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Telangana govt issues orders on employee transfers, census staff left out

Hyderabad: The State government on Tuesday issued orders lifting a ban on transfers of employees. However, the order is not applicable to everyone as employees drafted or appointed for census-related work are ineligible for such transfers. Geographic Reference This clause mentioned in point number 11 has dashed the hopes of many employees, particularly teachers who are drafted into census work. The order specifically mentioned that the transfers should be made from May 1 to 31, 2026. The ban on transfers would come into force effective June 1, 2026.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy announces new coal sales mechanism

Peddapalli: Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G Kishan Reddy informed that a new coal sale mechanism through the proposed coal exchange is being introduced to enable consumers across the country to procure coal in their preferred grade from a supplier of their choice. In this competitive framework, maintaining coal quality will be essential for coal companies to sustain their market presence. So, all government coal companies must strive to remain competitive in the market by adhering to strict quality standards.



Modi is not for these principles and one more thing I want to tell how this AIADMK people who themselves put the photo of Annadurai, how can they join with Modi who is a terrorist and who won't believe in equality, his party won't believe in equality and justice and these people are joining with them, it means that they are weakening democracy, they are weakening the philosophy of Annadurai, Kamaraj, Periyar and Karunanidhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar.

Kharge Clarifies Terrorist Jibe at PM Modi

Chennai, April 21

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge courted controversy on the last day of the election campaign in Tamil Nadu. Highlighting opposition unity during the defeat of the Delimitation Bill, which had also been linked to the passage of the Women's Reservation Bill, the Congress President criticised the AIADMK for supporting the BJP and labelled PM Modi a 'terrorist who does not believe in equality.'

"I also thank the Tamil Nadu people who have given MPs to us, that's why we were able to fight and defeat the bill. This is the land of scientific thinking and ideals of Periyar, Dr. Ambedkar, Annadurai, great Kamaraj and Karunanidhi. These people stood for this women's reservation, justice, equality, and fraternity. Modi is not for these principles and one more thing I want to tell how this AIADMK people who themselves put the photo of Annadurai, how can they join with Modi who is a terrorist and who won't believe in equality, his party won't believe in equality and justice and these people are joining with them, it means that they are weakening democracy, they are weakening the philosophy of Annadurai, Kamaraj, Periyar and Karunanidhi and Babasaheb Ambedkar. The Congress-DMK alliance will continue to deliver welfare, inclusive growth, quality education and accessible healthcare," he said.

When questioned on the choice of words, Kharge quickly defended himself, claiming that he meant to say that the PM was terrorising his political opponents. "He (PM Modi) is terrorising people and political parties. I never said he is a terrorist...What I mean, I want to clarify, is that Modi always threatens. The institutions like ED, I-T and CBI are in his hands. He wants to take delimitation also into his hands," Kharge said.

The Congress President also criticised the BJP, alleging that the party is anti-women and had no right to take the moral high ground on the subject. "Now, the Women's Welfare Bill, how ironic that the BJP, RSS, the flag bearers of Manuvadi politics, who treated women as second-class citizens according to their ideology, according to Manuvad, they are talking about women's welfare. There are several examples I can give right from Kerala to Kanyakumari to Jammu and Kashmir, or even UP. We passed the women's reservation bill in 2023. The Prime Minister himself thanked the opposition for its unanimous support, and now PM is lying that the opposition defeated the bill. Today, he is misleading everyone. If he truly intends to implement it, he can provide 33% reservation to women within the existing 543 Lok Sabha members. As President of the Congress party, I assure the sisters and daughters of Tamil Nadu that I stand firmly by the Women's Reservation Bill passed in 2023," he said.

Kharge also made an impassioned appeal to voters to choose the DMK-Congress alliance in the polls on April 23. "BJP's hidden agenda is that it seeks to impose its ideology, culture and centralised control; it aims to interfere in state matters and ignore the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu, to mislead voters, and it has allied with the AIADMK. I urge people not to fall prey to this trap. I also caution voters about certain parties that may present themselves as alternatives, but in reality only divide the secular vote and indirectly help the BJP and its divisive agenda. Final appeal, forces like the BJP, AIADMK can weaken the very alliance that is fighting to protect Tamil Nadu's rights, identity and values. I urge the people to vote decisively to strengthen the Congress-DMK alliance with other partners and ensure a progressive, inclusive future of the state, defeat the anti-Periyar, anti-Anna, anti-Ambedkar, anti-Kamaraj, anti-women, this BJP and AIADMK alliance," he said. Tamil Nadu goes to the Polls on April 23 with results to be announced on May 4.

Trump says Iran to send delegation for talks, warns of strikes if deal fails

New Delhi, April 21

US President Donald Trump on Tuesday said Iran will send a delegation for negotiations with Washington, but warned that the United States is prepared to resume bombing if a deal is not reached before the ceasefire deadline.

In an interview with CNBC, Trump struck a combative tone, asserting that Tehran had "no choice" but to come to the table, even as he signalled that military action remains imminent if talks fail to yield results quickly.

"Well, as I said two days ago, when they said they won't send them, I said they'll be sending them. They have no choice but to send them... I think we're going to end up with a great deal," Trump said, expressing confidence in the outcome of the negotiations.

The remarks come amid ongoing tensions following weeks of military escalation, with Trump claiming that US forces had significantly degraded Iran's military capabilities, including its naval and air assets. He argued that Washington now holds a "very strong negotiating position".

According to Trump, the talks are expected to involve Iran's representatives engaging with US Vice President JD Vance, even as a fragile ceasefire hangs in the balance.

However, the US President made it clear that the time for diplomacy is limited. Asked whether he would extend the ceasefire if negotiations show progress, Trump said he was reluctant to do so, indicating that a breakthrough must come swiftly.

"We don't have that much time... They have to negotiate," he said, adding that Iran could "put themselves



on a very good footing" if it agrees to a deal.

In a stark warning, Trump suggested that the US could target critical infrastructure if talks collapse. "It's not my choice... but it will also hit them militarily," he said, referring to potential strikes on bridges and logistical networks used for missile movement.

Pressed on whether bombing would resume without a concrete agreement, Trump said: "I expect to be bombing... we're ready to go," underscoring that the US military was "raring to go" and fully prepared for escalation.

The remarks signal a high-stakes diplomatic window, with Washington coupling negotiations with explicit military pressure — raising the prospect of either a rapid deal or a renewed phase of conflict in the region.



BRS Against Women, Will Never Change: Kavitha

Hyderabad: Telangana Jagruthi president K. Kavitha on Tuesday slammed the BRS, saying it had no respect for women, and questioned why neither BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, nor any other leader at the Jagtial public meeting on Monday talked about the women's reservation Bill.

Addressing a press conference, Kavitha, who was suspended from the BRS following which she quit the party, said disrespecting women was nothing new for the BRS. "The party's nexus with the BJP is also no longer a hidden secret anymore. As expected, no one said a single word against the BJP or the Central government on the Bill, proving that the BRS never has and never will respect women."

The BRS, instead of taking responsibility for its failures, keeps blaming the people of Telangana for every-

thing, she alleged. "This party isn't going to change in a 1,000 years, and they have proved that yet again," she said.

On former minister T. Jeevan Reddy being welcomed into the BRS, she said Chandrashekar Rao's claims about the youthfulness of the 75-year-old leader were bizarre. "Second, Jeevan Reddy fought against Telangana statehood. To bring that man in today and celebrate his entry is something that the party needs to be held accountable for," she said.

On Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's public meeting on Monday, she said he floated conspiracy theories damaging the reputation of courts. "He insinuated that Harish Rao was in Delhi to meet RSS leaders to secure a favour for himself in the Kaleshwaram project case. A Chief Minister directly attacking the sanctity of the judiciary in this manner is truly appalling."



Telangana HC quashes tender bypassing handloom societies

Hyderabad, April 21

Justice Anil Kumar Jukanti of the Telangana High Court has set aside a government tender issued for procurement of dress materials and bedsheet supplies to educational institutions, which bypassed the handloom societies in the State. Geographic Reference

The Court, while allowing a writ petition filed by the Veeranjaneya Handloom Weavers Mutually Aided Co-operative Production and Sales Society Ltd., Warangal, ruled that State authorities cannot bypass the procurement mechanism prescribed under G.O.Ms.No.1 dated March 11, 2024.

The Government Order mandates that all departments procure handloom products exclusively through the Telangana State Handloom Weavers Co-operative Society Limited (TSCO), unless a "non-availability certificate" is issued.

The GO clearly specifies that all Departments, Corporations, Institutions, Government Hospitals etc., to procure their handloom requirements exclusively through TSCO and other eligible societies. In case of non-availability or inability to supply, TSCO has to issue a non-availability certificate. It is only upon such a certificate being issued that departments may procure from other agencies.

The petitioners challenged tender notifications dated April 2, 2026, issued by the Project Monitoring Unit (PMU) for procurement of items such as uniforms, bedding materials, and other supplies for students of residential and government educational institutions. They contended that the tender process was initiated after cancellation of earlier procurement orders placed with TSCO, without following the procedure laid down in the Government Order.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India's young talent falling prey to stress

THE deaths of four students by suicide in two months have rocked the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Kurukshetra, sending shock waves across the country's academic circles. The institute has set up a five-member inquiry panel, while Rajya Sabha MP John Brittas has sought the Union Education Minister's urgent intervention. The NIT has also formed separate committees to look into issues faced by students. However, the response reveals a troubling lack of preparedness. Ordering hostellers to go home may defuse tensions for the time being, but it won't be helpful in addressing the underlying concerns.

The unrest on the campus has exposed a deep disconnect between the students and the NIT authorities. Allegations of inadequate psychological support and an ineffective mechanism to redress grievances point to systemic gaps that demand independent scrutiny. India's premier institutions have long been associated with intense pressure both inside and outside the classroom. Around three years ago, the Ministry of Education told Parliament that 98 students died by suicide in higher education institutions between 2018 and 2023; IITs accounted for the highest number of deaths, followed by NITs and Central universities. These disturbing incidents underline the dire need for a nationwide framework to ensure the well-being of students. It must go beyond counselling to include early-warning systems, peer support networks and faculty sensitisation. It is vital to restore confidence among students and their families. Ultimately, the question is not whether institutions can respond to tragedies, but whether they can prevent them.

Formation of committee to identify TG movement activists is commendable



"State President of TG Martyrs' Families Forum, Satish Kumar "Jagtil Correspondent, April 21 (Indian Chronicle):"Chirra Satish Kumar, State President of the Telangana Martyrs' Families Forum, said in a statement on Tuesday in Jagtil that the state government's decision to form a committee to identify the families of Telangana martyrs and Telangana movement activists and to support them is a positive development." "Satish Kumar recalled that the previous BRS government had announced in the Assembly that 1200 people had sacrificed their lives in the Telangana movement. At that time, 589 of them were identified and given an ex-gratia of ₹10 lakh along with jobs." "He stated that it is commendable that the government has now formed a committee with senior leader Keshava Rao as Chairman and Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, Professor Kodandaram, MLC Addanki Dayakar, and former MLC Ramulu Naik as members. This is a step towards fulfilling the promise made by the Congress party during the elections to identify the remaining families and support them." "Satish Kumar expressed confidence that justice will be done to the families of martyrs and movement activists under the leadership of this committee.

BJP Protest in Nyalkal Against Prakash Raj – Effigy Burnt Over Remarks “Leaders condemn alleged remarks hurting Hindu sentiments...”

“demand immediate government action....

Zaheerabad April 21 (Indian Chronicle):"Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders staged a strong protest in Nyalkal mandal against actor Prakash Raj over his alleged remarks on Hindu deities, which they claimed hurt the sentiments of Hindus. The protest was led by Nyalkal Mandal BJP President Mallesh Gangwar, during which the effigy of Prakash Raj was burnt as a mark of protest." "Speaking on the occasion, Mallesh Gangwar strongly condemned the remarks and stated that making statements that hurt the religious sentiments of crores of Hindus is highly objectionable. He criticized the Telangana government for not taking any action against Prakash Raj despite repeated controversies, calling it "shameful" and against democratic values." "He demanded that strict action be taken against Prakash Raj immediately and warned that if such statements are



ments that hurt the religious sentiments of crores of Hindus is highly objectionable. He criticized the Telangana government for not taking any action against Prakash Raj despite repeated controversies, calling it "shameful" and against democratic values." "He demanded that strict action be taken against Prakash Raj immediately and warned that if such statements are

Paddy Procurement Centers Inaugurated in Manthani



Indian Chronicle"Medagoni Venkatesh,"Peddapalli District,"Manthani:"Manthani: Paddy procurement centers were grandly inaugurated in the outskirts of Sriram Nagar, Gangapuri, Sripada Colony, and Anguluru areas within

Manthani Municipality. The centers were declared open under the leadership of Municipal Chairman Vodnala Srinivas."Ensuring Support for Farmers"Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman highlighted that these centers are designed to help farmers sell their produce directly to the government, eliminating the need for middlemen. He reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that every farmer receives the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for their crop."Focus on Transparency"Chairman Srinivas directed officials to ensure that the procurement process remains completely transparent. He further instructed the concerned departments to make all necessary arrangements at the centers so that farmers do not face any hardships during the sale of their grain."Key Attendees"The inaugural event saw participation from:"Muskula Sahender Reddy (Municipal Vice-Chairman)," (Municipal Councillors)"Machidi Raju Goud, Maddikarla Sravanthi, Pentari Raju, and yellanki Vamshi and "Various public representatives and a large number of local farmers.

Free Buttermilk Distribution at Gandhi Chowk

Indian Chronicle "Medagoni Venkatesh,"Peddapalli District,"Manthani." In view of the rising summer temperatures, a free buttermilk distribution program was organized at Gandhi Chowk in Manthani town under the leadership of Municipal Chairman vodnala Srinivas."During the event, Chairman Srinivas personally distributed buttermilk to commuters, laborers, the elderly, and local residents passing through the busy junction."Speaking on the occasion, Odnala Srinivas stated that such service-oriented programs are essential to provide relief to the public from the scorching summer heat. He emphasized the importance of staying hydrated and supported during the season."The program saw the participation of:"Muskula Sahender Reddy (Municipal Vice-Chairman)"Municipal councillors"Maddikarla Sravanthi "Ellenki Vamsi and"Various other public representatives and local leaders."Key Highlight: The initiative aimed to provide immediate hydration and heat relief to those working outdoors and traveling on the roads of Manthani.



Minister Sridhar Babu Extends Heartfelt Thanks to People and Party Workers of Peddapalli and Bhupalpally Districts



Indian Chronicle"Medagoni Venkatesh Peddapalli District Manthani:- to People and Party Workers of Peddapalli and Peddapalli/Bhupalpally: Telangana State IT and Indus-

tries Minister, Shri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, expressed his sincere gratitude to the people of Peddapalli, Bhupalpally, and surrounding districts for the massive turnout and grand success of the Rythu Bharosa funds release program held at Nasturupally village in Kataram Mandal." "Highlights of the Minister's Message:" "Public Trust: The Minister stated that the overwhelming faith shown by the people in the Congress party has further increased their responsibility toward the citizens." "Special Gratitude: He extended special thanks to Congress party leaders, activists, affiliated wing members, women supporters, and Youth Congress members of the Manthani constituency." "Administrative Appreciation: Minister Sridhar Babu specifically lauded the efforts of:" "District officials and administrative staff." "Police department personnel for maintaining order." "DSB Volunteers and Youth Congress workers for their coordination and discipline." "The success of this program is a result of everyone's collective effort and discipline. The Congress government remains firmly committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people," the Minister affirmed."End

The District Police Co-operative Society stands as financial support for the welfare of police personnel and their families.



SP Sneha Mehra reveals at the District Police Co-operative Society meeting..."Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (April 21)" "A general body meeting of the District Police Co-operative Society was held today at the District Police Office conference hall under the chairmanship of District SP Sneha Mehra, IPS. On this occasion, the executive members briefed the SP about the society's progress in the last financial year, the loan facilities provided to staff, and other welfare benefits. "Speaking at the meeting, the SP said that the District Police Co-operative Society stands as financial support for the welfare of police personnel, who work tirelessly to maintain law and order, and their families. She noted that initiatives like providing merit scholarships for the education of staff's children, sanctioning immediate (Express) loans to members in emergency situations, and providing instant financial security to bereaved families in case of untimely death while on duty are commendable. She also said that financial gifts are being respectfully presented to

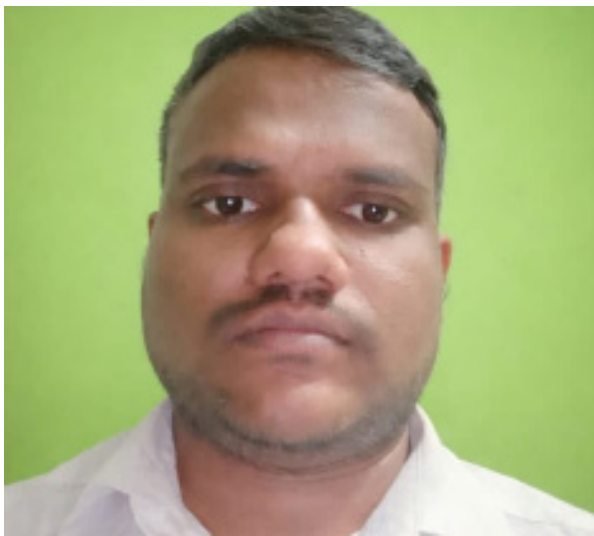
retiring members. She made it clear that they are always committed to the welfare of police personnel. " "The SP directed executive members to meet regularly and formulate proper plans. She called for transparent governance to ensure equal justice for everyone, from the lowest level to the highest officer, and stated that the main objective of the society is to support staff who are in financial difficulties. " "District Additional SP B. Ramulu Naik, AR DSP Veeresh, RI Nagaraju, District Police Association President T. Ashok, several SIs, RSIs, society directors, and police personnel participated in the program.

Chlorine Mock Drill at Sirpur Paper Mills – Focus on Safety Awareness



"Indian Chronicle Jade Srinivas.April, 21. " "Under the supervision of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Collector K. Hariitha, and led by Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories Ch. Lakshmikummar,a mock drill on chlorine leak handling was conducted on 21-04-2026 at Sirpur Paper Mills Limited." "On this occasion, an awareness session was also organized for employees on the handling of chlorine gas, emergency response measures, and necessary safety precautions.Collector K.Hariitha emphasized that strict adherence to safety standards in industries is extremely important. Deputy Chief Inspector Lakshmikummar advised employees to continuously improve their awareness of safety protocols.Officials stated that such mock drills help enhance quick response and coordination among staff during emergency situations.

Strict Legal Action Against Officials Who Deny Information Will Restore the Law: Prominent RTI Activist Ande Raghu



"UPPAL , APRIL 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL)":"Prominent RTI activist Ande Raghu stated that the Right to Information (RTI) Act can function effectively only when legal penalties are strictly enforced against officials who violate its provisions."Speaking to the media on Tuesday, Raghu said that he has been actively working as an RTI activist since 2012. He noted that he has filed several thousand applications with both central and state government departments over the years."He alleged that many officials neither respect the law nor fear its consequences. Highlighting the difficulties faced by applicants, he said that several officials are demanding exorbitant amounts, sometimes as high as ₹25,000, towards photocopying charges for providing merely 12 to 15 pages of information."Raghu further stated that a large number of RTI applications have reached the Information Commissioners, but in most cases, officials who failed to provide the requested information have not been punished. He expressed concern that even when penalties are imposed, they are often not implemented, and in many cases, the fines levied are not paid."He lamented that a law originally designed as one of the most powerful and useful tools for citizens in India has now, in the public's view, become one of the most ineffective laws."Referring to Article 19(1), he emphasized that the Right to Information is a part of the fundamental rights of citizens. He demanded that the Central Government ensure strict implementation of penalties against officials who deny information, stating that only then can the law be brought back on track.

KCR skipped key Assembly debates, says Minister

Adluri questions calls for govt. ouster; flags need for legislative engagement.



"Karimnagar, April 21 (Correspondent): State Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman Kumar on Monday alleged that BRS president and former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had failed to respond to repeated invitations to participate in key Assembly discussions, even as he criticised the Opposition's remarks against Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.Addressing a press conference at the R&B Guest House here, the Minister said the State government had extended due respect to Mr. Rao and sought his suggestions on several occasions. "No one wished any harm to him. As a former Chief Minister, he was invited to guide the present government," he said.

Mr. Kumar stated that Mr. Rao did not attend the Assembly despite being invited to take part in debates on the SC categorisation Bill and the proposed legislation on 42% reservation for Backward Classes. He termed the absence "unfortunate," given the importance of the issues.Condemning remarks made by Mr. Rao at a recent public meeting in Jagtil, the Minister said political discourse should maintain dignity. He took exception to BRS leaders addressing the Chief Minister in an "undignified manner," noting that Opposition leaders in the past had adhered to decorum.Questioning calls for the resignation of the Congress government, Mr. Kumar said the administration, which came to power in 2023 on a mandate for change, was implementing several welfare initiatives. These include issuance of ration cards, housing under the Indiramma scheme, free electricity up to 200 units, and distribution of fine rice. He added that four of the six poll guarantees had already been fulfilled.

The Minister also accused the previous BRS government of leaving behind a heavy debt burden, stating that the State was paying around ₹6,000 crore per month towards interest. He alleged that certain welfare schemes were sustained through "unsound financial practices."On paddy procurement, Mr. Kumar said the present government had streamlined the process, ensuring that farmers did not face difficulties. He added that a ₹500 bonus was being provided for fine varieties and that steps were being taken to prevent fertiliser shortages in the upcoming agricultural season.Referring to proceedings in the Assembly, the Minister observed that a large number of first-time legislators were looking to senior members for guidance. "It is important that experienced legislators uphold standards of debate and decorum," he said.

He also urged Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar to take steps for the movement of surplus rice stocks from FCI godowns and called for expediting action on the Kaleshwaram project case.Mr. Kumar said the Chief Minister would soon address a public meeting in Jagtil and assured that issues concerning RTC employees would be resolved through consultations with stakeholders.

Filing Criminal Cases Against Journalists for Critical Reporting Is Unjustified: Supreme Court



“Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas. April, 21.” New Delhi: The Supreme Court of India has observed that filing criminal cases against journalists for publishing critical reports on the government is not justified. Emphasizing the importance of media in a democracy, the Court stated that freedom of expression must be respected by all. “The observations came during the hearing of a petition filed by Uttar Pradesh-based journalist Abhishek Upadhyay, who approached the apex court seeking to quash the criminal case

registered against him by the government. A bench comprising Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice S.V.N. Bhatti made significant remarks regarding the protection of journalists' rights. The Court noted that in a democratic country, expressing opinions—including criticism of the government—is a fundamental aspect of free speech. “Referring to Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution of India, the bench reiterated that journalists are entitled to freedom of speech and expression, and such rights must be protected. It further emphasized that holding the government accountable through critical reporting is part of a journalist's duty. The Court also observed that initiating criminal proceedings against journalists for critical reporting could have a chilling effect on press freedom and undermine democratic values. “In this case, the Supreme Court granted interim protection to Abhishek Upadhyay, directing that no coercive action, including arrest, “be taken against him until further orders. “This development has drawn attention across media circles, with many viewing it as a significant step toward safeguarding press freedom in the country. The Court once again underscored that criticism of the government is not a crime but an essential feature of a functioning democracy.”

Azmath Nagar Culvert and Road Works Worth 1 Crore Completed, to Be Opened in 15 Days: BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj



UPPAL, APRIL 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “The construction of the Azmath Nagar culvert and adjoining road works in Chilkana Division, undertaken at a cost of ₹1 crore, has been completed and will be made available for public use within the next 15 days, BRS Party State leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said. “Inspecting the completed culvert along with GHMC officials, Praveen Mudiraj stated that the culvert built over the irrigation nala in Azmath Nagar Colony, along with the CC roads on both sides, has been fully completed. He added that the roads are currently undergoing the curing process and will be opened to the public within 15 days. “He said the project was taken up with the objective of providing better connectivity and conve-



nience to commuters traveling from the Secunderabad side through Kalyanpuri towards Chilkana and Boduppal, as well as for residents of the colony. “Praveen Mudiraj further noted that the newly constructed culvert and CC roads would be highly beneficial, especially during the ongoing Uppal corridor works, as they would ease travel for people commuting to Boduppal and Chilkana. “GHMC Work Inspector Kedar, senior leaders Edulla Kondal Reddy, Kokkonda Jagann, Muddam Srinivas Yadav, Balakrishna Goud, Banti Goud, Shyam, Azad, Srinivas Reddy, Azmath Nagar Welfare Association President Athishesh Rathod, Visasat Enclave President Amarendra Reddy, Gopal Rao, Hanumanthu Rao, Damodar, Srinivas Reddy, and several others participated in the inspection program.

Trade Licence Mandatory for Commercial Establishments;

Immediate Action Ordered on Senior Citizen Day Care Issues and Larva Prevention at Ramanthapur Lake — MMC Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy



“UPPAL, APRIL 21 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “Malkajigiri Municipal Corporation Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy has made it clear that all commercial establishments must obtain a valid trade licence without fail. “As part of the 99-Day Action Plan — Praja Palana — Pragathi Pranali, the Commissioner on Tuesday visited Sneha Nagar Park, Sneha Nagar, Street No. 8 in Habsiguda, and the Ramanthapur small lake, accompanied by officials and staff members. During the visit, the Commissioner held an interaction with senior citizens at Sneha Nagar Park. On the occasion, senior citizens requested an increase in park maintenance funds and urged that the funds be released on time. They also appealed for the immediate repair of the gym, improvement of the walking tracks, and development of the open areas within the park. “The Commissioner also inspected the Senior Citizen Day Care Centre, where he directed officials to resolve all room-related issues immediately. He instructed the staff to ensure that the premises are kept clean, functional, and user-friendly. “Later, he met members of the Self-Help Groups



(SHGs) in Sneha Nagar and discussed the process of transferring and deleting members from one group to another. He issued guidelines on the procedure for enrolling members into new groups as per regulations and instructed officials to simplify the transfer process to ensure smooth implementation.”

During his inspection at Habsiguda Street No. 8, the Commissioner reviewed trade licences of commercial establishments to verify whether they were complying with municipal rules and licensing standards. He warned that strict action would be taken against violations and advised traders to maintain all records properly. “At Ramanthapur small lake, the Commissioner inspected the presence of mosquito larvae and directed officials to take preventive measures, including the use of Gambusia fish and oil balls for larval control. He also instructed the authorities to take necessary steps to maintain the cleanliness of the lake. “The inspection was attended by Uppal Deputy Commissioner Shailaja, Uppal Town Planning ACP Nagi Reddy, sanitation staff, and entomology personnel.



Employment Guarantee Workers’ Protest Successful – Assurance on Resolving Issues

“Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas. April, 21.” The protest organized by employment guarantee workers in front of the Kagaznagar Sub-Collector's office concluded successfully. The workers submitted a memorandum to Sub-Collector Shradha Shukla. “The workers expressed their concerns over the lack of basic facilities at worksites, such as drinking water, tents, and medical support. They also highlighted that wages have been pending for the past three months and stated that the two-photo system is leading to loss of employment opportunities. “Responding positively, Sub-Collector Shradha Shukla assured that immediate steps would be taken to address the issues. She issued directions to provide necessary facilities at worksites and stated that she would personally monitor the situation. “Union leaders and workers participated in the protest.

Birthday Greetings Pour in at Residence of Chinta Prabhakar



MLA K Manik Rao and other leaders extend wishes... Leaders make a courtesy visit at his residence....

Zaheerabad April 21 (Indian Chronicle): “The birthday of BRS District President and Sangareddy MLA Chinta Prabhakar was celebrated grandly at his residence, with several public representatives, party leaders, and supporters gathering to extend their greetings. “On this occasion, Zaheerabad MLA K Manik Rao, DCCMS Chairman Shivakumar, former Market Chairman Gundappa, and others personally met Chinta Prabhakar and conveyed their

birthday wishes by presenting bouquets. “Similarly, party leaders including Tattu Narayana from Zaheerabad mandal, Zharasangham Mandal President Venkatesham, Mogudampally Mandal President Sanjeev Reddy, former Ketaki Sangameshwara Temple Chairman Narasimha Goud, Sarpanch Ashok Patil, and others attended the event and extended their greetings. “Speaking on the occasion, the leaders praised Chinta Prabhakar for his dedicat

Grand Celebration of Adi Shankaracharya Jayanti in Dattagiri Colony

“Devotional hymn recitations create spiritual fervor... women participate in large numbers, Annadanam organized..



“Zaheerabad April 21 (Indian Chronicle): “The Jayanti of Adi Shankaracharya was celebrated with great devotion and grandeur at Sri Saraswati Devi Temple in Dattagiri Colony, under the municipal limits of Zaheerabad in



Sangareddy district. The temple premises were filled with a spiritual atmosphere as a large number of devotees gathered to take part in the celebrations. “On the occasion, special pujas and rituals were first performed to Goddess Saraswati and Adi Shankaracharya. Later, around 100 women participated and commenced the program with the chanting of the Ashtottara Shatanamavali of Adi Shankaracharya. “The devotees then collectively recited various sacred hymns composed by Adi Shankaracharya, including Soundarya Lahari, Shivananda Lahari, Totakasthakam, Ganesha Pancharatna Stotram, Guru Ashtakam, and other stotras.

BJP Submits Memorandum to Police Over Illegal Cattle Transportation in Nyalkal

Allegations of unauthorized cattle movement at Gangwar X Road... “leaders demand strict action... “Zaheerabad April 21 (Indian Chronicle): “Alleging continuous illegal transportation of cattle without proper permissions through Gangwar X Road in Nyalkal mandal, leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have urged the police to take immediate action. A memorandum was submitted to the police by Nyalkal Mandal BJP President Mallesh Gangwar on this issue. “Speaking on the occasion, Mallesh Gangwar expressed concern over the alleged illegal movement of cattle and said it is unfortunate that cows, considered sacred by Hindus, are not being adequately protected. He stated that many people regard cows as highly revered and called upon the authorities to ensure their safety and prevent unlawful transportation. “He further demanded that the police closely monitor the situation at Gangwar X Road and tak



MGNREGA Workers’ Protest Succeeds; Sub-Collector Assures Swift Action



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 21: A protest staged by employment guarantee scheme workers in front of the Kagaznagar Sub-Collector's office, demanding immediate resolution of their issues, concluded successfully. “Following the protest, a memorandum was submitted to Sub-Collector Shradha Shukla. “Speaking on the occasion, Munjam Anand Kumar, District Convenor of the Telangana Agricultural Workers' Union (Kumuram Bheem Asifabad), expressed deep concern over the lack of basic facilities across the Kagaznagar division. He stated that workers are deprived of essential amenities such as drinking water, tents, and medical kits at worksites. He further pointed out that wages have been pending for the past three months, causing severe hardship to workers. “He also criticized the implementation of the “two-photo system” at worksites, stating that it has led to loss of employment for several workers, and demanded its immediate withdrawal. Additionally, he urged the authorities to recognize senior mates as field assistants, provide year-round employment to watchers, and ensure a minimum of 200 workdays per year for every worker. He alleged that the Central Government's “Vikasit Bharat” policy is adversely affecting workers' livelihoods. “Responding to the concerns, Sub-Collector Shradha Shukla interacted with the workers and assured that all issues would be addressed promptly. She stated that immediate steps would be taken to provide drinking water, tents, and medical facilities at worksites. She fur-

ther added that a review meeting would be conducted with officials of all mandals and that she would personally inspect the worksites. She acknowledged that the workers' demands are legitimate and assured that they would be brought to the government's attention for resolution. “The in-charge MPDO of Kagaznagar, Gouri Shankar, was instructed to ensure immediate provision of basic facilities, failing which strict action would be taken. The Sub-Collector also stated that she would personally visit the worksites to ensure compliance. “The protest witnessed participation from Telangana Agricultural Workers' Union district leaders B. Rajender, CITU District Secretary J. Rajender, NPRD District President P. Rajesh, along with a large number of employment guarantee workers, field assistants, mates, and watchers.

ACB books two women police officers in bribery case

Hyderabad: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) registered a case of criminal misconduct against Vikarabad Women's Police Station Inspector, B Saroja and her subordinate Sub-Inspector, H Rani for demanding and accepting a bribe last month.

According to the ACB, the Inspector and Sub-Inspector had demanded a bribe of Rs. 60,000 from a family for issuing notices in a criminal case and after negotiations reduced it to Rs. 40,000.

“Already, an amount of Rs. 20,000 was paid through the e-wallet platform to the Sub-Inspector in March. However, the police officials were pestering the family for the remaining Rs. 20,000 following which they complained to the ACB, which registered a case and arrested them,” said an official.

Soil Testing Awareness Program Conducted in Raikode Mandal

Farmers Educated on Balanced Fertilizer Management...



““Zaheerabad April 21 (Indian Chronicle).“An awareness program on soil testing and balanced fertilizer management was successfully conducted for farmers of Hulgera and Mohammadpur villages in Raikode mandal of Sangareddy district under the aegis of DDS–KVK. The primary objective of the program was to promote scientific farming practices among farmers.““On this occasion, soil testing expert E. Swami highlighted the importance of soil



testing in scientific nutrient management. He explained that soil analysis helps in assessing the fertility status of the land and enables farmers to apply fertilizers in the right quantities based on crop requirements. He cautioned that excessive or insufficient use of fertilizers can adversely affect crop yields and emphasized the need for soil test-based fertilizer application.““He also gave a practical demonstration on proper soil sample collection methods, inclu

Lack of Drinking Water in Government Offices Causes Hardship – CPM Expresses Anger



Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas.April, 21.““CPM district committee member Munjam Anand Kumar expressed

strong anger over the lack of drinking water facilities for people visiting government offices in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district. He stated that it is unfortunate that even basic amenities like drinking water are not available in offices meant to serve the public.“He pointed out that elderly people, women, and persons with disabilities who visit these offices daily are facing severe difficulties. The problem becomes more serious during the summer, as people are forced to wait for long hours without access to safe drinking water, which he termed as highly unjust.He demanded that the government take immediate action to provide proper drinking water facilities in all offices. He specifically called for the installation of water coolers and water tanks to ensure the availability of clean drinking water.“He criticized the situation as a clear example of government negligence and warned that if immediate steps are not taken,CPM will launch protests. He emphasized that it is the government’s responsibility to address public issues without delay.“

Mother Earth Fortnight Poster Unveiled in Kagaznagar

“Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas.April, 21.““Kagaznagar: As part of the “International Mother Earth Fortnight” being observed from April 15 to 30 under the aegis of the Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) and the National Green Corps (NGC),a poster unveiling program was held in Kagaznagar to promote environmental awareness.Sub-Collector Shraddha Shukla attended the event as the chief guest and formally unveiled the poster. Speaking on the occasion,she highlighted the growing threat of pollution to the planet and emphasized that protecting the environment is the responsibility of every citizen.She expressed concern over issues such as climate change, air and water pollution, and deforestation, stating that these challenges are putting the future of the Earth at risk.She urged people to adopt eco-friendly practices like reducing plastic usage, planting more trees, conserving water, and maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings.She also called upon students and youth to take a leading role in spreading awareness about environmental protection and to actively participate in such initiatives. District Coordinator Katakam Madhukar stated that various awareness programs are



being conducted in schools and colleges during the Mother Earth Fortnight to educate students about environmental conservation.MEO Vasala Prabhakar and Green Teacher Mohammed Sabir also spoke on the occasion,emphasizing the crucial role of students in safeguarding the environment.“Teachers,students, and officials participated in the event and pledged to contribute towards environmental protection.The organizers expressed hope that such initiatives would significantly enhance public awareness and encourage collective action to protect nature.

45 Kg of Banned Fake Cotton Seeds Seized in Narayanpur – Case Registered



“Indian Chronicle, Jade Srinivas.April, 21““Rebbena Mandal: In a joint operation conducted by the police and agriculture department officials, a large quantity of banned fake cotton seeds was seized in Narayanpur village. SI Venkatakrishna disclosed the details of the

incident.“According to him, around 45 kilograms of fake cotton seeds, worth approximately ?1 lakh, were seized from Golem Sattaiah, a resident of the village. He stated that these seeds are prohibited by the Telangana government as they pose a serious risk to farmers and can lead to significant crop losses.Acting on specific information, officials carried out inspections in the village and identified the illegal stock. Authorities warned that such low-quality and banned seeds can severely affect crop yield and cause financial losses to farmers.Based on a complaint filed by Mandal Agriculture Officer (MAO) Dileep, a case has been registered and an investigation is underway. SI Venkatakrishna stated that further inquiry is being conducted to trace the supply chain and identify others involved in the illegal trade.Officials advised farmers to remain vigilant and purchase only certified seeds from authorized dealers. They also urged the public to immediately report any suspicious sale of seeds to the concerned authorities.“This incident highlights the need for strict action against the illegal sale of banned seeds and raises awareness among farmers to stay cautious.“



“Indian Chronicle Tandur(April 21)““Police today conducted surprise checks at the main transport hubs, the bus station and railway station, in Tandur, Vikarabad district. According to a statement issued by Tandur DSP Narsing Yadav, on Tuesday, as per the District SP’s orders, suspicious bags were checked using a Papulon device at the town’s bus station and railway station. ““Tandur DSP Narsing Yadav, Tandur Town CI Parameshwar, SIs Ambarya, Najeed, and staff participated in this program.

Extensive police checks at bus station and railway station in Tandur



Collector Orders Completion of Voter Mapping Within Two Weeks

“Indian Chronicle, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad, April 21: District Collector K. Haritha has directed officials to complete the Special Summary Revision (SSR) voter mapping process across the district within two weeks.“On Tuesday, the Collector conducted a review meeting via video conference from the Integrated District Collectorate complex. The meeting was attended by Additional Collector (Revenue) David, Asifabad RDO Lokeshwar Rao, District Rural Development Officer Dattarao, and District Panchayat Officer Bikshapathi, along with Tahsildars, MPDOs, SERP APMs, VOs, and supervisors from all mandals under Asifabad and Sirpur constituencies.“Addressing the officials, the Collector emphasized the need to expedite the voter list special revision mapping process, which is set to commence shortly. She instructed that all voters be mapped with reference to the 2002 electoral rolls. For voters yet to be mapped, detailed information should be collected and verified with their place of origin, and the mapping should be completed through the Election Commission of India’s website.“She further directed that Panchayat Secretaries, Self-Help Group members, VOs, and supervisors must work in coordination to ensure 100 percent completion of the mapping pro-



cess within the stipulated time. The Collector also stated that the progress of the mapping process would be monitored on a daily basis.“The meeting was attended by Tahsildars, Mandal Parishad Development Officers, VOs, supervisors, SERP APMs, and other officials.“Issued by the District Public Relations Office, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad.

No Compromise on Worker Safety, Warns Collector at Mock Drill



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 21: District Collector K. Haritha has directed industrial managements to implement strict safety measures to prevent accidents and ensure the protection of workers.“On Tuesday, the Collector participated in a mock drill on industrial safety conducted

at Sirpur Paper Mills in Kagaznagar town. The programme was organized by the Industries Department of the Telangana Government as part of the Prajapalana Pragati 99-day initiative. She attended the event along with Nizamabad Deputy Chief Inspector C.H. Lakshmi Kumari and SPM Vice-President A.K. Mishra.“Addressing the gathering, the Collector emphasized that industrial managements must strictly adhere to safety standards and remain vigilant to prevent accidents. She stressed that adequate precautionary measures should be in place to safeguard workers at all times. In case of any unforeseen incidents, immediate response mechanisms must be activated without delay.“Highlighting the risks associated with hazardous substances, she instructed that chemicals such as chlorine and acids stored in industries must be handled with utmost care to prevent leakages. Technical experts should remain alert and ensure compliance with all safety protocols, she added.“The programme was attended by SPM General Manager S.M. Giri, Safety Manager R. Srinivas, Commercial GM Anil Kumar, and other officials.““Census Training Programme“Later, the Collector attended a training session at the Municipal Office in Kagaznagar for enumerators and supervisors involved in the house-listing process as part of the population census.“She advised the participants to carefully listen to the instructions given by master trainers and note every detail. In case of any doubts, they were asked to seek clarification promptly. She stressed that the house-listing process should be conducted accurately without any errors.“District Statistics Officer Guruvayya, master trainers Ushanna, along with enumerators and supervisors, were present at the programme.

Mango Orchard Training Program Held in Hothi ‘B’ Village

Awareness Session for Farmers Conducted by Horticulture Department....““Zaheerabad April 21 (Indian Chronicle):“A training and awareness program on mango orchard management was successfully conducted in Hothi ‘B’ village of Zaheerabad mandal under the aegis of the Horticulture Department. The main objective of the program was to educate farmers on scientific practices and enhance productivity in mango cultivation.““District Horticulture and Sericulture Officer Mr. Someshwar Rao attended the program as the chief guest and addressed the farmers. He explained in detail about the subsidies being provided by the Horticulture Department. He also elaborated on the precautions to be taken in mango orchards, the use of fruit covers to improve quality, and the scientific methods to be followed during harvesting. He further guided farmers on ways to increase their income through better orchard management practices.““He emphasized that the use of drip irrigatio[



Collector reviews Census preparedness, inspects hostel and water sources

Calls for error-free enumeration, better hygiene and steps to prevent summer water scarcity.“

Karimnagar, April 21 (Correspondent): Collector Chitra Mishra on Tuesday underscored the need for accuracy in Census operations, hygiene in welfare hostels, and proactive measures to prevent drinking water scarcity during a series of inspections and reviews in Choppadandi mandal.Reviewing the first phase of training for enumerators and supervisors at the Government Boys’ High School, along with Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Ms. Mishra directed staff to ensure error-free and transparent data collection for the 2027 Census. She said household details must be recorded with precision while maintaining confidentiality, and advised staff to clarify doubts related to the digital survey process. Personnel with prior survey experience should guide others to improve efficiency, she added.

The Collector said house-listing would be taken up from May 11 to June 9, followed by individual enumeration in February 2027. Supervisors and enumerators were asked to discharge their duties responsibly and ensure complete coverage.Later, Ms. Mishra conducted a surprise inspection of a Social Welfare hostel in Choppadandi. Inspecting the kitchen, toilets, dormitories and dining hall, she directed staff to maintain cleanliness and ensure that students do not face inconvenience. Warning against negligence, she said strict action would be taken against those failing to adhere to norms, and instructed staff to remain on the premises.

As part of efforts to address summer concerns, the Collector also inspected drinking water sources in Mallannapalli village under Gumlapur and Katnapalli gram panchayats. She directed officials of the Panchayat Raj and Rural Water Supply departments to ensure adequate supply based on local requirements and to complete pending



works without delay using sanctioned funds.Pipeline leakages, if any, should be repaired promptly to prevent disruption in supply, she said, asking officials to identify vulnerable habitations and submit detailed reports. She also called for a comprehensive assessment of single-phase motors and hand pumps, and directed departments to prepare a long-term plan to address water issues.District Panchayat Officer Jagadeeshwar, RWS Executive Engineer Srinivas, Tahsildar Naveen Kumar, MPDO Venugopal Chari and other officials participated.

Every Child Should Read Independently’: Collector Anudeep Durishetty



“Significant Improvement in Reading Skills Through ‘Every Child Reads’ Program”Khammam, April 21(INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Khammam District Collector Anudeep Durishetty stated that the primary objective of the “Every Child Reads” (ECR) program is to ensure that every student reaches a level where they can read independently. “He participated in the ECR success celebration program held at SR Gardens in Khammam, along with Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Sreeja. “Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the program, implemented successfully over the past six months, has led to a significant improvement in students’ reading abilities, as confirmed by assessments conducted by an independent agency. “Highlighting the importance of reading skills in delivering quality education, he said the program was designed with direct student interaction, weekly assessments, and adaptive strategies based on performance. “Special learning materials were developed according to students’ levels, with a focused approach on improving the performance of slow learners through customized teaching methods. “The Collector also mentioned that a special AI-based application was developed to simplify the assessment process and

reduce the burden on teachers while effectively tracking student progress. The engaging nature of the program encouraged active participation from children. “He explained that from December, separate learning materials were provided for both advanced and struggling students. The program was conducted daily during school hours from 3 PM to 4 PM, with structured activities including storytelling and reading exercises. “Students’ reading abilities were assessed at three levels—letters, words, and sentences. At the start of the program in October, about 55% of students were at the letter level, 34% at the word level, and only 11% at the sentence level. After 21 weeks of continuous effort, 85% of the 29,000 students can now read sentences, with 21,309 students achieving proficiency. “He noted that children are naturally curious, and once they gain confidence in reading, they can independently acquire knowledge. Officials from various departments also monitored the program by visiting schools and supporting improvements in underperforming areas. “Despite interruptions such as elections and Dasara holidays, the program was continued consistently, which contributed to its success. Weekly analysis of assessment results helped achieve steady progress from 11% to 85%. “The Collector appreciated the efforts of teachers and staff, stating they should take pride in this achievement. He recalled earlier reports indicating that many Class 5 students could not read Class 2-level texts, but said the situation in Khammam has now improved significantly. “He added that an SCERT team evaluated students’ reading abilities in February 2026, and the findings matched the ECR data, demonstrating the program’s effectiveness. “Improved reading skills, he said, also enhance students’ understanding of other subjects and analytical abilities. While the state average for word reading is 29%, Khammam recorded 53%. Similarly, sentence reading stands at 52% in Khammam compared to the state average of 32%. “The Collector expressed confidence that with continued efforts, the district can achieve 100% sentence-level reading proficiency in the upcoming academic year. He suggested focusing next on improving reading speed and comprehension, setting targets such as 30–50 words per minute. “Additional Collector Dr. P. Sreeja, speaking on the occasion, said it was a matter of satisfaction to celebrate the success of the program on Civil Services Day. She praised the dedication of teachers, staff, and officials, noting a remarkable 75% growth in reading ability over six months. “Later, the Collector and Additional Collector presented mementos to headmasters of top-performing schools and participated in a community meal along with students, parents, and teachers. “ZP CEO Deeksha Raina, District Education Officer Chaitanya Jain, Planning Coordinator C.H. Ramakrishna, CMO Praveen, mandal education officers, headmasters, parents, students, cultural artists, and officials were among those present.

Farmers Demand More Maize Procurement Centers, Removal of 26-Quintal Limit



“Khammam, Konijerla, April 21(INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Farmers staged a protest in front of the Tahsildar’s office in Konijerla mandal on Tuesday under the banner of the Telangana Rythu Sangham, raising several demands related to crop procurement. “The protesting farmers called for the establishment of more maize procurement centers in required villages and demanded the removal of the 26-quintal per acre procurement limit. They also urged the government to procure maize from farmers whose names were missed in the online registration process. “In addition, the farmers demanded the immediate opening of

paddy procurement centers and the adequate supply of gunny bags and lorries for transporting the procured produce. “A memorandum was submitted to Tahsildar Aruna outlining their concerns. “Speaking on the occasion, Telangana Rythu Sangham district secretary Bonthu Rambabu and senior leader Koppula Krishnaiah said that Konijerla mandal is among the top five areas in Khammam district in terms of maize cultivation. However, the lack of sufficient procurement centers is causing serious inconvenience to farmers. “They pointed out that maize yields this season are ranging between 45 to 55 quintals per acre, whereas the government’s procurement cap of 26 quintals per acre is forcing farmers to sell the remaining produce to private traders at lower prices, resulting in losses. “The leaders urged the state government to procure the entire produce to support farmers. They also criticized the delay in opening paddy procurement centers. “Farmers reiterated the need for sufficient gunny bags and transportation facilities to ensure smooth procurement operations. “Telangana Rythu Sangham Wyra division president Thallapalli Krishna, CITU leaders Cherukupalli Kutumba Rao, Sankranti Purushottam, Yanamaddi Ramakrishna, Lingala David Vijay Raj, Gudimalla Devasayam, Suranakanti Janakiramulu, Gumma Sai, Bandaru Venkanna, Balamala Yohanu, and several farmers participated in the protest. “

Government Gives Priority to Farmers’ Welfare: Maize Procurement Center Inaugurated



“Khammam ,Mudigonda, April 21(INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Emphasizing the government’s commitment to farmers’ welfare, State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao inaugurated a maize procurement center at Vanamvari Kishtapuram village in Mudigonda mandal of Khammam district on Tuesday. The center has been set up under the aegis of the Visala Cooperative Credit Society, Mudigonda. “The inauguration was conducted in the presence of former DCC President Puvvalla Durgaprasad. “Speaking on the occasion, Rayala Nageswara Rao stated that the procurement center would enable farmers to sell their maize directly to the government, preventing exploitation by middlemen. He assured that the crop would be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP) fixed by the government. “He advised farmers

to ensure proper moisture levels and quality standards while bringing their produce to the center. He also directed officials to make strict arrangements to ensure that the procurement process is transparent and carried out efficiently. “Several leaders and public representatives attended the event, including OBC Cell President Puchakayala Veerabhadram, Matkapalli Market Committee Chairman Ambati Venkateswara Rao, Vice Chairman Parsagani Tirupati Rao, Sarpanch Sarala, Mutharam Sarpanch Mamata, Pasupuleti Devender, Samineni Venkateswara Rao, Pallipati Krishna, Mallela Ajay, Bandela Nagarjuna, Chilakala Ramakrishna, Pullareddy, Vattikuti Upender, and others.

Sand should be booked for Indiramma's houses and government works:- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanti

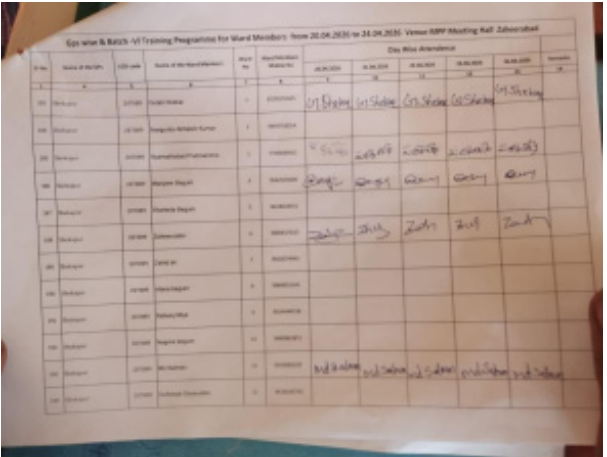
“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle..April 21):- The district can book sand for Indiramma’s houses and government works for its own household needs online through (MIV), District Collector Anurag Jayanti said in a statement. Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said..(7) sand ridges have been identified in the district. He said that these reaches are not found in Gundala, Addagudur, Motkur and Motakondur mandals. He said that as per the government’s instructions that sand booking and supply should be done online and the manual method should be discontinued, the sand supply in the district has been made through an online method. Those who need sand can apply online and get it from your service or internet shops through the website www.manaisukavahanam.com and from a smartphone through the Mana Sand Vehicle mobile app. On this occasion, he said that to prevent illegal sand trafficking, the Mana

Maize Farmers Stage Road Blockade in Nagulavancha, Demand Removal of Procurement Limit

“Khammam ,Chintakani, April 21(INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Maize farmers staged a road blockade protest at Nagulavancha village in Chintakani mandal on Tuesday, demanding that the government remove the 26-quintal procurement limit and purchase every grain produced by farmers through Markfed. The protest was organized by the Telangana Rythu Sangham at the YSR statue on the Khammam–Bonakal main road. Farmer leaders, speaking on the occasion, demanded that adequate lorries be arranged to transport the procured maize without delay. The road blockade, which began around 9 a.m., led to heavy traffic disruption on the busy road. The protest was later called off after Sub-Inspector of Police Veerender and Society CEO Yalamudi Srinivasa Rao reached the spot and held discussions with the farmer leaders, assuring them that their concerns would be addressed.



Forgery of Signatures in Training Attendance Register



Ward Member Lodges Complaint with Officials...“ Al- legations of signatures being marked in advance without attendance....“?? Complaint submitted to Collector, SP and other officials“?? Demand for a thorough inquiry...“Zaheerabad April 21 (Indian Chronicle):“A ward member from Shekapur village in Zaheerabad mandal of Sangareddy district has lodged a complaint with multiple authorities alleging forgery of his signatures in an attendance register during an official training programme. “The com-



plainant, Zaheeroddin, stated that he has approached the District Collector, Superintendent of Police, Hyderabad Commissioner, local Revenue Divisional Officer, and police officials seeking action in the matter. He alleged that the incident occurred during the ward members’ training programme being conducted at the Mandal Parishad office in Zaheerabad. “According to the complaint, the Telangana government is organizing training sessions for newly elected ward memb

Farmers should immediately check the moisture content of the paddy heaps harvested and then buy them

- Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao“



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle..April 21):- Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao has instructed the concerned officials to immediately check the moisture content of the paddy heaps harvested by the farmers and then buy them. “On Tuesday, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao and Additional Collector of Revenue Venka Reddy held a review

meeting for ADAs, MAOs and AEOs working in the Agriculture Department and Marketing, Cooperative and Civil Supplies Departments at the Collectorate Conference Hall. “Speaking on the occasion, he said that the AEOs should visit the paddy purchase centers every day and check the moisture content. He ordered that the paddy heaps should be inspected and their quality should be checked. He said that all the heaps should be checked to see if they have received moisture quickly. He informed that strict action would be taken against those concerned if they were negligent. The District Agriculture Officer was instructed to visit the area in the morning and submit a report with a spread-sheet. It was stated that no negligence will be tolerated and strict action will be taken against those concerned. He said that there should be no negligence in the inspection of grain, that people should be in the field from six in the morning, and that only quality grain should be transported to the mills. District Civil Supplies Officer Roja Rani, District Supplies Manager Harikrishna, District Agriculture Officer Ramana Reddy and relevant officials participated in this program.

Census-2027 training closing ceremony held within the municipality



Additional Collecto Rao. ““(Yadadri Bhuvan Chronicle..April 21):- Additi Bhaskar Rao attended the sus-2027 training held with guest. Speaking on the occ said that the census proces of the country. He said that can be implemented propo hensively and accurately. S enumerators and supervi bilities with commitment. He reach every house and rec that necessary guidelines h working at the field level throug the training program, and if they work in coordination, the census can be completed successfully. “Municipal officials, staff of the relevant departments and trainees participated in the program.



As massive fire reduces Indirapuram jhuggis to ashes, residents say they lost home, savings, identity

GNS News Agency, April 21

As teams of firefighters rushed in to contain the fire that tore through 150 to 200 shanties in Indirapuram in Ghaziabad on Thursday, residents were restless to go back to what once they called their home — towards the smouldering ruins of the jhuggis they stayed in. Smoke still curled out of heaps of charred tin and wood, houses and belongings reduced to coal and ash. In the debris, residents — mostly migrants from Bihar — sifted frantically through the remains, searching not for valuables, but for papers that could prove that they belong here: Aadhaar cards, ration cards, voter IDs and their children's birth certificates. "We only have these clothes that we are wearing, left. Now that everything is gone, how will we prove that we belong here?," 43-year-old Mohammad Hasim said. On Thursday afternoon, the fire allegedly started near one of the plastic factories and spread to the shanties in Indirapuram's Kanawani.

Ghaziabad District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar confirmed that there was no casualty. While officials said the fire broke out between 12.30 pm and 1 pm, residents said it started around 11:30 am, when children were at school and the adults at work. Most women residing in these jhuggis work as househelps in nearby high-rise buildings, while men work as labourers, e-rickshaw drivers or scrap workers.

Once the fire was brought under control, people rushed to collect utensils, appliances, cycles and everything they thought could be used. Mohammad Hasim, a resident of Bihar's Saharsa who works as a tailor in Vasundhara's Sector 2, lost his tailoring machine. "The clothes people had given me to repair are burnt. My Aadhaar card, the birth certificates of my daughters are burnt. What paper do I pro-



duce now to prove we are Indians?" he said wiping his tears. He was carrying one of his daughters

For 45-year-old Salma from Katihar, it was her daughter's gold jewellery that "melted" in the fire. "She was going to get married in June. All my savings have turned into ashes. Who will support us?" she said. Roza (28) and Salman (31) stared at their five-year-old son's new bicycle that still stood outside their jhuggi, but burnt. "His books are gone too. We had saved Rs 3,000 for his books and dress. That's gone too. I recently got my salary and saved some money for his books. What now?" said Roza. Even as smoke engulfed the area, people hardly stopped trying to collect whatever they could. "Our lives will not be normal any more. We pay Rs 2,000 to the local contractor to stay here. This month, he will ask for the rent too. We only have ashes left," said Sonu. The tragedy in Ghaziabad came a day after another slum cluster was destroyed in a similarly massive fire in Lucknow's Vikas Nagar on Wednesday evening.

Uproar over LSR college principal's cameo in BJP video: Students protest still on, say not all demands heard



GNS News Agency, April 21

Protests by students continued at the Lady Shri Ram College for Women (LSR) on Thursday, a day after demonstrations first broke out over Principal Kanika K Ahuja's appearance in a video shared by the BJP's official Instagram handle, in which she praised the Women's Reservation Bill. Seeking dialogue with the LSR administration and raising concerns over alleged restrictions on campus dissent, the students claimed that while the Principal met them on Thursday, she did not hear all their demands. "Today, we were supposed to meet the principal in the auditorium to discuss our list of demands, but she did not hear all of our demands," a third-year student who was part of the protest said.

The controversy stems from a video posted on April 13 on BJP's 'BJP4India' Instagram handle, in which Ahuja described the Women's Reservation Bill as "a constitutional course correction" that was "long overdue," and expressed hope that it would enable more women, including LSR students, to assume leadership roles. On Wednesday, students had raised slogans against what they described as the "safronisation" of the college, pointing to politically-affiliated speakers being invited to the campus. The third-year student emphasised that the protest was not directed at the legislation itself. "We are not against the Bill, we are simply against the fact that our college and its principal should not be associated with a specific political party," the student said, adding that they are "peacefully demanding a dialogue with the principal so that she can listen to their demands".

On Wednesday, Ahuja had told The Indian Express that her remarks shared in the video were made in a personal capacity. "The views were shared in the video in an individual capacity... it is important to distinguish between

personal intellectual engagement with a social subject and a formal institutional communique," she had said, adding that support for the Bill was rooted in "the fundamental principle of gender justice". The student, however, said that Ahuja's claim of expressing "personal views" was difficult to reconcile with the video that identified her as the LSR principal. Throughout Thursday, students circulated a formal statement reiterating that "this protest was not against the Women's Reservation Bill," but was triggered by "the platform on which it was delivered", calling the use of a party's official page "explicitly political" and in contradiction with the college's stated commitment to being "apolitical". In their list of demands, they sought a "formal statement clarifying that... students were not engaging in a conversation about the Bill", and called on the administration to "ensure that all political engagements on campus remain strictly non-partisan". On Wednesday, Ahuja had said the college's commitment to an apolitical environment "refers to an absence of partisan affiliation, not a detachment from critical social discourse".

Further, the statement by students demanded that the college "condemn the harassment faced by LSR students on online platforms and in public spaces", and urged the authorities to ensure that "no student should be persecuted by the administration for dissent in any form". The escalation on Thursday came alongside many students alleging that the LSR administration had contacted their parents regarding their participation in the protests. The college did not respond to queries on such claims. Adding to the tension was an email sent to students and the students' union by the college administration on Thursday, referencing a March 23 notice issued by the University of Delhi's Proctor's Office, which mandated prior written permission for any form of assembly or protest on campus and warned of disciplinary action, including possible rustication or police proceedings, for violations. It also urged the union to "ensure full compliance" with the regulations, and encourage students to attend their classes", while asking students to treat the matter "with utmost seriousness". "I, staff advisors, faculty and others in the administration have remained in active dialogue with students to address campus concerns. To ensure transparency, the Proctor's Office of the college has shared official Delhi University guidelines for protest/dharna... with students to keep all stakeholders informed of DU's regulatory framework and safety protocols," Ahuja said

Gujarat local polls 10 days away, but 722 seats already declared uncontested

GNS News Agency, April 21

EVEN AS the local body general elections for 9,952 seats across municipal corporations, municipalities and panchayats in Gujarat are days away, 722 seats have been declared 'uncontested' amid 1,663 withdrawals, as per official data. This comes even as the Congress party and several of its candidates were alleging that the latter were being threatened, and lured with money, tickets and positions by the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. These numbers may go up further as returning officers (ROs) were still making entries till the time of the filing of this report around 8 pm Thursday. The 722 uncontested seats include three seats where by-elections are due. The State Election Commission (SEC) data revealed that the most candidates declared uncontested winners are from municipalities or nagar palikas. Out of the total 7,819 nominations filed till April 11 for 2,624 seats in 84 nagar palikas going to election on April 26, 1,525 forms were cancelled. Out of the 6,294 valid forms, 468 were withdrawn, and 383 seats were declared uncontested. The data further revealed that the highest number of withdrawn forms were from seats in taluka panchayats. For the 5,234 seats in 260 taluka panchayats, 20,638 nominations were received, out of which 5,700 were canceled by the SEC. From among the 14,938 valid forms, 806 were withdrawn and 250 were declared uncontested, leaving 13,882 aspirants in the fray. In the 15 municipal corporations where elections are due for 1,004 seats, 43 seats were declared uncontested. The municipal corporations saw the withdrawals of 133 forms from a total nomination of 3,321 valid forms. On Thursday, when the nominations were being scrutinised, several Congress candidates in Ahmedabad alleged that they were being contacted by police, BJP leaders, social leaders from their community and even their own

relatives, who asked them to withdraw their nominations. To mark their protest, the Congress is planning a statewide protest, titled 'Lokshahi Bachao Andolan', soon, party sources said. It was previously reported that the Congress had already lost six of its candidates for Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation elections: five of them withdrew while one went 'missing' on the day of the filing of nominations. "I was asked to state an amount to withdraw my form. We were even offered that our house would be plastered and other facilities provided. Is this what we call 'vikas ki rajniti (development politics)'? I will never betray the Congress. My father-in-law is a Congressman, and my son too will be one," Jyotsnaben Chavda, 38, who is contesting on a Congress ticket from the Nava Vadaj ward, told at the party's Ahmedabad office, where she had gone to on Thursday to share her experience with other candidates. Some of the candidates were even taken to 'unknown' places by the party. "We are under so much pressure that we had to shift all four candidates to different offices... the candidates were put under pressure by senior BJP leaders," Anish Patel, the Congress office-bearer from the Nikol ward, told this newspaper. Ahmedabad City Congress Committee president Sonal Patel said the party's candidates were so scared that they had put in a request not to make their names public till the filing of nominations. "Under fear, they requested us not to declare their candidature. So, later we informed them individually over the phone. The BJP has used everything—from police, money and social pressure to even blackmailing some of our candidates—to force them to withdraw," she added. Payal Limbachiya, 29, Congress candidate from Viratnagar ward, said: "I started getting phone calls from influential persons known to me, including my business partners, asking me to withdraw my nomination. I was offered a BJP ticket in the next term."

Sent to clean a Nuh sewer without safety gear, two men died — and it wasn't even their job

GNS News Agency, April 21

Late Tuesday, 30-year-old Abdul Kalam, hailing from Saharanpur in Uttar Pradesh, was allegedly told by his contractor, Taufik, to help clean a sewer at the busy Ambedkar Chowk at Nuh's Firozpur Jhirka. It was not his usual work: he was a labourer who built sewer lines. Not thinking much of it, he climbed down the sewer — without any safety equipment, said Jamshed (55), Abdul's father.

Minutes earlier, his friend Rajendra Kumar (27), a sweeper, had also entered the 25-ft-deep drain to clean it, allegedly following instructions from Taufik. When Rajendra did not emerge, Abdul followed, trying to pull him out, said Jamshed, a farmer. Neither made it back — both had collapsed, overcome by toxic fumes. By the time help arrived, they had died, Jamshed said. A third worker, Mohammed Arbaz (28), who later went in with a rope, managed to come out alive. He was discharged from hospital on Thursday, police said. According to Jamshed, Abdul had returned to Nuh just a month ago after Eid, leaving behind his wife, his six-month-old girl, and his two-year-old son in Saharanpur. He was one of eight siblings — the only brother among seven sisters.

Based on a complaint filed by the families of the deceased, an FIR was registered at the City Firozpur Jhirka police station on Wednesday afternoon under Section 106 (death by negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita against the contractor, the junior engineer concerned and the sub-divisional officer. The contractor is absconding, and no arrests have been made so far, they added. A senior Haryana Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) official said the junior engineer has been suspended and action recommended against the sub-divisional officer on Thursday. "The contractor was given the tender four months ago to desilt the sewer after we received complaints in this regard. He will be liable to pay compensation to the deceased as per policy... strictest action will be taken," the official added. Speaking to The Indian Express, Sub-Inspector Shiv Prakash, Firozpur Jhirka Sub-Divisional Magistrate Laxmi Narayan and senior PHED officials confirmed the absence



of safety equipment. "I, too, had reached the spot immediately... there was no safety gear. It is an unfortunate incident," Narayan said. Assistant Sub-Inspector Krishan Kumar alleged the contractor took shortcuts. "They should never have been working on Ambedkar Jayanti (a statewide holiday) in the first place, and that too without necessary gear. We have sent notices to the accused to join the investigation." Yaseen Khan (35), who runs a sugarcane juice shop near the spot, said, "When the first worker did not come out for a long time, another went in without any rope or any other safety equipment. He soon started screaming... Following this, a third worker entered the sewer after we arranged a rope and managed to bring out one of the men (Abdul). By then the police had come... Soon after, the sub-divisional magistrate and other officials arrived." Mohd Sameer, a 20-year-old who runs a shop next to the drain, added, "They did not have any safety masks, ropes, or gear." An earthmover was eventually brought in. "We reached immediately. I called the earthmover but by then it was too late," said Mukesh Kumar, a home guard on duty at a police post overlooking the chowk. For Kalam's family, the grief is compounded by anger. "The contractor has not even come to meet us... We just want justice. We have his children to think about now," Jamshed said, adding that the family completed Abdul's last rites on Wednesday.

Karnataka clears 'Rohith Vemula Bill' to end campus discrimination against SC/ST students



GNS News Agency, April 21

The Karnataka Rohith Vemula, which faced long delays, is expected to be tabled during the Monsoon Session of the Assembly later this year. The Karnataka Rohith Vemula, which faced long delays, is expected to be tabled during the Monsoon Session of the Assembly later this year. The Karnataka Rohith Vemula (Prevention of Discrimination, Exclusion or Injustice) (Right to Education and Dignity) Bill, 2026, that aims to safeguard the rights of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students, was cleared by the state Cabinet on Thursday.

The legislation, which faced long delays, is expected to be tabled during the Monsoon Session of the legislature later this year. The Bill, when enacted, will prohibit discrimination against SC/ST students at all institutes of higher education—both public and private—and will compensate vic-

tims of harassment. As per its provisions, all institutes of higher education will have to form an 'Equity Committee' with the presiding member from the SC/ST communities. The committee will be a redressal authority if students from the said groups face discrimination from teachers or fellow students. In case of a complaint, the Equity Committee is empowered to submit a report to the institute.

"The higher educational institutions shall act upon and pass orders in accordance with the recommendations of the Equity Committee within a period of 30 days from the date of its receipt," the Bill said. Penalties will be imposed on the accused based on the nature and gravity of harassment, "frequency, severity and pervasiveness of the conduct," physical injury and/or mental trauma suffered by the aggrieved, and other factors. Higher Educational Institutes violating the law can face a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh from the state government, which could also refrain from providing any grant to institutions that violate the Bill. Though a draft of the Bill was published by the government a few months ago, it was delayed as the state went for wider consultation of the legislation. "The original form of the Bill required some tweaks. Changes were made, and the Bill is now cleared by the Cabinet," Law and Parliamentary Affairs minister H K Patil said. The legislation is named after Rohit Vemula, a Dalit research scholar at the University of Hyderabad who died by suicide on January 17, 2016, following discrimination on the university campus. The legislation was among the manifesto promises of the Congress ahead of the 2023 Karnataka polls.

Border farmers in Punjab seek speedy survey as plan to shift fence brings hope

GNS News Agency, April 21

Farmers living along the India-Pakistan border in Punjab have welcomed the Centre's decision to conduct a survey aimed at shifting border fencing closer to the international boundary. If implemented, the move will bring major relief to farmers long forced to cultivate their crops across the fence under tight BSF restrictions including limited farming hours and repeated security checks. Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann recently said letters have been issued to deputy commissioners (DCs) of border districts — Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Fazilka, and Ferozepur — to conduct surveys and assess how close the fencing can be moved to the International Border (IB).

Punjab shares a 532-km border with Pakistan, which is secured by a barbed wire fence. Considering the terrain and topography, the distance between the fence and the IB varies from a few feet at some places to nearly 2 km at others. As per an estimate, nearly 21,500 acres of land belonging to Punjab's farmers and another 10,000 acres of the government lies between the fence and the IB. BSF mans the gates that allows farmers access to the land. The gates, however, open for limited hours on designated days of the week. As per the BSF protocol, two Kisan Guards must accompany each tractor crossing the fence. There are also restrictions on the number of people allowed beyond the fence.

CM Mann said sub-divisional magistrates have been asked to conduct surveys so that inform 300-metre area can be demarcated for installing the barbed wire fence. On the ground, however, farmers say they are yet to see any progress. "We are yet to see the officials on ground. However it will be a great relief for us if the fencing can be shifted closer to the international border," said Karj Singh, a farmer from Khilchey village in Ferozepur district. He said farmers in his village and adjoining Nihalewala have nearly 1,000 acres of land that falls between fence and the IB.

Farmers are allowed to go beyond the fence for cultivation only at fixed hours decided by the BSF. "They cannot go before 9 am, are frisked, and are accompanied by security forces. They cannot stay in the fields after 4 pm, and are again frisked while returning. A significant amount of time of the security forces is also spent in checking our own citizens," Mann had said after meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Farmers say, if implemented, the move could significantly reduce daily hardships. Pargat Singh, a farmer from Mehdiapur village in Tarn Taran and president of BKU Rajewal (Tarn Taran), said: "It had been our long pending demand. In villages like Chhina Bhidichand, Khrala, Vaan, Dhal etc in Tarn Taran district, the fencing is nearly 1



kilometre inside the Indian territory. Farmers who go beyond the barbed wire to do farming are always seen with a suspicious eye". He added, "If fencing is closer to the international border, we can do farming without any tension and restrictions".

Harbhajan Singh, another farmer from Khunder Gatti, said they face difficulties in harvesting season too. "Often after the security check, we reach the farm after 11 am. Then an hour two later, they start telling us to wind up," he said. According to estimates, around 15–17 lakh hectares of land across nearly 220 villages in six border districts lie beyond the fence. Farmers and labourers are issued identity cards, and are allowed to working in their fields between 9 am and 5 pm in summer and 10 am to 4 pm in winter.

Senior BJP leader Rana Gurmeet Singh Sodhi said the issue had been repeatedly raised with the Centre. "This had been a long pending demand of farmers and we had been raising it before the union government for long. The survey work has started. This will bring relief to thousands of farmers," he said. The demand itself is not new. As far back as 2010, then Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram was confronted with the issue during a visit to Hussainiwala in Ferozepur district, where villagers raised concerns about fencing located deep in the Indian territory.

Farmers say the extent of the problem varies. In some villages, the fencing lies nearly a kilometre inside Indian territory, affecting cultivation and land value. "If fencing is pushed closer to the international border, land prices and lease prospects would improve," said Pargat Singh. However, not all areas stand to benefit equally. Rakesh Dhingra, a farmer from Mohammad Pira village in Fazilka, said, "In our village, the fencing is already at 300 meters only." Parkash Singh, a farmer from Tendiwala village in Ferozepur district, added that areas beyond the Sutlej river may continue under existing rules, though "a large number of villagers will benefit."

Iran war energy shock drives nuclear power plans in hard-hit Asia, Africa



GNS News Agency, April 21

Nairobi: The Iran war’s global energy shock is causing some nations in Africa and Asia to boost nuclear power generation and spurring atomic energy plans in non-nuclear countries on both continents.Asia, where most of the Middle Eastern oil and natural gas was headed, was hit first and hardest by disruptions to shipping routes carrying those fuels – swiftly followed by Africa. The US and Europe are also feeling the pinch as the conflict drives up energy costs.African and Asian nations with nuclear plants are increasing their output as they scramble for short-term energy supplies, while non-nuclear countries are accelerating long-term nuclear plans to safeguard against future fossil fuel shocks.Nuclear power isn’t a quick fix for the current energy crisis. Developing atomic energy can take decades, especially for nuclear newcomers. But long-term commitments to nuclear power made now will likely lock it in to countries’ future energy mixes, said Joshua Kurlantzick of the Council on Foreign Relations.

In Asia, the Iran war is pushing South Korea to increase nuclear power generation, while Taiwan is debating restarting mothballed reactors. In Africa, future plans to build reactors have taken on urgency, with Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa affirming their support.Nuclear power takes advantage of the energy released when the nucleus of an atom, such as uranium, splits in a process called fission. Unlike fossil fuels, this doesn’t release climate change-causing carbon dioxide. But it creates potentially dangerous radioactive waste, which is one reason many countries are cautious about nuclear power.

The war has accelerated a global “nuclear renaissance,” said Rachel Bronson of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, as countries seek an out from the risks of fossil fuel markets.There are 31 countries that use nuclear power, which provides about 10 per cent of global electricity, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, which says another 40 nations are either considering the technology or preparing to build a plant.

In Asia, where energy triage efforts range from increased coal use to purchases of Russian crude oil, countries with nuclear plants are seeking to get more out of their existing reactors.South Korea is increasing generation at its nuclear plants and speeding up maintenance at five offline reactors, with restarts planned in May.Taiwan and Japan are reversing policies that shuttered nuclear sites following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown, triggered when an earthquake and tsunami disabled the power supply that cooled the reactors.

Taiwan is considering the years-long process of restarting two reactors because of the current crisis, which will require meticulous inspections, safety checks and control system verifications.In Japan, since the start of the war, Prime Minister Takaichi Sanae has signed a \$40 billion reactor deal with the US, a nuclear fuel recycling agreement with France and promised Indonesia nuclear cooperation. Japan restarted the world’s largest nuclear plant, the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa site, in January.

Renewables, like solar and wind, make more sense for energy affordability and security, according to Michiyo Miyamoto of the US-based Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.While the Iran war is also driving consumer and government interest in renewable energy globally and in Japan, historically high electricity costs com-

bined with the current crisis are swinging Japanese public opinion toward acceptance of nuclear power, she said.

In South Asia, Bangladesh is racing to turn on new reactors built by Russia’s state-owned nuclear corporation Rosatom. Dhaka hopes they will supply the national grid with 300 megawatts by this summer, relieving some pressure from current gas shortfalls.Meanwhile, Vietnam signed a deal with Moscow in March for two Russian-designed reactors.The Philippines, which recently declared a national energy emergency, is also considering reviving a nuclear plant built in the aftermath of the 1973 oil crisis but was never turned on.“I hope we learned our lesson,” said Alvie Asuncion-Astronomo of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute. The Iran war is “providing a needed push for nuclear.”Soaring energy prices and power shortages in Africa, triggered by the Iran war, are leading to public calls for nuclear cooperation and reinvigorated interest in long-term nuclear energy plans, which are underway in more than 20 of the 54 African countries.With Africa seen as an atomic energy growth market, nuclear nations – including the US, Russia, China, France and South Korea – are pitching advanced technology such as small modular reactors, or SMRs, as a solution to energy shortages.

These modular reactors are a cheaper, more compact alternative to large-scale plants.Proponents tout them as a faster option, but projects can still take years. Kenya, for instance, plans to bring a small modular reactor online in 2034 after starting the first phase in 2009.

Last month, Justus Wabuyabo of Kenya’s Nuclear Power and Energy Agency said, “Nuclear energy is no longer a distant aspiration for African countries; it is a strategic necessity.” During a March summit convened by the U.N.’s nuclear watchdog agency, Rwandan President Paul Kagame said Africa will be “one of the most important global markets” for the smaller reactors in the years ahead.Smaller reactors, which can offer scalable, low-emitting base load power, are considered a solution to Africa’s rising electricity demand, weak grids and over-reliance on imported diesel.Similarly, Loyiso Tyabashe of the South African Nuclear Energy Corporation, said SMRs could “fulfil our strategic objective of positioning South Africa at the forefront of advanced nuclear technologies.” South Africa, which has the continent’s only existing nuclear plants, wants nuclear to go from making around 5 per cent of its energy mix now to 16 per cent by 2040.The energy disruptions come as competition for influence in Africa intensifies between Washington and Moscow.

Russia’s Rosatom is building Egypt’s first reactor and has cooperation agreements with Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Tanzania and Niger, spanning major projects, research centres, uranium processing facilities and training programs.While only Kenya and Ghana have joined an American-led modular reactor initiative, Washington is trying to catch up.The US and South Korea sponsored a nuclear conference in Nairobi last month. Ryan Taugher of the US State Department said Washington is working with African nations to rapidly develop secure and safe civil nuclear reactors.Ghana, which aims to begin building a nuclear plant in 2027, is in the market for foreign suppliers.

Risks like meltdowns and mismanaged waste remain, even as interest builds. Nuclear energy could also be a step toward building nuclear bombs.Ayumi Fukakusa, of the advocacy group Friends of the Earth Japan, said “nuclear is very risky” and will keep countries reliant on imported fuels such as enriched uranium.Given that nuclear sectors take years to develop, governments should stay focused on building out renewables for long-term energy security, said Rex Amancio of the Global Renewables Alliance.Bronson, with the atomic scientists group, also said nuclear plants are vulnerable during conflicts, citing recent instances where reactors were specifically targeted during the Iran war and the Russia-Ukraine War.“All of this comes into the mix of how we think about energy security,” she said. “Countries are now weighing those kinds of risks against the other risks, which Asia and Africa are seeing first and foremost, about what happens when gas and oil stop.

Trump says Iran war should end 'soon', both sides may meet at weekend



WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD,GNS News Agency, April 21 U.S. President Donald Trump expressed confidence that an agreement could soon be reached to end the Iran war and urged the Tehran-aligned Hezbollah group to hold its fire as a 10-day truce went in to effect ?between Lebanon and Israel.Trump said the next meeting between the United States and Iran could take place at the weekend and an extension of a two-week ceasefire was possible, but may not be needed as Tehran wanted ?a deal.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. "We're going to see what happens. But I think we're very close to making a deal with Iran," he told reporters outside the White House, adding if an agreement was reached and signed in the Pakistani capital Islamabad, he may go there for the occasion.Hours later while in Las Vegas, Trump went further, saying the war "should be ending pretty soon".

The war with Iran has been unpopular in the United States and has left Trump with a political headache just months before a crucial midterm election at home.The U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran that started on February 28 has triggered the worst oil price shock in history and led to ?an International Monetary Fund downgrade of its outlook for the global economy and a warning that prolonged conflict could push the world to the brink of recession.

A Pakistani source involved in mediating between the U.S. and Iran said on Friday there was ?progress in backdoor diplomacy and that an upcoming meeting between the two sides could result in the signing of an agreement.

The two sides would first sign a memorandum of understanding followed by a ?comprehensive agreement within 60 days, the source said."Detailed agreement comes later. Both sides are agreeing in principle. And technical bits come later," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.A diplomatic source said the key Pakistani mediator, army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir, had been ?holding talks in Tehran since Wednesday and had made a breakthrough on "sticky issues".OIL PRICE FALLS ON DEAL HOPES

Oil prices fell in early trade on Friday and Asian stocks headed for a second week of strong gains on optimism the Middle East conflict could be nearing an end, even ?though the critical Strait of Hormuz, an artery for a fifth of the world's oil and gas supply, remains effectively closed.The MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan(MIAPJ0000PUS), opens new tabwas down 0.8% as investors locked in profits after a blistering rally this month, with the index close to its highest since the Iran war broke out.slipped 1% after hitting a record high on Thursday and almost all stock markets were back to pre-war levels.

Brent crude futures declined to \$98.17 a barrel at 0434 GMT while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell to \$93.47 a barrel, trimming gains from the previous session.France and Britain will chair ?a meeting on Friday of around 40 countries aimed at signalling to the United States that some of its closest allies, many chided by Trump for failing to act, are ready to help restore freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz once conditions allow.

Iran has largely ?closed the strait to ships other than its own and Washington this week imposed a blockade on ships entering or leaving Iranian ports. Analysts said the blockade could prevent roughly 2 million barrels per day of

Iranian crude from reaching its primary buyer China.Only a trickle of vessels have passed through ?the strait since the ?war started, compared to an average 130-plus each day before the conflict.A map showing the inbound and outbound shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz, in addition to the the maritime boundary between Oman and Iran.HOPES FOR 'MEANINGFUL TALKS'The ceasefire in Lebanon went into effect on Thursday and Trump said he had spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Lebanese counterpart Joseph Aoun and planned to invite them to the White House for "meaningful talks" that could happen over the next week or two.Iran has insisted that any peace deal should also cover the fighting in Lebanon. The ceasefire was part of an understanding reached with the U.S. and mediated by Pakistan, Iranian media reported, citing a foreign ministry spokesperson."May have been a historic day for Lebanon. Good things are happening!!!" Trump said on social media late In an earlier post, he urged Hezbollah to respect the ceasefire."I hope Hezbollah acts nicely and well during this important period of time. It will be an ?GREAT moment for them if they do. No more killing. Must ?finally have PEACE!" he said.

Conflict between Israel and the Iran-backed ?Hezbollah in Lebanon was reignited by the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran. Hezbollah opened fire in support of Tehran on March 2, prompting an Israeli offensive in Lebanon that authorities say has killed 2,000 people, 15 months after their last major conflict.Celebratory gunfire rang out across parts of Beirut as the clock struck midnight on Thursday to mark the start of the truce and witnesses heard explosions from rockets fired in ?celebration, prompting a safety warning and threat of arrests from the Lebanese Army.But the pause in hostilities remained fragile, with the army early on Friday reporting that Israel had already violated the ceasefire ?with intermittent shelling of several southern ?Lebanese villages.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military, which had said earlier that its forces remained deployed in the area, in what a spokesperson said was in response to continued Hezbollah militant activity.Hezbollah released a lengthy statement on its military operations against Israel throughout Thursday, which listed its last attack as being 10 minutes before the ceasefire took effect.The truce was "essential, urgently needed and a demand shared by all," senior Hezbollah official Bilal Lakkiss told NBC News ahead of the start of the ceasefire, but said the group would not comply with Israel's demand that it ?disarm "except within a framework ?tied to a broader national security vision".

NUCLEAR AMBITIONS A STICKING POINTTehran's nuclear ambitions were a sticking point at talks in Islamabad last weekend, where the U.S. proposed ?a 20-year suspension of all nuclear activity by Iran. Tehran suggested a halt of three to five years, according to people familiar with the proposals.Trump on Thursday said Iran had offered not to possess nuclear weapons for more than 20 years.Iran has demanded that international sanctions be lifted and Washington has pressed for any highly enriched ?uranium to be removed from Iran.

Two Iranian sources said there were signs of a compromise on the HEU stockpile, with Tehran considering shipping part of it out of the country.Humeyra Pamuk is a senior foreign policy correspondent based in Washington DC. She covers the U.S. State Department, regularly traveling with U.S. Secretary of State. During her 20 years with Reuters, she has had postings in London, Dubai, Cairo and Turkey, covering everything from the Arab Spring and Syria's civil war to numerous Turkish elections and the Kurdish insurgency in the southeast. In 2017, she won the Knight-Bagehot fellowship program at Columbia University's School of Journalism. She holds a BA in International Relations and an MA on European Union studies.Ariba Shahid is a journalist based in Karachi, Pakistan. She primarily covers economic and financial news from Pakistan, along with Karachi-centric stories. Ariba has previously worked at DealStreetAsia and Profit Magazine.Shahzad is an accomplished media professional, with over two decades of experience. He primarily reports out of Pakistan, Afghanistan regions, with a great interest and an extensive knowledge of Asia. He also reports on politics, economy, finance, business, commodities, Islamist militancy, human rights

Macron, Starmer hold international summit on reopening Strait of Hormuz

GNS News Agency, April 21

Paris: The leaders of France and the UK will gather dozens of countries – but not the United States – on Friday to push forward plans to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a key oil route choked off by the US-Israeli war on Iran.The Paris meeting is part of attempts by sidelined nations to ease the impact of a conflict they didn’t start and haven’t joined, but that has sent the global economy reeling. After the war started on Feb. 28, Iran effectively shut the narrow strait through which a fifth of the world’s oil usually passes.The US is not part of the planning for what has been branded the Strait of Hormuz Maritime Freedom of Navigation Initiative. In a post on X ahead of Friday’s conference, French President Emmanuel Macron said the mission to provide security for shipping through the strait would be “strictly defensive,” limited to non-belligerent countries and deployed “when security conditions allow.”Macron and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer have spearheaded international efforts to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on Iran, which Starmer has accused of “holding the world’s economy to ransom.” US President Donald Trump’s announcement of a retaliatory American blockade of Iranian ports has raised the economic jeopardy even higher.“The unconditional and immediate reopening of the Strait is a global responsibility, and we need to act to get global energy and trade flowing freely again,” Starmer said before the meeting.France and Britain have also led military planning meetings, in an echo of the “coalition of the willing” assembled to provide security for Ukraine in the event of a ceasefire in that war.French military spokesman Col. Guillaume Vernet said Thursday that the mission is still “in construction.” Macron’s office said participants will contribute “each according to its capabilities,” stressing options to ensure safe passage through the strait will depend on the security situation after a lasting ceasefire.

“What matters is that ship operators have all the means at their disposal to be sure their vessels will not be hit if they pass through the strait. That may require intelligence, mine-clearing capabilities, military escorts, communication procedures with coastal states, etc.,” an official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with the French presidency’s customary practices.Sidharth Kaushal, a research fellow in sea power at the Royal United Services Institute think tank, said mine-clearing and creating a warning system for maritime threats were more likely roles for the coalition than warships escorting commercial tankers through the strait.“You need huge numbers of vessels for that sort of thing, which nobody has,” he said.Iran expert



Ellie Geranmayeh, deputy head of the Middle East and North Africa program at the European Council on Foreign Relations think tank, said mine-clearing is an area where European countries and their partners could play a role.“They would be a better party to do this than the United States, because once you have US military doing this and lingering on Iranian shores, it creates a potential arena for Iran and the US to have miscalculations and get back into a sort of military tension,” she said.Britain has discussed using mine-hunting drones, deployed from the ship RFA Lyme Bay, for a Hormuz mission.The war has highlighted the shrunken state of the Royal Navy, which has deployed just one major warship, destroyer HMS Dragon, to the eastern Mediterranean. France, which has the European Union’s most powerful military, has sent its nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to the region, alongside a helicopter carrier and several frigates.More than 40 nations have taken part in diplomatic or military meetings led by France and the UK in recent weeks, though fewer are likely to commit military resources.Macron’s office said about 30 countries are to attend Friday’s talks, including some from the Middle East and Asia. The list has not been disclosed. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni are expected to attend in person, with others joining by video.The operation is partly a response to Trump, who has berated allies for failing to join the war and said reopening the strait is not America’s job. The president has called allies “cowards,” said NATO “wasn’t there when we needed them”, and told Britain: “You don’t even have a navy.” “I imagine there’ll be some desire on the part of many European states, and potentially Canada, to demonstrate the ability to provide security in a way that’s distinct from if not completely separate from the US and which also demonstrates a capacity for independent action,” Kaushal said.

China turns Taiwan’s own voices against it in information war

TAIPEI, GNS News Agency, April 21- As Chinese warships and fighter jets staged massive drills around Taiwan in December, a parallel action was unfolding on smartphone screens.On Douyin, China’s version of TikTok, a news outlet run by the Chinese Communist Party posted a 51-second video of Taiwan opposition leader Cheng Li-wun accusing President Lai Ching-te of inviting Chinese aggression. Lai, Cheng said, was “dragging all 23 million of us” in Taiwan into a “dead end, a ?road to death” by pursuing independence. The clip quickly surfaced on Facebook, YouTube and other platforms popular in Taiwan.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.Chinese state media outlets are increasingly amplifying Taiwanese critics of the island’s ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), including influencers and politicians linked to the opposition Kuomintang (KMT), according to five Taiwanese security officials and data from ?Taipei-based research group

China imports the public statements of leading KMT and other opposition figures that are critical of the Taiwan government and pumps them out in a torrent of anti-DPP messaging in Chinese state media and on social media platforms in China, according to the data and sources. Those clips are then reshared and often repackaged for consumption on platforms popular in Taiwan, including Facebook, TikTok and YouTube, as well as on Douyin, sometimes embellished or presented in ways that obscure China’s hand.While China has in the past employed Taiwanese figures in its propaganda, it has turbocharged this information-warfare tactic, the Taiwan security officials said: Familiar voices and accents can sound more credible. The goal is to discredit a government Beijing accuses of seeking independence, the officials said. And, with the DPP seeking \$40 billion in extra defense outlays, the campaign also appears aimed at convincing Taiwanese that China’s ?military power is so overwhelming that it is futile for Taiwan to spend heavily on more American weapons, according to IORG and three of the security officials.

A giant screen shows a news report on China's "Justice Mission 2025" military drills around Taiwan, in Beijing, China December 30, 2025. /Tingshu Wang/File Photo Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab

China’s Taiwan Affairs Office and defense ministry didn’t respond to requests for comment about Beijing’s in-

formation warfare.Taiwan’s defense ministry told Reuters it is countering a massive increase in Chinese “cognitive warfare” by “strengthening the armed forces’ media-literacy skills and psychological resilience. President Lai’s office added that cross-strait peace must be “built on strength, not on concessions to authoritarian pressure.”

Facebook, TikTok and YouTube, which are blocked in China, didn’t respond to questions about Chinese information warfare. Douyin also didn’t respond ?to a request for comment.China considers Taiwan part of its territory and hasn’t ruled out using military force to seize it. Taiwan’s government rejects China’s sovereignty claim, saying it is already an independent country called the Republic of China, its formal name. Beijing refuses to speak with the DPP administration, and calls Lai a “separatist.”

While Chinese preparations for military action against Taiwan continue, the information warfare ?is part of Beijing’s strategy of wearing down Taiwan without resorting to force. In this regard, Taiwan's opposition KMT provides a valuable opening for China: The party has moved to seek closer ties with Beijing in a bid to head off what it says is a crisis made worse by the DPP government’s provocation of China.Cheng Li-wun, chairperson of the Kuomintang (KMT), Taiwan’s largest opposition party, shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China April 10, 2026, in this screengrab from a video provided by CTI. CTI via REUTERS/TP ATTENTION EDITORS - THIS IMAGE WAS PROVIDED BY A THIRD PARTY..... Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab Read moreCheng, the KMT leader, met Chinese President Xi Jinping this month ?in Beijing, where Xi told her the KMT and the Communist Party must “consolidate political mutual trust” and “join hands to create a bright future of the motherland’s reunification.”In a statement to Reuters, the KMT said Cheng’s visit to Beijing fulfilled a campaign pledge and continued a long-established tradition of top-level meetings between the KMT and the Communist Party. The two parties have many differences, but both believe disagreements should be resolved through dialogue, it added.Data provided to Reuters by IORG, also known as the Taiwan Information Environment Research Center, shows the mechanics of the Chinese campaign. The non-partisan group of social scientists and data analysts is funded in part by the U.S. and European governments, and academic institutions in Taiwan.

Hungarian 'Master of the apocalypse' Krasznahorkai wins 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature

GNS News Agency, April 21

won the 2025 Nobel Prize in Literature on Thursday "for his compelling and visionary oeuvre that, in the midst of apocalyptic terror, reaffirms the power of art".Laszlo Krasznahorkai is a great epic writer in the Central European tradition that extends through Kafka to Thomas Bernhard, and is characterised by absurdism and grotesque excess," the Swedish Academy, which awards the prize, said in a statement.Read about innovative ideas and the people working on solutions to global crises with the Reuters Beacon newsletter. Sign up here."But there are more strings to his bow, and he also looks to the East in adopting a more contemplative, finely calibrated tone."TRAVELS TO CHINA AND JAPAN LEFT DEEP IMPRESSION

The settings of his novels move across central Europe's remote villages and towns, from Hungary to Germany, before skipping to the Far East, where his travels to China and Japan left deep-seated impressions on Krasznahorkai.The American critic Susan Sontag crowned Krasznahorkai contemporary literature's "master of the apocalypse", the Academy said, "a judgement she arrived at after having read the author's second book Melancholy of Resistance".The second Hungarian to win the prize, worth 11 million Swedish crowns (\$1.2 million), after Imre Kertesz in 2002, Krasznahorkai was born in the small town of Gyula in southeast Hungary, near the Romanian border.

His breakthrough 1985 novel, Satantango, is set in a similarly remote rural area and became a literary sensation in Hungary."The novel portrays, in powerfully suggestive terms, a destitute group of residents on an abandoned collective farm in the Hungarian countryside just before the fall of communism," the Academy said.Across the region, collective farms had been set up when farming land was confiscated at the start of communist rule, and many had become symbols of mismanagement and poverty by the time it ended in 1989."Everyone in the novel is waiting for a miracle to happen, a hope that is from the very outset punctured by the book's introductory (Franz) Kafka motto: 'In that case, I'll miss the thing by waiting for it'," the Academy said.Krasznahorkai has repeatedly referenced "The Castle" by Kafka as a key influence."When I am not reading Kafka, I am thinking about Kafka. When I am not thinking about Kafka, I miss thinking about him," he told the White Review in 2013.CRITICALLY ACCLAIMED SCREEN ADAPTATIONS

Krasznahorkai had a close creative partnership with Hungarian filmmaker Bela Tarr. Several of his works have been adapted into films by Tarr, including "Satantango", which runs to more than seven hours, and "The Werckmeister Harmonies". "When I read (Satantango), I knew it immediately that I must make a film based on it," Tarr told Reuters by phone. "I am very happy... it's hard to say anything right now."Their collaboration has garnered



critical acclaim. In 1993, he received the German Bestenliste Prize for the best literary work of the year for "The Melancholy of Resistance".Krasznahorkai's writing may resonate with readers immersed in news from Russia's war in Ukraine or the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."We seem to have entered the 21st century in a more hostile and bleak environment than we hoped for at the end of the 20th," said Jason Whittaker, Professor of Communications at the University of Lincoln."So actually ... some of the bleak and darkly comic elements of books such as Satantango actually will resonate with many more readers than previously."Established in the will of Swedish dynamite inventor and businessman Alfred Nobel, the prizes for achievements in literature, science and peace have been awarded since 1901.Past winners of the prize include French poet and essayist Sully Prudhomme, who bagged the first award, American novelist and short story writer William Faulkner in 1949, Britain's World War Two Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1953, Turkey's Orhan Pamuk in 2006 and Norway's Jon Fosse in 2023.Last year's prize was won by South Korean author Han Kang who became the 18th woman - the first was Swedish author Selma Lagerlof in 1909 - and the first South Korean to receive the award.Over the years, the choices made by the Swedish Academy have drawn as much ire as applause.

In 2016, the award to American singer-songwriter Bob Dylan sparked criticism that his work was not proper literature, while Austrian Peter Handke's prize also drew criticism in 2019.Handke had attended the funeral in 2006 of former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, seen by many as responsible for the deaths of thousands of ethnic Albanians who were killed in Kosovo and the displacement of almost 1 million others during a brutal war waged by forces under his control in 1998-99.Prizegivers have also in the past been accused of ignoring some of the giants of literature, including Russia's Lev Nikolayevich Tolstoy, France's Emile Zola and Ireland's James Joyce.

Pope Leo invokes criticism of Trump's policies in first major document



VATICAN CITYEMS GNS News Agency, April 21Pope Leo made an urgent plea for the world to help immigrants in his first major document, which was released on Thursday and invoked one of the late Pope Francis' strongest criticisms of U.S. President Donald Trump's anti-immigration policies.Leo's document, known as an apostolic exhortation, is focused on the needs of the world's poor. It calls for widespread changes to the global market system to address rising inequality and to help people living paycheck-to-paycheck.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

The 104-page text started as a writing project by Francis, who was unable to complete it before his death in April after 12 years leading the global Church of 1.4 billion people. It was finished by Leo, the first U.S. pope."I am happy to make this document my own – adding some reflections – and to issue it at the beginning of my own pontificate," Leo writes at the beginning of the text.Cardinal

India, South Korea sign pact to boost MSME ties?

New Delhi: India and South Korea have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to bolster cooperation in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises sector as part of efforts to strengthen bilateral economic ties during President Lee Jae Myung's visit to India.The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between India's Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and South Korea's Ministry of SMEs and Startups, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.The Memorandum of Understanding establishes a structured framework for collaboration between the two Ministries, enabling sustained dialogue on key issues related to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and facilitating the exploration of mutually beneficial opportunities.It seeks to promote a deeper understanding of each other's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises eco-systems and enhance engagement between stakeholders, the statement issued by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Ministry said.

The agreement aims to boost trade and investment by fostering cooperation through the exchange of information and experts, sharing of best practices, business matchmaking, and technical and economic collaboration.?It also supports joint initiatives to strengthen linkages between

Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises of both countries.?

This partnership marks a significant step towards deepening India–Korea economic cooperation and underscores the shared commitment to empowering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises as key drivers of inclusive growth, innovation, and employment generation, the statement said.India and South Korea have exchanged a joint declaration to resume negotiations to upgrade the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and the Framework for the India-Korea Digital Bridge.These were signed and exchanged after the talks between PM Modi and the President of South Korea, Lee Jae Myung, here on Monday. ? In his press statement, PM Modi said that in this era of global tension, India and Korea together convey a message of peace and stability.He said that, through shared efforts, both India and Korea will continue to contribute towards a peaceful, progressive, and inclusive Indo-Pacific. ? The Prime Minister said that both nations are laying the foundation for the success stories of the next decade. ?He said that, to further deepen partnerships in artificial intelligence, semiconductors, and information technology, the India-Korea Digital Bridge is being launched as the two countries transform their trusted partnership into a futuristic one.

China honing abilities for a possible future attack, Taiwan defence report warns

GNS News Agency, April 21

TAIPEI, Oct 9 (Reuters) - China is increasing military activities near Taiwan and honing its ability to stage a surprise attack, as well as seeking to undermine trust in the government with "hybrid" online warfare tactics, the island's defence ministry said on Thursday.Democratically-governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, has faced increased military pressure from Beijing over the past five years, including at least seven rounds of major war games around the island since 2022.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

"The Chinese communists have adopted routine grey zone harassment tactics, combined with joint combat readiness patrols, targeted military exercises and cognitive warfare, posing a comprehensive threat to us," the defence ministry said in a report released every two years.Grey zone refers to non-combat operations designed to put pressure on Taiwan such as coast guard patrols, damage to under-sea cables and flying balloons.China's coast guard is expanding its activities around Taiwan and may in future take "aggressive containment measures" in concert with the military while rehearsing attack scenarios, the report said.Beijing is also using "hybrid warfare" to weaken people's trust in the government and support for defence spending, and using artificial intelligence tools to weaken Taiwan's cybersecurity and to scan for weak points in critical infrastructure, it added."Through both conventional and unconventional military actions, it aims to test its capabilities for attacking Taiwan and confronting foreign forces," the ministry said.

China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment. China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control.A China Coast Guard vessel is seen on a giant screen showing news footage about the coast guard's law enforcement patrols in waters around Taiwan, outside a shopping mall in Beijing, China, April 1, 2025. REUTERS/Florence Lo Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabChina could also try to suddenly shift drills into active combat mode to catch Taiwan and its international supporters off guard, posing a significant threat to re-



gional peace and security, Taiwan's ministry added.In recent years, China has been extensively using civilian roll-on/roll-off merchant vessels for military transport operations and continues to develop specialised equipment for beach landing operations, the ministry said.The report said China is using a "professional cyber army" to manipulate social media accounts and flood them with misinformation to sow division in Taiwanese society and weaken trust in the government.

Chinese state media outlets and collaborators have also worked to weaken the will to fight, it said.The ministry added China has also been using deepfake technology to make videos and utilising AI to "generate polarising political rhetoric".China considers Taiwan President Lai Ching-te a "separatist". Lai rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, saying only the island's people can decide their future.Taiwan's government has embarked on a military modernisation programme and pledged to spend 5% of GDP on defence by 2030.The report was released one day before Lai gives his key national day speech. China last year held war games after that same event in what it said was a warning to "separatist acts".China's last formal war games around Taiwan took place in April, though its warplanes and warships operate almost daily in the skies and waters close to the island.

EU's von der Leyen survives no-confidence votes in parliament



GNS News Agency, April 21

EU lawmakers rejected the two motions of censure with 378 members of the 720-strong parliament expressing support for von der Leyen in the first vote and 383 in the second.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

Von der Leyen said in a post on X that she deeply appreciated the support and that her team of commissioners would work closely with the parliament to tackle

Europe's challenges.The results were slightly better for the EU executive chief than in July, when 360 lawmakers voted against a motion brought by mainly far-right lawmakers, although below the 401 votes for von der Leyen's re-election for a second term in July 2024.Although the motions of censure had almost no chance of reaching the two-thirds majority required to unseat von der Leyen, some lawmakers said they could expose more general disquiet over her leadership and destabilise the EU assembly, whose backing is required to pass legislation.Parties outside the mainstream have realised that previously seldom-used censure motions are easy to trigger after the 2024 elections swelled the far right to more than 100 lawmakers,

with only 72 required to back one.Both censure motions criticised von der Leyen for accepting an unbalanced tariff deal with the United States and proposing a trade agreement with South American bloc Mercosur, which critics say threatens farmers and the environment.The U.S. and Mercosur deals will be put to votes in the European Parliament in the coming months, with the outcomes unclear.

India-China flights to resume after five years from October 26



GNS News Agency, April 21

The Centre on Thursday (October 2, 2025) gave the green signal to resume direct flights between India and China after a gap of five years, with IndiGo's flights from Kolkata to the trading hub of Guangzhou set for take-off from October 26."It has now been agreed that direct air services connecting designated points in India and China can resume by late October 2025, in keeping with the winter season schedule," a statement from the Ministry of External Affairs said, adding that the move will "further facilitate people-to-people contact between India and China, contributing towards the gradual normalisation of bilateral exchanges."The statement was followed by IndiGo announcing daily flights between Guangzhou and Kolkata, adding that the trading city would be connected with New Delhi soon, "subject to regulatory approvals". Tickets for flights between Kolkata and Guangzhou will open for sale from Friday (October 3). Industry sources said Air India too expects to start flights to Shanghai "before the end of the year".In July, the Indian government had announced resumption of tourist visas to Chinese nationals.Direct flights between India and China have been suspended since March 2020, when India halted all international travel amid the Covid-19 pandemic. While restrictions eased gradually for many countries, flights to China remained suspended due to heightened tensions along the Line of Actual Control.IndiGo's flights start on the first day of the winter schedule that begins on the last Sunday of October. The annual aviation timetable is divided into summer and winter schedules and allows airlines to plan and adjust flights. Summer schedule starts from the last Sunday in March.

On the resumption of flights by Chinese carriers such as Air China, China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, and Shandong Airlines, sources said there has been a delay in submission of their applications to the government. Air China is learnt to have sought permission to connect Beijing with Delhi and later Mumbai, said one industry veteran.Though all international flights were banned on March 22, 2020, as part of lockdown measures to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, international flights gradu-

ally resumed from the first week of May 2020 through special air bubble arrangements until March 2022, when normal commercial international flights were once again permitted. But direct flights between India and China did not restart because of tensions in the relationship between the two countries following the Galwan Valley clash of June 2020.The disruption had especially impacted small traders. For over five years, travellers needing to move between India and China relied on connecting flights via third-country hubs such as Hong Kong and Singapore, resulting in increased travel time and costs.The tourism industry welcomed the government's decision. "China is one of the world's largest sources for outbound tourism and has a significant contribution to inbound tourism for India. Resumption of air links between the two countries is welcome, especially as India hasn't yet reached pre-COVID levels of inbound tourists, which used to be at 11.5 million and today lags behind at 9.5 million," said founder-chairman of STIC Travel Group of Companies, Subhash Goyal.

Canadian PM Carney visits Trump as relations between them remain at a low point

GNS News Agency, April 21

Washington: Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney will meet with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office on Tuesday at a time when one of the world's most durable and amicable alliances has been fractured by Trump's trade war and annexation threats.Carney's second visit to the White House comes ahead of a review next year of the free trade agreement, which is critical to Canada's economy. More than 77 per cent of Canada's exports go to the US.Trump's talk of making Canada the 51st state and his tariffs have Canadians feeling an undeniable sense of betrayal. Relations with Canada's southern neighbour and longtime ally haven't been worse."We've had ups and downs, but this is the lowest point in relations that I can recall," said Frank McKenna, a former Canadian ambassador to the United States and current deputy chairman of TD Bank."Canadians aren't being instructed what to do; they are simply voting with their feet," he said. "I talk every day to ordinary citizens who are changing their vacation plans, and I talk to large business owners who are moving reward trips away or executive business trips. There is an outright rebellion." There is fear in Canada over what will happen to the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement. Carney is looking to get some relief on some sector-specific tariffs, but expectations are low.

Govt should nominate members to Tata Trusts, say some trustees



“There is a good case for the government to appoint one or two trustees of high standing like former judges or reputed scientists to restore order and credibility,” a trustee, who did not wish to be named, told The Indian Express. Pointing to a culture where unanimity and consensus was the norm in decision-making, the trustee said, “RNT (Ratan Tata) would be turning in his grave. Mehli Mistry is now Noel’s (Noel Tata, the current chairman of Tata Trusts) foe but they have used each other in the past and may do so again,” the trustee said, indicating a deepening rift within Tata Trusts.

These demands come close on the heels of former trustee of Tata Trusts Mehli Mistry approaching the Maharashtra Charity Commissioner now seeking the appointment of an administrator to run the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT). He was voted out of the Tata Trusts by their boards last November. In his filing, he has also highlighted alleged governance failures, contested board decisions and possible conflicts of interest.

Earlier, Mistry had challenged the eligibility of Venu Srinivasan and another trustee Vijay Singh (former defence secretary) on the board of Bai Hira Bai Jamsetji Tata Navsari Charitable Institution, citing they were not Parsis. Srinivasan quit the trust citing commitments to other businesses; Singh did not comply. Questioning the manner in which Srinivasan was allegedly forced out, the trustee said this had happened for the first time in the history of the Tatas. But Tata Trusts CEO Siddharth Sharma said that “the Trustees have spoken in one voice in ensuring that the Trusts perform their core functions efficiently and effectively, and continue to move the needle forward on social change.” “The observations made shall be duly responded to at the appropriate forum,” he said.

US Russian crude waiver expires: What it could mean for India’s oil imports from Russia

The US has allowed the one-month sanctions waiver on buying Russian oil already on the water to expire, and will not be extending it, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a press briefing in Washington. Bessent’s comments pertaining to the waiver, which expired on April 11, came close on the heels of the US Department of the Treasury announcing that a similar sanctions waiver issued for Iranian oil won’t be extended beyond its expiration date of April 19. “We will not be ?renewing the general license (sanctions waiver) on Russian oil, and we will not be renewing the general license on Iranian oil. That was oil that was on the water prior to March 11. So all that has been used,” Bessent said at a White House briefing early Thursday India time.

With global oil supplies squeezed due to the effective halt in vessel movements through the Strait of Hormuz amid the West Asia war, these waivers aimed to allow more barrels of oil to reach the international market, thereby easing the supply situation and exerting downward pressure on spiralling oil prices. Experts saw these moves from Washington as part of President Donald Trump’s effort to prevent a further and sustained spike in international oil prices—and the consequent rise in domestic fuel prices in the US—given the midterm elections later this year.

While these short-term waivers, particularly the one on Russian barrels already loaded on tankers, helped bring more oil to the market, their impact on international oil prices is not so clear, as prices have remained elevated since early March. Moreover, the waivers attracted criticism from various sections within the US; critics argued that the waiver for Russian oil led to a windfall for Moscow, which in turn would be used to fund its war effort in Ukraine. Similar arguments were made against the waiver for oil from Iran, with whom the US was locked in battle in West Asia. India cashed in big on the waiver to buy Russian oil already on water. The country’s Russian oil imports surged through March and April so far, as its refiners moved quickly to secure supplies amid the global supply crunch. Although the West Asia crisis persists, the waiver is now gone, which could lead to some reduction in oil flows from Russia to India. Nonetheless, Russian oil is likely to dominate India’s oil import slate for the foreseeable future. How India capitalised on the Russian oil waiver

The sanctions waiver for Russian crude was first issued specifically for India in the first week of March and was later extended to all other countries. This waiver allowed countries to import Russian crude for a month—including from sanctioned entities and on board sanctioned tankers—that was loaded on or before 12:01 am Eastern Daylight Time, or 9:31 am India time, on March 12. A week later, a similar waiver was issued for Iranian oil loaded on tankers before March 20. While government sources maintained that India didn’t require a waiver from the US to buy oil from Russia, industry experts said that the waiver indeed helped.

That is because Indian refiners were able to take deliveries of Russian oil on sanctioned tankers and could deal directly with US-sanctioned Russian companies, like Rosneft and Lukoil. Moreover, it temporarily removed any friction between Washington and New Delhi over the latter’s hefty purchases of Moscow’s crude. For India, the Russian oil waiver allowed for a fast ramp-up of imports of Moscow’s oil amid the major disruption in supplies from West Asia. Indian refiners were also able to secure some cargoes of Iranian oil, marking the first deliveries of Tehran’s crude to India in nearly seven years, although the volumes were insignificant when compared to imports of Russian crude. Around 2.5–2.7 million barrels per day (bpd) of India’s crude imports—accounting for around half of the country’s total oil imports—have transited the Strait of Hormuz in recent months; the longer-term average is around 40%. Most of that supply is effectively offline due to the war.

While India was buying significant volumes of Russian crude even before the West Asia war began, the quantity had reduced notably over the past few months, evidently due to the US imposing sanctions on Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil, and amid trade pact negotiations with Washington. The US made a meaningful reduction in India’s

Denying claims of the trustee that Tata Trusts were not functioning well, Sharma told The Indian Express that unified leadership among Trustees, along with strong systems, dedicated personnel and a deep commitment to public service, enables the Trusts to carry out their core functions effectively and sustain increased philanthropic spending. “For the record, we have ended FY25-26 with a philanthropic spend of Rs 1,586 crore, an increase of 270% over the last three years, and are on course to deliver approximately Rs 1,900 crore in the current fiscal. This kind of increase in philanthropic spending is not possible in the absence of robust structures, systems & processes, dedicated personnel and, above all, a passion and commitment to public service,” Sharma said. In his latest petition, Mistry has questioned the legitimacy of the current SDTT board, arguing that certain trustees may not meet eligibility criteria outlined in the trust deed, including requirements related to religion and residency. He claims that decisions made by such a board, particularly those involving governance and appointments, may lack legal validity. SDTT is the largest shareholder in Tata Sons, holding a 28% stake, followed by the Sir Ratan Tata Trust with 24%, while other Tata trusts collectively own an additional 14%. Together, SDTT and the Sir Ratan Tata Trust control around 66% of Tata Sons, the Tata Group’s holding company, underscoring the broader significance of the dispute. Observers said the unity and cohesion within Tata Trusts have weakened. During Ratan Tata’s tenure, decisions were typically made through consensus, but that approach seems to have eroded. Mehli Mistry’s reappointment was blocked by other trustees in October 2025, and in September 2025, Vijay Singh was voted out of a board position at Tata Sons.

More recently, both Venu Srinivasan and Vijay Singh have pushed for listing Tata Sons, apparently against Noel Tata’s wishes. The listing of Tata Sons, the principal shareholder of Tata group of companies, on the stock exchanges has become a hot issue in the ongoing Tata group saga. Tensions have surfaced within Tata Trusts and Tata Sons — two major institutions in the Tata family — as disagreements over strategy, regulatory challenges and governance continue among trustees. At the centre of the debate is a divide on the group’s future direction, with some trustees advocating for listing to unlock capital for expansion, while Noel Tata remains opposed to the move. Concerns are mounting over rising losses in several unlisted entities, raising questions about financial sustainability and capital allocation.



Russian oil imports a prerequisite for scrapping its 25% additional penal tariff on New Delhi. In February, India had imported just over 1 million bpd of Russian crude, almost half of the 2025 peak of over 2 million bpd. Even with the significant reduction in volumes, Russia was India’s largest source of crude in February, accounting for about a fifth of its total oil imports. Then, with the war in West Asia raging and the sanctions waiver in place, India’s Russian oil imports nearly doubled to 2 million bpd in March, accounting for a whopping 44.4% of India’s total oil imports for the month even as imports from West Asia crashed, according to tanker data from commodity market analytics firm Kpler. In the first two weeks of April, India’s Russian oil imports averaged 1.6 million bpd.

With the waiver now gone, there could be some adjustments and downward pressure on oil imports from Russia, even as Moscow is likely to remain India’s largest source of crude oil in the coming months, according to industry insiders and experts. For India, which is the world’s third-largest consumer of crude oil and depends on imports to meet over 88% of its requirement, there aren’t any major alternatives to West Asian oil—in scale, quality, and pricing—apart from Russia in a market that continues to grapple with geopolitical uncertainty. “The adjustment is more likely to be operational rather than structural—with refiners leaning toward near-term loaded barrels and avoiding directly sanctioned entities, rather than stepping away from Russian crude altogether,” said Sumit Ritolia, manager, modelling & refining at Kpler.

“It’s difficult to see India materially stepping back from Russian barrels. The decision isn’t just about sanctions optics any more; it’s about supply security and economics in a much more fragile system. With continued geopolitical uncertainty and the situation around the Strait of Hormuz still far from normal (restricted transits, higher risk, slower flows), Middle East barrels are not as straightforward as they used to be. In that context, Russian crude continues to offer a clear advantage—both in terms of pricing and relatively stable logistics via non-SoH (Strait of Hormuz) routes,” Ritolia said. Some industry experts pointed out that while Indian refiners would not directly want to deal with sanctioned Russian oil suppliers—to avoid the risk of attracting secondary sanctions from the US—a number of previously little-known suppliers, intermediaries, and traders have gradually gained a foothold in Russian oil trade over the past few months, particularly after US sanctions on Rosneft and Lukoil took effect in November

Experts believe that with new entities in the market, Russian oil volumes reaching Indian ports can be maintained at significant levels, as long as the US doesn’t go after these new players or target them or Indian buyers with secondary sanctions. To be sure, Russian oil per se is not sanctioned by Washington; only a few Russian oil companies like Rosneft and Lukoil are. Also, over the years,

Russia has built a strong and agile network of tankers to transport its oil, helping its oil trade thrive despite a growing number of tankers being sanctioned by the US and other Western powers. This essentially means that Indian refiners can continue to buy Russian crude as long as no sanctioned entity, vessel, bank, or service provider is involved, and if the seller can provide documentary proof that the oil is not sourced from the sanctioned players. The threat of secondary sanctions from the US is the reason why countries like India, while politically opposed to unilateral economic sanctions, usually steer clear of countries and other entities sanctioned by Washington.

Veteran actor Ranjeet shares a glimpse of his workout at 84: ‘Toh hamesha fit rahuga..’



Actor Ranjeet, 84, recently shared a glimpse of working out with his daughter Divyanka Bedi, who happens to be his coach as well. “Ayeeee... Agar aisa hi workout karuga, to hamesha fit rahuga... tnx to my coach & daughter,” (If I keep working out like this, I will stay fit...) he shared on his Instagram. In the video, he can be seen doing a standing cable chest fly, where the handles are brought forward and together in front of the chest to work the pectoral muscles. “For individuals in their 80s, this exercise can be beneficial when done with proper care. It helps improve chest strength, which supports daily movements like pushing and getting up, and also enhances shoulder mobility by maintaining range of motion. Additionally, it contributes to better posture by preventing rounded shoulders and is relatively low-impact, making it more joint-friendly compared to heavier exercises,” said consultant dietitian and fitness expert Garima Goyal. However, safety is extremely important at this age. The exercise should always be done with very

light resistance, controlled movements, and without overstretching the arms. “It should be stopped immediately if there is any pain or discomfort, especially in the shoulders,” Goyal said.

From a practical perspective, while cable chest fly can be included occasionally, the main focus for people in their 80s should remain on walking, balance training, light strength exercises, and joint mobility to maintain overall functional independence, as Goyal noted. “Even simple exercises like light strength training, resistance band work, and functional movements can make a huge difference. They help in preserving muscle mass, improving bone health, and reducing the risk of falls,” said Goyal.

Hailing his efforts, Goyal said that what stands out is not the intensity, but the consistency and intent. “At this age, the goal is not six-pack abs or heavy lifting. It’s about maintaining mobility, muscle strength, balance, and independence. And that’s exactly what his routine reflects,” said Goyal. Training in the presence of a trainer and family member is also very important. “It ensures safety, correct form, and motivation. For older adults, supervised workouts reduce the risk of injury and build confidence,” mentioned Goyal. According to Goyal, from a health perspective, staying active at 84 is not just about fitness; it’s about quality of life. Regular movement supports better joint health, improved circulation, and even mental well-being. “The biggest takeaway here is that it’s never too late to start. Fitness doesn’t have an age limit. It just needs to be adapted to your body, your capacity, and your lifestyle,” said Goyal.

‘How do I know if I had an early miscarriage or a period?’

A delayed cycle, heavier bleeding, or cramps that feel more intense than usual can make you pause and question what your body is going through. When something doesn’t feel like your usual period, the uncertainty can be hard to ignore. A similarly stressed netizen posted this query on Quora: How do I know if I had an early miscarriage or just a period? So we decided to dig deeper and find a medically rooted answer. According to Dr Pooja Chaudhary, Consultant – Obstetrics, Gynaecology, and Laparoscopic Surgery at Motherhood Hospitals, Greater Noida, the difficulty lies in how closely the symptoms can resemble one another in the early weeks. The confusion is natural; however, Dr Chaudhary points out that “an early miscarriage can feel like a heavier or more painful period,” often accompanied by “stronger cramps, larger clots, and sometimes tissue-like discharge.” These signs can make a cycle feel noticeably different, but they don’t always offer a clear answer on their own. Why it’s easy to mistake one for the other: miscarriage An early miscarriage may involve heavier bleeding than usual, larger clots or tissue, and stronger, more persistent cramping than a typical period (Image: Pexels) Part of the confusion also comes from timing. An early miscarriage can often be mistaken for a heavy or delayed period, especially before a pregnancy is confirmed. “In many cases, it is quite common, and many women may not even realize they were pregnant,” which is why the experience may simply pass as an unusual cycle.

Signs that may point towards a difference There are some patterns that may stand out. “An early miscarriage may involve heavier bleeding than usual, larger clots or tissue, and stronger, more persistent cramping than a typical



period,” Dr Chaudhary notes. However, since the symptoms can overlap, a pregnancy test or medical check is the “only reliable way” to confirm. Because of this overlap, paying attention to how your body feels is important—especially if symptoms are intense. Dr Chaudhary advises to seek medical attention if the bleeding is very heavy (soaking a pad every hour), severe pain, fever, or dizziness occurs, and also to consult a doctor “if you had a positive pregnancy test or if there is any doubt, to confirm and ensure there are no complications.”

A couple of blood tests can further help in getting a confirmed answer. You can also keep a track of your blood hCG levels, since “falling levels can indicate a miscarriage.” In addition, “an ultrasound scan is also used to see if the pregnancy is developing normally or if there are signs of pregnancy loss,” helping provide a clearer understanding of what the body has experienced.

Archana Puran Singh shares a glimpse of her ayurvedic journey: ‘Evening snack’



Archana Puran Singh, 63, who is currently at an Ayurvedic retreat in Bengaluru, gave a glimpse of her simple food, in which she can be seen indulging in rice-flour momos with soy filling. “Evening snack,” she wrote on her Instagram Stories. In another Instagram Story, she shared the morning view. Taking a leaf out of her wellness diary, we asked an expert about consuming rice flour at night. Dr Amreen Sheikh, chief dietitian at KIMS Hospitals, Thane, said rice flour snacks can be a light, easy-to-digest choice, especially in the evening when digestion naturally slows. “Compared to deep-fried or packaged snacks, they usually have fewer additives and are easier on the stomach. They provide quick energy since rice is a simple carbohydrate, but they may not keep someone full for long unless paired with some protein or healthy fats,” said Sheikh.

How do such snacks fit into an Ayurveda-style routine?

Ayurveda often focuses on eating simple, warm, and easy-to-digest foods. “Rice flour preparations, when cooked lightly with minimal oil and spices, fit well with this approach. They are gentle on the gut and suitable for people who want to avoid heavy or oily foods in the evening. The goal is to support digestion rather than overload it late in the day,” said Sheikh. momos Here’s what Archana ate at the retreat (Photo: Archana Puran Singh/Instagram Stories)

Are there any downsides to regularly relying on rice flour snacks?

Since rice flour is mostly carbohydrates, eating it alone may lead to a quick bout of hunger later. “It can also cause sudden spikes in blood sugar if eaten in large portions. People working to manage weight or blood sugar levels may need to balance it with fibre or protein, such as adding vegetables or serving it with a chutney made from nuts or seeds,” said Sheikh. Archana Puran Singh retreat Archana Puran Singh shared a glimpse of the retreat What is the best way to make this snack more balanced? Sheikh said that adding grated vegetables, a small amount of protein like curd on the side, or using a mix of flours can improve its nutritional value. “Keeping portions moderate and avoiding excessive oil helps maintain its lightness. Simple tweaks can turn a basic snack into something more filling and balanced without losing its traditional appeal.”

Why snakes eat their own kind

Cannibalism might sound shocking—almost like something out of a horror story. But in the world of snakes, it’s not as rare or unusual as we imagine. In fact, scientists are now finding that snakes have evolved to eat their own kind multiple times across history.

In fact, according to a study published on Nov. 2, 2025, in the journal Biological Reviews, which evaluated around 500 documented cases across more than 200 species, suggests that this behaviour has evolved at least 11 times independently. That’s not random, but a pattern, with strong survival reasons. Snakes are opportunistic feeders. They don’t always stick to one type of prey. If food is scarce and another snake is available, they may take that chance. In difficult conditions, this can provide a high-energy meal while also reducing competition. snake The research team gathered 503 cases of reported cannibalism across 207 snake species (Image: Unsplash)

Researchers believe this behaviour is often triggered by lack of food, environmental stress and competition for resources. In such situations, eating another snake isn’t unusual but an efficient diet plan. “For us humans, we don’t think of cannibalism as something common — it’s some-

thing weird and disgusting,” Bruna Falcão, lead author of the study and a graduate student in biology at the University of São Paulo, told Live Science. “But for snakes, it’s good for them; it’s good for their ecological fitness. ... It’s strategic,” he further added. It’s more common than expected Cannibalism has been observed across multiple snake families, including Colubridae, Viperidae and Elapidae. Some cases happen in the wild, while others are seen in captivity, where stress, space limitations, or lack of food may increase the chances of such behaviour. There have even been rare instances of male snakes eating females outside the mating season—something that seems unusual, but may still be linked to survival pressures.

However, not every snake can eat another snake. One key factor is their ability to stretch their jaws wide enough to consume large prey. Many of the species that show cannibalism are also generalist feeders, meaning they can adapt their diet based on what’s available. This flexibility makes it easier for them to turn to cannibalism when needed. Isn’t it strange and fascinating how survival pushes even one of the most dangerous creatures on the planet to resort to extreme measures for survival?

How a Jasprit Bumrah dropped catch fueled Prabhsimran Singh's match-winning knock



GNS News Agency, April 21

Last year, the Punjab Kings (PBKS) had perhaps their best IPL season in over a decade, but fell at the final hurdle. In the early stages of IPL 2026, they look determined to go that one step further, maintaining their winning run against a hapless Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium

The cornerstone to each of PBKS' three wins in IPL 2026 before Thursday was a platform set up by one of their openers at the top of the order. After Priyansh Arya had stolen the show against Chennai Super Kings, his partner Prabhsimran Singh rose to the occasion with a 25-ball 51 against Sunrisers Hyderabad on Saturday. The right-hander showed that performance was not a one-off on Thursday, smashing his way to an unbeaten 80 runs off 39 balls, in an innings filled with 11 fours and two sixes, to hand the five-time champions an unprecedented fourth straight loss of the season. Prabhsimran's innings got off to a flier, with two boundaries in the first over. Those could have well been his highlights with the bat, had Jasprit Bumrah held on to a catch at backward point off Hardik Pandya's bowling in the fourth over when he was on 11. The wicketkeeper-batter made MI pay for that drop. Allah Ghazanfar had sent his opening partner, Arya, cheaply back to the hut in the second over, leaving the onus on Prabhsimran to build the innings. After adopting a cautious approach in the remainder of the powerplay after Arya's dismissal, the floodgates opened in the eighth over. Deepak Chahar has not looked like the bowler he once used to be, and the right-hander struck for a six and a four over long-off and towards fine leg to up the ante in the chase. Hardik Pandya reintroduced himself in the tenth over, but the surge against Chahar had given the wicketkeeper the impetus he needed in his innings.

He struck Pandya for two boundaries to propel the

PBKS innings and leave MI searching for options, outside of Ghazanfar, to make the inroads. The 50 came up in the following over, and on a flat pitch and against an attack looking more toothless with each passing over, runs were there taking for the taking for the right-hander. He made full use of the opportunity on offer, staying unbeaten till the end to ensure PBKS coasted home to a win and remained unbeaten in IPL 2026. While Shreyas Iyer is expectedly the batsman whom oppositions look to remove early, the consistency shown by Prabhsimran in the early stages of the tournament should augur the side well. He had his most prolific season with the bat last year, where he made 549 runs in 17 matches at a strike rate of 160.53, playing a pivotal role in PBKS' march to the final. If the early stages of IPL 2026 are anything to go by, PBKS can expect their dynamic opening batsman to either match or even go past that number in IPL 2026. Arshdeep comes good

Some of India's frontline pace bowlers have endured a torrid start to IPL 2026, with flat pitches and short boundaries not helping them find any rhythm for a large part of their spells. The fortunes finally turned for Arshdeep Singh on Thursday. After conceding 50 runs in his previous match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, he produced his best spell of IPL 2026, claiming 3/22 in four overs.

The signs were promising from the first over as the left-arm gnat got the ball to swing away from the left-handed Mumbai Indians opening duo of Ryan Rickelton and Quinton de Kock, who scored a brilliant century. Success followed soon after as Rickelton became his 100th IPL victim, holding out to Shashank Singh in the third over.

The onus was on Suryakumar Yadav to help MI recover from the early dent, but Arshdeep removed his India T20I captain off the very first delivery that he faced, angling the ball away from him to find the outside edge, and Yuzvendra Chahal took a sharp catch at short third man. PBKS had reduced the hosts to 12/2 in the powerplay with Arshdeep setting the tone. It was exactly the start they were looking for after Shreyas Iyer won the toss and elected to field on a surface that had no help for pace or spin. Later on, with de Kock on the charge for MI, Iyer brought back Arshdeep to stem the run flow and the pacer delivered to his captain's call, removing the dangerous Sherfane Rutherford with a pinpoint yorker and sending him on his way back for one run. The dismissal meant that a score that looked good to either touch or cross the 200-run mark would now finish in the mid-190s.

How Instagram reels and a Ricky Ponting pep talk helped Arshdeep Singh rediscover form in IPL 2026

GNS News Agency, April 21

After an indifferent start to his IPL 2026 season, Punjab Kings pacer Arshdeep Singh swung back to his best during a thumping seven-wicket win over the Mumbai Indians night. Opening the attack at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai, the left-arm seamer notched up a milestone 100th wicket with his first strike that removed MI opener Ryan Rickelton caught down at square leg. It was a wobble delivery that swung back into the left-hander before Arshdeep startled his India captain Suryakumar Yadav with a first-ball dismissal, a beautiful outswinger that clipped the outside edge down to short third. Arshdeep eventually walked away with figures of three for 22 in four overs.

Arshdeep had gone wicket-less for four matches, starting with the T20 World Cup final against New Zealand last month, before finding two scalps in the previous match, but leaked 50 runs. After returning to his best version with movement and toe-crushing yorkers in Mumbai, Arshdeep revealed how his love for Instagram reels and a neat chat with head coach Ricky Ponting worked in his favour. "I love the support and a lot of credit goes to my social media," said Arshdeep in the post-match presentation on Thursday night. "I love making reels and I love posting on social media. So a lot of them know me [for] reels. I love it and I'll keep doing that for them. You'll see a lot of reels coming." The two-time T20 World Cup winner admitted that he had confessed to his head coach Ponting that his bowling form had dipped considerably since the most recent title win in March. "It feels good and it goes back to having a chat with Ricky after one of the training sessions. I told him I wasn't



feeling the way I should feel, the ball is not coming out of my hand really well and [I] had a nice pep talk with him," explained Arshdeep. "How I can keep myself fresh mentally and how I was just expecting too much out of myself and not letting things to be simple and just going by the flow." "I told him the ball didn't feel right when it left the hand. The chat was nothing technical, but he told me I was expecting too much from myself, coming off from a high of the World Cup win, and said you can't maintain that all the time," Arshdeep explained, pointing out that finding that rhythm for early wickets was as much a mental battle as a technical one. And who would know more about winning World Cups than Ricky Ponting? Punjab are currently coasting at the top of the table, and remains the only unbeaten side in the IPL 2026 season with four wins and a washed out match across five games.

'Shreyas Iyer is the new chase master': Former India opener compares PBKS captain's batting to Virat Kohli



GNS News Agency, April 21

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer's scintillating form continued as his side extended their unbeaten run in the IPL 2026 season with a seven-wicket thrashing of the Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday night. Iyer's dominant run has coincided with Punjab translating their form from last season, sealing three consecutive 190-plus chases. The India ODI vice-captain has been at the heart of all three wins in a row, scoring three back-to-back half-centuries.

On his home ground, Iyer steered another chase against MI with a masterful fifty. Backing up opener Prabhsimran Singh's unbeaten 80, Iyer's half-century landed the hosts their fourth defeat in five games. Former India opener Aakash Chopra hailed Iyer's efficiency in IPL chases, likening his presence to that of India legend Virat Kohli. "Iyer is the new chase master. We talk about Virat Kohli. If we are attaching someone else's name with him, it's an achievement in itself, but the truth is that his numbers are like his. He has an average of 65 and a strike rate of 180 in chases in the last two years," he said. "He goes after finishing the match. He got out this time, but the match was over. He had gotten out against Chennai as well, but the match was over. He has gotten out one or two times for sure, or else the average would have been 80. Shreyas is

'Hardik Pandya should take a break from captaincy': Ex-India batter slams MI captain after 4th loss



GNS News Agency, April 21

Mumbai Indians' fourth successive defeat in the IPL 2026 season has raised alarm bells for the five-time champions, with former India batter Manoj Tiwary criticising Hardik Pandya's captaincy after the crushing defeat to Punjab Kings at the Wankhede Stadium. The seven-wicket loss defending a 195-run total left Pandya scrambling for answers in the post-match chat. Despite starting the season on a fine note with a record chase at the Wankhede, MI have subsequently endured defeats by considerable margins. Tiwary slammed Pandya's comments after the loss to Punjab, insisting that he may have indirectly pointed fingers at certain senior players, such as Suryakumar Yadav and Tilak Varma for their indifferent outings.

"There's not much to say right now. We need to go back to the drawing board and figure out where we're lacking—whether it's individuals, the team as a whole, or our planning. Those are the questions we need to answer moving

forward. This isn't just about moving on quickly. We need to assess honestly—whether we stick with the current approach or make some tough decisions. Accountability is important, and we need to take ownership if we want to turn things around," Pandya had said after the match in Mumbai. "Something is not right"

According to his statements, it felt like he was targeting the established Indian players. It could be Suryakumar Yadav or Tilak Varma, who are not among the runs. I don't know whom he was referring to, because his reaction and body language, did not seem right to me. We even saw the owner on the ground, and he looked angry. Overall, after seeing all of this, we can assume and guess that something is not right," Manoj Tiwary said on Cricbuzz. "From where will ownership come? One has to look at oneself as well. You need to see how you have been playing. According to me, just because you are not having success this year doesn't mean the mistakes happened only this year. You need to look at the root cause as well. From 2015-2023, Rohit Sharma helped the Mumbai Indians win several trophies," Tiwary remarked. Tiwary also suggested that MI consider resting Hardik from the leadership and consider reinstating former skipper Rohit Sharma, who has led the side to a record five titles. "If they want a solution for this, then Hardik Pandya should take a break from captaincy, and Rohit Sharma should be brought back in, and given that responsibility. When Rohit Sharma was removed as captain, it was an injustice. The expectation was that Hardik Pandya would deliver a trophy, but the way things are going, it does not seem that he will be able to do that," he added.

Hardik Pandya, Rohit Sharma under spotlight; Mumbai Indians struggling for control, not individuals, says Mahela Jayawardene



GNS News Agency, April 21

Mumbai Indians' season frustrations, according to head coach Mahela Jayawardene, are less about isolated failures and more about a broader inability to control key phases of the game — particularly with the ball. After a series of defeats, fourth in a row, Jayawardene pointed to a recurring issue that has defined their campaign: an inability to consistently apply pressure on opposition batters.

"We haven't been able to penetrate opposition so that's something that we really have to work harder and see how we can improve on that," he said, summarising a bowling unit that has struggled to break through. The concern, he suggested, is not effort but execution and the absence of stability that has made that harder to correct. Injuries and unavailability have repeatedly forced Mumbai into changes, preventing any settled rhythm. "We did try some combinations and some of those combinations were forced on us because of injuries and players not available," Jayawardene

said. That instability has fed into a wider problem: Mumbai's inability to sustain pressure through phases of the game, particularly in the powerplay. Even with Jasprit Bumrah operating at a high level, the opposition have often managed to absorb and redirect the attack.

"I think Booms (Bumrah) is bowling well, it's just where we're not putting pressure in the power play," he said. "They know they don't need to take too much risk against Booms as well." Opposition batters, he added, have been able to adapt to Mumbai's tactical shifts. "We've tried a few different things but they're batting well," he said, acknowledging that variation alone has not solved the problem. If the bowling has lacked penetration, the squad's composition has lacked continuity. Rohit Sharma is currently being managed after a minor niggle. "On Rohit, he started running yesterday... it's on a day-to-day basis to see how he feels. It's nothing serious but at the same time we don't want to push," Jayawardene said.

He was careful not to frame Mumbai's issues through individuals. "It's not just on Hardik, it's on every one of us when we're not doing well," he said. "It's pretty much on me, everyone involved in the management... we need to do things better." Jayawardene described a pattern of strong positions dissolving under pressure. "Execution-wise it was quite poor and we have to take that and see how we can do better," he said. "We were in the game pretty much all the way... but we just couldn't finish. Even as he rejected the idea that Mumbai are being comprehensively outplayed, he conceded that more clinical opponents have consistently made better use of key moments. "We are playing good cricket, we're not completely outplayed, but other teams are more clinical," he said

If Sindarov beats Gukesh, Carlsen might be back in World Championship



Former world champion Garry Kasparov has said that on current form Javokhir Sindarov looks "more impressive" than India's D Gukesh ahead of their upcoming World Chess Championship match at the end of the year. Kasparov also said that should Sindarov manage to defeat Gukesh at the world championship, Magnus Carlsen might be tempted to make a return. Sindarov won the Candidates tournament in Cyprus without losing a single game and had taken a healthy lead by the time half the tournament had ended.

"The way he won the Candidates, it was very impressive. I must say, it's hard to impress me. But the way Sindarov played — his timing, the quality of his moves, his ability to withstand pressure and increase the pressure on his opponents — was exceptional," Kasparov said in an interview with St Louis Chess Club's YouTube handle. "Compared to Gukesh, if you look at the games, Sindarov

looks like the clear favorite. But this match is a special format. Gukesh is very mentally stable, able to defend any position and find resources even in the worst situations. Gukesh has match experience, but for Sindarov, this will be his first serious match. Yes, it's relatively short — 14 games, we've played longer games before — but it will still be very interesting."

Kasparov also said that if Sindarov beats Gukesh at the world chess championship, world no 1 Magnus Carlsen might be tempted to make a return to the world championship cycle. After winning the world championship title five times, Carlsen walked away from the throne in 2022. "The current World Champion is 19. The challenger is only 20. But I still want to emphasize that the strongest chess player (Carlsen) is 35. With all due respect. I would love to see Sindarov playing Magnus, because Carlsen is still around. Maybe if Sindarov beats Gukesh, then there will be a chance to bring Magnus back and see how things go." Comparing Sindarov and Gukesh, Kasparov said: "Sindarov, you know, is eager to play and I believe that you know he will benefit greatly from playing against more strong opponents (at Grand Chess Tour) because he's just entered the elite. It's quite unique because even Gukesh already played in some of the top tournaments. I think Sindarov is more like someone having this meteoric rise." "A match is a match and Gukesh is very resilient. He has a phenomenal ability to defend almost any position and just to look for the last remaining resources in virtually any position. Gukesh has some experience. He played one match while Sindarov will be a rookie for the relatively long match."

Usain Bolt sports 2026 RCB jersey in PUMA's 'RCB Everywhere' campaign

Hyderabad: Eight-time Olympic medallist and World Record holder Usain Bolt is back showing his Royal Challengers Bengaluru fandom. The world's fastest man stepped out in the 2026 RCB jersey as sports brand and RCB sponsor PUMA India brings him in for its #RCBEverywhere campaign. Dressed in the new kit, Bolt shared the moment on Instagram, pairing it with a throwback to the jersey he wore years earlier, when PUMA first brought RCB to him. A known cricket fan and long-time admirer of Virat Kohli, Bolt's association with the team has grown steadily, shaped through PUMA's global athlete network that brings together some of the biggest names across sport. A PUMA Global Ambassador for over two decades, Bolt remains one of the brand's most enduring icons across sport, culture and

speed. This moment builds on that legacy, as PUMA continues to connect its athletes with fan cultures across markets. With #RCBEverywhere, the brand taps into a behaviour that already defines RCB fandom—taking the jersey beyond the stadium—and scales it through one of the most recognisable athletes in the world. The Bolt-RCB connection dates back to 2021, when he first received the jersey and shared it with fans. His appearance alongside Virat Kohli and RCB players in a viral reel last year further cemented his place as a global superfan within the RCB community. With Bolt at the centre of the latest rollout, PUMA pushes #RCBEverywhere further, using a global icon to show how far the jersey can travel. Fans joining the movement stand to win match shirts and tickets.

Bhooth Bangla movie review: Akshay Kumar’s dated, ungainly film makes you miss Monjulika



Bhooth Bangla Movie Review: By rights, the re-uniting of Priyadarshan and Akshay Kumar, the haunted palace, and fresh shenanigans of past and present bhooths should have been a rollicking affair, with the 2026 Bhooth Bangla boasting many of the same elements which made the 2007 Bhool Bhulaiyaa film such a hoot. Remember that fast-paced plot which combined old myths and new superstitions, Akshay’s adventure-seeking ghostbuster coasting on his comedic persona, and Vidya Balan’s terrifying Monjulika? Not everything landed — Priyadarshan’s capers are typically a harum-scarum tumble of characters and situations which seem to have been conjured up on the spot — but there was something about the way all those crazy energies came together that has made the film so much of a nostalgia bomb.

However, certain things, especially those that once cracked us up, should be left strictly alone: nearly 20 years on, this combo, which brings back some more of the originals like Rajpal Yadav, Paresh Rawal, and Asrani, is a dated ungainly mess, more horror less comedy, which only starts coming together well into the second half, but by then it’s too little, too late.

Arjun Acharya (Akshay Kumar) lives with his about-to-be-hitched younger sister Meera (Mithila Palkar) in Lon-

don. Dad Vasudev (Jisshu Sengupta) flies around the globe, talking of Indian mythology. Or some such. That last bit of vagueness comes from the fact that film never really tells us what anyone does for a living: such prosaic information is useless when everyone’s job appears to simply spout loud dialogues at the top of their voices, in the hope that someone will laugh. There are a few scattered snickers here and there, especially when Rajpal Yadav turns up — right now anything Yadav does is catching a nerve — or when the late Asrani tries injecting some fun in his scenes. Paresh Rawal’s wedding planner roams around, skimming off cash. Some key characters show up so randomly, and so late into the proceedings, that you wonder if they were an afterthought: a guruji (Hussain) who holds the key to a forgotten underground temple, and a lost tree inhabited by a female spirit. Ooh, could the film be actually giving us the semblance of a screenplay? No such luck. A couple of crucial slips never let the film recover. First off, the age shows: the supremely-fit Akshay was in his prime in ? now he is distinctly older than anyone else in the frame – Sengupta has to resort to heavy grey dye, but no way does he look to be Akshay’s dad; Palkar’s character is happy to marry into a family which is heavily superstitious — they get her married to a tree — that’s right, in ? and the worst is Gabbi’s cringey romantic track, with all that forced plotting.

The humour is heavy-handed, not a surprise in Priyan’s comedies, but back in the day, it was a time-and-place thing. Aren’t we done and dusted with women bending over in revealing cleavages, risible sequences, sexually obvious jokes? Clearly not. Part of the sharpness in the original Bhool Bhulaiyaa came from its modern take on superstition which kept women bound; here it feels like a tired trope which goes nowhere. Finally, Tabu comes on and lights up the screen, but the joy is short-lived. On come the tantra-manttra-laden havans, and Akshay gets to fight demons so patently CGI that you yearn for the old bhoots-in-white-saris who used to roam around havelis singing songs.

Bhoot Banglas: Indian cinema’s haunted homes and the tropes that are meant to spook us



It’s usually one standalone home that is the source of evil and fear, whether large, like in Bhool Bhulaiyya or small, like the apartments in Bhoot and 13B.

Akshay Kumar, a cursed home, an ensemble cast of good actors and an angry demonic entity that needs to be subdued. This is not a flashback to Bhool Bhulaiyya (2007), but rather the premise of his upcoming film Bhooth Bangla, as based on the trailers and promotional material. The trailer shows Akshay Kumar’s character inheriting a palace in Mangalpur. He wants to marry his sister off at the palace, but sadly, his joy is short-lived because no marriages can take place in Mangalpur. Marriages enrage a demonic entity named Vadhusur, who allegedly lives in the jungles named ‘Pishaach van’ behind the palace. The film is directed by Priyadarshan, who also directed Akshay Kumar, Vidya Balan, and an ensemble cast in Bhool Bhulaiyya. The first instalment of the Bhool Bhulaiyya franchise, a remake of the Malayalam movie Manichitrathazhu (1993), told the story of strange events that start taking place in an old mansion after Avni (Vidya Balan) opens the door to a room that is supposedly haunted.

Haunted homes, havelis and palaces have long been a trope in Indian horror films. Large sprawling homes in a small town, village or erstwhile kingdom, where the long corridors, flickering lights from old light fittings and candles, cobwebs on walls and unused furniture covered in sheets or layers of dust become the perfect backdrop for characters to run from evil spirits, get scared by shadows, explore unoccupied rooms and jump at creaking sounds from old hinges. The home itself is an important character in the movie, with its own backstory and spooky inhabitants who often have a sordid tale to tell. It’s usually one standalone home that is the source of evil and fear, whether large, like in Bhool Bhulaiyya or small, like the apartments in Bhoot and 13B. These homes have witnessed a terrible trauma, such as murder or a grave act of injustice, that led an innocent person to be killed or die by suicide. In Bhoot, for example, Swati (Urmila Matondkar) moves into an apartment where Manjeet and her son were murdered by Sanjay (Fardeen Khan). Manjeet’s spirit, desperate for revenge, possesses Swati’s body to first kill the security guard and then almost fatally attack Sanjay before an exorcist (Rekha) and Manjeet’s mother (Tanuja) placate her.

Matka King review: Vijay Varma show lacks zest and sharpness



Matka King review: ‘Matka King’ is loosely based on the infamous exploits of real-life cotton trader Ravi Khatri, who created a highly addictive gambling game out of the humble earthen pot in the Bombay of the 60s. Vijay Varma plays Brij Bhatti, whose sharp brains and an endless capacity to keep his eye on the end result, refuses to labour under his canny seth (Gulshan Grover) when push comes to shove: slowly but steadily, his efforts take him out of his chawl, where he lives with his younger brother Lakshman (Bhupendra Jadawat), wife (Sai Tamhankar) and little boy, to spiffy mansions and fancy boudoirs of the rich and famous.

Co-writers Manjule and Abhay Koranne take eight overlong episodes to tell their tale, set during one of the country’s most tumultuous eras. And that, right there, is the problem: the storytelling lacks zest and sharpness. You want to tell me about a man who made his fortune by holding out fragile hope to those who had so little, whose so-called principles of truth-telling, underlined at every opportunity, is doused in hypocrisy, I’m here for it.

But to insist that Brij’s honesty– he will take out the cards which lead to the winning numbers only in the pres-

Kangana Ranaut says she faced ‘witch hunt’ in Bollywood after ex Adhyayan Suman targeted her

As much as her professional journey, actor-politician Kangana Ranaut’s personal life has also made big headlines, predominantly due to her unfiltered nature and fearlessness in opening up about the mistreatment she has faced and the mistakes she has made. Nonetheless, one of the biggest controversies in her life erupted when her former boyfriend, Adhyayan Suman, with whom she worked in director Mohit Suri’s Raaz: The Mystery Continues (2009), accused her of physical and mental abuse and performing black magic on him. In a 2016 interview with DNA, he made allegations against Kangana, stating that it took him “five years to get over that guilt.”

Now, the four-time National Award-winning actor has finally opened up about the accusations, mentioning that the industry labelled her as a ‘witch’ after the incident. Kangana also maintained that she faced severe character assassination attempts during this period. “My ex filed a case against me... and on top of that, kuch khade ho gaye ki ye to chudail hai... khoon peeti hai... kaale kamre mein kaale parde lagake kaala jaadu karti hai (Some people stood up and said she’s a witch, she drinks blood, she does black magic). So there was a witch-hunt,” she recalled during a conversation with ANI. Kangana continued, “There was evident and very apparent witch-hunt happening at that time, and I was hardly 26 or 27 years old. So when this is how they’re going to treat me, why should I make them look good... I have no reason to make them look good.” The actor further maintained that amid all the turmoil, she drew strength from her work and her achievements.

Bhoot Bangla Movie Review Live Updates: Akshay Kumar-Priyadarshan’s film is ‘the champ of guilty pleasures’, earns Rs 3.5 cr in paid previews. She also cited director Vikas Bahl’s Queen (2013), which earned her first National Film Award for Best Actress, as the movie that changed her life, career, and image. “This was a film without a leading star, without action, and without women to make them look like damsels in distress. Here was a film that I did in a kurti and bell-bottoms. I played a ‘Behenji.’ It was not even the sexy girl roles that I was getting in Fashion or Krishi 3. And I could see the intention of these films. Even though I did Woh Lamhe, it was just because I was a neurotic, sexy girl. And here I did a film which was... After Sridevi, I can say this with pride, that the only girl who does comedy is me. So here’s a comedy in a kurti that I did, and that made me the topmost actress in the country.”

During the 2016 interview, Adhyayan had made several allegations against Kangana. He said, “The physical violence had become so frequent in my relationship with her that any other guy would have hit her back. Once, we were headed to an event when she started abusing my father (actor Shekhar Suman) in filthy language. That day, something snapped in me. Hearing her abuse my father and still being by her side every night was something that shamed me.” The actor added, “After we split, it took me five years to get over that guilt. I was a bad kid to my parents, and that’s something I can’t forgive myself for. Everything else was a learning experience. I remember Kangana



physically abusing me in the car again. When we reached the hotel, in front of the media, she was so normal. It was like interacting with a split personality.” Adhyayan also claimed that the turmoil forced him to seek comfort in alcohol. “Kangana’s astrologer asked me to visit a graveyard at midnight”

Mentioning that she introduced him to an astrologer named Pallavi, he further alleged that Kangana once took him to her place to do puja at night in a room covered in black. Fed up with the abuse, Adhyayan said they broke up when Shekhar Suman was entering politics. In a 2024 interview with Siddharth Kanan, when the topic came up, Adhyayan bluntly said, “I don’t want to discuss or talk about that person you are referring to (Kangana) because I have forgotten the past. If you’re asking, I’m giving you an answer, but I have given a massive closure to this. Life has moved far ahead. It was when I was 20. I am 36 (now).” Kangana Ranaut is also an MP in the Lok Sabha, representing the Mandi constituency, which she won on a BJP ticket. Her most recent movie appearance was in Emergency (2025), which marked her debut as an independent director. It became a box-office bomb. Disclaimer: This article contains accounts of personal conflict, allegations of abuse, and emotional distress from past relationships. The views and claims expressed are based on public interviews and have not been independently verified; they are intended for informational and entertainment purposes only. If you or someone you know is struggling with emotional well-being or addiction, please reach out to a professional counselor or a dedicated support helpline.

Alia Bhatt’s sister Shaheen Bhatt get engaged to fitness coach Ishaan Mehra

Mumbai: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt’s sister Shaheen Bhatt is engaged. On Friday, she took to her Instagram, and shared a series of pictures with her partner, Ishaan Mehra.

In the first picture, she is seen flaunting her engagement ring while holding Ishaan close. In the second image, the couple are walking while holding hands. Another picture shows her resting her head on Ishaan’s shoulder. She wrote in the caption, “We may have overdone this whole liking each other thing”. Her mother, Soni Razdan, took to the comments section and wrote, “Congratulations my darlings pieces of my (heart emojis) (sic)”.

Alia’s mother-in-law, actor Neetu Kapoor commented, “Congratulationssssss love and blessings (heart and bad omen emojis) (sic)”. Actress Ananya Panday commented, “Shaheeeeen! Soooo happy for you....(heart emojis)...all the love and joy in the world (heart and bad omen

emojis)...best...(sic)”. Senior actress Neena Gupta wrote, “Wow congratulations dear Shaheen (sic)”. Actress Shanaya Kapoor wrote, “Congratulations (sic)”. Designer-actor Masaba Gupta commented, “Tannnnnaaa for the win ! Congratulations guys loveee you (sic)”. Ishaan Mehra is a sports and fitness coach, who conducts both online and offline classes. He is a former international swimmer, who represented India at the Youth Asian Games. He has since moved into the fitness industry. He is an ATG-certified coach. Earlier, Shaheen Bhatt dated comedian Rohan Joshi but parted ways for unspecified reasons. Her engagement announcement comes just days after Alia’s 4th marriage anniversary with Ranbir Kapoor. Last year, Alia shared a fun picture with sister Shaheen Bhatt’s boyfriend, Ishaan Mehra. The image shows Alia and Ishaan posing for the camera while relaxing in a swimming pool. The actress was dressed in a red swimsuit.