

INDIAN CHRONICLE

10 April, 2026 | Friday | Volume No:14 | Issue No:53

Pages: 12+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

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Amulya Balmuri crowned Miss Telugu USA 2026 in grand finale

Hyderabad: Amulya Balmuri, daughter of B Srinivas Rao (Retd. I&CAD Department) and B Rama, has been crowned Miss Telugu USA 2026. Currently residing in Dallas, Texas, Amulya hails from Chityalapally village, Karimnagar, with her parents residing in Alwal, Hyderabad. Geographic Reference

Beginning her academic journey with an IT background from Bhojreddy Engineering College, Amulya went on to complete her Master's degree and is now forging a successful path in investment banking at Goldman Sachs. Driven by a passion for writing, she publishes her stories online and has garnered a global readership of over 90,000.

Hyderabad court sentences man to 20 years in rape case

Hyderabad: A local court on Thursday sentenced a man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in a rape and criminal intimidation case involving a woman reported in Mailardevpally in 2018. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 5,100 on him. The convict, identified as S Mahender of Mailardevpally, entered the victim's house on the pretext of asking for food when she was alone, overpowered her and raped her. He further threatened to kill her if she disclosed it to anyone.



PM Modi's video appeal: Women should urge parties to pass 33% quota for 2029 Lok Sabha elections

New Delhi, April 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday issued a video appeal to all parties to pass amendments to current laws that will allow 33 per cent women's reservation to roll out in the country by the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

Directly addressing 'mothers', 'daughters' and women in general, the Prime Minister said India had decided that in 2047, when the country marks the centenary of its birth, the country would be a developed nation.

"My experiences as the head of the government for all these years shows that if we want to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat, we have to help women realise their full potential and deploy this potential for powering the national mainstream," Modi said.

He recalled the 2023 Nari Shakti Vandan Adhinyam — the Constitution 128th Amendment Act — which reserved 33 per cent seats in Lok Sabha and state assemblies for women and said this crucial agenda was passed with consensus.

"Now everyone wants that when the 2029 elections are held, our women must get 33 per cent space in Lok Sabha and state assemblies. For some days, we have been talking to political parties. Many parties have supported our move. A positive atmosphere is visible. Women should appeal to all parties to pass the 'women's reservation by 2029' agenda when their MPs attend the Budget Session scheduled from April 16 to 18," the PM said as the ruling BJP looked to transform women's reservation into a national campaign.

Assam Records More Than 84 per cent Polling

Guwahati, April 9: Amid the overcast skies and intermittent rains, more than 84 percent people came out on Thursday to exercise their franchise in the assembly election in Assam.

The office of the chief electoral officer Assam said that they have recorded 84.42 percent votes till 5 pm but there were reports of a large number of voters standing outside the polling booths at 5 pm. Informing that all those voters standing in the line by 5 pm, will be allowed to cast their votes, officials said that overall poll percentage would go up.

The ruling BJP is aiming for a third consecutive term, while the Congress seeks to wrest power after being ousted in 2016. The polling for 126 seats was held in Assam where over 2.50 crore electors were eligible to exercise their franchise with 722 candidates in the fray. The BJP-led NDA is seeking a third consecutive term. The Congress-led alliance includes Asom Jatiya parishad, Rajior Dal and CPI(M).

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, accompanied by his wife Riniki Bhuyan Sarma and their two children, Nandil and Sukanya exercised their franchise at No. 15 Garal Buniyadi Lower Primary School. Mr Sarma, the BJP candidate from Jalukbari, is seeking re-election from the seat for the third consecutive term as BJP candidate. He is representing the seat since 2001.

Before heading to the polling station, Mr Sarma visited the Kamakhya Temple in Guwahati to offer prayers. Speaking to the reporters, his wife expressed confidence in his victory, saying, "It is a 100% sweep."

Assam Congress president Gaurav Gogoi, who is



leading the alliance of opposition political parties, exercised his franchise in Jorhat. He appealed to all voters of the state to come out in large numbers and exercise their Constitutional rights to secure their future. Mr Gogoi said, "Today, in the interest of building a new Assam, in the interest of securing our present and future, it is essential that we vote with our conscience. I wish everyone who came out to vote for the first time all the best. Jai Aai Assam." The deputy leader of Congress in the Lok Sabha

is contesting from the Jorhat constituency in Upper Assam.

Meanwhile, the election was peaceful across the state except a few incident of clashes in Barrak Valley.

The authorities said that a violent clash was reported from a polling station in Assam's Patharkandi constituency, halting voting for nearly two hours at Booth No. 513 in Rangamati Primary School.

Jeevan Reddy likely to join BRS, flays Congress govt

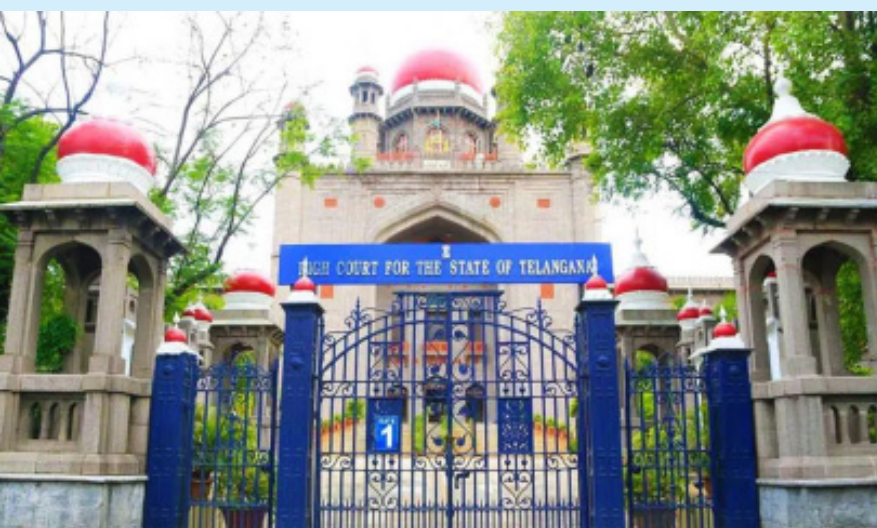
HYDERABAD, APRIL 9

Former minister Jeevan Reddy has made striking political remarks, suggesting that the administration led by KCR was better to the current government under Revanth Reddy, and indicating that he will soon join the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS).

Speaking to the media on Thursday, Reddy praised the previous BRS government for its support to farmers who had suffered losses. In contrast, he criticised the incumbent Congress administration, alleging that it has failed to deliver on its promises and has neglected both government employees and the unemployed.

He further stated that the public has not experienced the standard of governance it had expected under the present leadership. According to Reddy, many people, after observing the current administration, now believe that KCR's tenure was more effective.

While expressing his broader political views, Reddy remarked that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) may be a preferable choice at the national level, but maintained that KCR remains the stronger leader within the state. He also credited KCR as the key figure behind the formation of Telangana.



Hyderabad, April 9: Justice NV Shraavan Kumar of the Telangana High Court has observed that the cost of demolishing unauthorised constructions must be recovered from those responsible, and not borne by the public exchequer, while directing the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to act on an alleged encroachment in Tarnaka. Geographic Reference

The direction came in a writ petition filed by Dacheppally Chandrababu, who alleged that an arch erected by Sri Durga Pochamma Devasthanam had encroached upon a public road near the Lalaguda flyover leading towards Osmania University.

The petitioner submitted that despite lodging a complaint through the GHMC mobile application on March 15, no concrete action had been taken.

Hearing the matter, Justice Shraavan Kumar ob-

Recover demolition costs from violators, not public funds: Telangana HC

The Telangana High Court has directed the GHMC to act on a complaint regarding an alleged encroachment in Tarnaka, stressing that demolition costs must be recovered from violators rather than the public exchequer. Justice N.V. Shraavan Kumar emphasised that civic authorities have a statutory duty to enforce town planning laws.

served that once an unauthorised structure is established, it is incumbent upon the authorities not only to remove it but also to recover the demolition expenses from the violator. He stressed that public funds cannot be utilised for such purposes, describing cost recovery as a statutory obligation of civic authorities.

Taking note of submissions by GHMC that notices had already been issued to the temple authorities, the court directed the corporation to examine the complaint,

provide an opportunity of hearing to all concerned parties, and pass appropriate orders within four weeks.

The Deputy Commissioner of Circle-43, Tarnaka, was also impleaded as a respondent to ensure accountability. The court expressed concern over a recurring pattern wherein civic bodies issue notices but fail to pursue enforcement unless prompted by judicial intervention. It pointed out that legislations such as the TG-bPASS Act, 2020, mandate timely action on complaints relating to unauthorised constructions.

Heat Wave Alert Issued in Telangana as Temperatures Set to Rise

Hyderabad, April 9

Hyderabad: With temperatures predicted to rise in the coming weeks, including up to 3°C in the next few days, the director of public health and family welfare on Thursday issued an advisory urging citizens to take precautions against heat-related illnesses. It said the government had made arrangements including special beds, IV fluids, essential medicines, and ORS sachets at public health facilities to handle emergencies.

The advisory said

Stay well hydrated by drinking sufficient water even when not thirsty.

Consume oral rehydration solutions (ORS), lemon water, buttermilk, and fresh fruit juices.

Eat seasonal fruits such as watermelon, cucumbers, and or-

anges that have high water content.

Wear light, loose cotton clothing, cover the head while stepping out in the Sun.

Limit outdoor activities, especially between 12 noon and 3 pm.

Staying indoors in well-ventilated spaces.

Avoid strenuous work during peak heat hours.

Stay off alcohol, caffeinated drinks, and oily or spicy food.

Heat wave could cause symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, high body temperature, rapid heartbeat, and confusion.

Seek immediate medical attention if such signs appear.



LOST OF DOCUMENTS

I, Patel Lakshmi Narayana, S/O Ramaiah, Age: 59 years, Occupation: Government Teacher, residing at H.No. 14-2-66, 3rd Lane, Venkateswara Colony, Bhadrachalam - 507111, Bhadrachalam District, hereby inform that my original property documents relating to the below mentioned property have been lost/misplaced on 10-03-2026 at Ambedkar Center, Bhadrachalam. Property Details: Plot No: 29, measuring 220 Square Yards Survey No: 24 Document No: 3763/1992Registered at SRO Hayathnagar Situated at Dharmasai Nagar, Laskerguda Village, Hayathnagar Mandal, Ranga Reddy District.

If anyone finds the above said documents, please return them to the below contact no.

Contact: 9440308317

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Telangana Senior Secondary education reforms need a rethink, not a rush

Education is more than instruction; it is a social institution that shapes aspirations, reproduces inequalities, and reflects collective values. Telangana's decision to merge intermediate education with school education is a bold step aligned with the 5+3+3+4 structure of NEP 2020. The current 10+2 (intermediate) model separates grades 11-12 under a different board, creating stress for students, financial strain for parents, and administrative burdens.

However, this reform must be examined sociologically, considering equity, commercialisation, human resource management, and lived experiences. As Durkheim noted, education sustains cohesion, while Bourdieu showed it reproduces inequalities — rushed change risks undermining both stability and fairness.

Intermediate education in Telangana is heavily privatised. Data from 2022-23 show 66% of the 10.96 lakh junior college students are in private institutions, while only 34% are government-run or aided colleges. Nearly 95% are concentrated in MPC, BiPC, and CEC streams, narrowing aspirations to engineering, medicine, and commerce, while other courses remain marginalised.

This reflects Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital, where certain streams are seen as prestigious and others devalued. Corporate colleges reinforce this hierarchy by charging exorbitant fees for IIT-JEE and NEET coaching, excluding rural and marginalised students. Smaller town colleges face declining enrolment, deepening stratification.

Congress government's goal is to take women forward in all fields



TGIC Chairman Nirmala Jaggareddy: "A special program was organized in Sangareddy district under the Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme under the auspices of the District Women and Child Welfare Department and District Women Empowerment Center. As part of this program, sewing machines were distributed to 50 beneficiaries and beautician training classes were started for another 25 beneficiaries. The main objective of this program was to strengthen women economically by providing self-employment opportunities. The main objective of this program was to provide employment opportunities to economically backward women, single women, widows, those who dropped out of school and other eligible beneficiaries. This program was inaugurated by TGIC Chairperson Smt. Nirmala Jaggareddy and District Collector Sri Praveenya at Sangareddy District Bala Sadanam. A plant play was also organized on the occasion as a symbol of environmental protection. Addressing the program, TGIC Chairperson Nirmala Jagga Reddy said that such programs will greatly contribute to the advancement of women and the goal is to take women forward in all fields. District Collector Sri Praveenya said that the livelihood of women will improve through the distribution of sewing machines and beautician training through the Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao scheme.

The remaining infrastructure works in the double bedroom houses in Vangapalli village should be completed quickly

Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao (Ravi Kiran.. Bhuvanagiri.. Indian Chronicle..April 9): Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao has



instructed the concerned officials to complete the remaining infrastructure works in the double bedroom houses in Vangapalli village quickly without any pending issues. Speaking on the occasion, he suggested that the works like CC roads, drainage system, and painting of buildings should be completed quickly. He said that a drainage system should be established. He said that electricity should be supplied. He said that the officials should take special care to ensure that all the necessary infrastructure facilities are fully available to the beneficiaries to start living in the houses. Officials of the concerned departments and engineering staff participated in this program.

Nutrition Distribution Program for Adolescent Girls At Anganwadi Center In Lakshmpur Village



Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas. April, 09: "A nutrition distribution program for adolescent girls was organized successfully at the Anganwadi Center in Lakshmpur Gram Panchayat of Vankidi Mandal, keeping in view their health and well-being. The program was conducted under the su-

perision of Anganwadi Teacher Kobragaade Raj Kumari. On this occasion, adolescent girls aged between 14 and 18 years who attended the Anganwadi Center were provided with 15+15 nutritional items (Pellipatti) along with nutritious chikkis. The Anganwadi Teacher explained that such food items play a vital role in preventing malnutrition among adolescent girls and help in improving their physical and mental development. "The adolescent girls actively participated in the program and happily received the distributed food items. Parents expressed their satisfaction over the initiative and appreciated the steps taken by the government for the health of adolescent girls. Women, parents, and local residents of the village participated in large numbers and extended their support to the Anganwadi staff. "Villagers opined that conducting such nutrition distribution programs regularly in rural areas would not only improve the health of adolescent girls but also create awareness about the importance of proper nutrition among the public."



(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. April 9):- A view of Bhuvanagiri Bar Council members Babburi Harinath Goud, Vallandas Venkat Goud, Goda Venkateswarlu, G Gopal Reddy, Gadapaka Shankar, Muddasani Chandrasekhar, K.V. Prasad, Lingaswamy, Raju and others, politely meeting Sunil Goud, who was elected as a member of the Bar Council, in the High Court and presenting him with bouquets.

Karimnagar Urban Project Distributes Smartphones to Anganwadi Workers; Poshan Pakhwada Launched.



Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, April 09: The Karimnagar Urban Project distributed smartphones to Anganwadi teachers at a programme held at the TNGO Bhavan on Thursday, aiming to strengthen digital service delivery and monitoring of welfare schemes. The distribution was carried out by

Karimnagar MLA Gangula Kamalakar, Mayor Kolagani Srinivas, and SUDA Chairman Narendra Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Kamalakar called upon beneficiaries to make effective use of Anganwadi services, stating that the government's initiative to provide smartphones would enhance transparency and efficiency.

As part of the programme, 17 differently-abled persons were provided with retrofitted motor vehicles to support their mobility. A growth monitoring drive was also conducted under the Prajapalana Pragati Plan, during which prizes were awarded to healthy children. The Poshan Pakhwada programme, to be observed from April 9 to 23, was formally launched at the event, with a focus on improving nutritional awareness among women and children.

Mayor Srinivas said the smartphones would facilitate smooth implementation of the Poshan Abhiyaan app and help streamline and expedite data entry processes. Officials stated that Samsung smartphones, each costing around ₹11,650 and equipped with 4GB RAM and 64GB storage, were procured and distributed to Anganwadi workers. The devices would enable teachers and helpers to record survey data, maintain details of children, and monitor the health of pregnant and lactating women. The programme also featured cultural performances by children, which drew appreciation from the audience. District Welfare Officer Saraswati, CDPO Sabita, DMHO Dr. Venkata Ramana, supervisors, Poshan Abhiyaan staff, and Anganwadi teachers participated in the event.

Financial Assistance Provided for the Marriage of an Orphaned Young Woman by Jyotirao Phule Seva Sangham President Burra Mahender Mudiraj and Committee Members



KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 9 (Indian Chronicle): "Jyotirao Phule Seva Sangham of Ramanthapur extended financial support for the marriage of a young woman from a poor family who lost her parents. The wedding of Sneha, daughter of Dhruve Rajender from Gulbarga, is scheduled to take place on the 11th of this month at the Nagavi Ellamma Temple in Gulbarga. "As Sneha's parents are no more, her relatives are making arrangements for the wedding. Upon learning about the situation, Jyotirao Phule Seva Sangham President Burra Mahender Mudiraj, along with committee members, came forward to support the family by providing financial assistance of ₹10,116. Speaking on the occasion, Burra Mahender Mudiraj stated that their organization is always ready to extend necessary support for the marriages of underprivileged families. The family members of Dhruve expressed their gratitude and appreciated the efforts of the Seva Sangham and its members for actively participating in such charitable activities."

NSUI marks 56th Foundation Day with focus on student welfare Blood donation camp and flag hoisting held in Karimnagar.



Khaja Sikander Mohiuddin Staff Reporter, Indian Chronicle Karimnagar, April 09: The 56th Foundation Day of the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) was observed with enthusiasm at the District Congress Committee (DCC) office here on Thursday, with a series of programmes highlighting student engagement and welfare.

Choppadandi MLA and DCC president Medipalli Satyam, who attended as the chief guest, unfurled the NSUI flag along with senior Congress leaders, including corporator Vaidyula Anjan Kumar, former MLA Arepalli Mohan, and Alphores Narendra Reddy. A blood donation camp was organised on the occasion, in which around 10 activists donated blood. The camp was inaugurated by Mr. Satyam,

who later also participated in cake-cutting celebrations arranged by party leaders. Former MLA Arepalli Mohan, the first NSUI district president of Karimnagar, was felicitated during the event. Addressing the gathering, Mr. Satyam said the NSUI was established to take up issues concerning students and to safeguard their rights. He underlined the organisation's role in promoting patriotism and secular values among youth, while nurturing future political leadership. He noted that several leaders who began their careers in NSUI had risen to occupy key positions in public life, including ministerial and organisational roles. Expressing confidence in the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, he said efforts would continue to strengthen the organisation to address student concerns more effectively. Mr. Satyam also highlighted steps being taken by the State government to improve the education sector, including strengthening higher educational institutions and enhancing student welfare measures. He expressed optimism that Telangana would emerge as a model State in education.

Grama palana officer attacked in Medak village

GNS News Agency, April 9

Medak: Tribal farmers attacked Grama Palana Officer (GPO) Bhupal at Kushangadda thanda, a tribal hamlet, in Kowdipally mandal on Thursday. The tribal farmers accused him of favouring their rivals. The farmers threw chilli powder in the eyes of the GPO and attacked him indiscriminately. He was rushed to the area hospital in Kowdipally. The police registered a case and the probe is on.

Government Vippu Beerla Ailaiah to attend district level meeting of Handloom Textile Department at Basavalinga Function Hall, Rayagiri on 10th of this month



(Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. April 9):- With the permission of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector, the Handloom Textile Department will meet at Bhuvanagiri town in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on 10th of this month at 10:30 am. "In this meeting, the distribution of cheques under the Netanna Bima, Netanna Bharosa, and loan waiver schemes implemented by the government to the handloom workers of each constituency will be organized by Honorary Chief Whip and MLA Aleru constituency Beerla Ailaiah MLA Bhuvanagiri Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy." Nakirekal MLA Vemula Veeresham, Bhuvanagiri MP Samala Kiran Kumar Reddy and Tungaturthi MLA Amdeli Samuel are attending this program. The organizers of the program humbly requested the handloom leaders and workers to attend this program and make the meeting a success."

Former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Inspects CC Road Works Worth 27 Lakhs in Beerappa Gadda Division



"I kept my promise," says former corporator Bannala Geetha. KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 9 (Indian Chronicle): "Former GHMC corporator and Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj on Thursday inspected the ongoing CC road construction works being carried out at a cost of ₹27 lakhs in Beerappa Gadda Division. The works are taking place in the street beside Thene Lakshmi Narasimha Temple and near Satyanarayana Kirana Shop, along with GHMC officials. "Speaking on the occasion, Geetha Praveen stated that she is fulfilling the promises made during the elections one by one and moving forward by keeping her word. She instructed the contractor to strictly maintain quality standards during the construction and to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience. "She also directed GHMC officials to closely monitor the construction process and ensure that the contractor adheres to all quality norms." GHMC official Kedar, BRS party state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, senior leaders Kakkonda Jagan, Bingi Srinivas, Eddula Kondal Reddy, Gopu Anand, Indrasena Reddy, Muddham Srinivas Yadav, Balakrishna Goud, Beerappa Gadda Balu, Shyam, Banti Goud, and local residents including Satyanarayana, Raj, and Ganesh, among others, participated in the program.

Special focus on improving educational standards in schools.. Students should be provided with delicious food as per the menu



delicious meals as per the menu every day. He inquired if there were any other problems in the school. He also suggested that the dining hall should be inspected and special attention should be paid to the quality of food and the cleanliness of the kitchen. He said that the quality should be checked, cooking utensils, goods, rice, etc. should be checked, and the expiry dates should be checked. He said that the surrounding areas of the school should be inspected and the surroundings, drinking water, toilets and urinals should be kept clean from time to time. He also suggested that teachers should teach in a way that increases the understanding of the subjects among the students. He hoped that they would study hard with perseverance and pass with the best marks. School staff and others participated in this program.

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanti (Mandava Srisailam..Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau... Indian Chronicle.. April 9):- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanti said that special focus should be given to improving educational standards in schools and students should be provided with delicious food as per the menu. "The District Collector visited the Telangana Social Welfare Residential Center of Excellence in Hanuman Wada, Bhuvanagiri town on Thursday. "On this occasion, the District Collector made a comprehensive inspection of the infrastructure provided in the school, teaching methodology, teacher attendance, classrooms, dormitory hall and other aspects. The Collector himself spoke to the students and asked them whether they were providing

Appropriate steps should be taken to prevent water shortage

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanti (M.Ravi Kiran.. Bhuvanagiri.. Indian Chronicle.. April 9):- In order to prevent water shortage during the summer in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, District Collector Anurag Jayanti has taken prompt steps as part of the Summer Action Plan 2026 and has immediately approved the action plan with an estimate of Rs. 88.15 lakhs for the provision of water to farmers through rented boreholes as well as temporary pipelines and flushing and deepening of borewells. These administrative orders have been issued to complete these works quickly and take steps to prevent the problem of fresh water from arising anywhere in the Yadadri district during this summer. In order to immediately undertake and complete these works, the Executive Engineer of the relevant Mission Bhagiratha Department, P. Karunakaran, has been entrusted with the responsibility.



Grand Investiture Ceremony of Student Leaders Held at Uppal Little Flower School



chief guest. "Speaking on the occasion, Principal Reverend Brother Joseph stated that the main objective of the ceremony is to nurture leadership qualities among students. During the event, Sehars was elected as the Boys' Leader, Bhavana as the Girls' Leader, along with the appointment of various house leaders, sports representatives, and NCC leaders. "The chief guest and the Principal presented badges and sashes to the newly elected leaders and congratulated them. The student leaders took an oath to uphold discipline, carry out their responsibilities sincerely, and serve as role models for their fellow students. "Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Reverend Brother John Clerical emphasized that a position is not merely about authority but also about responsibility, guiding students with his valuable message. "The event was attended by School Academic Coordinator Mythili, teachers, and parents. Cultural performances by students captivated the audience. The program concluded with the National Anthem.

"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 9 (Indian Chronicle):- "The Investiture Ceremony of student leaders was held with great grandeur at Uppal Little Flower School under the leadership of Principal Reverend Brother Joseph. Reverend Brother John Clerical attended the event as the

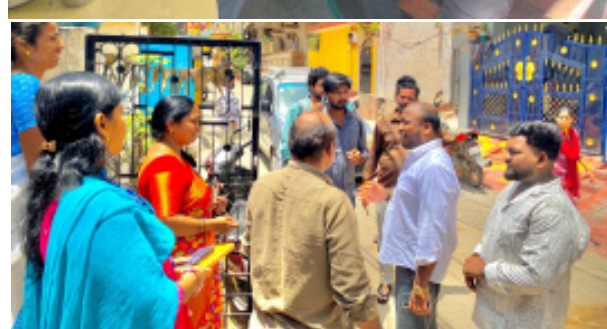
Youth Congress Leader Akarapu Arun Patel Participates in Indiramma Housing Beneficiary Selection in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division

"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 9 (Indian Chronicle):- "The process of selecting beneficiaries under the Indiramma Housing Scheme has gained momentum in several colonies within Venkat Reddy Nagar Division.

As per government guidelines, officials are conducting field-level verification of applicants who have applied for financial assistance of ₹5 lakh to construct houses on their own land. "Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel, along with concerned government officials, personally visited the houses of applicants in Venkat Reddy Nagar, Ram Reddy Nagar, and Vasavi Nagar.

During these visits, officials examined land documents and verified the eligibility of the applicants. "Speaking on the occasion, he stated that the government's objective is to ensure justice for all genuinely and eligible beneficiaries through this scheme.

He emphasized that the survey is being conducted in a transparent manner. "The program was attended by S.E. Anjaneyulu, Hanuman Temple Director Raghavendra, Rajesh, Chota Mittu, Padma, Madhavi, Sai, and several residents of the colonies.



National Students Union NSUI 56th Foundation Day Celebration

Mandava Srisailam.. Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle..April 9):- On the occasion of the 56th Foundation Day of the National Students Union of India NSUI, opposite the Bhuvanagiri Government Intermediate College in the Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district center, the former NSUI president of the district and the current Youth Congress district president Manga Praveen were present. The program was organized with the participation of former NSUI leaders D Ramulu, Pramod Kumar, Municipal Chairman Thangalapalli Srivani Ravikumar, Barre Jangir and a flag hoisting program. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that many young people in the National Students Union of India NSUI are active in student politics, constantly fighting for the solution of student problems, gaining good recognition in the Congress party and now many leaders in the state and the country in various positions have worked in NSUI. He said that since childhood, he was attracted to the National Students' Union of India, an affiliate of the Congress Party, and that the NSUI leaders here worked in this area to make Nalgonda district NSUI in the united Andhra Pradesh known all over the country, and the services they did will never be forgotten by the people of this area. He said that today's youth should also be constantly alert about student problems and go to every college to explain the welfare schemes being implemented by our state government for students. He said that the Congress government should set up an integrated school in the headquarters of every district and assembly and provide all kinds of facilities at one place to provide quality



education to everyone and set up an integrated school. He said that the NSUI leaders should work tirelessly to make Rahul Gandhi the Prime Minister of India in the coming days and work tirelessly for the Congress government to come to power again in the state of Telangana. In this program, Pittala Balaraj Maccha Narasimha Krishna Reddy Padigala Kura Shiva Pradeep District Chief Secretary Surupanga Chandu Bhuvanagiri Assembly President Bollapalli Vinay Bhuvanagiri Mandal President Bhuvanagiri Uppender Bhuvanagiri Town President Naramula Karthik Yadav Town Vice President Jingiti Varun Town Secretary Mohammed Hassan leaders Asad Durga Prasad Shiva Sai Zia Jalil Murali Abed leaders participated.

Communist Movement Stalwart Chandra Rajeshwara Rao Remembered on Death Anniversary



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):- "ECIL: CPI Telangana State Secretariat member V.S. Bose paid rich tributes to veteran communist leader and freedom fighter Chandra Rajeshwara Rao on his 32nd death anniversary at the CPI office in ECIL. Floral tributes were offered to his portrait in the presence of party leaders and cadres. Speaking on the occasion, Bose described Rajeshwara Rao as a tireless fighter who dedicated his life to the upliftment of the oppressed and marginalized sections. Born into a wealthy family, Rajeshwara Rao chose the path of struggle for the poor, even distributing his personal wealth among the needy. During the Nizam rule, he actively toured Telangana and played a key role in strength-

ening the communist movement. He also coordinated with prominent leaders like Ravi Narayan Reddy, Baddam Yella Reddy, and Makhdoom Mohiuddin during the Telangana armed peasant struggle. Bose said Rajeshwara Rao stood firmly against communal forces and worked to protect secularism, democracy, national unity, and integrity. He added that Rajeshwara Rao's life, discipline, and commitment to ideology remain an inspiration for future generations, and called upon everyone to work towards achieving his ideals. CPI State Council member G. Damodar Reddy, Medchal district leaders Shankar Rao, T. Satya Prasad, K. Dharmendra, AIYF district vice president Giribabu, AITUC senior leader Narasimha Rao, treasurer Arut Raj Kumar, and several youth leaders including Rajesh, Kalyan, Geetha, Rajini, and Malavika participated in the program.

Kapra Press Club's Efforts Appreciated: MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy



and social media incidents are being overlooked while making public statements. Critics alleged that a few members are attempting to maintain their relevance by targeting others and spreading negative narratives. They warned against hypocrisy and advised individuals to reflect on their own actions before criticizing others. Senior journalists suggested that genuine efforts toward the welfare of media professionals and adherence to journalistic values would earn respect from all. They cautioned against misusing the organization's name for personal interests and called for unity and professionalism within the press community.

"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):- "Kapra: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that the efforts made by the Kapra Press Club for the welfare of journalists are commendable. He advised media professionals to continue practicing value-based journalism and uphold ethical standards. He remarked that times have changed, and the relationship between journalists and political leaders has shifted, stressing the need for fearless and responsible reporting. He cautioned journalists against involving themselves in activities such as borewell issues and house construction matters, urging them to focus on delivering unbiased information to society. The MLA noted that journalists are facing multiple challenges in the current scenario, and appreciated the Kapra Press Club for taking initiatives toward their welfare, including protection of rights, financial security, and healthcare support. He praised the efforts of Press Club leaders Merugu Chandramohan, Muthyam Mukesh Goud, and Ramachandra Murthy for actively working in this direction. He emphasized that the media acts as the fourth pillar of democracy, and strengthening journalists will further reinforce democratic values. He assured that the government would extend necessary support for the welfare of journalists in the future. Several leaders and public representatives attended the event, including former corporators, political party leaders, and members of the Kapra Press Club executive committee. "Internal Differences Surface" "Meanwhile, internal issues within the Kapra Press Club have come into focus, with reports of divisions within the organization. Some journalists expressed concern over the conduct of certain individuals, pointing out that past controversies involving police cases

Collector Haritha Hands Over Appointment Letters to 8 Beneficiaries Under Compassionate Grounds

"Indian Chronicle (Taj Khan), April 9, District Collector K. Haritha stated that appointment letters have been issued to eight candidates under compassionate grounds. "On Thursday, at the Collector's Chamber in the Integrated District Collectorate Complex, the appointment letters were distributed by the District Collector in the presence of Additional Collector (Revenue) M. David and Asifabad Revenue Divisional Officer Lokeshwar Rao. "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector advised the appointees to discharge their assigned duties efficiently and with dedication. "Collectorate Administrative Officer Kiran Kumar and other concerned officials were also present at the programme. "Issued by the District Public Relations Officer, Kumuram Bhem Asifabad.



MMC Municipal Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy Tours Habsiguda Division



Chronicle):"Municipal Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy of Malkajgiri conducted a tour of the Habsiguda Division under the Uppal Circle on Thursday. During the visit, he inspected sanitation and fogging works being carried out in various colonies. "The Commissioner instructed GHMC staff to ensure that fogging operations are conducted effectively and to take preventive measures so that no complaints arise from the public.

"Residents and colony association leaders from different localities requested the Commissioner to remove the accumulated silt from Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu, stating that the increasing mosquito population is causing inconvenience to the public. Responding to their concerns, the Commissioner assured that the silt would be cleared at the earliest."Uppal Zone municipal officials, along with senior Congress leader Janumpalli Venkateshwar Reddy, SS Nagar Colony President Rundla Damodar Reddy, Maheshwari Nagar President Aravind Reddy, Beerreddy Kondal Reddy, Raju, and other colony leaders, participated in the visit.

"We will remove the accumulated silt in Ramanthapur Pedda Cheruvu at the earliest," assures Commissioner"Kishore Vaddepalli, Uppal, April 10 (Indian

Kapra Press Club Mother Committee New Body Swearing-In Ceremony Held Grandly



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"The swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected committee of the Kapra Press Club Mother Committee was held in a grand manner at Parivar Hotel Radhika. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and addressed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, he said that media plays a crucial role as the fourth pillar of democracy and carries the responsibility of delivering truthful and unbiased information to the public. He noted that journalists are working fearlessly to bring out facts and their efforts are commendable. He stated that steps are being taken to strengthen welfare measures for

journalists and assured that more initiatives will be introduced in the future. He highlighted that efforts are ongoing to provide better support in areas such as health security, insurance coverage, and allocation of housing plots for journalists. He appreciated the initiatives taken by the Kapra Press Club, stating that such activities help in strengthening unity among journalists. He called upon media professionals to work together with a commitment to serve society. On the occasion, Press Club representatives expressed appreciation for the efforts being made for journalists' welfare and thanked the MLA for his continued support in addressing local issues. Former corporators, BRS party leaders, senior journalists, press club members, public representatives, and local dignitaries were present at the event.

Pregnant women and lactating mothers should take nutritious food

-Anganwadi teacher Nalla Bharathi, school principal Shobha"Devulapally Srinivas Warangal Bureau (Narsampet), April 9 (Indian Chronicle) : Pregnant women and lactating mothers should take nutritious food and for their children to be healthy, pregnant women should take food rich in iron, calcium and vitamins, Anganwadi teacher Nalla Bharathi and school principal Shobha suggested. As part of the Central Government's Nutrition Abhiyan program, a Nutrition Month program was organized with pregnant women, lactating mothers and children at the 4th Anganwadi center under the Narsampet project on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, they suggested that pregnant women and lactating mothers should take nutritious food. They should take greens, vegetables and seasonal fruits in their daily diet. They said that diseases can be prevented by maintaining environmental cleanliness and personal hygiene. Explained about the harm caused by anemia"they expressed their concern that only if every woman in the house is healthy, everyone in the family will be happy, and that while providing nutritious food to children and husband, the mother does not pay attention to her own health. Women are suffering from many types of diseases due to malnutrition, and since they registered as pregnant, they have been



providing one meal, 200 grams of milk and an egg at the Anganwadi center, and everyone should take advantage of the services of the Anganwadi centers. They stated that pregnant women should drink the milk that comes within an hour after delivery, and that the child should not be given any food except breast milk until six months, and that nutritious food should be provided from six months. Anganwadi teachers Nalla Bharathi, Md Gausia, Aya Sunitha, school principal Shobha, teacher Padma, mothers Mounika, Pravalika, Naga Jyoti, Anusha, Sajja, Jyoti, Manasa, Divya, Radhika, Vaishnavi, Sravani, and children participated in this program.

Uppal MLA Inaugurates New Cafe Mari House at Rampally Village



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"Rampally: Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy inaugurated the newly established Cafe Mari House on Rampally Village, Yamnampet Road and extended his wishes to the cafe management. Speaking on the occasion, he appreciated the initiative of setting up new busi-

ness establishments that contribute to local employment and development. Former corporators Jeripothula Prabhudas and Gundarapu Srinivas Reddy, along with BRS party leaders Nemuri Mahesh Goud and Masa Shekhar, attended the event. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of local residents and party members, marking a positive addition to the area's growing commercial landscape.

Protest Intensifies Against Cell Tower Installation in Cherlapally EC Nagar



"NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"Cherlapally: Residents of EC Nagar in Cherlapally have intensified their protest against the installation of a new cell tower in the community premises, demanding its immediate removal. For the past few days, locals have been staging large-scale demonstrations, expressing strong opposition to the project. The residents raised serious concerns over potential health risks due to radiation exposure from the tower. They stated that installing a cell tower in the middle of a residential colony could lead to an increase in health problems. The presence of a nearby park has added to their worries, as elderly people and children who frequently visit the park may be more vulnerable to radiation effects. They also pointed out that school-going children and pregnant women could face higher risks if the tower becomes operational. The residents argued that such installations are not suitable in densely

populated residential areas and called for stricter regulations to prevent approvals in such locations. Locals further stated that several residents in the area are already dealing with health issues, including individuals who have undergone major surgeries, and warned that the situation could worsen. They expressed anger that despite submitting multiple representations to concerned authorities, local leaders, the MLA, and the District Collector, no action has been taken so far. The protesters demanded transparency regarding how the permissions were granted and questioned whether any external pressure influenced the decision to install the tower. They criticized authorities for prioritizing private company interests over public health and safety. The residents warned that if immediate action is not taken to halt the construction and remove the tower, they will escalate their protest through road blockades and larger demonstrations in the coming days. A large number of residents, including local community members, actively participated in the protest.

Health Camps Held in Slum Areas Under 99-Day Civic Programme



NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"Boduppal: As part of the 99-day Praja Palana Pragathi Programme, health camps were successfully conducted on the 35th day in Boduppal Circle under Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation limits. The camps were organized at Ambedkar Nagar, Boduppal Office premises, and Kamala Hospital campus with the support of doctors from Kakeshwara Hospital, UPHC Boduppal, and Kamala Hospital. Peerzadiguda, said AMOH Dr. Chaitanya Kumar in a statement. Dr. Chaitanya Kumar supervised the camps and provided essential medical advice and guidance to the public. Addressing the gathering, he urged residents to

maintain cleanliness in their surroundings, especially with the upcoming monsoon season. He advised people not to dump garbage on roads and to hand over waste only to designated sanitation vehicles. He further stated that the municipal corporation will continue preventive measures such as oil ball application in water bodies, malathion spraying, door-to-door anti-larval operations, and daily fogging to control mosquito breeding. Officials are taking all necessary steps to prevent the spread of diseases like dengue and malaria. Medicines were distributed to the beneficiaries who attended the camps. DE Jahnavi Shashank, AE Mahesh, SI Praveen Kumar, and municipal staff also participated in the programme.

Protest Will Intensify if Government Fails to Respond:CITU District Secretary Rajender



vision leaders Buchi Babu, Lakshman, Rajesh, Satish, Mallesh, Shirisha, Srikant, Ramesh, Salim Pasha, Sagar, Ekambaram, Shekhar, and others participated in the program. "[18:10, 9/4/2026] +91 99485 55073: End..



"Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas. April, 09."The indefinite strike of electricity artisans, being carried out across the state under the leadership of the TVAE JAC, entered its second day in front of the SE office in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. The CITU has extended its full support to the strike. "Speaking on the occasion, CITU District Secretary J. Rajender criticized the government and electricity department management for their negligence towards artisan workers who risk their lives while performing duties. He stated that implementing two different service rules and showing discrimination against workers is unjust. "He demanded immediate conversion for eligible workers and recognition of un-massed workers as artisans. He also urged the implementation of minimum wages for piece-rate and spot billing workers as per GO 11. "Rajender warned that CITU will stand firmly with the workers until their legitimate demands are fulfilled, and if the government fails to respond, the agitation will be intensified further. "CITU District Joint Secretary Krishnamachari, Telangana Electricity Artisans Employees Joint Action Committee District Chairman Maruthi, Convener Shaik Naseeruddin, and district and di-

Saving five lives through organ donation

"- Condolences to the late E.V. Satish Kumar "Devulapally Srinivas, Warangal Bureau (Hanamkonda), April 9 (Indian Chronicle): E.V. Satish Kumar (56), younger brother of TPCC General Secretary and Red Cross Society State Governing Body member E.V. Srinivas Rao, and a former Telugu Yuvatha state leader, passed away on Thursday while undergoing treatment for a brain hemorrhage at a private hospital in Hyderabad. He was actively involved in social and political fields and was recognized as a leader close to the people. His sudden death has left an irreparable loss to his family and friends. The truth that he, who spread the message "Organ donation is life donation," is no more is hard to forget. "Even in this time of grief, his family showed extraordinary courage and decided to donate his organs. Through this noble decision, five people will receive a new lease on life. Many are praising this exemplary act. On this occasion, his wife E.V. Anuradha and son E.V. Amay Rana said that it gives them solace that others will gain life through his organ donation, and that his spirit of service will remain an inspiration forever. "The funeral is scheduled to be held on Friday at 11 a.m. at Shivamukti Dhamam, Padmakshamma Gutta, Hanamkonda, in the presence of family members and close associates."



Electricity Artisans' Strike Intensifies; Unique Protest Held at Sainikpuri Division Office



“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Sainikpuri: The indefinite strike launched by electricity artisans of the Southern Power Distribution Company (TGSPDCL) entered its second day on Thursday, with protests intensifying at the Sainikpuri Division office premises. In a unique form of protest, workers gathered at the Nalla Pochamma temple within the office campus, offering Bonalu and organizing a community meal to demonstrate unity and determination. Artisans from various sections under the division participated in large numbers, raising slogans and expressing strong dissatisfaction over the government's neglect of their legitimate demands.

Union leaders criticized the authorities for ignoring the issues of workers who toil round the clock, ensuring uninterrupted power supply. They warned that if the management fails to change its approach, the agitation will escalate further in the coming days. The protesting workers made it clear that they will not return to duties until their demands are addressed. The protest was led by Habsiguda Circle JAC Chairman Venkat Reddy. Several workers, including Christopher, Janayya, Malla Reddy, Paisa Ravi, Mohan Rao, Jani, Prasad, Jamal, Naresh Goud, Vijay, Krishna, Ramesh, Raju, Venkatesh, Devakumar, and women workers Suguna, Lakshmi, Mamata, and Vijaya actively participated in the demonstration. Leaders reiterated that the strike will continue until a resolution is achieved.

Industries Continue Despite License Cancellation in Residential Area

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 9 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Two industrial units operating illegally in a residential locality in Bansilalpet have come under strict action from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), which has cancelled their trade licenses for violating norms. The units, identified as Srinivas Fabrication and Srinivasa Fabricator and Welding Works, are located in Jyothi Colony and were found to be functioning in clear violation of regulations meant for residential zones. However, despite the cancellation of their licenses, the industries are reportedly still operating, raising serious concerns among local residents. People in the area have urged GHMC authorities to take immediate steps to shut down the units completely.

The action follows complaints from residents and subsequent inspections carried out by officials as per the directions of the High Court. During the inspection, authorities found that the units were causing severe noise and air pollution. It was also observed that they lacked mandatory pollution control and fire safety permissions and were oper-



ating from unauthorized structures. GHMC officials stated that the trade licenses issued to the premises bearing House Nos. 6-6-269/67 (TIN No. TR-4215-237-0001) and 6-6-269/70 (TIN No. TR-0229-060-0002) have been cancelled under the provisions of the GHMC Act. Residents have now demanded strict enforcement to ensure the immediate closure and removal of these industrial units from the residential area.

Those who venture outside are at risk of sunburn and heatstroke due to the intense sun.

“Temperatures are recording 38-46 degrees““People with sunburn should not drink cold drinks,““ Mandala BJP party president boggu kurumaiah“

“Wanaparthi correspondent Indian Chronicle““Boggu Kurumaiah, the president of the Mandal BJP party in Chinnambavi Mandal Center, said that the heat is increasing across the state. The temperatures have already reached 35 to 46 degrees. People are afraid to step outside due to the fear of the sun. Due to this, many people are confined to their homes. However, doctors warn that even if they are at home, there is a risk of getting sunburn if proper precautions are not taken. Along with the sun, heat waves have also increased. Due to this, room temperatures are increasing. People indoors are also getting sunburned. The effect of heat waves is especially severe on children, the elderly, women and those with chronic diseases. That is why doctors advise taking proper precautions even when at home. Room temperatures are increasing significantly due to the sun. Normally, room temperatures should be between 26 and 28 degrees. But currently, room temperatures are being recorded as high as 36 to 46 degrees. Due to this, the room heats up and that effect is seen on the body. To cool the body, water in the body is released. This causes dehydration and sunburn. Doctors warn about how dangerous indoor heat stroke is when you go out. Windows and doors in narrow rooms Do not keep them closed. If you keep them closed, the temperature will increase. Windows and doors should always be open. Wet curtains should be drawn to prevent hot air from entering. If the room temperature rises, fans, ACs and coolers should be turned on to cool it down. The room temperature should be between 25 and 30 degrees. Children, the elderly and women are especially prone to indoor heat stroke. Drink water every half hour. It is advised not to take cold drinks when dehydrated. Precautions to be taken in intense sun, ensure that the room temperature is between 26 and 28 degrees. Drink water every half hour. Drink at least 4 to 6 liters of water a day. Wear cotton clothes even when at home. Keep windows and doors open.



Close curtains to prevent direct hot air from entering. If necessary, tie wet curtains, thermocol and sheets to the windows for cool air. Elderly people should consume more buttermilk and lemon juice. Children and pregnant women suffering from sunburn should consume more fruit juices. Do not drink cool drinks at all for sunburn. Stay away from spicy foods as much as possible. If you suffer from sunburn, wipe your body with a wet cloth. Keep your house cool. If the body temperature crosses 99 degrees Fahrenheit in summer, water is lost in the form of sweat.

Due to this, the person is at risk of dehydration. Sometimes, a person suffering from sunburn can even go into a coma. Keep your house as cool as possible. Drink at least 4 to 6 liters of water every day. People suffering from dehydration should avoid consuming cold drinks and should consume energy drinks like lemon juice, buttermilk, fruit juices and ORS, said Chinnambavi Mandal BJP Party President Boggu Kurumaiah on this consaltentoin Precautions should be taken while consuming

“ICETETAMS–2026 International Conference Inaugurated at Vaagdevi College of Engineering”



“Warangal city, April 08 (indian chronicle):““The inaugural ceremony of the International Conference on “Emerging Trends in Engineering, Technology and Applied Management Sciences (ICETETAMS–2026)” was held grandly at Vaagdevi College of Engineering, Bollikunta, Warangal district on Thursday. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the college management, principal, faculty members, researchers, and students. The conference was organized by the Research and Development Cell and commenced at 10:00 a.m. in the college auditorium. The Chief Guest, Dr. T. Harinath (DGM, ECIL, Hyderabad), inaugurated the conference and addressed the gathering. In his speech, he highlighted the rapid advancements in engineering and technology, emphasizing the importance of modern domains such as Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, and Automation. He encouraged students to move beyond academics and actively engage in research and innovation. Representatives of the college management stated that Vaagdevi College has always prioritized quality education along with research initiatives. They noted that such international conferences play a vital role in fostering creativity among students and exposing them to global knowledge and trends. During the program, Directors Dr. CH. Vani Devi

and Dr. CH. Vahini Devi shared their views, encouraging students to excel in technical fields and actively pursue research-oriented careers. The Conference Chair, Dr. K. Prakash (Principal), presided over the event and explained the objectives and significance of the conference. The Conference Co-Chair, Dr. K. Ranjith Kumar, elaborated on the technical aspects of the conference, while the Convener, Dr. K. Thirupathi Rao, expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to the successful organization of the event. The program was effectively coordinated by Co-Conveners Dr. P. Shailaja, Dr. Venu Kesireddy, and Mr. Riyaz Syed. Researchers and academicians from across the country and abroad presented their research papers and engaged in discussions on various technological advancements. The conference provided a valuable platform to discuss the latest developments, emerging trends, and research opportunities in engineering, technology, and applied management sciences. The organizers stated that the event would inspire students and researchers towards innovation and future advancements. Overall, the international conference concluded successfully, serving as a source of inspiration for academic and research communities, as stated by the college management.

Minister Damodara Rajanarasimha Lays Foundation Stone for 100-Bed Critical Care Hospital



available to the public very soon.

Furthermore, he emphasized that the construction must adhere to the highest quality standards, insisting that there should be absolutely no compromise on quality at any stage, and directed that the work be completed expeditiously to ensure its speedy availability to the public. Doctors, medical staff, former councilors, corporators, political leaders, party workers, and others participated in this event.

Unidentified Man's Body Found Under Suspicious Circumstances at Beerappa Gadda Cremation Ground

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 9 (Indian Chronicle):““An unidentified man's body was found under suspicious circumstances at the Beerappa Gadda cremation ground in Uppal, under the limits of Uppal Police Station. Local residents noticed a foul smell coming from the cremation ground surroundings and discovered the decomposed body. They immediately informed the police. Uppal police rushed to the spot and conducted a preliminary inspection. “According to initial estimates, the deceased is believed to be around 35 years old. As the body was in a decomposed state, police suspect that the death might have occurred approximately four to five days ago.”



However, it is yet to be determined whether it was a natural death or a case of murder, with the body being dumped at the location. Police have initiated an investigation from all possible angles. A clues team was called to collect evidence from the scene. The body has been shifted to Gandhi Hospital mortuary for postmortem examination. Further details are awaited. Uppal police have registered a case and are continuing the investigation.

Invitation to MLA Chinta Prabhakar for Gollagudem Festival Sangareddy April 9.

Indian chronicle correspondent Sunil““On the occasion of the Sri Sri Sri Bramaramba Sametha Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy Kalyana Mahotsavam Yellamma Bonala Festival, which will begin from the 10th of this month in Gollagudem, Sadashivpet Mandal, Sangareddy District, representatives of the Gollagudem Kurma Sangam and village elders politely presented an invitation to Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar. “On this occasion, the village elders explained the features of the festival to the MLA, and MLA Chinta Prabhakar responded to this and assured that he would definitely attend the festival. “He said that the festival of village deities is a symbol of our culture and traditions. He said that he would be happy to participate in such auspicious events and assured that he would definitely attend the festivities. “The leaders of the Kurma Sangam, 36th Ward Councilor Lade Mallesham, 9th Ward BRS Party Incharge Lade Balu, Mallesham, Pedda Golla Mallesham,



Shankar, Lade Srisailam, Lade Shekhar, Karkam Mallesham, Lade Kumar, Ramesh, Venkatesh, Irgipalli Sai, Yadaya, Mallesham and others were present at the event.

Widespread awareness on road safety with Arrive, Alive programs Programs across the district from 13 to 18 – Additional Collector Pandu.

“Sangareddy, April 9.;sangareddy indian chronicle correspondent sunil.“ As part of the Public Governance - Progress Plan - 99-day program, Additional Collector of District Local Bodies Pandu has instructed the concerned district officials to make the Arrive, Alive road safety programs organized by the Police Department and Transport Departments from 13 to 18 of this month a success. “On Thursday, from Hyderabad, State Government Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, DGP Shivdhar Reddy and other high-ranking officials held a review on Road Safety Week with the Collectors of all districts through video conference. “Speaking on the occasion, they instructed the officials to take comprehensive measures to prevent loss of life in road accidents. He said that awareness programs are key to controlling accidents. In this context, he said that various awareness programs on road safety are being organized from April 13 to 18 as part of a 99-day program to prevent road accidents. Details of the programs being carried out daily were also revealed. “Additional Collector Pandu, who participated in the VC from the video conference meeting hall in Sangareddy Collectorate, later spoke to the district officials... He suggested that public governance-progress planning programs should be effectively implemented. He ordered that road safety committees be formed at the village level on April 13 and that road safety pledge programs be organized on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti on the 14th. “He suggested that widespread awareness programs on road safety should be organized in coordination with the police department, transport department and other relevant departments. He instructed the officials to organize the Arrive, Alive program on a large scale across the district. “He said that accidents can be significantly re-



duced if precautions such as wearing helmets by two-wheelers and wearing seat belts by those traveling in cars are followed. He believed that if awareness is raised among adults through children, there will be a positive change in society. “Zilla Parishad CEO Janaki Reddy, Education Officer Venkateshwarlu, Engineering Officers of Panchayat Raj Department, Roads and Buildings Department, Police Department, Transport Department, and District Officers of other departments participated in this meeting.

Visakhapatnam cricket dispute turns deadly: 21-year-old stabbed, umpire injured after run-out row



GNS News Agency, April 9

A 21-year-old man was stabbed to death and his colleague, who was umpiring, wounded after a dispute over a run-out call during a cricket match in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam on Sunday evening. The incident occurred at Pedagadili, under the Arilova Police Station limits, hours after the match had ended and both sides had peacefully settled the dispute.

According to police, three teams from Vinayaka Nagar, Chakali Peta and Pedagadili were competing in a 20-over series on Sunday. During the match between Vinayaka

Nagar and Chakali Peta, D Ajith, who was batting, allegedly got into an argument with the opposing team over a run-out at the non-striker's end. B Chiranjeevi of the Pedagadili team, who was umpiring, intervened, asked players to back off and settled the dispute, after which the match proceeded. After the match, Kanta Kishore alias Boxer, from Vinayaka Nagar, who had watched the game, allegedly picked an argument with Ajith and Chiranjeevi. It allegedly escalated into a scuffle, but bystanders intervened and the issue was again resolved, with both sides dispersing.

According to police, later in the evening, Kishore, an event photographer, called Ajith and Chiranjeevi for a discussion on how cricket matches should be conducted every Sunday. The group met at Pedagadili Junction. "Instead of discussing, Kishore lashed out at them with abuses and threats. There was a big argument and a scuffle during which Kishore pulled out a knife and lunged at both of them, and Ajith was stabbed in the chest. Chiranjeevi tried to intervene and he was also stabbed on his hands. Kishore, who was in an inebriated condition, attacked bystanders who tried to intervene, injuring at least four other people. Ajith was rushed to a nearby hospital but staff referred him to Apollo Hospital where he died during treatment," a police officer said, adding that the accused fled the scene.

Grading for third language: pro-Kannada group wants governor's removal for urging review, says he's working for 'Hindi mafia'



GNS News Agency, April 9

Governor Thaaar Chand Gehlot has written to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh asking the Government to re-examine its decision to shift from marks to a grading system for third-language papers. The row over the Karnataka Government adopting grading for Hindi and other third-language papers in Class 10 intensified on Monday, with the pro-Kannada Karnataka Rakshana Vedike (KRV) demanding Governor Thaaar Chand Gehlot's "immediate removal" from the state for urging a review of the decision. Gehlot has written to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh asking the Government to re-

examine its decision to shift from marks to a grading system for the third-language papers. The organisation protested in Bengaluru alleging that the governor's letter was part of a "conspiracy to impose Hindi permanently in Karnataka".

KRV president T A Narayan Gowda said the governor appeared to be working in favour of a "Hindi mafia". "We demand the immediate removal of the governor from the state," he said while addressing the demonstration. The KRV also condemned the "haste" with which the governor responded to a letter from an "unknown organisation" called the Association of Preservation of Local Languages, which objected to the Government's decision. Gehlot wrote to the chief secretary based on the association's letter. "Karnataka's education policy will be determined by the state government. We elected the state government for this purpose. Who is the governor to question this?" a statement issued by Gowda said, adding that any attempt to revert to the marking system would lead to a "blood revolution". On March 27, School Education and Literacy Minister Madhu Bangarappa announced a grading system for third-language papers. Around a week later, on April 3, the governor wrote to the chief secretary, stating that the policy would weaken linguistic diversity and reduce motivation to learn Hindi.

Mumbai gets it most futuristic commute yet: Six Seats, 40 kmph, No Driver Mumbai's Pod Taxi Is Actually Happening



GNS News Agency, April 9

With the bhoomipujan of the Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) pod taxi project on Tuesday, Mumbai has taken its first concrete step towards a futuristic, on-demand transit system that promises faster, more personalised travel within one of the city's busiest business districts. In its first phase, the Automated Rapid Transit System (ARTS) will run along a 3.36-km stretch between Kuria and Bandra East, with eight stations strategically located at Bandra East, Kalanagar, MMRDA Old Building, Excise Department, Bharat Diamond Bourse Gate 11, MMRDA Pay & Park, LBS Marg and Kuria. The route is designed to connect key commercial hubs while easing congestion in BKC and surrounding areas.

But the larger vision extends beyond this initial stretch.

By 2031, the network is expected to expand to 22 stations over 8.85 km. While this is lower than the earlier proposal of around 38 stations, the revised plan focuses on efficiency, with additional routes branching out into circular loops within BKC. These loops will allow commuters to choose their routes, with pods stopping only at selected stations reducing travel time and making the system more responsive to individual needs. The system will feature air-conditioned stations spaced roughly 200 metres apart. Each pod, designed to carry up to six passengers, will travel at speeds of up to 40 kmph, with a headway of just 15 seconds. Operations will be centrally controlled, ensuring smooth and frequent service. Authorities estimate that the pod taxi will cater to over 1.09 lakh daily commuters by 2031. The fare has been pegged at ₹21 per km based on 2022 estimates, though this is likely to be revised closer to launch. The project is being developed on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis by Sai Green Mobility, it is being billed as the country's first such system without direct government subsidy. Instead, the private operator will pay the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) ₹1 crore annually along with a 21% share of revenue. Integration with existing metro infrastructure is expected to further boost its utility. The pod taxi network will connect with Metro Line 3 at BKC and Metro 2B at key points, improving last-mile connectivity for thousands of office-goers.

Man who breached Delhi Assembly security wanted attention to find missing nephew, probe reveals

GNS News Agency, April 9

Chandigarh Police, Chandigarh Police domestic helps verification drive, domestic helps verification drive, Indian express news, current affairs Accused Sarabjit Singh told police he breached Delhi Assembly security to "gain attention" for his missing nephew, Harman Singh, who has been untraceable since April 1. After he was arrested for the breach of security at Delhi Assembly on Monday, Sarabjit Singh, the accused, told the police that he wanted to grab attention as he was desperately searching for his missing nephew, has learnt.

During questioning, he told the police that his nephew Harman Singh, a college student from Hari Nagar in West Delhi, had been missing for nearly a week, according to sources. Sarabjeet left his home on April 1 and travelled to Anandpur Sahib in Punjab via Bareilly before reaching Delhi on Monday. According to sources, while returning from Punjab, he bought a bouquet and a garland from Panipat in Haryana to offer prayers at a gurdwara in Delhi. "He told investigators that he believed doing something significant would help him gain attention and that's why he moved towards the Delhi Assembly. However, all his claims are being verified," sources said.

Sources added that Sarabjeet had been involved in farmers' protests held in the past and used to post about



his activities on social media. But he recently deleted those posts. Apart from the Delhi Police, central security agencies have also questioned Sarabjeet to determine whether he has any links to Khalistan-related radical groups, sources said. When contacted, Joint Commissioner of Police (Central) Madhur Verma stated that the case is being investigated from all possible. The Delhi Police contacted his family in Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh and found that he is married and has two children. He runs a rice mill with his elder brother in his hometown. His elderly mother lives in their village, Kajri Niranjanpur, where the family also owns extensive agricultural land. Family members told the police that Sarabjeet had been suffering from depression due to personal reasons and often behaved aggressively.

'Common man thinks anything can be done paying a bribe': HC rejects plea to quash FIR for duping woman



GNS News Agency, April 9

Observing that "the common man has faith in the efficacy of corrupt practices and thinks anything can be done paying a bribe", the Allahabad High Court dismissed a writ petition for quashing of an FIR registered for allegedly duping a woman of Rs 22 lakh by promising her a PhD degree and an assistant professor's job at a university.

The division bench of Justices JJ Munir and Tarun Saxena said in the March 31 order, "We have carefully perused the FIR. We find that the allegations are very serious in nature and disclose a very chilling trend in society, where the common man has developed a perception that anything can be done by the payment of a bribe." The court added, "...An educated woman herself, was taken in by the fraud, allegedly played by the petitioner into parting with a substantial sum of Rs 22 lacs and more. Admission to a PhD Course or appointment to a university cannot be done except through the procedure prescribed under rules of these universities. The PhD is earned from a university after following the PhD programme and successfully completing it."

The appointment to a teaching post in a university is made after undergoing the recruitment process, involving advertisement of posts and applying for them, the bench said. "...faith of the common man in the efficacy of corrupt ways has led the first informant (complainant of FIR) to be duped by the petitioner. It shows a very low state of moral

fire in society, and crimes of this kind, to regain and restore some morality in society, must not go unpunished," the order read. The FIR was registered on September 14, 2024 at the Swaroop Nagar police station of Kanpur City on criminal charges, including forgery, cheating and criminal breach of trust on the complaint of Tanya Dixit against her acquaintances Vikram Singh Sengar, his mother Tripti Singh Sengar and his friend Priyanka Singh Sengar.

According to the court order, Dixit alleged that the accused boasted of "strong connections" in government, administration and Kanpur University, and claimed to have done favours to many by securing jobs for them. She further said when she asked if she could get a job in a university if she had a PhD degree or was NET (National Eligibility Test) qualified, Vikram, Tripti, his sister Sanya Sengar and Priyanka promised to get her the degree as well as the job. For this, she was asked to arrange for Rs 22 lakh, Dixit alleged. The complainant claimed that she initially paid the accused Rs 18 lakh, following which she received a purported appointment letter from "Kanpur University" by post, asking her to join on July 22, 2024. Vikram shared with her a WhatsApp message showing the PhD degree, she said.

When she enquired about the appointment letter and the degree, the accused came to her house and handed over documents to her and asked to pay Rs 3 lakh more. Dixit said after paying Rs 3 lakh, she went to Kanpur University only to find that the appointment letter and the degree were bogus and the signatures forged. The complainant further alleged that when she confronted the accused, they issued threats to her life and to implicate her in a false case. While other named accused had earlier got relief from the High Court with certain conditions, Priyanka Sengar approached the court seeking the same. The bench stated in the order, "We do not say that the allegations in the FIR are true, as possibly we cannot say that in these proceedings. At the same time, looking to the nature of the allegations, we are very clear in our mind that these require to be thoroughly and honestly investigated by the Police." "In the totality of circumstances, we do not find this to be a fit case for interference under Article 226 of the Constitution. This petition is, accordingly, dismissed," the bench added.

From Mughal-era women poets to electronic icons: Bengaluru's WHAM Festival closes on a musical high

GNS News Agency, April 9

The Indian Music Experience Museum's WHAM (Women's History, Art and Music) Festival closed on a high on March 25, with performances by Hindustani classical legend Shubha Mudgal and electronic music icon Ma Faiza. The three-week festival, now in its third edition, marked a new permanent addition to the museum's galleries in the form of an exhibit dedicated to Annapurna Devi, one of the most influential figures in Hindustani classical music.

Other events and displays included a Feminist Library Popup, film screenings, and workshops on subjects like the Chittara mural art of Karnataka. The last two days covered a wide cross-section of India's musical traditions, such as songs of the rice cultivators of Nagaland and a combination of hip-hop and Kumaoni folk songs. On Saturday, Mudgal performed several musical pieces under the theme 'Women, Sexuality and Song', with many of the pieces originating from the late Mughal era in dialects such as Braj Bhasha. "Something very interesting I found was that the work of women poets was not published as much... a lot of the wealthy elite were publishing books centred on their own collections of poetry. Women poets rarely found opportunities to be published except those women who were themselves privileged," Mudgal said, speaking after the performance. "There is a lovely account of a woman poet called Sheikh Rangrej. Rangrej is the profession of someone who dyes garments... she was a person who dyed clothes for a living and wrote beautiful poetry," she



added. Speaking to The Indian Express, museum director Preema John said, "This is a programme that Shubha ji has performed before, but never in Bengaluru... it fits in very well with our theme with WHAM. We also had a group of Kumaoni women singing folk songs with rapper Kranti Naari as well as percussionist Charu Hariharan." The festival's final performance on Sunday featured noted DJ and LGBTQ+ icon Ma Faiza, one of the pioneers of Goa's electronic music scene. "There are also many themes and emotions that come up in a festival like WHAM when you talk about issues like discrimination and marginalisation, but there is a very real sense of hope. What we discussed with her is that the set could be something that addresses these emotions, but also a triumphal conclusion," John said.

She lost Rs 33.50 lakh to cyber fraud. It was moved through 969 accounts, in transactions as small as Rs 29

GNS News Agency, April 9

The woman approached court seeking transfer of Rs 20.12 lakh from accounts frozen during the probe into her First Information Report (FIR), filed in January this year. The woman approached court seeking transfer of Rs 20.12 lakh from accounts frozen during the probe into her First Information Report (FIR), filed in January this year. (File photo/Canva) A court order in Mumbai lays bare the scale of mule account networks in cyber fraud cases — 969 unique accounts were used to move money stolen from a city-based housewife cheated of Rs 33.50 lakh.

Mule accounts are bank accounts used by fraudsters to receive and pass on stolen funds, making the money trail deliberately difficult to trace. The trail of the stolen money, submitted before the court in this case, shows 978 separate transactions, with amounts as low as Rs 29, spread across multiple nationalised and private banks. The 38-year-old woman, who had worked as an accounts and finance manager and has been trading in shares for over a decade, first came across an advertisement on Instagram about stock market investments. On clicking it, she was added to a WhatsApp group of 150 members run by a person claiming to be a professor, with an assistant and a manager. The group provided regular tips on maximising profits and directed members to download a trading app. When the victim tried to withdraw her supposed profits, she was told she had to first pay Rs 33.50 lakh as "centralised tax" to the government, at which point she realised she had been scammed and approached the police in January.

The woman approached court seeking transfer of Rs 20.12 lakh from accounts frozen during the probe into her First Information Report (FIR), filed in January this year. The list of transactions and accounts revealed 978 entries across various banks, with 969 distinct account numbers. The smallest recovered amount was Rs 29.01; the largest, Rs 45,510. Most transfers were in fragments of three and four digits, which is a technique used to make tracing harder. "After taking into consideration the say filed by the

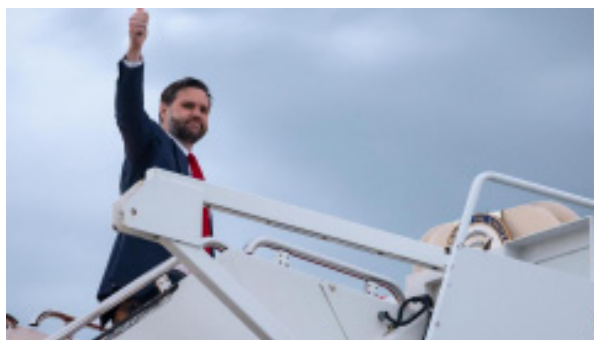


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police, it is clear that the bank accounts are frozen wherein amount is transferred. Prima facie applicant appears to be entitled to get the temporary custody of the amount which is transferred," the judicial magistrate in Borivali said in an order passed on March 27.

The court directed the woman to execute an indemnity bond of Rs 30 lakh, agreeing to return the amount if it is subsequently proved she is not entitled to it. The Borivali court has similarly permitted transfer of amounts to other cyber victims, with bank accounts involving over 500 unique accounts in those cases. A recent Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) by the Ministry of Home Affairs lays out the process for interim custody of amounts put on hold or seized during a cyber fraud probe.

U.S. Vice President Vance visits Hungary to boost Orban ahead of pivotal election



GNS News Agency, April 9

During the two-day visit, coming just days before the April 12 parliamentary elections, Mr. Vance will meet with Mr. Orban and attend a campaign rally with him, according to Hungarian government sources. "I'm looking forward to seeing my good friend Viktor, and we'll talk about any number of things related to the US-Hungary relationship," Mr. Vance told reporters before departing Washington, adding relations with Europe and Ukraine will be discussed. The rare in-person gesture of support for Mr. Orban by a senior U.S. official is the latest example of President Donald Trump's efforts to prop up like-minded right-wing leaders, including in Argentina and Japan.

Opinion polls show Mr. Orban, who Mr. Trump has already publicly endorsed and praised as "a truly strong and powerful leader," and his Fidesz party face the most challenging election since returning to power in 2010. In most independent surveys, they trail the center-right Tisza party, led by Peter Magyar. Mr. Orban's self-described "illiberal democracy" mirrors key themes of Trump-era America: harsh anti-immigration policies, disdain for liberal norms, hostility toward global institutions, and attacks on the media, universities and nonprofit groups. He was the first European leader to endorse Mr. Trump during his 2016 presidential bid. "JD Vance's visit is not routine diplomacy but a clear endorsement of Viktor Orban ahead of the toughest election of his life," said Asli Aydintasbas, visiting fellow at The Brookings Institution think tank.

"For the Trump administration, Orban is not just a low conservative but a central figure in efforts to establish

an illiberal bloc inside Europe. If Orban falls, the movement would suffer," Mr. Aydintasbas said. Mr. Orban has long been at loggerheads with the European Union over a range of issues, including Ukraine. He has maintained cordial ties with Moscow, refuses to send weapons to Ukraine, and says Kyiv can never join the EU. On a trip to Hungary in February, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the Trump administration was focused on Mr. Orban's success, making clear that the continuation of robust bilateral ties with Budapest was contingent on Mr. Orban's reelection. He even suggested the U.S. could provide financial assistance, though he did not elaborate. Far right souring on Trump. Trump's "America First" agenda increasingly looks like "America Alone" to allies and adversaries alike, as military campaigns and a deepening rift with Europe mark the first 15 months of his second term. Now, Europe's far-right and populist movements are souring on the Republican president despite shared positions on immigration and climate change. Some of their leaders have pushed back against his attempts to acquire Greenland from Denmark and his erratic tariff policy. Political analysts say U.S. support for Mr. Orban, including Mr. Vance's trip, may not be enough to sway voters, as domestic issues such as the cost of living dominate the election. "One wonders whether Vance's visit will boost or set back Orban's chances," said Stephen Wertheim, historian and senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Orban positions himself as a bastion of geopolitical stability. Back in Washington, however, Vance's administration is waging a war on Iran that has predictably destabilized the Middle East and damaged European economies. More and more, 'America First' isn't playing well with European nationalism." The trip briefly takes Mr. Vance out of Washington, where Mr. Trump and his top aides are grappling with how to wrap up the war on Iran, now in its sixth week with no clear off-ramp in sight. The conflict has driven up gas prices, dragged down Trump's approval ratings and intensified Republican anxiety about November's midterm elections. Mr. Vance, an isolationist who has advocated against Washington's entanglements in foreign wars, has played a role in the indirect communications with Iran to end the war. He was among a handful of Mr. Trump aides who initially expressed caution about the conflict.

Explosives found near Serbian pipeline that carries Russian gas, say leaders

GNS News Agency, April 9

Powerful explosives were found near a pipeline in Serbia that carries Russian gas to Hungary, the leaders of the two countries said on Sunday (April 5, 2026), prompting political scrutiny in Hungary at a sensitive time days before a national election. Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic had informed him by phone about the discovery, which they said had taken place outside the town of Kanjiza, near Hungary's border with Serbia.

"Our units found an explosive of devastating power," Mr. Vucic, a close ally of Mr. Orban, said in a post on Instagram. "I told PM Orban that we would keep him updated on the investigation." They did not give further details of the explosives or publish images of the discovery on a section of pipeline linked to the Turkstream system, which carries Russian gas to Turkey and then to Central Europe. Officials in Budapest and Belgrade did not respond to requests for comment about the incident and questions surrounding it, which comes a week before pivotal elections on April 12 in Hungary. Nationalist Orban is fighting to hold onto his more than 16-year grip on power in the election, with his party trailing the opposition Tisza party in polls. A former Hungarian intelligence official told Reuters there had been discussions in Hungarian security circles over the past days about a precise plan for a "false-flag" operation impacting the pipeline in Serbia as part of an effort to influence the Hungarian vote. Tisza leader Peter Magyar also raised doubts about the leaders' statements, saying they appeared aimed at boosting Mr. Orban's electoral prospects. "Several people have publicly indicated that something will 'accidentally' happen at the gas pipeline in Serbia at Easter, a week before the Hungarian elections. And so it happened," Magyar said in a statement. Pivotal elections

Mr. Orban said in a Facebook post he had called an extraordinary defence council meeting on Sunday (April 5, 2026) to discuss the incident on the pipeline, which trans-



ports Russian gas through the Balkans to Central and Eastern Europe. Mr. Orban in February scaled up security around energy infrastructure in the country by dispatching troops after what he said were plans by Ukraine to disrupt the Hungarian energy system — charges Kyiv denied. Budapest has also been in a dispute with Ukraine over a halt in oil supplies via the Druzhba pipeline. Mr. Orban's Fidesz party has sought to associate opposition leader Peter Magyar with Brussels and Ukraine, suggesting that voting for his Tisza party means voting for tanks and war. Hungary is an outlier in the European Union for maintaining ties with Moscow, which voiced support for Hungary over Sunday's incident and suggested that Ukraine was responsible. "(Ukraine) wants to deprive Hungary of its sovereignty," Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova told the TASS news agency, saying it was using energy to do that, "by trying to prevent Hungary from receiving high-quality and reasonably priced resources". Hungarian Foreign Minister Peter Szijarto did not directly accuse Ukraine of playing a role in Sunday's incident but did not rule it out. "In the past few days and weeks, the Ukrainians organised an oil blockade against us and then tried to put us under a total energy blockade ... And now we have today's incident," he said in a post on Facebook.

Antonio Guterres 'alarmed' by Donald Trump rhetoric on Iranian energy plants: UN spokesperson

GNS News Agency, April 9

UN chief Antonio Guterres is "alarmed" by the social media post from U.S. President Donald Trump that threatened American attacks on power plants, bridges and other infrastructure should Iran not agree to open the Strait of Hormuz, his spokesperson has said. "Yes. We were alarmed by the rhetoric seen in that social media post that threatened American attacks on power plants, bridges, and other infrastructure, should Iran not agree to a deal," Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for the Secretary-General, said at the daily press briefing in United Nations Mr. Dujarric was responding to a question on the Secretary-General's reaction to the threat issued by Mr. Trump in a post on Truth Social on Sunday (April 5) to blow up power plants, bridges, and other infrastructure if the Strait of Hormuz was not opened up by Iran by Tuesday (April 7). In a profanity-laden post, Mr. Trump had said "Tuesday will be Power Plant Day, and Bridge Day, all wrapped up in one, in Iran. There will be nothing like it", threatening that "you'll be living in Hell." Mr. Dujarric said the Secretary-General has been very clear on issues regarding international law, and he urges yet again all parties to abide by their obligations regarding the conduct of these hostilities.

Mr. Guterres recalls that civilian infrastructure, including energy infrastructure, may not be attacked; "even if specific civilian infrastructure were to qualify as a military objective, international humanitarian law would still prohibit attacks against them if they may be expected to cause excessive incidental civilian harm." Once again, the Secretary-General reaffirms that it's high time for the parties to stop this conflict, as there is no viable alternative to the peaceful settlement of international disputes. Mr. Dujarric said. When asked if the Secretary-General thought such attacks could constitute war crimes, Mr. Dujarric said they would constitute violations of international law, and "whether something is a crime or not a crime would have to be de-



cidied by a court, but any attack on civilian infrastructure is a violation of international law and a very clear one." Last week, in a clear message to the U.S., Israel and Iran, Mr. Guterres called for dialogue to end the West Asia conflict that has now entered its second month. "My message is clear. To the United States and Israel, it is high time to stop the war that is inflicting immense human suffering and already triggering devastating economic consequences. To Iran, to stop attacking their neighbours," Mr. Guterres had said. As the West Asia conflict entered its second month, causing economic and humanitarian hardships in the region and beyond, Mr. Guterres had stressed dialogue and diplomacy to find a peaceful resolution to the conflict. "Conflicts do not end on their own. They end when leaders choose dialogue over destruction. That choice still exists. And it must be made — now," he said. "We are on the edge of a wider war that would engulf the whole Middle East with dramatic impacts around the globe," the UN chief had said. The Strait of Hormuz is a 55-kilometre-wide narrows between Iran and Oman, separating the Persian Gulf from the Arabian Sea. It is a particularly important piece of global real estate in terms of the energy sector and one of the busiest and most strategically significant shipping routes in the world.

Artemis mission approaches lunar loop for first flyby since 1972



GNS News Agency, April 9

The Artemis astronauts entered the final phase of their run-up to a lunar loop on Monday (April 6, 2026), a tipping point of sorts that means the Moon's gravity is now having a stronger pull on the spacecraft than Earth's. The Orion capsule will now whip around the Moon, setting the crew up to travel farther from our home planet than any human before. The astronauts entered what NASA calls the lunar sphere of influence about 0442 GMT (10.12 a.m. IST) on Monday and will soon record the first lunar flyby since 1972. As they entered the Moon's gravitational influence, the crew was about 39,000 miles (63,000 kilometers) from the Moon and about 232,000 miles from Earth, a NASA official said on the agency's livestream of the event. The moon during its waxing gibbous phase

The historic occasion comes alongside a constellation of firsts for the crew of three Americans and one Canadian. Victor Glover will go down in the books as the first person of color to ever fly around the Moon, and Christina Koch will be the first woman. Canadian Jeremy Hansen, meanwhile, will become the first non-American to accomplish the feat. Those three, along with mission commander Reid Wiseman, will spend much of their lunar flyby documenting the Moon. The astronauts have already started seeing features of the celestial body never before viewed with a naked human eye. In the wee hours of Sunday, NASA published an image taken by the Artemis crew that showed a distant Moon with the Orientale basin visible. "This mis-

sion marks the first time the entire basin has been seen with human eyes," the U.S. space agency said. The massive crater, which resembles a bullseye, had been photographed before by orbiting cameras. Ms. Koch, speaking to Canadian children live from space, said the crew was most excited to see the basin — sometimes known as the Moon's "Grand Canyon." "It's very distinctive and no human eyes previously had seen this crater until today, really, when we were privileged enough to see it," Ms. Koch said during the question-and-answer session hosted by the Canadian Space Agency. Testing spacesuits

Near the end of their flyby, the astronauts will witness a solar eclipse, when the Sun will be behind the Moon and hidden from view aside from its outermost atmosphere, the solar corona. The four astronauts will also spend some time testing their "Orion crew survival system" spacesuits. The orange suits protect the crewmembers during launch and reentry, but are also available for emergency use — they can provide up to six days of breathable air. The astronauts are the first to ever wear the OCSS suits in space, and will test their functions, including how quickly they can put them on and pressurize them. While the four astronauts will not touch down on the lunar surface, they are expected to break the record for the farthest distance from Earth during their pass around the Moon. Will "learn an awful lot" about the spacecraft

Over the next day, "they will be on the far side of the Moon, they will eclipse that record, and we're going to learn an awful lot about the spacecraft," NASA administrator Jared Isaacman said Sunday during a televised interview with CNN. The information will be "pretty paramount to set up for subsequent missions like Artemis 3 in 2027 and, of course, the lunar landing itself on Artemis 4 in 2028," he added. NASA said the Artemis crew has completed a manual piloting demonstration and reviewed their lunar flyby plan, including reviewing the surface features they must analyze and photograph during their time circling the Moon. "We're focusing very much on the ecosystem, the life support system of the spacecraft," Mr. Isaacman told CNN. "This is the first time astronauts have ever flown on this spacecraft before," he said. "That's what we're most interested in getting data from."

Iran hangs two convicted of links with Israel in pre-war protests: judiciary

GNS News Agency, April 9

Iran executed two men on Sunday (April 5, 2026) convicted of acting on behalf of Israel and the United States during a wave of anti-government protests earlier this year, the judiciary said. "Mohammad-Amin Biglari and Shahin Vahedparast... were hanged after the case was reviewed and the final verdict was confirmed by the Supreme Court," the judiciary's Mizan Online website said. The two men were involved in the anti-government protests that peaked in January, it added. The demonstrations broke out in late December over rising living costs before spreading nationwide and evolving into anti-government protests that peaked on January 8 and 9. Iranian authorities said the rallies began peaceful before turning into "foreign-instigated riots" involving killings and vandalism. Iran has carried out multiple executions in recent days of people linked to the protests or opposition groups, including members of the banned People's Mujahedin (MEK). The executions come against the backdrop of Iran's war with Israel and the United States, which erupted on February 28 with strikes that killed the Islamic republic's supreme leader, Ali Khamenei. On Saturday (April 4, 2026), Iran executed two members of the MEK after four other convicted members of the group were put



to death earlier in the week. On Thursday (April 2, 2026), it also executed a man convicted of acting on behalf of Israel and the United States during the protests, following similar executions of three others last month. Tehran has said more than 3,000 people were killed during the unrest, including members of the security forces and bystanders, attributing the violence to "terrorist acts". The U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), however, said it had recorded more than 7,000 deaths, the vast majority of them protesters, adding that the toll could be higher.

Iran urges youths to protect power plants, Saudi Arabia closes bridge as Trump's deadline nears

GNS News Agency, April 9

Dubai: Saudi Arabia closed the only road linking it to Bahrain on Tuesday after Iran fired missiles at its oil-rich Eastern Province. Tehran's latest strikes came as Iranian officials urged youths to form human chains around power plants to protect them, as the latest deadline set by US President Donald Trump for Iran to reopen the Strait of Hormuz drew closer. Trump has threatened to bomb all of Iran's power plants and bridges if Iran does not meet his Tuesday 8 pm EDT deadline to allow shipping traffic to fully resume through the strategic waterway, through which a fifth of the world's oil transits in peacetime. "The entire country can be taken out in one night," Trump said. Israel's military warned Iranians in Farsi to avoid taking trains throughout the day, likely telegraphing intended strikes on the rail network. "Your presence puts your life at risk," the warning posted on X read. Iran choked off shipping through the strait after Israel and the US attacked on Feb. 28, starting the war. On Monday, Tehran rejected a 45-day ceasefire proposal and said it wants a permanent end to the war. Early Tuesday, Tehran launched seven ballistic missiles at Saudi Arabia, which authorities said rained debris on the ground near energy facilities as they were intercepted. Defence Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Turki al-Malki said the damage was being assessed. In the meantime, Saudi Arabia said it was closing the King Fahd Causeway, a bridge that links Saudi Arabia to the island kingdom of Bahrain, over the threat of more Iranian attacks targeting the Eastern Province.

The 25-km bridge is the only connection by road for Bahrain, home to the US Navy's 5th Fleet, to the Arabian Peninsula. Elsewhere, activists reported a new wave of strikes on Tehran, for which Israel later claimed responsibility. Iran also fired on Israel, with reports of incoming missiles. Iran's attacks on the energy infrastructure of its



Gulf Arab neighbours, coupled with its stranglehold on the Strait of Hormuz, have sent oil prices skyrocketing and are causing global economic problems.

In early spot trading, Brent crude, the international standard, was above \$111 per barrel, up more than 50 per cent since the start of the war. Under growing pressure at home as consumers feel the pinch, Trump has demanded that Iran open the Strait of Hormuz to all shipping traffic or see power plants and bridges wiped out. The threat to hit civilian infrastructure has sparked widespread warnings about possible war crimes. New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon on Tuesday urged Trump not to follow through, saying the "focus needs to be on not seeing this conflict expand any further." "Any of those actions, including bombing bridges and reservoirs and civilian infrastructure, would be unacceptable," Luxon told Radio New Zealand

Iran sought to up the ante, calling on "all young people, athletes, artists, students, university students and their professors" to form human chains around power plants ahead of the threatened strikes.

Donald Trump praises Artemis astronauts: 'You've made history'

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday (April 6, 2026) called and congratulated the Artemis astronauts circling the Moon for making "history," telling them they've "made all America really proud, incredibly proud." "You really are modern-day pioneers — all of you," Mr. Trump said, before launching into a friendly interview of sorts with the three Americans and one Canadian who are on a historic 10-day mission around Earth's natural satellite. "You've got a lot of courage doing what you're doing," Mr. Trump said, lavishing praise on NASA's first lunar flyby in more than 50 years. "America will be second to none in space and every-

thing we're doing, and we will continue to lead the whole thing into the stars, this incredible journey into the stars," Mr. Trump said, crediting himself with choosing to save the space program. Mr. Trump then conducted a brief question-and-answer session, asking what the dark side of the moon was like and how it felt to go incommunicado with Earth during that part of the space flight. "I said a little prayer, but then I had to keep rolling," Artemis pilot Victor Glover responded. "I was actually recording scientific observations of the far side of the Moon."

A disturbing step for rights, dignity and mental health



ment talks about determining and validating someone's gender through a process in which the answer to the question "what is my gender?" has to be given by complete strangers. This raises many issues that seem to present challenges at many levels.

Medical boards — many of which do not exist at the district level — are already overburdened even for urgent health-care needs. In the absence of criteria, as well as time and process, it is likely that boards may fall back on arbitrary, invasive or abusive examinations, including the possibility of genital inspection. This stems arguably from the traditional way of "assigning" gender at birth by looking at the genitals of a newborn child by a doctor or another adult. This is far from what we know to be the understanding of gender identity for gender diverse and trans individuals. Extrapolating this method to an adult and making it mandatory is in direct and complete violation of dignity, privacy and bodily autonomy. I cannot imagine any circumstance that would make me wish to approach this premise for myself as an adult cisgender woman. The very thought of such a scrutiny by a board of strangers, would probably create anticipatory mental distress and make me actively avoid approaching such a premise. Instead of improving welfare access, the amendment will likely shrink it, deter individuals from approaching the state, and reintroduce fear and humiliation into an already vulnerable population.

Mental health fallout, crisis in the making The transgender community already faces extreme vulnerability. Data show that 99% of transgender persons have faced social rejection; 52% have faced harassment or violence in educational spaces; 57% of trans women report experiencing physical or sexual violence at least once, and transgender adolescents have suicide attempt rates estimated between 13% and 50%, far above the national average. Against this backdrop, introducing additional layers of suspicion, verification and scrutiny is not just insensitive. It is unsafe. As a mental-health practitioner and an ally for the trans community, I am deeply concerned. Not just prospective; what is concerning is the uncertainty for thousands of transgender individuals currently enrolled in health-care services, whose access may now be questioned or invalidated in the face of the ambiguity about supporting the gender exploration and gender journey of an individual. This is not merely a procedural shift; it has the potential of developing rapidly into a public mental-health emergency.

The amendment introduces a clause that criminalises 'undue influence' in helping someone identify as transgender, with penalties up to 15 years of imprisonment. For mental-health practitioners, psychologists, lawyers and educators, this creates an unprecedented ethical and legal risk. In many families, gender-identity journeys create tension or disagreement. Community-based organisations, trans-affirmative mental health practitioners and services are frequently accused of 'encouraging' adolescents simply for acknowledging their lived reality. Under this amendment, such allegations could become criminal charges. This will discourage health-care practitioners from providing essential, evidence-based care; challenge community-based organisations to remain as allies, and push transgender persons away from formal health care and heighten mental distress that will likely remain unsupported. Additionally, the amendment collapses distinctions between transgender, intersex and hijra identities, erasing cultural, social and biological differences. Trans men remain nearly invisible in the framework, further marginalising them. An appeal for reflection and action The current amendment risks undoing a decade of progress across law, governance, health systems and institutional practice. If misuse has occurred — even if limited to the 0.01% that the government suggests — the solution lies in audits, verification protocols and administrative strengthening — not in policing gender identity or forcing medicalisation. To uphold constitutional values, protect mental health, and ensure administrative feasibility, this amendment must be reconsidered. We owe each individual in India the assurance that governance frameworks do not deepen fear, stigma, or exclusion for any community. Dr. Kavita Arora is a senior psychiatrist with over 25 years of clinical practice and lived-experience expertise, a Founding Cohort member of India Mental Health Alliance (IMHA), Co-Founder of Children First, and an adviser and trainer in gender-affirming mental health practices across several Indian institutions.

Climate change as a public health emergency

When we talk about climate change, the conversation almost always veers toward rising sea levels or extreme weather events. Some may even talk about the economic disruption that these natural disasters can and do cause. However, few, if any, touch upon another dimension of climate change: the broad-spectrum medical crisis that changing planetary patterns can trigger, as climate change intensifies every disease we already know and opens the door to those we have yet to face. Nowhere is this more visible than in India. Increasingly frequent and severe waterlogging due to excess rain in cities such as Mumbai is creating ideal conditions for waterborne infections including cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and leptospirosis. Recurrent waterlogging overwhelms sanitation infrastructure, contaminates clean water supplies, and leaves urban populations exposed to serious illnesses. Conversely, drought-prone regions are facing worsening water scarcity, forcing communities to rely on unsafe water sources, thereby increasing the burden of diarrhoeal diseases as well as chronic dehydration. Expanding disease risk

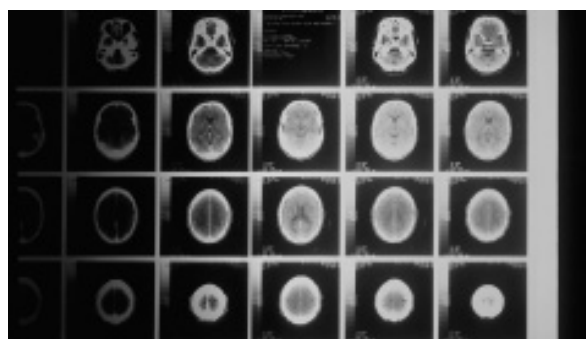
Meanwhile, shifting seasonal patterns are driving a rise in infections, allergies and vector-borne diseases, as changing temperatures and rainfall cycles disrupt established trends and prolong pollen seasons. Disease windows are expanding, and their geographic reach is steadily widening, quietly accelerating climate-driven spread. Communities with no prior exposure lack immunity, while health-care systems in these regions remain underprepared to respond at scale. One major example of this is the exponential growth of mosquito-borne diseases, as rising temperatures have made previously inhospitable regions suitable for this insect. The impact on dengue patterns is already measurable in Delhi-NCR. The number of cases traditionally peaked in September but now peaks in November, as warmer and rainier conditions sustain mosquito populations for longer periods. Malaria, once largely confined to endemic pockets of the Gangetic Plains and the warm, humid regions of central India, is now being reported in cooler areas such as Himachal Pradesh, where it historically had minimal presence. Climate change threats

Climate change also triggers rising air pollution. As summers become increasingly hotter, greater reliance on air conditioning drives higher energy use and greenhouse

gas emissions. These emissions contain elevated levels of PM2.5 — microscopic pollutants that penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream — exerting widespread effects across multiple organs in the body, particularly the lungs, heart and kidneys. Fine particulate matter penetrates deep into the lungs, causing inflammation, reduced lung function, and exacerbating respiratory conditions such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. These particulates can also damage blood vessels, accelerate atherosclerosis, and increase the risk of hypertension, heart attack and stroke. The kidneys are equally vulnerable, and chronic exposure can impair kidney function, reduce filtration efficiency, and contribute to the progression of chronic kidney disease. Greenhouse gases also trap more heat in the atmosphere, creating a feedback loop that amplifies the very crisis we are trying to manage through air conditioners and other cooling appliances. This heat stress forces the heart to work harder to regulate the body's temperature, increasing strain on the cardiovascular system. This can trigger complications such as hypertension, heart attack, and stroke. These conditions disproportionately affect people without adequate shelter, such as manual labourers who spend long hours working outdoors in extreme conditions.

Parts of the country, such as Odisha, Telangana, and Vidarbha, are reporting a rising number of heat-stroke-related deaths. In addition, rising night-time temperatures in urban pockets such as Delhi-NCR and Mumbai are eliminating the critical recovery window that the human body relies on to cool down after prolonged daytime heat exposure. Infant health outcomes are also increasingly at risk — exposure to extreme heat and air pollution has been linked to preterm births and low birth weight among newborns. The health consequences of climate change also extend into food systems and nutrition. Extreme weather events and unseasonal rain disrupt crop cycles and reduce agricultural productivity, contributing to food shortages. The declining nutritional quality of food crops, combined with rising prices, further compounds the crisis, creating a hidden burden of micronutrient deficiencies and chronic malnutrition, especially among children. Rising temperatures can also cause a decline in milk production, as cattle affected by heat stress compromise infant and child nutrition

Psychedelics are revealing how the brain builds the sense of self



Many people have reported moments when the sense of being a distinct self 'loosens'. Among astronauts, it is called the overview effect while deep-sea explorers report a similar shift sometimes called the underview effect. Both involve sudden changes in perspective in which the usual boundary of 'me' briefly softens, as if the vastness they encounter is mirrored inwardly and the distance between self and world is momentarily absent. This dissolution often translates into shared experiences of oneness and interconnectedness with the outside world.

The 19th century Indian teacher Ramana Maharshi treated this instability not as an anomaly but as something to examine directly. Continuing a long philosophical tradition, he invited people to look for the 'I' in their own experiences — in the body, sensations, and thoughts — and notice that none of them fully captures the true nature of the self. Such inquiry explores experience from the inside, a subjective, first-person view. Modern science, by contrast, examines the brain processes that accompany experience from the outside, making these inner shifts harder to access directly. Only recently, however, has a new experimental tool offered a way to observe what happens in the brain as the sense of self begins to shift. Psychedelics can temporarily 'loosen' the brain patterns that support the feeling of a 'me', allowing researchers to watch that system reorganise itself in real time.

To study what happens when the sense of self weakens, an international team of researchers turned to a fast-acting psychedelic compound called N,N-Dimethyltryptamine (DMT) in a laboratory study with 27 volunteers. DMT produces a brief and intense shift in awareness that often includes a loss of the usual feeling of being a separate 'me'. In the experiment, published in *The Journal of Neuroscience* on January 14, volunteers received DMT while researchers recorded their brain activity using electroencephalography (EEG) to track rhythmic electrical patterns across the scalp. In normal conditions, one of the brain's dominant rhythms is the alpha wave — a slow oscillation linked to inward focus. This rhythm helps regulate internally focused processing. Importantly, this rhythm is not the self itself but one neural signature associated with how the brain maintains a coherent sense of self over time. During the DMT experience, that pattern began to loosen. Alpha rhythms weakened and lost coordination. Overall brain activity also shifted away from its usual organisation. And the more this rhythm weakened, the more strongly participants reported losing their ordinary sense of self.

A one-second sample from an EEG filtered to show the alpha waves. The findings suggest that specific brain processes are involved in maintaining aspects of the felt sense of self. When neural patterns associated with maintaining a stable sense of 'me' loosen, the organisation of that experience can temporarily shift. Neuroscientists describe the waking brain as operating in a delicate balance between structure and flexibility. This regime is sometimes called criticality. In this state, brain networks are organised enough to remain coherent while still adapting to new information. Under the influence of DMT, that balance shifted towards a quieter, less coordinated mode. As the organising rhythm weakened, the brain activity associated with maintaining a coherent self-model also shifted.

But what shifts in these experiments is not something transcendental, like in the philosophical traditions of India and China. Dan Zahavi, professor of philosophy at the University of Copenhagen, cautioned that the self isn't a single thing that can simply vanish. "It involves multiple layers," he explained, including bodily awareness, lived experience, and personal narrative, "and altering how those layers are organised is not the same as erasing identity". Neuroscience, in this view, is observing temporary changes in how the self is structured rather than its elimination. At a more practical level, Jeff Greenberg, professor of psychology at the University of Arizona noted that a stable sense of self plays an important role in everyday functioning, including supporting emotional regulation, planning, and continuity. Brief disruptions can be informative, he added, but they should not be mistaken for a lasting loss of identity. Self, mortality, emotional acceptance

If a brief disruption of the brain's self-model can reveal how fragile the feeling of 'me' really is, the question naturally arises whether that insight changes how we face impermanence or the transient nature of the world.

Psychologists have long shown that reminders of death can influence the way we behave, in part because the sense of self is a continuous, bounded self and acts as a psychological anchor, keeping change and mortality at a distance. In a study published recently in *Psychopharmacology*, researchers asked whether repeated ego-softening might reshape how people relate to death by comparing 54 long-term ayahuasca users, each with at least nine lifetime uses and averaging around fifty uses, to 53 people who had never taken psychedelics. Participants completed psychological measures assessing death anxiety, avoidance, and emotional attitudes towards impermanence. The ayahuasca group reported less fear and anxiety about death, were less likely to avoid thinking about it, and were more comfortable with the idea of impermanence. The researchers found that this pattern was best explained by what they called "acceptance of impermanence", an emotional ability to stay open to change — rather than religion, personality or general mindfulness. Yair Dor-Ziderman, research director at the University of Haifa, Israel, and lead author of the study, said this was striking because popular narratives often assume psychedelic experiences reduce fear of death by changing one's beliefs.

Instead, he explained, the data pointed to a different mechanism: not adopting a comforting metaphysical story but developing "a more flexible emotional relationship to uncertainty, dissolution, and loss". The emotional acceptance of change rather than belief or personality best explained the difference between the groups.

To clarify what that kind of acceptance entailed, M. Samir Hossein, a psychiatrist and thanatologist, noted that fearing death less was not the same as accepting impermanence. Fear, he explained, could diminish in defensive ways like distraction or reinterpretation whereas acceptance reflected a deeper shift in how a person related to loss and change in everyday life. "Fear can quiet down without disappearing but acceptance reorganises how we live with

impermanence." Prof. Greenberg cautioned that studies of this kind are correlational and rely heavily on self-report measures, making it difficult to determine whether psychedelics themselves produce lasting changes in how people relate to death. Larger, more controlled research will be needed to clarify if there is a causal link. "But if someone who is in need thinks one of these approaches might help, I would not discourage them from trying," he said. Meditation and the brain's defences The ayahuasca findings point towards a broader possibility: that such shifts may not be unique to psychedelics but reflect a more general capacity of the brain to relax its defensive stance, in general and toward death.

In one February 2025 study involving magnetoencephalography — a brain-imaging method similar to EEG that tracks small magnetic signals produced by neural activity — Dr. Dor-Ziderman and another team of researchers compared how meditators and meditation-naïve participants responded to death-related words. The participants repeatedly saw words paired with images of their own face or a stranger's, while the brain's rapid 'surprise' signal — a built-in response that appears when something unexpected happens — was measured in real time. In most people, reminders of mortality triggered an automatic defensive pattern. When death-related words were paired with self-images, the 'surprise' signal weakened, suggesting the brain was dampening the association before conscious awareness, effectively filtering out the implication that "death applies to me". Experienced meditators showed a different response. Their brains registered the same death-related cues without that suppression. Rather than reflexively filtering the signal, neural activity indicated the information was processed more directly, pointing to a reduced automatic defence linking death and self.

Dr. Dor-Ziderman interpreted this shift as reflecting a change in how the embodied self is represented. Ordinarily, he explained, the brain models the self as a stable object that must be protected, especially when confronted with mortality. Meditation repeatedly exposes practitioners to experience as an unfolding process: sensations arise and pass, agency fluctuates, and the sense of being a fixed 'someone' loosens. In this context, death is processed less as a catastrophic contradiction and more as another expression of change, allowing the brain to encounter existential cues without automatically reinforcing defensive boundaries.

A common pattern Representative image of a psychedelic liquid light show. Neuroscientists describe the waking brain as operating in a delicate balance between structure and flexibility. In this state, brain networks are organised enough to remain coherent while still adapting to new information. Representative image of a psychedelic liquid light show. Neuroscientists describe the waking brain as operating in a delicate balance between structure and flexibility. In this state, brain networks are organised enough to remain coherent while still adapting to new information. | Photo Credit: Dominik (CC BY-SA) None of these results implies that ego dissolution is inherently beneficial or that altering the sense of self is a universal remedy for existential distress. Dr. Dor-Ziderman cautioned that not all disruptions of self-experience operate at the same level. Acute psychedelic states may reshape concepts and emotions whereas deeply rooted perceptual defenses — including those tied to mortality — likely require sustained training and repeated evidence for the brain to revise them. The studies also rely on different methods, populations, and interpretations, so they can't establish straightforward cause-effect claims.

What the findings do point to, however, is a clearer view of how the brain might construct its sense of self. Moments when that sense loosens — whether in orbit, in meditation or under carefully studied conditions — reveal what feels like a fixed boundary is actively maintained and can shift. The emerging evidence points less to transcendence than to flexibility: a reminder that the experience of self is dynamic, not fixed. In that light, as Dr. Dor-Ziderman put it, acceptance of impermanence is less about adopting a belief than "developing an emotional stance toward change", the capacity to remain open to endings without reflexively turning away. The idea echoes a long-standing contemplative insight — known in Buddhist thought as 'anicca', for instance — a doctrine asserting that all conditioned existence, physical and mental, is in a constant state of flux, arising and passing away. Modern neuroscience doesn't quite resolve the mystery of the self — yet. But it does suggest that learning, whether through experience or training, to hold that 'me' a little more lightly may change how the mind responds to temporariness.

Iran rejects latest ceasefire proposal as Trump deadline approaches

Iran on Monday (April 6, 2026) rejected the latest ceasefire proposal and instead said it wants a permanent end to the war, even as U.S. President Donald Trump's ultimatum approaches.

"We won't merely accept a ceasefire," Mojtaba Ferdousi Pour, head of the Iranian diplomatic mission in Cairo, told *The Associated Press*. "We only accept an end of the war with guarantees that we won't be attacked again." Iran's state-run IRNA news agency said Tehran had conveyed its response through Pakistan, a key mediator.

Mr. Trump's deadline centres on Tehran opening the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil is shipped in peacetime. Ferdousi Pour said Iranian and Omani officials were working on a mechanism for administering the shipping chokepoint. Iran's grip on the strait has caused oil prices to surge and shaken the world economy.

Iran's rejection came after Israel struck a key petrochemical plant in the massive South Pars natural gas field and killed two paramilitary Revolutionary Guard commanders. The gas field attack aimed at eliminating a major source of revenue for Iran, Israel said. The field is critical to electricity production, but the strike appeared to be separate from Mr. Trump's threats. The gas field shared with Qatar is the world's largest.

Under pressure at home as consumers worry, meanwhile, Mr. Trump has warned Iran that if no deal is reached to reopen the strait, the U.S. would set the country "back to the stone ages." Mr. Trump has given multiple deadlines to Iran. The report of Iran's rejection came as he was making comments to journalists at an annual Easter event at the White House, ahead of more extensive comments Monday (April 6, 2026) afternoon.

Gateway to the world, from Madurai



After it was declared a customs airport in 2010, the Madurai airport has finally become an international terminal. The Union Cabinet Committee, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal on March 10. The decision will facilitate the operation of flights to international destinations, especially to West Asian countries, Singapore, and Malaysia, which host a significant diaspora from southern Tamil Nadu. One of the oldest airports of Tamil Nadu, Madurai has for long been the gateway to the southern districts till the Thoothukudi airport was inaugurated in 1992. The airstrip in Madurai that became operational in 1942 was used to fly newspapers from Chennai to Madurai. It became a civil airport in 1952 and started commercial operations in 1957.

With a small terminal building, the Madurai airport was handling only domestic services to destinations, including New Delhi, Mumbai, and Chennai. The inauguration of the spacious integrated terminal in September 2010 renewed the demand for international flights. However, the airport was then accorded the status of customs-notified airport. That status equipped the airport with modern facilities, such as the 17,560-square metre integrated terminal comprising 36 check-in counters and aero-bridges. The first international flight landed in Madurai in September 2012. Colombo became the first international destination to be connected with Madurai with SpiceJet launching its services. Soon, Mihin Lanka offered a service between Madurai and Colombo. The next year, Madurai got a direct flight to Dubai. Only two international flights were in operation for long. Then came Air India Express with the first direct flight to Singapore in September 2017. To start with, the service operated four days a week and became a daily service by March 2018, thanks to the demand. Abu Dhabi became the fourth international destination linked to Madurai in 2025.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) made the Madurai Airport operational 24x7 from October 1, 2024. However, there were not many takers for the late-night and early morning flights. However, passenger patronage had been on the rise and the airport handled 1.39 million passengers, including 0.23 million international passengers, in 2024-25. This forced the AAI to take up a slew of reconfiguration projects at the terminal to increase its passenger-handling capacity. The immigration counters were shifted to the first floor and the additional space on the ground floor was used to increase the number of check-in counters from 16 to 28, Madurai Airport Director P. Muthu Kumar said.

Now, 16 immigration counters are available for international passengers. Flights to three international destinations — Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Colombo — are in operation after Air India Express withdrew its popular Singapore service. Additional X-ray machines are being installed for baggage scanning. Meanwhile, the AAI has expedited its earlier proposal to have an additional terminal building, which will be used exclusively for international passengers, the Airport Director said. Acquisition of over 500 acres of land for runway extension is at an advanced stage. "The demand for international status for the Madurai airport was raised even when I was a Member of Parliament [Rajya Sabha in 1992-98]," said V.V. Rajan Chellappa, AIADMK MLA of the Tirupparankundram constituency, where the airport is located.

The major reason Madurai could not attract flight services to other international destinations, including Kuala Lumpur, was the lack of bilateral air service agreement (BASA) with other countries. Senior industrialist S. Rethinavelu, who has been spearheading the demand on behalf of trade and industry representatives, said it had not been fulfilled all these years on flimsy grounds. "Some political leaders had the thought that the development of the Madurai airport would be detrimental to the growth of the Tiruchi international airport," he added. When a policy to protect Indian airlines came up for discussion, the demand was made for including the Madurai airport in the BASA for certain destinations. "Then, the Central government was under the impression that if foreign airlines were to land in Madurai, they would grab all business opportunities of the Indian airlines," he added. Virudhunagar MP B. Manickam Tagore, who is also the chairperson of the Madurai Airport Advisory Committee, has described the Centre's decision as an "election stunt". "Only the name board of the airport has changed. But other formalities to get air connectivity to desired international destinations have not been processed," he said.

Madurai MP Su. Venkatesan thanked Union Civil Avia-

tion Minister K. Rammohan Naidu for addressing, at last, the long-standing demand of the southern districts. "We have been making this demand for long. Owing to the Centre's stubborn stand denying the BASA for the Madurai airport, airlines such as Air Arabia and Fly Dubai, which showed keen interest in operating international services to Madurai, could not do so," he said. He pointed out that the Centre had granted three international airports to Uttar Pradesh in just 10 months. "Madurai sees better patronage from international passengers than the three airports in Uttar Pradesh," he said. The trade bodies had also urged the government to include Madurai as a point of call (PoC) in the list of 18 tourist destinations across India for designated ASEAN carriers under the ASEAN Open Sky Policy. "But the Minister had then rejected the demand, claiming it was a one-time policy decision," Mr. Tagore said. Meanwhile, the Khajuraho airport was made a PoC under this scheme, though it was a domestic airport without any international services, Mr. Venkatesan added.

However, Mr. Rammohan Naidu, who unveiled the Madurai International Airport name boards in the city on Saturday (March 14, 2026) said the Centre would help in bringing international connectivity to Madurai, as it had made the airport operational 24x7 and granted it the international airport status. Mr. Rethinavelu said that bringing the Madurai airport under the ASEAN Open Sky Policy would open the floodgates for the airport to operate flights to 10 countries — Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos. It will boost tourism and pilgrimage activity at Kodaikanal, Courtallam, Rameswaram, Kanniyakumari, and Karaikudi. "Madurai, a hub of hospitals providing quality treatment at an affordable cost, will become an attractive destination for medical tourism," he added. Besides, it would facilitate further development of the Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor. Tamil Nadu betting big

As Tamil Nadu looks to become a one trillion-dollar economy by 2030-31, a key marker and force multiplier to propel the State forward would be world-class airports and diversified growth in aviation. To align with its goal of distributed development, the State has set its sights on developing three key airports — Parandur (near Chennai), Hosur, and Rameswaram. These promising projects could put Tamil Nadu back among the top three spots in the country's aviation map, experts say. Till the end of the 1990s, Madras was the air-connectivity hub of South India. It started losing its sheen by the beginning of the millennium. While the other metro airports were poised for privatisation for efficient operation, expansion of connectivity, and addition of passengers, Chennai's second airport planned at Sriperumbudur was put on the back burner. In the last four years, the State government has finally caught up.

While the Parandur airport would be to Chennai what Kempegowda International Airport is to Bengaluru, the Hosur project would not only further bolster the industrial growth in the region but would also attract traffic from Bengaluru. The Rameswaram airport is expected to improve tourism prospects and push regional development.

Parandur The State government is pinning its hopes on this ambitious project which could drastically change the flying experience from Chennai. Announced in 2022, it has so far received site clearance and in-principle approval. The government is gearing up to complete land acquisition. The ₹27,400-crore project, to be implemented in four phases, will augment capacity and allow the airport to handle 100 million passengers annually. While 5,746 acres has been earmarked for this project, 1,700 acres has been acquired so far. A tender for choosing the concessionaire will be floated, sources say. Some of the top airport private players have reportedly evinced interest in the project. The government also needs to step up efforts to link Parandur to the core areas of the city with a mass rapid transit system.

The Hosur airport could be a game changer for the State betting big on its manufacturing capabilities. Owing to its proximity to Bengaluru, a section of Bengaluru residents and businesses could significantly benefit from the airport at Hosur, a manufacturing and electronic hub. But the wait for Hosur will be longer and the process of securing approval is unlikely to be easy. Under the Bangalore International Airport Limited's concession agreement with the Ministry of Civil Aviation, no new airport for commercial flight operations can commence within a 150-km radius till 2033, and it stands as the biggest stumbling block. But, recently, the Centre has said it will revisit the current policy that prevents the operation of two airports within a 150-km radius. Though the State government was rather quick to finalise the site for the Hosur airport in Shoalagiri taluk (between Berigai and Bagalur) and sought approval from the Ministry of Defence, the request for airspace was declined twice. Sources said the State government intends to pursue this application. The Rameswaram airport project is in the nascent stage. Though envisioned as a small airport with a capacity to handle Code C aircraft, when the airport gets ready in the next 5-7 years, it could strengthen the tourism potential in the region dotted with iconic and ancient temples. After finishing the pre-feasibility study of two sites — near Uchipulli and Keelakarai, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has suggested the latter. The State government will choose a site in the next few months and nearly 600 acres will have to be acquired for the airport.

Explained: What does 'No Quarter' mean?



The phrase "no quarter" has come under scrutiny after remarks by Pete Hegseth, the United States Secretary of Defence, who said during a Pentagon briefing that the United States would continue military operations with "no quarter, no mercy for our enemies" while referring to strikes against Iran. The statement came amid escalating tensions following the reported sinking of the Iranian naval vessel IRIS Dena by a United States Navy submarine on March 4, in which more than 80 sailors were reported killed.

According to Colonel Dr. Divakaran Padma Kumar Pillay (Retd.), Research Fellow at MP-IDSA, who has also served as military advisor to the after-action review in West Asia, said that in the context of armed conflict, "no quarter" refers to the order or intent to refuse the surrender of an enemy and to ensure there are no survivors. It effectively means that combatants who are hors de combat (out of the fight due to injury, shipwreck, or surrender) will be killed rather than taken prisoner. He further said that the prohibition against declaring "no quarter" is one of the oldest and most settled rules of war, codified in several major treaties: The Hague Regulations (1907): Article 23(d) explicitly forbids declaring that no quarter will be given. Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions (1977): Article 40 states, "It is prohibited to order that there shall be no survivors, to threaten an adversary therewith or to conduct hostilities on this basis."

Trump demands others help secure Strait of Hormuz, Japan and Australia say no plans to send ships

Japan and Australia said on Monday (March 16, 2026) they were not planning to send navy vessels to West Asia to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz, after U.S. President Donald Trump called on allies to create a coalition to reopen the vital waterway. With the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran creating turmoil across West Asia and shaking up global energy markets in its third week, Mr. Trump on Sunday (March 16, 2026) insisted that nations relying heavily on oil from the Gulf have a responsibility to protect the strait through which 20% of the world's energy transits. Markets in Asia opened cautiously, with Brent crude rising more than 1% above \$104.50 and regional share markets mostly weaker after Mr. Trump's comments about enlisting other countries to help safeguard the strait. "I'm demanding that these countries come in and protect their own territory because it is their territory," Mr. Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One on the way from Florida to Washington. "It's the place from which they get their energy."

Mr. Trump said his administration has already contacted seven countries, but did not identify the countries. In a weekend social media post he hoped China, France, Japan, South Korea, Britain and others would participate. Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi said on Monday (March 16, 2026) her country, constrained by its war-renouncing constitution, has no plan to dispatch naval vessels to escort ships in West Asia.

"We have not made any decisions whatsoever about dispatching escort ships. We are continuing to examine what Japan can do independently and what can be done within the legal framework," Mr. Takaichi told parliament. Australia, another key Indo-Pacific ally to the U.S., said it had not been asked and will not send naval ships to assist in reopening the strait either. "We know how incredibly important that is, but that's not something that we've been asked or that we're contributing to," Catherine King, a member of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's cabinet, said in an interview with state broadcaster ABC. Trump may delay Beijing visit without China support. Mr. Trump told the Financial Times on Sunday (March 16, 2026) he was expecting China to help unblock the strait before his scheduled meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing at the end of this month and might postpone his trip if it did not provide assistance. "I think China should help too because China gets 90% of its oil from the Straits," Mr. Trump said. "We may delay," he said in reference to his visit if China did not offer support in the Gulf. The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. Mr. Trump also ratcheted up pressure on European allies to help protect the strait, warning that NATO faces a "very bad" future if its members fail to come to Washington's aid. European Union Foreign Ministers will

The Rome Statute (1998): Under Article 8, "declaring that no quarter will be given" is classified as a war crime in both international and non-international armed conflicts. International Humanitarian Law functions on a level of reciprocity. If the U.S. Defence Secretary signals that "no quarter" will be given to adversaries, he effectively strips his own soldiers of their protections if they are captured. It invites a "race to the bottom" in combat, where neither side feels compelled to honour the status of a Prisoner of War (POW). From the perspective of a veteran, the greatest strength of a modern military is its discipline. When a civilian leader uses "no quarter" rhetoric, they are asking soldiers to switch off their moral and legal compass. This creates a "command climate" where atrocities become more likely, as front-line troops may interpret such metaphors as literal permissions to bypass the Geneva Conventions.

Experts caution that such rhetoric can have serious consequences. International humanitarian law works partly on reciprocity: if one side signals that surrender will not be accepted, it risks encouraging the adversary to treat captured soldiers in the same way. This can erode protections normally granted to prisoners of war and lead to escalating brutality on the battlefield.

Dr. Thomas Mathew, a retired IAS officer and defence analyst, said that Pete Hegseth's declaration that the U.S. would allow "no quarter" and show "no mercy for our enemies" is a blatant violation of international law. No quarter means kill every person considered an enemy, even if he is hors de combat (incapable of fighting due to injuries) or has even surrendered. He further added that it is prohibited under various conventions, including the Hague Conventions (1899, 1907) and the Additional Protocol to the 1949 Geneva Conventions, for instance. Most critically, Article 8 (2) (b) (xii) of the Elements of Crimes of ICJ, posits that "denying quarter" is a war crime and a declaration that there shall be no survivors is a part of the elements that constitute a war crime. It is absolutely unimaginable that such a senior member of the cabinet of the President of the world's oldest democracy could make such a statement. It can have catastrophic implications in future conflicts and wars.



discuss on Monday (March 16, 2026) bolstering a small naval mission in West Asia but are not expected to decide on extending its role to the choked-off Strait of Hormuz, diplomats and officials say. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer discussed the need to reopen the strait with Mr. Trump, and with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, a Downing Street spokeswoman said on Sunday (March 15, 2026), while South Korea has said it would carefully review Mr. Trump's request. Although some Iranian vessels have continued to pass and a few ships from other countries have successfully made the crossing, the passage has been effectively closed for most of the world's tanker traffic since the United States and Israel attacked Iran on February 28 at the start of an intensive bombing campaign that has hit thousands of targets across the country. Drone cause fire, disrupt traffic at Dubai airport Despite repeated claims from U.S. authorities to have destroyed Iran's military capabilities, drone attacks continued to threaten Gulf states on Monday (March 16, 2026). Dubai authorities said they had contained a fire but temporarily suspended flights at the airport, a major international hub, after a drone attack hit a fuel tank. Saudi Arabia intercepted 34 drones in its eastern region in one hour, state media said. No injuries were reported in either incident. U.S. officials responding to economic uncertainty over high oil prices predicted on Sunday that the war with Iran would end within weeks and that a drop in energy costs would follow, despite Iran's assertion that it remains "stable and strong" and ready to defend itself. Trump, who threatened more strikes on Iran's main oil export hub, Kharg Island, over the weekend, has said previously that Iran wants to negotiate, but Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi earlier on Sunday disputed that claim. "We have never asked for a ceasefire, and we have never asked even for negotiations," Mr. Araghchi told CBS' "Face the Nation" program. "We are ready to defend ourselves for as long as it takes."

Israel launches strikes on Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon, evacuation orders issued



GNS News Agency, April 9

Jerusalem: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) said on Sunday that it conducted a wave of strikes on Hezbollah infrastructure across Lebanon. As part of the strikes carried out on Saturday, the Israeli Army struck launch sites in the Al-Qatrani area in southern Lebanon, from which Hezbollah militants planned to launch rockets imminently, the IDF said in a statement. It noted that the IDF also dismantled Hezbollah elite Radwan Force command centres in Beirut, from which militants allegedly launched attacks on Israel, Xinhua news agency reported. The Israeli army also issued immediate forced evacuation orders for residents in several neighbourhoods in the Lebanese capital. In a statement, Israeli Army Spokesman Avichay Araee

urged residents of Haret Hreik, Ghobeiry, Laylaki, Hadath, Burj al-Barajneh, Tahwat al-Ghadir, and Shiyah "to leave immediately and not to return until further notice," the Anadolu news agency reported.

He said the Israeli army would "forcefully operate" in these areas, citing what he called Hezbollah activities in the neighbourhoods. Adraee threatened "to target anyone present near Hezbollah facilities, personnel, or military equipment in those locations". Hezbollah said on Sunday it was also targeting several Israeli troop positions in villages close to the border.

According to Lebanon's Health Ministry, Israeli air raids have killed 826 people in Lebanon since the start of the latest war, which began on March 2. Meanwhile, Lebanese President Joseph Aoun has proposed negotiations with Israel. But Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said on Sunday that there were no plans to hold direct talks with Lebanon in the coming days. Israel's Haaretz newspaper reported on Saturday that Israel and Lebanon were expected to hold direct talks. French President Emmanuel Macron said last week the Lebanese government was ready to engage in "direct talks" with Israel as he offered to host negotiations in Paris, warning that "everything must be done to prevent Lebanon from descending into chaos". United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently said Lebanese people have been "dragged into" a war, as he called for an end to the fighting amid Israel's continued assault on several areas of the country.

Kimi Antonelli becomes second-youngest Formula 1 race winner at Chinese Grand Prix

Shanghai: He's been defined by being Lewis Hamilton's successor and George Russell's teammate. Now Kimi Antonelli is a Formula 1 race winner in his own right, and the second-youngest in history. The 19-year-old Italian pulled clear of an entertaining battle between Russell and the two Ferraris to take a commanding win at the Chinese Grand Prix on Sunday and share the podium with his teammate and Hamilton, the seven-time champion he replaced last year. It's a vindication of the gamble Mercedes team principal Toto Wolff took in picking the youngster, who had joined Mercedes' junior programme aged just 11, to replace an all-time great when Hamilton moved to Ferrari for 2025. There were plenty of doubters when Antonelli crashed 10 minutes into his practice debut in 2024. "Many said it was just too early last year, and obviously we asked ourselves that question, whether it was too much to throw him into this pressure cooker," Wolff told Sky Sport Germany.

"One year with ups and downs and he's young. We have to forgive him these mistakes, and now he is in the second Grand Prix (of 2026) and brings it home ruthlessly. It's good." The 19-year-old Italian was the youngest pole position starter and briefly lost the lead to Hamilton at the start but took it back soon after and was in control for the rest of the race. "We did it! We did it!" Antonelli shouted to his team over the radio amid laughs and cheers, and he was holding back tears during celebrations and a TV interview soon after. It was another 1-2 finish for Mercedes to start the season as Russell came through a battle with both

Ferraris to finish second. Hamilton was third for his long-awaited first Grand Prix podium finish for Ferrari. The only driver younger than Antonelli to win a Grand Prix was Max Verstappen, who was 18 when he took his first victory in 2016. He is the first Italian to win since Giancarlo Fisichella in 2006. The new regulations again produced a dramatic fight for position between Mercedes and the fast-starting Ferraris as Russell fought his way past Charles Leclerc and Hamilton in a multi-lap battle with numerous changes of position. That allowed Antonelli to build his lead at the front. Even after Russell had pulled away to secure second place, teammates Leclerc and Hamilton kept up their own fight for third. "This is quite a fun battle," Leclerc exclaimed over the radio. Leclerc was fourth with Oliver Bearman fifth for Haas, Pierre Gasly sixth for Alpine and Liam Lawson seventh for Racing Bulls. Isack Hadjar recovered from an early spin to place eighth for Red Bull, ahead of Carlos Sainz Jr in ninth for Williams, while Franco Colapinto was 10th for Alpine to score his first point since 2024. Max Verstappen was running sixth when his car lost power and he had to limp back to the pits in another blow for the four-time champion, who has been a leading critic of F1's new cars. Formula 1 champion Lando Norris and his McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri were both unable to start after encountering technical problems minutes before the race began. Piastri was due to start fifth and Norris sixth for Sunday's race. Norris was in his car in the pits but did not leave for the grid, before Piastri was then withdrawn from the grid. McLaren said it found "two different electrical problems on the power unit side" after an investigation.

Kalpakkam fast breeder reactor attains criticality; defining step: PM Modi



the fuel core that will undergo nuclear transmutation to produce more fuel — therefore, the name 'breeder'. Nuclear transmutation involves the conversion of a chemical element or isotope into another chemical element, with the numbers of protons or neutrons in the nucleus of the atom undergoing a change. Efforts to build an FBR were initiated two decades ago, and successive governments have nurtured the project as a step towards India developing comprehensive capabilities that span the entire nuclear fuel cycle, by which electricity is produced from uranium in nuclear power reactors. In 2003, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was Prime Minister, the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd or BHAVINI was incorporated to build and operate India's most advanced nuclear reactor, the PFBR. The project was expected to be completed by September 2010, but was delayed due to technological challenges. The last set of approvals had revised the completion target to October 2022.

Once commissioned, India will be the second country after Russia to have a commercial operating FBR. China has a small programme on fast breeders; programmes in countries such as Japan, France, and the United States were shut down amid safety concerns. The first stage entails the setting up of Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) and associated fuel cycle facilities, which is currently in progress. PHWRs are reactors that use natural uranium as fuel and heavy water (deuterium oxide) as coolant and moderator, which form the bulk of India's installed atomic power capacity of 8,180 MWe.

The FBR is the vital second stage in the DAE's three-stage power programme which envisages a pathway to utilising India's abundant thorium reserves — found in coastal and inland placer sands on the beaches of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat, and in the inland riverine sands of Jharkhand and West Bengal — to generate electricity.

The vital second stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme got a boost Monday with the country's first indigenous Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu attaining criticality — the initiation of a self-sustaining nuclear fission reaction that will eventually lead to the generation of power by the 500-megawatt electric (MWe) FBR.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a post on X, called it a "defining step" in advancing the country's civil nuclear programme and said the indigenously designed and built reactor reflects "the depth of our scientific capability and the strength of our engineering enterprise" which, he said, is a key step towards harnessing India's thorium reserves under the third stage of the programme. Attaining criticality is a key milestone before full power generation, indicating that the reactor core is functioning as designed and that each fission event in the core now releases a sufficient number of neutrons to sustain an ongoing series of reactions.

The completion of 'core loading', or the process of placing nuclear fuel assemblies inside the core of a nuclear reactor, was wrapped up in March 2024 for the FBR. This reactor will initially use uranium-plutonium mixed oxide (MOX) fuel, with a Uranium 238 (U238) 'blanket' around

Campbell Wilson's mixed-bag innings at Air India draws to a close a year before end of his term

Air India's first post-privatisation chief executive Campbell Wilson has resigned, but will stay on till his successor is found by the airline, according to sources. Wilson has helmed the Tata group airline through a turbulent period that has seen the carrier embarking upon an ambitious transformation programme to shrug off its legacy image of a rundown government-owned airline, placed world record-breaking aircraft orders, faced challenges due to post-pandemic supply chain woes, suffered a tragic plane crash that killed 260 people, faced intense regulatory heat, grappled with heavy financial losses, and continues to struggle with external headwinds like airspace closures due to geopolitical conflicts.

In May last year, before the AI 171 crash, Wilson had told that a transformed and new Air India should be "consistently visible" by the end of 2027, and that he was confident that the "reality of Air India will change, so will its perception". Whenever that indeed happens, Wilson—who led Air India through the most critical phases of its transformation programme—will not be in the corner office at the Air India headquarters in Gurugram. Wilson, who has a keen interest in cricket, often said that Air India's transformation is a test match, not a T20. And Wilson is now retired hurt.

A soft-spoken New Zealander and a Singapore Airlines veteran, Wilson took charge at a newly-privatised Air India in 2022. Before joining Air India, Wilson was the CEO of Singapore Airlines' low-cost airline Air Scoot. His term at Air India was to end in 2027, and Wilson had earlier informed the Air India board about his inability to continue in his role as CEO beyond his current term, it is learnt. Parent Tata Sons has been scouting for a new CEO to replace Wilson for a few months now. With his resignation, a new CEO could be announced soon, industry watchers said.

Wilson's resignation comes just weeks after IndiGo's CEO Pieter Elbers stepped down following an unprecedented operational meltdown in December that saw thousands of the airline's flights getting cancelled. While Air India awaits the announcement of its next CEO, IndiGo has already announced the current IATA Director General Willie Walsh as its next chief executive. With Wilson also packing his bags at Air India, the two largest airlines in the country will soon have new leaders in the cockpit.

Wilson's resignation also comes at a time when the war in West Asia has hit international aviation, compounding challenges for Air India. Air India's ambitious transformation programme to turn it into a world-class airline is not complete yet, and has been hit by delays due to slow aircraft deliveries; refurbishment of the carrier's legacy wide-body fleet is also delayed due to inadequate availability of seats and some other materials. But most of the narrow-body fleet of the airline is now either refurbished or new, boasting of a new brand identity and a significantly better



hard product than what flyers were accustomed to. The few new wide-body aircraft that Air India has pressed into service can compete with reputed global airlines in terms of passenger service and comfort. Under Wilson's watch, the most important parts of the transformation plan have been executed—a new brand identity is in place, group airlines have been consolidated into two—Air India and Air India Express—from four and synergies in their networks and operations has gone up considerably, massive aircraft orders are in place to ensure a steady supply of new jets over the coming years, and hiring for key operational roles is being done on a continuous basis. Air India has also deepened collaboration with its shareholder Singapore Airlines, and has entered into or deepened partnerships with various other global airlines, including the likes of Lufthansa.

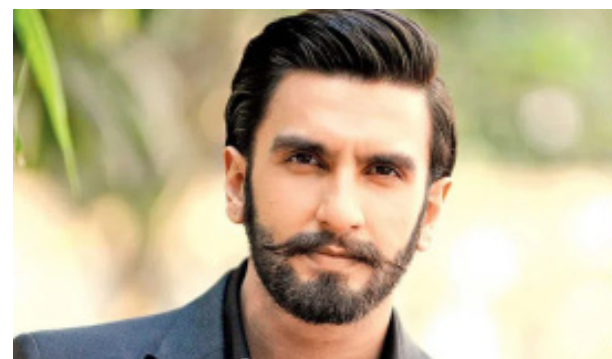
But the Air India group continues to bleed money, with Air India and its low-cost airline Air India Express reporting combined losses of over Rs 9,800 crore for 2024-25, as per government data. And this was before Pakistan closed its airspace to Indian aircraft, which has had a notable impact on the airline's international operations, and the tragic crash of the flight AI 171 in Ahmedabad on June 12 last year. Following the crash, Air India took a safety pause, which involved additional voluntary pre-flight technical checks on aircraft and adopting a cautious approach in flight operations. Air India also curtailed its wide-body aircraft operations by 15% for a few months due to a combination of reasons that included the safety pause as well as airspace closures in the various regions. The crash, apart from hitting Air India's image that was being slowly rebuilt, also led to intensified regulatory scrutiny of the airline's operational safety and culture. Air India faced numerous regulatory actions by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for lapses and violations, including fines and suspension of officials. Wilson, too, was at the receiving end of DGCA's show cause notices. On its part, the airline under Wilson was more proactive in voluntarily reporting incidents of lapses and violations to the regulator. Wilson was also the face of Air India's efforts to regain public trust in the months that followed, the airline believes it has succeeded in that endeavour.

Jindal Stainless ropes in Ranveer Singh as brand ambassador

New Delhi: Jindal Stainless Ltd (JSL), the country's leading stainless steel manufacturer, on Tuesday announced Bollywood superstar Ranveer Singh as its first-ever brand ambassador and nationwide celebrity endorser. This collaboration marks a key push to enhance brand visibility and consumer connect, the company said in a statement. "As Jindal Stainless embarks on its next phase of growth, his (Ranveer Singh) dynamic personality and strong connect with audiences make him a fitting partner to help bring the versatility of stainless steel closer to people across the country," the company's Managing Director, Abhyuday Jindal, said.

The association aligns Singh's persona — known for grit, high performance and reliability — with the company's core ethos of durability and innovation in stainless steel production. Stainless steel has been part of some of India's most defining moments of progress, from cutting-edge infrastructure and transit solutions like the Vande Bharat sleeper trains, to strategic sectors such as defence with projects like BrahMos and aerospace with projects like Chandrayaan-3, alongside countless everyday applications.

Through this collaboration, Jindal Stainless aims to highlight these connections and foster greater appreciation for the material's contribution to the country's growth and development, the company said. Jindal Stainless reported an annual turnover of Rs 40,182 crore in FY25 and is ramping up its facilities to reach 4.2 million tonnes of annual melt



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capacity in FY27. The company has 16 stainless steel manufacturing and processing facilities in India and abroad, including in Spain and Indonesia, and a worldwide network in 12 countries, as of March 2025.

'A little miracle, our greatest gift': Karishma Tanna announces pregnancy at 42; how to optimise fertility in your 40s



Congratulations are in order for Karishma Tanna. The Scoop actor took to Instagram yesterday to announce her pregnancy, sharing a series of pictures with her husband, Varun Bangera, captioning the post: "A little miracle, our greatest gift." A first for Tanna: she is all set to become a mother at 42 — an age typically considered well beyond the traditionally fertile period. But fertility experts believe motherhood dreams should not be ruled out just yet, and the actor's example proves so. If you wish to plan a pregnancy in your 40s, here's a quick guide to what you should keep in mind:

According to Dr Meghana D Sarvaiya, obstetrician-gynaecologist specialist at Cloudnine Hospital, Mumbai, a woman's pregnancy window is shorter than that of men, who can even father a child at a later age. "During each ovulatory cycle, the pregnancy rate dips to 5 per cent between 40 and 44, whereas beyond 45 it gets reduced to 1 per cent," she said. For any pregnancy to happen, she said, getting the timing right alongside monitoring the fertility window of the female partner regularly is very important. Every woman ovulates only once each menstrual cycle, and anyone with a regular menstrual cycle follows a 28-day cycle.

"The fertility window starts from the ninth day of the previous cycle and lasts till day 18. This window period may vary for each woman depending upon the health conditions. It is during this 'fertile window' that an egg is released from the ovary (ovulation), and trying during this time gives you

the best chances of getting pregnant," said Dr Sarvaiya. She explained that the last day of your fertile window, ovulation, is the phase of your cycle when one of your ovaries releases an egg into a fallopian tube, where it awaits the sperm for fertilisation. "An egg lives for about 12 to 24 hours after being released, and the sperm remain in the female body for 48 to 72 hours," she said, recommending that couples try regularly at least every alternate day to make the best of this window.

Karishma Tanna Announces Pregnancy at 42 Snapshots from Karishma and Varun's photoshoot. (Source: Instagram/@karishmaktanna) Take care of your diet Richa Pendake, founder and CEO of Nutrizoo, added that during pre-conception and pregnancy, the basic principles of healthy eating remain the same — get plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and healthy fats. The first and most important step is to get a BMI test done, along with tests to identify any underlying medical issues, such as PCOS/PCOD or thyroid issues. Following this, testing the current levels of iron, protein, calcium, and key vitamins such as D3 and B12 is pivotal. Based on the diagnosis, a diet plan should be developed, along with natural supplements, to support a healthy body, lose excess weight, and reduce body fat percentage. Pendake said that in case you don't have enough iron stores or don't get enough iron during pregnancy, you could develop iron deficiency anaemia, headaches, or become fatigued. Severe iron deficiency anaemia during pregnancy also increases the risk of premature birth, low birth weight baby, and postpartum depression. "One needs about 27 mg of elemental iron daily. Good sources include spinach, orange, beetroot, beans, fish, and oats," she shared. Pendake also suggested pairing iron sources with foods rich in vitamin C, such as orange juice, tomato juice, or strawberries, to maximise nutrient absorption and efficiency. "Even though calcium is an essential nutrient during pregnancy, it can decrease iron absorption if taken together. Therefore, it is best to avoid the calcium-fortified variety," she warned. Finally, she reiterated the importance of staying hydrated enough. "At least three litres of water intake daily is a necessity, as this will not only help with the body's wellbeing but also the swelling and oedema that happens during pregnancy," Pendake concluded.

Diabetologist says psyllium husk controls blood sugar spikes when taken before meals: 'Take one spoon of isabgol...'

Can consuming fiber before your main meals help control blood sugar spikes? Diabetologist Dr Parag Jindal recently shared on Instagram that taking one spoonful of psyllium husk (isabgol) can help do just that. "Take one spoon of isabgol in a glass of water. Have it 10 minutes before meals. It acts as a natural fibre and doesn't spike your blood sugar levels," said Dr Jindal. To verify, we asked Dr Vijay Negalur, HOD — diabetology at KIMS Hospitals, Thane, who said that psyllium husk can indeed help manage blood sugar spikes after meals. "It is a type of soluble fibre that absorbs water and forms a gel-like substance in the gut. This slows down the digestion and absorption of carbohydrates, leading to a gradual rise in blood glucose rather than a sharp spike. While it doesn't replace medication or a structured diet, it can be a useful addition for better blood sugar control," said Dr Negalur. Timing makes a noticeable difference. "When taken about 10 to 15 minutes before a meal, psyllium husk lines the digestive tract and helps the body process incoming carbohydrates more slowly. This effect helps reduce the usual rise in blood sugar that follows meals, especially those higher in carbohydrates," said Dr Negalur.

Who can benefit the most from this habit?

According to Dr Negalur, people with type 2 diabetes, prediabetes, or those who often experience post-meal sugar spikes may benefit the most. "It can also help individuals trying to manage their weight, as the fibre promotes a feeling of fullness and may curb overeating. However, its effectiveness differs from person to person and should be part of a broader lifestyle approach," said Dr Negalur.

Roja actor Madhoo Shah reveals her fitness mantra, admits she used to be a foodie: 'I ate, danced, and played'

Roja actor Madhoo Shah recently admitted that while growing up, she was a foodie but also did a lot of physical activity. "I was a big foodie because I have always been extremely active. So both things happened simultaneously. Wake up in the morning, run, exercise, and dance and then sit and eat. My mother was a fantastic cook. So, aloo bhajji, hot chapatis. I never counted calories. I ate, and I danced. I ate, and I played," Madhoo, 56, said in an interaction with celebrity chef Sheetal Vanjari on her YouTube channel. However, she admitted that things had changed over the years. "Also, we became a little Westernised. We started going out and eating. We got exposed to different cuisines like Italian, Chinese, and Lebanese, and all that. Suddenly, palate of Indian food... I started exploring the others. Food was not just about food. It became an experience. Going out to different places with different friends. I started cultivating (that habit). Fitness became a thing for me. I realised it is not about how active you are, it is about how much you are eating. I definitely started eating less and less and came to understand the meaning of 'less is more.' Nutrition and what you eat are important, but the quantity is important," said Madhoo, while whipping up an avocado toast. Further reflecting on today's "culture of excess," she continued, "Today has become a culture of excess. Now, we are always meeting over food. Food has become creativity. Food is about design. When there is so much available at the swipe of a finger, you need to consume less." Actor Madhoo's reflections on her early morning routine and relationship with food highlight an important shift many people experience as they move through different life stages, shared consultant dietitian Garima Goyal. "During younger years, when physical activity levels are naturally high through activities such as running, dancing and sports, the body tends to burn more energy. This allows individuals to eat more freely without immedi-



How should psyllium husk be taken safely?

It is usually taken by mixing 1 to 2 teaspoons in a glass of water and drinking it right away before it thickens. "Always follow it with another glass of water to avoid choking or digestive problems. Starting with a smaller amount and gradually increasing can help the body adjust and lessen the chance of bloating," apprised Dr Negalur.

Are there any precautions to keep in mind?

Yes, staying hydrated is important. Dr Negalur said that without enough water, psyllium can cause constipation rather than help it. "It may also affect the absorption of certain medications if taken too close together, so it's best to wait at least 1 to 2 hours. People with existing digestive issues or those on multiple medications should talk to their doctor before using it regularly," said Dr Negalur. Psyllium husk is best seen as a simple, low-cost tool that supports, not replaces, balanced meals, physical activity, and prescribed treatments. Small, consistent habits like this can make a real difference over time, he said.



ately noticing the effects of excess calories. However, as Madhoo pointed out, lifestyle patterns change over time. With age, metabolic rate gradually slows, and physical activity often becomes less intense or less frequent. At the same time, exposure to a wider variety of cuisines, frequent dining out and social gatherings centred around food can lead to increased calorie intake. This combination makes portion awareness increasingly important," said Goyal. Her observation that "less is more" reflects a key principle of nutrition science. "Health is not determined only by the type of food consumed but also by the quantity. Even nutritious foods can contribute to weight gain when eaten in excess, while mindful portion control helps maintain metabolic balance," shared Goyal. Madhoo's perspective also touches on a broader cultural shift. Today, food is often tied to socialising, entertainment and visual appeal, which can encourage overconsumption. "Being conscious of how much we eat, while still enjoying diverse cuisines and experiences, helps create a healthier relationship with food," said Goyal. Ultimately, balancing regular physical activity with mindful eating remains the most sustainable approach. "Staying active through exercise.

Story of Ashok Sharma, IPL's 154 kph pacer: A farmer, two cricketer sons, cash crunch, one drops out, other makes cricket ball fly



It started in the corridor outside their house. Ashok Sharma used to bowl at his elder brother Akshay. The only goal was to hit him. The only way to hit him was to bowl fast. "I used to hit him bowling fast," Akshay says. "So in order to take revenge, he also began to bowl fast so that he could hit me. We never thought he would become so good going ahead." When Ashok got the ball in school cricket in Rampura, batsmen his own age would move away from the stumps. Not in dismissals, but in retreat. "He had broken many ribs," Akshay recalls. "I have seen batsmen running away."

The pace was not coached. It was personal. A younger brother trying to hurt an older one in a corridor. The corridor led to a ground. The ground led to school cricket. School cricket led to a delivery clocked at 154.2 kmph for Gujarat Titans against Rajasthan Royals in Ahmedabad — the kind of speed that makes viewers look up from their phones.

Rampura is 80 kilometres from Jaipur. Nathulal Sharma farmed during the day and drove for the local newspaper at night, delivering papers to various stands. He earned Rs 10,000 a month. His wife wanted the boys to focus on academics and secure a government job. The usual route, the safe route, the one that doesn't depend on talent surviving long enough to become a career. Both sons wanted to play cricket. The family could not afford both. "He couldn't have put his two sons' future at stake," Akshay says. "So he asked me to decide who will enrol in the academy." Akshay decided that Ashok should go. The older brother dropped out. The younger brother carried on.

Nathulal enrolled Ashok at the Aravali Cricket Academy in Jaipur, run by former Rajasthan leg-spinner Vivek Yadav. The boy used to travel over an hour each way from the village. Eventually, he moved into the academy's hostel to focus properly. Ashok made the Rajasthan Under-19 team in 2019. Ashok Sharma with his mother and brother. (Picture by special arrangement) Ashok Sharma with his

mother and brother. (Picture by special arrangement) Then the pandemic shut everything down. The lack of game time was one blow. The death of Yadav — due to stomach cancer, aggravated by Covid — was another. The coach who had first given the boy from Rampura a proper structure was gone. Sometimes when there was no cricket, both brothers worked the family farm. "He came a few months back and I took him to the farm where we were seeding wheat," Akshay says. "I do cricket coaching and also look after my farm." When Ashok began playing Under-19 cricket, he came home and asked his father to stop driving at night. Nathulal did. The boy whose corridor bowling once brought complaints to his father was now earning enough for his father to rest. Ashok Sharma with his family. (Picture by special arrangement) Ashok Sharma with his family. (Picture by special arrangement) Kolkata Knight Riders picked Ashok in 2022. The village got talking. It was a fluke, they said. When Rajasthan Royals released him the following year, the village spoke again — nothing will come of this one.

The village didn't know what the snub did to him. "He took the release from RR seriously and was eager to perform," Akshay says. "The best thing that happened was that he got Ashish Nehra as a coach. Being a bowler himself, he understands a bowler's mindset." And then the line that tells you everything about Ashok Sharma:

"He is like a computer. You just need to give him the command where to bowl and he will keep hitting that area." A computer that runs at 154.2 kmph Akshay knows what speed can do and what it cannot. He knows that India falls in love with raw pace every IPL season — a new name, a new number on the speed gun, a new highlight reel. He knows most of those names disappear by the next auction. 150 kmph has been breached by Mayank Yadav and Umraan Malik — what happens after that is the point. He spoke to Ashok recently. The advice was specific. "I told him that people are talking about you because you are doing well. So keep your head down and continue the hard work. The destination is far. We have seen those times when nobody noticed us, people ignored us, and now they are connecting with us. But I don't want my brother to be a one-season wonder boy. He will have to work harder to get that blue jersey." The blue jersey. The Indian team. The destination that is still far away. Akshay says it without drama. A brother who gave up his own cricketing dream so this one could play — he has earned the right to say where the destination is and how far it remains. In Rampura, Nathulal no longer drives at night. Ashok no longer bowls in the corridor. The wheat field is still there. The murmurs from the neighbours have gone quiet. The destination is still far away. But the corridor led somewhere.

'I don't think Cam Green's good enough to bat at number 3': Kevin Pietersen's blunt take on KKR all-rounder

GNS News Agency, April 9

After another under-par performance with the bat for Kolkata Knight Riders from Cameron Green, former England cricketer Kevin Pietersen has said that the Australian all-rounder is 'not good enough' to bat at number three. So far after three games in IPL 2026, Green has scored 18 and two runs in Knight Riders' opening two matches while being unavailable to bowl. On Monday evening, at a rain-affected IPL game at the Eden Gardens the Australian all-rounder could only score four runs against the Punjab Kings.

"I'm against talking about money because money is something that just happens. These guys don't earn as much money as some of the other sportsmen around the world. But obviously, a lot of people like to talk about what I like to talk about, which is cricketing ability. And whether or not you're good enough to be in a position of power and batting a 3 in an IPL team, you have to be good enough to be able to perform at that level. And I don't think that he's good enough to bat at number 3. He's not bowling, so you have a look at what he has done. Yes, I've seen him, he got a 100 in Mumbai a couple of years ago. I've not seen enough of Cam Green to warrant batting at 3 here and taking on that responsibility. He's a middle-order batter who bowls a bit, and that's what he does," Pietersen said on JioHotstar during the rain break in the match between Kolkata Knight Riders and Punjab Kings. Green was bought by KKR for Rs 25.20 crore in last year's mini IPL auction, which made the all-rounder the most expensive foreign player in the league. Green has previously played for Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in IPL and had missed the 2025 season due to back surgery. He averaged 41.48 and took 16 wickets at an average of 41.50 in 29 IPL matches prior to this season.

In 28 T20s for Australia, Green has scored a total of 638 runs at an average of 29.00 and has taken 14 wickets at an average of 25.00. The 26-year-old all-rounder has not bowled in recent months. Last week, when Kolkata Knight Riders skipper Ajinkya Rahane was asked about Green



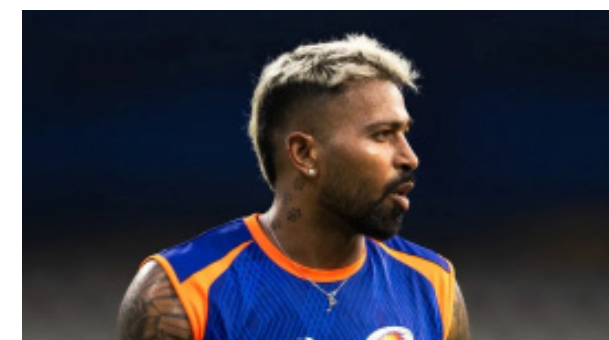
not bowling in IPL this season so far, Rahane had replied, "Ask Cricket Australia." Later, Cricket Australia had shared that the Australian all-rounder's lower back injury requires him to abstain from bowling for a short period. "Cameron has a lower back injury which is being managed but requires him to abstain from bowling for a short period. Cameron is currently rebuilding his bowling loads in India with a view to return in around 10-12 days' time. KKR has been communicated with and is fully aware of this information," a Cricket Australia spokesperson had told PTI. Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar believes the KKR team management should go in for a specialist batsman like Rovman Powell if Green is not available to bowl. "You have to think of the specialists. If you think of Rachindra Ravindra and Cameron Green, they are not necessarily proven T20 players, and when you are picking overseas players, they have to be specialists because there are only four spots available. So, if you look at who is the ideal player, if Cameron Green is not bowling, then he doesn't fit into that, you know, just a batsman category as far as an overseas batter is concerned. So, you might as well think of Rovman Powell, who is a proven T20 specialist who bats and does a very specialised job. So, I like Powell for the fact that he is a specialist, does a role, and he is a proven commodity rather than hoping that someone would come good," Bangar said on JioHotstar.

Hardik Pandya's return to boost Mumbai in Guwahati

GNS News Agency, April 9

IPL Today Match 2026, Rajasthan Royals (RR) vs Mumbai Indians (MI) Playing 11 Today Match, Full Squad LIVE: Mumbai Indians will aim to regain their momentum when they take on an upbeat Rajasthan Royals at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati on Tuesday. IPL 2026 Today Match, 07 April: Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians Date, Time, Venue, Playing XI, Head-to-Head

After losing their second game in the absence of regular captain Hardik Pandya to the Delhi Capitals, MI will likely fall back to their first-choice XI. With Hardik set to return to action, MI will likely bench seamer Deepak Chahar. Meanwhile, with two clinical victories under their belt, Rajasthan will enter the contest with an in-form XI firmly in place. The MI bowlers will have their task cut out against a menacing top order, headlined by Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Dhruv Jurel. MI probable XI: Rohit Sharma, Ryan Rickleton, Suryakumar Yadav, Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Sherfane Rutherford, Naman Dhir, Mitchell Santner, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Trent Boult. RR probable XI: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Dhruv Jurel, Riyan Parag, Shimon Hetmyer, Donovan Ferreira,



Ravindra Jadeja, Jofra Archer, Tushar Deshpande, Sandeep Sharma, Nandre Burger. Rajasthan Royals Squad: Yashasvi Jaiswal, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Dhruv Jurel(w), Riyan Parag(c), Shimon Hetmyer, Donovan Ferreira, Ravindra Jadeja, Jofra Archer, Nandre Burger, Tushar Deshpande, Sandeep Sharma, Ravi Bishnoi, Lhuan-dre Pretorius, Brijesh Sharma, Ravi Singh, Shubham Dubey, Adam Milne, Dasun Shanaka, Kuldeep Sen, Sushant Mishra, Yuvraj Singh Chakar, Kwena Maphaka, Vignesh Puthur, Aman Rao Perala

'On pitch like this, you'd want to field first': Anil Kumble on KKR captain Ajinkya Rahane's decision to bat first in rainy conditions



Ajinkya Rahane captaincy Harbhajan Singh Ajinkya Rahane, captain of Kolkata Knight Riders, looks on from the dugout during Match 2 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Mumbai Indians and Kolkata Knight Riders at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, India, on March 29, 2026. With two losses in as many matches so far in IPL 2026, Ajinkya Rahane-led Kolkata Knight Riders have not had the best of starts to the season. With the threat of rain looming large in Kolkata prior to the team's match against Punjab Kings at Eden Gardens on Monday evening, Rahane opted to bat first after winning the toss. With clouds hanging over the stadium and rain looking inevitable, captains often choose to field first so that the target is known at the end of the match. However, Rahane chose to bat first. Kolkata Knight Riders lost two wickets for 25 runs in 3.4 overs — both scalps being picked by Punjab pacer Xavier Bartlett in the second over before heavy rains arrived. Rahane's decision could have backfired had the match restarted after the rain break.

While the match was eventually called off with rain ensuring no further play, Rahane's decision to bat first in

such conditions drew criticism from the likes of former India captain and coach Anil Kumble. I am surprised that Rahane won the toss and chose to bat first. On a pitch like this, where there's some rain around, ideally, you would want to field first," Kumble said on JioHotstar during the rain break.

This year has seen Kolkata Knight Riders starting their campaign with a six-wicket loss against Mumbai Indians at Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. The team followed that loss with another 65-run loss against Sunrisers Hyderabad at Eden Gardens and were facing the Shreyas Iyer-led Punjab Kings on Monday evening. With Punjab Kings coming into the match with two wins under their belt, Knight Riders needed to be in their best form to have a chance to win. With Rahane opting to bat first and later heavy rains ensuring that the match was called off, it means that the team stands at the eighth spot in the points table with one point.

Kumble's fellow commentator Saba Karim too was critical of Rahane's decision to bat first in such conditions. "I cannot understand this call. I cannot wrap my head around it," Karim said on JioHotstar. With spinners Varun Chakravarthy (injured) and Sunil Narine (unwell) not available for the match, Rahane had spoken about his decision to bat first with the Eden Gardens pitch being on the 'drier side'. "The pitch looks on the drier side and we want to put the runs on board first. We are confident as a unit and the key is to win the big moments," Rahane had said after winning the toss. Former Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin too criticised Rahane's move and called the KKR captain's thought process as an 'interesting' one. "When you know it's going to be a rain-affected game, with an inexperienced bowling attack at your disposal, you choose to bat first. Interesting thought process," Ashwin posted on social media micro blogging platform X.

Magnus Carlsen explains why Javokhir Sindarov's Candidates performance leaves Uzbek GM in 'hard position to be in'

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At the halfway stage of the Candidates tournament in Cyprus, Uzbek phenom Javokhir Sindarov has coursed into the lead in the open section with a score of 6/7, holding a clear 1 and a ½ point advantage over Fabiano Caruana. His dominance at the event has impressed even former world champion Magnus Carlsen. And while the world no 1 has pointed out that it is "more than likely that Sindarov will win" the Candidates, it is also "hard to be in the position in which he is." When Carlsen was asked on the sidelines of the Grenke Chess Festival if he thought Sindarov will win the Candidates, he replied: "I think it's more than likely that he will win, but it is hard to be in the position in which he is, especially if you are in it for the first time. Because when you get to this point, thoughts start creeping into your head and anything but first place is probably going to be a disappointment. It's been a lot of fun to follow, that's for sure. Can't wait to see what's going to happen next."

Praising Sindarov's performance, Carlsen said: "I think it was possible to predict that he was one of the main candidates to do well. I think the fact that Fabiano has performed well didn't surprise anybody. Then of course Hikaru performing this badly was probably a surprise. But yeah, I think Sindarov had a very shaky game in game one, but after that he's been more or less flawless and he is very, very fundamentally sound. I think he can play any type of position and he's just very, very talented."



Carlsen also said that Sindarov's performance in the first half of the Candidates had gotten his wife to ask him whether he had himself managed to do something similar at the tournament. For the record, Carlsen has played only one Candidates tournament, which he won on the final day after edging ahead of Vladimir Kramnik on tiebreaks. After winning that, Carlsen fought for the World Chess Championship title in 2013 against Vishy Anand and fought four more World Championships before walking away from the throne. "My wife asked me the other day what's going on with Sindarov's performance. She asked 'Have you ever done anything like that?' And I was like, 'Yeah, thanks for asking, but not really.' Which just goes to show that his performance so far is very, very special," Carlsen said.

Satwik-Chirag, Treesa-Gayatri pairs withdraw from Badminton Asia Championships



India's 2023 champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will miss this year's edition of the Badminton Asia Championships to tend to the shoulder problems of the former. BAI secretary Sanjay Mishra confirmed India's only Top 5 ranked shuttlers will not play at the Ningbo event, starting Tuesday. The ace duo last played in March but withdrew from the Swiss Open in Basel. Also withdrawing were the women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand, Mishra confirmed. The duo have been largely away from the circuit since the Swiss Open retirement, with Treesa nursing shoulder issues.

Onus on Lakshya In Satwik-Chirag's absence, the mantle falls on Lakshya Sen, World No 12 in singles, who starts against Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong. World No 25 Ayush Shetty has a tough opener against home favourite and fifth seed Li Shifeng. Also in the mix is Kidambi Srikanth, who gave a good account of himself at the Asian Team championships. He plays Loh Kean Yew again, a full five years after losing the World Championships to the Singaporean. HS Prannoy takes on a qualifier. Srikanth lost their last face off 21-13, 21-15. PV Sindhu, up in rankings at No 13, leads a full quota of four Indians in women's singles, taking on Malaysian Wong Ching Ling. All England champ Wang Zhi Yi could line up next. Malvika Bansod plays Busanan Ongbamrunphan while No 34 Tanvi Sharma will fancy her chances against Letshanaa Karupathevan. Unnati Hooda, World No 27, will be up against Supanida Katethong. In men's doubles, MR Arjun and Hariharan Amsakarunan have a tough opener against top seeds Seo Seung-jae and Kim Won ho. Priya-Shruti and Kavipriya — Simran are the other WD shuttlers in the draw. The Ningbo event will be a good testing ground for India's top mixed doubles pairing of Dhruv Kapila and Tanisha Crasto. They take on a Thai pair that consists of former WD Top Tenner Benyapa Aimsaard and Phuwant Horbanluekit, scheduled to play on Tuesday.

Rain halts Knight Riders vs Punjab Kings match in Kolkata

Kolkata: Rain played spoilsport as Kolkata Knight Riders' IPL match against Punjab Kings was interrupted, with the home side struggling at 25 for 2 in 3.4 overs amid steady drizzle that later turned into a thunderstorm here on Monday. Opting to bat on a dry surface, KKR, in search of their first win of the season, were rocked early as Xavier Bartlett struck twice in the space of three balls. Displaying fine control over swing and seam, the Australian pacer removed KKR's two overseas recruits Finn Allen (6) and Cameron Green (4), who had been promoted to No 3.

Green, the highest-paid overseas player at Rs 25.20 crore, continued his poor run, having earlier managed scores of 18 against Mumbai Indians and 2 against Sunrisers Hyderabad, as KKR stumbled after losing their opening two matches. Skipper Ajinkya Rahane (8) and young wicketkeeper-batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi (7), who has

been KKR's most consistent performer this season with successive fifties, were looking to rebuild when persistent drizzle forced the umpires to halt play at 7.45 pm. With Eden Gardens equipped with full ground covers, the ground staff swiftly covered the entire field. There was a brief respite when the covers began to come off, but rain returned with thunderstorm and lightning, leaving spectators frustrated as they started leaving. The match also witnessed a relatively sparse turnout, with 29,358 spectators in attendance, possibly due to a Monday fixture and overcast conditions.

All this unfolded in front of Bollywood superstar and KKR co-owner Shah Rukh Khan, who made his first appearance of the season, only to witness a rain-hit evening. Incidentally, last season's KKR-PBKS fixture at Eden (April 26) was also affected by rain, with both teams forced to share a point.

