

Hyderabad airport receives second bomb threat in a week

Hyderabad: A bomb threat was reported at the second terminal of Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad on Monday, April 27, triggering a brief security scare before being declared a hoax.

Airport authorities received a threatening email, following which security agencies were immediately alerted. Personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), along with the bomb disposal squad and dog squad, carried out intensive checks across the terminal premises.

Azharuddin, Prof Kodandaram take oath as Telangana MLCs

Hyderabad: Telangana Minority Welfare Minister Mohammad Azharuddin and retired professor M Kodandaram took oath as Members of the Legislative Council (MLC) under the Governor's quota here on Monday, April 26. The Telangana Legislative Council Chairperson Gutha Sukhender Reddy administered the oath in the presence of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, IT Minister D Sridhar Babu, other Cabinet colleagues and senior leaders.



PM Modi leads roadshow in Gangtok ahead of Sikkim statehood celebrations

Gangtok, April 27

: Prime Minister Narendra Modi led a mega roadshow in Gangtok on Monday evening after arriving in Sikkim to attend the closing ceremony of 50 years of statehood celebrations.

Modi, who wore a traditional Bhutia cap and a Lepcha coat, was received at the Libing helipad by Governor Om Prakash Mathur and Chief Minister Prem Singh Tamang.

From the helipad, the PM began the roadshow, which concluded at Lok Bhavan, where he will stay overnight.

On the open vehicle, Modi was flanked by CM Tamang on his left and state BJP president D R Thapa on his right.

Large crowds lined the roads for hours, waving national flags and waiting to catch a glimpse of the Prime Minister.

As his convoy moved slowly through the city, people broke into celebrations. Some enthusiastic supporters chanted "Modi, Modi, Modi", while a few women were seen showering flower petals in his direction.

Modi acknowledged the cheering crowds by waving continuously.

Tamang was also seen urging the gathered people to cheer for the PM during the roadshow.

The route of the roadshow was decorated, with arch gates erected at several points and large cut-



dium, where he will unveil development projects worth over Rs 4,000 crore.

The projects cover several sectors, including infrastructure, connectivity, healthcare, education, power, urban development, environment, tourism and agriculture.

Modi is also scheduled to address the gathering on the occasion.

He was expected to attend the opening ceremony of the year-long celebrations last year, but could not reach the venue due to inclement weather. However, he addressed the event virtually from Siliguri in neighbouring West Bengal.

Tamang later thanked the people for giving a grand reception to the PM during the hour-long roadshow in the state capital.

"With immense fervour and heartfelt enthusiasm, the people of Sikkim accorded a grand and resounding welcome to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji on his arrival in Gangtok," he said in a social media post.

Tamang said people from all walks of life gathered in large numbers to greet him, reflecting the deep respect and warm affection the people of Sikkim hold for his leadership.

"It was indeed an honour to join him during the roadshow and witness the overwhelming love and support of the people firsthand," he said.

BRS has no future, claims Telangana CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, April 27 Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said on Monday that Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) has a past but no future.

He predicted that BRS, which turned 26 on Monday, will not survive. He had an informal chat with the media in Assembly premises.

Revanth Reddy remarked that BRS headed by former Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhhar Rao (KCR) is no longer viable.

He comared the BRS with a dead body. "No matter how much make-up is done to a dead corpse, it will not rise," he said.

"Why do we care about a new party," he quipped when asked to comment on the new political party launched by KCR's daughter K. Kavitha two days ago.

"Let us see if the existing party survives or not," he remarked.

The Chief Minister also stated that KCR's family members are all one. He claimed that they were all feigning an act to deceive others.

Revanth Reddy also predicted that

Telangana will have only two political alliances. "Congress, the Communists, and Kodandaram will form one alliance while BRS and BJP will form the other alliance," he said.

Kodandaram of Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) along with minority welfare minister Mohammad Azharuddin on Monday took oath as the members of Telangana legislative council.

Claiming that his government shows no discrimination, the Chief Minister remarked that they have no opposition.

He denied that he wished for KCR's death and stated that the former Chief Minister's good health is beneficial for them.

Revanth Reddy also said that during the Telangana movement, people tolerated whatever KCR spoke but he spoke in the same manner for 10 years when he was in power.

"His family members know whether he is a changed man or not," he remarked while reacting to Kavitha's comment that KCR now was not the same man who had floated Telangana



Rashtra Samithi (TRS) to revive the movement for Telangana state.

Reacting to the recent judgement of the Telangana High Court on the report of PC Ghose Commission which probed the alleged irregularities in Kaleshwaram project built during BRS, he said that the court did not find fault



KCR resets BRS strategy, links future election tickets to grassroots work

Hyderabad: BRS chief and former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao has signalled a major course correction within the party, making it clear that future election tickets will be awarded strictly based on grassroots performance and commitment to public issues. At an extended State executive committee meeting at Telangana Bhavan, he combined organisational overhaul with a sharp political attack on the Congress government.Tourist Destinations

In a clear message to party leaders, Chandrashekhar Rao said there would be no place for complacency or divided loyalties. He warned that leaders who fail to stand with people and the party cadre or violate party discipline would face removal. "Recognition will come only through work on the ground," he asserted, cautioning against relying on social media optics or political theatrics.

The party has already decided to dissolve all committees except the State committee, paving the way for a complete restructuring. A fresh membership drive will be launched, followed by the formation of new committees from the booth level upwards.

The BRS chief directed that only active workers should be given roles, and not those backed by personal lobbying. He also promised to personally examine complaints of bias in appointments. Training will be provided to at least 200 workers in each constituency, indicating a push to rebuild cadre strength.

Chandrashekhar Rao sought to sharpen the party's focus on farmers' issues. He observed that the Congress government failed to ensure timely procurement of paddy and demanded that every grain produced by farmers be purchased. He accused the government of weakening schemes like Rythu Bandhu and pushing farmers into distress. He called on party cadres to confront the government on procurement and stand firmly with farmers.

His speech also indicated at a broader attempt at introspection. Despite highlighting the BRS government's welfare record, he asked the party leaders to introspect on why the party lost the Assembly elections. He stressed that quality of cadre mattered more than numbers. He pointed to setbacks in regions like Singareni as a warning sign.On national politics, the former Chief Minister strongly criticised BJP MP Tejasvi Surya and reportedly took a strong objection for his remarks comparing Telangana's formation to the India-Pakistan partition. He faulted both Congress and BJP MPs from the State for remaining silent.

Fire breaks out at Mahindra service centre in Hyderabad's Amberpet

Hyderabad, April 27 A fire that broke out at a Mahindra service centre near the Amberpet flyover in Hyderabad on Monday evening, April 27, has been largely brought under control, with firefighting teams continuing damping operations to prevent re-ignition, officials said.

The blaze erupted at the ground-floor facility on Road no 6, Golnaka, and is suspected to have originated in an office room where waste scrap carton boxes had been stored. Fire service units from Musheerabad Fire Station, along with a water bowser from Gowliguda, rushed to the spot and swiftly contained the fire to the scrap material, preventing it from spreading to the rest of the building.



Central Forces to Stay in Bengal for 7 More Days after Polls: Shah

Kolkata, April 27

: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said that central forces would remain deployed in West Bengal for at least seven more days after the assembly elections. Shah was addressing a gathering after leading a road show in Behala, where voting will take place in the second and final phase on April 29. The first phase of elections to the 294-member West Bengal assembly was held on April 23. Votes will be counted on May 4.

"Brothers and sisters, go and vote on the 29th, do not worry about the goons. The Election Commission has made extensive security arrangements, and I am telling you that even though the BJP will come to power, central forces will remain here for seven days," he said.The road show was held on the final day of campaigning in support of BJP candidates for Behala Purba and Behala Paschim, turning the south Kolkata neighbourhood into a sea of saffron.Standing atop an open-hood vehicle, Shah waved at supporters and showered flower petals on crowds lining both sides of the road. Thousands of BJP workers and supporters, carrying party flags and orange-green balloons, thronged the route, raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai".

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Address loopholes in banking system

The alarming rise in cybercrimes in India poses a serious threat to security and economy. Two recent cases of digital heist—the Rs 20-crore crypto con in Ludhiana and the Rs 22.9-crore digital arrest scam in Delhi—highlight the seriousness of the modern menace and the urgent need to reform cyber laws to check such frauds. They also expose lapses in the banking system and its surveillance mechanism. From celebrities, industrialists and politicians to retired professionals and homemakers, every section has become vulnerable to scams being perpetrated by online fraudsters using sophisticated technology tools. According to one estimate, people in India are losing nearly Rs 1.5 lakh to cyber criminals every minute. Strengthening critical infrastructure, fortifying technology, skills, regulations and increasing public awareness hold the key to preventing cybercrimes. Cyber fraud refers to deceptive activities carried out through digital platforms such as unauthorised access, data theft, or online scams, which are often intended to cause financial loss to victims. The modus operandi of the fraudsters indicates that India's cybercrime is becoming increasingly sophisticated, systemic and scalable, making it difficult for the authorities to keep pace with them. In the Ludhiana case, an industrialist was lured through a fake crypto ecosystem and drained of Rs 19.84 crore, routed through 76 forged accounts across 15 banks. In the digital arrest case in the national capital, fraudsters impersonating law enforcement officials weaponised fear, isolating the victim, coercing compliance and extracting Rs 22.9 crore through staged urgency and intimidation. In an extraordinary intervention, the Reserve Bank of India ombudsman directed five banks to pay Rs 1.3 crore for lapses in due diligence in the digital arrest case.

Repairs to borehole motors for drinking water pipelines

“Village Sarpanch Madhagouni Kavitha Prabhanjan Goud” Deputy Sarpanch Arepali Madhavi Madhava Reddy
“Village Congress Party President Mohan Reddy”



Wanaparthi Correspondent Indian Chronicle““The village sarpanch and deputy sarpanch have taken steps to ensure that every house gets good water through the pipelines by installing a borehole motor pipeline in Ammaipalli village under Chinnambavi mandal for the last 3 years. The village should not have any water shortage as the summer season is approaching, and the minister immediately responded positively and asked the officials to take immediate steps for repairs. The officers were instructed. Ammaipalli Officials came to the village and installed water facilities. Check and determine the pipeline route is necessary. Pipe made this decision after explaining Line work has been started. Village Some village women sarpanchs, Without the mercy of a female sub-sarpanch Some of the villages, hindering development, By blocking the attacks of evil forces, Village development is our priority. Going village sarpanch and The Sub-Sarpanch made a special request on behalf of the people of the village. Thank you. The village, A village that is improving village development Village head for female Sarpanch and Sub-Sarpanch The people were blessing and blessing the village. Despite facing many obstacles, 5 years towards village development The village people want to take it forward. Congratulations. Develop the village. To the village sarpanch and sub-sarpanch, The village people informed that our support will always be there. In this program, village sarpanch Madhagouni Kavitha Prabhanjan Goud, deputy sarpanch Arepalli Madhavi Madhava Reddy, ward members kotla Maheshwaramma Satya Reddy, Peddi Reddy, Nani, Sukumar, Shiva Chari, Shyam Prasad, Mahesh, village Congress Party president Mohan Reddy, village elders, village people, youth and others participated in this repair program in large numbers.

T.S. Diwakar Assumes Charge as Khammam District Collector

“Khammam, April 27 indian Chronicle:“T. S. Diwakar officially assumed charge as the District Collector of Khammam on Monday morning. “As part of the state government's recent transfer orders, Diwakar, who was previously serving as the District Collector of Mulugu, has been transferred and appointed as the new Collector of Khammam. He took charge at the Collectorate office on Monday. “Following his assumption of office, Additional Collectors Dr. P. Sreeja and P. Srinivas Reddy, DRO Padmashri, RDO Srinivas, district officials, Collectorate Administrative Officer Srinivas, along with supervisors and staff from various sections of the Collectorate, met him courteously. They welcomed him with bouquets and extended their congratulations on his new role.



Jawed Habib Hair & Beauty Unisex Salon Grand Opening at Mallapur, Secunderabad



“Hyderabad: Jawad Habibs Hair & Beauty Salon Launched At New Narsimha Nagar, Mallapur, opposite VNR Garden, in Mallapur Division, Secunderabad The inauguration was done by Jawad Habib, Teja Devisetti Master Franchisee South India at Jawad Habib and Beera Ilaiah, MLA Alair and Government Whip““Jawad Habib's Hair and Beauty- an advanced professional family Salon launched today at Mallapur, Secunderabad. The inauguration was done by “Jawad Habib's Hair & Beauty salon is poised to transform the face of hair care and service in this cosmopolitan metropolis. The family salon is spread into facial rooms, Pantry, Styling chairs, Shampoo station, Pedicure station, with steam shower facility, massage rooms, hair spa, bridal, Vip Room etc. To provide privacy to women, the unisex salon has exclusive women zone.““Speaking on this occasion Salon Director Ch.Baghyavathi & Ch. Mallesham Jawad Habib's Hair & Beauty salon said “We started this salon to change not just the way people looked but to add ample positivity in their attitude to life! We want our customers to look and feel beautiful from inside out. Jawad Habib's Hair and Beauty Salon is all set to offer alluring grooming services to celebrities and tinsel stars, will extend chic and trendy hair care, skin and body care services, including hair forms and hair coloring, grooming services like hair styling, manicure, bridal makeup, hair grooming.”

BRS party formation day celebrations held grandly in Tandur.



“ BRS government will come to power again in the state.. Rohith Reddy will win again in Tandur.. Revealed by former District Library Chairman Raju Goud.““Indian Chronicle Tandur (April 27)““The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) cadre celebrated the party's formation day grandly in Tandur town. On Monday, BRS cadre hoisted the party flag at former MLA Pilot Rohith Reddy's camp office in Tandur town. Later, they celebrated by cutting a cake. “Speaking on the occasion, several leaders expressed confidence that it is the BRS party that will come to power again in the state. They said KCR will be the next Chief Minister and Rohith Reddy will win again in Tandur. “Former District Library Chairman Raju Goud stated that the Congress party is unable to deliver the welfare schemes imple-

mented by the BRS party to the people. He said people will teach the Congress party a lesson in the upcoming elections. ““BRS senior leaders Viithal Reddy, former District Library Corporation Chairman Raju Goud, Saipur Narsimlu, Srinivas Chari, former Municipal Chairperson Kotrike Vijayalakshmi, Municipal Floor Leader Deepa Narsimlu, former Floor Leader Shobharani, party Working President Narendar Goud, Mandal party presidents Veerender Reddy, Ravinder Reddy, Venkat Reddy, councilors Naveena, Supriya, Nagalakshmi, Javed, Yoganand, Suresh Naik, leaders Irfan, Basharith Ali, Saleem, Santosh Goud, Rudru Patil, Imtiyaz, Bhim Singh, Anantha Reddy, BRSV leaders Dattatreya, Ibrahim, Vinod, Soheb, Bambino, Kotrike Srikanth, Faisal Khan, Asfak and others participated in this program.

Sri Potli Maharaj temple shopping complex construction works progressing rapidly..

“ MLA Manohar Reddy inspects work arrangements..



Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (April 27)““MLA Buyyani Manohar Reddy, along with Municipal Chairperson Neeraja Balreddy and town public representatives, inspected the development works and shopping complex construction underway in the premises of Sri Potli Maharaj temple in Tandur town. ““Speaking on the occasion, MLA Manohar Reddy reviewed the progress of the works and instructed the concerned officials to complete the construction with quality and speed. He said plans should be formulated and implemented to ensure adequate facilities for the public. He stated that the aim is to provide a more comfortable environment



for devotees through the development of the temple premises. He also mentioned that once the shopping complex construction is completed, employment opportunities for local traders will increase and it will contribute to the town's economic development. He said development programs are being undertaken keeping in mind the needs of the people, and priority is being given to transparency and quality in every work. ““Municipal Chairperson Neeraja Bal Reddy, AMC Chairman Patlolla Narsimlu, Temple Chairman Prasad Goud, officials, councilors, and leaders were present at this program.

Felicitation of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka by Arya Vysya Community



“Khammam ,Bonakal, April 27 indian Chronicle:““On the occasion of Sri Vasavi Matha Jayanti, grand celebrations were held at the Bonakal mandal center. As the Telangana government has officially declared the birth anniversary of Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari as a state festival, the Arya Vysya Association of Bonakal organized special programs at Sri Kanakadurga Ammavari Temple on Khammam Road. The events included Gopuja, Jayanti celebrations, and special prayers performed with devotion.“Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who attended the event, was felicitated by members of the Arya Vysya community with a bouquet. They expressed their gratitude to the government for declaring the Jayanti as a state festival.“Later, at the Bonakal Panchayat Office



junction, community leaders submitted a representation requesting the establishment of a traffic circle (ring road junction) and the installation of statues of Mahatma Gandhi and Chhatrapati Shivaji. Responding positively, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that necessary steps would be taken to set up the junction and install the statues.“The program was attended by Arya Vysya Association President Chede Venkateswara Rao, Madhira Market Committee Director Anumolu Venkateswara Rao, Congress leaders Paidipalli Kishore Babu and Pasangulapati Koteswara Rao, Ravinutala Sarpanch Badru Naik, Mushtikuntla Sarpanch Pillalamarri Nageswara Rao, Chava Venkateswara Rao, Saibaba Temple Chairman Mohan Rao, and several others.

BRS party formation day celebrations held grandly in Vikarabad



“Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (April 27)““The party's formation day was celebrated grandly at the BRS party office in Vikarabad district headquarters. On this occasion, town president Gopal hoisted the party flag. A large number of party leaders and activists participated in the program.““Speaking on the occasion, Gopal recalled that the BRS party was founded on April 27, 2001, by former Chief Minister KCR as a result of the aspirations of the Telangana people. He said the party led several movements for achieving Telangana state and finally attained a separate state.““He also said that after the formation of Telangana state, the BRS party undertook numerous development programs in just ten years and overcame decades of backwardness. He particularly mentioned that through the Kaleshwaram project, irrigation water was provided to lakhs of acres, benefiting farmers.““He criticized that the current government is taking the state backward again. He expressed anguish that people from all sections in the state are dissatisfied. “BRS party town and various mandal leaders and activists participated in this program.““ Later, BRSV leaders met District Collector Deepak Tiwari at the Collector's office and submitted a memorandum requesting the release of students' fee reimbursement.

Rice distribution to a poor family in Ammaipalli village

Village Sarpanch Madagauni Kavitha Prabhanjan GoudVillage Sub-Sarpanch Arepalli Madhavi Madhava Reddy



Wanaparthi correspondent Indian Chronicle““In Ammaipalli village under Chinnambavi mandal, rice was handed over to Telugu Seethamma, a poor family member, under the leadership of village sarpanch Kavitha Prabhanjan Goud and deputy sarpanch Arepalli Madhavi Madhava Reddy. When the matter was brought to the attention of Jupally Arun Babu, a youth leader of the Congress Party of Kolhapur constituency, he suggested that she be recognized as eligible for the Antyodaya ration card and be granted the Antyodaya card. Also, two bags of rice were handed over to Telugu Seethamma Gariki after the village sarpanch Kavitha Prabhanjan Goud handed over the bags of rice. The program was attended by village sarpanch Kavitha Prabhanjan Goud, deputy sarpanch Arepalli Madhavi Madhava Reddy, ward members Allenna, Dargayya, Gasarlu, Sukumar, Bittu, Kurumayya, Mallikarjun, village elders, people and others.

Former DCMS Director Nagubandi Srinivasa Rao called upon party workers to work tirelessly for strengthening the BRS party.



“KHAMMAM, NELAKONDAPALLI, APRIL 27 (INDAIN CHRONICLE):““The BRS Formation Day celebrations were held grandly on Monday at Painampalli village in the mandal. The Program began with cake cutting, followed by the hoisting of the party flag.“Speaking on the occasion, Srinivasa Rao emphasized that party workers must continue their efforts at the grassroots level, whether the party is in power or not. He stated that the strength of the party lies in its cadre.“He urged local leaders to set aside minor differences and work unitedly for the party. He also appealed to the cadre to strive continuously until the party returns to power.“Several party leaders and workers participated in the event.

BRS Party 26th Formation Day Celebrations at Chinnambavi Mandal Center



“Joint Mandals In-charge Govindu Sridhar” “Wanaparthi correspondent Indian Chronicle” “On the occasion of the establishment of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi political party, which has completed 25 years and

is entering its 26th year, the formation day celebrations were held grandly under the auspices of the Chinnambavi Mandal BRS Party at the mandal center with slogans like Jai Telangana, Jai Jai Telangana. Speaking on the occasion, the party's mandal president Govind Sridhar Reddy said that the formation day of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (currently Bharat Rashtra Samithi) is celebrated every year on April 27. Kalvakuntla Chandrasekhara Rao founded this party on April 27, 2001 with the aim of achieving a separate Telangana state. By April 27, 2026, this party will complete 25 years and enter its 26th year BRS has stepped in. In the coming days Telangana with a big victory for the party Before the election that will come before the people Promises given by the Congress government to the people People forget that the administration is doing it He said that he understood. In this program Senior party leaders Easwar Reddy, Joint Mandals In-charge Govindu Sridhar Reddy, former Sarpanch Ranjith Kumar, ChinnaMarur Sarpanch Madduri Shankar, younger brother Sarpanch Narasimha, Ayyavaripalli Shekhar, Dega Shekhar Yadav, Anand Yadav, Maheshwar Reddy, Vaddeman Ramakrishna, Deputy Sarpanch Bichanna, Sankati Maddileti, Sampangi Maddileti, former deputy sarpanch Thagaram Kurumaiya, Auto Kurumaiya, Gudupu Shiva Reddy, Sudhakar Reddy, Gangeshwar Goud, Jaya Goud, Venkatrama Reddy, Peddada Gada Shetty, Various Village party workers are fans participated.

Cooling Water Camp Set Up Under CPI One Town Secretary Varada Narasimha Rao



Khammam, April 27 Indian Chronicle: “A cooling water distribution camp (Chalivendram) has been set up under the leadership of CPI One Town Secretary Varada Narasimha Rao in Khammam city. “Speaking on the occasion, Communist Party of India National Council Member Bhagam Hemanth Rao, District Secretary Dandi Suresh, and City Secretary Jaanemiah appreciated the initiative. “They stated that although municipal authorities are expected to sprinkle water on roads and arrange cooling water points when temperatures exceed 50°C across all 60 divisions of Khammam Corporation, there has been negligence in implementation. In response, CPI leaders, who are closely connected with the public, took the initiative to establish this facility. “Bhagam Hemanth Rao thanked the organizers and emphasized that such service activities should continue while consistently bringing public issues to the attention of the government. “The Chalivendram has been set up to serve people from areas including Mustafanagar, Stambhanagar, Allipuram, Kothagudem, Mamata Road, and daily commuters visiting Khammam. Locals have been encouraged to make use of the facility and drink cool, clean water to stay healthy during the intense summer heat. “He further noted that the human body requires about 70% water, and with bottled water costing around ₹20, it becomes difficult for many people. As part of their service initiative, the organizers have arranged safe mineral drinking water at the camp. “Local residents expressed gratitude to the CPI One Town unit for this public service effort.

Grand BRS Party Foundation Day Celebrations Held at Chiluka Nagar Crossroads

Under the Leadership of Senior Leader Jalli Mohan “ Leaders Hoisted Party Flag and Distributed Fruits “



UPPAL, APRIL 27 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “The BRS Party Foundation Day celebrations were held grandly at Chiluka Nagar Crossroads. The party flag was hoisted under the leadership of Chiluka Nagar Division senior leader Jalli Mohan. Following this, a fruit distribution programme was conducted. “Speaking on the occasion, Jalli Mohan said that under the leadership of movement leader and architect of Telangana statehood K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR), Telangana was formed, and over the past ten years of BRS rule, significant efforts were made for the development of all sections of society. “He expressed confidence that the BRS government would return to power in Telangana once

again. He further stated that in the coming days, the party would be strengthened further and continue to fight on public issues. “A large number of party movement leaders and workers participated in the programme and enthusiastically raised slogans. The leaders also delivered speeches recalling the objectives behind the party's formation. “Among those who participated in the event were movement leaders Kondal Reddy, V.B. Narasimha, Masa Shekhar, Akiti Bal Reddy, Kailas Pathi, Srinivas, Edla Paramesh, Ashok Chari, Pratap Reddy, Yadagiri, Pochayya, Banala Narayana Reddy, Shafi, Sakinala Prasad, Ramesh, Narsingh Neta, Balender, District Praveen, Subhadra, Satyavati, Sharada, and others.

Grand Vasavi Matha Jayanthi Celebrations

Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy Participates in the Rathotsavam “



UPPAL, APRIL 27 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “The Vasavi Matha Jayanthi celebrations were held grandly in Uppal. On this occasion, Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy attended the event organized by the Uppal Arya Vysya Association as the chief guest. “As part of the celebrations, he participated along with the leaders of the Uppal Arya Vysya Association in the Rathotsavam (chariot procession) conducted on Sunday night near the Rama Temple in Uppal. The procession continued up to the Kanyaka Parameswari Temple in Sath Swarup Nagar, Uppal. “A large number of

devotees attended the event. Those who participated in the programme included Bikku Malla Anjaiah Gupta, Bikku Malla Ramesh Gupta, Bikkumala Ashok Gupta, Bikku Malla Sudhakar Gupta, Bikkumala Dayanand Gupta, Bikkumala Ravi Gupta, Bikkumala Santosh Gupta, Samudrala Naveen Gupta, Basavaraj, Bikkumala Jagan Gupta, Paladugu Sampath, Dalcha Rakesh, Gaurishetty Srinivas Gupta, Renigunta Kiran, Hari Gupta, Naresh Gupta, Uppu Shankar Gupta, Shravan Gupta, Srikanth Gupta, Mahesh Gupta, Gopal Gupta, and other leaders of the Uppal Arya Vysya Association.

Grand BRS Foundation Day Celebrations Held in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division



“UPPAL, APRIL 27 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): The Foundation Day celebrations of the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) were held in a grand manner under the auspices of the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division. “On the occasion of the party's foundation day, the celebrations were conducted with great enthusiasm. State leader Pasula Prabhakar Reddy and former division president Dr. B.V. Chary attended the event as chief guests and hoisted the party flag. “Speaking on the occasion, they stated that KCR is a movement leader who moved forward with determination and commitment without ever lowering the flag once it was raised, overcoming numerous conspiracies and challenges to achieve the goal. They praised KCR as the great leader who led the decades-long struggle for a separate state to its destination. They further said that BRS represents the very identity of Telangana, and that KCR, with his unwavering resolve, founded the party and made the impossible possible

by achieving Telangana statehood. “Later, senior leaders Srinivasulu Makkala, Bollepalli Swamy, and Ganesh Netha Dussa said that the credit for realizing the dream of Telangana and making the state a model for the country goes to the BRS party and KCR. They added that the welfare of the people of Venkat Reddy Nagar Division remains their primary objective and that all party workers would work unitedly for the people. They also stated that in the coming days, party activities would be further strengthened and taken more effectively to the public. “The event was attended by leaders Srinivas Reddy, Jangir, Narendra Raju, Ramesh Goud, Dandu Santosh, Dr. Raju, Raju, Madduri Srinivas, Anil Yadav, Raghu, Ravi Singh, Kaiser, Sagar, Shankar, Abbu Bhai Mahender, Khadeer, Istari, along with women leaders Aishwarya, Radhika, Manjula, Mamata, Radhama, Jarina, and Latha Reddy. Representatives of affiliated organizations, a large number of party workers, and supporters also participated in the celebrations.

Police capable of responding quickly and efficiently in emergency situations must be prepared..

District SP Sneha Mehra revealed at the police firing training camp



“Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (April 27) “As part of the annual mobilization training program, firing practice for senior police officers and SHOs in the district continued at the firing range in Kotrepally. District SP Smt. Sneha Mehra, IPS attended the firing practice, personally observed the officers' firing, and gave several suggestions. While examining the performance of weapons at the field level, the SP also performed firing practice with various types of guns. “She expressed on this occasion that police personnel should have the ability to respond quickly and efficiently in emergency situations by enhancing their skills in weapon usage. She said that every police officer must attain complete proficiency in the use of weapons. “She instructed senior officers and SHOs to create full awareness among their staff about firing practice and to clearly explain the rules

and regulations to be followed at the firing ground. She stated that the role of police in protecting public safety is most crucial, and continuous training is very important for that. She said that officers performing duties with firearms should take necessary precautions, and such training programs boost the courage and confidence of police, thereby making law and order maintenance easier. She suggested that every officer should act with alertness, discipline, and coordination in the discharge of duties. “Officers from PC to district-level officers in the district are participating in this program. “Additional SP B. Ramulu Naik, DCRB DSP Janaiah, DTC DSP Srinivasulu, Vikarabad Sub Division DSP Srinivas Reddy, Tandur DSP Yadaiah, Pargi DSP Srinivas, District AR DSP Veeresh, CIs, RIs, RSIs, other police officers, and staff participated in this firing practice.

Grand Birthday Celebrations of BJP STATE CHIEF N Ramchander Rao at BJP State Office

Hyderabad, Apr 27 : The birthday celebrations of BJP Telangana State President, N Ramchander Rao were held on a grand scale across the state particularly at the party's state headquarters here. “ Reflecting his journey dedicated to public service, the birthday was marked by various service activities and enthusiastic celebrations among party cadres. On the occasion party leaders and workers organized large-scale blood donation camps, medical camps, and other social service programs across various parts of the state. “ In the state capital here, a free eye check-up camp and a blood donation drive were successfully organized at the Welfare Association Hall in Tarnaka, Secunderabad, with the coordination of party members. “ In the state party headquarters here, a cake-cutting ceremony was held where atmosphere was festive as supporters cheered and extended their heartfelt birth-

day wishes to the party leader. In the cake cutting function Dr. N. Gautam Rao: BJP Telangana State General Secretary, O. Srinivas Reddy: BJP State Secretary, N V. Subhash: BJP State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge, Manohar Reddy: Senior BJP Leader and other leaders including party office staff participated. “ BJP state chief Ramchander Rao, who is currently visiting Tirumala, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who sent him wishes from across the state. He specifically thanked the party workers for organizing service-oriented programs and all the leaders who participated in the celebrations. “ A grand welcome programme was arranged at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport Shamshabad for Rao who is returning from Tirupati. Later, in the evening a grand reception would be accorded to BJP state president Ramchander Rao on his birthday at BJP state office.

Every party worker must work with dedication until KCR becomes Chief Minister again

Former BRS State Secretary and Uppal BC JAC leader Nerdham Bhaskar Goud “

“UPPAL, APRIL 27 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “The 26th foundation day celebrations of the BRS party were held grandly on Monday at the Uppal Mande Market. Former TRS State Secretary and Uppal constituency BC JAC leader Nerdham Bhaskar Goud attended the event as the chief guest and unfurled the party flag. “Speaking on the occasion, he said that the BRS flag is a symbol that protected the self-respect of 3.5 crore people of Telangana and led to the achievement of a separate state. He stated that under the leadership of KCR, Telangana has progressed in all sectors and that the party has earned the appreciation of the people through its development and welfare initiatives. “He further said that the credit for transforming Telangana into the number one state within just nine years goes to KCR. Criticizing the Congress government's rule over the last two years, he alleged that it lacked control over governance and had made deceptive promises to people from all sections, causing severe difficulties to the

public. “He called upon every party worker to function like a soldier with complete dedication until KCR becomes Chief



Minister once again. “Local leaders and participants in the program included Auto Association President Yadagiri, along with Ravi, Bhaskar Reddy, Maisaiah, Shekhar Reddy, Venkateshwarlu, Kavitha, and other BRS leaders.

Aim High in the Future - MP 'Ravichandra' Blesses Student Achiever



“Warangal, April 27 (Indian Chronicle) : Vaddiraju Ravichandra, Deputy Leader of the BRS Parliamentary Party and Member of the Rajya Sabha, congratulated student Archana for securing outstanding marks in the recently announced Intermediate annual examinations.“Archana met the MP at his residence on Monday, where he blessed her and conveyed his best wishes for her future.“A student of MPC at Resonance Junior College in Hanamkonda, Archana scored an impressive 965 out of 1000 marks in the Intermediate results, showcasing exceptional academic merit. Notably, she is the daughter of Veena Vanka Kiran Kumar, Personal Assistant to MP Ravichandra.“On the occasion, MP Ravichandra praised Archana’s hard work, determination, and the encouragement provided by her parents. He wished her great success in higher education and hoped she would scale greater heights in the future.“Archana, accompanied by her father Kiran Kumar, also met the MP’s elder brother Kishan as a courtesy. They blessed her, offered sweets, and wished her continued excellence and a bright future in her academic pursuits.

Habitual offender arrested for college theft; 5 lakh, gold recovered

Accused with prior record held within hours; stolen property seized based on disclosure.



Karimnagar April 27 (Correspondent) : The Karimnagar Two Town police have arrested a habitual offender in connection with a theft at a private junior college and recovered 75 lakh in cash and a gold chain weighing about 10 grams.Commissioner of Police Gaush Alam said the ac-

cused, Boddula Yugender (32) of Durshed village, has a history of involvement in multiple theft cases and had earlier been detained under the Preventive Detention (PD) Act.

According to Two Town Inspector K. Srujan Reddy, the theft occurred in the early hours of April 26 at the office of Sri Chaitanya College in Mankammathota. The accused allegedly broke open the locks, entered the premises, and decamped with cash kept in a cupboard along with a gold chain.

Following a tip-off, a police team apprehended the accused at his residence in Durshed. The stolen cash and the gold chain were recovered based on his disclosure, in the presence of mediators.During interrogation, the accused is said to have confessed to his involvement in an earlier theft of a temple hundi at Chintakunta Anjaneya Swamy temple, the police said.Mr. Alam commended the police team for the swift detection of the case and recovery of the property. The police said surveillance on known offenders would be intensified and warned of strict action against those indulging in property offences.“

Grand BRS Party Foundation Day Celebrations Held in Ramanthapur

Under the Leadership of BRS State Leader Gandham Nageswara Rao



“UPPAL, APRIL 27(INDIAN CHRONICAL):“The BRS Party Foundation Day celebrations were held grandly on Monday in Ramanthapur Division under the leadership of BRS state leader Gandham Nageswara Rao, following the call given by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy.“Speaking on the occasion, Gandham Nageswara Rao stated that in its 26-year journey, the BRS has stood as a platform for many historic milestones and a model of development — spending 13 years as an agitation party and later 10 years as the ruling party.“He said that during the Telangana statehood movement, many issues that were once raised as slogans had been addressed one by one after the party

came to power, thereby winning the hearts of the people.“Prominent BRS leaders who participated in the program included Pasula Prabhakar Reddy, Palvai Madhusudhan Reddy, Ramasahayam Srinivas Reddy, K.N. Chari, Shankar, Thut Narasimha, Srikanth Goud, Manish, Gold Shiva, Mohan Babu, Mallikarjun, Kittu, Apple Srinu, Ale Ramesh, Mandapati Srinivas, Cheguri Srinivas, Mahender, Sagar, Ramachandra Chari, Venkatesh Chari, Gopichari, Baburao, Sammad, Vamsi, Laddu, and Rafiq.“Women participants included Sandhya, Janaki, Swapna, Radha, Lakshmi, Manjula, Renuka, Bhagya, and Sabita, along with several others.

Members of the TWJF (H-2843) Khammam District Committee met the newly appointed District Collector, T.S. Diwakar, and extended their greetings by presenting a bouquet.



“KHAMMAM APRIL 27 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):““On this occasion, President Nanabala Ramakrishna and Secretary Arvapalli Nagesh spoke about the Collector’s service record, stating that since assuming duties in 2017, he has worked in several districts with a clean and commend-

able track record. They congratulated him on taking charge as the Collector of Khammam district.“They expressed confidence that, just as he had contributed to the development of previous districts, he would also lead Khammam towards significant progress and provide effective governance, potentially developing it on par with Hyderabad. The representatives highlighted that journalists act as the fourth pillar of democracy, serving as a bridge between the government and the public. They requested the allocation of 23.02 acres of land already sanctioned for journalists to be distributed as housing plots. They also appealed for the provision of health cards and fee concessions for journalists’ children studying in private schools.“They further urged the Collector to continue supporting underprivileged and weaker sections of society and to remain a strong pillar for the poor.“Among those present at the event were TWJF (H-2843) Treasurer Vemulakonda Ramesh, Vice President Kandaraboyina Nagakrishna, Bhadradi Kothagudem Secretary G. Venkateshwarlu, TBJA District Secretary Kasaju Srihar, Videographers Association Joint Secretary Karunakar Sudagani, TWJF City President Gantela Kumar, TBJA City Assistant Secretary Chinnamsetti Rambabu, Press Club President Anthoti Srinivas, and others.

BJP, BRS must stop resorting to ‘corpse politics’



---Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy-----Hanumakonda, April 27 (Indian Chronicle) : Nayini Rajender Reddy, MLA of Warangal West, said that while the previous government, despite being in power for ten years, could not stand by workers even for 30 days, the Congress government extended support to RTC workers within hours. He was addressing the media as the chief guest at a press conference held at the District Congress Party office in Hanumakonda on Monday.“Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said questioning politically is natural, but indulging in “corpse politics” is unacceptable. He asserted that the government has complete sincerity towards RTC workers. Offering condolences over the recent death of RTC worker Shankar Goud, he assured that the government would extend all possible support to the bereaved family.“He criticized leaders holding positions at the Union minister level for indulging in petty politics. He alleged that BJP leaders, particularly Bandi Sanjay Kumar, failed to provide even minimal assistance to the family. Despite being in power at the Centre, he said, the BJP had brought no tangible benefit to the State.“Rajender Reddy said the political ill-intent of op-

position parties became evident during discussions, accusing the BJP of being habituated to “corpse politics” and “communal politics.” Those who failed to carry out development works, he said, had no moral right to criticize the Congress government. He questioned why the Centre had failed to act earlier on the Mamnoon Airport issue. In the coming days, he remarked, the BJP’s situation would worsen — “not only the double engine, even the existing engine will be lost.” He added that the BJP has brought no benefit to the State, and people would not accept the BRS speaking about the RTC strike, recalling that RTC assets were sold during its tenure.“On behalf of RTC workers of Warangal district, he thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.“The MLA further said that despite opposition leaders making tall claims, their statements were far from truth and aimed at misleading the public. He ridiculed leaders who, after pushing the district backwards in development for the past two decades, were now returning with deceptive postures. He reiterated that the Congress government and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy were making sincere efforts to resolve every issue. Local public representatives and party leaders were also present at the event.

Thief Targeting Locked Houses at Night Arrested- Gold and Silver Seized

*Karepalli SI Gopi***KHAMMAM,KAREPALLI, APRIL 27 (INDAIN CHRONICLE):““A thief who had been targeting locked houses during nighttime has been arrested by CCS and Karepalli police and remanded to judicial custody, said Sub-Inspector Gopi. Around three tolas of gold and 20 tolas of silver ornaments were recovered from the accused.“According to details released by the Karepalli SI on Monday, the accused, identified as Yandi Matin, a resident of Khammam Khilla Bazaar, is the prime suspect in six theft cases. Three cases were registered at Karepalli Police Station, while one case each was reported in Madhira, Bonakal, and Peddapalli areas.“Police used technical surveillance to investigate the cases and finally identified and arrested the accused near the Karepalli auto stand on Monday.



No pendency beyond a week for Prajavani petitions: Collector

Chitra Mishra directs officials to ensure time-bound disposal; 226 grievances received at public hearing.

Karimnagar April 27 (Correspondent) : The State government accords the highest priority to grievances submitted under the Prajavani programme, and no petition should be kept pending for more than a week, District Collector Chitra Mishra said on Monday.Reviewing the weekly Prajavani public hearing at the Collectorate auditorium, Ms. Mishra received petitions from members of the public, with a total of 226 applications submitted.

She directed officials across departments to dispose of all petitions within seven days and accord first priority to Prajavani cases. All applications pending beyond a week must be cleared immediately, she said, asking departments with high pendency to identify bottlenecks and expedite disposal.Even in cases where there is a delay in forwarding applications to the concerned departments, officials should examine them on the Prajavani online portal and ensure prompt resolution, she said. The Collector also emphasised that applicants must be informed of the action taken on their petitions without fail.Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Srinivas Reddy, Revenue Divisional Officers Maheshwar and Ramesh Babu, and other district officials were present.



Modern Farming Can Boost Farmers’ Income : Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao

“Khammam ,Raghunathapalem, April 27 (Indian Chronicle):““State Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, and Handlooms & Textiles, Tummala Nageswara Rao, said that farmers can achieve higher income through modern agricultural practices.“On Monday, the minister participated in the “Scientists at Farmers’ Doorstep” program held at the Rythu Vedika in Raghunathapalem mandal, along with District Collector Divakar T.S.“Speaking on the occasion, the minister expressed ??? over attending his first farmers’ program in Khammam district along with the newly appointed collector. He said the initiative aims to bring agricultural scientists directly to villages to guide farmers on modern farming methods.“He advised farmers to learn about which crops to cultivate, proper fertilizer usage, and techniques to achieve higher yields at lower costs using advanced agricultural technologies. He also announced that a Godrej Oil Palm factory is set to be inaugurated in May, and the company is planning to establish an oil palm nursery in Khammam district.“The minister noted that agricultural mechanization did not receive adequate attention in the past decade, but the current government is ready to allocate funds for it. He urged farmers to suggest how these funds should be effectively utilized.“He encouraged farmers in Raghunathapalem to become a model for Telangana by cultivating profitable crops like oil palm. He stated that the government provides a subsidy of 751,000 over four years for oil palm cultivation, which can generate income for up to 40 years. Farmers can also grow intercrops like cotton, chili, pulses, and maize between oil palm plants, he added, noting that the crop does not face major market or monkey-related issues.“The minister also suggested farmers consider crops like arecanut, jasmine, and cocoa for better income. Experts from Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University will address farmers’ queries, he said.“District Collector Divakar T.S. highlighted that food



security will become a critical issue in the future due to population growth and declining soil fertility. He said that with proper knowledge, farmers can earn 72–3 lakh per acre.“He advised farmers to reduce urea usage as much as possible and emphasized the benefits of organic farming.

Timothy, President of the Khammam District Pastors Fellowship Joint Forum

, called for the success of a peaceful mega rally to be held in May for the protection of Dalit Christians' rights. He urged both the Central and State governments to safeguard the rights of Dalit Christians. ""



KHAMMAM APRIL 27 (Indian Chronicle):""A round table meeting was held on Monday under the under the chairmanship of the Joint Forum at its office located in Mustafa Nagar area of Khammam town. Leaders from mainline churches, independent churches, and various Christian organizations including C.J.A.C, N.C.C, T.C.C, A.I.C.C Mahasena, Telangana Joint Forum, and Khammam district representatives participated in the meeting. "During the discussions, speakers demanded the immediate repeal of the 1950 Presidential Order and called for granting Scheduled Caste (SC) status to economically backward Christians who are facing discrimination. "They also discussed organizing a large public meeting across the undivided Khammam district in association with Manda Krishna Madiga for the protection of Dalit Christian rights. "The round table resolved to organize a peaceful mega rally in Khammam town in May, with participation from Christians and people of other communities including SC, ST, BC, and minorities, emphasizing unity. The exact date for the rally



will be announced soon. "Leaders stated that a massive assembly with Manda Krishna Madiga would also be held in May, with dates to be announced shortly. "Several leaders and representatives participated in the meeting, including Honorary President Vemula Satyam, district leaders Macharla Shekhar Babu, coordinators Papaganti Rajaratnam, Ernest Paul, Radhakrishna, Prayer Forum Convener George Muller, SC/ST/BC/Minority Mahasena President Manda Sanjeeva Rao, Treasurer Elisha, Christian Joint Action Committee Working President Anand Babu, Telangana Joint Forum President Luka Raju, and various constituency, mandal, and town-level pastors and leaders from across Khammam district. "They also stated that information about the rally and meeting would be shared with leaders of various Christian denominations including NCC, TCC, AICC, RCM, CSI, LEF, Baptist Church of Christ, Bishop Jacob, Rev. P. Enosh, and other prominent/leading Christian religious leaders, seeking their support for the cause.

BRS Marks 26th Foundation Day with Grand Celebrations in Kagaznagar

"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 27: The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) celebrated its 26th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm on Monday at Telangana Tali Chowrasta and near the RTC Bus Stand in Kagaznagar. "Former Zilla Parishad Chairman Koneru Krishna Rao unfurled the party flag and extended his greetings to the people of the Sirpur constituency. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the sacrifices made by the party during the Telangana statehood movement and emphasized its historical significance. "The event was attended by Telangana activists, local leaders, party cadres, and supporters.



Steps to Make Khammam a Model Clean City: Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao



""KHAMMAM APRIL 25 (Indian Chronicle):""State Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, and Handlooms & Textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao said that steps are being taken to develop Khammam into a clean and model city with improved infrastructure and better living conditions. "On Monday, the minister, along with District Collector Divakar T.S. and Additional Collector P. Sreeja, laid the foundation stone for CC roads and side drainage works in the 16th

division of Khammam Municipal Corporation at Dwarasalapuram. The project is estimated at ?1.20 crore. "Speaking on the occasion, the minister said the aim is to develop Khammam with wide roads, adequate drinking water supply, and 24-hour uninterrupted electricity. He stated that the city will be transformed into a clean and well-developed urban center. "He added that Khammam will be developed as a model for other municipalities in the state. All pending development works will be completed, and basic facilities will be provided equally to all sections of society. "The minister said that several national highways are now connected to Khammam and a ring road is also planned, which will help ease traffic congestion in the city. "He further stated that the government is committed to urban development and is working in a phased manner to improve roads and drainage systems. Comprehensive development works are being carried out in every division to make Khammam an ideal city. "He also said that efforts are being made for balanced development in all directions of the city by allocating funds to every division without political bias. "District Collector Divakar T.S. said that with three ministers representing Khammam district, development works are being sanctioned based on public needs and are being implemented quickly. He said road expansion works are progressing rapidly and that the focus is on public welfare. "He added that underground drainage (UGD) works, modern agricultural market construction, cable bridge, and Munneru retaining wall works are also progressing at a fast pace. He expressed confidence that Khammam will become an ideal city within the next three years and urged public cooperation. "Later, the minister and the collector inspected works at the Munneru railway bridge on the Khammam-Devarapalli National Highway, including entry and exit points of the city. The minister directed officials to complete the works quickly and make them accessible to the public. "Khammam Mayor Punakollu Neeraja, corporators, district officials, public representatives, and others participated in the program.

Public Grievances Should Be Resolved Quickly: District Collector Divakar T.S.

KHAMMAM APRIL 27 (INDAIN CHRONICLE):""District Collector Divakar T.S. directed officials to ensure the swift resolution of public grievances. "He received petitions from the public during the "Prajavani" (Public Grievance) program held on Monday at the Collectorate conference hall. Additional Collectors Dr. P. Sreeja and P. Srinivas Reddy also participated in the program. "A resident of Konijerla village, C.H. Ramalakshmanulu, submitted a complaint seeking action against the village panchayat governing body for alleged misuse of authority. The Collector directed the Tahsildar to take necessary action. "Residents of Enkooor village submitted a request stating that farmers with paddy fields under a local tank are suffering crop losses due to water stagnation of up to four feet whenever it rains. They also requested construction of culverts, drainage channels, and widening of canals along the new road from Enkooor to Garla Oddu. The Collector instructed the District Panchayat Officer (DPO) to take necessary action. "The President of the Konijerla Fisheries Society, Rediboina Venkanna, filed a complaint alleging encroachment of village tanks such as Ooru Cheruvu and Chikati Cheruvu, and requested their protection. The Collector directed the Tahsildar to take appropriate action. "Residents of an SC colony in Madhira submitted a request regarding the shifting of a government Ayurvedic hospital PHC sub-center from a new building to the old Community Health Center building. The Collector instructed the District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO)



to take necessary action. "District Revenue Officer Padmashree, ZP CEO Deeksha Raina, district officials, and Collectorate AO Srinivas also participated in the program.

Delegation seeks curb on vigilantism ahead of Bakrid

Calls for veterinary oversight, regulated livestock markets to ensure peaceful observance.



Karimnagar April 27 (Correspondent) : A delegation of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) leaders and Islamic scholars on Monday urged the district administration to act against individuals engaging in vigilantism under the guise of cow protection, in the run-up to Bakrid (Eid al-Adha). Led by AIMIM city president Syed Ghulam Ahmed Hussain, the delegation submitted representations to Collector Chitra Mishra and Police Commissioner Gaus Alam, seeking measures to ensure the peaceful conduct of the festival. The delegation called for strict enforcement of norms at livestock markets, including allowing only animals certified by veterinary doctors. It also requested the authorities to prevent the entry of prohibited animals into markets during the festival period. Mr. Hussain said the community would adhere to legal provisions while performing Qurbani and appealed to people to maintain communal harmony. He urged transporters to cooperate with police checks and report any obstruction by miscreants. The



memorandum also sought the deployment of veterinary staff at cattle markets and proposed a district-level coordination meeting involving officials and representatives of political parties.

Youth Congress District President Manga Praveen expressed happiness over the end of the RTC strike



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... April 27):- Youth Congress District President Manga Praveen expressed happiness over the RTC leaders coming forward to end the strike and the fruitful conclusion of the talks held by the government. On this occasion, he extended his heartfelt greetings to the RTC leaders and workers. As the talks between the government and the RTC leaders were successful, the Youth Congress leaders met the RTC leaders and workers at the Bhuvanagiri bus stand and conveyed their greetings. Speaking on this occasion,



Manga Praveen said that as a people's government, the Congress will always be committed to the development of the RTC and the welfare of the workers. He said that the government will definitely implement the promises made and that RTC workers do not need to worry. Bhuvanagiri Assembly President Baddam Vasudeva Reddy, State Chief Secretary Putta Girish, Assembly Deputy Presidents Chakuri Balu Battu Sandeep Aleru, Assembly Deputy Presidents Kallem Karunakar, Bhuvanagiri Mandal Vice Presidents Kumar, Vinay, Vasugoni Sai Asad, Sai, Jalil, Shivateja and Youth Congress leaders participated in this program.

Sarpanch Shiga Naresh Goud, PACS Chairman Mettu Srinivas Reddy launch paddy purchase centre through PACS



""(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...April 27):- The paddy purchase centre set up under the auspices of PACS in Mugdhampalli village of Bibinagar mandal of Bhuvanagiri constituency was launched by village Sarpanch Shiga Naresh Goud and PACS Chairman Mettu Srinivas Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, Sarpanch Naresh Goud said that every grain of paddy grown by the village farmers will be purchased in full by the government. He said that minimum infrastructure has been provided to the farmers and labourers at the paddy purchase centres so that the farmers do not face any difficulties. It was informed that arrangements have been made to deposit money directly into the accounts of the farmers within 48 hours after the paddy is sold, with the help of local MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy. He said that the welfare of farmers is the main goal of the Congress government. He said that steps are being taken to ensure that farmers do not suffer any loss by providing 41 kg bags of grain at the farmers' doorsteps without any delay. He said that the Congress government is biased towards the farmers as per the statement. He said that immediately after purchasing the grain, the District Revenue Collector and Civil Supply officers have arranged transport lorries and are transporting the grain to the godowns. "PACS Vice Chairman Gaddam Balakrishna Directors Jitta Narsi Reddy Village Upasarparch Shetty Soni Mallesh Ward Members Enjala Venkatesh Matta Gopi Erra Sekhar Reddy Prasanna Padam Radhika Narsingh Rao Former Upasarparch Matta Jahangir Goud Shakti Naresh Bandaru Bala Narasimha Matta Srinivas Goud Farmers Padam Pandu Shiva Sriramulu Village Heads and others participated in this program.

Statewide MeeSeva Outage Enters Third Day, Public Faces Hardship

"Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 27: MeeSeva services across Telangana have been non-functional for the past three days, with officials attributing the disruption to a recent software update. The outage has affected service centers in Hyderabad and other districts. ""The disruption has caused considerable inconvenience to citizens, especially those requiring urgent documentation. ""Officials stated that services are likely to be restored within the next 24 to 48 hours and urged the public to cooperate until normal operations resume.



‘Kashmir, considered heaven on earth, turned into hell for us’: Pune family rebuilds life amid loss



GNS News Agency, April 27

For years, Kashmir had lived in their imagination as ‘Heaven on Earth’ — a place the family had long hoped to visit together. But for the Ganbotes, that dream turned into something they now struggle to even speak about. “Kashmir is considered heaven on Earth, but it has turned into hell for us,” says 33-year-old Kunal Ganbote, pausing between sentences that still seem difficult to complete even a year later.

On April 22 last year, his father, Kaustubh Ganbote, was among the 26 people killed in the Pahalgam terror attack. He had travelled to Jammu & Kashmir with his wife and members of the Jadgale family, close family friends, on their first trip to the region. “There was a lot of excitement. It was their first visit,” Kunal recalls. “No one could have imagined what would happen.” What followed, he says, still feels unreal. “The incident was so sudden and shocking that even today, we are not able to digest that my father is no more. We don’t know how long it will take to truly come to terms with it,” he says. In the immediate aftermath, support came from all sides: relatives, friends, government officials and well-wishers. “Everyone stood by us during that difficult time,” he says. Yet, the sense of loss has remained constant, quietly shaping each day since.

Kunal, who was then working in Pune as a research consultant in the food and beverages industry, found his life taking an abrupt turn. “That day drastically changed my life,” he says. His father had spent 35 years building a ‘farsan namkeen’ (savoury snacks) business — starting from a

modest home-based setup and growing it into a network of 17 franchise outlets across Pune. It was work that both his parents managed together, with plans to expand further. “He wanted to build it into a national brand like Haldiram’s or Balaji,” Kunal says.

After his father’s death, Kunal left his job to take over the business. “Now, I am working to take forward his dream,” he says, describing it less as a choice and more as a responsibility that came with the loss. Even as life moves forward, questions about the circumstances of the attack remain. According to Kunal, his father and other members accompanying them were not at the initial point of firing. “They were far away when the firing started. The attackers moved freely over a long distance and eventually reached them,” he says. “This was a clear security lapse — there were no CCTV cameras, no checkpoints.” He also points to what he describes as deliberate targeting. “The targeting of individuals was very disturbing and showed a clear intent to create unrest in the Valley.” A year on, he believes that while operations such as Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev have been projected as responses to the attack and a tribute to the Pahalgam victims, more needs to be done. “Such operations are seen as a tribute to the innocent lives lost during the Pahalgam attack. But incidents like the blast near Delhi’s Red Fort show that terror networks are still deeply rooted,” he says. “Security agencies need to completely dismantle these networks and their linkages.” For Kunal, the demand is as much about accountability as it is about prevention. “The action by security agencies should be so strict that even those planning such attacks think twice,” he says. The family has received the financial assistance promised by the government. However, when it came to the offer of a government job as compensation, they chose differently. “As I had to take care of the business, we requested that the job be given to someone more in need,” he says. In the end, what remains is a loss that cannot be replaced, only carried. “We have already lost our dear one,” Kunal says. “But no one in the future should have to go through this. There has to be stronger surveillance so that such incidents do not happen again.” Shubham Kurale is a journalist based in Pune and has studied journalism at the Ranade Institute.

Singing Shammi Kapoor songs while studying: How Pune’s Siddharth Athaley topped JEE Mains

GNS News Agency, April 27

Siddharth has been preparing for JEE since he was in Class 8. There has always been a studious air in his household. There was one thing, however, that would break the atmosphere. Siddharth would be lost in a problem set but singing as he studied. Suddenly, he would hum a line from a song. Then wait. His parents knew what was coming: they were expected to sing the next line. And they always did. Making Siddharth smile and go right back to work. A big fan of retro Bollywood music, especially from Dev Anand or Shammi Kapoor movies, this ritual was what gave Siddharth’s preparations just the right rhythm.

He believes joy isn’t something that follows your work but is rather in doing the work. “If you enjoy it, it’s an unlimited source of happiness,” he says, describing his JEE preparations. “There’s always a book you haven’t tried, a problem you’ve been trying to crack for days.” For Siddharth, work itself is the reward. When asked about the nature of entrance exams like JEE in India, Siddharth says he doesn’t believe they should be forced on anyone, but he feels there is a lot of misunderstanding surrounding the exams. “Anyone who is curious will like these entrance exams,” he says. “They just gauge your curiosity.” In his view, the problem isn’t the exam itself, but the absence of informed choice around it.

A student finishing Class 10, he argues, should take time to genuinely explore all available paths, not to avoid engineering, but to choose it knowingly, without any regret in future. The exam is only punishing when you arrive at it



without wanting to be there. His parents, for their part, offer him strong, silent support. They take cues from him: rest when he needs rest, celebrate when he allows it. “We never count how many hours he studies. He studies for as long as he’s happy doing so — some days it’s many hours at a time, some days it’s not so much and that’s completely okay. He maintains regularity, that’s the important thing,” said his mother, Prajakta. Siddharth learned that taking breaks matters, “not as indulgence, but as maintenance”. “If you take a break, don’t feel guilty,” he says, “And if you’re studying, don’t feel tired.” The big exam still lies ahead, with JEE Advanced scheduled on May 17. He looks forward to getting back to physical exercise after his JEE Advanced paper, given that after singing his next love is cricket.

Days before May 1 deadline, teams race to deliver Mumbai-Pune Expressway’s Missing Link



GNS News Agency, April 27

The long-promised deadline of May 1 for the Missing Link on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway—a Rs 6,695 crore project designed to bypass the 19.8 km accident-prone and congested Ghat stretch between Khalapur and Kusgaon—is now just a week away. Engineers, labourers, and contractors are working overnight to see it across the finishing line, even as the West Asia conflict has made bitumen and waterproofing material hard to come by.

Once complete, vehicles will be able to bypass the treacherous ghat section and zip through a straight, long corridor of tunnels and bridges, cutting travel time by at least 30 minutes. “Our aim is to finish all work by May 1,” said Rajesh Patil, Joint Managing Director, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC). “Everything is on track. There were some issues in procuring bitumen and waterproofing material, which set us back by a few days, but we are trying our best to meet the deadline,” he added.

While the MSRDC aims to wrap up work by May 1, an inauguration date has yet to be decided and might be subject to the availability of politicians. An MSRDC official said that currently, the last leg of laying bitumen is underway along the cable-stayed bridge portion of the project. Due to the West Asia conflict, bitumen, which is made up of crude oil, has been in short supply and expensive. An ANAROCK report in March had noted the cost had risen to Rs 48,000-51,000/tonne. The costs have now shot up over 50 per cent. “Both bitumen and waterproofing material are limited in supply, so it has been taking longer to reach us and in smaller quantities. It has added a delay of two to four days

to the work, but we are still trying to make it in time. Earlier, we had planned to finish work by April 25, but that date will likely be surpassed. We are trying our best to finish by May 1,” the official added. Missing Link Mumbai Pune Expressway Currently, the last leg of laying bitumen is underway along the cable-stayed bridge portion of the Missing Link project on the Mumbai-Pune Expressway. The Missing Link is a 13.3 km alignment, made up of an 850 m viaduct, a 1.75 km tunnel, a 640 m cable-stayed bridge, and another 8.9 km tunnel through the hills. The cable-stayed bridge towers 180 m into the Tiger Valley, while the tunnels stretch almost 9 km into the hills and under the Lonavala lake. Not only will the winding Ghat section with steep inclines be optional on the route between Mumbai and Pune, but vehicles will also be able to bypass tourists visiting Lonavala and Khandala. Load testing on the Missing Link began in early April. While the tunnels had been completed a while back, the last remaining works were left on the deck of the cable-stayed bridge.

Blue Origin’s rocket fails to place BlueBird 7 in correct orbit

Washington: US space transporter Blue Origin placed AST Mobile’s BlueBird 7 communications satellite in the wrong orbit, making its direct-to-device operation unviable and forcing the firm to junk the spacecraft. Blue Origin’s New Glenn reusable rocket took off majestically from Cape Canaveral in Florida on Sunday morning, and its first stage booster rocket landed on a drone ship hundreds of miles off the coast in the Atlantic. However, the rocket failed to deliver on its primary task of placing the communications satellite in the designated low Earth orbit. “While the satellite separated from the launch vehicle and powered on, the altitude is too low to sustain operations with its onboard thruster technology and will be de-orbited,” an AST SpaceMobile post-launch press release said. India’s Launch Vehicle Mark-3 launched AST SpaceMobile’s BlueBird 6 satellite from ISRO’s spaceport at Sriharikota on December 23 last year.

Third conviction in Shivamogga ISIS case: NIA sentences key recruiter to 6 years’ rigorous imprisonment



GNS News Agency, April 27

A National Investigation Agency (NIA) special court in Bengaluru on Tuesday convicted and sentenced the third accused to imprisonment in the 2022 Shivamogga ISIS Terror Conspiracy case after he pleaded guilty. Accused Arafath Ali, 26, has been sentenced to six years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) on four charges of terrorism, apart from Indian Penal Code (IPC) charges of criminal conspiracy. Ali, a native of Shivamogga district who was deported from Kenya in 2023, was also sentenced for offences under Sections 18, 38, and 40 of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), 1967. Ali, who has been in prison since 2023, will serve an additional term of three years after the conviction.

Last November, the court had similarly sentenced two other accused — Mohammed Zabiulla and Nadeem Faizal — to six years of RI in the case, while the trial against the remaining nine accused, who have not pleaded guilty, is continuing. The Shivamogga module, which had members hailing mostly from the Thirahalli region, was involved in terrorism attempts in Karnataka in the 2020-25 period. “The offender / Accused No. 10 is sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of six (06) years and is liable to pay a fine of Rs.5,000/- for the offence punishable under Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. In default of payment of the fine, he shall undergo rigorous imprisonment for a period of one month,” the special court said.

The sentences will run concurrently, and “the period of detention undergone by the offender / Accused No. 10 in judicial custody shall be set off against the term of imprisonment imposed, as provided under Section 428 of the CrPC,” the court said. Ali had fled the country in January 2020 to evade arrest, fearing apprehension in connection with a separate terror module when he was accused of indulging in ISIS propaganda activities and planning terrorist acts. He was deported after his involvement in terrorist ac-

tivities through the Shivamogga module was unearthed by the state police and the NIA. According to NIA, Ali was an active member of the Islamic State (ISIS) and was involved in the criminal conspiracy to propagate the violent terrorist ideology of the banned terror organisation on Indian soil. He was engaged in radicalisation and recruitment of vulnerable youth into the Shivamogga ISIS terror module, NIA investigations had revealed. Arafath Ali is also a co-accused in a case of painting provocative graffiti in Mangaluru in December 2020 which is still under trial. NIA said, “It was further found during investigation that the accused had been involved in instigating and motivating other accused to inscribe inflammatory graffiti in Mangaluru City in support of ISIS and other terror organisations, including the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The conspiracy was aimed at inciting enmity and disharmony among people of different religions and spreading violent unrest in society.”

NIA further found in its probe in the case, which was originally registered by September 2022 by the Karnataka Police, that Ali was in touch with an online ISIS handler. He also worked as a funding channel for the Shivamogga terror module by receiving terror funds through cryptocurrency and disbursing the same among his co-accused. According to the NIA’s probe, an online handler identified as ‘Colonel’ provided funds to the accused members of the module “in cryptocurrency to crypto wallets of the accused and their friends to further the activities of IS”. The Karnataka Police had arrested two people in the case, and later, the NIA arrested 10 others after it took over the investigation. NIA had subsequently filed charges against all 12 accused. The case involves the conducting of trial blasts on the banks of the river Tungabhadra, near Shivamogga in 2022. The Shivamogga ISIS terror module was accidentally unearthed in 2022 after a stabbing incident that occurred in the city of Shivamogga on Independence Day, where Zabiullah was arrested for attempting to kill an innocent bystander in a communal incident. The main accused in the 2024 Bengaluru Rameshwaram Cafe blast case of 2024 — Abdul Matheen Taha, 32, Mussavir Hussain Shazib, 32 — and the accused in the 2022 Mangaluru cooker blast case, Mohammed Shariq, are also accused of being part of the Shivamogga module but have not pleaded guilty and have chosen to face the trial in the case. The Shivamogga module is alleged to have been handled by a missing accused from a 2012 Bengaluru LeT terror conspiracy case, Mohammed Shahid Faizal, who is currently based abroad. Faizal is also suspected to be linked to the Kashmir doctors module accused in the November 10 Red Fort blast case, and an October 23, 2022, Coimbatore suicide scare bomb case on account of similar modus operandi employed by the separate modules in the blasts.

‘No material to show intent of causing death in accident’: Accused in Beetle crash seeks discharge from case

GNS News Agency, April 27

Volkswagen Beetle involved in the 2023 Sarangpur crash near the Botanical Garden in Chandigarh, where three people were killed and five injured. Volkswagen Beetle involved in the 2023 Sarangpur crash near the Botanical Garden in Chandigarh, where three people were killed and five injured. Arguing that there is “no material to suggest that the accused had either the intention to cause death or the knowledge that his actions were likely to result in death”, Paramveer Singh, accused in the 2023 Sarangpur Volkswagen Beetle crash that killed three persons, has moved a discharge application before a Chandigarh court.

The plea, filed before the court of Additional Sessions Judge Sonika, contends that the essential ingredients to invoke culpable homicide under Section 304 of the IPC are absent in the case, and seeks discharge under Section 227 of the CrPC (now Section 250 of the BNSS). The court has issued notice to the prosecution and posted the matter for May 25. The case pertains to an FIR registered on May 17, 2023 at the Sarangpur police station under Sections 279, 337 and 304 of the IPC, with Section 338 added later. The FIR relates to an incident in which a speeding Volkswagen Beetle allegedly rammed into a group of people near a bus stop close to the Botanical Garden, leaving three dead and five injured.

In the application, filed through advocates Teriminder Singh, Madhu Vani, Manjinder Singh and others, the accused has claimed false implication and denied any negligence on his part. It has been argued that the accident occurred due to the fault of a motorcycle rider who was allegedly coming from the wrong side and did not possess a valid driving licence. The defence has maintained that even



if the prosecution’s version is accepted at face value, the case would, at best, attract Section 304-A IPC (causing death by negligence), and not Section 304 IPC. It emphasises that there is no evidence to indicate intention or prior knowledge that could elevate the offence to culpable homicide. Referring to the material on record, the application cites the mechanical inspection report of the car, stating that the damage pattern and deployment of airbags suggest a sudden impact, allegedly caused by the motorcycle entering from the wrong direction. It also claims that the CCTV footage from the accident site was not preserved, which, according to the defence, could have supported its version. The plea further relies on the statement of a co-passenger in the vehicle, who has reportedly corroborated the claim that the motorcycle was at fault. It also points out that there are no allegations of intoxication against the accused and that he has no prior criminal record.

Court orders FIR against Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara over ‘Rs 500 bet’ remark at kabaddi event



The order was passed by the 42nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) court judge, K N Shivakumar, following a private complaint filed by H R Nagabhushan, who argued that the Karnataka home minister’s statement amounted to promoting an illegal activity.

GNS News Agency, April 27

The Bengaluru city court Tuesday directed the Tumakuru police to register a First Information Report (FIR)

against Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara over his alleged admission of placing a Rs 500 bet during a kabaddi tournament. The order was passed by the 42nd Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate (ACJM) court judge, K N Shivakumar, following a private complaint filed by H R Nagabhushan, who argued that the Karnataka home minister’s statement amounted to promoting an illegal activity.

Taking cognisance of the matter, the court directed the Kodigehalli police in Tumakuru to register an FIR against the Karnataka home minister and conduct a detailed investigation. According to the complaint, the incident pertains to a state-level pre-university students’ kabaddi tournament held in Tumakuru. During the event, Parameshwara allegedly placed a friendly wager of Rs 500 with Deputy Commissioner Shubha Kalyan, backing the Vijayapura team. However, the Dakshina Kannada team went on to win the final 36–26. The complaint states that while distributing prizes, the Karnataka home minister publicly acknowledged losing the bet, which subsequently led to legal scrutiny.

Although the amount involved was small and the remark was allegedly made in a light-hearted manner, the complainant argued that betting is illegal and that public figures must avoid endorsing or engaging in such activities. He also contended that a person holding constitutional office should refrain from statements that could be seen as promoting unlawful conduct.

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 ecosystems and enhance engagement between stakeholders, the state-

ment 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.

'Blindfold, western-style proposal': Bengaluru woman held for burning boyfriend alive



GNS News Agency, April 27

A 27-year-old woman was taken into custody Tuesday for allegedly burning her boyfriend alive after luring him with the promise of a "western-style proposal" in Bengaluru. According to the police, the incident occurred on Tuesday afternoon at a house in Anjananagar under the Byadarahalli Police Station limits. The victim, identified as Kiran, 27, arrived at the house around 2 pm after being invited by the accused, Perna, with whom he had been in a relationship for nearly 2 years. Both worked at a private telecom firm.

The police said Perna planned the act in advance. She is said to have blindfolded Kiran and tied him to a chair

under the pretext of staging a surprise proposal, reassuring him when he questioned the restraints. Investigators said she then removed his clothes, distracted him, and poured petrol and kerosene—procured earlier—before setting him on fire. He died on the spot. The police said they have recovered a video of the incident recorded on the accused's mobile phone, which is now part of the evidence being examined.

Initially, Perna reportedly told the police she was in the bathroom and found that Kiran had set himself on fire once she came out. However, inconsistencies at the scene raised suspicion. "At first glance, it appeared to be a case of suicide, but the investigation established it was murder," a senior police officer said. Officers noted that the victim had arrived on a bike carrying only a bag and had not brought any flammable substance, further weakening the suicide claim. A subsequent inquiry confirmed that the fuel used in the crime had been purchased by the accused. The police said the couple had a history of frequent arguments, with the accused suspecting that Kiran had been distancing himself. Investigators are now probing whether there were additional motives and if anyone else may have been involved. Senior officers, including an assistant commissioner of police and a station inspector, visited the scene. A case of murder has been registered, and further investigation is ongoing.

51 Urban Local Bodies in Himachal go to polls on May 17: SEC; MCC imposed



GNS News Agency, April 27

Himachal Pradesh State Election Commissioner Anil Kumar Khachi on Tuesday announced that the elections to 51 Urban Local Bodies in Himachal Pradesh will be held on May 17, marking the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) in urban areas. The 51 Urban Local Bodies comprise the four Municipal Corporations of Solan, Mandi, Dharamshala and Palampur, along with 25 Municipal Councils and 22 Nagar Panchayats.

Addressing a press conference here, Khachi said, "A total of 1,80,963 male and 1,79,882 female eligible voters would exercise their franchise. Additionally, 1,808 voters aged 18 will cast their votes for the first time. Voters can also verify their names and those of family members through the Sarathi mobile application." Khachi said, "As per the schedule, nomination papers will be filed on April 29, 30 and May 2 (till 3 pm). Scrutiny of nominations will take place on May 4 from 10 am onwards, while the last date for withdrawal of nominations is May 6 (from 10 am to 3 pm). Election symbols will be allotted immediately after the withdrawal process." "Polling will be held on May 17 from 7 am to 3 pm. The counting of votes for Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats will be conducted the same day, while counting for the four Municipal Corporations will take place on May 31," the SEC said.

The list of polling stations would be published on April 29, he added. Khachi further said Rs 1 lakh expenditure limits have been fixed for candidates for the Municipal Corporation elections, Rs 75,000 for the Municipal Council elections and Rs 50,000 for the Nagar Panchayat elections.

The SEC said, "The voter list for the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) will be finalised on April 27, following which elections are likely to be announced. As of now, only urban local body elections have been notified." Administrative restrictions have also been imposed in view of the upcoming elections. According to the State Election Commission's fresh orders, Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs), Block Development Officers (BDOs), and District Panchayat Officers will not be allowed to leave district headquarters without prior permission. The order has come into effect immediately to ensure the smooth conduct of the elections. ULB results will lay strong foundation for BJP for 2027 Assembly polls: Parmar Moments after the SEC announced the urban local body elections in Himachal Pradesh, BJP state vice-president and Sullah MLA Vipin Singh Parmar said the Congress would face a

decisive defeat in the elections and that the results would lay a strong foundation for the BJP ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Welcoming the announcement of the election schedule, he said, "BJP leaders and workers are fully prepared to contest the urban local body elections with strength and commitment. BJP is a party that works among the people 365 days a year and is always prepared for elections." Parmar expressed confidence that under the leadership of Himachal BJP president Dr Rajeev Bindal and Leader of the Opposition Jai Ram Thakur, the party would fight the elections with seriousness and a well-planned strategy. Criticising the Congress government, Parmar said the government had been "attempting to delay" the elections to urban local bodies for the past three to four months.

Termed the tenure of the Congress government as "completely anti-people", the BJP leader said, "The Congress government has made life difficult for the common people by increasing water tariffs and imposing multiple taxes and charges. BJP will take these anti-people decisions to the forefront in the electoral battle and strongly raise public issues."

Tiger, cub found dead in MP's Panna and Kanha reserves

Panna/Mandla: A tiger and a male cub have been found dead at two tiger reserves in Madhya Pradesh, forest officials said "During our morning patrol, our staff found the decomposed carcass of a tiger, that died 20 to 25 days back, in compartment number 278, within the Vanmarg Sanctuary. A doctor and our team have inspected the scene," PTR field director Brijesh Srivastava said.

The decomposition of the carcass makes it difficult to initially determine the cause of death, he said. A special team from the Special Task Force (STF), which specialises in investigating wildlife crimes, has also been called for a thorough probe into the tiger's death. Evidence is being collected with the help of a dog squad and forensic experts, the official said. "Only after the reports from the STF team and experts will it be clear whether the tiger's death was natural or involved criminal activity. Efforts are also being made to confirm the tiger's identity (ID number)," he said. Meanwhile, in the Kanha Tiger Reserve (KTR) in Mandla district, a male tiger cub was found dead in the Sarhi forest range on Tuesday. All organs of the dead cub were found intact and the autopsy indicated a natural death, KTR field director Ravindra Mani Tripathi said. The spot was secured and a search was conducted in the area. A tigress was spotted nearby with her other cubs, as per forest officials. Madhya Pradesh is often referred to as India's 'Tiger State' due to the highest population of big cats in the country. The state is home to several tiger reserves, including Panna, Kanha, Pench, Satpura and Bandhavgarh.

'Chhabbi Lal, come here': How a keypad phone, old photo ended a murder suspect's 35-year run



GNS News Agency, April 27

A four-storey building near the regional passport office in Punjab's Ludhiana, which houses coaching centres and offices of private firms, was being closely watched. A 62-year-old man, of a slim build and average height (5 feet 7 inches), who stood there smoking a beedi, was the target. The man turned around, only for a police team from Delhi to swoop in and arrest him.

The Delhi Police had been looking for Lal, aka Chavi Lal Verma in their records, for 35 long years. In August 1991, police said, he had allegedly murdered his landlady and injured her teenage son while attempting to rob them in East Delhi's Trilokpuri. Police said Verma had moved to Ludhiana 14 years ago and was working as a caretaker-cum-guard of a commercial building — where he was caught from — for Rs 15,000 a month. He had been living in a barsati on the terrace for the past few months. Over the years, police said he moved between several cities to evade arrest. Recounting the case, police said it was early 1991 when Verma, then aged 27, came to Delhi from his hometown in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur in search of work. He found employment at a curtain shop in East Delhi and took a room on rent in West Vinod Nagar. It was a single-storey house owned by Amarjeet Suri, who lived abroad. His wife, Geeta Suri, and their 18-year-old son Montu lived in the house. According to police, Verma had arranged the accommodation through someone known to him from his village.

In the dead of the night, police said Verma entered the Suri's home to rob them. But Geeta woke up and raised an alarm, so he allegedly attacked her with a meat cleaver. In the ensuing commotion, Montu woke up too and tried to intervene, leading to a scuffle with Verma. According to the handwritten FIR, mother and son sustained critical injuries and were rushed to Lok Nayak Hospital. Geeta was declared dead, Montu was admitted for treatment. When they questioned Verma now, after his arrest, a police officer said he admitted that he fled after believing both victims were dead.

Police said he spent the next few hours wandering the streets. When day broke, he escaped to Kolkata by train and stayed there for six-seven months, shuttling between homes of relatives. He then shifted to Mumbai, where he lived in Dharavi and worked as a daily-wage labourer. During this time, he learned that the Delhi Police had conducted a raid at his Sultanpur home. Fearing arrest, police said he moved to Nagpur and found work in an orange orchard. After living there for a few years, he shifted to Goa and worked at various hotels. It was here, police said, that he came into contact with a businessman from Punjab who offered him work at a garment mill in Ludhiana. He decided to move once again. During this period, police said, he procured an Aadhaar card and other identity documents under the name Chhabbi Lal Verma. Over the years, police said they made several efforts to track him down. Right after the murder, a local police officer in East Delhi had identified

Verma and tried to nab him, but could not trace him. "In those days, there were no mobile phones or CCTV cameras; all we knew was that Verma had been staying in the house as a tenant," a Delhi Police officer privy to the case told The Indian Express.

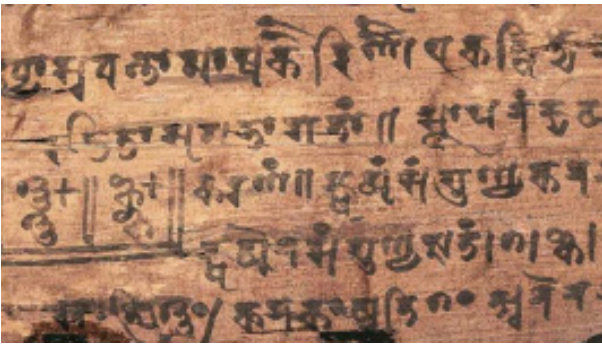
Another challenge at the time was the absence of a tenant verification system. As a result, the local police did not have his permanent address. Acting on human intelligence inputs, police managed to reach his home in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, but the trail went cold. Police even questioned his wife, who had a one-year-old daughter with Verma, but she claimed her husband never returned from Delhi. After extensive searches across Delhi and Sultanpur, the accused was declared a proclaimed offender by a city court in Delhi in 1996. The case was eventually transferred to the Cold Cases Cell of the Delhi Police.

The Crime Branch, known for cracking unsolved heinous crimes in the city, was recently tasked with solving this case. Six months ago, a team from the Crime Branch's Inter-State Cell got a break — they found that the family had been getting calls from one particular number. But getting hold of this number proved painstaking, said officers. The team had to go over a dozen mobile phone numbers belonging to Verma's relatives and acquaintances in Sultanpur to identify the anonymous contact, which was often switched off. Using technical analysis, police learned that the SIM card was not being used in a smartphone. "We suspected that a keypad mobile phone was being used," the officer said. The phone number was finally traced to a building in Ludhiana. A team comprising Sub-Inspectors Naresh Kumar and Sunil, along with Head Constables Sunil Kumar, Ashish Malik, Sonu Tomar, and Rajesh Kumar, under the supervision of Inspector Manmeet Malik, was dispatched to the city on April 10. The team operated under the guidance of ACP Ramesh Chander and DCP Aditya Gautam of the Inter-State Cell. They arrived in Ludhiana around noon. Apart from the number, the team had a 14-year-old blurred photograph of Verma obtained during the investigation.

For the next six hours, police said, the team kept watch at a commercial complex — which the phone location led them to — trying to identify Verma. At the time, police were unaware he lived on the building's terrace and worked there. "We suspected that if we called his mobile phone and identified ourselves as Delhi Police, he might flee. That's why we avoided contacting him," another officer said. Finally, around 6 pm, police spotted a man, of a similar physique to the old photo they had of Verma, smoking at a shop nearby. The team kept a close watch on his movements. Meanwhile, the man took out a keypad mobile phone and put it back into his pocket. This confirmed the police team's suspicion.

The man left the shop and the team followed silently on foot. At one spot, officers said, he stopped to look at a roadside transformer. "While he was looking at the transformer, a team member shouted 'Chhabbi Lal', and he turned around. He was immediately nabbed," the officer said. When they questioned Verma, police said he admitted that after spending several years on the run and hiding in different cities, he believed he would never be caught. "In other cities, he never used mobile phones, but in Punjab, he bought a keypad mobile phone but often kept it switched off," the officer said. Police said during his time on the run, he would occasionally meet his wife and other relatives. His second child, a son, was born during this period. The son is now married and has a child of his own, aged one. At the site of the murder in Trilokpuri, there is no sign of the Suri's or their home. The property has been sold and converted into four different houses.

At IIAS workshop, experts stress need to conserve ancient scripts and manuscripts



GNS News Agency, April 27

IIAS workshop on ancient scripts in Himachal Pradesh highlighted the urgent need to conserve and digitise manuscripts, with experts emphasising their importance in preserving India's knowledge traditions. (Representative Image) IIAS workshop on ancient scripts in Himachal Pradesh highlighted the urgent need to conserve and digitise manuscripts, with experts emphasising their importance in preserving India's knowledge traditions. A two-day workshop on the theme, "Heritage of Ancient Writing Traditions in the Western Himalaya—Conservation of Scripts and Manuscripts of Himachal Pradesh", was inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study (IIAS) here on Tuesday, with experts stressing the need to conserve scripts and manuscripts.

The inaugural session commenced with the inauguration of an exhibition of manuscripts, offering a rare glimpse into the ancient writing traditions. The workshop will explore various aspects related to ancient scripts and manuscripts, including their conservation, reading traditions, digitisation, and documentation.

According to an IIAS communique, the objective of the workshop is to promote the study and preservation of manuscript traditions and scripts prevalent in the Western Himalayan region, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, such as Pabuchi, Tankri, Pandavani, and Chandvani, which evolved from the Sharada script. These manuscripts contain valuable material on the Indian knowledge tradition, particularly the Vedas, Puranas, Jyotisha, and Ayurveda, and are considered highly significant for research. Workshop coordinator Prof Om Prakash Sharma delivered the welcome address and introduced the theme, highlighting the objectives and relevance of the workshop, emphasising, "The manuscripts preserved in the Himalayan region constitute an invaluable heritage of the Indian knowledge system and stressed the need for their conservation." Delivering the keynote address, National Fellow Prof RC Sinha elaborated on the significance of manuscripts, their preservation, and various dimensions of the study of ancient writing traditions. In his address, chief guest Prof Himanshu Kumar Chaturvedi said, "Manuscripts are not merely historical documents but living expressions of India's intellectual tradition." He underscored the importance of their conser-

vation, digitisation, and scientific study, and emphasised the need for coordinated institutional efforts in this direction. He further affirmed that IIAS remains committed to supporting this noble and creative endeavour. In his presidential address, Prof Devdutt Sharma highlighted the importance of studying ancient scripts for a deeper understanding of Indian history and culture, and encouraged young researchers to engage in this field. He also presented various aspects related to the subject engagingly and insightfully.

JNU nod to 11% supernumerary seats for women in BTech courses

JNU nod to supernumerary seats for women in BTech courses, JNU supernumerary seats for women in BTech courses, JNU supernumerary seats for women, Jawaharlal Nehru University, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs JNUTA will oppose this and we have a general body meeting scheduled to discuss our strategy," he added. The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has approved the introduction of 11% supernumerary seats exclusively for women candidates in its School of Engineering. This amounts to 14 additional seats per batch in Electrical and Communications Engineering (ECE) and Computer Science Engineering (CSE) courses, The Indian Express has learnt.

As per documents, the university "considered the introduction of 11% supernumerary seats exclusively for women candidates in the BTech programmes of the School of Engineering," and "appreciated the efforts of the Dean, School of Engineering", in this regard "while maintaining the reservation policy as per the rules".

Documents also show that the decision follows several meetings within the School of Engineering. A Special Committee meeting held on February 11 comprising JNU faculty members, external experts from institutions including Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT-D), Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-D), and Delhi Technological University (DTU), as well as a representative from the Department of Science and Technology, endorsed the proposal, it is learnt. The 14 additional seats per batch for women candidates are to be equally distributed between the ECE and CSE courses, it is learnt. The committee also noted that the seats would be governed by prevailing government norms and that the percentage could be reviewed in the future, depending on improvements in infrastructure.

The MBA student, the peddler, the bribed guard: How drugs reached Mumbai’s NESCO concert floor and killed two people



GNS News Agency, April 27

Two people died and ten have been arrested after a techno music concert at the NESCO Exhibition Centre in Goregaon on the night of April 11, allegedly exposing a sophisticated narcotics supply chain — one that bridged prestigious management students from South Mumbai, local drug suppliers from the Kalyan-Ulhasnagar belt, and a compromised security apparatus at one of Mumbai’s biggest event venues. The fallout has been swift. Senior officers of Mumbai police have told The Indian Express that Electronic Dance Music or EDM concerts will now face stricter scrutiny before receiving permissions, a decision that seems to have already claimed its first casualty, with Circoloco’s much-anticipated India debut cancelled hours before it was to begin on April 19. Here is a look at those allegedly involved in the NESCO concert case, all of whom have been arrested, and the events that led up to the tragedy:

According to the police remand application, Shreya Rai, 24, and Sheetal Salvi, 25, second-year MBA classmates at a prominent management institute in South Mumbai, had gone to attend a concert at the NESCO Exhibition Centre on April 11 with a group of 19 friends. While dancing in the crowd, both suddenly began experiencing dizziness. They were admitted to a trauma hospital around 12:30 am on April 12 and later shifted to Bombay Hospital as their condition turned critical. Rai was declared dead that afternoon. Salvi survived and is recovering. A third victim, Bismat Singh Amarjit Singh Bhasin, 28, a resident of J S Hall, Churchgate who wasn’t part of the above student group, had consumed alcohol and was dancing when he began to feel unwell, as per the remand application. He was admitted to Lifeline Medicare Hospital, where he later died during treatment. Police believe he too had consumed pills along with alcohol. Viscera has been collected and sent for forensic analysis. The formal cause of death has not yet been established pending the forensic report. The MBA student, the peddler, the bribed guard: How drugs reached Mumbai’s NESCO concert floor and killed two people Following the two deaths, the Vanrai police registered a case under charges of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, along with relevant sections of the Maharashtra Prohibition Act and the NDPS Act.

According to the remand application, the drug supply ring involved several students from the same prominent management college in South Mumbai, who allegedly leveraged their social and academic connections to distribute narcotics within their peer group. Among those is Prateek Brijesh Pandey, 24, a second-year MBA student and classmate of the victims, who allegedly acted as the primary procurement link. After learning about the NESCO concert, he allegedly placed an order for 21 ecstasy pills through his long-time friend and alleged peddler, Anand Patel, and the contraband was allegedly delivered to him at his South Mumbai hostel. Raunak Rahul Khandelwal, 25, also a second-year MBA student and classmate of the victims, allegedly served as the internal distributor at the venue, allegedly passing the pills to his classmates, including Salvi and Rai, while at the concert. Salvi’s statement, as cited in the police remand application, confirmed that they received the “Mercedes” ecstasy pills directly from Khandelwal during the event.

He bought his wife a scarf at Baisaran valley. Minutes later, he was among the 26 killed at Pahalgam

It was Usha Desale’s first flight journey. In multiple video calls to his children, a thrilled Dilip Desale (64) — Usha’s husband and companion on the journey — captured moments of her perched on a window seat, the aircraft, their meals as well as their hotel in Srinagar as they flew into Kashmir “Our father was fond of capturing photos and videos. When he checked into his hotel room on April 21 night, he showed us around the room on a video call. He was wearing a monkey cap but only had chappals on his feet. I told him to wear some socks to avoid catching a cold,” smiled Yogita Yadav, Desale’s eldest daughter. Little did Yogita know that it would be the last she would hear from her father.

Dilip Desale and his wife, who were on a 10-day trip to Jammu and Kashmir as a part of tours organised by Nisarga Paryatan Tours, reached Pahalgam on April 22. Due to back ache, Usha chose to stay back while Dilip decided to go uphill into the valley, when terrorists opened fire at tourists.

As the news of the attack spread, their three children — Yogita Yadav, Kavita Sankpal and Nitin Desale — found themselves glued to the TV screens when Kavita saw her father’s name splash across a news channel around 8 pm. Minutes later, a frantic call by Nitin confirmed their worst fears: Dilip was among the 26 killed in the Pahalgam terror attacks. ‘All joy has gone’: A family navigates the loss of its ‘pillar’ A year after his death, during a special puja on Akshay Tritiya. A year after their life was thrown out of gear, the Desale family is yet to come to terms with the loss. “Our father was our closest friend. Ever since the incident, all joy has gone away from our life. He was the pillar of our family and now it feels like somebody has ripped apart that pillar,” said Kavita, Dilip’s daughter.

An electrician who worked at Lubrizol Private India Limited in Turbhe, Dilip was a travel junkie. But it was only after retirement that he started pursuing his travel dream. “At 60, his life had just begun. He started travelling after completing all responsibilities and had travelled to Kerala and Himachal Pradesh as well. This was his second trip to Kashmir, as he wanted to take my mother to experience the place,” said Kavita. Days after he was killed, the government returned Dilip’s belongings to his family residence at New Panvel — his bloodstained sunglasses and bag, a gold ring, cash, and a scarf that he had bought for his wife at Baisaran valley. “But his phone — a Redmi Note 11 Pro — is still missing,” said the family, for whom the device could hold memories of Dilip’s last moments. “We know how much he loved to click and record videos. Even en route to the

According to the police remand application, Ayush Vickey Sahitya, 24, a resident of Ulhasnagar, is considered by investigators to be the main supplier of the ecstasy pills. He allegedly operated in financial partnership with Vineet Sunil Garelandi, 22, a recent graduate of a prominent South Mumbai college, with their drug-related dealings allegedly documented through UPI transactions. During a search of Garelandi’s residence, police recovered five “Mercedes” ecstasy pills. His lawyer Azad Gupta said: “The police conducted searches at his residence and found five pills known as Mercedes and earlier they said my client had supplied ecstasy, now see what will come in the forensic report. Taking money through UPI cannot prove the connection of drug syndicates. He has taken money for his personal use from Ayush. Anand Laxman Patel, 24, a resident of Khadakpada in Kalyan, allegedly served as the vital link between the professional suppliers and the student buyers. According to the remand application, since he had been friends for several years with Pandey, he was the person Pandey contacted to place the order. After allegedly procuring the pills from the Sahitya-Garelandi partnership, Patel allegedly handed them to Shubh Agarwal for the final leg of delivery. Patel’s lawyers Surendra Landge and Azad Gupta said police had not recovered any contraband from their client’s house during searches, and that the accusations against him were untrue. Shubh Agarwal, 22, a management student at an Andheri-based college who lived in the same Kalyan locality, allegedly acted as the physical courier. According to the remand application, on Patel’s instructions, he allegedly took the 21 ecstasy pills and delivered them to Pandey’s hostel in South Mumbai. He is currently in police custody until April 20, represented by lawyers Surendra Landge and Azad Gupta.

All four — Sahitya, Garelandi, Patel and Agarwal — were present at the NESCO concert despite none of them having valid passes. Akash Banmari Samal, 31, proprietor of Inspiring Tie Production, the firm that organised the concert in tie-up with NESCO, is, according to police, legally responsible for ensuring attendee safety. Police claim he allegedly failed this responsibility by allowing drug peddlers to enter and operate within the venue. The organisers are also under scrutiny for allegedly supplying alcohol to some participants in violation of the Maharashtra Prohibition Act. NESCO Vice President Balakrishnan Balram Kurup, 46, and Sunny Vinod Jain, 31, an employee tasked with handling security, were arrested for their roles in managing the venue during the event. Their lawyer told the Borivali magistrate court on April 16 that his clients had taken all required permissions for the concert and followed all security protocols, adding that the company had been organising events at NESCO since 1995, including international exhibitions, without any such incident. Pradeep Gupta, 28, a security guard employed by SafeCare, a private agency contracted by NESCO, was posted at the entry gate. Police allege that Gupta accepted bribes from four members of the drug supply chain — Ayush Sahitya, Anand Patel, Shubh Agarwal and Vineet Garelandi — allegedly allowing them to enter the concert without valid passes and bypass security checkpoints. Gupta is currently being questioned to determine whether other employees of his security firm were involved in or aware of the arrangement.

NESCO issued a statement saying it maintains a strict zero-tolerance policy towards illegal substances on its premises and that there had been no lapse or negligence on its part. “In relation to this incident, the employees Jain and Balkrishna have discharged their responsibilities in accordance with established procedures and without any wrongdoing. We have full confidence that the ongoing investigation will establish the same,” the statement said. However, a defence lawyer for one of the accused, speaking on condition of anonymity, called it a complete failure of the Vanrai police. “They had no intelligence about peddlers operating inside the concert, and now they are arresting a security guard,” the lawyer said.

valley, he had sent us a photo on a horse, posing with a rabbit... Despite multiple follow ups with multiple government agencies, including the NIA, we have heard nothing of his phone. We only wish to hear his voice and relive his last moments, which are surely recorded on the phone,” said Yogita.

Desale’s youngest son Nitin told The Indian Express that while the original plan by the tour operators was to go to Gulmarg on April 22, last minute changes led his parents to Pahalgam instead. “That one change upturned our life... If the tour operators had not changed the plans at the last minute, our father would still be with us,” said Nitin. ‘All joy has gone’: A family navigates the loss of its ‘pillar’ Dilip Desale’s eldest daughter, Yogita Yadav (left) and wife, Usha Desale (right). A year since Dilip’s demise, the family says that they have received monetary compensation from various agencies, including the state governments in Assam and Maharashtra. But the promise of a government job, assured for the next of kin by the Maharashtra government in the aftermath of Pahalgam attacks, continues to elude the family. “We have approached the district collector in Alibaug. We also visited the Mantralaya multiple times, seeking updates of the assured Class-I government job. But the department says they have no updates on the job promise,” said Nitin. Remembered by his family as a happy-go-lucky, helpful and healthy man, Dilip had much to look forward to. Next on his bucket list were trips to Nepal and Europe. “He had immense love for life. He had no ailments and was extremely healthy. He used to take very good care of himself. Even before their Kashmir trip, my father and mother had run complete body check-ups at the Bombay Hospital in South Mumbai,” reminisced his son. Her husband’s untimely demise has left Usha shattered. From daily Yoga classes to shopping in the bazaars, Dilip was her companion in everything. “But ever since our father’s death, she has become quieter. She has stopped socialising or going to her Yoga class,” the family shared.

“My father helped everyone. During the 26/7 floods of 2005, he had opened doors of our Panvel home to 27 stranded people for nearly 3-4 days till they could safely return home. And yet, his life was cut short in this brutal manner. We still don’t know what happened in his last moments. It keeps me awake at night,” a teary-eyed Kavita shared. During Akshay Tritiya on Sunday, Usha — who now resides with her children — conducted a special puja at their family home in New Panvel, in remembrance of the family patriarch. A day earlier, the family performed a Shanti puja on his first death anniversary as per the Hindu tithi.

In this fertile Bengal belt, agrarian distress is the talking points this poll season



At the heart of this Assembly constituency, where the BJP catapulted to the top five years ago after remaining for long in the fringe, the electoral mood is fraught with grievances over agrarian distress, lack of infrastructure, and limited local employment. Onda was once ruled by the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) of the Left Front. It was won by the TMC in 2011, and it held the seat for two consecutive terms until 2021, when BJP’s Amarnath Shakha emerged victorious, garnering 46 per cent vote share.

2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, Onda, 2026 West Bengal Assembly polls, West Bengal Assembly elections, West Bengal Assembly polls, Chief Electoral Officer, Kolkata news, WEst Bengal news, Indian express, current affairs One of the seven segments under the Bishnupur Lok Sabha constituency, this Assembly seat covers the entire Onda community development block, along with four gram panchayats of the Bankura II block. Agriculture remains the backbone of the local economy, with paddy as the principal crop, alongside potato, sesame, and grains grown in three cycles annually. The Onda region forms a transitional terrain between the plains and the low hills of the Chota Nagpur Plateau fringe. The soil is a mix of lateritic and alluvial type, interlaced with rivers and rivulets, which are connected to Dwarakeswar river, making the local economy dependent on agriculture. However, farmers here are grappling with falling prices for their produce, the absence of cold storage, and inadequate access to the markets. At Singhati village, close to 300 farming families stare at severe losses after a bumper potato harvest but no buyers. With no storage facilities, the potatoes lie scattered in the fields, often rotting. As one walks into the house of local farmer Daroga Mandi, one sees he is busy packing potatoes in sacks.

“This time we are being given Rs 2 per sack (50 kilos), and these sacks in which we are storing the potatoes cost us Rs 45. Last year we got good prices, but this time nothing. After potatoes, sesame seeds will be harvested, followed by grains, but we do not have money for that,” he said. Others like Urmila Mandi pointed to the absence of basic infrastructure despite such facilities in nearby areas like Indas and Kotulpur in the Bishnupur subdivision. “There are no proper roads and infrastructure here. These are agricultural areas. So, each district should have cold storage for any crop. In Indas and Kotulpur in Bishnupur subdivision under the Bankura districts, there are cold storages, but not here... We have thrown the excess crop in the field. It is hard to see it rot,” Urmila Mandi said.

Apart from agriculture, Ramsagar in Onda is known for sweet-water fish hatcheries. The red soil roads lead to around 200 to 250 hatcheries lined one after the other, which employ close to 2000 workers. Despite being a major hub for Indian Major Carp seed production, which involves spawning using synthetic hormones or pituitary extracts, followed by hatching, nursing, and rearing to meet aquaculture demand for fish farming, hatchery owners cite multiple bottlenecks.

Taunts and name-calling: What happened in the final hours of campaigning for first phase of Bengal polls

Campaigning in Chandipur, which will vote on April 23 along with 152 constituencies in the first phase, senior BJP leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah targeted TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee over former party MLA’s plan to construct a Babri-like mosque in Murshidabad and said, “Mamata Didi ko dekho, apne chele Humayun Kabir se Bengal mein Babri Masjid banana chahti hai. Ei Didi, aankh khol, kaan khol kar sunlo. Ye Bengal Bharat mein hai. Koi Kabir Fabir yahan par Babri Masjid nahin banane denge hum (Look at Mamata Didi. She wants to get Babri Masjid constructed in Bengal by her disciple Humayun Kabir. Didi listen with your ears and eyes open. Bengal is in India, and we will not let any Kabir or Fabir build a Babri mosque in Bengal).” Taunts and name-calling: What happened in the final hours of campaigning for first phase of Bengal polls He also accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of shielding “infiltrators”. The TMC hit back with party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee accusing the Union Home Minister of “reducing a respected leader to a taunt”.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “Didi O Didi” remark in the 2021 Assembly elections, Abhishek, in a post on X, wrote, “The Prime Minister and the Home Minister speak endlessly about Nari Shakti. They posture on women’s empowerment and perform outrage for the cameras. But their conduct tells a different story. The Prime Minister publicly mocks a three-time elected woman Chief Minister with “Didi O Didi,” delivered with visible condescension. The Home Minister echoes it with “Ei Didi,” reducing a respected leader to a taunt.

Earlier, Abhishek had called Shah a goon and challenged him to stay in West Bengal after May 4, when the election results would be declared. “Amit Shah is threatening the people of Bengal, saying they should remain inside their houses on the 23rd (April 23 polling day), otherwise they will be taught a lesson. I want to challenge Amit Shah — if he has the guts, he should stay in Bengal after the 4th of May, and the people will teach him a lesson.” On the last day of the campaigning, Shah addressed four rallies — from Kurseong in Darjeeling Hills in the north to Kulti, Salboni, and Chandipur in the south. In Kurseong, he promised that the BJP government will resolve the “Gorkha issues”. “Within six months of the BJP forming the government in West Bengal, every Gorkha will have a smile on his face. We will find such a solution to the Gorkha issue that Gorkhas can live in peace,” he said, without saying “Gorkhaland” or “statehood”. “Mamata Didi, we are not dependent on you for a solution to the Gorkha issue. We have appointed an interlocutor who is preparing a report by engaging with Gorkha organisations here and officials of the West Bengal government,” he added. In other rallies, he targeted the TMC government over the issue of women’s safety and spoke about the rape and murder of a medical student at RG Kar Hospital. “This election is the election is not just for choosing if MLAs but to protect our mothers and daughters. In Mamata’s raj (rule), there have been atrocities on women — be it Sandeshkhali, Durgapur, south Kolkata law college, RG Kar Medical college... Each and every criminal will be identified

“The fish industry is booming. Close to 70 to 80 per cent of the fish spawn is transported all over the country. Like the fish that comes to Bengal from Andhra Pradesh, the eggs go from here. But we do not have the infrastructure to sustain the entire procedure from birth to the growth of the fish. If we had, then the fish industry would have prospered more,” Kaushik Nayak, a hatchery owner. According to other hatchery owners, there is also the issue of monopoly that has led many small hatchery owners to go out of business or hang by a thin thread. They further alleged that long-distance transport often leads to high mortality rates and increased costs, along with harassment by the police, which leads to further losses. According to them, a key demand across the sector is for proper roads connecting hatcheries to nearby rivers and rivulets. Apart from these constraints lie the issue of widespread migration, with at least one member working outside the state in several households. Although many locals rely on the government welfare schemes, they also depend on remittances from their migrant family members.

Sudha Mandi, a beneficiary of the Laxmi Bhandar scheme and helping her in-laws in potato farming, said that her husband is a migrant labourer in Chennai. “There is no job here, and if the entire family depends only on farming, then if the crop fails, it will become a problem. Thus, my husband works in Chennai and sends money to us, which helps us get over these difficult times,” she said. “When the TMC was in power from 2011-2021, there had been development work of Rs 550 crore. But after BJP’s Amarnath Shakha won this seat in 2021, he did not keep any of the promises other than installing solar lights.” TMC candidate Subrata Dutta, who is the party’s district unit president and contesting the Assembly polls from Onda for the first time, said.

Dutta said that once he wins from Onda, he plans to set up cold storages in the constituency and improve the condition of the roads so that fish farming can become a booming industry. “This is an agricultural area, and fish farming is also crucial. The TMC manifesto has promised to lease out government lands to fish farms and make concrete roads for their transportation. We will also arrange water for farming and build cold storages,” Dutta added. According to Dutta, for development, the panchayat, block, zilla, and the MLA have to work together, but in the case of Ramsagar, the panchayat and the MLA are from the BJP, and the zilla is under TMC, which is why there is some hindrance. Rejecting the TMC’s charge, BJP candidate Amarnath Shakha said, “There has not been any development in the entire West Bengal. Throughout the state, the potato farmers have been adversely impacted.”

Shakha, who has been contesting the Assembly polls from Onda since 2011, alleged that the TMC government did not provide any cold storages nor did they make arrangements for the excess crops to be sold in other states. “There is a need for cold storages here, but under the TMC MLA, none were built. We have never been called for meetings in the BDO (Block Development Officer) office or by the DM (District Magistrate). This government shows no concern for small farmers. If we have a double-engine government, we will build cold storages and the fisheries industry will be booming here,” Shakha, who won by a margin of over 11,000 votes, said. Following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), the electorate has shrunk by 37,811 — from 2,70,555 in 2024 to 2,32,744 voters. While Scheduled Castes constitute 32.70 per cent, Scheduled Tribes 4.06 per cent, and Muslims 8.90 per cent of the electorate.

and put behind bars,” Shah said. Giving a stern warning to TMC, Shah said, “I warn all Mamata’s goons. Don’t dare touch any voter otherwise, after May 4th, you will be behind bars. I urge all the people. Don’t be afraid on the 23rd. Come and cast your vote.”

In Kolkata, BJP MPs Anurag Thakur and Harsh Vardhan Shringla addressed a press conference where they labelled the election as “Mamata vs Janata” (people). He said, “The politics of appeasement, corruption, and nepotism practised by the TMC over the past 15 years will reflect in the results of this election... TMC stands for Terror, Money Laundering, and Cut Money.” Meanwhile, campaigning for the TMC in Haldia, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee slammed Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari and his father Sisir Adhikari, who were earlier associated with the TMC. Referring to the Nandigram agitation against land acquisition, Mamata said, “The father-son duo did not step out for 10 days. I was fighting alone. When petrol bombs were hurled at me, they were not there. They were not there when bullets were being fired at Nandigram.” Warning the BJP, she said, “Be very careful! You yourself are involved in a lot of scams. Who gets the cut money from the trucks that pass through Haldia? Who gets the cut from the wages of the labourers? Who extorts money from the companies here? All of these misdeeds are committed by one person. He keeps half the money with himself and gives the rest to another leader outside the state. I know everything... They take cut money from the cargo ships as well... It must be investigated how much money is illegally siphoned from Haldia.” She also slammed the BJP over its promise of giving cash doles to women on the lines of the TMC government’s Lakshmi Bhandar scheme. “The BJP should be ashamed of distributing forms now when the election has already been declared. Couldn’t they have done it in the budget, as we did for Laxmi Bhandar? These are all illegal. They are taking your bank account number. As they did in Bihar, they might freeze your account and loot everything you have. We provide the benefit of Laxmi Bhandar throughout the year. We work silently,” Mamata said. She also accused probe agencies — ED, CBI, I-T, and NIA — of working like puppets for the Central government. In Barjora, TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee challenged BJP leaders to bring out a report card of 12 year’s o Modi government at the Centre. “Those who speak of double-engine governments, I challenge any BJP leader or cadre to come up with the report card of the Modi government’s 12 years. What have they done for Barjora? They do politics of religion, but our politics is based on work... If they win, your rights will be taken away. If they win, Barjora’s money will go to Gujarat, and if TMC wins, Bankura’s money will be used for its own development.” Accusing the BJP of “humiliating” Bengalis, he alleged, “They do not understand our language, and mock us for our food habits. From the stage where they give speeches, they cannot read the words written there. Those who call us Bangladeshi, mock us for eating fish, and have forced us to stand in queues for multiple reasons, from SIR to lockdown to demonetisation, must be answered.

When all assets look dull, it is the time to stay calm



Investors would like to get bang for the buck. This gives rise to 'behavioural finance' issues e.g. chasing an asset class giving the highest return. Till sometime earlier, equity was recovering and gold rallying. Now, equity is correcting and gold lost some lustre. Investors are wondering, what to do. Stay calm and do not be hasty. Let's look at three asset classes before coming to action. Equity

Equity is growth asset and the preferred asset class to grow wealth over a long period of time. However returns are less stable than debt. As equity prices rise, valuations get stretched leading to corrections in equity market. People tend to think of 10% fall in equity prices as correction. Equity guru Warren Buffet said if you cannot tolerate a 30% price fall don't invest in equity. Indian equities started correcting from October 2024 on multiple issues. Valuations as measured by the price-to-earnings (P/E) multiple, were expensive. Firms' growth rate, measured by earnings per share (EPS), slowed Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) started selling. The U.S.-Iran war is the latest event to hit equity prices. Net-net, from October 2024 till date, equity market has disappointed. Globally, India is the fastest growing major economy and is likely to stay so in the near, medium and long term. EPS growth rate, like any other metric, goes in cycles. The growth rate, which has been moderate for some time, will pick up going forward. P/E multiples, after price correction, are much better compared with September 2024. FPIs sold hugely over the last one year. In FPIs' perspective, they have the choice of many emerging economies. However, India being the growth centre, they will return in future. However, the now available discounted prices are a better level to enter than in September 2024.

DebtThe debt component is the 'Rahul Dravid' of port-

folio. Not much of fireworks expected; it will keep portfolio steady, when other assets are volatile to the extent of your exposure. If exposure is say 30% of the portfolio, in the wealth accumulation phase of life, it is decent. In retirement phase, it should move up to say 70%. Assuming debt investments are via debt mutual funds (MFs), then returns expectation is somewhere around the portfolio yield-to-maturity (YTM) of the fund invested in. The YTM is a data point available in the fund factsheet published on the website of MFs. If debt exposure is via bank or corporate deposits, then it is a defined return. Currently, portfolio YTM of debt funds are moderate, a reason for sagging investor interest. Recent comparisons of gold with equity over the last one or five years will show how gold outperformed equity. However, this happened over the last one year or so. The usual positioning of gold is, you should have an allocation of say 10% of the portfolio. Gold is known as portfolio diversifier i.e. over a long period of time, it leads to a higher Sharpe Ratio for the portfolio. The implication is, the risk-adjusted return of the portfolio, or the volatility-adjusted returns, turns better with an allocation of say 10% to gold. Multiple experts are giving multiple views on gold. One view is, since central banks all over the world, apart from the U.S. are buying gold to diversify away from U.S. assets, gold prices would boom. The other view is, since gold prices have risen so much, there will be a correction or at least time correction. It is better to take a more balanced view given the geopolitical tensions and global investors and central banks buying supporting gold prices.

What should you do?

The allocation to equity, debt, gold, or any other asset e.g. silver/real estate is a function of your situation and not of the market. It is about risk appetite, investment objectives and investment horizon. The conventional approach is 60:30:10 between equity, debt and gold. It can be different as per your needs. Review and rebalancing Portfolio review is relevant irrespective of market level. To be noted, portfolio review and rebalancing are distinct. A review need not lead to rebalancing. If you have deviated from intended allocation, then rebalancing would be required. For example, if due to the correction in the equity market, allocation to equity is lower than intended, then there is reason to sell some other asset and buy equity. This would give you the benefit of buying some equity relatively cheap. If rebalancing is not needed, sail through difficult waters in time-tested boat of appropriate asset allocation.

Physical, social factors may together account for up to 9 times higher risk of faster brain ageing: Study



Physical and social exposures, including air pollution, extreme temperatures, lack of green spaces and socioeconomic inequality, could together account for up to a nine times higher risk of accelerated brain ageing, according to an analysis. The study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, identified distinct but complementary brain markers - physical exposures such as increased pollution and lack of green spaces were primarily associated with structural brain ageing, affecting regions central to memory, emotional regulation, and autonomic (involuntary) functions.

Researchers from the Global Brain Health Institute (GBHI) at Ireland's Trinity College Dublin said the structural changes in the brain are consistent with mechanisms such as neuroinflammation, oxidative stress, and vascular dysfunction, all of which may contribute to tissue degeneration. They also found that social exposures -- poverty, inequality, and a lack of support -- are linked to a faster ageing in brain areas responsible for thinking, emotions, and social behaviour.

The team looked at data of 18,701 individuals from across 34 countries, including India. They showed that the exposome, which is the cumulative of environmental, social, and sociopolitical exposures that one experiences throughout life, operate in a "syndemic manner" -- when

two or more health problems occur together and interact in a way that makes each other worse. "Exposome burden accounted for 3.3-9.1-fold higher risk of accelerated ageing, exceeding effects of clinical diagnoses," the authors wrote. Multiple co-occurring exposures can together have very large effects, shaping brain ageing across both healthy individuals and those with neurodegenerative conditions, they said. First author Agustina Legaz, a fellow at GBHI and researcher at San Andres University in Argentina, said the work "provides a quantitative framework to understand how multiple environmental exposures jointly shape brain ageing beyond individual determinants".

Seventy three environmental factors were measured at country-level, with indicators spanning air pollution, climate variability, green space, water quality, socioeconomic inequality, and multiple indicators of political and democratic contexts. When modelled jointly, the factors could explain up to 15 times more variation in brain ageing than exposure due to a single factor alone, the study found. The result highlights a key shift -- environmental influences on brain health are cumulative and non-linear, with interactions across domains amplifying their biological impact, the researchers said. Hernán Hernández, co-lead author and researcher at the Latin American Brain Health Institute (BrainLat) at Chile's Adolfo Ibáñez University, said, "The inclusion of multiple countries and clinical groups highlights the global diversity of syndemic effects on brain health." The researchers said current strategies that promote a healthy brain ageing often focus on individual behaviours or treating symptoms and address only a part of the risk landscape. Many drivers of brain ageing operate at broader structural levels, including environmental conditions, social inequalities, and institutional stability, they said. Policies that reduce air pollution, expand access to urban green spaces, improve water quality, and strengthen social protection systems may therefore have measurable benefits for brain health at the population level, the team said.

Counting only late-gestation stillbirths may miss nearly two-fifths of the total: Analysis



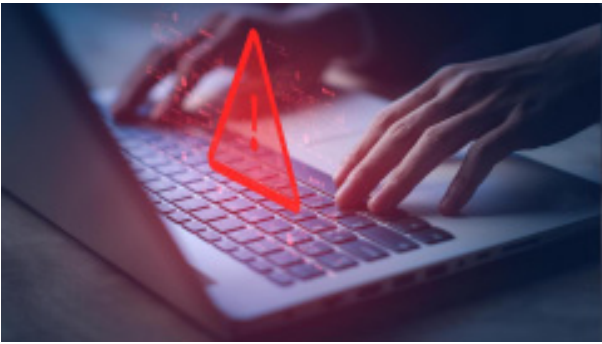
An analysis of three rounds of a large-scale national data shows stillbirth rates of 12.8 per 1,000 total births at or after 28 weeks of gestation, 16.2 at or after 24 weeks of gestation and 22 at or after 20 weeks of gestation. Researchers from the Institute for Population and Social Research in Thailand and New Delhi's International Institute of Health Management Research analysed data collected during National Family Health Survey (NFHS) rounds 3 (2005-06), 4 (2015-16) and 5 (2019-21).

Counting only late-gestation stillbirths could result in missing nearly two-fifths of all stillbirths, they said in the study published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines stillbirth rate as the number of babies born with no signs of life at or after 28 weeks of gestation per 1,000 total births. In a January 2025 research article, published in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia journal, researchers, including those from New Delhi's Public Health Foundation of India, citing the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) Study 2021, estimated stillbirth across 204 countries and territories using three different gestation period cut-offs -- at or after 20 weeks, at or after 22 weeks and at or after 28

weeks. The stillbirth estimates with the 20 and 22 weeks' gestation definitions are otherwise not available in the previous assessments of stillbirth estimation, they said.

Including these estimates enables a more comprehensive assessment of stillbirths in India, but also highlights limited and poor-quality data that hinder precise estimates for many locations. The recently published Lancet study "re-iterates the need for high-quality, standardised data systems till district level with accurate gestational age reporting that must be made more accessible for evidence-based decision-making." "Analysis of 542,359 women from three survey rounds (of NFHS) showed SBR of 12.8, 16.2, and 22.0 per 1000 total births at more than equal to 28, 24, and 20 weeks of gestation, respectively," the authors wrote. "Counting only late-gestation stillbirths could result in missing approximately two-fifths of all stillbirths," they said. The team added that the largest decline in stillbirth rate of 36.3 % was noted between 2005-06 and 2015-16. Further, 51.4 % of states and 51.9 % of districts achieved a single digit stillbirth rate during 2019-21. However, during 2019-21, an estimated 42 % of stillbirths were reported between at or after 20 weeks of gestation period and at or before 28 weeks of gestation period, the researchers said. Even as India accounts for about 17 % of the world's stillbirths, the team said national data varies widely -- 6.6 per 1,000 total births from the Civil Registration System (CRS) and 12.4 per 1,000 total births from the Health Management Information System (HMIS). Estimates from the Sample Registration System (SRS) are substantially lower than those from NFHS and global studies, "due to incomplete reporting, variable gestational-age cut-offs, and misclassification between stillbirth and early neonatal death," they said. Few studies assess stillbirths below 28 weeks, where preventable losses persist, and examine social and medical determinants driving inequities, the team said.

Understanding India's internet censorship regime



The experience an Internet user has in India is closely tied to the Internet Service Provider (ISP) they choose. Perceived differences are not limited only to pricing and quality of service, but also to how much of the Internet a user can access, which changes from one ISP to another. This is because ISPs in India -- much like everywhere else -- block websites in response to government and court orders. However, implementation is not uniform across ISPs, and blocklists vary widely.

Sections 69A and 79 of the Information Technology Act, 2000, empower the government to issue blocking orders to ISPs and intermediaries. The licensing agreement for ISPs explicitly requires that they "block Internet sites [...] as identified and directed by the Licensor from time to time." ISPs are confidentially bound to the blocking orders they receive and implement. In copyright and trademark dispute-related cases, blocking orders are made public as part of court orders. The blocking of websites usually only comes to light when users notice it is inaccessible and raise questions -- such as what happened when Supabase was recently blocked. In some instances, the government may choose to announce its blocking actions, such as when it announced the blocking of 59 Chinese applications including TikTok in 2020.

Protocols and implementationThe Internet is made up of protocols like the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP), Transport Layer Security (TLS), and Domain Name Sys-

tem (DNS) among others. When an ISP receives a blocking order, it is free to implement it through any or all of these protocols. DNS is the first layer a user interacts with when trying to access a website and is responsible for translating names like example.com to addresses that browsers can understand. When an ISP wants to block a domain at the DNS layer, it configures its servers to return a false answer. This technique is called DNS poisoning. A user's request for example.com doesn't end up at the actual address for the website, but to whatever address the ISP has pointed it to instead. ISPs can also intercept unencrypted HTTP traffic and return a block page, though this technique is largely outdated as most websites and browsers now use HTTPS by default. For HTTPS websites, ISPs look for the Server Name Indication (SNI) field to identify and drop connections to blocked domains before they are established. In practice, Most Indian ISPs rely primarily on DNS blocking as it is cheap to implement and requires no deep packet inspection. What the data shows

To understand the scale of website blocking in India, I queried the DNS servers of six major and regional ISPs to test the censorship of 294 million domains, representing nearly the entire visible domain name space. These tests were carried out over many months in 2025 and contribute to the largest study of DNS-level website blocking in India to date. The study quantifies what previous qualitative research on Internet censorship in India has shown. Despite receiving the same blocking orders, not all ISPs block the same websites. Out of the total 43,083 blocked domain names found by the study, only 1,414 were blocked by all six ISPs. This is caveated by the fact that some of the ISPs surveyed may be using other abovementioned protocols to block these domains, which the study does not cover. What is clear however is that at least on the DNS layer, domains are treated inconsistently based on the category of content they host. Piracy, peer-to-peer file sharing, pornography and gambling websites make up the majority of what is blocked, yet blocks are not consistently enforced across ISPs. For domains hosting terrorism and militancy content, blocking consistency across ISPs goes up dramatically.

BJP will deport infiltrators after Bengal win: Amit Shah



Patharkandi/Hailakandi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday asserted that a 'parivartan' is inevitable in West Bengal, and said once the BJP comes to power in the state, all infiltrators will be sent back to their countries. Addressing an election rally in Patharkandi, he also claimed that the Congress gave shelter to illegal immigrants in Assam's Barak Valley, making them "predominant" in Sribhumi, Silchar and Cachar districts.

Shah alleged that the Congress opposes the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) as it knows that the law will ensure no infiltrators remain in the state. "Persecuted Hindus from Bangladesh come within the ambit of this law... the Congress is opposed to this, but the party lays out a red carpet to welcome Muslim infiltrators", Shah alleged. Claiming that India is not a 'dharamshala' (guest house), the BJP leader said there is "no place for infiltrators" in the country. "A 'parivartan' (change) is inevitable in West Bengal. Once the BJP comes to power in the state, all infiltrators from Assam, Tripura and Bengal will be sent back to their countries," Shah said.

He alleged that the Congress wants to come back to power with the "help of infiltrators, but Rahul baba must know that his three generations cannot make Assam a land of infiltrators". Addressing another rally in Hailakandi, Shah claimed the Congress had built 700 madrasas for Muslim students in Assam, but the "BJP converted 402 of them into primary schools so that they can also have access to modern education". The Union Home Minister alleged that Congress leaders have "stooped low in public life since Rahul Gandhi came to the forefront of the party". "This was evident from Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's statement claiming Gujaratis are illiterate, as compared to voters in Kerala," he claimed. Shah accused Kharge of calling the RSS and the BJP snakes. "Ever since Rahul Gandhi became the leader of the Congress, the public stature of all Congress leaders has gone down", he said. The BJP leader also accused the Congress of humiliating the country by its protest during the AI summit. "Rahul Gandhi calling the protesters his 'babbar sher' (brave lions) shows the low level that the Congress has stooped to," he said. Shah also asserted that Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared both Assamese and Bengali as classical languages. He claimed that the BJP has initiated several projects for the development of the Barak Valley, including the Silchar-Guwahati Expressway, a state secretariat in Silchar, and a centre of AIIMS in Sribhumi, among others. Shah said that voters in the constituencies of the three districts of the Barak Valley have always supported the BJP, but "this time they must ensure that the saffron party and its alliance partners win all 13 assembly constituencies". He asserted that the BJP is committed to "protecting 'Jaati' (community) 'Maati' (land) and 'Bheti' (foundation) in Assam". Shah claimed that the BJP changed the name of Karimganj to Sribhumi, but "how will those with roots in Italy know what the significance of the name change is?" He was alluding to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi.

Real or Not? AI Influencers Are Blurring the Lines on Instagram



One of the most prominent examples is Naina Avtr, often recognised as India's first AI influencer. Created in 2022, she presents herself as a 22-year-old based in Mumbai, sharing content around fashion, fitness, travel and trending reels. With brand collaborations and a growing follower base, her profile closely mirrors that of a typical lifestyle creator.

Instagram is no stranger to trends, but the rise of AI-generated influencers is quickly becoming one of the platform's most talked-about shifts. From curated fashion shoots to lifestyle reels, these digital personalities are now blending seamlessly into everyday scrolling, especially in India. Unlike human creators, AI influencers are digitally created personas managed by teams or brands. They don't age, don't make mistakes, and can be tailored to fit any aesthetic or campaign, making them increasingly attractive to brands looking for consistency and creative flexibility.

One of the most prominent examples is Naina Avtr, often recognised as India's first AI influencer. Created in 2022, she presents herself as a 22-year-old based in Mumbai, sharing content around fashion, fitness, travel and trending reels. With brand collaborations and a growing follower base, her profile closely mirrors that of a typical lifestyle creator.

https://www.instagram.com/naina_avtr/ Another name gaining traction is Kyra, known online as kyraonig. With a strong focus on fashion and high-end aesthetics, her feed features polished campaign-style visuals and brand partnerships, making her appear almost indistinguishable from real influencers at first glance. These AI creators fit perfectly into Instagram's visual culture: flawless, aesthetic, and highly engaging. What makes them stand out is how easily they blend in, often leaving audiences questioning what and who they are actually following. As more such profiles appear, AI influencers are clearly carving out their space on Instagram, reshaping how content is created, consumed, and perceived.

Ghaziabad’s industrial heartland falters as fuel shortage chokes production lines



In workshops that once ran at full tilt, production schedules are now being redrawn in cautious increments, and order books are beginning to thin. In the big industrial cluster of Western Uttar Pradesh, the furnaces may not have gone cold yet, but they no longer roar the way they used to. Meanwhile, an air of uncertainty has settled across the area. The steady rhythm of manufacturing has faltered, as a fuel crisis triggered by the Iran war tightens its grip on supply lines. For manufacturers of engineering goods – a key industrial sector for the Indian economy – the main question is how to keep machines running when the energy that powers them is suddenly scarce, erratic, and expensive.

Pankaj Aggarwal, CEO of CD Industries located on Bulandshahr Road in Ghaziabad, said that since the gas supply issue began, his factory’s quota was cut by 65%, with the company receiving only a little more than a third of their daily requirement, even as prices soared. This has directly resulted in increased manufacturing costs and a reduction in overall output. The factory, which manufactures forged metal flanges, relies on piped natural gas (PNG) supplied by IGL to power its furnaces.

“Our daily requirement of PNG is 1,800 cubic feet per minute (CFM). However, nearly 1,170 CFM is being cut every day. This has severely impacted our production, reducing it in the same proportion. The impact is greater on industries like ours, where fuel components account for nearly 50% of the total cost of producing flanges. Our average daily production is 30 metric tonnes,” Aggarwal, whose company has about Rs 100 crore of turnover, told The Indian Express. “The prices of our goods in the domestic market have increased by 10-12%, and export prices have risen by 5-7%. While all industries are suffering due to fuel shortages, those dependent solely on LPG are the worst affected,” he added.

In a statement to The Indian Express, Indraprastha Gas Ltd (IDL) refuted CD Industries’ claims of there being a supply constraint in piped gas to industrial customers. “We would like to clarify that there has not been any curtailment in the supply of PNG to our industrial consumers. Based on the Gazette Notification dated 09.03.2026, IGL had only issued an advisory to its industrial customers to endeavor to restrict their PNG drawl within 80% of its average consumption during the last six months. IGL remains fully committed to supporting the industrial ecosystem in Ghaziabad and have ensured that our supply obligations are met consistently and reliably,” the company said. “Regarding the specific case of one industrial establishment mentioned in your report, the facts demonstrate a reality that is entirely different from the one presented. Our sales records indicate that this unit, of their own preference has significantly curtailed its own gas consumption much before the West Asia Crisis. Its total gas consumption for

Amid West Asia energy shock, Moody’s says India’s ability to maintain investor confidence key to preserving credit stability



West Asia energy shock Moody’s Baa3 rating IndiaAlthough the government has shielded consumers from the global energy price rise — the pump price of petrol and diesel has not changed — resulting in headline retail inflation in March only rising marginally to 3.4% from 3.21% in February. (Image generated using AI)Warning that a “more prolonged disruption” in economic activity in the Gulf region will hurt the flow of remittances into India and widen the country’s trade deficit, Moody’s Ratings has said the government’s ability to “maintain investor confidence and manage macroeconomic trade-offs” will be crucial to preserving credit stability. At the same time, it said India’s external position remains “relatively sound” given the large foreign exchange reserves, low external debt, and limited reliance on cross-border financing. Further, investment activity should be supported by the government’s “sustained emphasis” on infrastructure spending and a gradual relaxation of trade barriers.

The comments by the ratings agency, in a report dated Monday, come after it lowered its GDP growth forecast for India to 6% from 6.8% for 2026-27 earlier this month. At 6%, the agency’s growth forecast is significantly lower than the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) projection of 6.9%. Moody’s has a Baa3 rating on India – the lowest investment grade rating – with a stable outlook.

“A prolonged disruption would pose more material challenges, potentially entrenching inflation, straining fiscal and monetary policy flexibility and testing external investor confidence. The effectiveness and timeliness of policy actions will remain central to preserving macroeconomic and credit resilience amid this external shock,” Moody’s analysts said. The war in West Asia has exerted heavy pressure on the Indian rupee’s exchange rate, which tumbled past the 92- 93-, 94-, and 95-per-dollar levels in quick succession in March as foreign investors dumped Indian assets amid spiralling crude oil prices and a strengthening US dollar. While the rupee has gained some ground since then due to measures taken by the RBI — it closed at 93.5 per dollar on Tuesday — Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) continue to sell Indian shares and debt heavily. After selling \$13.6 billion worth of Indian debt and equity in March, FPIs have net sold \$6.2 billion so far in April.



the financial year 2025-26 had just been 2 Thousand SCM (standard cubic metre), contrasted with 3.2 lakh SCM for the financial year 2024-25. Moreover, for the past six months, i.e. from September 2025 to February 2026, its average monthly consumption was merely 94 SCM per month. This sharp decline in consumption is a result of the customer’s internal operational decisions and not due to any disruption or supply restriction from IGL,” IGL added.

Flanges are used to join or connect pipes, valves, pumps, and other piping systems particularly in oil and gas exploration rigs, and fuel is needed to power the furnaces that keep the metal heated so that it can be beaten into a desired shape. It is part of the broader engineering goods sector, which is the largest industrial segment in India and accounts for more than 3.5% of the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The engineering goods export of India had a share of 25.22% out of the total exports during the financial year FY24, as they jumped to \$109.22 billion as compared to \$106.93 billion during FY23. In FY25 (April to December), India’s top five export destinations in the sector were the US (15.82%), the UAE (7.36%), Saudi Arabia (5.24%), Singapore (4.46%) and Germany (3.52%). Both the UAE and Saudi Arabian markets have been hit in the war.

“Around 50% of our total production is meant for export,” Aggarwal said, adding that the US is the company’s main overseas market. Due to uncertainty perpetuated by the ongoing war, fresh orders have dried up, Aggarwal said, adding that they only have a runway of about two months, after which their current order book will dry up. “I’m not sure when the fresh orders will come next, and if we will have enough fuel supply to service them,” he added. Aggarwal also mentioned that, in an ideal situation, they have about four to five months’ worth of work in advance.

“Fuel is our primary concern, and everyone is closely monitoring its availability. The government does not need to instruct us to conserve energy. We are already optimising its use. Prices are likely to increase significantly, which may cause short-term resistance, but people will eventually have to adjust. The only long-term solution is to become self-reliant and diversify imports,” he said. Sanjeev Sachdev, general secretary of the Industrial Area Manufacturers’ Association in Ghaziabad said that already, the fuel shortage has led to more than 20 units being closed in the industrial belt. Many workers have also left as their living expenses shot up owing to increasing food costs on account of the price hike in cooking cylinders. The Ghaziabad industrial area comprises nearly 27,000 factories of various types such as engineering goods (machine parts and automobile spare parts), food processing, textile, chemical, plastic, paper etc. “There are around 450 units on Bulandshahr Road alone. Out of these, 20-25 factories that rely on LPG were severely affected and had to shut down temporarily. Supply has still not been fully restored. These include gas welding and gas coating units. Nearly 20% of Ghaziabad’s total industrial production has been impacted by the fuel crisis. Around 80,000 workers are employed in factories along Bulandshahr Road,” Sachdev said. “I believe the government should make decisions based on practical considerations rather than theoretical ones. We, the MSMEs, are industrial farmers. We convert raw materials into quality products and take it to houses. Yet, we are being consistently penalised, because we cannot cry, cannot express our problem. The government should provide short-term flexibility in the use of alternative fuels until the crisis is resolved,” he added.

Last week, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said in a speech at Princeton University that the West Asia crisis “particularly impacts” India as the region contributes about 50% of our crude oil imports, 40% of our fertiliser imports, and almost 40% of our inward remittances. As such, if the supply disruptions continue for long, then the initial supply shock “can become embedded in the general price level”, Malhotra had said. These views were somewhat echoed by Moody’s and it added that fertiliser and cooking gas shortages will hamper two key pillars of the Indian economy – agricultural activity and household consumption. And given India’s reliance on West Asia for nitrogen-based fertilisers, “supply disruptions will likely amplify price pressures and threaten agricultural production and food security”. Although the government has shielded consumers from the global energy price rise — the pump price of petrol and diesel has not changed — resulting in headline retail inflation in March only rising marginally to 3.4% from 3.21% in February, producers have seen an increase in costs. Data released last week showed India’s wholesale inflation surged to a 38-month high of 3.88% in March due to a sharp increase in prices of petroleum products, with the wholesale price of ammonia jumping 22% month-on-month – its largest-ever sequential increase as per commerce and industry ministry data going back till 2012.

ade after three-day rally as IT stocks drag markets lower

Mumbai: Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty declined in early trade on Wednesday after a three-day rally, dragged by heavy selling in IT stocks. Foreign fund outflows and fears of possibility of prolonged instability in West Asia also dented markets’ sentiment.

The 30-share BSE Sensex declined 494.12 points to 78,779.21 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty dropped 142.2 points to 24,434.40. From the 30-Sensex firms, HCL Tech tumbled nearly 9 per cent after its March quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. HCL Tech on Tuesday reported a 4.20 per cent on-year rise in consolidated net profit to Rs 4,488 crore for March quarter FY26, even as the management flagged a highly volatile demand environment shadowed by tariffs and softened discretionary spends, giving a FY27 growth guidance of 1-4 per cent.

Tech Mahindra, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, ICICI Bank and Asian Paints were also among the major laggards. NTPC, Hindustan Unilever, Trent and Tata Steel were among the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.40 per cent lower at USD 98.09 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,918.99 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.



Saurabh Shukla says Akshay Kumar consumes ‘limited’ desi food, loves to eat with everyone: ‘Sab kuch khaate hain’



Actor Saurabh Shukla recently praised actor Akshay Kumar’s “old-fashioned” way of eating with everyone on the set. “He eats limited food. Properly. Bahut desi khaana khaate hai (He eats simple, traditional Indian food), Sab kuch khaate hai (He eats everything),” Shukla told Siddharth Kannan on his YouTube podcast. He mentioned, “When a spread opens, then it is for 10-12 people. Because he likes everybody to sit at the table and eat. It is an old-fashioned thing I am telling you. That’s very beautiful and poignant, I would say.”

Consultant dietitian Garima Goyal described it as a

‘Why are my HbA1C results 4.0 but FBS 121? The first test results were 4.3 and 111’



Is it a concern when HbA1C rises and fasting blood sugar, or FBS, comes down? To get an informed insight on a Quora query asking the same: Why are my HbA1C results 4.0 but FBS 121? The first test results were 4.3 and 111; we reached out to an expert. Dr Pranav Ghody, consultant endocrinologist and diabetologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, said that at first glance, this seems contradictory, but it can happen. “HbA1c shows your average blood sugar over the past 2 to 3 months, while fasting blood sugar is just one reading at a specific time. A normal or low HbA1c with a higher fasting value may mean that your overall sugar levels are generally well-controlled, but there can be occasional spikes, especially in the early morning,” said Dr Ghody.

Should this be a cause for concern?

Take cues from Smriti Mandhana’s ‘quick and fun’ Switzerland escape to plan your summer getaway



Smriti Mandhana’s latest holiday to Europe’s winter wonderland — read: Switzerland — is every travel enthusiast’s dream. Snow-capped peaks, alpine lakes and scenic trails offer the most enchanting break from the stifling summer heat of the city. If you are planning a summer getaway, take note of these destinations that offer breathtaking beauty and unforgettable experiences for every nature lover and wanderer. Gornergrat With its sunny observation platform accessible all year, the Gornergrat, at an altitude of 3,089 m, has been one of Switzerland’s top excursion destinations since 1898. The adventure begins with the ride on the Gornergrat Railway, which offers magnificent views of the Matterhorn. The panoramic views from the top are breathtaking: mountains and glaciers as far as the eye can see. In summer, marvel at the reflection of the Matterhorn in the surface of the Riffelsee and enjoy scenic

From ICU wards to Dan Brown mysteries, unlocking the science behind terminal lucidity

Hyderabad: This could be a scene ripped straight from a recent Dan Brown novel. A patient, unresponsive for days in a high-tech ICU, suddenly opens his eyes, starts uttering clear sentences, behaves normally and has lucid memory. The relatives outside think that the patient is recovering, but for the trained ICU nurse and doctor, this sudden clarity is often a sign that the end is imminent.

While social media is abuzz with how only doctors and nurses, with years of experience in ICUs, can detect such dark anomalies, this phenomenon is a documented medical reality, often known as terminal lucidity. In recent times, this strange phenomenon, which often evokes supernatural thoughts, has moved from the hospital ICU to the global bestseller list, thanks to Dan Brown. Commonly called ‘the rally’ or ‘the surge’, terminal lucidity occurs when patients with severe brain impairment due to strokes, tumours, or advanced dementia suddenly regain their memory and per-

“sustainable and practical health behaviour”. “Akshay Kumar’s ‘limited eating’ is not about starving or extreme calorie restriction. It’s an example of mindful eating. When you control your portions, your body gets exactly the energy it needs. This helps prevent unnecessary fat storage, keeps insulin spikes in check, and supports long-term weight stability,” said Goyal. Eating with others plays an important role. “When you eat with family or in a group, you naturally slow down. This gives your brain enough time to process satiety signals. The result is reduced overeating. It also improves emotional satisfaction, which can indirectly help reduce binge eating tendencies.” Consistency matters. “Akshay Kumar’s lifestyle does not revolve around extreme diets. There’s no crash dieting or obsession with cheat meals. It’s simply daily discipline. This is what keeps metabolism stable and supports hormonal balance over time,” said Goyal. According to Goyal, fitness doesn’t come from fancy foods or supplements. “It comes from daily habits like controlled portions, mindful eating, and a consistent routine. Keep your meals lighter and wholesome while ensuring your overall diet includes enough protein, fibre, and nutrients. The goal is to feel energised,” said Goyal.

An FBS of 121 mg/dL is in the prediabetes range, so it shouldn’t be ignored, stressed Dr Ghody. “Even if HbA1c looks reassuring, consistently elevated fasting sugar may signal an early warning of glucose imbalance. It’s crucial not to rely on a single measurement; both readings together provide a clearer picture.” Causes One common explanation is the dawn phenomenon, which describes a natural rise in blood sugar during the early morning hours due to hormonal changes, such as cortisol and growth hormone. “This can lead to higher fasting levels even if your daytime sugars remain normal, which keeps HbA1c in a lower range,” said Dr Ghody.

Are there other reasons for this mismatch? There are a few possibilities. “Lab variation or pre-test factors, such as poor sleep, stress, late-night meals, or even illness, can temporarily raise fasting glucose. In some cases, conditions that affect red blood cells, like anemia or recent blood loss, can falsely lower HbA1c, making it look better than it actually is. So, it’s important to interpret the numbers in context,” elucidated Dr Ghody.

What to do? Instead of jumping to conclusions, repeat the tests to confirm the pattern. You might also benefit from additional checks like post-meal blood sugar or continuous glucose monitoring to understand trends. “Focus on lifestyle basics: balanced meals, early dinners, good sleep, and stress management, as these can greatly affect fasting glucose. If the pattern continues, a detailed evaluation can help find the root cause and guide the right approach,” said Dr Ghody.

hiking trails to the Alpine Garden or the famous Valais Blacknose Sheep. In winter, the beautiful tobogganing route from Rotenboden to Riffelberg is just one of the experiences on offer. Lake Geneva

Also known in French as Lac Léman, it is located in the southwest of Switzerland in the cantons of Vaud, Geneva and Valais. The lake, shared by Switzerland and France, is a popular destination for its many sights and leisure activities. The scenic mountain lake empties into the Rhone River. Surrounding the water body, the vinegrowing area of Lavaux with its charming winegrowing villages is a well-known attraction, as are the mountains of Mont-Pèlerin and Rochers-de-Naye. You can spend the day sailing, hiking or skiing on and around Lake Geneva and in the evening enjoy the sunset on a lakeside promenade. Zurich’s historical center is a cool mix of old and new. It’s home to iconic churches like the twin towers of Grossmunster as well as Fraumunster, which is famous for its stained glass windows. The Old Town of Geneva (Vieille Ville) is Switzerland’s largest historic city center, located on a hill on the Left Bank. It is characterized by cobbled streets, 16th-century architecture, and key landmarks like St. Peter’s Cathedral (Cathédrale Saint-Pierre), Place du Bourg-de-Four, and the Maison Tavel. It is a popular spot for dining,, shopping, and experiencing Geneva’s history.

Matterhorn Recognised worldwide as the mountain on the Toblerone chocolate bar, the Matterhorn sits on the Switzerland-Italy border. Renowned as a premier Alpinist challenge and the “most-photographed mountain in the world,” it was first ascended on July 14, 1865, by a team led by Edward Whymper. Enjoy magnificent views of the mountain from Zermatt, a quaint car-free village. Mount Rigi Known as the ‘Queen of the Mountains’, Mt. Rigi is an easy day trip from Lucerne. Here, you can enjoy sweeping views of the Swiss Alps, visit a cheese farm, go hiking, visit the Kanzeli viewpoint, and even go skiing or sledding in the winter.

sonality shortly before death. While the exact science behind this phenomenon is still unclear, there are a few explanations. Some suggest it is a final ‘chemical surge’ of adrenaline and steroids as the body’s systems fail. Recent neurological studies, including research published in late 2024 and 2025, have thrown new light on terminal lucidity. Data from electroencephalogram (EEG) recordings of patients in their final moments show a paradoxical spike in gamma wave activity, the same brain patterns associated with high-level cognitive functions like memory recall and conscious awareness. Scientists hypothesise that as the brain experiences hypoxia (oxygen deprivation), the neurons that keep our thoughts filtered and organised begin to fail. This effectively unlocks dormant neural pathways, allowing a surge of memories and speech to return in a final, coherent burst before the system completely shuts down. In his 2025 novel,



MS Dhoni keeps wickets, moves closer to making IPL 2026 comeback against MI



GNS News Agency, April 27

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's chances of playing his first match in IPL 2026 for Chennai Super Kings against Mumbai Indians on Thursday moved closer after the 44-year-old had his first wicketkeeping session at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday. The session lasted nearly 40 minutes when two batsmen — Sarfaraz Khan and Urvil Patel — were batting with the former captain behind the stumps. Observers, who have been witnesses to multiple training sessions, felt that this was the first time they had seen the Jharkhand

cricketer undergo wicketkeeping drills behind the nets. After his wicketkeeping session, Dhoni padded up for a batting session and batted for close to an hour, first facing the CSK bowlers before taking throwdowns. The 44-year-old has been on the sidelines for CSK's first six matches, recovering from a calf strain. The franchise had released a statement ahead of the start of the season that he would miss the first two weeks of IPL 2026. The wait for fans to see Dhoni in CSK colours has extended for more than that duration, and if he does take the field on Thursday, it would be 25 days since the current season started. CSK have played six games without Dhoni this season, and they are in eighth place on the points table. The Ruturaj Gaikwad-led team have lost four matches and won two. Dhoni followed CSK's home matches from the team hotel but has been seen in practice sessions. When facing throwdowns, he has shown no discomfort. CSK have been ravaged by injuries over the past week, with pacer Khaleel Ahmed and batsman Ayush Mhatre ruled out of IPL 2026. The franchise is yet to name a replacement for both players, leading up to their clash against MI. Mumbai Indians received a big boost ahead of their clash against CSK, as all-rounder Will Jacks linked up with the squad. The Englishman practiced with the team on Tuesday, raising hopes of possibly featuring in Thursday's match.

‘50 crore, one win!': Former cricketer slams Rishabh Pant & Nicholas Pooran as LSG's big guns fail miserably

GNS News Agency, April 27

Lucknow Super Giants have made a poor start to their Indian Premier League 2026 campaign, and much of the blame lies with their faltering top order. While Aiden Markram, Rishabh Pant, and Mitch Marsh have been inconsistent, the team's biggest concern is the form of star batter Nicholas Pooran. Pooran has had an abysmal season so far, managing just 51 runs in six innings at an average of 8.50 and a strike rate of only 79.68. As a result, LSG are struggling in ninth place on the points table with just four points from six games. Former New Zealand pacer Simon Doull has slammed Pooran following his repeated failures.

"Their biggest issue is the three overseas players. You have got three overseas batters in your top five. One of them, Markram, has put in a couple of performances. Marsh has not done a lot, and Pooran has done absolutely nothing. That is your biggest issue," said Doull on Cricbuzz. "They have basically come out and said that Ayush Badoni is going to open now. They are trying to free Badoni up by making him open up top. That is the call," he added. LSG have experimented with several opening combinations. They started with captain Rishabh Pant partnering Mitchell Marsh up top, followed by Aiden Markram at No. 3, Badoni at No. 4, and Pooran at No. 5. Later, they moved Pant to No. 3 and opened with Markram and Marsh up top, with Badoni and Pooran at Nos. 4 and 5. Against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Pooran was promoted to No. 4 but failed again. LSG made more changes against Punjab Kings as well, sending Badoni to open with Marsh up top. Criticising the constant shuffling, Doull said, "They are just unsure about their batting order. They have made the changes early in



an attempt to find something. "Skipper Pant is the highest-paid player in the league, with the franchise spending 27 crore for him. LSG also retained Pooran for 21 crore.

Doull said, "Pant has won them one game with the bat and nothing outside of that. You have spent 50 crores on two players, Pant and Pooran, who have won you one game. Almost half your purse on two players who have won you one game." Continuing on LSG's top order, Doull said: "They are just unsure, and they would have been sure at the start of the season. But when you go game after game after game without a performance, then you have to think about it. So they have made the changes relatively early because they want players to find something. They want their team to find something. But when you are frontloaded with overseas batters and you look at the teams that are having success, why are they having success? They have got Indian batters."

‘I want one of the cameras to go to him’: The father who has been watching Abhishek Sharma from stands since Under-12



GNS News Agency, April 27

"I don't know how, but since my Under-12 days, my dad has been sitting next to the screen all the time. Whenever I am at the non-striker's end, he always tells me how to play a certain shot. It's still going on. I want one of the cameras to go to him from next time and just see his reactions," Abhishek Sharma said in the post-match presentation on Tuesday night after wallowing an unbeaten 135 off 68 balls. Amritsar, sometime in the early 1980s. A boy in a colony watches another boy cycle past every morning in white clothes. He doesn't know where the boy is going. He doesn't know what cricket is. Neither does his father. Neither does his mother. In a conversation last year on Taruwar Kohli's YouTube channel, Rajkumar Sharma went back to his own beginning — that boy on the cycle, white shirt, white pants, going somewhere he wasn't.

When he walked to Gandhi Ground one day, and saw the boys in white on a proper ground, he made himself a promise he didn't tell anyone. "That day, for the first time, I said to myself — I am going to play here. Whatever happens. I will not leave without playing cricket at the India level." Rajkumar Sharma was thirteen. He had never held a cricket ball. District trials came within weeks. The notice said white clothes. He had a white shirt. No white trousers. No shoes. He borrowed the trousers from one friend, the shoes from another, and walked to Gandhi Ground. He played Under-15, Under-16, Under-19, Under-22 for India. Then first-class cricket. North Zone. Years of it. Through all of it — every tour, every trial, every tournament — he never owned a bat. Borrowed when he could, went without when he couldn't. Nobody offered. He never asked. When he left for his first away tournament, his father — a factory supervisor — pressed fifty rupees into his hand. At the North Zone final against Haryana, he took nine wickets. Chetan Sharma, Haryana captain, told him to come to Chandigarh. Rajkumar told him he didn't have the money to stay there. On the train to Madras for the North Zone tournament, Chetan found him a top berth, paid for the auto to the stadium the night before the match, jumped the locked gate with him, walked to the pitch in the dark, bowed to the ground, and told him to do the same. Seven wickets the next day. Rajkumar watched all of it — the laps before warm-up, the locked

gate, the bowling to the pitch — and stored it. He had always wanted to make him a bowler. There is a photograph — tiny Abhishek in a red t-shirt on the Mohali boundary during an India-Pakistan match, smuggled in because the organisers wouldn't pass a child. There is another: a wooden bat, handmade, because the boy wouldn't stop asking for a real one. From the time Abhishek was small, Rajkumar kept him close. Every problem he had faced as a player — the trials, the politics, the waiting, the invisibility — he walked Abhishek through in advance. This will come, he told him. Don't be afraid. Don't say anything wrong about anyone. Concentrate on your game. Time will take care of everything. "He was born for cricket," Rajkumar said. "Every single thing about him — extraordinary. He just came into the world ready." The IPL trophies and Man of the Match awards line the walls of their home now. A collection that didn't exist three years ago. On Tuesday night at the stadium in Hyderabad, after 135 off 68 balls — ten fours, ten sixes — Abhishek stood at the presentation and said what he said. Somewhere in the stands, Rajkumar Sharma had already seen everything coming.

Jannik Sinner eyes strong run in Madrid before French Open

New Delhi: Italian star Jannik Sinner has made it clear that the Madrid Open is an important part of his clay-court season, but his main focus is on performing well at Roland Garros as he aims for a career Grand Slam. The world number one arrives in Madrid after a significant breakthrough on clay. He recently defeated Carlos Alcaraz in straight sets to win the Monte Carlo Masters. However, Sinner admitted that he has not had the best results in the Spanish capital.

"I never played very well here, so let's see how it goes this year," Sinner said ahead of the tournament. "I'm trying to improve as a player, and this might be one of the toughest challenges because of certain factors like altitude and wind." Even though he is one of the favourites and is aiming for a fifth consecutive Masters title, Sinner emphasised that his larger goal is in Paris. "The most important is Roland Garros," he said. "We try to be in the best shape possible there, but I'm here to do my best, and then we will see how it goes."

Sinner's motivation is heightened by last year's disappointment at Roland Garros, where he lost a dramatic final to Alcaraz despite having three championship points. The 24-year-old has another chance to complete his Grand Slam collection, as the French Open is the only major title he still needs. The Madrid Open will miss two of tennis's biggest stars, with Alcaraz out due to a wrist injury and Novak Djokovic also absent. Sinner acknowledged that their absence creates a void.

How much does it cost for one to become a chess grandmaster?



GNS News Agency, April 27

Mrinal Ghosh does some quick mental math before he arrives at a jaw-dropping estimate: his family has spent about Rs 46 lakh over the past decade and a half to sustain his son Aronyak's chess career. Just to make him a grandmaster. Then he drops the real headline statement that Rs 46 lakh is probably the least anyone in India has spent in the pursuit of becoming a GM. For a middle-class family in Kolkata, raising even this amount has meant sacrifices. Of Mrinal's ancestral property. Of his wife Sanchita's wedding jewellery. And Aronyak's own prize money won at events, every penny of which is invested back into his career. All of those sacrifices finally saw Aronyak become India's 95th grandmaster earlier this week. There is a misconception that chess is a cheap sport. No expensive equipment or accommodations needed, after all. No need to employ sports science teams either. No need to book stadiums or courts to train in.

But Aronyak's rise to grandmaster status has shone a light like never before on the financial burden of the pursuit to become a grandmaster. "Parents should be prepared with at least Rs 70 lakh (from the start of the chess career to becoming a GM) if one plans to get their kid to be a GM," says Monomita Chakraborty, the mother of Mayank Chakraborty, India's 94th grandmaster. These are just costs incurred in getting a player to the grandmaster level. To get better from there, the costs multiply rapidly. In fact, many people in the sport will tell you that Aronyak and Mayank got to the GM level really cheap. Sample this: 12-year-old Aarav Sarbalia's father Yatin estimates that they spent Rs 25-30 lakh just in 2025 to fuel his dream in the sport. Currently, Aarav is a FIDE Master, which is two rungs below the grandmaster level.

"We spent at least four months of last year abroad playing in tournaments. We were hoping to land some sponsors who would help us bear the burden, but when none came, we started to make content on Instagram, hoping that it would eventually lead to monetisation opportunities," says Yatin. 12-year-old Aarav Sarbalia is a FIDE Master, which is two rungs below the grandmaster level. (File Photo) 12-year-old Aarav Sarbalia is a FIDE Master, which is two rungs below the grandmaster level. It's a practice that has caught on in Indian chess in the past 15 years: young stars travelling abroad collecting norms or ratings. Around 2015-16, this became common among players rated above 2100. But since COVID, players flying abroad chasing norms has become so commonplace that even players in the 1700-1800 ratings bracket are doing it. "Players take around six-eight trips to play in European tournaments in a year these days to gain norms. That costs Rs 15-20 lakh, including touring and coaching. This figure pretty much doubles when it's a player chasing GM norms," says Sreekar Channapragada, whose MGD1 not only organises tournaments but also manages players like Arjun Erigaisi. Realising

that there was a real gap in tournaments in India where GM norms could be easily achieved, organisations like Pravaha Foundation and Chola Chess are now organising GM-norm tournaments in the country. Constrained by funds, players like Mayank and Aronyak have played plenty of their events in India, but GMs norms are usually gained abroad. What Yatin said about the lack of sponsorship is a common refrain in chess. Everyone from Mrinal to Monomita voices their frustrations with attracting sponsors, despite their kids' talent being obvious. Monomita also points out that until a few years ago, Sports Authority of India would give one-time incentives for IMs and GMs for getting the titles, which is gone now. As someone based out of Guwahati — Mayank is Northeast India's first and only grandmaster — the costs are higher than players based out of metropolitan cities like Chennai or Bengaluru, because every trip outside has an additional connecting flight to be taken. If chess players don't spend on excessive equipment, and don't usually need sports science professionals, where do they spend all the money? It's spent on the metaphorical village it takes to raise a prodigy.

It starts with the coaches. Like most other sports, elite players in chess also transition into coaching, many times without actually retiring from playing themselves. But in chess, unlike in other sports, training costs are calculated on an hourly basis. And an hour of a GM's time as a coach can go anywhere from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000. A coach for a grandmaster to compete at the highest level (events like Candidates) are even higher.

Mrinal says that many times coaches have contracts that stipulate a minimum number of hours that the player has to work with them, rather than just a one-off, hour-long session. Yatin points at the flip side: since top coaches are always in high demand, sometimes you cannot even get them for more than an hour, so you end up working with multiple coaches, which again means higher expenditure. Then, there are training partners — elite players one can hire on an hourly basis to play training games against. A rising star like Aarav can enter tournaments but can only pray to be paired with a top grandmaster. Which means, if they want to sharpen their skills on a regular basis, the surest way would be to hire a training partner, who will also charge eye-watering fees for an hour's worth of playing training games. Then there are seconds — good chess players who act as aides to other chess players, helping them with opening preparation, among other things. Sometimes, seconds or coaches sign contracts with players stipulating a percentage of the prize money they earn in tournaments. "The players who are above 2600 rating (when a player becomes a GM, their rating is usually around 2500), they spend at least around Rs 4-5 lakh per month on the sport," is Mrinal's estimate. He is quick to add that once you become a grandmaster, you get "conditions": tournament organisers will take care of your accommodation, occasionally even flights.

In the case of players like Mayank, such trips demand creative thinking to bring costs under control. "We stay in very basic cheap apartments in Europe, share apartments, with a common washroom at times. These are usually far from the centre of the town," says Monomita, before pointing out that costs rise if you play in Nordic countries. "We also carry food from home wherever we can. With both their sons newly-minted grandmasters, both Mrinal and Monomita are now calculating what it will take for them to rise higher. "Where my son is standing at the moment — a rating in the 2550 bracket — just to go up to 2650 will cost so much money that I don't even dare dream about it," says Mrinal.

Varun Aaron on what makes Sakib Hussain's slower ball special: 'Getting as much turn as an off-spinner'



GNS News Agency, April 27

Sunrisers Hyderabad's bowling was in tatters after the game against the Punjab Kings, unable to pose any threat while defending 220 runs. The franchise decided to make some difficult changes by dropping the veterans Jaydev Unadkat and Harshal Patel and putting faith in the young pace duo of Praful Hinge and Sakib Hussain in the hope of a turnaround. Since they picked the duo, SRH's season has turned with three wins in a row. The batting was always expected to be dominant, but the bowling is complementing them, and on Tuesday, it was Eshan Malinga's turn to deliver the goods as he put in a Player of the Match performance with a spell of 4/32 that derailed the Delhi Capitals' innings in the chase.

While Malinga was the star of the show, his pace bowling partner Sakibul Hussain had another fine outing, claiming 1/29 in four overs in a chase of 243 runs.

Each time Ishan Kishan wanted to break a growing partnership, he turned to Malinga or Hussain, and the bowlers answered the captain's call. Aaron heaped praise on Hussain's slower ball, admitting the delivery could become more important as the IPL season moves on. "And with Sakib, that slow ball is just brilliant. He's almost getting as much turn as an off-spinner on the slow ball. Same arm speed, executes his yorkers, can bowl 140 plus as well. So with the way the game is headed and with the way IPL is going, you have to have that pace variance where you can go from 140, 145 down to almost 107," Aaron added. Aaron also revealed the work that the franchise has been doing with Hussain since buying him in at the auction for 30 lakhs: "He didn't have access to long-term coaching. And he's put in a lot of work over the last couple of months. Right from when the World Cup (2026 T20 World Cup) started, we've had camps for him specifically. He's flown down to Bombay for five days. Then we called him to Chennai. There has been a lot of work which has gone on behind the scenes immediately after the auction. And he's responded really well. And he has that will, he has that hunger. That's the most important thing." Aaron said that reverse swing was one of Malinga's strengths and that, coupled with a yorker-bowling ability, made him a handful against opposition sides.

"They've got skills that set them apart from any other bowler. If we talk about Malinga, he gets the ball to reverse.

US woman sexually assaulted at K'taka homestay

Madikeri: A shocking incident of sexual assault on an American woman tourist has come to light in the Madikeri district of Karnataka. Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said on Wednesday that there were attempts to hush up the case, but those attempts were foiled by the police. The alleged sexual assault reportedly took place at a private homestay in Kutta village, Ponnampet taluk, and came to light after a delay. According to police sources, the woman had checked into the homestay named 'Devi Villa' on April 19, when she was allegedly sexually assaulted by a man identified as Vrujesh Kumar, a native of Jharkhand. Following a complaint, a case was registered at the Kutta Police Station. The accused, Vrujesh Kumar, has been arrested by the police. In connection with the same incident, the homestay owner, Vishal, has also been taken into custody on charges linked to the case, officials confirmed. Police have stated that a detailed investigation is underway to ascertain the sequence of events and examine the circumstances surrounding the incident. Responding to the development, Home Minister G Parameshwara stated, "As soon as the matter came to light, the police arrested the accused. Further action will be taken as per the law." He added, "It appears that after the incident, there were attempts to cover it up. But once the police received information, they acted promptly and gathered details." "

‘I will put you in jail’: When Mumtaz sued a journalist for questioning her father’s identity



GNS News Agency, April 27

Back in the 1970s, a journalist's pen carried immense power. A single gossip column could make or break a star's career. Among the most feared voices of that era was Devyani Chaubal, often described as a journalist with a "poisonous pen." She was best known for her popular column *Frankly Speaking* in *Star & Style* magazine. At one point, Chaubal published a controversial piece about Mumtaz's personal life, making a shocking claim about her father—"uske baap ka koi thikana nahi." While many stars chose to ignore such gossip, Mumtaz decided she had had enough. Determined to counter what she saw as baseless and defamatory claims, she took Chaubal to court, ultimately forcing an apology.

Mumtaz recalls going to court against the journalist

Recalling the incident in an interview with Vickey Lalwani, Mumtaz said, "Yes, she claimed that nobody knows who is Mumtaz's father. Then I dragged her to the court." She went on to describe how she contacted her father, an Irani man based in Hyderabad who had remarried. Despite not speaking Hindi fluently, he responded warmly when she reached out. "I told him, 'There is this writer who has claimed that I don't have a father.' He was shocked—

Anubhav Sinha's Assi puts kids in the front row of trauma and trial, refuses to look away



Anubhav Sinha's *Assi* is an uncomfortable watch — and it is meant to be. The film announces its intentions in its title. The title means 80, a reference to the approximately 80 rapes reported in India every day. The film follows the brutal assault of Parima, a school teacher in Delhi played by Kani Kusruti, and the legal battle that follows, led by Advocate Raavi, played by Taapsee Pannu. Beyond its central premise of a brutal sexual assault and the legal battle that follows, the film does not merely depict violence; it exposes the ecosystem that enables it. But beyond the courtroom drama and its sharp social commentary, the film makes a choice no one expects — the persistent, deliberate, impossible-to-ignore presence of children.

In most films dealing with sexual violence and trauma, children are kept at a careful distance — as if their absence can preserve some illusion of innocence. Assi rejects that instinct completely. Here, children are not shielded. They are made to witness. Their presence in spaces like court hearings feels deeply uncomfortable. It almost makes you question the staging itself. Should they be here? Should they be hearing this? That discomfort, it turns out, is precisely the point. When Parima's husband Vinay (Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub) rushes to the hospital after learning of the assault, he brings his young son Dhruv with him. As a viewer, you register it instantly — why has he brought the child? The question sits with you, unanswered, through the shock and the chaos of that scene. And then, in the next scene, it is addressed. When Vinay's friend Kartik (Kumud Mishra) asks him why Dhruv is there — why he has been brought to witness all of this — Vinay replies simply: "Ye sab ghar pe bhi to aavega na (All of this is coming home anyway)."

Vinay is acknowledging what is already true: that the fallout of the assault has already entered their home, is already in the air of every room, is already in the silences. Vinay does not tell Dhruv directly what has happened to his mother. But he keeps him present; he keeps him watching. Because sending him away, pretending nothing has changed would be its own kind of lie. Assi understands something that most social dramas prefer to avoid: sexual violence does not leave the house after the crime is reported. It stays and rearranges everything. And the first person to feel that rearrangement is usually the child. In another scene, when the presiding judge, played by Revathy, notices children from Parima's school sitting in the gallery, she questions why they are there. Raavi answers: if this is happening in their world, why should they be barred from seeing how the justice system deals with it?

By the end of the scene, the judge turns to the children and says: do better than us, words carrying the weight of an entire generation's failure. Because the children in that courtroom are not watching a distant case. They are watching what happens to a woman they know, their teacher, and they are watching how the adults around her respond. The question is not whether children should be shielded from that. The question is whether shielding them has got us anywhere. What makes Sinha's use of children powerful

‘Then who am I?’ she remembered. Mumtaz urged him to appear in court to set the record straight, and he agreed.

According to Mumtaz, Chaubal learned of this and began to panic. “I threatened her and said, ‘I will put you in jail.’ She then started to apologise, saying it was what people were saying,” Mumtaz shared. She confronted the journalist, questioning why she had failed to verify such serious allegations. “How could you write something so derogatory?” she asked, recalling that Chaubal broke down in tears. Mumtaz insisted on a public correction. “I told her, you will write an apology in the same magazine and state that I do have a father—his name is Abdul Syed Askari and he lives in Hyderabad. I made her do this four times,” she said. Eventually, Mumtaz forgave her, and the two maintained a cordial relationship. She also mentioned hearing that Chaubal may have been fond of Rajesh Khanna and possibly jealous of her closeness to him, though she acknowledged this was based on hearsay. Years later, an old international documentary clip resurfaced, featuring Rajesh Khanna, Mumtaz, and a brief glimpse of Chaubal. In it, Chaubal is seen writing in her office as a voiceover describes her as “penning a column about Mumtaz” with “venom.” The clip includes her making disparaging remarks about Mumtaz’s appearance and background.

Reacting to this in the documentary, Mumtaz said, "I did take action against her because I had been tolerating her for many years, and I thought it was too much. I was very hurt. It is very wrong. They think it is their business—they just want to sell their magazine." When asked if taking legal action frightened her, a young Mumtaz responded firmly, "She should be frightened, not me." At the time, Mumtaz was at the peak of her career—hugely popular and constantly in the public eye—making her a frequent target for gossip columns and tabloid scrutiny. This is factual entertainment reporting based on historical interviews and serves informational purposes; the views and claims regarding personal histories reflect the perspectives of the individuals involved and have not been independently verified.

rather than manipulative is his restraint. Dhruv does not weep in ways designed to make the audience weep. The schoolchildren in court room are not shown reacting. They simply sit there and watch, as children always do, absorbing the world adults have made for them. The discomfort belongs entirely to the adult viewer. The film extends its argument beyond the hospital and the courtroom in one of its most jarring subplots. When news of Parima's assault spreads, the film shows how her own students discuss it on a WhatsApp group. The conversation among them is not a horror or grief. It is not even indifference. It is boys, children she taught, making sexual jokes about her assault. This is the moment where Assi widens its frame from one crime to a culture. It is not asking what kind of men commit rape. It is asking how boys are taught to think about women before they become those men. The film is clear-eyed about this — misogyny is socially learned, carefully rehearsed, and passed down early. The last sequence from the child's eyes

The film's closing sequence places Dhruv upstairs, watching the chaos outside the courtroom unfold below him. The camera shifts to a vantage point above, aligned with Dhruv's gaze – we see the scene the way he sees it. It is a deliberate formal choice, and it is the right one to end on. Because what the film has been arguing all along is that this is already his world. The adults did not protect him from it by keeping him out of it. They built it for him, handed it to him, and now he is watching it from above, trying to make sense of what he sees.

In a conversation with SCREEN, Anubhav Sinha explained his reason for making children so central to the film: "To me, that's the last and probably the only refuge. We've messed up and failed. And the sooner we accept it, the sooner it gets better." Assi is not a perfect film. Its vigilante subplot is unevenly handled. Its runtime tests patience. But its choice to keep children inside the story rather than outside it, to refuse the comfortable boundary between what adults endure and what children are allowed to see — is both its most contentious decision and its most honest one. Rape culture is not an adult problem that exists somewhere beyond the reach of the young. It is taught. It is inherited. It is learned in ordinary rooms, in WhatsApp groups. Innocence is not lost in a single moment. It is slowly shaped by what is repeatedly witnessed — and by what adults repeatedly choose not to say. In Assi, children are present because the future is already in the room. And it is watching everything. Disclaimer: The film's exploration of sexual violence and its impact on the family unit involves themes of significant emotional distress and trauma. This content is intended for mature audiences and serves to highlight systemic social issues rather than provide clinical or psychological advice.

Mini Mathur embarks on first solo trip to Phuket at 49

Mumbai: Television host and actress Mini Mathur seems to have lived the best phase of her life as she embarked on a solo trip to Phuket, at 49. She recently treated her followers to glimpses from her solo trip, which she described as a “foodie trip”.

The actress shared a montage of her fun travel and food highlights, revealing that her approach was to explore “highly rated, old and traditional spots” across the Thai island. Documenting her journey through a series of videos and photos in a montage on her social media account, Mini offered her fans a curated list of eateries along with must-try dishes from the respective hotspots.

The actress shared glimpses of her devouring on the local dishes such as crab spinach curry, pomelo salad, sticky rice mango, chilli basil pork, tom yum, mango chia coconut pudding and many more. Mini Mathur also recommended pit-stops for cold brews and signature dishes.

Calling it her first solo food trip, Mini admitted that she is now “addicted” and plans to do many more such getaways. The visuals shared by Mini capture her riding a scooter through palm-lined streets. Talking about Mini Mathur, the actress who is married to filmmaker Kabir Khan, rose to fame in the early 2000s for her hosting skills.

‘Did I suspect Aishwarya Rai was my soulmate? No!’: Abhishek Bachchan on their love story



Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Abhishek Bachchan recently celebrated their 19th wedding anniversary, with the actress sharing heartfelt pictures with her husband and daughter on Instagram. Now, in a recent interview, Abhishek has opened up about their love story—how it began, when it truly blossomed, and how he's already planning something special for their 20th anniversary next year.

Speaking to Deccan Chronicle, Abhishek recalled the first time he met Aishwarya. "That would be in 2000, on the sets of the late Raj Kanwar's *Dhai Akshar Prem Ke*," he said, referring to the film inspired by *A Walk in the Clouds*. However, he clarified that their connection at the time was purely friendly. It was their first film together. "There was no inkling back then of what was to come. We got along very well. But did I suspect she was my soulmate? No!" he said.

shared. The two reunited for Kuch Naa Kaho, but even then, their relationship remained professional. It wasn't until 2006, during the making of Umrao Jaan directed by JP Dutta, that something shifted. Abhishek described this phase as the moment when there was finally "a spark." Their bond deepened further during the filming of Guru, directed by Mani Ratnam. It was at the film's premiere in New York that Abhishek proposed to Aishwarya on the same balcony he once manifested a future with her. Soon after, their families met for the roka, and in April 2007, they tied the knot in an intimate ceremony, even as the world eagerly awaited glimpses of the star couple. Reflecting on their journey, Abhishek said, "We got married a few months after the release of our film Guru. Mani Ratnam remains special for both of us—we consider him a dear friend and godfather. Today, Ash is not just the mother of my daughter—and full credit to her for bringing up Aaradhya with the right values—but also my soulmate. Nineteen years of our marriage has been a dream. I have big plans for our twentieth anniversary, but I am not telling you about them now." When asked about the secret to a successful marriage despite constant rumours, he joked, "Every night, before you sleep, say 'Sorry' three times to your wife without fail." Interestingly, Abhishek proposed using the same ring featured in Guru, which he had kept for emotional reasons. Speaking about the proposal in a 2010 interview, Aishwarya said, "He is original and real, like our relationship. There is nothing predictable or boring about our life. We nurture each other. The gesture was spontaneous and meaningful. God has been kind to us. We can certainly afford those standard rocks—but do we need them?"

Jr NTR and Prashanth Neel lock June 11 next year as the release date for NTRxNeel

On Tuesday, Jr NTR took to social media to confirm what his fans have been waiting to hear. NTRxNeel, his upcoming film with director Prashanth Neel, will release in theatres across the world on June 11, 2027. The actor posted a new poster with the words "HIS REIGN... HIS SOIL... JUNE 11, 2027... IT IS..." #NTRNeel," and production house Mythri Movie Makers followed with a similar announcement on Instagram. The poster itself features Jr NTR in silhouette, standing on rocky ground against a dusty sky. It says little about the story, but it does a clean job of setting a mood. That, in a lot of ways, is Prashanth Neel's calling card. Along with the release date, the makers confirmed that the first glimpse of the film will be out on Jr NTR's 43rd birthday.

The date itself is news, but the context around it is what makes this announcement worth sitting with for a moment. Jr NTR's last solo lead Telugu film was Devara: Part 1, which released on September 27, 2024. The Koratala Siva directorial had him playing dual roles and opened to

strong numbers, collecting over 140 crore rupees worldwide on its opening day alone, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. After Devara, he appeared in War 2, a Hindi action film directed by Ayan Mukerji, which released on August 4, 2025, as part of Yash Raj Films' spy universe. He was not the solo lead there, he shared the film with Hrithik Roshan. So when NTRxNeel arrives in June 2027, it will have been close to three years since Jr NTR last fronted a Telugu film on his own. A production that has been pushed more than once! The path to June 11, 2027 was not direct. The film was originally planned for a Sankranti 2026 release, which is typically a lucrative window for big Telugu productions. That plan was then revised to June 25, 2026. Now, with both shooting and post-production still underway, the date has moved again, this time to 2027. The film is being produced by Mythri Movie Makers and NTR Arts, and T-Series is presenting it. Reports suggest the film's official title is Dragon, though the makers have continued to officially refer to it only as NTRxNeel.



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(First Phase of Census 2027)

Common queries on Self-Enumeration (SE) and their Answers (Part-I)

WHAT IS SELF-ENUMERATION?

Self-Enumeration is an online process in which you fill and submit your household details on the SE portal (se.census.gov.in) yourself, without waiting for an enumerator



CBC 19108/13/0043/2627

- ❖ **Is Self-Enumeration mandatory?**
No, it is an additional facility. If you do not do it, an enumerator will collect data during field visit
- ❖ **Can I do Self-Enumeration in any language?**
This facility is available in Hindi, English and 14 Indian languages
- ❖ **Is internet required for Self-Enumeration?**
Yes, internet is required to access the portal
- ❖ **Is my information safe?**
Yes, all data is secure, encrypted and stored on government servers
- ❖ **What is SE ID and its use?**
After submission of information, you will receive a unique 11 digit SE ID (Also via SMS/email) which must be shown to the enumerator during her/his visit to your house
- ❖ **What if SE ID is forgotten?**
It can be retrieved using the registered mobile number on the portal
- ❖ **Will an enumerator visit after Self-Enumeration?**
Yes, the enumerator will visit your home and confirm your details using the SE ID
- ❖ **Do I need to upload any documents?**
No documents are required to be uploaded
- ❖ **Is help available on the portal?**
Portal has user guide, flowcharts, tutorial videos, FAQs and tooltips



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