relatives told the police that Ashok used to talk about killing Mohan and his family. On being questioned, Ashok and his family claimed to be present at their residence in Nighoj on January 17 and January 18, and said they had no clue about the what led to the murders, officers said. The tower location of their mobile phones, however, placed the family members in Shirur on January 18 and, according to investigators, the mobile phones of the deceased and the suspects were active around the same locations in Nighoj and Shirur.

The police then arrested Ashok Pawar, Sham Kalyan Pawar, Shankar Kalyan Pawar, Prakash Kalyan Pawar and Kantabai Sarjerao Jadhav, all residents of Nighoj, under sections 302 (murder), 120 B (conspiracy), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 34 (common intention) of the Indian Penal Code. Officers said Ashok’s son Dhananjay had died in a road accident in Wagholi a few months before the murders and a case was registered in this regard with the Pune City police. However, suspecting the role of Mohan and his son Anil in Dhananjay’s death, Ashok and his family allegedly decided to take revenge and committed the murders. A minor member of Ashok’s family, who was apprehended for his alleged role in the murder, was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board and sent to an observation



home. Shishir Hiray, Special Public Prosecutor in the case, said, “As per the police probe, the accused strangled the victims and threw their bodies in the river. The case is on before a court in Baramati, and its trial is expected to begin soon.” The investigators led by Rahul Dhas, Assistant Commissioner of Police, also seized a four-wheeler allegedly used by the accused to transport the bodies to Bhima River. As part of the probe, the police also exhumed the bodies of Sangita, Rani and Shamrao in the presence of the Daund tehsildar for re-postmortem.

India’s mineral production rises to all-time high in 2024-25

New Delhi: The production of key minerals such as iron ore, manganese ore, bauxite and lead in the country has recorded a robust growth in financial year 2024-25 after reaching record production levels in FY 2023-24, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Mines on Monday. The output of iron ore, which accounts for 70 per cent of the total mineral production by value, increased to 289 million metric tonnes (MMT) in FY 2024-25, breaking the earlier production record of 277 MMT achieved in FY 2023-24, registering a 4.3 per cent growth. Similarly, the production of manganese ore has also surpassed the production record of 3.4 MMT achieved in FY 2023-24, with an 11.8 per cent jump to 3.8 MMT in FY 2024-25. The production of bauxite has risen by 2.9 per cent to 24.7 MMT in FY 2024-25 from 24 MMT in FY 2023-24. During the same period, lead concentrate production rose from 381 thousand tonnes (THT) to 393 THT, with a 3.1 per cent growth. In the non-ferrous metal sector, primary aluminum production in FY 2024-25 has also broken the production record of FY 2023-24. Primary aluminium production increased from 41.6 lakh ton (LT) in FY 2023-24 to 42 LT during FY 2024-25. Besides, refined copper production saw a robust growth of 12.6 per cent, increasing from 5.09 LT in FY 2023-24 to 5.73 LT in FY 2024-25.

Uncertainty grips Kolkata rooftop restaurant owners following closure order

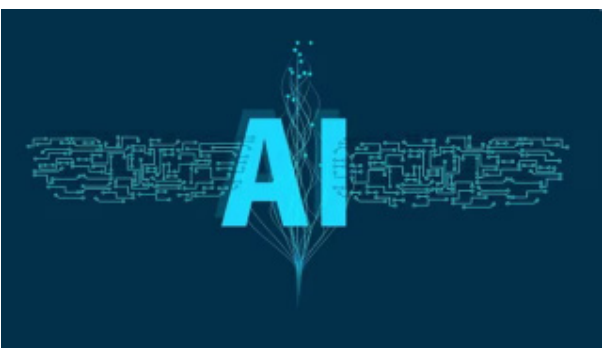


GNS News Agency, May 9

Firefighters douse the flames as people stand on parapets to escape the fire at Rituraj Hotel in Kolkata. Firefighters douse the flames as people stand on parapets to escape the fire at Rituraj Hotel in Kolkata. Rooftop restaurant owners across Kolkata are reeling from the Kolkata Municipal Corporation’s (KMC) sudden order to shut down all their establishments. Many are left in a state of uncertainty as they grapple with a “lack of official communication”, while fearing for their businesses and the livelihoods of their employees.

Following the fire at Rituraj Hotel in Burrabazar that killed 14 people on April 29, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) had ordered the immediate closure of all rooftop eateries in the city. However, in the “absence” of official notices, several restaurants claim they are still operating while adhering to all safety rules and regulations. The clo-

Who’s afraid of AI? Not these young professionals from Pune as they embrace it as a tool



GNS News Agency, May 9

A growing number of young professionals no longer see AI as a looming threat but as a dynamic tool reshaping their careers and creative possibilities. They see it as something that can support their efforts, speed up their tasks, and even improve the quality of their work. Instead of worrying, these youths focus on learning the AI tools, understanding how they function, and finding ways to make them part of their work. For them, AI will not lead to losing their relevance but will offer an opportunity to evolve purposefully. “AI is a tool, not a threat,” says Anuj Pravin Baghan, a Computer Science student at College of Engineering, Pune. “AI might automate repetitive, entry-level tasks, but it can’t replace real skills. As engineers, we are taught to constantly adapt. New technologies come and go; that is just the nature of this field.”

Anuj believes the fear surrounding AI mostly stems from those outside the tech world or from misconceptions shaped by sci-fi movies. “If you understand how AI models work, you will know they are not magical solutions; they are tools that still need human intelligence to guide them.”

His final-year project focuses on training AI models to enhance real-world applications like smarter web systems. He thinks learning AI is not about flashy tools, but understanding its fundamentals and integrating them meaningfully. “The truth is, AI won’t replace you. But a person who understands AI just might,” he says with a smile. Prajwal Gaikwad, a design student at Fergusson College, says the age of AI is not a threat but an opportunity. “In the age of AI, designers will survive not by resisting, but by coexisting,

sure announcement was made verbally by Mayor Firhad Hakim, who said rooftop restaurants would need to shut down to ensure emergency access, adding that action would be taken against those who fail to comply.

The Indian Express spoke to a few owners across the city who have raised concerns about the sudden move. Rudresh Agarwal, owner of OLTERRA restaurant and bar, said, “There is still no official notice. Whatever we heard was based on speculation, but we expect a notice soon. We were told to close the open area.” Meanwhile, WhatsApp Café (check/confirm spelling) representatives said they initially learned of the order through media reports but received an official notice later. “We were told to shut the outdoor section. The fire department has allowed indoor sections to remain open. We’ll follow further instructions.” Varun Mimani, partner at WCH-O-ZARA, said, “The government should first check which outlets are legal or illegal instead of placing a blanket order. Many people depend on this café for their livelihood. We hope those who follow safety norms are allowed to operate.” Representatives of Serra Rooftop Café claimed that while no official notice was received, police told them to close down. “We were shocked. Many rely on us for employment. We hope for a fair response and are ready to follow all orders,” said the manager. The KMC’s order has caused concern among rooftop restaurant owners trying to balance safety with their businesses. Many now seek clearer guidelines and support to comply without risking livelihoods.

where human creativity and machine speed merge to turn days of work into minutes, making us not competitors of AI, but its most powerful collaborators,” he says.

While Prajwal admits the competition has increased, he believes AI opens new doors for those willing to master it. “Designers who embrace this partnership become not just creators, but curators of meaning, blending technology’s efficiency with human emotion, context, and cultural awareness,” he says. In the medical field, too, there are those who see AI as an enabler. Sushil Satishrao Deosarkar, an MBBS student at MIMER Medical College, says, “AI should not be seen as a replacement but as a powerful support system. It can help doctors make more accurate diagnoses, especially when symptoms are complex or direct intervention is not feasible.” He says how AI can function as a vast, evolving database, offering updated insights on drug interactions, patient response trends, and micro-level data analysis. “Medicine is guided by experience and empathy. AI turns data into helpful guidance. When a diagnosis is difficult, it brings information closer and supports the healing process, not by replacing doctors, but by helping them.” Meanwhile, in the humanities, Sadiya Rehmat, who recently completed her master’s in English Language and Literature at MIT World Peace University, offers a more nuanced perspective. “AI cannot truly capture emotional depth when it comes to literature. It operates based on prompts, it doesn’t feel, it doesn’t reflect, and it certainly can’t craft meaning from lived experiences.” She believes creativity in literature and content creation is deeply human. “I don’t see AI replacing a content creator or strategist even a decade from now.” She says creativity is not just about structure or words, but about insight, empathy, and intuition; only a human mind can bring them.

Concurring with her from the world of finance is Ved Mahesh Ingale, a BCom student at Brihan Maharashtra College of Commerce and an ACCA candidate. “I’m aiming for fields like private equity and consulting, these demand human thinking, decision-making, and people skills. AI can’t replace that.” While he acknowledges that AI may handle tasks like bookkeeping or data entry, he believes core finance roles are far too complex and people-driven. He says that every company’s finances are unique, and while AI can assist, it can’t understand everything or make high-level decisions the way humans can.

In Badlapur custodial death case, Supreme Court modifies Bombay HC order; Maharashtra Police chief to probe matter now

GNS News Agency, May 9

The Supreme Court Monday modified the Bombay High Court order of a probe by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) into the Badlapur custodial death case under the supervision of Lakshmi Gautam, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), Maharashtra Police. While hearing the appeal filed by the Maharashtra Government against the High Court order, the apex court directed that the SIT be supervised by Rashmi Shukla, Director General of Police, who can then constitute the SIT to probe the matter.

Hearing the appeal, a bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and PB Varale stated that being aggrieved by the order based by the Bombay HC to the extent of constituting the SIT under the supervision of Gautam, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta has submitted that the state has no objection with an SIT but asked for it to be constituted under the supervision of DGP, having regards to the litigations made. The bench said, considering the nature and seriousness of the allegations, it modified



the order, and directed that SIT be constituted by Shukla, and officers selected by the DGP as deemed fit. The bench said if the complainant had any grievance, they could approach the competent authority while disposing of the appeal. The Bombay High Court had earlier come down heavily on the Maharashtra Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and the Mumbai police SIT for refusing to register a First Information Report (FIR) in the Badlapur custodial death case, even though the magistrate’s report stated that it was a fake encounter.

Meanwhile, the Opposition has alleged that the en-

counter carried out before the Maharashtra Assembly polls last year was done at the behest of some leaders in the Mahayuti government, a charge that was denied by the dispensation. The Bombay High Court earlier asked the Mumbai police SIT to register an FIR in the case by Saturday, but the police said since the matter was listed for hearing on Monday, the government had approached the HC Bombay High Court seeking a few more days to register an FIR in the matter. Amit Katarnaware, who earlier represented the parents of Akshay Shinde, who was killed in the encounter, said this was nothing but a delay tactic to avoid registration of

an FIR in the matter. Katarnaware said that earlier, the SIT informed the court that it had also appointed an officer, and said an FIR would be registered till Saturday. “Now suddenly, the state changes its stand, asking the High Court for time till the Supreme Court hears the matter. Had the SIT registered an FIR, the appeal before the Supreme Court would have become infructuous,” he said. Shinde, a 23-year-old janitor, arrested in August 2024 for the alleged sexual assault of two minor girls at a school in Badlapur in Thane district, was shot dead while he was being transported in a police vehicle on September 23 last year.

UNSC to hold closed consultations on Indo-Pak situation



Trump orders 100% tariff on foreign-made movies to save 'dying' Hollywood

A photograph of the Hollywood sign on a hillside. The word "HOLLYWOOD" is written in large, white, block letters across the middle of the frame. The letters are slightly weathered and have some dark marks on them. The background is a steep, grassy hillside with some sparse vegetation. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall tone of the image is somewhat muted and grainy, characteristic of older film photography.

US seeks to weaken global development finance efforts, UN document shows

Compiled by the permanent representatives to the U.N. of Mexico, Nepal, Norway, and Zambia, with help from the U.N. secretariat, the April 11 negotiating draft is annotated with the positions of the 193 nations involved in the

In his calls, Jaishankar underlined that "its perpetrators, backers and planners must be brought to justice." He also spoke with UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy, French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot and South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul, among others. Last Friday, Pakistan's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Asim Iftikhar Ahmad said at a press conference at the UN that his country has the right to convene a meeting when "we feel appropriate". "We see that all of this that is happening is in the context, in the backdrop of the situation in Jammu and Kashmir," Ahmad had said. He said that the situation that evolved after the attack is a real threat to regional and international peace and security. The Pakistani envoy had last week met Guterres and briefed him about the security situation in the region. Ties between the two neighbouring countries plummeted following the April 22 attack that killed 26 people, mostly tourists. India announced a raft of punitive measures against Pakistan including suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, shutting down of the only operation land border crossing at Attari and downgrading of diplomatic ties following the terror attack. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is committed to taking "firm and decisive" action against terrorists and their backers. PM Modi also told the top defence brass that the armed forces have "complete operational freedom" to decide on the mode, targets and timing of India's response to the attack.

to the British Film Institute. In 2023, about half of the spending by U.S. producers on movie and TV projects with budgets of more than \$40 million went outside the U.S., according to research firm ProdPro. Film and television production has fallen by nearly 40% over the last decade in Hollywood's home city of Los Angeles, according to FilmLA, a non-profit that tracks the region's production.

The January wildfires accelerated concerns that producers may look outside Los Angeles, and that camera operators, costume designers, sound technicians and other behind-the-scenes workers may move out of town rather than try to rebuild in their neighborhoods.

A Prodigy survey of executives found California was the sixth most preferred place to film in the next two years, behind Toronto, Britain, Vancouver, Central Europe and Australia. Hollywood producers and labor unions have been urging Governor Gavin Newsom to boost the state's tax incentives to better compete with other locations. Trump's proposed movie tariff follows a series of trade conflicts initiated by his administration, which have rolled markets and led to fears of a U.S. recession. Former senior Commerce official William Reinsch, a senior fellow with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said retaliation against Trump's film tariffs would be devastating. "The retaliation will kill our industry. We have a lot more to lose than to gain," he said, adding it would be difficult to make a national security or national emergency case for movies.

Reporting by Andrea Shalal, Jasper Ward and Tim Reid, additional reporting by Lisa Richwine in Los Angeles, Michael Holden and Muvija M in London; Editing by Jacqueline Wong, Humeyra Pamuk, Diane Craft and Himani SarkarOur Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles., opens new tab

discussions. With ongoing changes at the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in the fight against climate change already facing pushback from U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, the document showed it was seeking to water down further reform efforts. Among specific points in the text that refer to the systemic reform, the document shows the U.S. wants to remove a reference to a "package of reforms" for sustainable development. It wants to replace a line promising to "commit to reform the international financial architecture" with a pledge to "recognize the need to enhance its resilience and effectiveness in responding to present and future challenges and crises." Such changes in language signal the degree of shared commitment that can then be used as support for action or inaction in future talks. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres has acknowledged the need to overcome multiple challenges ahead of the conference, but urged "all countries to be at the table in Sevilla focused on solutions," spokesperson Florencia Soto Niño said in an email to Reuters. The White House and Treasury Department did not respond to requests for comment. The State Department declined to comment. While the U.S.' position on development has become tougher under Trump, the negotiating document shows it remains supportive of efforts that include developing countries working more closely with the private sector, and fostering innovation and financial literacy. A key goal of the global reforms is to better help poorer nations cope with weather disasters, which are worsening due to climate change, and to boost economic development using low-carbon energy rather than traditional fossil fuels. U.S. foreign development aid by more than 80% as part of a government overhaul led by billionaire Elon Musk and embarked on a trade war that is hurting many poorer nations.

How coffee agroforests can play a role in ecological restoration



In 2019, when the Narmada Estate, a coffee plantation in Karnataka’s Chikkamagaluru district, decided to go organic, it began diversifying the coffee-cropping system to reduce pests. “The reason something becomes a pest is because you have too much of the same thing,” explains Sohan Shetty, the estate’s general manager. “So, we needed to plant as many trees as possible.”

To find suitable plants to grow alongside organic coffee, he began scouting for the best-priced plant sources, including the Karnataka Forest Department’s nurseries and seed suppliers in Chikkaballapur. During his search, Shetty discovered that the Nature Conservation Foundation (NCF) had been actively restoring rainforests in Valparai, Tamil Nadu, for years, and so he reached out to them. “They were amazed at the scale with which I was thinking of starting nurseries and asked me what species I was working on.” So he shared with them the list of trees and seeds available with both the Forest Department and the seed supplier. “The botanist looked at it and said, a week later, that only three of these species are native to the Western Ghats,” he says. “That shook me. I realised that we are just planting trees for the sake of planting trees, but we are completely messing up the ecosystem.”

Shade trees in coffee agroforests can comprise a variety of species that are native to forests of the region. The species with fresh red leaves at the center of the image is *Canarium strictum*, which produces fleshy fruits that attract birds and a resin that is culturally and economically important.

Shade trees in coffee agroforests can comprise a variety of species that are native to forests of the region. The species with fresh red leaves at the center of the image is *Canarium strictum*, which produces fleshy fruits that attract birds and a resin that is culturally and economically important. | Photo Credit: Vijay KarthickIn search of a better solution, he soon found himself visiting a nursery run by NCF on land allocated by the Kadamane Estates Company in Sakleshpur taluk, Hassan district, which had been set up in 2022. “It was quite impressive, 5000-odd plants of different varieties,” remembers Shetty, who, on seeing this, thought it would be a good idea to further collaborate with NCF. “By that time, I had set up a nursery with 1.2 lakh bags, which could accommodate that many saplings,” he says. “So, I told them that I was happy to grow plants for you. That is how the whole partnership began,” recalls Shetty, who, along with other owners and managers of agroforests in Hassan and Chikkamagaluru districts, was part of a study spearheaded by conservation scientists from the NCF titled Shade coffee agroforests as native plant sources for restoration.

Planting trees as part of ecological restoration in a degraded forest in the Western Ghats, India. | Photo Credit: Vijay KumarAccording to Anand Osuri, a scientist with NCF and the paper’s lead author, the study, which has just been published in the *Journal of Applied Ecology*, really took off in 2023. A year earlier, Vedika Dutta, also a co-author, had come to Osuri as a master’s student, wanting to study birds in coffee agroforests, with a focus on frugivorous or fruit-eating birds. “In the course of her work, we spent time in coffee estates, watching birds and the trees in which they foraged in these coffee plantations,” he says, adding that they were struck by the large numbers and wide variety of native tree seeds and seedlings on the coffee estate floor. “These seeds and seedlings were not just of the trees fruiting overhead, but also other species carried in from further afar by seed-dispersing birds and mammals.”

Around the same time, NCF was also thinking about a forest restoration project in the coffee-growing landscape of the hilly Malnad region by partnering with local residents and landowners. According to him, these landowners had different motivations to restore forests, ranging from an interest in conservation to entering carbon and biodiversity

markets or attracting birds to their homestays. “There are a number of opportunities where interested landowners are keen to restore forests in areas where coffee is not being cultivated,” says Osuri, who has been participating in efforts to restore forests for nearly a decade and believes that the availability of diverse native plants, sourced locally and ethically, is critical to do so. “So, there was this restoration project that we were trying to develop, for which we needed to develop native plant nurseries, and the bird work was also going on.”As part of the restoration project, researchers from NCF needed to collect seeds and seedlings that could be raised in nurseries. But “we?didn’t want to be collecting lots of seeds from the forests themselves because that reduces the seed availability there, impacting the resources of animals, birds and insects,” says Osuri. “And so, we put both these pieces together to see if we could do more to harness the potential of coffee farms as a source of seeds for restoration.”

Seeds of *Artocarpus hirsutus* – a species that is endemic to the Western Ghats (found nowhere else on Earth) – during rescue from a coffee agroforest to a restoration nursery.Coffee in India is largely shade-grown, making coffee plantations a potential “refuge for biodiversity,” says Osuri. “For a substantial set of native species important for restoration, we often find adults of those trees in the coffee estates.” However, most seeds that fall and germinate in coffee estates are weeded out because of the possibility of them competing with the coffee bushes for light and other resources, representing a loss for biodiversity conservation. “So, we thought we should make a more systematic effort to rescue their seeds and seedlings before they get weeded outAs part of the study, the team documented the diversity of native tree species found within the coffee estates, recording over 90 native tree species relevant for forest restoration in the region. Clarifying that the word “native”, in this instance, refers to “that particular eco-region of the Western Ghats, the wet evergreen rainforests” and not just plants “native to India,” he says that they were particularly interested in documenting species not only those native to the Western Ghats but also endemic to the region, those “found nowhere else on earth and some of which are classified by the IUCN as being threatened.”

Seeds of multiple native tree species rescued from coffee agroforests prior to sowing at a restoration nursery.The NCF team also connected with farmers who were “willing to give us permission to visit their farms, collect seeds, and also, in the monsoon season, collect small seedlings which were growing along the roadside.” Between 2023 and 2024, around 18,000 seeds and seedlings of 56 native tree species were rescued and are currently being raised in the two restoration nurseries established through collaborations between NCF and agroforest owners. “We are trying to encourage and enable people to take up such projects to plant the right native species in the right places.”Currently, the restoration project is in a pilot stage with the NCF team focusing on two collaborative initiatives: expanding the network of seed source coffee farms and developing more native plant nurseries. “The idea we are proposing is that we should not just view coffee agroforests as refuges for biodiversity, but also acknowledge their potential to contribute to conservation in the wider landscape by being a source of native plants for restoration.”In Osuri’s opinion, more collaborations and experimentation are now needed. “A few more things will need to be worked out before one can talk about substantially scaling up, since, at the moment, one of the limiting factors is nursery resources,” he says. One potential partner, who can play a key role in expansion, he believes, is the Karnataka Forest Department. “We plan to discuss our findings with department officers to see if there is a workable model for this,” he says. “If we can develop models for connecting seed sources in coffee farms with nurseries of the forest department, then the scale and potential really go up because the department already has an excellent network of nurseries.”Osuri also hopes to strengthen and scale up their efforts in the Malenadu region, since nearly 70% of India’s coffee production comes from the Malenadu region, mainly from the Baba Budan Hills in Chikkamagaluru to Kodagu in the south. “This is also an important region for biodiversity conservation and restoration,” he says. His long-term goal is to continue to explore opportunities and collaborate with coffee farmers and landowners for restoration, experiment with different approaches to restoration, and contribute in any other way he can to biodiversity in the region, he says.“And we would love to connect and exchange learnings with others interested in exploring similar models in different landscapes.”

What are the key objectives of caste count?



The story so far: The Union Cabinet has decided that the next Census will include questions on caste to its enumeration of India’s population, for the first time in almost a century. The decision, a reversal of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party’s (BJP) stance so far, comes ahead of the crucial Bihar elections, and throws up myriad challenges.

Have Indians been counted by caste before? When the British first started counting India’s population in 1881, caste data was included in the information gathered. For the next half-century, the decennial censuses collected caste information. The last time that data was published was from the 1931 census, which counted 4,147 castes and sub-castes across the country. Though the wartime 1941 census also collected data on individual castes, it was never released. After India gained Independence, the government decided to avoid the question of caste in the census, only counting Scheduled Castes and Tribes (SCs/ STs).

In his report on the 1931 census, then-Census Commissioner J.H. Hutton dismissed the arguments of those who did not wish to collect caste and religion data on the grounds that they would perpetuate divisions, noting that “the census cannot, however, hide its head in the sand like the proverbial ostrich, but must record as accurately as possible facts as they exist.” He struck down previous British attempts to list a hierarchy of castes, in accordance with their perceived ranks in society, instead choosing to use occupations as the basis of classification, though this did not account for the fluidity of caste identities and the variations in caste names across time and geographies. The 1931 census data was also the basis for reservation efforts half a century later; its finding that 52% of the country’s population belonged to castes later grouped under the Other Backward Class (OBC) category became the basis of the Mandal Commission’s recommendation for a 27% quota for OBCs in education and government jobs.

In 2011, the Union Ministry of Rural Development kicked off a different kind of caste-counting exercise as part of its Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC). The data collected was meant to be used for research and policy making and to effectively design and implement development and welfare schemes. Though parts of the data were published in 2016, the raw data on specific caste populations was not included. As the SECC left its questions on caste open-ended rather than making them choose their caste from a set list, respondents often entered their surnames, meaning that the SECC enumerators counted more than 46 lakh different castes.

At least three States have conducted caste censuses. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar led the effort to survey the State’s caste break-up in 2023, finding that OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) accounted for more than 63% of the State’s population, stirring the political pot with demands for higher representation for these castes in politics, education, and employment. The Congress rode

to power in Telangana in 2023, partly on the basis of its promise to conduct a caste survey, which was published in 2024 and showed that backward classes make up more than 56% of the State’s population. Karnataka’s caste survey was also commissioned by a Congress government, in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah’s first term in 2015. The results, however, were published only a decade later, and showed that the State’s OBC population stood at almost 70%.

What will this data be used for? Apart from its use in academic research and policy making, the key import of caste data from a public and political viewpoint is what changes it will drive in affirmative action or reservation policies. The 27% OBC quota for education and government jobs was set on the basis of a projection from the 1931 census; a new caste count could well upend those estimates.In Karnataka, for instance, where the caste survey found that the OBC population is significantly higher than estimated, there have been demands to increase their quota in the State from 32% to 51%. The clamour for more reservation, backed by caste population data, is also likely to lead to a challenge of the Supreme Court-mandated 50% cap on reservation.

The BJP-led government’s decision came as a surprise given that the demand for a caste census has been a major plank of the Opposition’s poll campaigns. The BJP has long resisted the demand, accusing the Congress of using caste to divide Indians. Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai even responded to questions in Parliament insisting that there were no plans to include caste in the next Census, terming it a “matter of policy”. The Bihar caste survey, however, set off a political tinderbox that carried over into the 2024 general election campaign. The Opposition, in its campaign for social justice also stoked fears among sections of voters that the BJP was seeking a large majority in order to be able to remove reservations and amend the Constitution, which led to lower vote counts for the BJP in many constituencies.

The decision to conduct a caste count “steals the thunder” from the Opposition’s campaign just ahead of the Bihar Assembly elections, where it is sure to become a poll issue. The BJP is seeking to reframe the narrative, claiming that the Congress is all talk and no action, as it had never conducted a caste census at the national level while in power at the Centre. Though the Opposition is seeking to claim credit for pressuring the government into taking this decision, it is also pivoting to the logical next step, of demanding that reservations be hiked in response to the caste census findings, seeking to breach the Supreme Court’s 50% cap.

The catch in the Centre’s announcement is that no dates have yet been notified for the next Census. The last Census was held in 2011, with the 2021 Census being delayed indefinitely, initially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The addition of a caste component involves more work for Census officials. The next step will be to draft a code directory of castes to be used in the Census. Unlike the SECC, which had an open-ended query on the respondent’s caste, the Census is likely to provide a drop-down list of castes for respondents to choose from. How castes will be listed is a thorny political question, given that the Centre and States have differing, and often contentious OBC lists. Linguistic and regional diversity in caste names, splitting of castes into sub-castes over time, and disagreements on whether specific castes fit into SC, OBC, or general categories, are likely to complicate the process. Religion adds another factor into the mix, with questions about how non-Hindu groups will be recognised and whether they will get benefits on the basis of the caste census.

Hubble’s 35-year journey is a blueprint to understand the cosmos

GNS News Agency, May 9 From breathtaking snapshots of distant galaxies to game-changing discoveries about the universe’s expansion, the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has dazzled humankind for 35 years.After launching on April 24, 1990, Hubble overcame early flaws to become one of NASA’s greatest triumphs. Its vivid images and countless scientific breakthroughs have reshaped our understanding of the cosmos, inspiring new generations of telescopes and astronomers. To celebrate Hubble’s majestic journey for more than three decades, NASA recently released a collection of striking images captured by the HST.

The US astronomer Lyman Spitzer proposed the idea of the Large Space Telescope in the 1940s. NASA and the US Congress approved the project in 1969 but faced budget pressures. Then the European Space Agency chipped in with 15% of the LST’s cost in exchange for 15% of its observation time.The HST, named for astronomer Edwin Hubble, was planned in 1979 and built by 20 companies, universities, and the European Space Agency. It was initially scheduled to be launched in 1986 but that was delayed until 1990 due to technical difficulties and the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

This Hubble Space Telescope image captures two clusters full of massive stars that may be in the early stages of merging. The 30 Doradus nebula, also widely known as the Tarantula Nebula, is approximately 170,000 light-years from Earth. It is part of the Large Magellanic Cloud, a galactic satellite of the Milky Way.This Hubble Space Telescope image captures two clusters full of massive stars that may be in the early stages of merging. The 30 Doradus nebula, also widely known as the Tarantula Nebula, is approximately 170,000 light-years from Earth. It is part of the Large Magellanic Cloud, a galactic satellite of the Milky Way. | Photo Credit: NASA, ESAThe HST first had two cameras: the Wide-Field and Planetary Camera (WFPC) and the Faint Object Camera. It also had two spectrographs: the Goddard High-Resolution Spectrograph (GHRS) and the Faint Object Spectrograph (FOS). A high-speed photometer onboard detected light from high-energy sources. Three fine-guidance sensors installed in 1990 made high-precision measurements of the positions of celestial objects.This view of the Butterfly Nebula from near-ultraviolet to near-infrared helped researchers better understand the mechanics at work in its technicolor “wings” of gas. The star or stars at the nebula’s center are responsible for its appearance.

This view of the Butterfly Nebula from near-ultraviolet to near-infrared helped researchers better understand the mechanics at work in its technicolor “wings” of gas. The star or stars at the nebula’s center are responsible for its appearance. | Photo Credit: NASA, ESA, and J. Kastner (RIT)The WFPC was the most popular. It consists of two cameras. The Wide-Field camera covered large sky areas while the Planetary Camera magnified and improved image resolution. The Faint Object Camera captured light from distant celestial objects with help from an image intensifier.

The scattered stars of the globular cluster NGC 6355 are strewn across this image from the Hubble Space Telescope. NGC 6355 is a galactic globular cluster that resides

in our Milky Way galaxy’s inner regions. It is less than 50,000 light-years from the earth. Globular clusters are stable, tightly bound groups of thousands to millions of stars associated with all types of galaxies. Their dense populations of stars and mutual gravitational attraction give these clusters a roughly spherical shape.The scattered stars of the globular cluster NGC 6355 are strewn across this image from the Hubble Space Telescope. NGC 6355 is a galactic globular cluster that resides in our Milky Way galaxy’s inner regions. It is less than 50,000 light-years from the earth. Globular clusters are stable, tightly bound groups of thousands to millions of stars associated with all types of galaxies. Their dense populations of stars and mutual gravitational attraction give these clusters a roughly spherical shape. | Photo Credit: ESA/Hubble & NASA, E. Noyola, R.Scientists and engineers took several weeks to check the HST’s control and communication systems before astronomers working at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore could see its first images.

Shortly after launch, the HST’s photos were blurred, later found to be because the telescope’s mirror had been ground to the wrong shape. Ground team members soon came up with a corrective device: a series of smaller mirrors called COSTAR to compensate for the primary mirror’s defect.F. Story Musgrave (foreground) and Jeffrey A. Hoffman are pictured near the end of the first spacewalk in December 1993 to fix the Hubble Space Telescope.F. Story Musgrave (foreground) and Jeffrey A. Hoffman are pictured near the end of the first spacewalk in December 1993 to fix the Hubble Space Telescope. | Photo Credit: NASA

Astronauts launched in 1993 implemented this fix on the HST, by that time in earth orbit. They removed the high-speed photometer to make way for COSTAR, as well as replaced the WFPC with the WFPC 2, among other upgrades.The telescope experienced a similar problem in 1997. The analysis of light is of great importance in space research. Blue light has a shorter wavelength and red light has a longer wavelength. If the frequency of incoming light bluer, it means the light source is moving towards the observer. If the frequency is becoming redder, the object is moving away. The HST’s GHRS and FOS devices, which perform this analysis, worked well until 1997. NASA subsequently replaced them with the Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph that year. This device can analyse frequencies of light from the ultraviolet to the infrared.The telescope’s antenna transmits approximately 150 Gb of data a week. According to NASA, the HST has observed almost 52,000 stellar objects in 1.6 million observations since launch.One of the HST’s most significant achievements was to get scientists the data with which they estimated the universe’s age. Before the telescope came along, astronomers didn’t know if the universe was 10 billion years old or 20 billion. To get the answer, astronomers looked at the Cepheid variable stars — a type of star that pulsed in a steady way, its brightness varying over periods of days or months.Astronomers could determine the distance to such a star using its luminosity and pulsation rate. Based on that measurement, they could then estimate the distances to various other, more distant celestial objects.

Kim Jong Un’s Latest Gift to Russia Is Migrant Workers

A lack of workers ranks among Putin’s biggest problems—one created by the country’s sliding birthrate and exacerbated by the war. Hundreds of thousands of Russians have died in the fighting, according to Western estimates, and countless others have fled the country.The shortfall could swell to 2.4 million by 2030, according to Russia’s Labor Ministry, from 1.5 million today.

Now, North Korean laborers are pouring into Russia, prized by local employers for their low wages and willingness to work 12-hour days without complaint.

North Korea has dispatched around 15,000 workers to Russia, South Korea’s spy agency told lawmakers on Wednesday. Many are believed to have entered the country on student visas. In 2024, the number of North Koreans entering Russia jumped 12-fold from the prior year, according to Moscow figures.For now, they are largely confined to Russia’s Far East, but Russian industry leaders and officials have expressed a hope that more North Korean workers could soon arrive in major cities, including Moscow.The United Nations Security Council bars the use of overseas North Korean migrant workers.

But in recent years, Moscow and Pyongyang have flouted those rules, as well as many others aimed at penalizing Kim for his nuclear-weapons program.

North Korea sent 12,000 soldiers to support Russia’s war on Ukraine last year, South Korean officials say, and an additional 3,000 this year following mass casualties. The soldiers were decisive in Russia’s efforts to expel Ukrainian forces that had occupied a region in southern Russia.Pyongyang is also sending lethal weapons to Russia, including a ballistic missile that Ukraine said killed 12 people and injured almost 90 in Kyiv in late April.The two countries are boosting cross-border trade. Putin even gifted Kim a luxury limousine.

In recent days, Putin hailed Russia’s friendship with North Korea as one “forged on the battlefield.”Even with a dramatic uptick in numbers, North Koreans won’t be able to fill Russia’s labor deficit alone. But the Kim regime can offer significant help in Russia’s Far East, an area border-



ing North Korea that Putin has long envisioned as an industrial base.Russia has sought for years to revive the area, handing out free land to reverse depopulation in a region rich in timber, minerals and oil that has also drawn interest from Chinese investors. The initiative has had limited success.Russia has said it abides by the U.N. restrictions on the Kim regime, while advocating for sanctions on Pyongyang to be relaxed. Putin took aim at the U.N.’s ban on North Korean overseas workers last June, just weeks before he traveled to Pyongyang and struck a mutual-defense pact with Kim.“These are our neighbors,” Putin told state media in Moscow. “We will develop our relations whether people like it or not.”The rise of North Korean workers in Russia summons memories of the past. For decades, Pyongyang sent tens of thousands of laborers who largely worked in construction and logging. The regime pockets more than 90% of workers’ wages, North Korean defectors say, but the remaining salary of between \$100 and \$200 is still a significant sum in a country where people earn just a few dollars a month, they add.When the U.N. ban took effect in late 2019, thousands of the 30,000 North Koreans then working in Russia returned home, dealing a blow to Russia’s migrant workforce.In recent years, Russia has leaned on overseas laborers from former Soviet republics in Central Asia, who earn far more working in Russia and support their home economies through remittances.

After rough start, gold, silver cool off



Precious metals price behaviour turned volatile last month. After initial weakness, precious metals managed to claw their way back during the middle of the month. Comex gold edged past the psychological \$3,500 mark to scale a fresh all-time high of \$3,509 on April 22. The prices have since cooled in the past few days.Hope of a possible de-escalation in the U.S.-China tariff war played a key role in pulling the precious metals to lower levels in the past few days. Comex gold posted a 4.5% gain in April to end the month at \$3,299.2. Comex silver remains a relative underperformer in comparison with gold and lost 5.6% in April to settle at \$32.82.

Mirroring the trend in the global markets, the MCX gold price gained 4.3% to settle at 94,611 per 10-gram at the end of April. Reflecting weakness in international markets, MCX silver too closed 5.8% lower at 96,833 a kg.

As observed last month, the price of precious metals is overextended from the mean and therefore, a cool-off is

likely. Unless Comex gold price crosses above the resistance level at the \$3,400-\$3,410 zone, there is a strong possibility of a slide to the next support zone at \$3,140-\$3,150. The long-term trend, however, remains positive, and the price could resume its uptrend on the completion of the anticipated short-term cool-off.Comex silver price remained weak last month and dropped to a low of \$27.55 on April 7 and managed to recover thereafter. The prices, however, have turned weak in the past few days. The short-term outlook for Comex silver stays weak, and the price could head to the next support zone at \$26-\$26.50. Only a move past \$34.5 would invalidate the short-term negative outlook. From a medium-term perspective, Comex silver price may oscillate in a broad range of \$25-\$35.

MCX gold price moved closer to the psychological ?1,00,000 level in April but receded to lower levels in the past few trading sessions. The short-term outlook for MCX gold is weak, and the price could drop to the next target zone of ?84,500-?85,000. Unless the price moves above ?99,000, there would be a strong case for an easing off to the 86,500-?88,500 zone.As observed last month, the short-term outlook for MCX silver is negative. The price could drop to the immediate support 90,500-91,500 zone. Only a move above ?1,05,000 would trigger further upside momentum.To summarise, precious metal prices are in a cool-off phase and prices could remain subdued in the near term. The long-term trend, however, remains positive.(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. The views and opinions featured in this column are based on the analysis of short-term price movements in gold and silver futures at the COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be trading or investment advice.)

Clean hands, safe lives: how the small act of washing your hands can have a huge impact



Each year on May 5, the world observes World Hand Hygiene Day, reminding us of one of the simplest and most powerful ways to protect our health—washing our hands. In a country like India, where the burden of infectious diseases remains high, hand hygiene is not just a matter of personal cleanliness—it is a critical public health tool.According to a 2023 report by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), healthcare-associated infections affect up to 12% of hospitalised patients in India. Many of these infections are preventable, and a large number are transmitted through unclean hands. In rural health centres and urban hospitals alike, poor hand hygiene is a silent contributor to complications and extended hospital stays.

India has seen improvements in sanitation and hygiene through initiatives like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, but the gap between infrastructure and awareness remains. A UNICEF study from Tamil Nadu found that less than 40% of school-children regularly washed their hands with soap before meals and after using the toilet. This directly contributes to diseases like diarrhoea, which still claims the lives of over 1,00,000 children under five each year in India.This year's theme by the World Health Organization, 'Clean Hands, a Shared Responsibility', holds special relevance here. In India's densely populated settings—be it crowded trains,

local markets, or hospital outpatient departments—transmission risks are high. Clean hands are a shared shield.

In hospitals, the stakes are very high. As a clinical microbiologist, I regularly encounter antibiotic-resistant bacteria—so-called “superbugs”—that thrive when infection control lapses. Studies from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and other leading hospitals reveal that hand hygiene compliance among healthcare workers varies widely, often dropping during night shifts or in high-pressure situations.But the solution doesn't always need high-end technology. It starts with consistent habits. Using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitiser can reduce the transmission of germs by over 50%. Schools, hospitals, and public spaces must ensure easy access to hand washing facilities, while also reinforcing the practice through education and leadership.

We have seen, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, how something as simple as hand hygiene can slow the spread of a virus across communities and States. The lesson is clear: infection prevention starts with our hands.

Hand hygiene is not just a habit; it's a mind-set. It's about understanding that the invisible germs on our fingers can pose real risks—especially to children, the elderly, and those with weak immune systems. Making hand hygiene a routine part of our lives is not just about staying clean—it's about being responsible.

This World Hand Hygiene Day, let us look beyond slogans and take small, meaningful steps. Talk to your children about it. Remind your co-workers. Ask your hospital or clinic if they promote hand hygiene among staff. After all, clean hands aren't just for doctors—they are everyone's responsibility.India has made great strides in public health, but the battle against preventable infections continues. From schoolchildren to surgeons, everyone has a role to play. This World Hand Hygiene Day, let us pledge to take that role seriously. Because the smallest of acts—washing your hands—can have the biggest of impacts.

Demise of foreign aid in India

Indian attitude to official and private foreign aid has always been ambivalent — sometimes welcoming, at other times hostile. With U.S. President Donald Trump's targeting of USAID, the death knell, at least for official aid, seems to have been rung. Other European countries may follow suit, thanks to continuing global conflicts, anti immigration sentiments, and the slowing of economic development in the aid-offering countries. The writing on the wall could not be clearer.In fact, for India, the writing has been clear for several years now, much before Mr. Trump's action. Western aid-giving nations no longer see India as a country needing aid, given its high growth rate, its oft-vaunted claim of becoming the fifth largest economy by 2047, and the prevailing political and religious ideologies within the country.

India sought international aid soon after Independence to assist in its task of catching up with the developed world. Most of the aid went to the government, as it was believed that the government should be the lead change agent. The peak period was from 1955 to 1965, and most of it came from Western nations. Some official development aid also went to private organisations, especially from bilateral aid organisations, for both humanitarian and development needs.

However, official developmental aid has shown an almost constant decline, especially from 1970 onwards. After 1990, Official Development Assistance (ODA), as a proportion of either Gross National Product or public investment, became insignificant partly due to the success of India's growth story.What India seeks now is Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and global cooperation in trade, climate change, and technological developments. Thus, declining official aid is not as great a concern as declining private aid to non-government agencies, though it too will have downsides such as unemployment in aid-giving organisations in both donor and recipient countries, wastage of stockpiled food and medicines, and reduced global collaboration in health and environment.

Private non-government organisations engaged in development work — referred to as NGOs — will be more affected by a decline in aid, both official and private. NGOs not only take up the slack in government provision at the bottom but also hold up a mirror to the truth in governance.While public donations sustained Indian NGOs in the pre-Independence period and for some years afterward, since the 1960s onwards, the two major sources for NGOs in development have come to be government grants and foreign aid. It is only since 2013, when corporate social responsibility contributions became mandatory, that corporate money has become somewhat significant. External aid to NGOs, both from official and private sources, increased continuously, but slowly the amounts received from both have been coming down. Between 2017-18 and 2021-22, NGOs received ?88,8820 million, but though correct estimates of Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) aid



are difficult to get, approximate figures indicate that the amount has gone down considerably.Probable reasonsThe reason for the decline is less about the reluctance of foreign donors and more about the ambivalent attitude of the Indian government towards the receipt of foreign aid by Indian NGOs. While allowing NGOs to accept aid, government regulations have hedged it in with several restrictions since 1976, when the FCRA was passed. Even before the declaration of Emergency in 1975, the “foreign hand” had become a bogey phrase. The government began to blame it for anti-government sentiments and activities. The anti-national activities purportedly holding up development included religious conversions to Christianity or Islam, protests against development projects, and various policies of the government.The FCRA required those receiving or wishing to receive foreign money to register themselves with the Ministry of Home Affairs, and to use the funds strictly according to the rules. This Act and its rules have been amended in 2010, 2011, 2020, 2023, and again in 2024. Each time, the rules have been made more and more stringent, and several NGOs have lost their FCRA registrations.Certain private foreign donors, such as the Soros Foundation and others, have also been actively discouraged. These factors pushing out aid will slowly but surely toll its death knell.While foreign aid may have had some drawbacks, such as bringing in ideas not entirely or always suited to India, it has played a valuable role for NGOs. Where government grants are meagre, not easily available, and lacking the flexibility to meet changing conditions on the ground, foreign aid was more generous and allowed more flexibility in use, opened windows to the world outside in terms of new ideas and practices, and built the capacity of Indian NGOs. It also allowed NGOs to play a valuable watchdog role on abuses by the government or market forces by voicing dissent against policies and actions detrimental to poor and vulnerable constituencies.If foreign aid ceases entirely, not only will there be unemployment in the voluntary sector, but also unfinished projects or shelving of new projects, and a slowing down of social sector development, but more importantly, no correction to government overreach

Smart credit card usage: 6 costly mistakes to avoid



Credit cards help you make high-ticket purchases and, when used responsibly, contribute to building a strong credit profile. However, there are some mistakes which can adversely impact your financial life if not avoided.Withdrawing cashA portion of your credit limit is available as a Cash Limit, which can be used to withdraw cash from an ATM using yur credit card. However, most credit cards impose finance charges on the withdrawn amount from the first day, along with a one-time cash advance fee applicable to every ATM cash withdrawal. Additionally, purchases made after a cash withdrawal typically do not qualify for an interest-free period until the entire outstanding balance is repaid. This can lead to significant charges that may become difficult to pay off, increasing the risk of falling into a debt trap. Therefore, it is strongly advised to avoid withdrawing cash using a credit card unless it is a last resort in case of an emergency. Even if you have to opt for this, you should make sure to repay the amount as soon as possible to minimise additional charges.Overspending on card

Credit cards provide users with a higher purchasing power. Access to more funds, combined with the convenience of an interest-free period, can sometimes lead to impulse purchases. Consistently spending beyond your means can accumulate a high credit card balance, which can potentially spiral into unmanageable debt. This raises the risk of late payments and additional costs in the form of late payment penalties and finance charges on outstanding as well as new transactions. To avoid this, the best approach is to make a monthly budget and stick to it by only spending as much as you can afford to repay at the end of the statement cycle.Minimum due amount

If you cannot clear the total dues on a card by the due date, you can have the option to pay a minimum amount due. While this helps avoid late payment fees and negative impact on your credit score, it comes with a cost. When you pay only the minimum due, as remaining balance, as well as any new transaction made with the card, starts attracting finance charges. Credit card finance charges can be as high as 45% p.a. or even more in certain cases, significantly increasing your debt burden. Making minimum payments for several consecutive months, along with putting new purchases on the card, can quickly lead to a debt spiral. Hence, it is advised to pay the total amount due on your credit card every month. If you cannot afford to clear the dues in full, you should consider EMI conversion or balance transfer on EMI to manage your debt more effectively.

Reward points/benefitsMost credit cards come with their unique reward programmes, cashback offers, and other lifestyle-related benefits. However, some users fail to optimise the benefits largely due to a lack of awareness around card benefits. Choosing the right card for specific purchases is crucial. For example, if you are booking movie tickets, a card that offers movie discounts would be more beneficial than a general rewards card. To maximise savings, you must select a card that complements your lifestyle, actively review the card benefits along with their validity, and understand how to make the most of it.While earning rewards is important, maximising their redemption value is crucial. For example, with an HDFC Regalia Gold credit card, redeeming points for statement credit gives you a value of ?0.20 per point, while redeeming for items in the Gold catalogue or travel bookings can yield a value-back of ?0.65 and ?0.50 a point, respectively. So, if you have 50,000 points, you would get ?10,000 as a statement credit. However, if you choose to redeem against an item from their Gold Catalogue, you could get products worth up to ?32,500—a significantly higher value.Exhausting limitCredit utilisation ratio refers to the ratio of the credit limit you are using to the total limit available to you. If you regularly overspend and maximise your credit cards, this would not only make it difficult to repay your dues in full but also signal the lenders that you might be on thin ice financially and present you as credit hungry. This, in turn, can lower your credit score and negatively impact your chances of approval for other credit products. To maintain a healthy credit score, keep credit utilisation in check by spending within means and spreading your big-ticket purchases over time, whenever possible.

While it may be tempting to apply for multiple credit cards to increase your spending capacity and enjoy diverse benefits, doing so can negatively impact your credit score. Every time you apply for a credit card, a hard inquiry is initiated on your credit report, which can lead to a temporary drop in score. Moreover, managing multiple credit cards can also pose another challenge, as it may be difficult to minimise annual fee and fully utilise each card's benefits. To avoid appearing credit-hungry, it is advisable to carefully assess your need for a new card and maintain at least a six-month gap between applications.A credit card, when used responsibly, can be valuable in building your credit profile, managing cash flow, and earning rewards. However, common mistakes such as overspending, missing payments, mismanaging rewards, etc. can turn it into a financial burden.

India must rethink its Arctic outlook

As conflict zones multiply globally, another frontier is quietly slipping into turmoil — the Arctic. Long seen as a realm of scientific cooperation and environmental protection, the polar north is becoming a theatre of military and geopolitical competition. With Russia more assertive, China expanding its Arctic ambitions, and Washington renewing interest in Greenland, the region appears set for a renewed phase of strategic contestation.In a curious way, the Arctic's movement from the margins of international politics to the heart of great power competition is an outcome of more than just clashing geopolitical ambitions. Climate change has been decisive, opening new maritime corridors and resource frontiers, and spurring a scramble for access. The Northern Sea Route (NSR), once passable only during narrow summer windows, is now virtually an open sea lane. Traffic is rising, potentially redrawing global trade patterns.Alongside this commercial promise lies a more concerning development: the steady militarisation of the high north. With Arctic states reopening old military bases, deploying submarines, and reinforcing claims through visible shows of force, the stakes for control and influence in the region are higher than ever.To be sure, the militarising impulse of Arctic powers is not new. Nor is the tendency to leverage polar presence for wider strategic manoeuvring. United States President Donald Trump was the first to drop pretences when he proposed buying Greenland in 2019. Far from the absurdity many deemed it, the idea had clear geopolitical merit; behind Mr. Trump's theatrics lay a deeper instinct — a recognition that the Arctic was no longer peripheral to global power play, but central to it.For non-Arctic powers such as India, the implications of a militarised Arctic are serious, prompting many to reassess their regional postures. Even so, New Delhi remains curiously insulated from the region's shifting realities. Faced with complex challenges closer to home, India appears oddly impassive to the dangers taking shape in the high north.India's 2022 Arctic Policy offers a thoughtful road map focused on climate science, environmental protection and sustainable development. It draws strength from the parallels between the Arctic and the Himalayan “Third Pole” — anchored in the belief that glacial melt and atmospheric shifts in the far north have cascading effects on South Asia's water security and monsoon cycles.Yet, the policy underplays the Arctic's rapidly evolving strategic landscape. As regional actors pivot from cooperative science to geopolitical contestation, India's restrained posture risks relegating it to the margins. The predisposition to remain apolitical — justifiable in an earlier era — now appears increasingly anachronistic. Besides being absent from conversations reshaping access and governance, India remains detached from the emerging politics of influence in the Far North.This is not to say that India lacks a presence in the Arctic. It operates a research station in Svalbard, contributes to polar expeditions, and holds observer status in the Arctic Council. But these mechanisms were designed for a more benign order — one built



on consensus and mutual trust. With the existing order visibly fraying, scientific diplomacy no longer seems fit-for-purpose.A constructive role for IndiaThe stakes for India are far from hypothetical. As the NSR becomes more viable, trade flows may shift northwards, potentially undercutting the relevance of the Indian Ocean sea lanes. Should Russia and China consolidate control over Arctic sea routes, India's aspirations to be a connectivity hub in the Indo-Pacific — articulated through initiatives such as Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR) and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) — could face serious headwinds.More concerning for New Delhi is the blurring of boundaries between the Arctic and the Indo-Pacific. Growing Russia-China strategic coordination in the Arctic and China's expanding naval presence in the Indian Ocean are making it harder for India to focus solely on its maritime interests in the south. An added challenge is the growing unease among Nordic states over India's long-standing ties with Russia, particularly as Moscow's brazenness in the Ukraine war deepens.India has yet to reassure its Arctic partners that an approach guided by strategic autonomy, rather than alignment, can still be beneficial for all sides.A more purposeful engagementNew Delhi, then, needs a recalibration — one that retains its climate-conscious ethos but builds sharper strategic focus. This calls for a three-part strategy. First, India must institutionalise Arctic engagement beyond science, with dedicated desks in the Foreign and Defence Ministries, regular inter-agency consultations, and collaboration with strategic think tanks. Second, New Delhi should partner with like-minded Arctic states on dual-use initiatives — polar logistics, maritime domain awareness, and satellite monitoring — that enhance India's credibility without raising red flags. Third, India must claim a seat at the table as new Arctic governance forums emerge — on infrastructure, shipping regulation, digital standards, and the blue economy. India must also approach the Arctic's political landscape with sensitivity, avoiding an extractive mindset and engaging local communities with restraint and respect.India's current Arctic posture is not without merit, but it is no longer adequate. It rests on the hope that scientific cooperation and climate diplomacy can smooth over growing geopolitical fault lines.

World Bank ED Parameswaran Iyer to represent India at IMF board



Parameswaran Iyer, Executive Director at the World Bank, has been temporarily entrusted with the responsibility of being India's nominee director on the board of International Monetary Fund (IMF) ahead of a crucial May 9 meeting, sources said. Iyer's nomination was necessitated to fill a vacancy created with the termination of services of K V Subramanian as the executive director at the IMF, six months ahead of his three-year tenure.

The government's decision assumes significance as the IMF Executive Board will meet on May 9, to take a call on a new USD 1.3 billion loan under a climate resilience

loan programme, along with the first review of the ongoing USD 7 billion bailout package for Pakistan. It is to be noted that India is making efforts to corner Pakistan diplomatically and at various global fora as New Delhi believes its involvement in the Pahalgam terror attack that led to killing of 26 tourists last month. According to sources, had India not nominated Iyer, the alternate executive director Harischandra Pahath Kumbure Gedara of Sri Lanka would have discharged duties of ED as per the rules of the Washington-based multilateral funding agency.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has terminated Subramanian's services effective April 30, 2025. The reasons for Subramanian's exit have not been officially announced. According to the sources, Subramanian is learnt to have raised questions about the IMF's datasets, which did not go down well in the corridors of the multilateral agency. In the past too, the IMF has been unhappy with some of the statements made by Subramanian, especially related to India's debt situation. Besides, the sources said, concerns were raised over an "alleged impropriety" relating to the promotion and publicity of his latest book, 'India @ 100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse'. The executive board of the IMF is composed of 25 directors (executive directors or EDs) elected by the member countries or groups of countries.

Govt. high school in Hassan secures 100% results in SSLC examination for eighth consecutive year



The government high school at Attavara in Hassan taluk has set a record by continuously registering 100% results in the SSLC examination for the last eight years. Since the academic year 2017-18, no student of the school has failed in the examination. All 25 students who appeared for the exam earlier this year had passed. While seven of them secured distinction, 14 scored a first-class score. The quality weightage percentage stands at 86.95, which is measured based on the number of students who secured distinction and first-class score.

Since 2017, as many as 210 students have appeared for the SSLC examination, and all of them have passed. The school has been maintaining a good pass percentage because of the activities the teaching faculty began eight years ago. K.P. Narayan, who is now the Block Education Officer of Arakalgud taluk, was the headmaster then. The teachers began to conduct unit tests every month, make house visits, interact with parents regularly, hold parents meetings on the school campus, conduct group studies, take extra classes early in the day and also in the evening, and give away prizes to those who score the highest in the unit tests. Such efforts yielded results.

G.M. Prakash, who teaches English in the school, said,

since 2017, the school has followed certain measures to achieve 100% results. "We have been continuing the same steps all these steps now that has helped us in retaining the same results. Headmaster H.P. Rajashekhar and other staff members have made sincere efforts for the current result", he said. The teachers felt the need to take the parents into confidence and involve them in the efforts. "We regularly meet the parents, and that helps us ensure the students give attention to studies when they are at home. We identified the slow learners at the beginning of the year and gave them extra attention. With the support of parents, we conducted extra classes till late in the evenings," Mr. Ashok said. Lakshmi of Channammaanahalli, who scored the highest mark in the school, 599 marks out of 625, said, "The teachers played a prominent role. They conducted surprise tests to check if we had understood the concepts well, which helped us concentrate on topics that needed more attention," she said. As the school has been maintaining an impressive pass percentage, many parents enroll their children in the school for Class 10. "Normally, some private schools insist that slow learners leave the schools at Class 10. We admit such students and make them clear the examination," Mr. Prakash added.

Fostering intellectual wellness to mitigate cognitive decline in populations

Isn't it comforting to retreat into a quiet space and immerse yourself in a sudoku or crossword puzzle? The mental freedom that comes from getting lost in these activities can feel like a soothing mind massage. But what sets some people apart in their ability to cultivate curiosity and engage their minds? The answer lies in intellectual wellness, which is nurtured through intentional intellectual self-care. The mind-body conundrum persists as a perennially contentious issue, with erudite scholars in the rarefied realms of philosophy, neuroscience, cognitive psychology, and psycho-spirituality endeavouring to explain the labyrinthine relationships between cerebral activity, mental processes, and the corporeal entity. The nuances of this synergy remain woefully under appreciated, necessitating further scrutiny.

The philosopher René Descartes' aphoristic pronouncement, Cogito, ergo sum (I think, therefore I am), has precipitated a plethora of debates centred around the ostensibly arcane concepts of substance dualism, the divisibility argument, and the ostensibly incorporeal nature of the mind. Meanwhile, an increasing corpus of evidence suggests that intellectual wellness demands dedicated attention, analogous to the assiduous care lavished upon physical well-being. Indeed, numerous neuroscientists draw a telling analogy between the cerebral benefits of reading and the physical advantages of regular exercise, likening the former to the salutary effects of a rigorous regimen at a gym.

As technology increasingly permeates every aspect of our lives, our reliance on it grows, often at the expense of our cognitive abilities. With Artificial Intelligence (AI) handling tasks at the press of a button, we're doing less thinking and problem-solving for ourselves. To counterbalance this trend, it's essential to prioritise intellectual self-care, incorporating activities that challenge and engage our minds in daily life. By doing so, we can maintain a healthy brain, foster creativity, and boost confidence.

To weave intellectual self-care into your busy daily routine, try incorporating activities that spark curiosity, such as reading, learning a new language, or taking up a new hobby. Reading literature that challenges your perspectives can be particularly effective in promoting critical thinking and nuanced appraisal. Creative pursuits such as journaling, drawing, or learning to play a musical instrument can also foster self-expression and exploration. Additionally, joining a book club, attending lectures, or participating in fora centred around your interests can surround you with like-minded individuals who value intellectual exploration, providing a stimulating environment that can help spark new ideas and insights. Cultivating discernment in one's technology use can be a pivotal inaugural step in augmenting intellectual wellness. This can be achieved by establishing



screen-free intervals, curtailing social media engagement, and prioritising offline pursuits. In today's frenetic world, procuring time is often the most formidable obstacle to intellectual endeavours. However, even a daily dedication of merely 10 minutes to reading can be more efficacious than none. If accessibility or affordability proves to be an impediment, numerous low-cost online resources, such as free courses or YouTube podcasts, can help. Public libraries also offer an excellent avenue for intellectual stimulation. The prevailing cultural narrative that venerates burnout as a badge of honour often leads individuals to prioritise productivity over intellectual self-care, but it is essential to recognise the value of nurturing one's cognitive faculties.

Intellectual wellness and self-care have been unequivocally linked to a myriad of cognitive benefits, including a diminished risk of dementia and other neurodegenerative disorders. By fostering cognitive reserves through engagement in intellectually stimulating activities, such as literary pursuits, puzzles, and skill acquisition, individuals can potentially safeguard against age-related cognitive decline. Moreover, intellectual self-care can promote neuroplasticity, thereby enabling the brain to adapt and re-organise, in response to age-related changes. The mitigation of cognitive stress, a known contributor to cognitive decline, can also be achieved through intellectual self-care activities, such as meditation and mindfulness, which foster relaxation and reduce anxiety. Furthermore, participation in intellectually stimulating activities can enhance cognitive resilience, protecting against cognitive deterioration, while also promoting cerebral blood flow, a crucial factor in maintaining optimal cognitive function. By incorporating specific intellectual self-care activities into one's routine, individuals can potentially fortify their cognitive health and reduce the risk of neurodegenerative disorders. The Journal of Gerontology published a study that demonstrated the effectiveness of cognitive training programmes for older adults. Participants in the programme showed significant improvements in their daily living activities and cognitive function.

Unhealthy lifestyles may be ageing your heart too fast

New Delhi: Unhealthy lifestyles are dramatically accelerating the ageing of the heart, contributing to a global rise in several cardiovascular diseases, finds a study, led by Indian-origin researchers in the UK. Using a new Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) imaging technique, also known as cardiovascular MRI scan, researchers from the University of East Anglia (UEA) uncovered the "true age" of a heart. The MRI scan revealed how unhealthy lifestyles can dramatically accelerate the heart's functional age. While among healthy people, the heart's age was found to be similar to the chronological age, for patients with diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and atrial fibrillation, the functional heart age was significantly higher. "For example, a 50-year-old with high blood pressure might have a heart that works like it's 55," said lead researcher Dr Pankaj Garg, from UEA's Norwich Medical School and a consultant cardiologist at

the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. "People with health issues like diabetes or obesity often have hearts that are ageing faster than they should – sometimes by decades. So, this could help doctors step in early to stop heart disease in its tracks," he added. The findings could transform how heart disease is diagnosed — offering a lifeline to millions by catching problems before they become deadly, said the researchers who called their cutting-edge technique a "game changer for keeping hearts healthier, longer". "It could also be the wake-up call that people need to take better care of themselves – whether that's eating healthier, exercising more, or following their doctor's advice. It's about giving people a fighting chance against heart disease," Garg said. The team collaborated with hospitals in the UK, Spain, and Singapore and studied MRI scans from 557 people, of which 191 were healthy individuals, while 366 had conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, or obesity.

Bhushan Power saga: Why did Supreme Court reject JSW Steel takeover bid and order liquidation?



The Supreme Court on Friday rejected steel major JSW Steel Ltd's Rs 19,350 crore bid to acquire Bhushan Power and Steel Ltd (BPSL) through the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) route, and ordered the liquidation of the company. While ordering the liquidation, the biggest in the corporate history, a bench of Justice Bela Trivedi and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma lambasted the delay on the part of JSW Steel to implement the resolution plan and said the Committee of Creditors (CoC) failed to exercise its commercial wisdom while approving the Resolution Plan. JSW Steel, controlled by Sajjan Jindal, and lenders are likely to go for appeal against the SC order as both the parties will suffer a setback if liquidation of BPSL is implemented.

The liquidation of BPSL is set to be the biggest in the history of the corporate sector in terms of the size of the debt. Supreme Court of India earlier ordered the liquidation of Jet Airways, a once prominent Indian airline, due to the failure of a resolution plan and the inability of the Jalan-Kalrock Consortium (JKC) to fulfil its financial obligations. While Jet Airways was estimated to have owed its financial creditor around Rs 7,800 crore, a total of around Rs 15,723 crore was admitted as claims by the National Company Law Tribunal when the airline was first grounded in 2019. The number of cases ending in liquidation in FY24 was 2,476 involving total claims of Rs 11 lakh crore, according to Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). However, the liquidation value is just Rs 69,634 crore, just 6.33 per cent of admitted claims.

SC said JSW even after the approval of its plan by the NCLAT, wilfully contravened and not complied with the terms of the said approved Resolution Plan for a period of about two years, which had frustrated the very object and purpose of the IBC, and consequently had vitiated the CIR proceedings of the corporate debtor-BPSL. "In the instant case, JSW did not implement the Resolution Plan for about two years since its approval by the NCLAT, though there was no legal impediment in implementing the same. Such flagrant violation of the terms of the Resolution Plan, has frustrated the very object and purpose of the Code," the Supreme Court said.

After obtaining the approval of its Resolution Plan from CoC by presenting a rosy picture, misguiding the CoC, and defeating the rights of other resolution applicants, JSW did not respect and honour the said commitments, the SC said. On the contrary, it tried its level best to delay the implementation of the Resolution Plan without any cogent reason or justification, the order said. Though the said plan was got approved from the NCLT by the Resolution Professional (who was overseeing the resolution process) without confirming the compliance of Section 30(2) and the Regulations 38 and 39, JSW instead of complying with the terms and clauses of the approved Resolution Plan filed the company appeal before the NCLAT, just to delay the implementation of the Plan, the order said. "This is nothing but a misuse of process of law and a fraud committed by JSW with the CoC and other stakeholders," the order said.

According to SC, it is pertinent to note that though all throughout from the date of order passed by the NCLT till March, 2021, the stand of the JSW evidenced through an affidavit was that it was not obliged to implement the plan because of the pendency of these appeals. However, JSW played smart by making part payment to the financial creditors in March, 2021, realising the beneficial market trend of the steel, it said. It also surreptitiously got the effective date extended to March 31, 2021 from the so-called core group of CoC, which had already become functus officio and which had no authority to extend the said effective date, the court said. The net result is that the upfront payments as agreed to be made in the Resolution Plan within 30 days of the approval of the plan by NCLT was delayed by 540 days in respect of payment to the financial creditors and by 900 days in respect of payment to the Operational Creditors. "The equity commitment as per clause 2.3 of the Resolution Plan with regard to the infusion of equity into the company for an amount aggregating Rs 8,550 crore, to be infused upfront on the effective date, was also not complied with by JSW," the order said.

The Supreme Court said the Committee of Lenders (CoC) had failed to exercise its commercial wisdom while approving the Resolution Plan of the JSW, which was in absolute contravention of the mandatory provisions of IBC and CIRP Regulations. The CoC also had failed to protect the interest of the creditors by taking contradictory stands before the court, and accepting the payments from JSW without any demurer, and supporting JSW to implement its ill-motivated plan against the interest of the creditors, SC

said. The Resolution Professional (RP) had utterly failed to discharge his statutory duties contemplated under the IBC and the CIRP Regulations during the course of entire CIR proceedings of the corporate debtor (BPSL), SC said. "Just as the Resolution Professional had failed to examine and confirm the compliance of mandatory provisions of the Code, to secure the interests of all the stakeholders involved in the process, the CoC also did not discharge its duty to carefully examine the feasibility and viability of the plan, and the capacity and resources of the Resolution Applicant-JSW for the implementation of the plan proposed by it," SC said. There was a dishonest and fraudulent attempt made by JSW, misusing the process of the court by not making the upfront payments as committed by it for about two and a half years and thereby enriching itself unjustly, and thereafter considering the rising prices of steel in the market, JSW sought to comply with the terms of Resolution Plan at a very belated stage, in collusion with the CoC and the Resolution Professional, SC said. BPSL which came under the JSW fold in 2021 has been contributing to JSW's revenue and profit. The BPSL plant made a profit of Rs 11 crore in third quarter of FY25, loss of Rs 93 crore in Q2 of FY25 and a profit of Rs 300 crore in Q1. JSW is likely to face a decline of around 8-10 per cent in EBITDA (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) and revenue for FY26 if BPSL is liquidated, said an analyst.

Further, JSW will have to recover Rs 19,300 crore given to the lenders if the liquidation is implemented. BPSL had expanded (Phase-II) of its plant from 3.5 MTPA to 5 MTPA. BPSL is a leading manufacturer of flat and long products and has state-of-the-art plants at Chandigarh, Derabassi, Kolkata and Odisha in India. Liquidation means end of the road for BPSL. When BPSL is liquidated, its assets are sold to settle debts, often at distressed prices, leaving less money for banks. This could result in significant losses for lenders, who have already taken a huge haircut. The unwinding of this transaction is expected to have far-reaching consequences for the banking sector and IBC cases.

However, JSW Steel and lenders are likely to go for an appeal against the SC order on liquidation, banking sources said. The court battle is expected to continue as JSW and lenders have odds stacked against them. "We are yet to receive the formal copy of the order to understand the grounds for rejection in detail and its implications. Once we receive the order and are able to review the same along with our legal advisors, we will decide on our further course of action," JSW Steel said in a stock exchange filing on Friday. A senior bank official with a nationalised bank said banks are studying the SC order. "There could be some appeals against the SC verdict. There's a possibility that JSW might also appeal against the order," he said.

Bhushan Power, which was the top bank defaulter listed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which went through the insolvency process under IBC, was acquired by JSW Steel after a four-year long process. The petition filed by the Punjab National Bank (PNB) against the company was admitted on July 26, 2017 and CIRP was initiated. It took 771 days to complete the resolution process, with JSW steel Limited becoming the successful resolution applicant, as National company law tribunal (NCLT) approved the resolution plan on September 5, 2019 and the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) upheld JSW's resolution plan. After a two-year delay, JSW finally acquired BPSL in March 2021 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy code. According to the resolution plan, the financial creditors were to be paid upfront a sum of Rs 19,350 crore on pro-rata basis against the admitted claims of Rs 47,157.99 crore. Accordingly, the resolution plan provided for a recovery of Rs 41.03 per cent to the financial creditors. As far as operational creditors are concerned, the resolution plan provided for the payment of 47.69 per cent of their admitted claims of Rs 621 crore. No claims were received from workmen/employees and other creditors.

Airtel's B2B arm launches 'Business Name Display' solution for enterprises

New Delhi: Bharti Airtel's B2B arm on Monday announced the launch of 'Business Name Display' (BND), a solution that would enable enterprises to display their brand name on the recipient's mobile screen during outgoing calls. The solution was piloted with over 250 businesses across sectors, including banking, retail, food delivery, mobility, Quick commerce, courier and logistics. These businesses used 1.5 million-plus phone numbers to make 12.8 million calls in the last 30 days, leading to a marked increase in customer engagement, Airtel said in a release. "Airtel Business today announced the launch of 'Business Name Display' (BND), an industry-first solution designed to enhance customer engagement for enterprises," the release said. The service enables businesses to display their brand name on the recipient's mobile screen during outgoing calls, a process that Airtel says would foster trust and help customers distinguish legitimate business calls from spam.

If PSG beat Inter, coach Luis Enrique will recreate this ritual in memory of deceased daughter Xana who passed away from cancer



GNS News Agency, May 9

The complex, brilliant and demanding coach of Paris Saint-Germain, Luis Enrique, who turned 55 on Thursday, wants to relive a poignant moment from the past in the memory if his daughter, Xana. It is a quiet, added motivation for PSG when they taken Inter Milan in the final of the UEFA Champions League on May 32.At age 9, Xana passed away after as a result of osteosarcoma, a type of cancer that attacks the bones and particularly affects children. Argentine publication Clarin while rooting for their man Lautaro Martínez who will wear blue and black of Inter, said that "it will be very difficult not to root a little for Luis Enrique, the coach who moved the world."

Enrique, known as 'Lucho' in Spanish international media, is admired worldwide for his poised courage when dealing with the tragedy that struck his young family with Xana's illness. Clarin says the Asturian coach managed to overcome his grief in 2019 by showing extraordinary and moving strength. Back when Xana was detected, Lucho stepped away from the national team for a while "for family reasons".In his autobiographical miniseries "You Have No F... Idea", produced in Spain and currently playing on Prime Video, Lucho has looked back on the tough times around the death of his 9-year-old daughter.He was already a champion with Messi's Barcelona in 2015, and while seeking glory in Paris against Inter, he declared with a smile, that should PSG win in Munich, he will repeat the ritual from Barca win for his daughter."I have incredible memories, because my daughter loved parties, and I'm sure she's still having them wherever she is," he was quoted by Clarin. He continued: "I remember an incredible photo I have with her at the Champions League final in Berlin, after winning the Champions League in 2015, planting a Barcelona flag on the pitch. I wish I could do the same with PSG," he added.Barca of 2015 was the legendary MSN-era, of Messi, Suárez , and Neymar, who won everything they played in the 2015 season. Winning with PSG, no longer a side of Galacticos after Messi, Neymar and Mbappe left, but coherent with Donnarumma, Dembele and Fabi Ruiz, will also be an opportunity to pay tribute to his daughter.

Luis Enrique Martínez García, known and adopted by the football world as Luis Enrique, is described by Clarin as "a warrior on the pitch, as well as a fierce goalscorer, de-

spite the fact that he stood out playing in the midfield with the shirts of Barcelona, ??Real Madrid and the Spanish national team , the only three he wore as a player, in addition to that of Gijón, his city. That imprint carried over into his career as a coach, and it is clear that it also guides his life."After eliminating Arsenal 3-1 aggregate by winning both matches in the semi-finals, Lucho hasa chance to become European champion again. Lucho also coached Qatar at the World Cup and surprised fans by running marathons and triathlons when he was considered the best coach in the world, as per Clarin.Having played in three World Cups in the 1990s he went to Qatar 2022 as a coach, where he was known for his bike rides. His live streams gained a huge following for elucidating on his adventure in the Middle East, in a relaxed and cheerful manner despite the fact that he had to analyze his team's inconsistent campaign, losingbin pre quarters.In the miniseries "You Have No F... Idea", Lucho looks back at Xana's death: "I consider myself lucky, I am very lucky. My daughter came to live with us for nine wonderful years," he expressed.

"We have a thousand memories of her, videos, incredible things. My mother couldn't have photos of Xana. Until I came home and said to her, 'Why aren't there any photos of Xana, Mom?'"Mom, you have to put up photos of Xana, Xana is alive," I replied," he recounts in his miniseries. "She's not here physically, but she is here spiritually. Because every day we talk about her, we laugh and remember her. Because I think Xana still sees us. How do I want Xana to think that we lived through this..."?Lucho's time with PSG has been memorable beyond the persistetsuccess in Europe. His press conferences have endeared him to Parisians. In the first, he tried to learn French and mocked his difficulties, Clarin writes. Recently, he congratulated a journalist who was doing an internship for the question she had asked him. And in another moment, he spoke about a topic that is natural and everyday for him but that leaves a lump in his throat: his memory of Xana."My daughter won't be there, she won't be there physically, but she'll be there spiritually, and that's very important to me. I'm motivated to continue moving forward with what life gives me, sharing it with my family," the Spaniard said recently.Lucho, with his wife, Elena Cullel, and his two oldest children, Pacho and Sira, has committed himself to the fight against cancer and decided to create the "Xana Foundation" in March 2024. Its main objective is to offer comprehensive care and support to children and young people affected by serious illnesses and to provide support to their families. In addition, it has its own programs and collaborates with and funds external projects related to the cause.On his Twitch channel, Clarin quoted him as saying, "The Xana Foundation was created with the purpose of helping all those people who, unfortunately, go through these experiences and do not have the resources to support their children. In our case, we were lucky enough to be able to leave our jobs and dedicate ourselves 100% to Xana in her process. We want to help these families and accompany them."

Xabi Alonso confirms he'll leave Bayer Leverkusen at the end of the season

GNS News Agency, May 9

Xabi Alonso Bayer Leverkusen Leverkusen's head coach Xabi Alonso gives instructions from the side line during the German Bundesliga soccer match between Bayer Leverkusen and Union Berlin at the BayArena in Leverkusen, Germany, on April 12, 2025. Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso on Friday confirmed that he is set to leave the German club at the end of the season. "We can let you know that this week the club and I, we have agreed that these two games are going to be my last two games as a Bayer Leverkusen coach," Alonso told reporters.

The 43-year-old's stock has soared after guiding Leverkusen to their first-ever Bundesliga title without a single loss, along with the German Cup in his first full season with the club last year. This season, Bayer is on course to finishing second in the league after Bayern Munich, who clinched the title last week."I owe great thanks to Bayer 04 Leverkusen, my players and staff, all the employees of the club and last but not least the fantastic fans. Our success was the result of an outstanding team performance," he was quoted in an official release by the club.

"This club, who showed exceptional trust in me, very much deserved to win the German league title for the first time. My thanks and admiration go to everybody who helped to make this triumph happen including the DFB Pokal win



in Berlin. Bayer 04 are ready for the future. The positive path will continue and I will be excited to follow it," he added.Alonso, a Champions League winner with Real and a World Cup hero with Spain, began his coaching journey with Real Madrid's youth teams before rising through the ranks at Real Sociedad B. Since taking over a struggling Leverkusen side in October 2022, he's transformed them into one of Europe's most feared outfits, losing just once in 53 matches last season.There have been recent rumours that the Spaniard could succeed Carlo Ancelotti as the next coach of Real Madrid. The Spanish giants have already been eliminated from the Champions League this season while they are now in a close La Liga title race against Barcelona.

Liverpool manager Arne Slot asks fans not to show any negativity towards the departing Trent Alexander Arnold

GNS News Agency, May 9

Trent Alexander Arnold LiverpoolLiverpool's Trent Alexander-Arnold celebrates after winning the English Premier League soccer match between Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur and clinching the Premier League title at Anfield in Liverpool, England, Sunday, April 27, 2025.With right-back Trent Alexander set to leave the club after the end of the current season, Liverpool manager Arne Slot urged the fans to not show any negative reactions towards the players when he takes to the field against second-placed Arsenal in the weekend. This will be the England international's first appearance in front of fans after he announced his intention to leave the club earlier this week.

"I think we are all disappointed but Trent is the first one also who said that he would prefer us as a team and us as a club not to be too much distracted by this announcement. So I am hoping that all the energy on Sunday goes to the players and to the support of our fans and as less as possible to Trent. Unless it is positive and then they can do whatever they want," Slot said on Friday.

The manager also said that Conor Bradley is likely to start ahead of Trent on Sunday while also refused to comment on the possibility of the player heading to Real Madrid — his widely reported next destination — ahead of the Club World Cup starting in mid-June."Do you know where he is



going?" Slot said with a smile. "He hasn't said anything about it himself — the only thing he has said is that he's going to leave the club. For me it's impossible to comment on where he is going and if that is a club that's going to play in the Club World Cup — you see on my smile that we both know where he is going to but it hasn't been said yet — so that's impossible for me to comment on," he said.In the video announcing his departure, Alexander Arnold acknowledged his decision to leave will "anger" some Liverpool supporters, who might feel unhappy he has run down his contract and not allowed the club to get any money for one of its star assets.

South Africa appoint Shukri Conrad as all-format coach



GNS News Agency, May 9

South Africa Ricky Ponting new Zealand Champions trophySouth Africa's Wiaan Mulder, left, celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of England's Adil Rashid during the ICC Champions Trophy cricket match between England and South Africa, in Karachi, Pakistan Saturday, March 1, 2025. South Africa on Friday announced the appointment of Shukri Conrad as their all format coach after the former player guided them to the 2025 World Test Championship final, scheduled to take place at June 11-15 at Lords against Australia. Conrad will take charge of the Proteas white ball teams until the 2027 ICC 50-over World Cup, Cricket South Africa stated.

'The body will adapt and take its own time': Mayank Yadav on his dropped pace post injury



GNS News Agency, May 9

Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) ace pacer Mayank Yadav returned to action in the Indian Premier League 2025 after recovering from a lower back injury, which kept him away for more than six months. He made his comeback against Mumbai Indians and picked two wickets — big scalps of Rohit Sharma and MI skipper Hardik Pandya — in his first game. However, the speed merchant has lost significant pace and has been quite expensive in the two outings he has had in this IPL.But, the Delhi pacer believes that the drop in his speeds after returning from an injury layoff "is normal", and said that he needs to give his body time to return to the same match intensity and fitness standards.

"This is normal. I had a major injury because of which I was out of cricket for five to six months. The body will

Yashasvi Jaiswal does a U-turn, wants to continue playing for Mumbai

GNS News Agency, May 9

A month after opening batsman Yashasvi Jaiswal asked for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to switch from Mumbai to Goa, the Indian opener took a U-turn.The 23-year-old has now written an email to the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) to withdraw his NOC and said he is available to represent Mumbai for the next domestic season."I the undersigned would request your goodself to consider my request in withdrawing my NOC given to me as I had some family plans in shifting to Goa which for now has been curtailed ! So I sincerely request MCA to allow me to play for Mumbai this season ! I have not submitted the NOC to BCCI nor to Goa Cricket Association," Jaiswal wrote in email to MCA, assessed by In April, Jaiswal had taken MCA officials by surprise when he sought an NOC to move to Goa. Jaiswal had cited personal reasons behind the reason to shift base. Goa had qualified for the knock-out stage of the Ranji Trophy. If Jaiswal had gone ahead with his plan to represent Goa, he would have followed the likes of Arjun Tendulkar and Siddhesh Lad, this generation Mumbai players who have also represented Goa.

The India opener, who has had a splendid start to his Test career and was the best Indian batsman during the last Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia with a hundred and two half-centuries, said getting a leadership role with Goa was the reason for making the switch.



"Goa has thrown me a new opportunity and has offered me a leadership role. My first goal will be to do well for India and whenever I'm not on national duty, I will be playing for Goa and try to make them go deep into the tournament. This was an (important) opportunity which came my way and I just took it," Jaiswal had told The Indian Express.Jaiswal had moved from Suriyawan in Uttar Pradesh's Bhadohi to Mumbai at the age of 11 to pursue cricket. He has represented India since his Under-19 days and burst onto the scene with a double century in the Vijay Hazare Trophy a few seasons ago. It was his exploits for Mumbai that got him on the national selectors' radar and a contract with the Rajasthan Royals in the IPL.

'It's hard to describe what it's like to be manager of Man Utd': Manchester boss Ruben Amorim after reaching Europa League final

GNS News Agency, May 9

Manchester United thrashed Athletic Bilbao 4-1 at Old Trafford in Manchester on Thursday to set up a final clash against another Premier League club, Tottenham Hotspur, in the Europa League. For Man Utd or Tottenham, a miserable campaign will end in Europa League glory.

Despite both teams languishing in the bottom half of the Premier League, the Champions League is now just one game away. However, United manager Ruben Amorim believes nothing less than a silverware matters for them, "If we don't win the final, it means nothing for us," said Amorim after the match."It's hard to describe what it's like to be manager of this club. You want to give them (the fans) something, because we've been so disappointing in the Premier League." United came back 1-0 behind at halftime against Bilbao, with Mason Mount coming off the bench to score twice after the break. Casemiro and Rasmus Hojlund were also on target. They beat Bilbao 7-1 on aggregate, while Tottenham won 2-0 away at Bodo/Glimt to seal a 5-1 aggregate victory.This also sets up an all-English Europa League final for the second time in six years after Chelsea



beat Arsenal to lift the trophy in 2019.United sit 15th in the standings, having lost a club record 16 games in the Premier League. It is also certain to record its worst-ever points total in the modern era, as well as its lowest finish. In head-to-head, Spurs won all three of the previous encounters — twice in the league and also in the English League Cup."We are struggling, both of us, so I don't know what is going to happen," Amorim said on the final vs Spurs. "

Zeenat Aman calls marrying Mazhar Khan a mistake, read about his affair while pregnant with first child: ‘I was close to nervous breakdown’



Actor Zeenat Aman is all set to return to our screens with *The Royals*. The veteran actor, thanks to her solid body of work and a very active Instagram account, has a fan following among the audience of today. She often shares anecdotes from her life, both good and bad, that shaped her into the person she is today. Zeenat married Mazhar Khan in 1985 in a discreet ceremony in Singapore, against the advice of her mother. "It's true that I broke her heart a little when I eloped, but it mended with the birth of my first son, who shares a birthday with her," Zeenat had said about her wedding and how it impacted her relationship with her mother. Zeenat Aman revealed husband Mazhar Khan Zeenat Aman with her husband Mazhar Khan. However, she soon realised that she had made a mistake but since I had made the decision against everybody's will, I decided to make it work. I'm not necessarily saying that it was the best thing for him either. It was a difficult time since the first year because I was pregnant with my first child and Mazhar was not there. There was a big article in *Stardust* magazine at that time about the woman that Mazhar was seeing. It's reality." Mazhar was an actor-producer who is known for films such as *Shaan* and *Bombay Fantasy*. He found fame

with his character Abdul in *Shaan*. "As soon as my son was born, I wanted out and we discussed it but I thought my child deserved a chance and I stayed. But I didn't just stay, I did everything possible to make it work. I thought about getting back to work when my younger son was 5 years old but right before that Mazhar fell grievously ill. I spent 5 years battling for his health and his life and they were very difficult years," she said. Mazhar's ill-health improved with time but he had become addicted to prescription drugs and died of kidney failure eventually. Talking about how she did everything to ensure Mazhar became better, Zeenat said, "I tried everything under the sun. We were in and out of every hospital in Mumbai. I learned how to give injections, to do dressing. He was living with a bag outside his body for 18 months, I learned how to change that bag. I did everything there was to do. I flew overseas and found the best doctor. When that thing was over and the problem was sorted, it had taken a toll on me. I was very close to a nervous breakdown." It was his drug addiction that forced Zeenat to maintain distance. "He had stopped helping himself and was inflicting further damage on himself and I couldn't stay there and watch him do that. He was taking seven painkillers a day. At the end, his kidneys did pack up and this was after I had opted out. When I left, I still cared. I have no guilt because I am sure 99 percent women wouldn't have lasted as long and as honestly as I did."

Indian Idol 12 winner Pawandeep Rajan critically injured in road accident, Uttarakhand CM shares news

Indian Idol 12 winner Pawandeep Rajan has been seriously injured in a road accident that took place in Amroha, Uttar Pradesh. According to a report in *India Today*, the accident occurred during the early hours of Monday, around 3 am. The singer was first admitted to a nearby private hospital but was later referred to a hospital in Noida due to the seriousness of his injuries. Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami also tweeted about the singer, "Received the news of famous singer Pawandeep Rajan getting injured in a road accident. I pray to God for his speedy recovery." Pawandeep hails from Uttarakhand. The accident took place on National Highway 9, near the CO office of Gajraula police station. The station's in-charge, Akhilesh Pradhan, told the publication that they reached the location of the accident immediately after receiving the information. They quickly acted and took the singer to a nearby private hospital for initial treatment. However, due to the severity of his condition, he was referred to a private hospital in Noida, where his family took him for further treatment. It is also reported that Pawandeep was on his way to Delhi from Champawat, Uttarakhand, to attend a programme. The police official further revealed that the singer's car, an MG Hector, collided with a parked truck, an Eicher Canter, from behind. It is being speculated that the driver of Pawandeep's car may have fallen asleep, which could have caused the vehicle to lose balance and crash. Pawandeep, along with two other passengers, sustained



serious injuries. The matter is currently under investigation, and the condition of all the injured individuals is being closely monitored. Pawandeep Rajan first came into the limelight after participating in the singing reality show *The Voice of India* in 2015. After winning the trophy, he later took part in *Indian Idol 12*, where he once again emerged as the winner. He bagged the *Indian Idol 12* trophy, along with a car and prize money of ₹25 lakh as part of his winnings.

Adnan Sami's Pakistani fans told him they want to change citizenship as they 'hate their army': 'You left in good time'

Adnan Sami claimed that some of his Pakistani fans recently asked him how they could follow a similar path that he took and change their nationality, citing their disillusionment with their army. Renowned singer-composer Adnan Sami previously held both Pakistani and Canadian citizenship. (Credit: Facebook/@AdnanSamiLive) Amid the growing unrest between India and Pakistan that commenced with the Pahalagam terror attack on April 22, renowned singer-composer Adnan Sami recently made an explosive comment that some of his fans from the neighbouring country told him that he discarded his Pakistani citizenship "in good time". He even claimed that they shared with him a desire to change their nationality, citing disillusionment with their army.

Sami wrote on X (formerly Twitter), "Met some very sweet Pakistani boys while walking on the beautiful streets of Baku, Azerbaijan. They said, 'Sir, you are very lucky... You left Pakistan in good time... We also want to change our citizenship... WE HATE OUR ARMY... They have destroyed our country!!' I replied, 'I knew this long ago!'" For the unversed, Adnan Sami was born in England and previously held both Pakistani and Canadian citizenship. He moved to India in 2001 and was granted citizenship in 2016.

Recently, Adnan Sami had also locked horns with former Pakistan minister Fawad Ahmed Hussain Chaudhry on social media for questioning his stay in India amid the central government's crackdown on Pakistani nationals here. Following the Pahalagam terror attack, the government had announced the suspension of visa services to Paki-



stani nationals and directed states to identify people under 14 visa categories and ensure their prompt return to Pakistan. "What about Adnan Sami?" Fawad asked on X while sharing a tweet regarding the Centre's move. Adnan hit back, saying, "Who's going to tell this illiterate idiot!!" Fawad further mocked his weight loss, noting, "Our very Own Lahori Adnan Sami aisay lag rahay hein jaisey Baloon se hawa nikal chuki hooo... get well soon (Our very own Lahori Adnan Sami looks like a deflated balloon, get well soon)." In response, Adnan wrote, "Even that you didn't get right you dumb Ass... My roots are from Peshawar- Not Lahore!! To think that you were Minister of (Mis) Information and have no knowledge about any information!!!! Meri tho hawa nikal gae- Tu abhi bhi Balloon hai! And you were Minister of Science?..."

Sonu Nigam says 'I am 51, won't take humiliation from anyone' after Kannada song controversy: 'I am entitled to take offence, school them'

Singer Sonu Nigam recently made headlines after a video of him from a recent concert in Bengaluru went viral. In the video, the 51-year-old singer can be seen schooling a student who reportedly rudely demanded the singer to sing in the local language. The video also attracted an FIR against the singer as he compared the student's hate to the incident that took place in Pahalagam. Now, Sonu Nigam has shared a long note, claiming he is not a young lad to take humiliation from anyone. Standing by his decision to school the student, Sonu said he will co-operate with Karnataka Police in the ongoing investigation against his remarks at the event.

Taking to his Instagram, Sonu penned a long note. He wrote, "I have given unprecedented love to the language, the culture, the music, the musicians, the state and the people not just when I am in Karnataka but anywhere else in the world. Infact I have revered my Kannada songs way more than my songs in other languages including Hindi. There are 100s of videos circulating on social media as a testimony. I have more than hour of Kannada songs that I prepare for every concert when in Karnataka."

He added, "However, I am not a young lad to take humiliation from anyone. I am 51 years old, in the second half of my life and am entitled to take offence for someone as young as my son threatening me directly in front of thousands in the name of language that too Kannada which is my second language when it comes to my work. That too right after my first song of the concert!" The singer shared this behaviour by the young student provoked others too who joined him in demanding songs in Kannada. "Their own people were embarrassed and were asking them to shut up. I told them very politely and lovingly the show has just started, it's my first song and that I will not let them down, but they have to let me continue with the concert the way I have planned. Every artiste has a song list prepared so the musicians and technicians are in sync. But they were hell bent on creating ruckus and threatening me wildly. Tell me who is at fault?" Sonu explained, "Being a patriot that I am, I loathe anyone trying to create hate in the name of language, caste or religion especially after what transpired in Pahalagam. I had to school them, and I did, and thousands of students and teachers cheered me for it. The matter got over and I sang Kannada for more than an hour. It's all there on social media." He concluded his post by showing trust in the people and police of Karnataka. He wrote, "I leave it upto the sensible people of Karnataka to decide who is at fault here. I will accept your verdict gracefully. I fully respect and trust the law agencies and Police of Karnataka and will comply with whatever is expected from me. I have received divine love from Karnataka and will cherish it always with no malice whatsoever irrespective of your verdict."

This note of Sonu Nigam attracted several reactions of his fans, who flooded the comment section with support-



ive messages. A fan wrote, "We support you Sonu Sir, you're an irreplaceable asset to the nation." Another user wrote, "We love you and respect you so much and always with you no matter what!"

What is the controversy about?

Sonu Nigam landed in legal trouble after a video of him from his concert in Bengaluru went viral. An FIR was filed against the playback singer in Karnataka's Avalahalli Police, who have issued a notice to the singer, asking him to appear for questioning. Sonu Nigam's video is from his concert in Bengaluru's East Point College. In the video, the singer can be seen schooling a student who allegedly screamed at him, demanding a song in Kannada. Post the incident, the singer paused his show to address the crowd. He said, "In my career, I have sung in multiple languages but the best songs that I have ever sung is in the Kannada language. Whenever I come to your city, I come with lots of love. We do a lot of shows in a lot of places, but whenever we have shows in Karnataka we come with a lot of respect for you. You have treated me like your family, but I didn't like when the boy there, who is not even as old as my career, is rudely threatening me to sing in Kannada." He added, "This is the reason behind the incident in Pahalagam. Please see who is standing before you. I love you guys. I do so many shows across the world where thousands of people gather, and every time I hear even a single person shouting 'Kannada', I make sure to sing at least one line in Kannada for them. That's how much I love and respect all of you. So please be kind." Sonu Nigam has sung several songs in Kannada including the iconic "Munnaru Maleye" starring Golden star Ganesh and in Puneeth Rajkumar-starrer *Ninnindale*.

'What's wrong with my wife being more famous, successful?' asks Parmeet Sethi: 'Archana Puran Singh is the judge of the biggest Indian show'



In an exclusive conversation with **SCREEN**, Parmeet also recalled the time when he was better known than his wife for his roles in *DDLJ* and *Dastaan*.

Back in 1995, Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol became everyone's favourite after the release of Aditya Chopra's *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jaayenge*. While Raj and Simran became a household name, so did the character of Kuljeet, played by actor Parmeet Sethi. The romantic drama marked his acting debut with him playing Kajol's arrogant fiancé in the film. Over the years, Parmeet took a backseat as an actor, and people eventually forgot his name. Meanwhile, his wife, Archana Puran Singh gained immense fame through her appearance as a judge on reality shows like *Comedy Circus* and *The Kapil Sharma show*. Her laughter became her identity. With Archana being more famous among her audience, Parmeet recently shared if it ever bothers him with his sons often joking about him being recognised as Archana's husband in their vlogs.

In an exclusive conversation with **SCREEN**, Parmeet said he finds the comparison between him and his wife "extremely funny". He said, "You need to understand the public. I at least have the understanding that the person who is working more, seen more, is eventually recognised more. That is a given. Archana is the judge of India's biggest show

(*The Great Indian Kapil Show*). So it's obvious that people will know her more." He recalled the time when he was better known than his wife. "There was also a time when I did shows and films like *Dastaan* and *DDLJ*, when people knew me, would spot me and be like, 'Arey yaar, yeh toh Parmeet Sethi hai, Kuljeet hai yeh toh'. At that time, Archana was a little bit in the background because at that point in time she was less active as an actor. These ups and downs are very normal. If today, I decide to get into daily soaps, I will reach every Indian household and people will know me by face and name." Parmeet said he took a conscious decision of leaving the screen and going behind the cameras as it is something he enjoys more than acting. "I am not very obsessed with wanting to be recognised and known by others. I mostly enjoy writing and directing, so these things don't really matter to me. I laugh at it. I take it very lightly, hence we joke about it. Also, what is the problem in my wife being more famous and successful than me? It is a great thing. What's wrong in this? Archana and I don't have anything such in between us. We enjoy ourselves and we have that understanding."