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## SC, ST Commission chief alleges snub by Siddipet Collector

Siddipet: SC, ST Commission Chairman Bakki Venkataiah accused Siddipet Collector K Hymavathi of ignoring his name in inviting Dr BR Ambedkar birth anniversary celebrations in the district. He further accused the Collector of ignoring his name at the behest of some Congress leaders.

Addressing the birth anniversary celebrations of Ambedkar at Mandapalli in Siddipet on Tuesday, Venkataiah said that he got invitations from Sangareddy collector and Medak collector and even from the State government to participate in the celebrations at Tank Bund.

## Ramagundam MLA's remarks spark outrage, BRS lodges police complaint

Peddapalli: Ramagundam MLA Makkan Singh Raj Thakur's comments became a controversy. Instilling confidence among the party workers, MLA warned of being hacked to death if anybody tries to create trouble for Congress workers.

He made these comments while participating in former speaker Sripada Rao's death anniversary celebrations held in Manthani on Monday.

## Modi, Trump Discuss West Asia Situation, Stress Security Of Strait Of Hormuz

New Delhi, April 14

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday received a call from US President Trump during which the two leaders discussed the security situation in West Asia and stressed the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure. PM Modi said in a post on X that they reviewed progress achieved in our bilateral cooperation in various sectors. He said the two countries are committed to further strengthening their Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in all areas. "Received a call from my friend President Donald Trump. We reviewed the substantial progress achieved in our bilateral cooperation in various sectors. We are committed to further strengthening our Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership in all areas," he said. "We also discussed the situation in West Asia and stressed the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open and secure," he added.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor termed the conversation between

the two leaders as "very positive and productive." "A very positive and productive call! Stay tuned...", he said in a post on X in response to PM Modi's post of the conversation with President Trump. PM Modi and President Trump had earlier spoken on March 24 and had a useful exchange of views on the evolving situation in West Asia. The Prime Minister reiterated that India supports de-escalation and the restoration of peace at the earliest in the conflict between Israel-US and Iran. PM Modi had underlined the importance of ensuring that the Strait of Hormuz remains open, secure and accessible, noting that it is vital for global peace, stability and economic well-being. US Vice President JD Vance had said on Sunday that no agreement had been reached in talks with Iran, despite hours of negotiations in Pakistan, and that the discussions had reached a stalemate.



## Govt Proposes to Increase Seats in Lok Sabha to 850

New Delhi, April 14

A bill to "operationalise" 33 per cent reservation to women in Lok Sabha and state assemblies by increasing the strength of the lower house to up to 850 from the present 543 is set for introduction in Parliament on Thursday. To redraw constituencies, the bill seeks to take into account the 2011 Census data.

It states that "The House of the People (Lok Sabha) shall consist of not more than 815 members chosen by direct election from territorial constituencies in the states; and

not more than 35 members to represent the Union territories, chosen in such manner as Parliament may by law provide."

The expression "population", according to the bill, means the population as ascertained at such Census of which the relevant figures have been published.

The government plans to bring a Constitution amendment bill, a bill on delimitation law and an enabling bill for Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry -- three Union territories with legislature -- on Thursday in Lok Sabha to fast track implementation of the women's reservation Act of 2023.

"The next census and the consequential delimitation exercise thereafter will take considerable time and thus, delay the effective and dedicated participation of women in our democratic polity.

## Second round of negotiations with Iran likely within two days: Report

President Donald Trump has indicated that a second round of talks with Iran may take place in Islamabad within two days, crediting Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir for facilitating dialogue. The US blockade of Iranian ports, enforced by CENTCOM with warships and aircraft, has pressured Tehran back to negotiations.

Washington, April 14

President Donald Trump has said that a second round of talks with Iran could be held in Islamabad "over the next two days", according to a US media report on Tuesday.

"You should stay there, really, because something could be happening over the next two days, and we're more inclined to go there," Trump told The New York Post.

Trump attributed the possibility of a second round of talks to the "great job" done by Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir.

"It's more likely, you know why? Because the field marshal is doing a great job," the US President said.

Fox News reported that the US decision on the blockade of Iranian ports was one of the reasons for Tehran returning to the negotiating table.

"A lot is happening today and tomorrow. We have all the ingredients of a deal, but it's not all there yet," an unnamed US official told Fox News.

US Central Command said it successfully blocked all vessels travelling to and from Iranian ports and coastal areas in the first 24 hours of President Trump's blockade

CENTCOM said the blockade is being enforced "impartially against vessels of all nations" entering and exiting Iranian ports.

It added that six merchant vessels complied with the US directions to turn around.

More than 10,000 US service members are participating in the blockade, including over 100 aircraft and 18 warships.

CENTCOM said US forces were supporting free-



dom of navigation for vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz to and from non-Iranian ports.

The US and Iran failed to reach an agreement in the 21-hour marathon peace talks in Islamabad over the weekend, with Washington insisting that Tehran refused to give up its right to nuclear enrichment.

## Chandrababu Naidu launches India's first quantum testbeds in Amaravati

Amaravati: India's first quantum reference facilities were unveiled here on Tuesday, opening a new chapter in quantum technology to mark the World Quantum Day.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the '1S Open Access Quantum Facility' at SRM University, as well as the '1Q Quantum Facility' situated at Medha Towers.

These two quantum testbeds provide the necessary infrastructure to test quantum computing devices and components, officials said.

With the unveiling of these two systems, Andhra Pradesh has become the first state in the country to have a dedicated Quantum Test Reference Facility. With this, the Amaravati Quantum Valley has acquired the capability to test and certify quantum computer hardware.

Quantum computer testbeds—designed to operate at an ultra-low temperature of minus 273 degrees Celsius—have been established at both locations.

These quantum testbeds are designed to serve the needs of companies manufacturing quantum computing devices, as well as researchers, students, and industry experts.

The Amaravati 1S facility at SRM University will facilitate research, while the Amaravati 1Q facility at Medha Towers will cater to industrial applications.

Representatives from the National Quantum Mission and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), along with delegates from various quantum technology companies, IIT professors, and scientists, attended this event.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said that Andhra Pradesh has created history by realising this milestone on

World Quantum Day, coinciding with the centenary of Quantum Science.

"We have ushered in a new era of quantum history in Amaravati on the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar—the visionary who proclaimed that knowledge is the true symbol of social progress," he said.

He expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for encouraging the establishment of the Amaravati Quantum Valley—a key initiative in setting up India's first open-access quantum facilities.

The Chief Minister stated that 1S and 1Q quantum hardware testbeds, launched in Amaravati, will play a pivotal role in testing and certifying quantum devices.

"It is a matter of great pride that this Telugu land—which has already played a pivotal role in the IT sector—is now emerging as a hub for quantum technologies," he said. CM Naidu believed that just as electricity was vital for the industrial age and the Internet is vital for the digital age, quantum technology is crucial for modern innovation. Nations that achieve mastery in quantum technology are the ones most likely to shape the future, he said. He noted that the AQR (Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility) will serve as a vital resource for Indian researchers seeking to test quantum hardware. Stating that the quantum computing reference facilities took shape in just 8 months, he said they significantly enhanced the nation's capabilities in the field of quantum technology.



## CM Revanth Reddy Proposes 50-50 Split For New Lok Sabha Seats; Warns Of Southern Disadvantage

HYDERABAD, April 14

: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has proposed a "hybrid model" for expanding the Lok Sabha to 850 seats, pitching the idea to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He argued that a purely population-based allocation would tilt political power heavily towards the northern and central states, putting the southern region at a structural disadvantage.

Reddy stressed that states like Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka—having achieved population stabilisation—should not be penalised by losing their relative representation. Instead, he framed their demographic progress as something that deserves recognition within the federal system.

He also called for immediate implementation of women's reservation in legislatures, urging the Centre not to delay it until after any future delimitation exercise.

As a way forward, the Chief Minister suggested a 50-50 formula: half the new seats to be allotted based on population, and the remaining half linked to states' economic contribution measured through GSDP. He said this approach would ensure a more balanced and equitable federal structure.

# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## 'Nari shakti' law: Promise must meet practice

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday described the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam as a historic step that fulfils BR Ambedkar's vision and ends "decades of waiting" for women's political representation. The law, passed in 2023, provides for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and state Assemblies, with implementation expected around 2029 after delimitation. A special parliamentary session is planned from April 16 to 18 to pass the enabling amendments, including changes to the delimitation Act. It links women's reservation to a delimitation exercise that would redraw constituencies and expand the Lok Sabha from 543 to 816 seats, with 273 seats reserved for women. However, the proposal has triggered a sharp political divide over its design. Opposition parties support reservation but argue the government is using it as a pretext to push a broader delimitation agenda that could alter the country's political map based on the 2011 Census. At the core of the reservation policy is the poor record on women's representation. Women currently make up only about 13-14% of Lok Sabha members, rising from nearly 5% in the early decades after Independence. In state Assemblies, the average is around 9%, with very few states crossing the 15-20% mark. This persistent gap highlights the distance between constitutional equality and political reality. In this view, the law is undeniably a long-overdue correction. Greater participation of women will reshape policymaking and deepen democracy. However, concerns remain over delay and design. Linking its implementation to delimitation could postpone meaningful change and dilute its impact.

## TPUS Efforts in Promoting Education Appreciated--MLC Malka Komaraiah Welcomes Free POLYCET Coaching Initiative for Underprivileged Students



Medchal- Malkajgiri, Staff Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "On the occasion of the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar, a large-scale educational initiative was organized at Keshav Memorial School, Narayanguda, Hyderabad. The programme was jointly conducted by TPUS and Youth for Seva, focusing on supporting underprivileged students through free POLYCET online coaching. Teacher MLC Malka Komaraiah attended the event as the chief guest and formally launched the distribution of POLYCET online coaching materials to students. Key participants in the programme included TPUS State President Vondanala Rajasekhar, State General Secretary Telkapalli Pentayya, Bhagyanagar Zonal Incharge Dubasi Bhaskar, District President Tirupati Reddy, General Secretary Veeresham, MEO Viswanadham, and Youth for Seva Foundation President Gautham Thoka. Speaking at the event, Malka Komaraiah appreciated TPUS and Youth for Seva for extending support beyond teachers' issues and focusing on broader educational challenges and solutions. He praised the initiative aimed at helping economically disadvantaged students and described it as a positive and meaningful step. He further suggested that such coaching centres should not be limited to the Greater Hyderabad region but expanded across all districts of Telangana to benefit more students.



Bairi Srinivas Goud, Founder and President of Green Peace Environment & Water Harvesting Foundation, met Vem Narendar Reddy, Chief Advisor to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Rajya Sabha Member, and conveyed his congratulations on the occasion of his election to the Rajya Sabha.

## Young India Schools to Be Built at 200 Crore in Every Constituency Minister Ponguleti



"KHAMMAM NEWS 14 APRIL (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced that the government will construct "Young India Integrated Residential Schools" in every constituency at an estimated cost of ₹200 crore each. He laid the foundation stone for one such school in Chennur village of Kalluru mandal, under Sathupalli constituency, along with District

Collector Anudeep Durishetty and MLA Matta Ragamayee Dayanand. "The Minister stated that despite financial challenges, the government is moving forward with both welfare and development programs simultaneously. He emphasized that these schools are a major initiative aimed at strengthening the education system and providing quality learning opportunities. "He added that each school will be built on around 25 acres and designed to accommodate students from all communities, ensuring inclusive education. Ponguleti assured that the Kalluru school would be completed on a priority basis, even ahead of others. "The government is also implementing several welfare schemes, including 200 units of free electricity, new ration cards, and distribution of fine rice. He noted that 4.5 lakh houses have already been sanctioned under the Indiramma housing scheme, with more phases planned to ensure housing for all eligible poor families. "Highlighting the importance of education, the Minister said it is the most valuable asset the government can provide to the poor. He also mentioned efforts to boost healthcare, with three new hospitals set to be inaugurated in the Sathupalli region. "Additionally, the government aims to empower one crore women economically and has already provided 72,000 jobs to unemployed youth in its first year. Farmers are also benefiting from loan waivers up to ₹2 lakh, increased Rythu Bharosa assistance, and bonuses on paddy procurement. "District Collector Anudeep Durishetty said that around 100 Young India Schools are being built across the state, with five in Khammam district alone, each capable of accommodating about 2,500 students with international-standard facilities. He assured that construction payments are being processed quickly to avoid delays. "MLA Matta Ragamayee Dayanand expressed happiness that the foundation stone was laid on the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti and said the schools would bring transformative changes in the education sector. "The Minister also inaugurated a Gram Panchayat building in Balapet (₹20 lakh) and an SC Community Hall in Thallada village (₹50 lakh) as part of development initiatives."

## Grand Celebration of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th Birth Anniversary in Rayigudem Village



PALAIR NEWS 14 APRIL (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "The 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Rayigudem village of Nelakondapalli mandal under Palair constituency. "The celebrations were organized under the leadership of village Sarpanch Boyina Venu at the Gram Panchayat office and in the SC colony. Floral tributes were paid to Dr. Ambedkar's portrait as a mark of respect. "Speaking on the occasion, the Sarpanch praised Dr. Ambedkar's invaluable contributions toward the upliftment of marginalized communities. He stated that the rights provided by the Constitution continue to ensure justice and equality for weaker sections of society. "Several local leaders and villagers participated in the event, including Deputy Sarpanch Surepalli Prem Kumar, Namburi Ramarao, Teega Ramaiah, Anand Rao, Matangi Venkata Narayana, Godugu Rambabu, Banka Praveen, Utukuru Praveen, Surepalli Kotes, along with Gram Panchayat staff and residents.

## Grand Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, London – Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Attends as Chief Guest



"Uppal Correspondent, April 14 (Indian Chronicle): "Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations were held with great enthusiasm at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University in Lon-

don. Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and paid rich tributes by offering floral respects to the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA stated that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's ideas continue to guide society, and his relentless efforts for equality and justice will always be remembered. He remarked that it is a matter of pride that Indians across the world celebrate Ambedkar Jayanti. "He further highlighted the significance of London in Dr. Ambedkar's life, describing it as a crucial phase. He recalled that Ambedkar studied Economics at the London School of Economics and pursued legal education at Gray's Inn, where he trained as a barrister. He also earned a doctorate in Economics. "The MLA noted that Dr. Ambedkar conducted in-depth research on India's economic system and the financial conditions under British rule. He mentioned Ambedkar's renowned work "

"The Problem of the Rupee." His legal training in London laid a strong foundation for his future as a distinguished jurist in India. "He also pointed out that exposure to European democratic systems and ideals of equality significantly influenced Ambedkar's thinking, strengthening his resolve to fight for the rights of the oppressed in India. His study of British governance and legal frameworks later played a key role in the drafting of the Indian Constitution. In conclusion, the MLA stated that London played a vital role in shaping Dr. Ambedkar's intellectual, academic, and ideological journey, ultimately leading him to become the chief architect of the Indian Constitution.

## Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrated Grandly in Nehru Nagar

Puppala Bhaskar Attends as Chief Guest "Medchal-Malkajgiri, Staff Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Nehru Nagar in the Suraram Division of Quthbullapur Constituency witnessed grand celebrations marking the birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. The event was organized under the leadership of Dalit association leader Prashanth. GHMC Division BRS Party President Puppala Bhaskar attended the programme as the chief guest. He paid floral tributes to the statue of Dr Ambedkar and later unfurled the Jai Bhim flag. Speaking on the occasion, Bhaskar highlighted the immense contributions of Ambedkar to the nation. He stated that the rights ensured through the Constitution continue to serve as a strong safeguard for marginalized communities. He called upon everyone to actively participate in achieving the ideals envisioned by Babasaheb. Senior leaders including Feroz, Sadhana School Correspondent Praveen Reddy, Legal Cell leader Chikkole Madhu Babu, Rambabu, Kiran Sagar, Vithal, Shiva Kumar, Mukund Rao, Ravi Kumar, and local residents took part in the celebrations.



## BRS Party Office in Wankidi Marks Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th Birth Anniversary



"Indian Chronicles. Jade Srinivas. April, 14. "The 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was celebrated grandly at the BRS Party office in Wankidi mandal. The program was organized under the leadership of party mandal president and former ZPTC Ajay Kumar. On this occasion, party leaders and members paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, remembering his invaluable contributions to the nation as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice, equality, and empowerment of marginalized communities. The event witnessed the participation of several leaders and activists, including former Single Window Chairman, Penta Sarpanch Churnakar Satish, Youth Mandal President Rakesh, along with Santosh, Srinu, Sainath, Kapil, Monu, Ankit, and others. Speakers at the event highlighted Dr. Ambedkar's vision for an equal and just society and urged the youth to follow his ideals and work towards social upliftment. The celebration concluded with a message of unity and commitment to uphold the principles laid down by Dr. Ambedkar.

## Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrated at New Maruti Nagar Colony



"Medchal- Malkajgiri, Staff Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Residents of New Maruti Nagar Colony, Jammigadda, celebrated the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar with great enthusiasm and community participation. The event was organized by the colony welfare association, where floral tributes were paid to Dr. Ambedkar's statue as a mark of respect and remembrance of his contributions to the nation. Several prominent leaders from Bharatiya Janata Party attended the program as chief guests. Among them were Srinivas, Mohan Reddy, Rajinikanth Reddy, Ramesh Yadav, Krishna Reddy, Kishore Chary, Prabhakar, Hari Nayak, and other local leaders. They highlighted the importance of Dr. Ambedkar's ideals, especially equality, justice, and social reform, and urged the public to follow his vision in building a better society. A large number of colony residents participated in the celebrations, making the event a grand success. The organizers vamsi expressed their gratitude to all participants and leaders for their support and contribution.

## Grand Celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th Birth Anniversary MLA Manik Rao Participates



"Zaheerabad April 14 ( Indian Chronicle ): "Ambedkar's ideals inspire social justice and equality, says MLA "Print Media Script (Detailed): "The 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was celebrated grandly in the town. The programme was organized by Ambedkar associations, and Honorable MLA Mr. Koninti Manik Rao attended as the chief guest. "Addressing the gathering, the MLA paid rich tributes to Dr. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. He stated that the Constitution provided by him is a great document that ensures equal rights to every citizen of the country. He emphasized that Ambedkar's ideals continue to guide society towards achieving equality and justice. "He called upon everyone to follow Ambedkar's path and work collectively for the upliftment of marginalized sections and the realization of social justice. He described Ambedkar's contributions towards the development of society as remarkable and everlasting."

"Senior leaders including Nama Ravikiran, DRUCC Member Sheikh Fareed, SC Cell Constituency President Bandi Mohan, former Town President Yakoob, Councillors Abdullah, Ghouse Gouri, Zakir, Mahipal, Deepak, Vishweshwar, SC Cell Town President Shivappa, Lakshmikant, along with other leaders, NGO representatives, and a large number of people participated in the programme.

## Realisation of Ambedkar's Ideals Possible Only Through Congress: Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy



— Credit for SC Reservation Categorisation Goes to CM Revanth Reddy Uppal, April 14 (Indian Chronicle): "Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge

Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy stated that only the Congress party is working towards realizing the ideals of the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. "He said that the categorisation of SC reservations in the state became possible under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He noted that this move ensured social justice for all sub-castes within the Scheduled Castes. Despite facing several obstacles and challenges, the Chief Minister successfully implemented the categorisation, he added. "The birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar were held grandly at Uppal Cross Roads under the leadership of Congress SC Cell Block President Lingampally Ramakrishna. On this occasion, Parameshwar Reddy, along with former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy, paid floral tributes to Ambedkar's statue and addressed the gathering. "He alleged that Union Home Minister Amit Shah made remarks in Parliament that insulted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and the Indian Constitution. He reiterated that the Congress party is the one that truly respects both the Constitution and Ambedkar. "The event was attended by SC Cell Block President Lingampally Ramakrishna, Uppal Division President Bakaram Lakshman, Eega Anjaiah Mudiraj, Raghupati Reddy, Telkala Mohan Reddy, Akiti Aagam Reddy, Rajesh Mudiraj, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Khaja Moulana, Busam Raghunath Reddy, Alwala Bhaskar, Manda Murali Krishna Reddy, Gorige Mahesh, Ram Reddy, Bhaskar Reddy, Boothkur Raju, Ratnam, Satyanarayana Chari, Tokata Raju, Bakaram Arun, Gopal, Janagam Ramakrishna, Afzal, Anwar, Kancharamidi Srinu, Nagoor Basha, Mohan, and other Congress leaders.

## Telangana Youth Mutupuri Sai Chandra Selected for Ice Hockey Asia Cup in Bishkek

"Hyderabad, April 15 A proud moment for Telangana's sports community as young athlete Mutupuri Sai Chandra (18) has been selected to represent India in the prestigious Ice Hockey Asia Cup. The tournament is scheduled to be held in Bishkek from April 24 to May 4. "Sai Chandra, who has proven his talent as a goalkeeper, has achieved a rare milestone with this selection. He is not only the first player from Telangana to be selected for this tournament but also the first goalkeeper from South India to earn this distinction. "Showing interest in sports from a young age, Sai Chandra has worked with discipline and dedication, making his mark in a rare sport like ice hockey. After proving his talent at the national level, he has now earned the opportunity to represent India on an international stage. "On this occasion, sports officials and local residents have congratulated him and expressed hope that he will perform exceptionally well in the international competition and bring pride to the country.



## Dr. B. R. Ambedkar 135th Birth Anniversary Celebrated in Medchal-Malkajgiri District



"Medchal- Malkajgiri, Staff Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Medchal-Malkajgiri District Additional Collector Vijeyender Reddy stated that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was the architect of the Constitution who ensured rights and empowerment for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and backward communities, enabling them to attain equality and sovereignty. The 135th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar were held at the district level in Uppal on Tuesday under the aegis of the Scheduled Castes Development Department. The Additional Collector attended the event as the chief guest, paid floral tributes to Ambedkar's statue, and inaugurated the program by lighting the ceremonial lamp. District Library Chairman Srinivas Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Narasimulu Yadav,

and Regional Transport Authority Member Jaipal Reddy also participated and paid homage. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector emphasized that merely installing statues of Ambedkar is not enough, and stressed the need to follow and implement the principles enshrined in the Constitution. He noted that the entire nation remembers Ambedkar's invaluable contributions. He highlighted that constitutional provisions, including reservations, have ensured social equality and upliftment of marginalized sections. He further stated that eradication of caste and religious discrimination is essential for building an equitable society, and every individual has a responsibility in this process. Due to the opportunities provided through constitutional safeguards, people from weaker sections have reached higher positions in political, economic, and professional fields. He called upon everyone to adopt Ambedkar's ideals and ensure effective implementation of constitutional values. He also urged community leaders to actively promote government welfare schemes for SCs, STs, and backward classes to ensure benefits reach eligible beneficiaries. Cultural performances by TSS artists featuring songs on Ambedkar entertained the audience. Incentive cheques were distributed to inter-caste married couples under government schemes. Dalit Ratna awards were also presented to individuals who contributed to the upliftment of Dalits. Officials including Keesara RDO Rajesh Kumar, ACP Venkat Reddy, Uppal MRO Pool Singh, DRDO Sambasiva Rao, LDM Shiva Prasad, District Tribal Welfare Officer Padmaja, and community leaders participated in the program.

## Youth Should Develop by Following Ambedkar's Ideals: Former Corporator Kotta Ramarao

"Medchal- Malkajgiri, Staff Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations were held in a grand manner at Sai Nagar and Padmashali Township under Kapra Circle. Former Kapra Division Corporator Kotta Ramarao attended the event as chief guest and participated in the celebrations. Speaking on the occasion, Ramarao said that today's youth should develop by following the ideals of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

He stated that the services of Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, are unforgettable. He explained that the present system of reservations for BC, SC and ST communities is a result of Ambedkar's efforts. He described Ambedkar as a guiding force who worked continuously for the upliftment of dalits, poor and weaker sections of society. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of everyone to pass on Ambedkar's contributions to future generations. Telangana State Journalists Association Medchal District Treasurer Barla Bhikshapati Mudiraj also stressed the need to create awareness about Ambedkar's legacy. Naveen Goud, Ambedkar Association President Jogarao, Sai Nagar Colony President Raju, Gajender, Sidevi and others participated in the programme.



## AMBEDKAR – A TIMELESS INSPIRATION TO HUMANITY Grand Tributes Mark 135th Birth Anniversary



"Wanaparthi correspondent, April 14, ( Indian Chronicle): "In a grand tribute to Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on his 135th birth anniversary, Congress leaders and local representatives paid floral respects to his statue at Ambedkar Chowrasta and his portrait at the party office on Tuesday. District Congress President and State Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy said that Dr. Ambedkar was not confined to any one community but stood as a universal icon and an enduring inspiration for all humanity. Describing him as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a great social reformer, Reddy said Ambedkar dedicated his life to the ideals of equality, liberty, and social justice. He noted that Ambedkar's relentless efforts for social equality, education, and women empowerment remain

invaluable. "His thoughts continue to guide the present generation. Following the path shown by Ambedkar will lead to a just and equal society," he said. Emphasizing the power of education, Reddy stated that it is the key to achieving one's dreams and highlighted Ambedkar's role in instilling self-respect among the marginalized sections of society. Several leaders and public representatives, including Municipal Chairperson Madhavi Ramesh, Vice Chairman Madhusudan Goud, Market Committee Chairman Srinivas Goud, District Congress leaders Tirupatiah, Brahmachari, Kolla Venkatesh, B. Krishna, and councillors Dhanalakshmi, Maheshwari, Soumya, along with party workers, participated in the programme.

## State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj Pays Floral Tributes to Dr. B.R. Ambedka Uppal

Correspondent, April 14 (Indian Chronicle): "On the occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, BRS party state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj paid rich tributes by garlanding Ambedkar statues in various divisions under Uppal Circle. "He offered floral tributes at the Ambedkar statue located at Uppal Chowrasta, as well as at events organized in Chilkanaagar Division under the aegis of the Scheduled Castes Seva Sangham. He also attended Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations organized by Sandeep Bhushan and committee members at the East Kalyanpuri Ward Office area as a chief guest and paid homage to Dr. Ambedkar. "Furthermore, he participated in Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations organized by the Scheduled Castes Development Department of the Medchal-Malkajgiri district government at Uppal Chowrasta. "Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj stated that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was a ??? ???? (great leader) who dedicated his entire life to the struggle for social justice. Remembering his invaluable services, he paid heartfelt tributes and described him as a globally respected intellectual, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution, and a visionary of an equal society. "On the occasion of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's birth anniversary, he extended his profound respects and homage. "Senior BRS leaders including Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokonda Jagan, Bingi Srinivas, Masa Shekhar, Muddam Srinivas Yadav, Balakrishna Goud, Ashok Chary, Sundar, MD Shafi, MD Hanif, Narsingh, Shyam, Balu and others participated in the program.



## Grand Celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th Birth Anniversary in Zaheerabad



"\* Floral tributes paid to Ambedkar statue by Siddu Ravan... "Zaheerabad April 14 ( Indian Chronicle ): "The 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was celebrated grandly in Zaheerabad town of Sangareddy district. On this occasion, Siddu Ravan paid rich floral tributes to Ambedkar's statue. "Speaking on the occasion, he said that Ambedkar stands as a symbol of the historic struggle against generations of oppression. He noted that every step taken by Ambedkar echoed as a revolutionary call for self-respect. "He emphasized that the core message of Ambedkar's movement was to ensure equality and justice

for every individual. "He described Ambedkar's knowledge as vast as the sky and his sacrifices as invaluable. Expressing deep admiration, he said, "My freedom, my independence, my self-respect is Ambedkar... my voice, my dignity is Ambedkar. "He further stated that their sole aim is to continuously strive for the realization of Ambedkar's ideals and to achieve social justice, adding that attaining political power remains their ultimate goal. "Narsimlu, Balaraj, Narasimha, Dasharath, Ashok, Raghupathi, Ramesh, Begari Rajanna, Nagamayya, Sandeep, Krishna, Srikanth, Nani, Sai Kumar and others participated in the programme."

## Let's walk on the path shown by Ambedkar

MLA Chinta Prabhakar "On Tuesday, in Sadashivapet town of Sangareddy district, Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar laid a wreath and offered a Ni Vaali to the statue of Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA called on people to walk on the path shown by Ambedkar and work towards achieving Ambedkar's aspirations. Several BRS leaders participated in the program.



## Surprise Inspection at Zaheerabad Government Hospital

Strict Warning Against Illegal Charges...Commissioner interacts with patients; focus on improving quality of medical services..



“Zaheerabad April 14 ( Indian Chronicle ):“Telangana Vaidya Vidhana Parishad Commissioner Dr. Ajay Kumar, along with District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. Kaviitha, conducted a surprise inspection at the Government Area Hospital in Zaheerabad, Sangareddy district on Tuesday. During the visit, the Officials inspected various wards and directly interacted with patients to understand their concerns and issues. “The Officials instructed the staff to improve the quality of medical services and stated that such surprise inspections are being carried out across the state as per the directions of the State Health Minister. They warned that strict action would be taken against staff showing negligence or lack of punctuality in their duties. “To ensure transparency in attendance, the Officials made bio-

metric attendance mandatory for hospital staff. Expressing serious concern over complaints of illegal collection of money from patients under the pretext of diesel charges in government ambulance services, they warned of stringent action against those involved. “The Commissioner also responded to allegations that women coming for deliveries were being charged Rs. 600 to Rs. 800 after childbirth. He made it clear that any form of illegal collection from patients would not be tolerated and strict action would be taken against those responsible. He emphasized that the government is committed to providing free and quality healthcare services to all patients. “Hospital Superintendent Sridhar, doctors, nursing staff, and other Officials were present during the inspection.”

## Ambedkar's path to social justice is exemplary: Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha



Tuesday. “Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that the path shown by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar for social justice, equality and protection of rights is exemplary for everyone. The Minister recalled his immense contributions in the construction of the country as the architect of the Indian Constitution. He stated that the Telangana state government is implementing the ideals of Babasaheb Ambedkar and is working to provide equal opportunities. The minister said that the welfare schemes, education and employment opportunities being implemented by the government for the upliftment of the downtrodden sections of the society are being implemented in the spirit of Ambedkar's ideals. He called upon the youth to contribute to the development of the society in the spirit of Ambedkar's ideals. “District Collector Praveenya, District SP Paritosh Pankaj, Municipal Chairperson Kuna Vanitha Santosh, District Library Chairman Anjaiah, Additional Collector Pandu, District Scheduled Caste Development Officer Akhilesh Reddy, local public representatives, leaders of various caste associations and others participated in this program.

“Sangareddy, April 14:“On the occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, State Medical and Health Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha paid tributes by garlanding the statue of Ambedkar at the old bus stand square in Sangareddy district headquarters on

## On Ambedkar Jayanti, MP Vamsi Krishna Vows to Fight BJP's Delimitation Conspiracy against Telangana, South India in Parliament Peddapalli

On the occasion of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary, on Tuesday, Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna visited multiple places in his constituency, garlanded statues of Babasaheb Ambedkar, former MP Kaka Venkataswamy and former Andhra Pradesh Speaker Sripada Rao, and strongly raised the issue of injustice being done to Telangana in the name of delimitation. “Participating in a rally organised by Dalit organisations in Peddapalli, MP Vamsi said that the proposed delimitation of constituencies process should be done in a fair manner and provide equal justice to all. “The BJP government is attempting to seize control of the Constitution drafted by Dr. Ambedkar. Under the guise of delimitation, a conspiracy has been set in motion to increase Parliamentary seats in the northern states while doing injustice to the southern states. We will fight this constitutionally in Parliament,” he declared. “He highlighted the injustice being done to Telangana on funds and questioned the silence of Union Minister Kishan Reddy. MP Vamsi reiterated his demand to increase the Singareni pension to ₹10,000 per month and to establish an ESI Hospital and airport in Ramagundam. “He also demanded that Singareni work-

ers be given all benefits on par with Coal India workers. “Later, MP Vamsi Krishna visited Godavarikhani and paid tributes by garlanding the Ambedkar statue near the Municipal Office. Leaders of the Ambedkar Association expressed gratitude to the MP for allocating ₹50 lakh from MPLADS funds for the construction of the new Ambedkar Bhavan in Godavarikhani. “He said that in line with Ambedkar's ideals, educational institutions are being opened and free education is being provided to poor students. “A good future is possible only through education,” he added, reaffirming his commitment to fight for the poor and weaker sections. “In Manthani, MP Vamsi Krishna paid tributes to the statues of Kaka Venkataswamy, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and former Speaker D. Sripada Rao. He recalled the close association between Kaka Venkataswamy and Sripada Rao and their efforts in bringing development to the region. “He called upon everyone to follow Ambedkar's ideals of equality, social justice, and the importance of education. When workers of the Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana brought their problems to his attention, the MP assured them that he would take up the issues with Energy Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and the Chief Minister for an early resolution.

## Ambedkar Jayanti under the auspices of BRS Party..



“Venkatapuram, April 14“Indian Chronicle. “Ambedkar statue in Venkatapuram mandal center of Mulugu district on the occasion of Ambedkar Jayanti under the auspices of BRS party paid tribute to Dr. BR Ambedkar statue by garlanding it. BRS Party Mandal President gampa Rambabu said “Dr. BR Ambedkar was born on 14/04/1891 in the town of Mhow in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh. He served as the Minister of Law in the first Prime Minister of India Nehru's cabinet. Ambedkar's good message to the society is that if you live for yourself, you will live in yourself. If you live for the people, you will remain in the hearts of the people. Dr. BR Ambedkar is the only person who told

the Indians that the development of the country by working tirelessly for the development of the weaker sections of India is not the walls of mirrors and the moral development of the citizens is the real development of the country. “BRS party mandal charioteer Gampa Rambabu spokesperson Darra Damodar, BRS senior leaders Velpuri Lakshminarayana, Thumamba Srinivas, VRK Puram sarpanch “Ms. D Ramya, former sarpanch Poonem Sridevi, deputy sarpanch Poonem Rajeshwari, youth president Nani, youth leaders Kiran, movement leaders Nageshwar Reddy, Koppula Malliah, Thota Prasanth, Kanna Reddy, Bolle Chinni and others participated.



Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrated Under DCP Indira “Medchal- Malkajgiri, Staff Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Ambedkar Jayanti was observed at the Malkajgiri Police Commissionerate office. On this occasion, Admin DCP Indira paid floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The gathering remembered the contributions of Dr. Ambedkar to the nation and his role in shaping the Constitution. Several police officials and staff members participated in the programme.

## At the Chinna Marur Gram Panchayat Office Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary celebrations

“Village Sarpanch Madduri Shankar““Village Subsarpanch Pinjari Basha “Gram Panchayat Secretary K. Saikumar““Wanaparthy correspondent Indian Chronicle ““Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's 135th birth anniversary celebrations were held at the Chinna Marur Gram Panchayat office under Chinnambavi Mandal under the chairmanship of Village Sarpanch Maddur Shankar and under the supervision of Panchayat Secretary K. Sai Kumar. On this occasion, Village Sarpanch Maddur Shankar Upasarpanch Pinjari Bhasha said that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar hailed from Anuvada village in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra. Ramji Sakpal and Bhimabhai Ambedkar were the parents of Sakpal, a Mahar caste man who joined the military and rose to become a Subedar. The saintly couple, who worked in a small town called Mau in Madhya Pradesh, had 14 children, the last of whom was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who was born on April 14, 1891 in Mau. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar faced many ups and downs at a young age and moved forward. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar preached, mobilized, fought, believed in yourself, and when Dharma was on our side, the war was a dream. Our struggle is not physical or social, but purely spiritual. Whether it is for wealth or power, our struggle is not for freedom. We are fighting for the reformation of human personality. This struggle is the source of happiness, says Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. Ambedkar's struggle against inequalities has improved immensely. The goal of Anjananataka Sri, despite the obstacles he created, has not been abandoned. Untouchability He is the pinnacle of finishing. Ambedkar was an unequalled scholar. Dalit consciousness, political scientist, A jurist, a skilled administrator, Written by Durandaradu, Indian Constitution The producer is a versatile talent. His thoughts for the future of this country Opinions are still the source of information today, one In other words, millions of indians / Asha Jyoti, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Many Cultures, languages, different customs, India is now a democracy His foresight to remain consistent Written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar himself The constitution is the source of this. Dr B.R. Ambedkar faced many ups and downs. Studying in higher education He got degrees. Everyone is equal. Even though laws were made saying “must be seen”, at that time Castes that faced caste discrimination until They, who were driven away from the city, In their families, in their Relatives 7 No one is educated. Due to social backwardness Will stay. Forever for education, employment For opportunities, for political positions There is a danger of being left out. In such a case, there will be no equality in real life except in the laws. This should be formalized, that is, some seats should be reserved for socially backward castes and only they should be appointed to those seats. They should be represented in the social structure. That is why Ambedkar worked to provide



reservations for socially backward classes through Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution of India. These articles allow for reserving a certain number of seats for SCs and STs in education, employment, and politics at the state and central levels. The task of implementing the reservation system is not to treat each person differently. It is to formalize the inequalities in society. In 1927, a conference of Dalit tribes was held in Mahad. A few thousand people came from Maharashtra and Gujarat. There was a ban on untouchables drinking the water of the Mahad tank and entering the tank. Thousands of people under the leadership of Ambedkar

They drank the water from that pond. In 1927 Ambedkar started a Marathi-language newspaper called 'Bahiskrit Bharati'. Writing an article in that newspaper, Ambedkar said: If Tilak had been born an untouchable, he would not have said 'Swarajyam is my birthright'. He would have declared that 'Eliminating untouchability is my aim, my birthright', he wrote. Gram Sarpanch Madduri Shankar, Upasarpanch Pinjari Bhasha, explained about Ambedkar during the program. Gram Sarpanch Madduri Shankar, Upasarpanch Pinjari Bhasha, Panchayat Secretary K Saikumar, former Upasarpanch Golla Balapiru, former Sarpanch Madduri Ramachandriah, Maddela Krishnaiah, Anganwadi teacher Vinodamma, Asha worker Ramadevi, Rajamma, women's association member Jammeswari, sanitation workers and villagers participated in this program and made it a success.

## Nation's Guiding Light — B. R. Ambedkar Geesugonda CI Devanapalli Vishweshwar

“Geesugonda/Warangal, April 14 (Indian Chronicle): CI D. Vishweshwar of Geesugonda said that B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, is an inspiration to future generations and that youth should strive to realize his ideals. “On Tuesday, he attended the birth anniversary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar held at Geesugonda Centre, garlanded Ambedkar's statue, and paid rich tributes. “Later, as part of the Praja Palana – Pragathi Pranalka programme, a road safety awareness programme titled “ARRIVE-ALIVE” was conducted, where he gave several suggestions to the youth. He stated that life is more valuable than speed and cautioned people not to drive after consuming alcohol and leave their families in sorrow. “He advised that life is precious and that drivers should reach their destinations safely and carefully. A pledge was administered to strictly follow traffic rules. “The programme was attended by public representatives,



Sarpanches, MPTCs, leaders of various political parties, students, auto drivers, youth leaders, and the Geesugonda police staff.

## Grand Celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti

in Ramanthapur Under the Leadership of Division President Mohammed Rafiq



Uppal Correspondent, April 14 (Indian Chronicle):“The 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Ramanthapur Division un-

## Anjaneyulu Sagar Organizes Ambedkar Jayanti Celebrations in Anjaya Nagar Division

“Serilingampalli April 24: Anjaneyulu Sagar, a prominent leader of the Anjaya Nagar Division, participated in grand celebrations held at the Siddiq Nagar Colony junction within the division's limits to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. On this occasion, he paid rich tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, by garlanding his statue amidst chants of “Jai Bhim. “Speaking at the event, he stated that the Indian Constitution drafted by Ambedkar stands as a symbol of equality, and noted that Ambedkar's primary objective was to build a society where people of all castes and communities could live together on an equal footing. He lauded Ambedkar's efforts as truly memorable—particularly his work to safeguard the rights of marginalized sections of society and to provide them with opportunities for education and employment. “He called upon everyone to put Ambedkar's ideals into practice and to actively participate in the construction of an egalitarian society by striving to eliminate social inequalities. He urged the youth to draw inspiration from Ambedkar's life and to forge ahead in

their own lives with a strong focus on education and discipline. He remarked that it is our privilege to celebrate the birth anniversaries of great leaders, and emphasized that on such occasions, we should reflect upon their contributions and do our part to serve society. He concluded by calling upon everyone to participate in such events and to dedicate themselves to upholding

and carrying forward the noble ideals of great visionaries like Ambedkar. Siddiq Nagar senior leader Nandu, Colony President Tirupati Reddy, General Secretary Ravinder Reddy, and leaders Anjaya, Ramu, Santosh, Anand, P. Lakshmaiah Sagar, Suresh Sagar, Ramu, Ravi, Sudhakar, Murali, Srinu, and others participated in this program on a large scale.

# At the Ammaipalli village panchayat office. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar 135th Jayanti Celebrations



“Village Sarpanch Madagauni Kavitha Prabhanjan Goud” Gram Panchayat Secretary Jaipal Reddy”Wanaparthy correspondent Indian Chronicle ““Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar’s 135th birth anniversary celebrations were held grandly at the Ammai Palli Gram Panchayat office under Chinnambavi Mandal under the chairmanship of Village Sarpanch Madagauni Kavitha Prabhanjanam Goud and the Panchayat Secretary jaipal reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Village Sarpanch Madagauni Kavitha Prabhanjanam Goud said that Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar was born to Ramji Sakpal and Bhimabhai Ambedkar, parents of Anuvada village in Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra. They are Mahar caste people. Sakphal joined the military and rose to become a Subedar. He was employed in a small town called Mau in Madhya Pradesh. The pious couple had 14 children, the last of whom was Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who was born on April 14, 1891 in Mau. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar faced many ups and downs at a young age and moved forward. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar preached, mobilized, fought, believed in himself, and when Dharma was on our side, the war was a dream. Our struggle is not physical or social, but purely spiritual. Whether it is for wealth or power, our struggle is not. We are fighting for freedom, we are fighting for the reformation of human personality. This struggle is the source of happiness, says Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. Ambedkar’s struggle against inequalities has improved immensely. He did not give up on his ambitious goal, despite all the obstacles he had created. He was the pinnacle in eradicating untouchability. Ambedkar was an unparalleled scholar, a Dalit intellectual, a statesman, a jurist, a skilled

administrator, a prolific writer, the architect of the Indian Constitution, he was a versatile genius, his thoughts and opinions are still the source of the future of this country, in a word, the hope of crores of Indians, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. His vision for a democratic India with many cultures, languages, and different customs is the source of this in the Constitution written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar studied higher education amidst many ups and downs and obtained degrees. B.A. (Bombay University 1912), 90.9. (University 1915), M.Sc. (London School of Economics 1921), Ph.D. (Columbia University 1927), D.Sc. (London University 1923), Barrister at Law (Grace in London 1923), LL.D. (Columbia University 1952 Honorary Degree), D. Litt. Osmania University 1953, Honorary Degree, All should be treated equally” Even though laws have been made, the castes who have faced caste discrimination till then, those who have been pushed away from their villages, and those who have no educated relatives in their families, will remain socially backward. There is a risk of being forever kept away from education, job opportunities, and political positions. In such a case, there will be no equality in real life except in laws. This should be formalized, that is, some seats should be reserved for socially backward castes and only they should be appointed to those seats. They should be represented in the social structure. That is why Ambedkar worked to provide reservations for socially backward classes through Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution of India. These articles allow for a certain number of seats to be reserved for SCs and STs in education, jobs, and politics at the state and central levels. Not reservation. To address the inequalities in society The system’s job is to treat each person differently. No. The inequalities in society Erasure of form. Dalit in Mahad in 1927 The Congress of Tribes was held. Maharashtra, A few thousand from Gujarat They came. The water in the Mahad pond Untouchables should not drink, they should not enter the pond. Entry was prohibited. Thousands of people under the leadership of Ambedkar They drank the water from that pond. In 1927 Ambedkar is a Marathi word for ‘Bahiskrit Bharati’ He started a fortnightly newspaper. In that newspaper, a While writing the article, Ambedkar said: If Tilak was born an untouchable, “Swarajyam is my birthright.” The eradication of untouchability is my aim, my He would have declared it a ‘birthright’ Village Sarpanch Madagauni kavitha Prabhanjanam Goud Ambedkar Explained. In this program Gram Sarpanch kavitha prabhanjan Goud, Panchayat Secretary Jaipal Reddy, Anganwadi Teacher Sudharani, Asha Worker Manemma, Ward Member Maheshwaramma Satya Reddy, Dargayya, Pavani Kavinder Goud, Raman Goud, Sukumar, Venkatesh Naidu, Tarachand Goud, sanitation workers village peoples, participated in program and made it success.

# Legal Awareness Seminar Held at District Court on Ambedkar Jayanti

“Medchal- Malkajgiri, Staff Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“A legal awareness seminar was conducted at the District Court in Kushaiguda on Tuesday to mark the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution. The programme was organized under the aegis of the District Legal Services Authority. The seminar was presided over by Chairman and District Principal Judge V. Bala Bhaskar Rao, who paid tribute to Ambedkar and highlighted his invaluable contributions to the nation. He stated that Ambedkar’s role as the chief architect of the Constitution remains a cornerstone in safeguarding justice, equality, and democracy in India. Bar Association President Ratnaiah spoke on the significance of Ambedkar’s 135th birth anniversary and emphasized the relevance of his ideals in contemporary society. The programme was conducted by Secretary and Principal Senior Civil Judge Sattu Ravinder. Judges Durga Prasad, Prashanthi, and Raju Lade, along with Bar Association General Secretary Durgaprasad, advocates, and staff



members of the District Legal Services Authority, attended the event. Participants expressed that Ambedkar’s thoughts and legal principles continue to serve as a guiding force for the present generation.

# Ambedkar’s Ideals Must Guide Nation’s Progress: Collector Haritha



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 14:“Collector K. Haritha urges united action to build an equal society; leaders, officials, and students participate in 135th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar in Kumram Bheem Asifabad district. “Calling for collective efforts to realize the vision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, District Collector K. Haritha on Tuesday emphasized the need to build a society free from inequalities and ensure justice—economic, social, and political—for all. She was addressing the 135th birth anniversary celebrations of Dr. Ambedkar, organized by the Scheduled Castes Development Department at the Integrated District Collectorate, where public representatives, officials, and community members paid rich tributes to the architect of the Indian Constitution.

# Book Review Competitions on “Annihilation of Caste” Held Successfully

Seminar on Equality and Social Justice Concludes“Uppal, April 14 (Indian Chronicle):“On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, state-level book review competitions on “Annihilation of Caste”, authored by Dr. Ambedkar, were successfully organized at Uppal Government Degree College. The event was coordinated by Head of the Political Science Department P. Vijay Kumar and NSS Programme Officer Jaldha Vishwanath Kumar. Renowned social activist, poet, writer, and Ambedkarite Ms. Joopaka Subhadra attended as the chief guest and served as the judge for the state-level competitions. “Speaking on the theme “From Silence to Resistance: Women and the Annihilation of Caste,” she emphasized that equal rights and equal opportunities must be accessible to all, and that a caste-free society was Dr. Ambedkar’s vision. “Guest of honour Dr. N. Jagan, NSS Programme Officer from Malkajgiri Government Degree College, spoke on “Ambedkar’s Vision for Democracy and Social Justice.” Another guest, Dr. L. Tirupati, Assistant Professor of Political Science and NSS Officer from Government City College, highlighted that balanced, inclusive, and integrated development for marginalized sections can be achieved only through education. “The program was presided over by Principal Dr. K. Vijay Kumar, who inaugurated the event by gar-



landing Dr. Ambedkar’s portrait. Students Kumari Gatrini, Priyanka, and K. Prashanthi rendered songs dedicated to Ambedkar. “A total of 33 participants took part in the state-level book review competitions. D. Raju from Ibrahimpatnam Government Degree College secured the first prize, while Nisha Sharma and K. Priyanka from Hayathnagar Government Degree College won the second and third prizes respectively. Consolation prizes were awarded to M.D. Reesha (Indira Priyadarshini College), D. Saivishnavi (City College), P. Muktiprasad (Malkajgiri), and K. Shreya (Uppal). “The prizes were distributed by Assistant Professor of Political Science P. Vijay Kumar. The seminar on equality and social justice concluded successfully with a warm felicitation of the guests, as informed by coordinator J. Vishwanath Kumar.

# Strict Adherence to Traffic Norms Can Save Lives: Collector



Indian Chronicle Kagaznagar, April 14, District Collector K. Haritha calls for responsible driving habits; officials and public take part in road safety awareness drive under ‘Arrive Alive’ initiative in Asifabad. “Emphasizing the importance of road safety, District Collector K. Haritha urged citizens to strictly follow traffic rules and ensure safe travel to their destinations. She was addressing the ‘Arrive Alive’ road safety awareness programme organized by the Transport Department at the district bus stand on Tuesday, as part of the 99-day Praja Palana Progress Plan. On the occasion of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti, the Collector and other dignitaries paid floral tributes to Ambedkar’s statue and highlighted the need for public awareness to prevent road accidents.

# Grand celebrations of the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

were held at Habsiguda, with Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy attending as chief guests.



“Uppal, April 14 (Indian Chronicle):“Under the aegis of the Habsiguda Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangham, the birth anniversary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the architect of the Indian Constitution, were conducted in a grand manner. “Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy attended the event as chief guests. On the occasion, they paid floral tributes to Ambedkar’s statue at the Habsiguda junction. The area echoed with slogans of “Jai Bhim.” “The leaders stated that

governance in the state is being carried forward in the spirit of Ambedkar and called upon everyone to continue striving towards the realization of his ideals. “Among those who participated in the program were DCC Vice President Boppanapalli Sudhakar Reddy, Division President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, District ST Cell President Ganesh Naik, General Secretary Dharma Naik, Ramalayam Temple Chairman Chintala Baburao, senior leaders Laxma Reddy, Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Ganga Yadav, Gundu Rajanna, Youth Congress leaders Vasu Naik, Suman Naik, Raju Naik, Malu Naik, Kishan Naik, senior Congress leaders Narsing Rao, Shivaraj Madiga, Pitla Prasad Babu, Pitla Rama Rao, Satyam Raju, Raju, CM Naveen, Medari Srinivas, N. Babu Rao, Anjaiah, Nagulapalli Sridhar, Mallesh, Shiva, Rahul, Tinku, Bhaskar, Kumar, Ravi Kumar, Khaleem, and others. “Also present were Ambedkar Yuvajana Sangham President Chintala Lakshmi Narayana, Working President Suddala Poorna Chander, General Secretary Muthyala Naveen Kumar, Vice Presidents Gunti Sai Kumar and Suddala Sandeep Kumar, Treasurer Edula Sai Kiran, Joint Secretaries Mudugula Chandrasekhar and Nagulapalli Chandrasekhar, Games and Cultural Secretary Pitla Rajalingam, Organizing Secretary Chintala Jai Narayana, and Executive Members Gyara Uppender, Chenchula Srinivas, Ulla Ravi Prasad, Gyara Vijay Bhaskar, and Chintala Prem Kumar, among others.

# Strive to Achieve Ambedkar’s Ideals

—Chippa Venkateshwarlu netha, at Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations“Warangal, April 14 (Indian Chronicle): Chippa Venkateshwarlu, recipient of the Babasaheb Ambedkar National Award, TPCC Handloom Wing State Working President, and contested corporator of the 23rd Division, said that Dr. B. R. Ambedkar’s vision was for India to move towards equality through an unrelenting fight against caste discrimination and untouchability. “On Tuesday, marking Ambedkar Jayanti, he attended a programme organized at Auto Nagar in Kothawada, 23rd Division, under the leadership of Congress Division President Damera Raj Kamal, as the chief guest. He garlanded Ambedkar’s portrait and paid tributes. “Speaking on the occasion, he praised Ambedkar for framing the Constitution so that Indians, who had lived in bondage under British rule, could live freely with civil rights in a democratic system. He lauded Ambedkar as a great scholar who earned 32 degrees from prominent universities around the world and stood as a global academic figure in history. “He said the Central Government should remain committed to protecting democracy and ensuring that citizens’ freedoms and rights, as envisioned by Ambedkar, are not obstructed. He stated that in Telangana, the Congress State Government passed resolutions in the Assembly and Council to provide 50% reservations for BCs and sent them to the Centre for legal approval. He expressed concern that parties in power at the Centre were opposing BC reservations and undermining these rights. “He criticized that without implementing 50% reservations for BCs in education, employment, and politics in proportion to their population, they were being treated unfairly. He said it is the responsibility of all citizens to safeguard the Constitution given



by Ambedkar for democratic governance and ensure it is not weakened. “Invoking Ambedkar’s spirit of struggle, he called upon everyone to be committed to achieving his ideals, protecting the democratic Constitution, and using the power of the vote to stand up for civil rights and freedoms. “Others present at the programme included Gonda Srinivas, Raju, Kokkula Satish, Kalakotla Bhaskarachari, Bollu Satish, Nambi Murali, SK Haider, Mamidala Naresh, Devara Ramu, Mandala Kishan, and others.

# Grand Celebration of Singireddy Padma Reddy’s Birthday



Reporter, April 14 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Boduppall: The birthday celebrations of Singireddy Padma Reddy, a dedicated public servant and former corporator, were held in a grand manner in Boduppall Circle under Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. On this occasion, senior Congress leaders Gurralla Venkatesh Yadav, Bucchi Yadav, Sudarshan Reddy, and Nalla Masa Viswanath Goud, along with several political leaders, division women, and local residents, felicitated Singireddy Padma Reddy and conveyed birthday wishes after a cake-cutting ceremony. Participants wished him good health, happiness, and success, expressing hope that he would attain higher positions in politics in the future and continue to serve the public more effectively. Division leaders Satish and Pabbu Satyanarayana, along with women and others, participated in the event.

-Former corporators, political leaders, women, and supporters extended greetings“Medchal- Malkajgiri, Staff

# ‘Arrive Alive’ Road Safety Awareness Programme Held at Ambedkar Statue in Zaheerabad

“Public representatives and police urge citizens to follow traffic rules...“Zaheerabad April 14 (Indizn Chronicle ):“As part of the Telangana State Government’s “Praja Palana – Pragathi Pranalika” initiative, and as per the directions of the DGP and Chief Secretary, the Zaheerabad Town Police organized the ‘Arrive Alive’ Road Safety Awareness Programme (Day-2) at the Ambedkar statue on the occasion of the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. “The programme was attended by MP Suresh Shetkar, MLA Manik Rao, former Minister Chandrasekhar, SETWIN Chairman Gridhar Reddy, Municipal Chairman, Vice Chairman, councillors, and police officials including Zaheerabad CI Shivalingam, Town SI Vinay Kumar, Kohir SI Nares, Chiragpally SI Rajender Reddy, SI Jagadeesh and other staff. “Ambedkar association leaders, members, students, and commuters also participated in large numbers. Speaking on the occasion, the MP urged everyone to strictly follow road safety rules and traffic regulations. “During the



programme, awareness was created on road safety and traffic norms. A pledge poster highlighting road safety rules and citizens’ responsibilities was also released, encouraging the public to adopt safe practices while using roads.

## A letter, beard & speech: How a Bareilly boy identified fraud, saved his parents from 'digital arrest' scam



GNS News Agency, April 14

A letter on a signage, a long beard, and speech — these are the three inconsistencies that led a 14-year-old boy in Bareilly to suspect that the men threatening his parents over a call, alleging links to terror groups, were fraudsters, and eventually saved them from getting duped. The callers kept the family under what police described as "digital arrest" for nearly nine hours on April 6, during which they were not allowed to leave the house or contact anyone outside. As his parents were unwilling to accept his suspicion that the callers were fraudsters, Tanmay Saxena, a Class 7 student, took matters in his hands. He put his parents' mobile phone — through which the threats were being issued — on flight mode, effectively cutting off all communication. The next day, after the family realised the nature of deception, they filed a police complaint at Prem Nagar Police Station, following which an FIR was registered against unidentified persons. No arrests have been made so far, police said.

Superintendent of Police, Bareilly, Manush Pareek said, "An attempt at 'digital arrest' has been foiled and that the family did not suffer any financial loss. A minor inconsistency initially noticed by the boy raised suspicion." Police have been conducting regular awareness programmes in schools to educate people about such scams, he

added. Speaking about what led to his suspicion, Tanmay said, "The callers claimed to be from the National Investigation Agency, but several details did not add up." "The signage visible behind them had 'NIA' written on it, but the letter 'N' was in lowercase, which made it evident that the caller was not at their office. The man speaking to my parents, who said he was an officer, had a long beard. Also the way they were speaking did not sound professional or convincing. These three things made me suspicious," he said. "I repeatedly told my father that they appeared to be fraudsters, but my parents were not ready to believe me. So, late at night, when everyone was asleep, I put the phone on flight mode and cut off the conversation," he added. Tanmay said he was aware of such scams through reports on social media and in newspapers, which helped him recognise the warning signs. Tanmay, a resident of the Prem Nagar locality in Bareilly, is the son of Sanjay Kumar, a shopkeeper who sells food items, and his wife Rishi Saxena, a private school teacher. Recalling the incident, Sanjay said that on April 6, he had closed his shop early as a cooking gas cylinder was unavailable and went home when he received a call from an unknown number. The caller identified himself as an officer from the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS).

"He told us that my wife's mobile number had been linked to terrorists and that she was also involved in a fraud worth Rs 300 crore. We were shocked and said we had no idea how her number could be connected to any such activity, nor was she involved in any fraud," Sanjay said. He added that the callers began issuing threats, after which another person, claiming to be from the NIA, initiated a video call and stepped up the intimidation. "He asked for our bank details. My son, who was sitting next to us, kept telling me that they were fraudsters, but I was not ready to believe him," he said. "They effectively placed us under digital arrest, instructing us not to step outside and to remain constantly on the video call so they could monitor our movements. They also gathered details about our house and bank accounts and as a result we remained confined for nearly nine hours," Sanjay said.

## Karnataka governor grants assent to law to prevent 'honour killings' in inter-caste marriages



GNS News Agency, April 14

The Karnataka government on Friday brought into force the Karnataka Freedom of Choice in Marriage and Prevention and Prohibition of Crimes in the name of honour and tradition (Eva Nammava Eva Nammava) Act, 2026, intended to restrict 'honour killings' in inter-caste marriages after receiving Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot's assent on April 9. The new law, which was passed unanimously by the state legislature last month, was notified in the state gazette on April 10.

The Bill was proposed by the Congress government in the wake of caste-linked 'honour killings' in the state, including the December 21, 2025, murder near Hubli of a 20-year-old Lingayat woman by her father for marrying a man from another caste. The phrase 'Eva Nammava Eva Nammava' in the title is in reference to the message of universal humanity that the Lingayat saint Basavanna espoused. Basavanna, who rebelled against the caste system to lay the foundation of the Lingayat faith system—an amalgamation of all castes—used the words meaning 'he is a part of me' to say all people are one. The Act prescribes punishments for discrimination against individuals on the basis of caste in inter-caste marriages of adults and also puts the onus on the state to identify instances where honour and tradition are used to impede inter-caste marriages and to provide shelters for couples facing threats over mixed marriages. 'Violate fundamental rights' "The persistence of caste-based discrimination in Karnataka continues to manifest in brutal forms of violence, including honour killings, particularly against young adults who exercise their constitutional right to choose their life partners through inter-caste marriages," says the statement of objects and reasons in the law. The law states that offences like murder, assault, and criminal intimidation in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita,

2023, "do not adequately address the specific social motive of preserving perceived 'caste honour' or the wide range of coercive practices employed from performing death rituals (thithi) for living daughters, denying lawful inheritance rights, social ostracism, to insidious attempts at causing harm through poisoning or other covert means."

"Such acts not only violate fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 15, 19, and 21 of the Constitution of India but also undermine the vision of social reformers like Sree Basavanna and Dr B R Ambedkar, who advocated inter-caste marriages as a means to eradicate caste hierarchy," it adds. The new law defines the social boycott of inter-caste couples as forcible eviction to remote corners of villages, refusal to provide services, refusal to provide work, refusal to conduct business, denial of loans and admissions to schools, and makes it punishable. In the case of 'honour killings' per se, the new law prescribes a minimum imprisonment of five years, and in the case of assaults, a prison term that is not less than three years for serious injury and two years for minor injuries. The law proposes a three to five year imprisonment for persons involved in intimidating and threatening inter-caste couples, while those who are part of groups that intimidate couples can face a term of six months to five years in prison. The offences under the proposed law are cognisable and non-bailable, which means police can carry out arrests without court permissions after taking up a case. In the shadow of 3 deaths Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had indicated on January 3, 2026, that the state would bring a bill to prevent 'honour killings' in the wake of the December 21, 2025, murder of a 20-year-old woman allegedly by her father and his relatives near Hubli. The incident took place seven months after Manya Doddamani's family opposed her wedding. Her father and two relatives allegedly attacked her when she was working on a field at Inam Veerapur village in Dharwad district, near Hubli. The victim hailed from the Lingayat community while her husband was from a Scheduled Caste community. The murder was among the three cases of killings reported in Karnataka in 2025 over inter-caste marriages. In April 2025, a 17-year-old from the OBC Kuruba community was allegedly killed by her father at Raichur after she eloped with a boy from an SC community. In September 2025, 18-year-old Kavita, from the Lingayat community, was allegedly killed by her father over her relationship with a boy from the OBC Kuruba community. The law to protect the freedom of choice in marriages is among several social bills that the Congress government has brought out in line with its policies for the backward and downtrodden communities in the state.

## 4 Pune journalists 'on sting operation' booked for filming a woman changing clothes in a hotel room

GNS News Agency, April 14

The Pune police on Friday booked four journalists for allegedly taking objectionable video of a woman while she was changing her clothes in a hotel room in the Budhwar Peth area. The Pune police on Friday booked four journalists for allegedly taking objectionable video of a woman while she was changing her clothes in a hotel room in the Budhwar Peth area. The Pune police on Friday booked four journalists for allegedly taking objectionable video of a woman while she was changing her clothes in a hotel room in the Budhwar Peth area of Pune city.

The police said that the accused, identified as Rohan Kadam, who worked for a television news channel, and three others, took a room on rent in Ajay Lodge in Budhwar Peth on April 8 and allegedly took a video of a woman changing her clothes in another room, claiming that they were doing a "sting operation". The woman who noticed the inappropriate act raised an alarm and registered a First Information Report (FIR) in the case at the Vishrambag police station on Friday night. The journalists were booked under Section 77 (Capturing or sharing images of a woman where she has a reasonable expectation of privacy), and Section 3 (5)



of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). After the incident came to light, the Pune Union of Working Journalists (PUWJ) condemned the act of the journalists and wrote to the Commissioner of Pune City Police to take legal action against them. PUWJ office-bearers held a meeting with Deputy Commissioner of Police Krishikesh Rawale, saying the organisation does not support wrong activities of any journalists.

## Bengaluru's Peenya elevated flyover to close for 4 days: Here are the alternative routes you can take

GNS News Agency, April 14

Bengaluru's Peenya flyover will be closed for load testing from April 13 to 17. Plan your commute with these traffic diversions and NH-4 alternative routes. Peenya Flyover in Bengaluru will close April 13–17 for NHA load testing. Check the latest traffic diversions and alternative routes for NH-4 commuters here. The Bengaluru traffic police announced on Friday that the Peenya elevated flyover on National Highway-4 will be shut for four days, from April 13 to April 17, to facilitate load testing of the flyover bridge by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA) following recent cable repair work. "The cable repair works on the Peenya Elevated Flyover (Dr. Sri Shivakumar Swamiji Flyover) on National Highway-4, under the limits of Peenya Traffic Police Station, have been completed. In order to ensure the structural integrity of the flyover, final load testing is required to be carried out," the traffic police said in a statement. "In this regard, based on the request received from the National Highways Authority, traffic movement of all types of vehicles will be temporarily restricted on the Peenya Elevated Flyover from 5 am on April 13 to 11 am on April 17," the statement said.

The traffic restrictions will apply to all vehicles on the



flyover, from the Kennametal Widia Upper Ramp to SRS Down Ramp and from the CMTI Junction to the Parle-G toll booths. The alternative routes suggested by the traffic police are as follows: 1. Nelamangala ? Bengaluru bound traffic: Divert at Kennametal Widia Via NH-4 (below flyover) & service road ? 8th Mile ? Dasarahalli ? Jalahalli Cross ? Peenya Police Station Junction ? SRS Junction ? Goraguntepalya.

## AI-powered tool to help Gujarat Police weed out drug menace



GNS News Agency, April 14

Gujarat Police has launched 'NARIT AI,' India's first RAG-based tool designed to eliminate procedural gaps in narcotics cases and predict courtroom defense arguments for higher conviction rates. Gujarat Police has launched 'NARIT AI,' India's first RAG-based tool designed to eliminate procedural gaps in narcotics cases and predict courtroom defense arguments for higher conviction rates. The state government on Friday said that police in Gujarat had become the first in the country to develop an artificial intelligence-driven tool that was aimed at strengthening narcotics investigation and enforcement. Named 'NARIT AI' (Narcotics Analysis & RAG-based Investigation Tool), it provides real-time analytical support to investigating officers, as per an official note.

According to Gujarat Police, "NARIT AI is a Retrieval Augmented Generation (RAG)-based system designed to assist law enforcement agencies in handling complex narcotics cases under the NDPS legal framework. By integrating legal provisions, case laws, and investigative procedures, the system provides real-time analytical support to investigating officers." "The application was developed by Western Railway police, Vadodara division, in collaboration with a Mumbai-based AI startup. The statement quoted Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi as saying, "We have adopted a 'zero tolerance' policy towards narcotics-related crimes and will leave no stone unturned—from registering cases to securing convictions—by using all available tools, including AI." "The application was conceptualised under the guidance of in-charge chief of the state police, DGP KLN Rao and Surat City Police Commissioner Anupam Singh Gehlot, and was initiated by Abhay Soni, Superintendent of Police (SP), Western Railway, Vadodara. The statement quoted SP Soni as saying, "Earlier, investigations were handled only by specialised police staff, which created workload and administrative delays. This tool will act as a force multiplier by leveraging the latest RAG-based AI technology and will enable every investigating officer to conduct proper, procedure-compliant investigations, thereby

improving the conviction rate in NDPS cases. Since the application has been developed and trained using historical cases from the high courts and the Supreme Court, Bare Acts, and government guidelines, the probability of hallucinations is minimal and procedural accuracy will be high." "The key challenge in the investigation of NDPS cases is procedural compliance. We have seen in the past that, despite strong evidence, the accused often benefits from gaps in investigation procedures, resulting in acquittal. This application will provide a comprehensive report to every investigating officer who can refer to it while making final decisions. This will help prevent procedural gaps, improve the quality of investigations, and ultimately enhance the conviction rate in NDPS cases. Moreover, this tool can be operated by any rank police staff and easy handling of the tool ensures faster adoption of new technology," the SP added.

## Toddler drowns in pool at farmhouse in South Delhi's Chattarpur, contractor held for negligence

GNS News Agency, April 14

Two days after a two-and-a-half-year-old boy drowned in a swimming pool at a farmhouse in South Delhi's Chattarpur area, a contractor involved in the construction of the pool was arrested on Friday over negligence, said police. The contractor, Raj Kiran, has been apprehended as no safety measures — barricading or reflective lights — were found around the pool, according to officers. Police are also investigating the role of the owner of the pool.

According to the police, the incident happened on Wednesday around 6 pm. The toddler — whose parents were working as labourers at a nearby construction site — walked towards the farmhouse to play. The toddler often played by the pool as the parents and their kin worked at nearby construction sites, said police. However, when the child did not return for about an hour, the parents began to search for him. They found his clothes near the pool and his body floating in the water, said officers. His parents came from Bihar's Begusarai area about three months ago in search of work, and settled around the farmhouse area after getting a gig at a construction site, said police. "That evening, we were working at the construction site near the farmhouse while he was playing nearby.

## Two men sleeping in plot in Rohini killed as large stones being moved by crane fall on them, driver held



GNS News Agency, April 14

Two men, sleeping on a vacant plot in Northwest Delhi's Rohini area, were killed in the early hours of Friday after large stones being moved by a crane at a nearby construction site fell on them. The bodies were found in a pool of blood on the plot near Green Aura Banquet Hall in Rohini's Sector-10, police said. The crane has been seized and the driver of the crane, identified as Rajgir Singh, a resident of Shalimar Bagh, has been apprehended, said officers.

According to the Delhi Police, information was re-

ceived at Prashant Vihar police station on Friday regarding two unconscious persons lying near the banquet hall. A police team rushed to the spot and found both men critically injured. The deceased are yet to be identified. However, it is believed that they were ragpickers. Both of them were rushed to BSA Hospital, where doctors declared them brought dead. The crime team and Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team inspected the scene and collected evidence. A crane bearing a Haryana registration number found nearby was also seized as part of the investigation, officers said.

Police recorded the statement of an eyewitness, identified as Rohit Kumar, a resident of Muzaffarpur district in Bihar. Based on his statement, a case under relevant sections of law has been registered at PS Prashant Vihar. "While shifting the heavy stones using the crane, some of them accidentally fell on the victims, resulting in their deaths," the officer said. Police said the accused was apprehended from the spot. During questioning, it emerged that he was unaware that the victims were sleeping nearby when he began clearing the debris. The bodies have been preserved at the mortuary of Dr BSA Hospital for a post-mortem examination, and efforts are underway to establish the identity of the deceased.

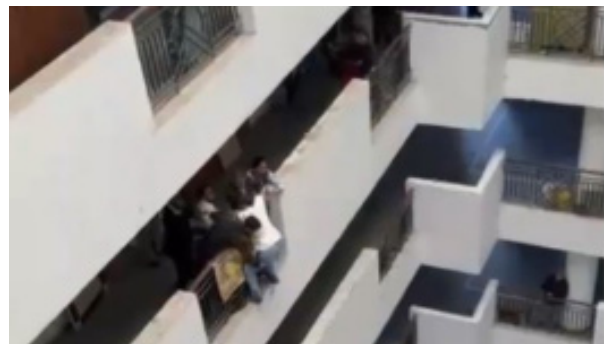
## Mixed response to 2BHK housing shop auctions in Rangareddy from bidders

Hyderabad: The Housing Department's auction of commercial shops in double bedroom housing society complexes across Rangareddy district received a mixed response from bidders. Auctions were conducted at eight housing society locations. While four locations saw encouraging participation, the remaining four fell short of officials' expectations. A total of 92 shops were put up for auction at Thattannaram, Hattiguda, Thimmaiguda and Abdullapur on Thursday. However, only 30 shops were successfully sold.

Officials said that although these complexes have good road connectivity, they are located away from main roads. This may have discouraged bidders. "The department will take a decision on auctioning the remaining 60 shops in these areas," an official said. Successful bidders must pay the bid amount within one month, failing which their earnest

money deposit will be forfeited. In contrast, auctions at Mankhal-II, Mansanpally I and II, Narsingi and Shankarpally saw strong demand on Friday. All 79 shops in Shankarpally were sold, with bids ranging from Rs 6,000 to Rs 8,000 per square foot, well above the upset price of Rs 2,200 per square foot. Similarly, all 35 shops at Mankhal and 10 shops at Narsingi were sold. At Narsingi, bids ranged between Rs 10,000 and Rs 14,000 per square foot, against an upset price of Rs 5,500. At Mansanpally, 39 out of 57 shops were sold. Prices ranged from Rs 3,000 to Rs 8,650 per square foot, compared to the upset price of Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,200. The commercial shops were originally constructed by the previous BRS government to help resident welfare associations generate income for maintenance through rental revenue.

## Frustrated over 10-year-old case, man tries to jump off Saket court building's 4th floor; lawyers rescue him



GNS News Agency, April 14

A busy afternoon in the Saket Court Complex in Delhi was disrupted briefly on April 8 when a man attempted to jump from the fourth floor of the lawyers' chamber block. The man climbed over the railing, hanging precariously, while stunned onlookers watched from the floors below. What happened next, however, was nothing short of heroic, eye-witnesses told The Indian Express. Before he lost his grip, a group of advocates acting on pure instinct, lunged toward the railing. Amid a frantic struggle, they reached through the grills and grabbed the man's clothes and limbs to keep

him from falling. "He was waiting for judgement in a case for over a decade. His lawyer sits on the fourth floor. He was frustrated by the whole process. Right when he was about to jump, some lawyers intervened and saved his life," said Advocate Narendra Sharma, Vice President, Saket Bar Association. The incident was captured on camera and the video was widely shared on social media on Thursday as many praised the prompt effort by advocates.

In a coordinated effort, according to eyewitnesses, the lawyers managed to pull the man wearing a white t-shirt, light blue jeans and black slippers back over the ledge and onto the safety of the corridor floor, saving his life. Across the Saket court, there are about 4,300 cases which are pending for over 10 years. Close to three-fourths are criminal cases. "The man looked sad whenever he came to court. He seemed pretty stressed," said Advocate Dhir Singh Kasana, former Secretary of Saket Bar Association. "Thank god there were lawyers present at the spot. It was sheer luck. They held him as he was going to jump from the fourth floor. Warna anthoni ho jaati (Or a mishap would have happened)," he said. "We need to have counsellors in the court and we need to have taller railings to prevent such incidents," he added.

## HC says election petition inherently trial-based, rejects Singhvi plea to remove witnesses

GNS News Agency, April 14

An election petition is inherently trial-based in nature, and therefore, evidence and witness examination are integral to ensuring a fair adjudication process, the Himachal Pradesh High Court on Friday held as it dismissed an application filed by senior advocate and Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi seeking to remove witnesses proposed by BJP's Harsh Mahajan. A single bench of Justice Virender Singh was hearing the petition filed by Singhvi challenging the interpretation of rules after he lost the Rajya Sabha elections held on February 27, 2024, to Mahajan.

Singhvi had challenged the necessity of witness examination and cross-examination in the matter, arguing that the case did not require evidentiary proceedings. The bench, however, observing that the relevance of the witnesses, as per the list submitted by Mahajan, could not be prejudged at this stage of proceedings. The counsel for Mahajan had submitted that examination and cross-examination of the witnesses was crucial to the BJP leader's defence, as it seeks to establish that the election process — including counting, handling of a tie, and declaration of results — was conducted strictly as per rules. The witnesses include BJP MLAs Randhir Sharma, Sukhram Chaudhary, Trilok Jamwal, Vidhan Sabha Secretary Yash Paul Sharma, Chief Electoral Officer Dorje Thakur, Secretary Telangana legislative assembly V Narasimha Charyulu, Mahajan himself and others. In a detailed order, the court held that denying the respondent an opportunity to examine his witnesses would be unjustified. "Without giving an opportunity to the respondent to examine the witnesses proposed in the list, it cannot be said that the witnesses have been mentioned just to delay the proceedings," the court observed. The bench further noted that there was no material on record to establish that the proposed evidence was "frivolous or vexatious," thereby rejecting Singhvi's contention that the witness list was intended to prolong the case. Dismissing the application, the court directed that the matter be listed on April 20 for fixing a schedule for recording of evidence. It also cautioned both parties against seeking unnecessary adjournments.



Despite the Congress having a majority in the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Singhvi lost the Rajya Sabha elections held on February 27, 2024, to Mahajan, after six Congress MLAs cross voted in favour of the BJP candidate. Three independents too supported Mahajan. Singhvi had then challenged the interpretation of rules following a tie in the Rajya Sabha elections. Both candidates polled 34 votes each. The winner was announced by a draw of lots. Under the procedure followed by the election officer, Singhvi was declared the loser, meaning he lost the tie.

"It defies common sense, old tradition and practices, anywhere in the world that whenever there is a tie between two people, the person whose name is drawn out in the lot should be the winner and not the loser," Singhvi had earlier said. Reacting to the court's decision, Mahajan said the Congress leadership was trying to avoid a full and fair trial, but the court made it clear that facts and evidence cannot be brushed aside and attempts to suppress the truth have failed. "When facts are weak, Congress runs away from evidence, but we stand firmly with the truth and are ready to face every question, on every platform," he said in a statement issued here. Saurabh Parashar is an Assistant Editor at The Indian Express, primarily responsible for the publication's coverage of Himachal Pradesh. He is a seasoned journalist with over 17 years of

## Abhishek Banerjee slams BJP over manifesto, questions Sheikh Hasina's asylum

GNS News Agency, April 14

Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP and party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday slammed the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over its manifesto for the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, questioning the party's stance on Bangladeshi infiltrators. Addressing a press conference in Kolkata, Abhishek also asked Union Home Minister Amit Shah to clarify whether former Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina, who has been given shelter by the BJP-led Centre, should be termed an infiltrator.

"Why did they give shelter to Sheikh Hasina? Is she an infiltrator or got asylum. To safeguard which industrialist, did BJP give shelter to Hasina?," he asked. The TMC leader criticised the BJP for its response to atrocities on monks in Bangladesh and the attack on Chinmay Prabhu. "When atrocities were happening on monks in Bangladesh, where was the Modi government? When Chinmay Prabhu was attacked, what did the Modi government do?," he asked. Taking a sharp aim at Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Abhishek said the BJP leader was "rehearsing the same cassette" over and over again about "ghuspetiyas" (infiltrators). He criticised the BJP's handling of the Pahalgam terror attack and Delhi car blast last year. "If you are in power to safeguard the borders, then why did such an attack happen in Pahalgam? How come a blast happened in Delhi?," Abhishek questioned. The TMC MP from Diamond Harbour lambasted the BJP's promise to pay Rs 3,000 per month to women and unemployed youth, terming it a "new jumla" meant to fool the people of West Bengal. "They are basically trying to fool people of Bengal," he said. He pointed out that the prime minister had made a similar promise to women in Delhi, but it was not fulfilled. "The Prime Minister himself promised before the Delhi Assembly election last year that the BJP government will give Rs 2,500 to every woman of Delhi before International Women's Day which is on March 8. One year has gone by, a single woman of Delhi did not get 5 paisa," he claimed.

He highlighted the Lakshmir Bhandar project of the Mamata Banerjee government, which provides Rs 1,500 per month to women, and asked if any other state could match this. "We are giving each and every woman Rs 1,500 rupees per month without questioning anything. Just show us a single state which is giving money to every woman. BJP can't give pollution free air to the people, how will the BJP give money?,"

The BJP on Friday released the party's 'Sankalp Patra' and promised to pay Rs 3,000 per month to women and unemployed youth countering the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government's Lakshmir Bhandar and Yuba Sathi programme. Banerjee claimed that the BJP is trying to control Bengal's culture, food habits, and dress. He also cited the example of the Chief Minister of Assam, who had said that anyone speaking Bengali would be jailed. Abhishek



mentioned that the BJP said, "They will control Bengal from Delhi and Gujarat. What we have been saying for years, BJP today agreed that they will control Bengal with outsiders. If BJP comes to power, they will implement the United Civil Code within six months in Bengal. They will control Bengal's food habits, culture and dress. They are already criticising the fish eating habits of Bengalis." "If someone speaks Bengali in a BJP ruled state, eats their favourite food, speaks Bengali at home, Chief Minister of Assam has openly said, they will go to jail. All those who have spoken anti-Bengali in the past, have been rewarded by the BJP," Abhishek claimed.

## Another student from Ashram school dies after a fatal fall in Asifabad

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: A student from a tribal welfare school died, when iron boxes containing books and a bench, fell on him while playing with a swing in his hostel at Panapatara village on Friday. It is the fourth such incident reported at Ashram school in the erstwhile Adilabad district in the last two years.

Officials said that Durva Anwesh (10), a Class IV student sustained serious head injuries in the incident. He was rushed to a government hospital in Jainoor, where he was declared dead. He was playing with the swing tied to two benches at the time of the incident.

The student's father Durva Jangu alleged that negligence of officials caused the death of his son. He demanded a probe and action against the officials. He said that Anwesh could have survived, if the officials monitored the students after school time.

## 'Every central agency sold out like in Chaitra sale': Mamata hits out at BJP over voters' name deletion



GNS News Agency, April 14

Mamata BanerjeeTurning her focus to the polling process, Mamata Banerjee dubbed the Election Commission as the "BJP vanish washing commission" and urged supporters to be hyper-vigilant on the counting day. (Hitting out at the Centre over the deletion of voter names under the SIR exercise in the poll-bound state, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday alleged that every national agency was "dancing to the tunes of BJP" and compared the political climate to Bengali year-end "Chaitra sale". Addressing an election rally at Tentulia in North 24 Parganas district, Banerjee said, "Ninety lakh names have been deleted from the voter lists. The tribunals have not even started working yet. No agency in the country is neutral. Every central agency is dancing to the tunes of the BJP. It seems that everything has been sold out like in the Chaitra sale." Alleging that the deletion of names was a "calculated move", Banerjee said, "Out of 90 lakh names that have been deleted, 60 lakh are Hindus and 30 lakh are Muslims. Mota Bhai has deleted voters indiscriminately. You can trust a snake once, but you can't trust the BJP." She also claimed

that the BJP brought people from outside for the Assam elections as it was not confident of victory with the votes of the state's residents. "A trainload of 50,000 people was brought to Assam from Uttar Pradesh," she said. The TMC supremo alleged that the BJP was trying to use the same play in Bengal to bring in people from outside, which is why officers were transferred. A large number of police and administrative officers were transferred in Bengal by the Election Commission soon after the announcement of the polls.

Banerjee further claimed that in the NRC exercise in Assam, out of 19 lakh names delisted, 13 lakh were Hindus and 6 lakh were Muslims. She urged those affected by SIR to appeal before the tribunals and assured legal support to ensure legitimate voters are re-enrolled. "I will not allow NRC in Bengal. There will be no detention camps in Bengal till I am in power," Banerjee said. Raising concern over the safety of Bengal's migrant workers in the BJP-ruled states, Banerjee said, "You (BJP) cannot protect Bengal's people in other states, but promise a 'Sonar Bangla' at rallies. You should dream of a 'Sonar Bangla' only after ensuring security for people of West Bengal in BJP-ruled states. We will first have to win Bengal, then we will have to win Delhi." Turning her focus to the polling process, she dubbed the Election Commission as the "BJP vanish washing commission" and urged supporters to be hyper-vigilant on the counting day. "If they tamper with the EVMs, demand their replacement. You have been made to stand in queues for Aadhaar cards and SIR. I request you to wait to cast your vote if you see the EVM has malfunctioned. Press all the buttons on the EVMs to check for foul play. I don't trust them," she said. Asking the electorate to consider her as the TMC's candidate in all 294 seats in the state, Banerjee said, "If you want a Trinamool Congress government under my leadership, then consider me the candidate in all seats."

## UP aiming to become India's 'Deep Tech Capital': Yogi Adityanath

GNS News Agency, April 14

UP Deep Tech Capital vision was outlined by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, highlighting plans to boost AI, drones, quantum computing and innovation-driven industry partnerships. (Express Photo)UP Deep Tech Capital vision was outlined by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, highlighting plans to boost AI, drones, quantum computing and innovation-driven industry partnerships. (Express Photo)Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday said the state is working towards becoming the country's "Deep Tech Capital" under the vision of 'Innovate in UP, Scale for the World', with a focus on emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, drone technology, green hydrogen, cyber security and medical technology.

Chairing a high-level review meeting, the Chief Minister stressed the need for "concrete, result-oriented and time-bound action" and called for stronger coordination between research institutions and industry to ensure that innovations are implemented at scale and generate employment. A detailed presentation was made by IIT Kanpur Director Prof. Manindra Agrawal, outlining ongoing and proposed initiatives. Officials said the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology at IIT Kanpur is developing med-tech solutions, with a proposal already submitted to the Medical Education Department. The institute is expected to begin operations in November.

The Chief Minister also reviewed plans for a Centre of Excellence in green hydrogen, directing officials to expedite work across production, storage, testing, safety standards and industrial applications. He described the project as crucial for the state's energy future. Discussions were also held on setting up what officials described as the country's first institutional centre for internationally recognised clinical validation in Ayurveda. The proposed facility aims to build a scientific evidence base for Ayurvedic medicines, strengthen laboratory research and promote conservation and use of herbal resources. Highlighting the stra-



tegic importance of drone technology, Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh should emerge as a hub for indigenous drone manufacturing and research, particularly to meet defence requirements. He also underlined the importance of advancing research in quantum technology, calling it a "transformative technology of the future". On the startup ecosystem, officials noted that IIT Kanpur has incubated several startups with global recognition, with efforts underway to provide patent support and scale innovations internationally. The Chief Minister called for further strengthening the state's innovation culture.

The proposed 'UP Deep-Tech Hub' in Noida was identified as a central platform for integrating startups, research institutions and industry. Adityanath directed that world-class infrastructure be developed at the hub, alongside implementing a model of "research at IIT Kanpur, expansion and deployment from Noida". Adityanath also reviewed progress in cyber security initiatives, including work being carried out at the Cyber Security Technology Translation Research Park, aimed at strengthening the state's digital infrastructure. The Chief Minister also directed officials to ensure time-bound implementation of all proposed projects through inter-departmental coordination and faster decision-making, stating that Uttar Pradesh should position itself as a leading state in deep-tech innovation.

## Chairs resembling Chandigarh heritage furniture found in Shimla, experts say need close scrutiny

GNS News Agency, April 14

Chairs with A-shaped legs and 'acronyms' on their backs denoting the department they belonged to, and a chair similar to that of the Punjab and Haryana judge, are among furniture items resembling "Chandigarh heritage furniture" that have been found in use at different places in Shimla. Himachal Pradesh government authorities say they will look into the matter as it requires close scrutiny, but a debate has meanwhile been instigated, seeking to preserve these furniture items until their authenticity is established. The Indian Express has learnt. These furniture items have been found at various locations, including a Verka milk booth on National Highway (NH) 5 in Shimla, Government Middle School in Kanlog, and the office of the Himachal Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (HPSIDC) in Milsington Estate, Shimla.

However, possessors seem unaware of their furniture's plausible heritage status. And, if their authenticity is established, these furniture items were designed by Pierre Jeanneret, the cousin of French architect Le Corbusier, who designed Chandigarh. HPSIDC manager Krishan Chand told The Indian Express that they auctioned old furniture such as worn-out chairs and tables, among other items, in 2024. "We still have one or two such pieces of furniture in our office, but I can't say with certainty from where these chairs, tables, etc., were procured by our department. I'm not sure if the auctioned chairs belonged to the HPSIDC headquarters in Shimla or were sent from our branches in Mandi, Kangra, etc. But I am sure these items were decades old." One of the two chairs that looks like an HC judge's chair is in the possession of the Government Middle School at Kanlog. Officiating Principal Maya Sharma said, "I joined the school a couple of months earlier. Some senior staff members told me that they had procured two to three wooden chairs after they were left unclaimed, following an auction. Of the three sch chairs, two are still in the school." Deepika Gandhi, former Director of Le Corbusier Centre in Chandigarh and a faculty member at Chandigarh College of Architecture (CCA), said, "The chair at the school appears to be that of a high court judge's chair."

"Shimla was part of undivided Punjab. It is well documented that when Pierre Jeanneret and his artisans designed the furniture, several items were moved from one place to another. Also, several offices of undivided Punjab were at that time in Shimla. The furniture items at Shimla



need a close scrutiny. As furniture designed by Jeanneret was a status symbol, people would make replicas of original furniture," Gandhi added.

Pankaj Lalit, former director at Art, Language & Culture of Himachal Pradesh, said, "So far, we have not documented Chandigarh heritage furniture in Shimla, even though we have countless British era heritage buildings in Shimla. US Club, Barnes' Court, which is known as the Lok Bhavan (Governor's House), and the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) building are all heritage buildings, and so is the furniture inside these buildings. I don't think our people have knowledge of the Chandigarh heritage furniture, except for these buildings. But the possibility of Chandigarh heritage furniture items at these heritage buildings can't be ruled out." Rima Kashyap, Director, Art, Language & Culture, said, "We will definitely look into this matter. Chandigarh was constructed in the late 1950s. Chandigarh has its own definition of heritage furniture. As a matter of fact, we don't consider an object antique or heritage until it is at least a century old." Advocate Ajay Jagga, who takes up the cases of Chandigarh heritage items auctions abroad, said, "Several unaccounted Chandigarh heritage furniture items are lying unnoticed in several parts of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal. Outside Chandigarh, people hardly understand the importance of these furniture items. To preserve these furniture items, it is necessary to verify their authenticity. Until we preserve these items, their illegal auctions won't stop abroad." "Earlier, we had received information about the presence of Le Corbusier's designed manhole covers in Shimla," Jagga added. Noted Shimla historian Raaja Bhasin said, "Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret's stay in Shimla is well documented."

## Don't play the US: Vance warns Iran ahead of talks



GNS News Agency, April 14

Washington: Vice President JD Vance on Friday warned Tehran not to "play" the US as he departed for Islamabad for negotiations aimed at ending the war with Iran. President Donald Trump has tasked the member of his inner circle who has seemed to be the most reluctant defender of the conflict with Iran to now find a resolution to the war that began six weeks ago and stave off the US President's astonishing threat to wipe out its "whole civilisation".

Vance, who has long been sceptical of foreign military interventions and outspoken about the prospect of sending troops into open-ended conflicts, set off Friday to lead mediated talks with Iran in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. Boarding Air Force Two on his way to Pakistan, the Vice President said, "We're looking forward to the negotiation. I think it's gonna be positive. We'll, of course, see." He cited Trump in saying, "If the Iranians are willing to negotiate in good faith, we're certainly willing to extend the open hand." But he added, "If they're gonna try and play us, then they're gonna find that the negotiating team is not that receptive." Vance also said that Trump "gave us some pretty clear guidelines" on how talks should go, but he didn't elaborate. The vice president did not take questions from reporters travelling with him.

Vance's trip comes as a tenuous, temporary ceasefire appears to be on the precipice of collapsing. The chasm between Iran's public demands and those from the US and its partner Israel seems irreconcilable. And in the US, where Vance might ask voters in two years' time to make him the next president, there is growing political and economic pressure to wrap it up. Vance is joined by Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner, who took part in three rounds of indirect talks with Iranian negotiators aimed at settling US concerns about Tehran's nuclear and ballistic weapons programs and its support for armed proxy groups in the Middle East before Trump and Israel launched the Feb. 28 war against Iran.

The White House has provided scant detail about the format of the talks – whether they will be direct or indirect – and has not provided specific expectations for the meeting. But the arrival of Vance for negotiations marks a rare moment of high-level US government engagement with the Iranian government. Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, the most direct contact had been when President Barack Obama, in September 2013, called newly elected Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to discuss Iran's nuclear program.

Almost immediately after the White House and Iran announced a temporary ceasefire Tuesday evening, the sides found themselves at odds over the terms of the truce. Iran insisted that an end to the Israeli war in Lebanon was part of the ceasefire. But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Trump said the truce did not cover Lebanon, and the Israeli operations there continued. The US, meanwhile, demanded that Iran make good on reopening the Strait of Hormuz. The Islamic Republic had closed the critical shipping waterway in response to Israel's intensifying attacks against the Hezbollah militant group in

Lebanon. Trump on Thursday night said Iran was "doing a very poor job" of allowing oil tankers to pass through, writing on social media, "That is not the agreement we have!" White House spokeswoman Anna Kelly said Vance, Witkoff, Kushner and Secretary of State Marco Rubio "have always been collaborating on these discussions" and said Trump was optimistic that a lasting deal could be reached during the two-week ceasefire. "President Trump has a proven track record of achieving good deals on behalf of the United States and the American people, and he will only accept one that puts America first," Kelly said.

High stakes for peace – and for politics! It's the highest-stakes moment thus far for Vance, who spent much of last year as more of a background player in the Trump White House, especially as others like Elon Musk and Rubio took turns as ever-present advisers for the president. But Vance's portfolio is fattening fast, first with a mission to root out fraud in government programs at home and now to help solve a US war in the Middle East, where complicated doesn't even begin to describe things. Vance, who served in the Iraq War while in the Marines, spent two years as a US senator and a little more than one as vice president, has little diplomatic experience. On Wednesday, he dismissed speculation that the Iranians requested that he join the talks, telling reporters, "I don't know that. I would be surprised if that was true. But, you know, I wanted to be involved because I thought I could make a difference." Jonathan Schanzer, a former Treasury Department official who is now executive director of the Foundation for Defence of Democracies, a hawkish Washington think tank, said Vance, with little experience on Iran policy, is an interesting choice to lead the delegation. Trump has noted his vice president was "less enthusiastic" than other top senior officials in the Republican administration, making Vance an intriguing interlocutor for the Iranian side, Schanzer said. "I think they probably prefer him knowing that his perspective on foreign intervention is one of scepticism," Schanzer said of the Iranians. "I do think that he's going to need some help. I don't think he's ever been engaged in negotiations with this kind of weight, this kind of seriousness. This is as serious as it gets." The White House has pushed back against the characterisation that Iran wanted Vance in the talks, casting it as an effort to hurt negotiations.

The White House has not detailed who will be in the talks besides Vance, Witkoff and Kushner, but Kelly said officials from the National Security Council, State Department and Pentagon "will also play a supportive role." During early rounds of indirect nuclear talks with the Iranians before the war, Democrats and some nuclear experts questioned whether Kushner and Witkoff had enough technical knowledge. The White House has not said whether the pair, whom Trump has entrusted with some of his most difficult negotiations since returning to office, had a nuclear expert with them for those talks. It's not unusual for vice presidents to take on important negotiating roles for the president, said Joel Goldstein, a professor of law at Saint Louis University who is an expert on the history of the vice presidency. But, he said, "I don't recall a situation where a vice president has been sent to negotiate a ceasefire or peace in connection with a war the United States was involved with." Vance and Rubio are seen as the Republican Party's strongest potential 2028 presidential contenders, though neither has given a clear answer about whether they intend to run. The vice president's team is not thinking about the negotiations with an eye to future political considerations, according to a person familiar with discussions who was not authorised to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. As vice president, Vance inherently would carry any baggage of the administration if he eventually runs for president, Goldstein said. But stepping in to lead negotiations even further identifies him with the conflict. "The fact that he's involved in the negotiations in a very visible way means that, if things go south, people will be pointing fingers at him," Goldstein said.

## Iran's new supreme leader has severe and disfiguring wounds, sources say



DUBAI, April -GNS News Agency, April 14 Iran's new Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei is still recovering from severe facial and leg injuries suffered in the airstrike that killed his father at the beginning of the war, three people close to his inner circle told Reuters. Khamenei's face was disfigured in the attack on the supreme leader's compound in central Tehran and he suffered a significant injury to one or both legs, all three sources said.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The 56-year-old is nonetheless recovering from his wounds and remains mentally sharp, according to the people, who requested anonymity to discuss sensitive matters. He is taking part in meetings with senior officials via audio conferencing and is engaged in decision-making on major issues including the war and negotiations with Washington, two of them said. The question of whether Khamenei's health allows him to run state affairs comes during Iran's moment of gravest peril for decades, with high-stakes peace talks with the United States opening in the Pakistani capital Islamabad on Saturday. The accounts of the people close to Khamenei's inner circle provide the most detailed description of the leader's condition for weeks. Reuters couldn't independently verify their descriptions.

Khamenei's whereabouts, condition and ability to rule still largely remain a mystery to the public, with no photo, video or audio recording of him published since the air attack and his subsequent appointment as his father's replacement on March 8. Iran's United Nations mission did not respond to Reuters questions about the extent of Khamenei's injuries or the reason he has not yet appeared in any images or recordings. Khamenei was wounded on February 28, the first day of the war launched by the U.S. and Israel, in the attack that killed his father and predecessor Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who had ruled since 1989. Mojtaba Khamenei's wife, brother-in-law and sister-in-law were among other members of his family killed in the strike. There has been no official Iranian statement on the extent of Khamenei's injuries. However, a newsreader on state television described him as a "janbaz", a term used for those badly wounded in war, after he was named supreme leader. The accounts of Khamenei's injuries tally with a statement made by U.S. Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth on March 13 when he said that Khamenei was "wounded and likely disfigured". A source familiar with U.S. intelligence assessments told Reuters that Khamenei was believed to have lost a leg. The CIA declined to comment on Khamenei's condition. The Israeli prime minister's office didn't respond to questions.

Alex Vatanka, senior fellow at the Middle East Institute, said that, regardless of the severity of his injuries, it was unlikely the new and inexperienced leader would be

able to command the overarching power wielded by his father. While he is seen to represent continuity, it could take years for him to build up the same level of automatic authority, Vatanka added. "Mojtaba will be one voice but it will not be the decisive one," he said. "He needs to prove himself as the credible, powerful, overriding voice. The regime as a whole has to make a decision in terms of where they are going to go." One of the people close to Khamenei's circle said images of the supreme leader could be expected to be released within one or two months and that he might even appear in public then, although all three sources stressed he would only emerge when his health and the security situation allowed.

"WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT HIS WORLD VIEW" In Iran's theocratic system of rule, ultimate power is meant to be wielded by the supreme leader, a venerable Shi'ite Muslim cleric appointed by an assembly of 88 ayatollahs. The leader oversees the elected president while directly commanding parallel institutions including the Revolutionary Guards, a powerful political and military force. Iran's first supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, enjoyed unquestioned authority as the charismatic leader of the revolution and the most learned cleric of his day. His successor, Ali Khamenei, was a less revered cleric but had served as Iran's president. He spent decades cementing his authority after his appointment in 1989, partly through promoting the power of the Revolutionary Guards. His son Mojtaba does not command absolute power in the same way, senior Iranian sources have previously told Reuters. The Revolutionary Guards, who helped steer him into the top job after his father's assassination, have emerged as the dominant voice on strategic decisions during the war. Iran's U.N. mission didn't respond to questions about the power wielded by the Guards and the new supreme leader. As an influential figure in his father's office, Khamenei had previously spent years involved in exercising power at the top levels of the Islamic Republic, officials and insiders have said, building ties with senior Guards figures. While he is widely seen as likely to continue his father's hardline approach due to his links to the Guards, we don't know much about his world view, said Vatanka at the Middle East Institute. Khamenei's first communication with Iranians as supreme leader came on March 12, saying in a written statement read out by a television news presenter that the Strait of Hormuz should stay closed and warning regional countries to shut U.S. bases. His office has since issued a few other brief written statements from him, including on March 20 when he welcomed in the Persian new year, which he named the "year of resistance". Public statements of policy on Iran's war stance, its approach towards diplomacy, neighbours, ceasefire negotiations and domestic unrest, have been made by other senior officials.

Khamenei's absence is widely discussed on Iranian social media and in messaging app groups, when the country's patchy internet allows, with conspiracy theories widespread about his condition and who is running the country. One popular meme circulating online is a picture of an empty chair under a spotlight with the slogan "Where is Mojtaba?" However, some government supporters, including a senior member of the Basij militia, a volunteer paramilitary group run by the Revolutionary Guards, said that it was important for Khamenei to keep a low profile, given the threat posed by waves of U.S. and Israeli airstrikes that have already wiped out much of the country's leadership. A lower-ranking Basij member agreed. "Why should he appear in public? To become a target for these criminals?" Mohammad Hosseini, from the city of Qom, said in a text message.

## US, Iran teams in Pakistan for peace talks amid doubts over Lebanon, sanctions

GNS News Agency, April 14- Senior U.S. and Iranian leaders were in the Pakistani capital Islamabad on Saturday for negotiations to end their six-week-old war, although Tehran threw the talks into doubt by saying they could not begin without commitments on Lebanon and sanctions.

The U.S. delegation, led by Vice President JD Vance and including President Donald Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff and son-in-law Jared Kushner, landed in two U.S. Air Force planes at an air base in Islamabad on Saturday morning, where they were received by Pakistan's army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir, and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. The Iranian delegation, led by parliamentary Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, arrived on Friday.

These will be the highest-level U.S.-Iran talks since the Islamic Revolution of 1979. If the two sides hold face-to-face negotiations as expected, they would be first direct talks since 2015, when they reached a deal on Iran's nuclear programme. Trump scrapped the nuclear deal in 2018 during his first term in office. That year, Iran's then-Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei - who was killed at the start of the war six weeks ago - banned further direct talks between U.S. and Iranian officials.

Qalibaf said on X that Washington had previously agreed to unblock Iranian assets and to a ceasefire in Lebanon, where Israeli attacks on Iran-backed Hezbollah militants have killed nearly 2,000 people since the start of the fighting in March. He said talks would not start until those pledges were fulfilled. Israel and the U.S. have said the Lebanon campaign is not part of the Iran-U.S. ceasefire. Iran's state broadcaster said the Iranian delegation would meet Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif around noon (0700 GMT) to determine the timing and manner of "possible negotiations". Qalibaf said Iran was ready to reach a deal if Washington offered what he described as a genuine agreement and granted Iran its rights, Iranian state media reported. The White House did not immediately comment on the Iranian demands, but Trump posted on social media that the only reason the Iranians were alive was to negotiate a deal. "The Iranians don't seem to realize they have no cards, other than a short term extortion of the World by using International Waterways. The only reason they are alive today is to negotiate!" he said.

Vance, speaking as he headed to Pakistan, said he expected a positive outcome but added: "If they're going to try to play us, then they're going to find the negotiating team is not that receptive." Preliminary discussions have been separately held by Pakistani officials with advance teams from both sides, sources in Islamabad said. Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency said these included 70 members from Tehran, including technical specialists in economic, security and political fields as well as media personnel and support staff. About 100 members of an advance U.S. team were in the city, a Pakistani government



source said. Pakistan's Dar said he hoped the U.S. and Iran would engage in constructive talks to reach a "lasting and durable solution to the conflict", according to a statement from Pakistan's foreign ministry.

A Pakistani source said it was too early to say whether talks would end on Saturday, adding there was no time limit for negotiations. Islamabad was under an unprecedented lockdown ahead of the talks with thousands of paramilitary personnel and army troops on the streets. Trump announced a two-week ceasefire in the war on Tuesday, which has halted U.S. and Israeli airstrikes on Iran. But it has not ended Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, which has caused the biggest-ever disruption to global energy supplies, or calmed the parallel war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Israeli and Lebanese officials will hold talks in Washington on Tuesday, both sides said, amid conflicting accounts on what those talks would cover. Lebanon's presidency said officials from the two countries had spoken by phone on Friday and agreed to discuss announcing a ceasefire and setting a start date for bilateral talks under U.S. mediation. But Israel's embassy in Washington said the talks would constitute the start of "formal peace negotiations" and that Israel had refused to discuss a ceasefire with Hezbollah. Tehran's agenda at the Islamabad talks also includes demands for major new concessions, including the end of sanctions that crippled its economy for years, and acknowledgment of its authority over the Strait of Hormuz, where it aims to collect transit fees and control access in what would amount to a huge shift in regional power. Iran's ships were sailing through the strait unimpeded on Friday, while those of other countries remained hemmed inside. Disruption to energy supplies has fed inflation and slowed the global economy, with an impact expected to last for months even if negotiators succeed in reopening the strait. The hard line taken by Iran's leaders ahead of the negotiations followed a defiant message from its new supreme leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, on Thursday. Khamenei, yet to be seen in public and said to be suffering from severe facial and leg injuries sustained in the attack that killed his father, said Iran would demand compensation for all wartime damage.

## Artemis II astronauts safely back on Earth after historic trip around moon

HOUSTON, GNS News Agency, April 14 The Artemis II capsule and its four-member crew streaked through Earth's atmosphere and safely splashed down in the Pacific Ocean on Friday after nearly 10 days in space, capping the first voyage by humans to the vicinity of the moon in over half a century.

NASA's gumdrop-shaped Orion capsule, dubbed Integrity, parachuted gently into calm seas off the Southern California coast shortly after 5:07 p.m. Pacific Time (0007 GMT on Saturday), concluding a mission that four days prior took the astronauts 252,756 miles away from Earth, deeper into space than anyone had flown before. Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here.

The Artemis II flight, traveling a total of 694,392 miles (1,117,515 km) in two Earth orbits and a climactic lunar flyby some 4,000 miles from its surface, was the debut crewed test flight in a series of Artemis missions that aim to return astronauts to the lunar surface starting in 2028. PERFECT BULL'S EYE SPLASHDOWN The splashdown under partly cloudy skies was carried by live video feed in a NASA webcast. "A perfect bull's eye splashdown for Integrity and its four astronauts," NASA commentator Rob Navias said moments after the landing.

"We are stable one - four green crew members," mission commander Reid Wiseman radioed just after splashdown, signaling the capsule was upright and that all four astronauts were in good shape. It took NASA and U.S. Navy recovery teams less than two hours to secure the floating capsule and retrieve the four crew members - U.S. astronauts Wiseman, 50, Victor Glover, 49, and Christina Koch, 47, along with Canadian astronaut Jeremy Hansen, 50. The crew's homecoming was the riskiest test of the mission and its Lockheed Martin-built (LMT.N), opens new tab Orion spacecraft, proving the capsule's heat shield could withstand the extreme forces of re-entry from a lunar-return trajectory.

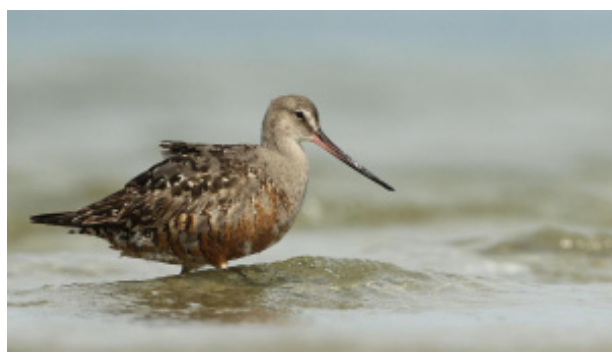
The capsule plunged into Earth's atmosphere at 32 times the speed of sound, with atmospheric friction pummeling its heat shield at temperatures of some 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit (2,760 degrees Celsius). A sheath of ionized gas enveloped the vehicle, causing a planned radio blackout of over six minutes at the peak of re-entry stress.

The tension broke as contact was re-established some 40 seconds later than expected, and two sets of parachutes billowed from the nose of the free-falling capsule to slow its descent to about 15 mph (25 kph) before Orion gently hit the water. Once Navy divers had attached a floating collar to stabilize the capsule, the four astronauts, still wearing their orange flight suits, were helped onto an inflatable raft. From there, they were hoisted one by one to helicopters



hovering overhead and flown a short distance to a nearby Navy amphibious transport vessel, the John P. Murtha, for further medical examination. Glover and Koch smiled broadly and waved toward cameras as they sat on the edge of a helicopter door on the flight deck. The crew was expected to spend the night aboard the ship and be flown on Saturday to Houston, where they will be reunited with family, NASA said. The quartet blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on April 1 aboard NASA's giant Space Launch System rocket, orbiting twice around Earth before sailing on for a rare journey around the far side of the moon. In so doing, they became the first astronauts to fly around Earth's only natural satellite since the Apollo program of the 1960s and '70s. Glover, Koch and Hansen also made history as the first Black astronaut, the first woman and first non-U.S. citizen, respectively, to take part in a lunar mission. The crew's peak distance of 252,756 miles away broke the record of roughly 248,000 miles set in 1970 by the crew of Apollo 13. Item 1 of 10 The Artemis II crew capsule splashes down in the Pacific Ocean in this screengrab from a livestream video after the Artemis II crew's flyby of the Moon, April 10, 2026. NASA/Handout via [1/10] The Artemis II crew capsule splashes down in the Pacific Ocean in this screengrab from a livestream video after the Artemis II crew's flyby of the Moon, April 10, 2026. NASA/Handout via REUTERS Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab "This is an incredible test of an incredible machine," said NASA's associate administrator, Dr. Amit Kshatriya. The voyage, following the uncrewed Artemis I test flight around the moon by the Orion spacecraft in 2022, marked a critical hardware test for a planned attempt later this decade to land astronauts on the lunar surface for the first time since Apollo 17 in late 1972. NASA is seeking to achieve a crewed moon landing ahead of China, which is aiming to put its own crew there around 2030. The agency more broadly aims to establish a long-term lunar presence as a stepping stone to eventual human exploration of Mars.

# Can nations save the shorebird that flies 30,000 km a year?



part of the 30,000 km that the godwit travels every year from their breeding grounds in the Arctic to Patagonia where they spend the southern summer.

In order to do this "epic flight," they need "really predictable, abundant food resources" at every step of the journey, Senner told AFP. That predictability is crumbling. In the Arctic, shifting spring timing attributed to climate change has created a mismatch between when chicks hatch and the peak availability of insects they feed on. One of the puzzles Senner is currently working on is why Hudsonian godwits have begun migrating later by six days than they did a decade ago. Something "has either disrupted the cues that they use to time their migrations or their ability to successfully and rapidly prepare for the migration," he said. In southern Chile, a boom in salmon and oyster farming has led to a build-up of infrastructure and the presence of people in the intertidal zones where they feed. And in the United States, changes in farming practices are making the shallow water wetlands that the godwits rely on rarer and less predictable -- meaning they spend more time looking for a place to stop and feed. "I think that is emblematic of lots of species, that most species can respond to one kind of change, but not a whole bunch of them all at the same time," said Senner. "Climate change is taking a heavy toll on species that rely on a 'geological clock' for their survival; many are disappearing." Rodrigo Agostinho, president of Brazil's environmental agency (Ibama), told AFP. These are some of the issues CMS parties will tackle at their meeting in Brazil's biodiversity-rich Pantanal, one of the world's most important global meetings for wildlife conservation. These countries are legally obliged to protect species listed as at risk of extinction, conserve and restore their habitats, prevent obstacles to migration and cooperate with other range states.

Chasing an endless summer, one shorebird species undertakes a gruelling annual journey from the Arctic to the tip of South America and back -- a feat increasingly fraught with peril. The Hudsonian godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) is one of the world's most remarkable travellers, but its population has plunged 95% in four decades due to a complex mix of environmental changes across multiple countries. It is one of 42 species proposed for international protection at a meeting of parties to the UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) that starts in Brazil on March 23.

Iconic creatures like the snowy owl -- of Harry Potter fame -- striped hyena and hammerhead shark are also on the list deemed in danger of extinction and needing conservation by the countries they pass through. Migratory birds are facing "rapid and dramatic declines," said Nathan Senner, an ecologist and ornithology professor at the University of Massachusetts Amherst who has studied the Hudsonian godwit for 20 years. Scientists are still unravelling the mysteries of the shorebird, which can fly up to 11,000 km in one stretch without stopping to eat, drink or sleep. And it is only

# Without nature, human life is unimaginable, says Hemant Soren on Sarhul

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, accompanied by his wife—MLA Kalpana Soren on Saturday participated in the Sarhul festival in Ranchi. Participating in the festival organised to mark the nature festival of Sarhul, the Chief Minister performed prayers and rituals in accordance with traditional customs, praying for the welfare of all the residents of Jharkhand. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Soren said that today is a day filled with enthusiasm and jubilation. "For the tribal community, it marks a momentous occasion. Every year, we have gathered in these very premises; we shall continue to visit in the future, and we shall continue to meet with all of you," Mr. Soren said. The Chief Minister remarked that just as their ancestors entrusted them with the responsibility of upholding rich traditions—such as the Sarhul Festival—"We shall pass on the responsibility of preserving these traditions to the shoulders of the coming generations," he asserted.

Mr. Soren emphasised that there is no form of worship greater than the worship of nature and it was within nature that all things are created, and into nature it eventually merges. The Chief Minister asserted that had nature not existed, there would be no living beings—neither humans nor animals—in this world. He further said that the entire system has been created and established by nature, and the tribal community holds an unwavering faith in this natural order. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) president, Mr. Soren, doubted the festive joy of the Sarhul festival held at the Tribal College Hostel Campus—by playing the Mandar (a traditional drum). "It is essential for all of us to connect



with nature because our own existence is dependent upon the safety and preservation of nature. In today's materialistic era, life is lived amidst constant hustle and bustle. With foresight and meticulous planning, our ancestors established certain systems—rooted in a long-term vision—that enabled us to gather together, within a common pavilion, under a single roof, or beneath the shade of a tree," Mr. Soren said. He added,

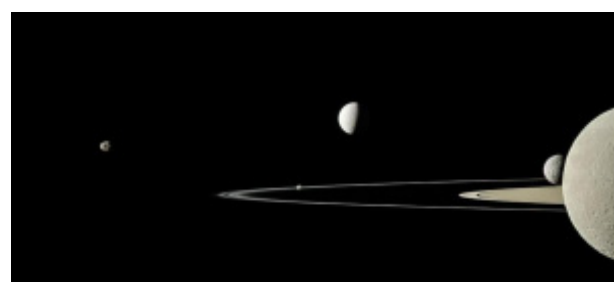
"We must remain committed to upholding and carrying forward these traditions. Let us all resolve to protect nature and, in doing so, safeguard our own lives." Mr. Soren remarked that it is not merely human beings who were rejoicing, but nature itself. "We should undoubtedly take pride in the fact that we are devotees of a system—a way of life—from which all life originates," he said.

# Judiciary must neither be eternal critic nor cheerleader: Justice Bhuyan



a chance of acquittal being 95%, the question is, why should an accused be confined to jail for years and years together? This cannot be a model for Viksit Bharat," Justice Bhuyan said. Dissent should not be criminalised in 'Viksit Bharat', neither should debate or divergent views, he said. "In Viksit Bharat, there should be more space for dissent and debate. Dissent should not be criminalised. There should be more tolerance towards diverse views and criticism," Justice Bhuyan said.

# What is the Minor Planet Centre?



Last week, the Minor Planet Centre (MPC) announced 15 new moons had been found, four around Jupiter and 11 around Saturn. The Jovian moons were found by the U.S.-based Scott Sheppard and David Tholen and the Saturnian ones by a team led by Edward Ashton in Taiwan. The MPC is the world's primary repository for all observations of small bodies in the solar system. Located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, it operates at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory under the International Astronomical Union, and plays a vital role in tracking asteroids, comets, and the moons of the outer planets. When astronomers discover a new object, they send their data to the MPC, where experts verify the observations and calculate the object's orbit. If the discovery is new, the MPC assigns it an official designation. This process ensures every known minor planet has a unique identity and a predictable path. One of the MPC's most critical jobs involves monitoring near-earth objects (NEOs). NEOs are space rocks that could potentially threaten the earth. With support from NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office, MPC maintains a large database that allows scientists to predict if and when a rock might come close to the earth. The MPC also facilitates communication within the global scientific community by publishing electronic circulars that alert researchers to new discoveries or interesting celestial events.

# Organisational changes are being made to reach every part of India, says Sunil Ambekar of RSS



From defending BJP ruled State's restrictions on Namaz on roads to supporting the idea of allowing only Hindus to enter the Char Dham temples, RSS national publicity in-charge Sunil Ambekar in an exclusive interview to Ishita Mishra spoke at length on topics like demographic change and population imbalance and Gen Z protest in Nepal and Bangladesh. He also defended Narendra Modi's government on ongoing West Asia conflict and appointment of Naitin Anbin as BJP chief.

It's been 100 years since the RSS was founded in 1925. How does the Sangh define its core ideology, and how has it changed over these 100 years?

The founding vision of the Sangh was clear from the very beginning: to guide the nation toward a state of the highest prosperity and glory. The most essential requirement to achieve this goal is having unity among Hindus and unity within society as a whole. For this purpose, individuals fully dedicated to this mission were needed. With such people and these objectives in mind, the work of the Sangh began. The core idea has always been that this is a Hindu nation, where Hindutva is understood as a way of life. This way of life is not opposed to anyone, nor is it meant to eliminate or harm others; rather, it is intended for the welfare of all. Therefore, its establishment is beneficial not only for India but for the entire world and all of humanity. It was with this pure and selfless spirit that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was founded. This foundational thought has remained unchanged over time. However, as time, circumstances, and societal needs evolve, and as the number of workers grows, the Sangh engages with a wider range of issues. While doing so, it continues to express its ideas based on its original principles. The nation remains supreme in its thinking, and this reflects in its approach to national security, development, and unity. The core vision remains consistent and continues to guide its path. So far, how many people have joined the Sangh Parivar in India?

In terms of shakhas, we currently have around 88,000 daily shakhas running across the country. Each shakha connects with many individuals—some have around 100 participants, others 200 or more. So overall, the number of people associated with the Sangh runs into several lakhs. As the Sangh completes 100 years, is it planning any new expansion strategy? Was any such decision taken in your Akhil Bharatiya Samanvay Baijath held in Samalakkha?

The number of shakhas has been steadily increasing, and the organisation continues to expand at a consistent pace. To manage this growth, we are working on strengthening and restructuring the organisation. Earlier, we had around 46 provincial (prant) units. Now, we are introducing an additional layer below that—the divisional (sambhag) level—to make the structure more decentralized. This will help us effectively address the growing needs of expansion. We have already reached villages, tehsils, mandals, and grassroots levels, and our goal is to reach every part of India. These organisational changes are being made to support that objective. People from all walks of life are joining us, and we aim to collaborate with all such individuals. This presents both a challenge and an opportunity. By working together with society, we hope to take up new initiatives and expand our work further.

In the coming years, will we see more offshoots of the Sangh or like-minded organisations?

I can't say this with certainty. However, as new needs arise in different areas of work, new systems, organisations, and institutions will naturally emerge. At the same time, the institutions that are already functioning will continue to expand and incorporate new dimensions into their work. The relationship between the Sangh and the BJP is often discussed. The BJP has recently chosen Nitin Nabin as its party president after a long wait. It is being said that Mr. Nabin has not had any direct association with the Sangh or its affiliated organisations. How do you see this? As far as I know, his family has had some connection with the Sangh. Beyond that, he has been working within the political sphere, specifically with the BJP, for many years. He is a long-time and experienced party worker.

But wouldn't this create an ideological gap? For example, someone trained in the Sangh's ideology versus someone who has only grown within the party?

I believe that Sangh volunteers work across all spheres of society and contribute to various organisations, often playing important roles in running them. In the BJP as well, there are many such volunteers who hold significant and decision-making positions. They understand the Sangh's ideas just as well as we do and have similar experience. So, I believe they will continue to take their organisation forward effectively. So because already so many Sangh volunteers are part of the BJP, is this the reason why the RSS has not been providing organisational general secretaries to the party in several states for a long time?

No, that is more of a situational matter. Decisions depend on immediate needs, local circumstances, and the availability of individuals. Leave BJP, there are many other organisations as well where we are currently unable to provide workers despite the need—for example, Saksham, which works for persons with disabilities. Many organisations working in the field of women's welfare are also waiting. As more organisations are formed, the demand for dedicated workers continues to grow.

The Sangh has been vocal about issues like population imbalance, demographic change, and cross-border infiltration. How do you see these as concerns in present Indian society?

Going to another country for work through legal means is normal and acceptable, but illegal infiltration is not. In any country, a large influx of illegal migrants becomes a matter of concern for national security and social unity. India is a democratic nation, and illegal entry does not only cause economic strain but also affects the democratic system by allowing unlawful participation. This raises questions about the country's unity, security, and integrity. Given India's historical background—especially the Partition in 1947—this issue becomes even more sensitive. It is the responsibility of every citizen to ensure that such a situation never arises again. The Partition itself is often linked to demographic imbalances, and this concern is not limited to the Sangh; it is shared by many citizens across the country. Sangh workers, who regularly engage with people at the grassroots level,

often hear these concerns directly from society. When such concerns arise, the Sangh raises them openly. While some may avoid speaking on these issues due to political interests or pressures, the Sangh considers them a priority and addresses them. Its volunteers also try to raise awareness through constitutional and lawful means and work toward solutions.

How does the Sangh create awareness among people on issues like cross-border infiltration and demographic change?

Most illegal infiltration in India is from Bangladesh. There is data available on these issues. We reach out to people in regions where this is happening the most and spread awareness. Whenever senior leaders, including the Sarsanghchalak (Mohan Bhagwat), speak at public platforms, they highlight these concerns to society. Awareness is spread through campaigns and direct interaction with communities. I would also say that platforms like yours can play an important role in creating public awareness and contributing to informed discussion on these issues.

Are there any States where you feel cross-border infiltration and demographic imbalance are increasing?

States like Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand are particularly affected. In general, regions that share international borders tend to face this issue more. In some cases, even places like the Andaman Islands have reported instances of illegal infiltration. A positive development is that institutions such as the Election Commission and administrative authorities are now taking action at various levels, and such cases are increasingly being identified and addressed.

When the Sangh says that this is a Hindu nation and that all people living here are Hindu, then how does the issue of demographic imbalance arise if everyone belongs to the same broader identity?

In our country, there are many people who see themselves as connected to its traditions, unity, integrity, and heritage. As has been said by the Sarsanghchalak, people share common DNA (ancestry) and a shared historical and cultural background. For those who recognize this, even if their mode of worship changes, their connection to the nation does not change. However, there have also been instances where changes in religious identity led some to feel that they no longer belonged to this nation and instead identified with another. This mindset contributed to events like the Partition. Similar situations have occurred in other parts of the world as well—for example, Lebanon. RSS is working on ground to make people understand that they all belong to Hindu Rashtra and have same history and DNA but at the same time, it is equally important to ensure that until everyone understands this, no section of society acts in a way that harms the unity and integrity of the nation. Both these efforts—awareness and outreach—need to continue side by side.

In today's context, how does the Sangh view SIR, CAA, and NRC? How can these help in preserving the country's culture?

I believe these are essentially constitutional and administrative processes. For example, exercises like SIR are not happening for the first time—they have been conducted earlier as well. Such measures are generally seen as being in the national interest. If someone is found to be an illegal entrant, then appropriate legal action should follow—it is a straightforward matter, not something overly complicated. At the same time, if someone feels their name has been wrongly excluded, there are provisions to reapply and seek correction. The system provides mechanisms for review and rectification.

What is the Sangh's view on the ongoing war in West Asia?

This is an international issue. As a nation, India's official stance and policies are determined by the Government of India. In such situations, it is important that all sections of society—including opposition parties—set aside differences and stand together in the national interest, keeping the country's priorities above all else. The Sangh's approach is aligned with this broader national perspective. It is believed that any conflict should be guided by truth and the welfare of people, not by selfish interests. Ideally, the world should move away from war and toward peace. India, in its approach, appears to be moving in that direction.

How does the Sangh view the Gen Z-led movements happening in neighboring countries like Nepal and Bangladesh? Why do you think India seems unaffected?

What is happening in Bangladesh or Nepal is largely an internal matter of those countries. In a democracy, people have the right to express dissatisfaction with their governments and organise movements if they feel the need. That is what we are seeing there. In India's case, the youth are highly aspirational. They are focused on taking the country forward and contributing to its growth. There is also a sense among many that the government is working in alignment with their aspirations. Indian youth have strong faith in the Constitution and prefer to bring change within its framework.

Historically too, whenever the country has faced challenges, young people have stepped forward—whether during the freedom movement, the Emergency, or public movements around issues like corruption and women's safety. They have largely used democratic and peaceful means to express themselves. Today, much of the younger generation is channeling its energy into areas like technology, AI, startups, and innovation, with the aim of strengthening India's global position. They are also thinking about governance, law and order, and long-term national development. Overall, today's youth appear more optimistic about India's potential compared to earlier generations, and many also feel a strong connection to their cultural and value systems.

When you speak about unity in diversity and youth enthusiasm, how do incidents—such as restrictions on offering namaz in certain places or controversies around religious practices—impact young people?

I think even Muslim majority countries have rules about where namaz can be offered. It's usually not allowed to pray on roads there. From what I've seen and understood—for example, if you go to Dubai—you'll notice that people don't pray on the streets. They go to designated places for namaz. So, I feel this is not really a religious issue, but more about maintaining discipline in society. It should be seen in that way—discipline should be maintained. Every religious group arranges proper places for their followers, and those places are meant for worship.

In a democracy, if people don't like a certain arrangement, they can speak up. There are simple ways to do that, like through media or public discussion. Overall, I think this is a broader issue involving the government, society, and communities. The government makes rules based on law and order, and people also express their views on it. In many countries, including some Muslim-majority nations, there are designated places for offering prayers, and public spaces like roads are generally not used for that purpose.

# Notion of easy access to Gulf energy hit; India must chase 'every drop' of oil & gas, ramp up strategic reserves: ONGC head



The West Asia war and the halt in vessel movements through the critical chokepoint of the Strait of Hormuz have put a question mark on certain long-held assumptions in the energy sector, like the reliability of Gulf energy for India, and the country must act to quickly diversify its energy sources, meaningfully expand strategic oil and gas reserves, and chase "each and every drop of oil, gas, and coal" that can be produced domestically, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) Chairman and CEO Arun Kumar Singh said on Friday. Government-owned ONGC is India's largest producer of crude oil and natural gas. "I now firmly believe that thinking that the Middle East is nearest to us, and therefore (we have access to) all their resources, I think that assumption should be taken with a pinch of salt," Singh said at an industry event in the Capital. He also opined that this war may not be just a temporary phenomenon, but a lingering disturbance that could rear its head every now and then due to permanent ideological and internal divisions in the region, which itself is a long-term threat to supply stability.

The effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz by Iran, now in its second month, has led to the worst energy supply crisis in decades. About a fifth of global oil and gas flows transit through the critical maritime chokepoint that connects the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea. Much of these oil and gas volumes go to Asian economies, including India. The country depends on imports to meet over 88% of its crude oil needs, 40% of which depend on the Strait of Hormuz. As for natural gas, India's import dependency is about 50%, and 55-60% of India's liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports come via the Strait. In the case of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), India's reliance on imports is 60%, and a whopping 90% of those come through the critical waterway. The supply disruption forced reduction in natural gas and LPG supplies to certain industries in India as the government was forced to prioritise the requirements of households and priority sectors.

According to Singh, so far, the global energy sector functioned on the assumption that globalisation will increase, but that hypothesis is now threatened and challenged. As the world gets more and more "deglobalised", there are bound to be more problems at hand for energy importers like India, he said, adding that no one ever believed that there would come a day when the Strait of Hormuz would be closed. "Had that been the case, nobody would have invested so much in countries like Qatar," the ONGC Chairman said. He said that there is a fundamental "paradigm

shift" where the world is moving away from the globalised order of the last 30 years, suggesting that the "orderly" world under a single superpower is over, which may lead to a "war of supremacy" with multiple competing powers. His concerns also centred on the physical vulnerability of energy infrastructure, particularly in West Asia. He noted that with precision weapons, modern warfare or sabotage does not require destroying an entire refinery; rather, just targeting the crude distillation unit (CDU) will disable the refinery for years. The West Asia war saw multiple precision attacks on energy infrastructure in the region with low-cost drones and missiles. This vulnerability is compounded by a shift in global dynamics where countries no longer want to share physical oil in joint projects with other countries, and instead insist that the partners take their share in the form of dividends.

"We should chase wherever oil or gas is in our country at any cost, because in a crisis nobody (will help)," Singh said, adding that while India oil and gas exploration is being pursued intently, more needs to be done, particularly in deep water areas. Amid growing domestic demand for petroleum fuels and products and stagnant domestic oil output, the country's reliance on imported crude has been touching new highs with each passing year. He described domestic exploration and production of oil and gas as an "existential necessity". Singh also said that the disruption caused by the West Asia war also led to unprecedented volatility in fuel prices. For instance, cracks or margins on diesel surged to such highs that they overtook the price of crude oil itself. "But now we should be prepared to see more of these things. We must do whatever the country needs to protect its energy sovereignty," he said.

The ONGC head emphasised that addressing energy storage is a critical priority that must be pursued "whatever it takes". Drawing a comparison to Japan, which lacks its own energy resources but successfully mitigated this weakness through large strategic reserves, he said that India must have large strategic reserves of not just oil, but also natural gas, to effectively mitigate future global energy crises. Saying that there has been a lot of positive movement on this front in recent weeks, Singh expressed hope that the government will announce "something big" on this front. India's strategic petroleum reserves (SPRs), which have a capacity to store 5.33 million tonnes of crude oil, and were holding 3.37 million tonnes of oil, or just about two-thirds of their total storage capacity, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) informed the Rajya Sabha on March 23. At full capacity, the SPRs—spread across three locations in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka—cover around 9.5 days of India's crude oil supplies. The current total national capacity for storage of crude oil and petroleum products is 74 days, including commercial stocks with refiners. The International Energy Agency (IEA) recommends that countries should hold oil stocks equivalent to at least 90 days of their net oil imports. IEA members are obligated to maintain these levels of reserves; India is not a full member of the grouping but an associate member. This 90-day reserve holding can include strategic reserves as well as commercial inventories.

## Equity mutual fund inflows hit 8-month high in March



February.

Notably, February was a shorter month, which likely affected the numbers. Flexi-cap funds were the biggest contributor among equity funds, with inflows jumping 45% to Rs 10,054 crore. Mid- and small-cap funds saw inflows rise 51% and 61%, respectively, to Rs 6,063 crore and Rs 6,263.56 crore. All other categories, except sectoral/thematic funds, also saw inflow growth during the month. Overall, the average assets under management (AUM) of equity mutual funds fell to below Rs 32 lakh crore from Rs 35.6 lakh crore the previous month due to the sharp correction in the equity markets during that time.

In March, the benchmark Sensex index fell by over 11% as the conflict in West Asia and the resultant high crude oil prices soured investor sentiment. "While the headline numbers for March 2026, a net outflow of Rs 2,39,910 crore and AUM declining... may spook investors, both are misleading in isolation. The AUM decline is a mark-to-market story driven by a sharp equity market correction during the month, not a confidence story. The net outflow is almost entirely driven by debt fund redemptions, which is a well-established quarter-end phenomenon in March," said Nitin Agrawal, CEO of mutual funds at InCred Money. "Flexi Cap gains the spotlight as the top segment for inflows, reinforcing the importance of diversification across market caps when volatility is elevated. Mid Cap and Small Cap also witnessed sharp acceleration despite meaningful drawdowns, signalling that value buying opportunities are emerging in these segments," said Agrawal. Flows into gold and silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) remained lukewarm after record highs in January, when they had stolen the spotlight from equity funds. Gold ETFs saw inflows of Rs 2,266 crore in March, down from Rs 5,255 crore in February and the peak of Rs 24,040 crore in January. Outflows in silver ETFs declined to Rs 684 crore from Rs 826 crore a month ago. However, flows into other ETFs quadrupled to Rs 19,802 crore. Index funds saw inflows nearly tripling to Rs 8,169 crore. Investors are now cyclically shifting to equity ETFs, said Kunal Rambhia, fund manager and trading strategist at The Streets.

Equity mutual fund, Equity mutual fund inflows, Equity mutual fund inflows 8 month high, Association of Mutual Funds in India, west asia war, Iran war, Israel-US-Iran war, Iran conflict, Strait of Hormuz, Strait of Hormuz shut, west asia conflict, iran and israel war, iran and israel, us israel war, war in iran, iran us, us israel iran, us israel, us iran war, iran us war, us war, israel news, israel iran war news, war news, israel iran news, israel war news, iran war news, war on iran, iran israel war today, war in iran and israel, iran attack israel, israel iran, israel us attack iran, attack on iran, iran attack on us, us and iran, us attack in iran, did iran attack us, us to attack iran, us and israel, us and israel attack iran, us attack iran today, us iran news, iran us news, us news, iran attack news, iran attack today, Khamenei news. Investors are now cyclically shifting to equity ETFs, said Kunal Rambhia, fund manager and trading strategist at The Streets.

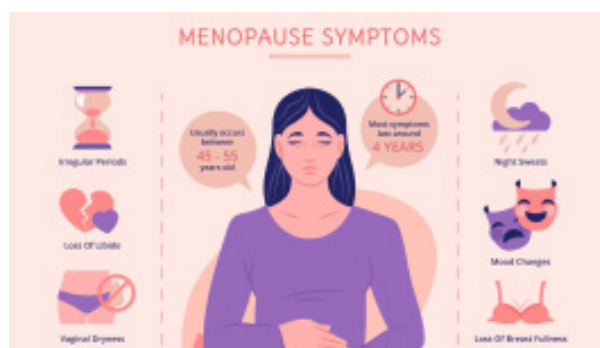
Net inflows into equity-focused mutual funds rose 56% month-on-month to Rs 40,450 crore in March, the highest level since July 2025, data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) showed. However, debt-focused funds saw an outflow of Rs 2.95 lakh crore during the month. Overall, the mutual funds industry saw net outflows of Rs 2.40 lakh crore, compared to inflows of Rs 94,530 crore last month. The contribution of systematic investment plans (SIPs) in mutual fund flows touched a record high of Rs 32,087 crore in March, compared to Rs 29,845 crore in

## Gold rises 1.65 pc in a week amid safe-haven demand, weaker US dollar

New Delhi: Gold prices rose 1.65 per cent during the week extending gains for their consecutive week, amid safe haven buying and weakened US dollar over easing inflation fears and the start of the US-Iran ceasefire negotiations. On Friday, MCX gold June futures added 0.02 per cent while MCX silver May futures inched up 0.01 per cent. Currently gold futures stand at Rs 1,52,690, while silver futures at Rs 2,43,300 per kg. The price of 10 grams of 24-carat gold was at Rs 1,50,327 on Friday up from Rs 1,47,891 seen on Monday market opening, according to data published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA). Analysts noted that COMEX gold ended at \$4,787.40 per troy ounce, up 3 per cent on a weekly basis, however a major resistance in ahead of \$5,000, after which they predicted a strong bull run. Market participants said the dollar came under pressure after the US-Iran truce, as traders reassessed the outlook for US interest rates. Falling crude oil prices after

the de-escalation fuelled hopes of lower inflation and renewed speculation about US Federal Reserve rate cuts in the medium term. The commodities market navigated the week on a cautiously balanced note, with sentiment shaped by stabilising price action and continued macro uncertainty, a market participant said, adding that precious metals showed early signs of stability following recent volatility. Meanwhile, currency movements—particularly in the USD/INR pair—are likely to remain a key driver, with recent rupee strength offering some cushion to domestic commodity prices, he added. Any reversal in the currency trend, driven by shifts in global risk sentiment or renewed dollar strength, could influence the next phase of price action. The MCX Gold prices are holding above the key support band of Rs 1,48,000 to Rs 1,46,000, while the immediate resistance is placed around the Rs 1,54,000 to Rs 1,55,000 zone, he added.

## 'I'm in my mid-30s and worried I'm hitting perimenopause': Can it really start this early?



"I am in my mid-30s and worried I am hitting peri-menopause. Has anyone experienced perimenopause in their 30s?" The question, posted by a user on Quora, reflects a growing concern among many women navigating unexplained hormonal symptoms earlier than expected. Perimenopause, the transitional phase before menopause, is typically associated with women in their 40s. However, doctors say that in some cases, hormonal fluctuations can begin earlier, which may lead to confusion about whether symptoms are related to perimenopause or other health issues.

According to Dr Gandhali Deorukhkar, Gynaecologist-Obstetrician associated with several leading hospitals in Mumbai, while early symptoms are possible, they are not always caused by perimenopause. "Perimenopause gen-

erally begins in the early to mid-40s," says Dr Deorukhkar. "However, some women may notice hormonal fluctuations in their late 30s. In rare situations, symptoms can appear even earlier." These early signs are often mistaken for stress, lifestyle changes, thyroid problems, anxiety, or sleep disturbances," Dr Deorukhkar explains. "Because of this overlap, women may not immediately associate their symptoms with hormonal changes." "If symptoms continue for several months or begin affecting daily life, it is important to consult a healthcare professional for proper evaluation," she adds. "The earliest symptoms are often subtle," says Dr Deorukhkar. "Women may notice irregular menstrual cycles, changes in menstrual flow, mood swings, fatigue, or sleep disturbances." These symptoms occur because hormone levels begin to fluctuate during the perimenopausal transition," Dr Deorukhkar explains. However, she emphasises that experiencing one or two of these symptoms does not necessarily mean perimenopause has started. How doctors evaluate early perimenopause "Diagnosis typically starts with reviewing the patient's medical history, menstrual cycle patterns, and symptoms," says Dr Deorukhkar. "In some cases, additional tests may be done to rule out other conditions such as thyroid disorders or polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), which can produce similar symptoms," she explains. Since hormone levels can fluctuate significantly during this stage, diagnosis often involves evaluating symptoms alongside laboratory tests rather than relying on a single result, she adds.

## Bryan Johnson's 14% hack: Experts reveal if frequent squats are more effective than a 30-minute walk

Bryan Johnson believes 10 squats every 45 minutes is a far better health hack than taking a simple 30-minute walk around the block. "For blood sugar control after every meal, doing 10 squats every 45 minutes beats a 30-minute walk by 14%," he claimed in his latest Instagram post. But do doctors agree? Indianexpress.com reached out to health experts and found out. Dr Manisha Arora, director of internal medicine at CK Birla Hospital, Delhi, explained that while walking has myriad benefits for cardiovascular health and reducing the risk of chronic diseases, interrupting prolonged sitting with short bursts of activity, such as 10 squats every 45 minutes, can be extremely beneficial for health.

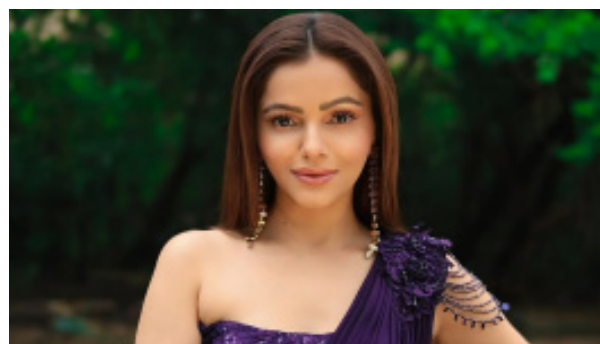
Walk vs Squat: Which is more effective?

According to her, even brief activity can help mitigate the adverse effects of sedentary behaviour, particularly on glucose metabolism. "These days, the conversation is not only about how active you are, but also about how long you remain sedentary," said Dr Arora. In other words, prolonged sitting without movement is a risk factor, regardless of your overall activity level. Squats are a form of resistance exercise that helps activate large muscle groups in the lower body, which are key to glucose metabolism. Incorporating regular movement breaks, such as squats, throughout the day can support better blood sugar control. bryan johnson on squats vs walking According to medical experts, a combination of both works the best. (Source: Instagram/@bryanjohnson\_) "If you want even more effective results, combining these movement breaks with regular walking or any other form of aerobic exercise can yield powerful benefits, especially in managing blood glucose levels," said Dr Arora. However, emerging evidence points toward squats



being an effective option for blood sugar control. "The effectiveness of squats versus walking can also vary depending on individual factors such as overall fitness, diet, health status, and lifestyle," she added. Dr Anup Khatri, senior consultant, orthopedics, Gleneagles Hospital, Parel, Mumbai, added that prolonged sitting may also lead to sciatica, muscle atrophy, knee pain, type 2 diabetes, and carpal tunnel syndrome. "This is why it is important to take frequent breaks and incorporate activities like walking or squatting to interrupt prolonged sitting," Dr Khatri told indianexpress.com. Nevertheless, Dr Arora did not ask to choose over the other. Instead, she said that both methods have their benefits, and the best approach is a combination of both. A 30-minute daily walk plus short activity breaks like squats. For people with diabetes or at risk, this approach helps maintain steady glucose levels and supports cardiovascular and muscular health. Always consult your doctor before starting a new routine," she pointed out.

## 'Raat ko neend nahi aati thi': Rubina Dilaik reveals reasons she quit alcohol for good



Frequently used to ease social settings, alcohol affects the body in ways that vary by individual. Not every metabolism is equally equipped to manage the physiological strain of regular consumption. During a recent conversation with Dr Geetanjali Saxena, Rubina Dilaik opened up about why she decided to quit alcohol for good. "I used to enjoy the high, but my mood, my health and my mental awareness were so much affected. I completely gave up drinking. Teen din tak I used to have a bad headache, raat ko neend nahi aati thi (For 3 days, I used to have a bad headache, I could not sleep at night)," she admitted on her podcast Kisine Bataya Nahi.

Dr Shuchin Bajaj, founder-director of Ujala Cygnus Group of Hospitals, factors such as personal health, individual circumstances, and potential family history of alcohol-related problems should be considered if you're a regular drinker. "If someone is experiencing negative effects on their physical or mental health, relationships, or overall well-being due to alcohol, they may want to consider giving it up or seeking professional advice," he said, adding that in such a situation, contemplating leaving alcohol permanently is imperative.

Dr Shrey Srivastav, MD, Internal Medicine and Assistant Professor at the Department of Internal Medicine, Sharda Hospital, Greater Noida, explained that alcohol suppresses a person's REM sleep (Rapid Eye Movement sleep), and once you stop drinking it, in the first week itself, you will start experiencing mental clarity and better sleep. This will also reduce your anxiety and enhance your overall mood. Those struggling to lose weight may also experience a breakthrough after quitting alcohol, as it contributes to excessive calorie intake. According to Dr Bajaj, some individuals may experience psychological benefits such as a sense of achievement, increased self-control, and a fresh perspective on their relationship with alcohol. He added that taking a break from alcohol can offer an opportunity for individuals to reflect on their drinking habits, reevaluate their relationship with alcohol, and potentially make long-term positive changes. "Alcohol consumption is a known risk factor for various cancers, including head and neck cancers, oesophageal cancer, liver cancer, colorectal cancer and even breast cancer. Giving it up can reduce the risk of developing certain types of cancers," he continued.

Dr Sharad Malhotra, Senior Consultant and Director of Gastroenterology at Aakash Healthcare, explained that chronic alcohol exposure alters the reward circuits of the brain, making natural pleasures less rewarding and increasing cravings for alcohol. After quitting, the brain must recalibrate. "In the early months, people may experience cravings, anxiety, or mood fluctuations, a phase often referred to as post-acute withdrawal. But with long-term sobriety, the brain gradually readjusts, and over time, dopamine pathways become more responsive to natural rewards such as exercise, social interaction, and achievement," elaborated Dr Malhotra. As neural circuits stabilise, cravings usually decline, and emotional regulation improves.

## Ravi Babu's action drama Razor set for worldwide release

Hyderabad: The makers of actor-director Ravi Babu's upcoming grim, action drama 'Razor' have now announced that the film will hit screens worldwide on May 8 this year. The makers of the film have disclosed that they chose May 8 as the release date as it coincides with the birth anniversary of Ravi Babu's father, the late Chalapati Rao.

The film, which is being presented by Suresh Babu under Suresh Productions, has been produced by Flying Frogs. It may be recalled that the film's makers had only recently announced the wrapping up of the film's shooting. To announce the wrapping up of filming, the makers had unveiled a poster along with a special glimpse video.

In the video that was released, Ravi Babu appears in a brutal, violent avatar, killing a villain with a car engine valve cover—establishing the film's raw and savage tone. The teaser features some really violent scenes that include decapitation. The film has a tagline that reads "Justice will be brutal." 'Razor' not only features Ravi Babu in the lead, it is also being directed by him.

The storyline promises to be a first-of-its-kind attempt in Telugu cinema. For the unaware, Ravi Babu, who has always carved his own path in Telugu cinema, constantly reinventing himself as a filmmaker, technician, and actor, is known for his offbeat ideas and fearless experimentation. His upcoming film 'Razor' marks a sharp shift from the light-hearted tone of his previous film 'Enuguthondam Ghatikachalam'. 'Razor' appears to be set in a world of tension, violence, and psychological intensity.

On the technical front, the film has cinematography by Madhavaneni and music by SS Rajesh. Action sequences for the film have been choreographed by Satish Poloju.

It may be recalled that the makers had earlier unveiled a title glimpse, which drew a terrific response, especially from thriller lovers. Sources close to the unit of the film say that post-production work is progressing at a brisk pace.

## India women begin FIFA Series campaign against Kenya



GNS News Agency, April 14

Hyderabad: Thirty-two days after their AFC Women's Asian Cup campaign drew to a painful end, the Indian women's national team will begin a new chapter with renewed vigour at the FIFA Series 2026 Kenya. The Blue Tigresses will face the hosts in their opening game on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya, at 19:30 IST. The disappointment of missing out on the knockout stage has not fully faded for the players, but they are well aware that the end of one chapter is the beginning of the next, and that is the main motivation ahead of the four-team friendly tournament.

Crispin Chettri, who is once again at the helm of affairs as the head coach of the Blue Tigresses, stressed, "The idea is to start building for the future already. For the next AFC Women's Asian Cup 2029 qualifiers and the 2031 World Cup qualifiers. We have to begin now." Chettri led India to qualification for the Asian Cup last year, and was assistant to Amelia Valverde during the final tournament. "I think the expectation from everyone was that we should at least reach the quarter-finals from the group stage. Even the players had that expectation, so I think they are a little low at the moment," said Chettri. India arrived in Nairobi on April 7 and have had two training sessions so far, with another to go on Friday before the game against the hosts. "Mentally, the players are much more prepared now. When they take to the training pitch, they are only focused on preparing for the next game," Chettri added. The conditions have also aided the team's early preparations. "Yes, the training conditions are good. The weather is really pleasant, around 26 to 27 degrees. It is very good weather to train in," said Chettri, reflecting on the first two sessions in Kenya.

The FIFA Series, featuring India, hosts Kenya, Malawi, and Australia, offers a compact competitive structure despite being a friendly tournament. India will face Kenya in the second semi-final, while Australia take on Malawi in the first at 16:30 IST. The winners will meet in the final, and the losing teams will contest the third-place play-off on April 15. It is the first time the Indian women's national team will play a match in Africa. Beyond results, the tournament also serves a clear strategic purpose, which is preparation for the SAFF Women's Championship 2026, set to be held in Goa from May 25. Squad selection has therefore been shaped with both immediate readiness and long-term development in mind.

Chettri has opted for a younger, evolving group, with several senior players unavailable due to injury and rehabilitation. The average age of the 22-member travelling squad to Kenya is only 22.8 years. From the 26 players who were part of the Asian Cup, 17 were picked by Chettri for the current window. Among the rest, goalkeeper Panthoi Chanu Elangbam and defender Sweetie Devi Nangbam are recovering after suffering injuries in the last Asian Cup game against Chinese Taipei, while defender Sanju, midfielder Sangita Basfore, and forwards Grace Dangmei and Soumya Guguloth have been rested. Meanwhile, attacker Manisha, who had signed for Liga Femenina PFF

(Peruvian Women's League) club Alianza Lima earlier this year, has also been given time. Chettri said, "Since her (Manisha's) league in Peru has started, I advised her to stay there and focus on breaking into the starting XI at her club Alianza Lima. She has had a busy schedule with a lot of travel, so more time with her club will help her."

The absence of established names has opened the door for emerging talent, aligning with Chettri's broader vision of expanding India's player base as they begin preparations for the next cycle of qualification. The 2026 Asian Cup was the last to offer World Cup-qualifying slots. For the 2031 edition, AFC will organise a standalone qualifying tournament for the World Cup, broadening the scope of competitive matches for women's national teams on the continent. "We know what the senior players can do, so this was a good opportunity to look at younger players like Kaviya Pakkirisamy, Jasoda Munda, and Malavika P, among others. Most of our players are in the 22-23 age bracket, so they can serve the national team for the next six to seven years at least. We want to build a larger pool of around 40 competitive players, including talents from the U20 and U17 teams. That is why we have brought in more junior players, to create a system, give them exposure, and prepare properly for the SAFF Women's Championship.

"We also had only three days of training before the first game, so I needed fit players. Many players are coming from clubs like Sethu, Sribhumi, and East Bengal, who are actively training. Also, players from police teams are with us, as the Police meet (B N Mullick Memorial All India Police Football Championship) took place recently in Hyderabad." On the pitch, India are preparing for a different kind of challenge. Unlike the technical and tactical demands posed by most east and south-east Asian opponents, Kenya brings a more physical dimension to the game.

"The FIFA Series will test our physical abilities. Teams like Kenya and Malawi may be lower in FIFA rankings (134th and 153rd), but rankings can be misleading. Kenya, for example, has players playing in the USA and Europe," said Chettri. "They are quick, strong, and very physical. It will be a different challenge compared to teams like Japan, Korea, Thailand or Vietnam, whom we have played within the last year. Our job is to handle that physicality. It will be an interesting match-up. And if we win, we may get to face Australia, who were finalists at the Asian Cup. So this is a great opportunity." "We qualified for the Asian Cup after a long time, and we want to make that a habit. SAFF can serve as preparation for future Asian Cup and World Cup qualifiers. In the short term, we need to improve our ranking by winning matches. That will help us get better positions in the pots and relatively easier opponents in qualifiers."

Integral to that long-term vision is the integration of youth players into the senior setup. Chettri closely followed the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup, where India finished their campaign with a win over Chinese Taipei on Wednesday. The Young Tigresses head coach opined that many of his U20 players may soon be knocking on the doors of the senior team. "I think Joakim is right. Before the Asian Cup qualifiers last year, when we were in Bengaluru, we were in constant communication about the U20 players. We even used many junior players like Shubhangi (Singh), Thoibisana (Chanu Toijam), Cindy (Colney) and Sulanjana (Raul) in the preparation camp, and Monalisha (Devi Moirangthem) was already part of the senior team. "There are several promising players not just in the U20s, but also in the U17s. From the U20 group, I believe three to four players will soon challenge for places, not just in the squad, but even in the starting XI." As India step onto the pitch in Nairobi, the objective, apart from getting results, will be to recalibrate, test depth, and lay the groundwork for a cycle that leads through the SAFF Championship, Asian Cup and World Cup qualifiers.

## 'He purposely targets opposition's big bowlers' – Former India all-rounder on teen sensation Sooryavanshi taking on the likes of Bumrah & Hazlewood



GNS News Agency, April 14

With his 26-ball knock of 78 runs against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Rajasthan Royals' opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashed his second half-century of this IPL season. The 15-year-old opener, who became the youngest player in IPL history to score a century in the previous edition, hit eight boundaries and seven sixes during his stay at the crease, guiding the Royals to a six-wicket win over the Bengaluru side. Earlier in the league, Sooryavanshi had smashed Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah for two sixes during his 39-run knock against Mumbai Indians. In the match against Bengaluru, he took on Australian pacer Josh Hazlewood for one six and four boundaries, in addition to hitting two sixes and three boundaries off Indian pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar. Former Indian all-rounder Irfan Pathan believes Sooryavanshi deliberately targets the opposition's premier bowlers. "I think he targets the big bowlers of the opposition team purposely. He wants to target those big bowlers so that all the plans of the opposition team go down the ashtray. So yes, I think he wants to take on all the big bowlers," Pathan told JioHotstar after the match.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru had posted 201 for 8 in their 20 overs, with Rajat Patidar playing a knock of 63 runs. The Bengaluru side was once struggling at 125 for 7 before Patidar and Impact Player Venkatesh Iyer ensured they crossed the 200-run mark. Chasing the target, Sooryavanshi exploded from the start, amassing 78 runs in 26 balls. Before being dismissed by Krunal Pandya in the ninth over, the 15-year-old had hit eight boundaries and seven sixes. Wicketkeeper-batsman Dhruv Jurel then played a knock of 81 runs – his highest score in IPL – to guide the Royals home. Jurel also spoke about Sooryavanshi's impact and how it made his own task easier. "The way Vaibhav batted and the way Yashasvi Jaiswal also bats, they make it feel easy for us and give us confidence. We just cannot believe how someone can hit the ball like that. We think we cannot hit the ball like that. He is a great talent. The best thing is to not say anything to

him, and we feel good that he is in our team," Jurel said in the post-match presentation. In the rain-curtailed match against Mumbai Indians in Guwahati, the Royals scored 151 runs in 11 overs. During his 14-ball knock of 39 runs, Sooryavanshi welcomed Jasprit Bumrah with a six in the second over before launching him for another six in the same over. The 15-year-old hit five sixes and one boundary in his innings. Former Indian captain Sunil Gavaskar hailed Sooryavanshi's batting and the way he handled Bumrah. "It was absolutely fantastic to watch. I'm a Mumbai Indians supporter, so in a way I wouldn't have enjoyed it, but for the fact that it was such a young kid, 15 years old, playing against the best bowler in all formats of the game," Gavaskar said on JioHotstar.

## Double Dhamaka: Sooryavanshi and Jurel power RR to 6-wicket win against RCB

Guwahati: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi proved one can better the best by playing another astonishing innings — a 26-ball 78 with seven sixes — to set up an easy six-wicket victory for Rajasthan Royals against defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL here on Friday. While most 15-year-olds across the country were sweating over their 10th board exams results, this teenager from Bihar's Samastipur spent the evening hitting a 15-ball fifty as a victory target of 202 was achieved by Royals in just 18 overs. Dhruv Jurel (81 not out off 43 balls), enjoying his best IPL season with the willow, played a number of graceful shots but when Sooryavanshi is on song, everyone else is compelled to become a bridesmaid or a bystander, getting a first-hand dosage of what brilliance looks like. Sooryavanshi continued to put the reputation of world famous international bowlers at stake with his amazing bat speed and timing. The chubby cheeked teenager had toyed with Jasprit Bumrah's ego in an earlier game and Friday was comeback man Jos Hazlewood's turn to get butchered.

## How Zaheer Khan's long search for slower ball ended in India winning 2011 World Cup



GNS News Agency, April 14

Zaheer Khan tried to bowl the back-of-the-hand slower ball for years. It wouldn't come. His action didn't allow it. His body didn't allow it. He tried the Brett Lee variation — keeping everything behind the ball but slowing the wrist at release, not breaking it. His arm speed dropped visibly. Batsmen picked it. Out of the window. He tried the split-finger slower one, the delivery Dilhara Fernando used to bowl. He spoke to the Sri Lankan pacer about it. "I realised he just had the advantage of being flexible. The length of the fingers was fine, but the flexibility—in my case, it wasn't there."

He tried Charl Langeveldt's version — fingers bent on the seam, reducing speed without changing arm speed. "That was also not working because I was not able to grip it properly." Four variations. Four failures. Each one tried honestly, understood technically, and discarded without sentiment. The journey, as he describes it, was not about finding a trick. It was about finding the trick his body could perform. "I had my own version of the slower one." The knuckleball. The one that worked. "When it started, it just started coming out very well for me." Through his coaching work since retirement, Zaheer has understood why. "Maybe the flexibility of being able to get the knuckles behind the ball was the advantage I had." Sachin Tendulkar was there through the process. "He would encourage me to add a slower one because that was very important." Right through-out the journey, he was there in terms of the feedback.

The knuckleball became one of the defining deliveries of Zaheer's second career — the World Cup semi-final and final in 2011, the prime moments when it mattered most. But it began as the fifth option, after four had failed. Zaheer started playing cricket late. His coach Sudhir Naik told him so, plainly. "In Mumbai cricket, they start at the age of 9 and 10. You are starting at twice the age. So just know that you have a lot of catching up to do." The words landed and stayed. "It just became a part of my routine and it became ingrained in me—to be able to pick things." The catching up never ended. It became the method.

The first half of his international career was, by his own description, decent. Pace, swing, the raw materials. But the awareness of his own bowling — the four-part division he now teaches, load-up, delivery, follow-through, and the run-up that sets everything in motion — that came later. "The team was so busy. Me playing both formats—at that stage, T20 was still not around. But the ODIs, the Test matches, and the domestic season in between was not giving me ample opportunity to prepare myself to do those changes at the international level." The progression needed confidence. "At the highest level, you can't say, okay, if I mess up, I mess up. It doesn't work like that." Then came the break. The time away from the Indian team that is remembered publicly as a setback. Zaheer remembers it as the space he needed. "That break gave me enough time to work on things." He had been using his variations at first-class level already — the shorter run-up, the around-the-wicket angle, the adjustments. "The progression from using those changes from first-class level to the international level—I needed that much confidence and that much of a break for that."

When he came back, the bowling had changed. He went around the wicket a lot more. He bowled from closer to the stumps. The run-up was shorter. The leap wasn't as exaggerated. The bowler who returned was not the bowler who left. Zaheer Khan The first half of his international career was, by his own description, decent. Pace, swing, the raw materials. But the awareness of his own bowling — the four-part division he now teaches, load-up, delivery, follow-through, and the run-up that sets everything in motion — that came later.

Zaheer's most spectacular reverse benders from around the wicket came from a technical flaw, he reveals. In Bangladesh, he was finding it difficult to control the ball from over the wicket. "My wrist position had gone a little wrong—I was falling. My head was falling a bit, and because of that, I was coming into a position which was not giving me control with the new ball." So he went around the wicket. The angle was better. From that angle, he learned to control the falling head and the wrist position that had been betraying him. A flaw led to a solution. The solution became a weapon—and the weapon produced two of the deliveries he keeps closest.

The first was to Ian Bell in the 2007 Test at Trent Bridge. It was England's second innings, India trying to bowl them out. "That delivery gave me a lot of excitement." It bent back in late to trap Bell low. The second was to Ricky Ponting in Melbourne. Around the wicket, around off stump, cutting back into the right-hander. "Just doing enough for the bails to come off." Both deliveries came from the angle that a flaw had forced him to find. There are certain batsmen who play on length. There are certain batsmen who play on length. This is how Zaheer Khan divides the world. A batsman who plays on length is looking for the ball to be pitched up — he wants to drive. "You can catch that guy on line," Zaheer says. "Because even if the line is wider, he doesn't mind. He is backing himself to play the length. So as the line is getting shifted, he is still risking it. You can actually catch him with the ball which is too wide to be driven, but being there for the drive." A batsman who plays on line is the opposite. If the ball is in his line, he will play, regardless of whether the length is back. Virender Sehwag is the example Zaheer reaches for — cutting deliveries even when the length was close enough to drive, because the ball was on his line and that was enough. The commitment to the shot came before the length was fully read.

There are batsmen so confident in their judgement of length that they keep going regardless of the line. Over time, that confidence becomes the vulnerability. Like Virat Kohli at the end of his Test career. "That is typically the case," Zaheer says. Graeme Smith was a tall man, an outside player. Everything in his setup—the grip, the stance, the bat angle—was designed to take advantage of angles created by right-arm bowlers.

"With my delivery swinging late to him, he would have less time to adjust because his bat would not come straight. So if he has to play the ball to mid-off, he would not be able to play it with a straight bat." On the back foot, Smith's shot was predominantly the punch—so for him to drive through the covers, the ball had to be really full. "If you get the length right, that's where the length factor becomes crucial, then

you have both sides to play. The ball coming back in and the ball moving away."

Kumar Sangakkara was different. He played the ball late. His setup was built to defer the decision — play or leave — as long as possible. "Sanga was very good. He used to play the ball late. He would take advantage of your lengths nicely. I would try and get as close to the off stump as possible so that he has to work that much harder to play or leave. You have to be so precise." Two of the great left-handers of their era. Two completely different puzzles. Both were solved in real time, by a bowler who started late and never stopped catching up. Beyond technique, beyond the line-or-length preference, there is a third layer: how a batsman builds his innings. "It doesn't matter which format they're playing. They always have this template of first 10-15 deliveries." In T20, the window compresses — maybe four deliveries for a batsman to get in. But the template exists. The bowler who recognises it can attack within it.

Zaheer There are certain batsmen who play on line. There are certain batsmen who play on length. This is how Zaheer Khan divides the world. The example Zaheer reaches for is Dhoni. "He's so assured of himself that he can hit the ball out of the park once he's in. Once he sees the ball the way he wants to see it." So if Dhoni walks in under pressure, Zaheer knows he will not attack immediately. "Even if it's ten deliveries to get me and they need twenty-five runs, he will still say, okay, let me see."

But when Dhoni walks in and hits the first ball — that tells you he has already read the conditions before arriving at the crease. "This is the side of things which goes beyond just the technique, beyond just the game. How one sees a situation when the pressure is highest — how are you going to react?" Zaheer reads opponents to get them out. He reads Dhoni to know when the chase is already won.

The cues are always there, Zaheer says. Whether the batsman is standing deep in the crease or ahead of it. Whether the weight is on the back foot or the front. Whether the head is adjusting — which means the batsman is conscious of something, a technical correction, a fear, a habit he is trying to suppress. "If someone is consciously trying to put his leg outside the line of the leg stump, that means he is conscious about it." The bowler's job is to notice. Sometimes, to mention it in the follow-through. Just loud enough to be heard: the front leg is still coming across. Not an insult. A reminder of the thing the batsman is already worrying about. Ponting was run out in a Test match. Zaheer was in a huddle with his teammates. "You think you were Usain Bolt?" he said as Ponting walked past. Exit sledging — quick, disposable, designed to travel back to the dressing room. Trent Bridge, 2007, was different. The jelly beans on the pitch, the escalating theatre, the bat eventually pointed at the England dressing room — these were not emotions. They were construction. "I made sure I involved the umpires in that, so that nothing would come back to me," he says. Kevin Pietersen drew the attention, the energy redirected away from Zaheer and towards the spectacle itself.

"Sledging is not about the use of bad words. It's using it to your advantage — and not losing yourself in the process." Between deliveries, Zaheer Khan had twenty to thirty seconds. What happened in his head? "A large part of it would be what's coming next. A short part of it would be what has happened in the previous ball." In white-ball cricket, he carried two options to the top of his mark. "If the batter moves, I'm going to do this. If the batter stays, I'm going to do this." Both options aligned with the over's plan. The system was fed. The body was trusted to react.

Zaheer Khan Zaheer reads opponents to get them out. He reads Dhoni to know when the chase is already won. (Express photo) He held the ball delicately, as if holding an egg. "It used to give this impression," he says, smiling. "But it was happening subconsciously. I don't think I knew exactly how my fingers were." The Nagpur Test against Australia was the longest siege. A 7-2 field, a line drilled wide outside off stump, over after over, from both ends. Zaheer and Ishant Sharma were not trying to take wickets. Eventually, Simon Katich got out — adjusting and adjusting to follow the wide line until an in-swing from Zaheer found him in front. "MS and us, we just continued. Stayed patient." The details of how long, Zaheer can't quite remember. The details he keeps are the ones that taught him something.

The data question troubles him. Not because data is wrong but because it has replaced something that cannot be replaced. "With more and more data, you're just becoming too data-dependent. It is taking that instinct of the game out for a cricketer." He sees it in the IPL. Bowlers turning to the dugout mid-over. The instinct that Mumbai club cricket once demanded — because you had no data, because you started late, because you had catching up to do — is being coached out of the game. "When you're too data-dependent, you are doing your work before the game and after the game. But when playing the game, you are not able to make decisions," he says. Are matchups overrated? "In some cases, yes." A left-arm spinner bowling to a left-hander because the data says so — but the data doesn't distinguish between one bowling at 135 kilometres and one bowling at 125. "The data gives you a reference point. But for you to execute, everything has to come together." What about bowling to a batsman's strength? If his on-stump yorker lands at 75 percent accuracy, and the batsman's strength is hitting a missed yorker into the stands, who does the bowler back? "Just because someone is strong enough to put a missed yorker out of the park, am I going to move away from my strength? Who are you going to back, your skill or the batsman's?" There is another kind of catching up he is invested in now. He is a co-owner of a franchise Antwerp Anchors in the 'EUT20 Belgium' cricket league, European cricket's attempt to build what the IPL took decades to become—a pipeline, a culture, a place where the game means something to people who didn't grow up with it. Zaheer Khan A batsman who plays on line is the opposite. If the ball is in his line, he will play, regardless of whether the length is back. Virender Sehwag is the example Zaheer reaches for — cutting deliveries even when the length was close enough to drive, because the ball was on his line and that was enough. The commitment to the shot came before the length was fully read. Belgium is not a country that has produced international cricketers. The growth is slow. "It is a long-term thing," he says. "You are not going to see the results immediately." The franchise model gives him something ICC development programs don't — decision-making influence. A seat at the table rather than a presence in the bleachers. South African seamer Fanie de Villiers told him something about awareness that stayed. Even if de Villiers bowled from a short distance, he would know exactly where his front foot was landing. Full run-up, same thing. "It's just about perfecting those last three, four steps so nicely that you know exactly — it doesn't matter from where you're coming." De Villiers used white chalk on the ball. After bowling, he would walk to the pitch and see how many deliveries had landed on the seam. Before pitch maps existed. Before Hawk-Eye. Before data. A man with chalk and a cricket ball, reading the surface itself.

## 'I'm earning my living because of Dawood Ibrahim': Ram Gopal Varma says he wouldn't have made Satya, Company if the gangster 'wasn't there'



moved his name. If Dawood Ibrahim was not there, I would not have made Satya and Company, the two iconic films. How can I not dedicate it to him? I am earning my living because of him."

When asked if he ever received threatening calls from the underworld like many actors and filmmakers did during the 1990s, he said, "I was the only guy who never got threatening calls, the reason being they loved Satya and Company. They didn't want to bother me. I kind of became their soul mate."

Were Satya and Company funded by the underworld?

In an earlier chat with ANI, D Sivanandhan, who was the joint CP Crime Mumbai (1998-2001), and held many operations to end the control of underworld in Mumbai, suggested that some of RGV's films were funded by the gangsters. He said that films like Satya, Company, Shootout at Wadala and Shootout at Lokhandwala were made to "lift the image of the gangsters." He said, "They were all funded and financed by them only." He even went on to claim that films from the 1970s, like Deewaar and Muqaddar Ka Sikandar, "were funded and financed by them." Bollywood's underworld phase in the 1990s, many actors, producers, directors and other technicians were constantly under the threat of the underworld. Karan Johar has previously revealed that he got threat calls when his debut film Kuch Kuch Hota Hai released in theatres. Varun Dhawan recently revealed that his father, David Dhawan, also got similar calls. T-Series owner Gulshan Kumar was shot to death in broad light by gangsters. In the same chat with ANI, D Sivanandhan, explained how the underworld controlled Bollywood at the time and how police officials could do little about it due to limited means of protecting industry members. "They (the actors) had no choice (of saying no) and we had no means of protecting them. Let me admit that. We didn't take action against them," he said.

The 1990s was a dangerous time in the Hindi film industry as the influence of the underworld was at an all time high. Many actors and filmmakers have admitted to receiving threatening calls from the underworld and some, unfortunately, were also shot when they refused to bow down to the gangsters' demands. However, in a recent interaction, filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma revealed that he never received such calls and even claimed that the gangster loved his films Satya and Company, which were loosely inspired by their lives.

"I'm earning my living because of Dawood Ibrahim" in a recent interaction with Filmfare, RGV said that he dedicated his autobiography 'Guns & Thighs' to Dawood Ibrahim, but the publishers removed his name. He said, "I dedicated the book to Dawood Ibrahim also, but the publishers re-

## Badshah removes 'offensive' parts from Haryanvi song Tateere amid backlash; announces revised version of track

Rapper Badshah, whose songs have previously courted controversy for vulgar or derogatory lyrics, has landed in fresh trouble over "offensive" lines and sexualisation of minors in his latest Haryanvi track, "Tateeree." Following the song's release, an FIR was filed against him in Panchkula, and he was summoned by the National Commission for Women (NCW), before which he apologised and pledged to support women's empowerment, including sponsoring the education of 50 girls from economically weaker sections. Amid the backlash, Badshah issued a public apology on social media on Friday and announced that a revised version of the track, with the "objectionable" content removed, will be released soon.

Taking to his Instagram handle, Badshah shared a long note announcing a new version of "Tateeree." He wrote in Hindi, "Over the past few weeks, we have listened to concerns raised by government officials, the women's commission, social workers and others regarding our song 'Tateeree'. Based on that, we have made necessary changes and removed any part that was considered objectionable." The rapper added, "I respect this feedback and the sentiment behind it. Along with being an artiste, our responsibility towards our society and culture is equally important. Tattiri Phir Se is the next step of that same journey. Your support, your voice, and your belief are what have kept this song alive. I hope its new version carries forward the same energy and the same respect."



Along with the statement, Badshah also shared a promo that teased the reworked version of Tateeree's music video. The clip offered glimpses of men in traditional attire circling over vehicles. It also showed visuals of luxury cars lined up and the rapper striking different poses. The teaser concluded with the text Tareef Phir Se, followed by the release date - 14.04.2026. "Tateeree" was written, composed, and crooned by Badshah, along with vocalist Simran Jaglan, a boxer from Kaithal and daughter of the Haryanvi singer Karambir Fouji. The song was released on March 1, 2026.

## Outcome movie review: Powered by Keanu Reeves, a sharp but uneven take on celebrity culture

Outcome movie review: Every once in a while Hollywood undertakes the exercise of looking inwards and coming up with a cinematic exploration about the fallout of stardom. Months after Noah Baumbach's Jay Kelly told the story of its titular protagonist, an aging star played by George Clooney, who is struggling to reconnect with his daughters and reflecting on his past actions, Jonah Hill-directed Outcome makes Reef Hawk (Keanu Reeves) make a series of apologies to the people he might have hurt in his long career as a child prodigy-turned-America's heartthrob.

With a runtime of 85 minutes, the movie tries to comment on several aspects of stardom even as it remains focussed on the crisis that Hawk faces after he has finally achieved sobriety and managed to put his drug addiction behind him. A blackmail threat looms over his carefully rebuilt image. What follows is a series of image-management exercises that capture the machinery behind the present-day celebrity culture. Outcome, which is written by Hill and Ezra Woods, is a satirical take on contemporary celebrity culture; the price of constantly living under the arc light; the trial by social media; and looking for reaffirmation of being loved in media contents. Hill aims for the satire that's biting. At times it veers into the zone of absurdity. Still, it remains one of the film's strongest aspects even though the narration is not always engaging. After receiving the threat that unless Hawk coughs up \$35 million, a video that might damage his image will be leaked, his crisis lawyer Ira Slitz (Hill) advises the actor to track down his potential haters and apologise. Slitz lines up a bunch of experts, who lecture Hawk on what are the things he has done wrong in his career and why he is facing the possibility of being canceled. At one point, Slitz even tells Hawk that the best way of warding off the crisis is to "become a victim". Outcome talks about the social media-driven culture that capitalises on 'victimhood' and promotes 'attention culture'. Reeves, who might have had many references for this character, portrays his character's insecurities and need for validation convincingly. Among the film's several meta moments is the appearance of Drew Barrymore as herself. Her journey captures one of

Hollywood's most astounding successes as a child star, the tragedy of not getting proper parental guidance and going through a difficult phase of addiction. When Hawk makes an appearance on Barrymore's talk show, she tells him "how much our lives have paralleled and how much we have been through". In spite of that Barrymore takes a dig at the tendency of glorifying victimhood. Don't skip the credits.

Outcome holds a mirror to the current trend of stars indulging in self-pity to stay relevant. That's something one comes across in long-form interviews and podcasts these days. The storyline is peppered with several thought-provoking moments. Some of them are sly and smart such as the message on the back of Slitz's vehicle saying: "Honk if you can separate the art from the artist". Yet, for all its insight, Outcome doesn't always engage. At times, it feels weighed down by its own commentary. It could have tapped into the comedic talent of Reeves and Cameron Diaz for levity. Martin Scorsese, who appears as Hawk's former manager now working in a bowling alley, makes up for that with a memorable cameo. Outcome cast: Keanu Reeves, Jonah Hill, Cameron Diaz, Matt Bomer, Susan Lucci, Laverne Cox, David Spade, Martin Scorsese, Atsuko Okatsuka, Roy Wood Jr., Welker White, Kaia Gerber, Ivy Wolk, Drew Barrymore. Alaka Sahani is a prominent film critic and journalist based in Mumbai. With a career spanning over two decades, she has established herself as one of India's most authoritative voices in cinematic journalism, known for an analytical approach and insights that transcend the standard cycle of celebrity journalism. Expertise & Accolades In 2014, Alaka was honoured with the National Film Award for Best Film Critic. Her Swarna Kamal (Golden Lotus) citation specifically lauded her for "highlighting facets of cinema beyond glamour and gossip" and for her ability to delve into the contemporary relevance of iconic filmmakers. Her commitment to journalistic integrity was further recognised in 2019 with a Special Mention at the Red Ink Awards for her investigative feature, "In Search of a Star". Her article titled 'People Like Us', published in The Indian Express on March 27, 2022, was shortlisted for Red

## Vijay's Jana Nayagan leaked online: UK distributor calls it their 'hardest day', says leak diminishes efforts of those who worked on the film



Troubles seem to be never-ending for Thalapathy Vijay's final film Jana Nayagan, which was previously stuck in limbo due to a conflict with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). Problems increased when on Thursday night, parts of the film were leaked online. Director H Vinoh took to Instagram and requested Vijay's fans not to share the clip. Several celebrities from the film industry, including Kamal Haasan, Rajinikanth, Vishnu Manchu, and Suriya, among others, condemned the act and urged audiences not to circulate the leaked content.

Amid the controversy, Ahimsa Entertainment, the UK distributor of the political actioner, expressed its disappointment on X, saying: "Today is the hardest day we've faced. Jana Nayagan is Thalapathy's farewell, a celebration of everything he's given over the years. It was meant to be experienced in cinemas, at the right time, with all of you. A film is not just what you see on screen. It carries years of effort, sacrifice, and the work of thousands of people behind it. Watching it in theatres or choosing to skip it is always a personal choice - but supporting piracy takes away from all of it. It breaks something that can't be put back together." It further added: "A film carries lives inside it. Pi-

racy strips that down to nothing. Please support it the right way."

The leaked material reportedly includes a roughly five-minute sequence featuring Jana Nayagan's title credits and Vijay's introduction scene, along with a portion of a song titled "Thalapathy Katcheri." It also shows a prison sequence, including a shot of Vijay dressed as an inmate holding a shovel, followed by a stylised fight sequence in his signature style. The source of the leak has not yet been confirmed. The timing of the leak has also drawn attention, coming just days before the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections on April 23, in which Vijay is set to contest with his party. Following the leak, the legal team representing the film's production banner, KVN Productions, issued a public notice warning of strict action against anyone sharing or engaging with the leaked material. In a detailed statement dated April 9, the production house made it clear that the leak is being treated as a serious criminal offence. The makers have also cautioned that even downloading, saving, or forwarding the clips could lead to legal consequences. Even before this latest setback, Jana Nayagan has been going through a tumultuous journey. The film was initially scheduled for a theatrical release on January 9 but did not release as planned. Complications arose with the CBFC, which reportedly objected to certain portions of the film, citing concerns that they could impact public sentiment. The issue later escalated into a legal dispute, with the producers, KVN Productions, approaching the Madras High Court over delays in certification. However, they later withdrew the petition and chose to proceed through the revising committee process to obtain certification. Jana Nayagan is directed by H Vinoh and produced by Venkat K Narayana under the KVN Productions banner. The cast includes Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Prakash Raj, Priyamani, and Gautham Vasudev Menon, with music composed by Anirudh Ravichander. The film is now expected to release in theatres in May or June 2026, although an official date is still awaited.

## Amitabh Bachchan's Vijay in Deewaar continues to influence Abhishek Bachchan's business decisions, actor says 'there's emotion behind it'

In Deewaar, one of Amitabh Bachchan's most enduring films, there is a moment that has stayed with audiences for decades. Vijay, played by Bachchan, buys a high-rise building in a deal that makes little financial sense. But the decision is driven by emotion: as a child, he had watched his mother work as a construction labourer on that very building. He buys it to gift it to her. It is a scene that continues to draw cheers, even today. The impact of that moment extended beyond audiences as it deeply influenced Bachchan's son, Abhishek Bachchan, who recalled it in a conversation with Forbes India. Abhishek was asked about his business ventures and the actor recalled this particular scene from the film and said that it left an "indelible mark" on him. Reflecting on the lesson he drew from the scene, Abhishek said, "What that taught me was that there was emotion behind the business, it wasn't just about the balance sheet. And that became an integral part of my decision-making in what I do. If your heart isn't in it, then what's the point of doing it?"

That philosophy has shaped his real-world investments as well. Abhishek has invested in businesses like Swiggy and Zepto. Asked what drew him to them, his answer was disarmingly simple: "I've said this before, they got me my misal pav on time. It's very simple: I enjoyed using the product. It benefited me in my day-to-day life and made things a lot easier, which is exactly what all of you are doing so wonderfully, making life so convenient for us. And that's literally why I really liked it. So I said, 'Hey guys, can I be involved in any way?' And they were kind enough to allow me to."

Earlier, speaking at the Global Business Summit 2026, Abhishek spoke about how personal values and family influence shape financial decisions over time. Referring to his father, Amitabh Bachchan, he said, "My father is a be-



liever in real estate. I think there is that old thought zameen hai to sab theek hai (If you have land, then everything is okay), you know, so that partially is there. I used to invest a bit in gold, thank god and then my wife's like, 'what about silver?' Beyond start-ups, Abhishek has built a diverse portfolio. He owns the Pro Kabaddi League franchise Jaipur Pink Panthers and is co-owner of Indian Super League club Chennaiyin FC. He has also invested in Vahdam Tea alongside former cricketer Sachin Tendulkar. Abhishek will next be seen in King, starring Shah Rukh Khan and directed by Siddharth Anand.

## Dhurandhar 2 actor Vivek Sinha refutes rumours of Rs 1 cr fee, says he's spent all his money already: 'Mumbai is an expensive city'



Vivek has now taken to Instagram to set the record straight. In a video, he said, "For the past few days, people are speculating about the fees of the Dhurandhar cast, including Ranveer Singh and R Madhavan. Some have claimed I received between Rs 60 lakh to Rs 1 crore for my role

It's been a little over three weeks since Dhurandhar 2 released in theatres, but the buzz around the film and its cast shows no signs of slowing down. Even actors in smaller roles have gained significant traction, with audiences actively speculating their fees and remuneration. One such name making the rounds is actor Vivek Sinha. Initially, many assumed he was from Pakistan; now, he's receiving messages from people seeking financial help

after reports claimed he was paid Rs 60 lakh to Rs 1 crore for his role. Vivek has now taken to Instagram to set the record straight. In a video, he said, "For the past few days, people are speculating about the fees of the Dhurandhar cast, including Ranveer Singh and R Madhavan. Some have claimed I received between Rs 60 lakh to Rs 1 crore for my role. Let me clarify, I have not received that kind of money. This is all false. Ever since these reports started making headlines, people have been reaching out to me for financial help, saying they are sick or need money for their future." He added, "For me to extend financial help, I first need to have that kind of money. I don't have it."

The actor further explained that while he was paid a respectable amount, it was nowhere close to the figures being circulated. "They gave me a decent amount, but not as much as you are claiming. And whatever money I received has already been spent. I live in a city like Mumbai—it's very expensive. Maybe when I get paid for my next film, I'll be able to help. But please don't spread false news." This isn't the first time Vivek has had to address public reactions. Earlier, he faced backlash online, with some viewers calling him a "terrorist" based on his on-screen role. Responding to that, he had said, "Such anger, so many comments. Do you know what each one says? 'You look like a terrorist', 'I feel like thrashing you through the screen', 'You have made us angry'... Should I tell you something? I salute this patriotism. One is saying, 'I'll come to Pakistan and beat you.' I'm not from Pakistan—I'm from Bijoor, Dhampur is my city, and I live in Mumbai.