

Painter dies after scaffolding collapse in Balanagar

Hyderabad: A painter died after falling from the scaffolding at a construction site in Balanagar on Tuesday. The victim, Madari Gopi (64) was sitting on scaffolding and doing ceiling painting work when the scaffolding rods broke and Gopi fell on the floor.

“A big iron rod landed on Gopi’s head, leading to injuries. He subsequently died,” said Balanagar police. A case has been registered and an investigation is underway.



CM Revanth lays foundation for Future City Police Commissionerate

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday, April 28, said the state government plans to develop the proposed ‘Bharat Future City’ on the outskirts of Hyderabad as a world-class urban hub capable of competing with global cities such as Singapore.

Speaking after performing the bhumi puja for the Future City Police Commissionerate, he said the government is developing key facilities in the area, including a Skills University and administrative offices.

“We are learning from countries such as South Korea, Japan and Germany, and from cities like Singapore. We are also looking to cities like New York as models. We want to create a city like Singapore—Bharat Future City—for future generations,” he said.

“Our government’s policy is to compete with cities that serve as role models for us. The state government has decided to develop this city in such a way that it competes with them,” he added.

He said that the Outer Ring Road, Hitech City, the international airport and Cyberabad, which are now sources of pride for Hyderabad, were once only ideas. Some people had even doubted whether such projects were feasible and had ridiculed leaders who proposed them, he said.

Noting that some farmers have reservations about parting with their lands for the Future City project, he urged public representatives and officials to convince them, assuring that the government would address their concerns.

“I am appealing to the farmers and people of this region. The legal process of issuing notifications is already complete. The land will be transferred to the government. There is no possibility of stopping it,” he said.

He assured that the government would safeguard the interests of landowners while ensuring the develop-



Telangana increases petrol supply by 126 pc amid fuel crisis

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

The Civil Supplies Department on Tuesday, April 28, said that since Sunday, it has aggressively increased statewide petroleum supplies by 126 per cent to stabilise local fuel stations that are currently facing strain from a sudden and unusually high demand.

The department has attributed the unexpected rush to a combination of three major factors.

Firstly, due to a recent price revision that raised industrial diesel to Rs 150 per litre, bulk commercial buyers are trying to exploit the system by filling up at regular public gas stations, where the price is still capped at Rs 95 per litre.

Secondly, supply issues in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have caused heavy cross-border traffic, with out-of-state buyers flocking to Telangana border districts like Khammam and Nirmal just to purchase fuel.

Lastly, false rumours regarding upcoming post-election price hikes have caused the general public to unnecessarily panic buy and hoard fuel, rapidly depleting local reserves, the department stated in a release.

Flood the market with fuel: Civil Supplies Commissioner

In response to this crisis, Civil Supplies Commissioner M Stephen Raveendra has issued emergency orders to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to effectively “flood the market with fuel”, the release stated.

OMCs are now taking advance orders from dealers and have deployed a massive fleet of 3,100 fuel tankers across the state.

Additionally, the Civil Supplies Department has mandated ground-level stock reports from all retail outlets every three hours and is monitoring the situation daily through teleconferences.

Khairatabad police arrest scooter owner for using fake registration number

Hyderabad: The Khairatabad police on Tuesday arrested a scooter owner for using a registration number allotted to some other vehicle and cheating the authorities. City & Local Guides According to the police, the man, D Robert Samuel (41), a resident of Anandnagar in Khairatabad, owned a scooter and was using a registration number TS08HS7658 allotted to another vehicle.

Bullet Trains From Amaravati To Hyderabad & Chennai Soon: Vaishnaw

Visakhapatnam, April 28

: Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that the NDA government at the Centre has allocated Rs 10,134 crore exclusively to Andhra Pradesh in the railway budget under the Double Engine Sarkar. He said that in the past, the undivided Andhra Pradesh used to receive only Rs 886 crore, whereas today the state is witnessing unprecedented railway development.

The Union Minister, who participated in the foundation laying of the Google data centre in Visakhapatnam today, stated that railway projects worth Rs 1.06 lakh crore are currently underway, connecting Andhra Pradesh with major economic corridors and strengthening logistics infrastructure.

He highlighted that 74 railway stations in Andhra Pradesh are being modernised under the Amrit Bharat - Nav Nirman project, the first such large-scale initiative in the country and 832 flyovers and underpasses have been completed. He said 1,039 kilometres of new railway lines are under construction, and Andhra Pradesh has achieved 100 per cent railway electrification.

The Union Minister said Andhra Pradesh is emerging as a key railway hub with 16 Vande Bharat train services and 22 Amrit Bharat train services. He added that great care has been taken in the design and manufacturing standards of the new-generation trains.

Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Centre has fulfilled one of the most important promises made during bifurcation by establishing the South Coast Railway Zone. The South Coast Railway Zone will be officially notified on June 1, 2026, he added. The Minister announced that high-speed



rail connectivity for Andhra Pradesh is progressing and will soon become a reality.

Amaravati to Hyderabad Bullet Train to cover the distance in 70 minutes, and Amaravati to Chennai Bullet Train to cover the distance in 112 minutes.

He further said that the existing double railway lines from Kolkata to Chennai along the East Coast corridor will be upgraded into four-line connectivity. This corridor will support container movement, freight trains, and passenger connectivity through 500 new train services.

The Union Minister said the NDA government is ensuring justice to southern states in both development and welfare. While the Centre is focused on growth and infrastructure, opposition parties are trying to politicise every issue. He reaffirmed that Andhra Pradesh will continue to receive full support from the Central Government for infrastructure, connectivity, and economic growth.

CV Anand appointed as new Telangana Director General of Police

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

The Telangana government issued an order on Tuesday, April 28, appointing CV Anand, currently serving as the Special Chief Secretary to the Government, Home Department, as the new Director General of Police.

He will serve as the head of Telangana police and will receive an apex scale pay of Rs 2,25,000. His appointment will come into effect on the day he assumes charge.

Anand, a 1991-batch IPS officer, earlier served as Director General of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and twice held the post of Hyderabad city Police Commissioner. He had also served as Police Commissioner of Cyberabad.

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He began his police career as Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) in the Warangal Rural subdivision.

The first nine years of his service were spent in naxal-affected districts, where he led operations and was involved in several encounters, it added.

He was awarded the President’s Gallantry Medal for his high-risk operations and role in countering naxalism.

Currently, B Shivadhar Reddy serves as the Telangana DGP and is set to retire on April 30.

In December last year, petitions had been filed in the Telangana High Court challenging Shivadhar Reddy’s ap-

pointment as the DGP. Petitioners alleged that the state government had violated the 2018 Supreme Court guidelines, which mandate states to submit a list of senior police officers to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) at least three months before the retirement of the incumbent DGP.

Petitioners said that the Telangana government had failed to submit the required list of eligible officers and sought a quo-warranto writ from the High Court, quashing Reddy’s appointment.

However, the High Court had refused to interfere in the matter and directed the state government to submit a panel of eligible officers to the UPSC.

In March, UPSC shortlisted three IPS officers, including CV Anand, Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau Vinayak Prabhakar Apte and Director General of Prisons Soumya Mishra, for the DGP’s position.



DRI seizes Rs 11.4 crore worth crystal meth at Secunderabad

HYDERABAD, APRIL 28

In a major operation, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Hyderabad Zonal Unit (DRI-HZU), seized 11.4 kilograms of amphetamine (Crystal Meth) valued at approximately Rs. 11.4 crore and arrested two persons on Monday. The DRI officers, acting on specific information, intercepted two women at Secunderabad Railway Station who were travelling by train. Upon thorough examination of the two trolley bags carried by the passengers, officers recovered 10 transparent plastic packets containing white crystalline substance. The narcotic substance had been meticulously concealed—wrapped in black polythene, covered with designer paper, and hidden within the folds of bed sheets placed inside the trolley bags—in an attempt to evade detection,” said the DRI officials.



Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Banks need smarter shields & monitoring

BANKS have always faced the threat of cybercrime, but artificial intelligence has raised the danger to a new level. The recent concern over Anthropic's AI model, Mythos, has shown why banks and financial institutions are deeply worried. Mythos is not an ordinary chatbot. It is described as a powerful "cyber genius" that can independently search for weaknesses in software systems and even suggest ways to exploit them. In simple terms, it can do in hours what human hackers might take weeks to achieve. That is what makes it so alarming. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has rightly called the threat "unprecedented." She warned that such advanced AI requires greater vigilance and better coordination among banks. The Finance Ministry has also asked banks to work closely with agencies like CERT-In so that risks can be identified and tackled without delay. The fear is real because India's banking system still depends heavily on old technology. Many banks run on legacy software, delayed updates and complicated vendor networks. If an AI tool like Mythos finds a weak point, it could trigger data theft, payment failures, ATM disruptions or even panic among customers. A cyberattack on one major bank can quickly shake confidence in the entire financial system. This is not just India's concern. Even at the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings, global leaders discussed whether cyber risks are now becoming too big for humans alone to manage. Yet AI can also be a shield. The same technology can help banks detect fraud, identify weak spots and strengthen security faster. The need is to prepare for AI. Banks must update old systems, improve real-time monitoring and share threat information quickly. Today, cybersecurity is no longer just an IT issue.

Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar Participates in Sri Mahakali Devi Idol Installation Ceremony in Ramanthapur



“UPPAL, APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar attended the Sri Sri Mahakali Devi idol installation ceremony held at Endowment Colony in Ramanthapur Division as the chief guest and offered special prayers. “Speaking on the occasion, Prabhakar said that the installation of Goddess Mahakali's idol would enhance the divine spiritual energy in the area and that the blessings of the Goddess would be with all devotees. He further stated that such idol installation ceremonies help preserve Sanatana Dharma and traditional values, and pass on the rich cultural heritage to future generations. “He specially congratulated the temple committee members, local leaders, and devotees for organizing the grand ?. On this occasion, representatives of the temple committee felicitated Prabhakar with due honors. “Those who participated in the program included Ramanthapur Division President Vangala Santosh Gupta, senior BJP leaders Burra Rajeswar, Thalla Balakrishna Goud, Kompelli Upender, Gunde Bikshapathi, Darshanala Sudhakar, Oore Nagesh Gupta, Mamilla Sudhakar Yadav, Boddupalli Anand, Muthyala Nagesh, Temple Committee Chairman Survi Bhishma Goud, committee members Sarva Sattaiah Yadav, Revu Krishnaiah, Palakuri Das Goud, Lingala Naresh Goud, Burra Mahender, along with several devotees and others.

Nemali Anil Kumar Extends Birthday Wishes to Former Uppal Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy



“UPPAL, APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “On the occasion of the birthday of former Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy (Rajithamma), Mallapur Division Congress leader Nemali Anil Kumar met her respectfully at her residence in Uppal on Tuesday and conveyed his heartfelt birthday wishes. “Speaking on the occasion, Nemali Anil Kumar said that the services being rendered by Rajithamma to society are highly commendable and expressed his hope that her efforts for the welfare and development of the people would continue to expand further. “He also conveyed his best wishes, expressing confidence that under her leadership many more achievements would be accomplished and that she would continue to serve the people in an even greater capacity. “Several leaders and party workers participated in the programme.

Fuel Supply Restored in Khammam Following MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra's Intervention



“KHAMMAM APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “The shortage of petrol and diesel in Khammam district, caused by a disruption in supply over the past two days that led to the closure of several fuel stations, has now been resolved. “The situation improved within 24 hours due to the intervention of BRS MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra, who is also a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas. He spoke over the phone with senior officials of major oil companies — Bharat Petroleum (BPCL), Indian Oil (IOCL), and Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) — and urged them to immediately dispatch oil tankers to retail outlets. “Responding to his request, the companies expedited fuel supply. On Monday, around 150 oil tankers were delivered to Khammam district, and another 100 tankers are expected to arrive on Tuesday. With this, sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel are likely to be available at all fuel stations across the district from Tuesday night. “MP Ravichandra appealed to the public not to panic and advised against hoarding fuel beyond necessity. “Petroleum Dealers Thank MP Ravichandra “The Khammam District Petroleum Dealers Association expressed gratitude to MP Vaddiraju Ravichandra for his swift action. Association President Ishwar Pragada Ranganath and General Secretary Kurapati Manjula thanked him for resolving the issue within just 24 hours by coordinating with oil company officials. “They stated that the MP has always been proactive in addressing the concerns of dealers. With improved supply from oil companies, all fuel stations in the district will continue to operate normally and provide uninterrupted services to consumers.

Say Goodbye to Child Marriages: Police Awareness Program Held Successfully



“Indian Chronicle, Jade Srinivas, April, 29. “Police organized a large-scale awareness program in a village of Tiryani mandal to eradicate child marriages and educate people about the legal consequences. The program aimed to create awareness among villagers, parents, youth, and women about the importance of protecting children's future through education instead of early marriage. A large number of villagers participated and extended their support to the initiative. Speaking on the occasion, the Sub-Inspector said that conducting marriages for girls below 18 years and

boys below 21 years is strictly illegal under the law. He gave a strong warning that legal action would be taken against parents, relatives, middlemen, or anyone supporting child marriages. He urged people to immediately inform the police if such incidents come to their notice. He explained that child marriages can cause serious health problems for young girls, including early pregnancy, malnutrition, mental stress, and other complications. He also said that early marriage interrupts the education of girls and deprives them of opportunities to achieve their dreams and build a better future. The SI emphasized that education should be given top priority for the bright future of children. He advised parents to ensure that their children complete their studies and become independent before thinking about marriage. Educating girls, he said, would lead to the development of families, villages, and society as a whole. “Later, after offering prayers at the Chinnayya—Peddhayya Nayak sacred temple, villagers honored the SI with a shawl in recognition of his efforts and services towards public welfare and awareness. The program was attended by Sarpanch Edula Sumalatha—Srinivas, Vice Sarpanch Pawan Kumar, Constable Chedam Shekhar, village elders Mendrapu Narsayya, Gundam Kishtayya, Jyothi, and many other villagers. The villagers assured full cooperation in preventing child marriages and promoting education among children.

Take Immediate Steps to Reopen Closed Ration Shops

Uppal Congress Constituency In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy Appeals to Medchal Collector

UPPAL, APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, the Congress Party in-charge for the Uppal Assembly constituency, stated that people are facing severe hardships due to the closure of several ration shops within the constituency limits. “On Tuesday, Parameshwar Reddy met Medchal District Collector Manu Choudary and submitted a memorandum requesting immediate measures to reopen the closed ration shops. “Speaking on the occasion, he said that several ration shops under the Civil Supplies Department, Uppal Circle-II, are not functioning, causing serious inconvenience to thousands of ration card beneficiaries. “He particularly highlighted that the closure is having a severe impact on economically weaker sections such as the poor, daily wage laborers, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities. “Due to the closure of the ration shops, beneficiaries are being forced to travel long distances to obtain essential commodities. As a result, they are left with no option but to purchase necessities from private markets at higher prices. “He further stated that this situation is seriously affecting the food security of the people and undermining the objective of government welfare schemes. “Therefore, he urged the authorities to take im-



mediate action in the interest of the public and reopen the closed ration shops without delay. “He also requested that permanent solutions be implemented to ensure that such issues do not recur in the future. “Senior Congress leaders Agam Reddy and Poojari Hanumanth also participated in the program.

Call to Make TPTF State Education Conference a Success

“Khammam, Nelakondapalli April 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “TPTF District General Secretary Vengala Rao has called upon teachers from the district to participate in large numbers and make the State Education Conference a grand success. The conference is being organized by the Telangana Progressive Teachers Federation (TPTF) State Committee on April 30 at Sundarayya Vignana Kendram in Hyderabad. “He made this appeal while addressing teachers during census training classes held at the local high school in Nelakondapalli. Speaking on the occasion, he criticized the government for its negligent attitude towards the education sector. He expressed concern that policies are being framed in a way that denies equal access to education for all. “Vengala Rao alleged that the government has failed to allocate funds to the education sector as promised during elections and is preparing to shut down hundreds of government schools in the name of rationalization. He emphasized that, in such circumstances, the conference is being conducted to protect public schools and to ensure equal access to education. He also demanded the introduction of a Neighborhood Common School system under government control. “The conference will be attended by Director of School Education Dr. Naveen Nicholas as the chief guest, and Professor M. Kodandaram as a guest of honor. “Prominent speakers at the conference include: “Professor Haragopal, who will speak on “New National Education Policy and Constitutional Values “Professor Chintakindi Kasim, Principal of Arts College, Osmania University, who will address “Educational Inequality and Crisis in Telangana “Former Andhra Jyothi Editor K. Srinivas, who will speak on “West Asia War and Global Politics “Vengala Rao also urged the government to



immediately announce and implement the PRC, clear all pending bills in one go, release retirement benefits promptly to retired employees, abolish the CPS and restore the old pension scheme, issue clear guidelines for EHS health cards, and release pending Dearness Allowances without delay. “The event was attended by Mandal President Govind Rao, General Secretary Rama Rao, Sub-committee members China Nageswara Rao, Jyothirmayi, Jyothi, Koteswara Rao, Govind Reddy, Ravi, and others.

Painter dies after scaffolding collapse in Balanagar

GNS News Agency, April 28 Hyderabad: A painter died after falling from the scaffolding at a construction site in Balanagar on Tuesday. The victim, Madari Gopi (64) was sitting on scaffolding and doing ceiling painting work when the scaffolding rods broke and Gopi fell on the floor.

Court Issues Warrant to Khammam Municipal Commissioner



“KHAMMAM APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “The High Court has issued a warrant to Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya. The case relates to land acquisition for the construction of a Railway Over Bridge (ROB) during the removal of Venkatagiri Gate in Khammam city. “Around ₹60 lakh was determined as compensation by the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) for the demolition of houses. However, the government has not paid the compensation. The legal heirs of Boggara Ramarao and Lakshmanrao, who had been fighting the case for 25 years in the Khammam district court and the High Court, filed a contempt petition. “During the hearing, the Municipal Commissioner failed to appear in court on Friday. His petition seeking exemption from personal appearance was rejected. As a result, Justice Kaja Sarath issued a bailable warrant and directed him to appear before the court on May 1.

Police Keep Watch on Fuel Black Marketing in Khammam, Assure No Shortage

“KHAMMAM APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): “Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt has stated that strict surveillance is in place to prevent black marketing and the creation of artificial shortages of petrol and diesel. He urged the public not to panic about fuel availability. “He warned that stringent legal action will be taken against anyone involved in black marketing. If any petrol bunk refuses to supply fuel despite having stock, or sells it at inflated prices, citizens are advised to immediately report the matter to local civil supplies officials or the police. Appropriate legal action will be taken against such offenders. “The Commissioner clarified that there is no shortage of petrol or diesel in the district and that people should not believe rumors or engage in unnecessary hoarding. He appealed to the public to purchase fuel only as needed. “He also added that officials are continuously monitoring the situation to ensure there is no disruption in fuel supply.

Panchayat Secretary Suspended for Negligence in Duties

“Indian Chronicle, Jade Srinivas, April, 29. “District Collector K. Haritha stated in an official release that a Panchayat Secretary has been suspended for negligence in the implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) duties. “According to the Collector, a complaint was received regarding the ongoing employment guarantee works in Gangapur Gram Panchayat of Chintalmanepalli mandal. Following the complaint, an inquiry was conducted into the matter. During the investigation, it was found that Panchayat Secretary Ashok had shown serious negligence in the payment of bills related to CC roads constructed under MGNREGS funds. Instead of releasing the payments to the workers and rightful beneficiaries who had completed the works, the funds were reportedly paid to others. Based on these findings, disciplinary action was taken and the Panchayat Secretary was suspended from duties with immediate effect. “The District Collector warned that negligence in development works, payment of bills, and implementation of welfare schemes in Gram Panchayats would not be tolerated. She directed officials to work responsibly and ensure that government funds reach the genuine beneficiaries without delay. “She further stated that strict action would be taken against any officials involved in irregularities, negligence, or misuse of public funds. The district administration remains committed to transparency and accountability, and citizens were urged to report any such issues to the authorities.

Former ZPTC Member Medishetty Ramulu Joins Congress



“Wardhannapet/Warangal, April 28 (Indian Chronicle): “Former ZPTC member from Parvathagiri mandal, Medishetty Ramulu, joined the Congress party on Tuesday in Hyderabad in the presence of Mahesh Kumar Goud, President of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee. “He was formally welcomed into the party by draping the Congress scarf under the leadership of Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju, PCC official spokesperson Shekhar Rao, District Congress Committee President Ayob, Vice President Enninti Anil Rao, and Mandal Party President Jatoth Srinivas Naik. “Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud advised him to work with discipline and dedication while serving as a people's representative aligned with public interest.

Mega Job Mela to Provide Large-Scale Employment Opportunities for Unemployed Youth: District Collector Divakar T.S



Target to Fill 3,200 Vacancies Through Mega Job Mela“Over 80 Companies to Participate in Massive Employment Drive“Khammam, April 28(INDIAN CHRONICLE):“District Collector Divakar T.S. has directed officials to efficiently organize the upcoming Mega Job Mela to create better employment opportunities for unemployed youth across the undivided district.“On Tuesday, the Collector, along with Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija, reviewed the arrangements for the Job Mela scheduled to be held on May 4 during a meeting with concerned officials at the Collectorate conference hall.“Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that the government is implementing several programs to enhance skills and provide employment opportunities to unemployed youth, and the Mega Job Mela is one of the key initiatives among them.“He mentioned that

around 3,200 vacancies are expected to be filled through the Job Mela, and since nearly 10,000 candidates (almost three times the vacancies) are likely to attend, officials must ensure proper arrangements. He instructed them to begin preparations immediately and select a suitable venue considering the summer conditions.“The Collector emphasized the need for wide publicity through electronic media, cable channels, newspapers, and social media to attract a large number of youth.As more than 80 companies will participate, he advised coordinating with the police department before finalizing the venue. He also directed each district officer to form dedicated teams to effectively manage their assigned responsibilities.“The venue should be spacious, with adequate waiting areas, seating arrangements, and sufficient space for company stalls. It should also be easily accessible to the public. Necessary facilities such as drinking water, event coordinators, directional boards, signages, and a public address system should be arranged.“He further instructed that high-speed internet, technical staff, computers, and laptops must be available at the venue. A medical camp and sufficient parking facilities should also be provided.“To ensure maximum participation, the Collector suggested promoting the event through WhatsApp groups and social media across all villages and towns. He also recommended providing detailed information about companies, vacancies, and eligibility criteria via QR codes.“Through TASK, arrangements should be made to ensure that all participating companies arrive at the venue in the morning, and necessary accommodation facilities should be provided for them in the city.“Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija stressed the importance of comprehensive planning for candidate registration, interview processes, company coordination, and mobilization of youth. She directed all departments to work in coordination to make the event a success.“The meeting was attended by DYE0 Sunil, Industries General Manager W.J. Praveen Kumar, District Employment Officer N. Madhavi, Assistant Director of Industries E. Nakul Reddy, Deputy DMHO Dr. Venumadhav, EDM Durga Prasad, and other district officials.

New Committee of Dadi Lambadi Rights Protection Committee Announced in Khammam

“KHAMMAM APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“The new district committee of the Dadi Lambadi Hakkula Sadhana Samithi (DLHSS) was announced today in Khammam, following a call by the State Founding President, Raghu Nayak Rudawat.“The newly elected district committee members are as follows:“District President: Kalidas Nayak“Vice President: Dolvan Arun“General Secretaries: Dugroth Ramesh, Dugroth Veerababu, Dugroth Vicky“Secretaries: Ratnavat Dinesh, Donavan Kiran, Ratnavat Venkanna“Treasurer: Upender“Joint Secretaries: Jadapod Shekhar, Devat Ankush, Devat Vijay“Executive Members: Dugroth Ramchander, Dugroth Nagendra, Donavan Poorna, Donavan Vinay, Donavan Ashok, Dugroth Das, Dugroth Nanku, Rudawat Saidulu, Dugroth Naveen, Devaraj Venkat Rao, Devaraj Ravikumar, Devaraj Ajay, Ratnavat Naveen, Tajanoth Veerendra, Devat Prasad““All members were elected unanimously.““Speaking on the occasion, Raghu Nayak Rudawat urged the newly elected committee to work in accordance with the organization’s rules, respect all members, and strive for the growth and development of the association.“The newly elected members stated that they would work with dedication and unity for the development of the Dadi community

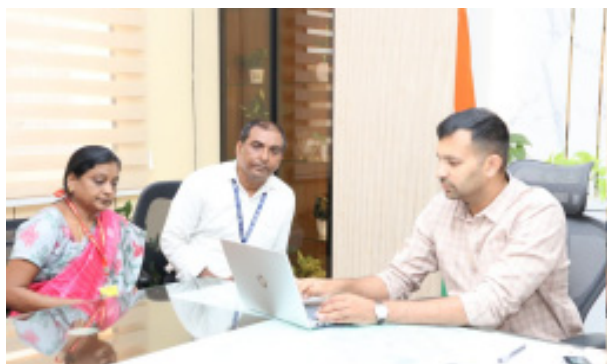


and the advancement of the DLHSS. They emphasized their commitment to uplifting the community and enhancing its dignity.“They also assured that they would bring the issues faced by the Dadi community to the attention of the government and work towards resolving them. The members expressed their gratitude to State President Raghu Nayak Rudawat, along with state leaders Dugroth Kishore Nayak and Dugroth Shekhar Nayak, and the state committee for entrusting them with these responsibilities.

District Collector Prateek Jain self-registered for the census

“Call on everyone to take advantage of the self-enumeration“

“Sangareddy, April 28:--Indian Chronicle ““As part of the census process, District Collector Prateek Jain self-registered in his chamber in the Collectorate. He registered his details through the online website <https://se.census.gov.in>, which has been made available for anyone to register their details themselves in the census.““On Tuesday, the Collector, along with Additional Collector Pandu, Census Department Assistant Director Ramadevi and CPO, organized a press meet with the media at the Collectorate meeting hall.““Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that the government has made the Digital Self-Enumeration system available to conduct the census process easily, comprehensively and transparently. The Collector said that people have been given the opportunity to register their personal and family details online either on the web portal or through the mobile app. He said that the self-enumeration has started from 26th of this month and self-registration can be done till 10th May. He said that the information related to the census can be completed within 15 minutes. He said that a unique Self-Enumeration ID (SEID) will be issued after the details are entered.““He suggested that the field enumerators appointed by the government should inform them of the Self-Enumeration ID number when they come to their homes in the field. He said that if people currently self-register their details through the online portal, the enumerator will check and verify the information entered online through the Self-Enumeration ID. The Collector said that this has provided an opportunity for those who are in other areas due to employment, students, migrant workers and people who are traveling to register their



details in the census.““He said that the exact address and correct details should be entered in the self-enumeration, and enumerators will be appointed on the basis of these. The Collector urged all the people of the district to take advantage of the digital self-enumeration process made available by the government with the aim of increasing the integrity of the census process by using technology and ensuring that the details of every citizen are included in the census. He assured that everyone’s details will be kept confidential.““The Collector urged everyone to participate in the census, which will contribute greatly to the effective implementation of welfare schemes and achieving comprehensive development, and to cooperate in making this process a success in the district.““The Collector urged people to be sensitized through the media about digital self-enumeration.

33 Procurement Centres Planned for Smooth Paddy Purchase: Addl Collector

M. David“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 28: Additional Collector M. David has directed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the smooth procurement of Yasangi paddy across the district.“Chairing a coordination meeting at the Integrated Collectorate, he reviewed preparations with officials from key departments. Authorities informed that 33 procurement centres—14 under SERP and 19 under the Cooperation Department—are being established.“The government has fixed MSP at ₹2,389 per quintal for Grade-A paddy and ₹2,369 for common variety, with an additional ₹500 bonus for fine varieties.“The Additional Collector stressed the need to provide basic facilities at procurement centres and ensure timely lifting of procured paddy to designated rice mills. He also emphasized aware-



ness among farmers regarding MSP and procurement procedures under the OPMS system.“Officials were directed to work in close coordination to ensure that farmers face no inconvenience during the procurement process.

Speed up paddy procurement, ensure no distress to farmers: Minister Prabhakar

Calls for timely MSP payments, seamless transport to mills, and round-the-clock monitoring.



Karimnagar April 28 (Correspondent) : State Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has directed officials to expedite paddy procurement across villages and ensure that farmers do not face inconvenience during the process.At a review meeting held on Tuesday at the MPDO office in Saidapur, the Minister assessed paddy procurement operations, progress of Indiramma housing, and preparedness to avert drinking water scarcity during the summer months. District Collector Chitra Mishra, Additional Collectors Ashwini Tanaji Wakade and Srinivas Reddy, along with district and mandal-level officials, were present.Emphasising seamless procurement, Mr. Prabhakar instructed officials to ensure adequate facilities at procurement centres and to transport procured paddy to rice mills without delay. He called for the availability of sufficient vehicles and directed that payments be made promptly to farmers upon procurement, ensuring they receive the Minimum Support Price.He also stressed the need for continuous monitoring to prevent any disruptions at procurement centres.On housing, the Minister asked officials to expedite the construction of houses sanctioned under the first phase of the Indiramma scheme and to make completed units ready for housewarming. With summer approaching, he directed officials to take preventive measures to avoid drinking water shortages in villages. All pending works related to water supply, including pipeline laying, tank



repairs, and fixing leakages, should be completed on priority, he said.

Highlighting the importance of education, Mr. Prabhakar instructed that basic infrastructure be strengthened in government schools and necessary repairs be undertaken without delay. He also called for implementing the ‘Badibata’ programme in a mission mode to improve student enrolment and attendance.The review also covered sectors such as education, healthcare, women’s welfare, electricity, and agriculture.District Collector Ms. Mishra said that paddy procurement was being carried out on a fast track and that measures were in place to prevent inconvenience to farmers. She noted that procurement centres were being closely monitored and that steps were being taken to ensure timely transportation of paddy to mills. She also directed officials to take special measures to prevent drinking water issues and to complete all pending works related to water supply immediately. Stressing coordinated efforts, she said officials should work towards resolving public issues and ensuring holistic development of villages.Among those present were Saidapur Market Committee Chairman Donta Sudhakar, DRDO Sridhar, DSO Narsinga Rao, Civil Supplies DM Rajinikanth, DPO Jagadeeshwar, Huzurabad RDO Ramesh Babu, Tahsildar Srinivas, MPDO Yadagiri, and other officials.

Accurate Census Key to Development: Call for Voluntary Participation

“Only if the count is right, the goal is achieved“

Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 28: Vangari Praveen, SHRC District President, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, A strong appeal has been made to citizens to actively participate in the population enumeration process, emphasizing that an accurate Census is the foundation for fair development and resource allocation.“Addressing the public, Vangari Praveen highlighted that population enumeration is not merely a government exercise but a shared responsibility of every citizen. “If the population is undercounted, development suffers. Only when the numbers are correct will the budget and welfare schemes reach everyone,” he stated.“Explaining the importance, he compared it to a family: just as food must be prepared according to the number of members, government resources must match the actual population. Any discrepancy leads to deprivation in essential services such as education, healthcare, and ration distribution.“He stressed the need for voluntary participation, noting that officials conducting the Census may not be familiar with every household, especially those in remote areas. “Local residents know their village best. If people come forward, no individual will be left out,” he said.“Calling for organized community effort, he drew inspi-

ration from B. R. Ambedkar’s principle of “Educate, Agitate, Organize,” urging youth and women to form village-level teams and conduct door-to-door awareness and preliminary data collection.“Citizens were advised to cooperate fully with Census officials by providing accurate information and ensuring complete coverage of all households.“Key Dates“• Self-Enumeration: April 26, 2026 – May 10, 2026 “• Field Enumeration: May 11, 2026 – June 9, 2026 “He warned that an incorrect population count can result in significant losses, including reduced funding, fewer welfare benefits, and limited infrastructure development. “An inaccurate count is nothing less than a threat to our children’s future,” he cautioned.“Describing participation in the Census as an act of patriotism, he said that contributing accurate data is as vital as any service to the nation, as it directly impacts representation, welfare schemes, and development planning.“In conclusion, citizens were urged to actively engage in the enumeration process, assist those who are unaware, and ensure that every individual is counted.““If we are not counted, we are not included. If we are not included, there is no future for our children.”

CI Visweshwar’s Services Set an Example for the Police Department

“Warangal CP Sunpreet Singh Presents Commendation Certificate and Cash Reward



“Geesugonda, April 28 (Indian Chronicle): Inspector D. Visweshwar of Geesugonda Police Station, under the limits of the Warangal Police Commissionerate, has been recognised for his dedicated service and proactive efforts in curbing the sale and use of tobacco products such as gutka and chewing tobacco, thereby preventing students and minors from falling prey to these harmful additions.“In recognition of his commitment, he was presented with a commendation certificate and a cash reward during the Crime Review Meeting held on Tuesday.“Speaking on the occasion, Warangal Police Commissioner Sunpreet Singh lauded Inspector Visweshwar’s exemplary service, stating that his discipline, dedication, and spirit of public service stand as an inspiration to others in the department.

Water Booth Set Up Near Ramanthapur Government Homeopathy Hospital

— Inaugurated by Dr. N. Lingaraju under the leadership of BRS senior leaders Kaleru Jai Naveen and Kaleru Pranathi“

“UPPAL, APRIL 28(INDIAN CHRONICAL):“A summer water booth (Chalivendram) was set up near the Government Homeopathy Hospital on the main road in Ramanthapur under the leadership of BRS senior leaders Kaleru Surrender, Kaleru Jai Naveen, and Kaleru Pranathi. The facility was inaugurated by the hospital’s Principal, Dr. N. Lingaraju, who attended the event as the chief guest.“On the very first day, buttermilk was distributed to quench the thirst of the public.“Speaking on the occasion, Kaleru Jai Naveen and Kaleru Pranathi said that two water booths have already been started in Habsiguda Division, and three more will be inaugurated soon. They stated

Mahender, Javid, Sooram Shankar, Chand Pasha, Jangir,



that these booths are being arranged to provide relief to the public during the summer season.“Several BRS leaders and local residents participated in the program, including Sanjay Jain, Narender Raj, Bosani Pawan, Linga Nayak, Ravi Nayak, Chandu Nayak, Shyam, Mahender Nayak,

Sheikh Abu Baba, Sheikh Khadeer, Sheikh Kaiser Ahmed, Shankar, Syed Pasha, Mohammad Ali, Ramesh, Mahender, Krishna, Nani, Ganesh, leader Sadanand, Vicky, Babbi, Ajay Kumar, T. Suguna, D. Lakshmi, Mahboob, Nalini Reddy, Rajyalakshmi, Sabitha, Lasya, and Anita, among others.“

Collector K. Haritha Orders Comprehensive Measures to Prevent Summer Water Crisis



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 28: District Collector K. Haritha has directed officials to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply across the district during the summer.”

Reviewing the situation via video conference with field-level officials and Mission Bhagiratha engineers, she emphasized urgent repairs of water infrastructure and the need for alternative arrangements in underserved areas. “Officials were instructed to deploy tanker services where necessary, utilize alternative water sources, and maintain proper records of supply. The Collector stressed inter-departmental coordination to ensure water reaches every household. “She also issued directions on improving civic management, including proper functioning of streetlights, support for voter list revision, awareness on census self-enumeration, and provision of basic facilities at MGNREGS worksites. “Additionally, officials were asked to assist farmers in completing registration under the ongoing farmer registry drive.

Patients coming to government hospitals should be provided with better medical services



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Collector Anurag Jayanti (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... April 28):- District Collector Anurag Jayanti said that patients coming to government hospitals should be provided with better medical services. On Tuesday, the Collector visited the Primary Health Center (PHC) in Pochampally mandal center and inquired about the medical services there. On this occasion, the Collector thoroughly inspected each department of the PHC. He instructed the staff to keep the hospital premises clean without any garbage or weeds. He wanted to provide a clean environment for the patients. “He inquired about the number of outpatients coming to the hospital every day and the diseases they were suffering from. He also inquired whether all the necessary medicines were available in the hospital



or not. He suggested that there should always be stocks of medicines without any shortage.” The Collector also examined the details of the deliveries that took place in the PHC area last month. He asked how many deliveries took place in the government hospital. He said that pregnant women should definitely undergo medical tests in government hospitals and steps should be taken to ensure that deliveries also take place in government hospitals. He said that the role of ANMs is very crucial and they should create awareness at the village level and bring pregnant women to the hospital. The Collector believed that maternal and child health would improve by increasing the number of deliveries in government hospitals. District Medical Health Officer Dr. Manohar, Deputy DMHO Yashoda, doctors and other staff participated in this program.

Women, Child Safety Top Priority: SP Nithika Pant Launches Awareness Drive



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, K.B. Asifabad, April 28: Superintendent of Police Nithika Pant has reaffirmed that the protection of women and children remains the foremost priority of the district police. “Launching a district-wide awareness campaign under the Praja Palana – Pragati Pranalika initiative at the District Police Office, she announced that programmes will be conducted until May 6 to educate citizens, especially women, children, and youth.”

The campaign includes outreach activities at key public places such as bus stands, educational institutions, and villages, focusing on legal awareness and safety measures. “Police officials from She Teams and Bharosa Centres are actively participating in the initiative, emphasizing the need for public awareness of protective laws and timely reporting of issues.

With the cooperation of MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy, we will make the town free from water problems



Bhuvanagiri Municipal Vice Chairperson, Pothamsetty Manjula Venkateswarlu, 22nd Ward Councilor Jaligam

Vignesh (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... April 28):- The foundation stone for the construction of a new water tank was laid on Tuesday in Indra Nagar under the 22nd ward. Bhuvanagiri Municipal Council Vice Chairperson Pothamsetty Manjula Venkateswarlu, arrived as the chief guest for this program and started the work. Later, she said that MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy had ordered that the work should be completed quickly and that water problems should not arise in the town keeping in mind the summer season, and that many development works are being carried out in Bhuvanagiri town with their cooperation. Ward 22 Councilor Jaligam Vignesh spoke and expressed special thanks to the MLA on behalf of the people of the ward. Municipal Suresh, Chakrapani, Yadagiri, Jaligam Shiva, Manish, Varun, Uma Mahesh, Bharathi, Dinesh, Mahender, Mani, Shivteja and others participated in this program.

Yuvaraj Marmat Takes Charge as Additional Collector

“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, April 28: Newly appointed Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvaraj Marmat called on District Collector K. Haritha and presented a bouquet at the Integrated Collectorate on Tuesday.

“He later assumed charge at his office and affirmed his commitment to work in coordination with officials and elected representatives for the district’s development.” On the occasion, District Public Relations Officer Y. Sampath Kumar, District Welfare Officer Bhaskar, and Administrative Officer Kiran Kumar extended their greetings.



District Collector Anurag Jayanti visited the mega health camp organized for the family members of handloom workers in Pochampally town



“Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle... April 28):- District Collector Anurag Jayanti visited the mega health camp organized for the handloom workers and their family members in Pochampally town on Tuesday. On this occasion, the District Medical Health Officer (DM&HO) inquired about the medical services provided to the handloom workers in the camp, distribution of health cards, various types of medical tests, and details of the medicines provided. “In addition, a mobile X-ray unit was also ordered to be set up in this health camp and tests should be conducted. Also, the district Handloom & Textile Department and Medical Department officials were instructed to prepare appropriate plans to organize such health camps once every six months. A total of 97 people were treated in the medical camp today. Out of these, 15 people were referred to Government General Hospital Bhuvanagiri for further medical treatment. Assistant Director, Handloom & Joli Officer Srinivas, specialist doctors from Government General Hospital Bhuvanagiri, Deputy DMHO Choutuppal Yashoda, Deputy DMHO Bhuvanagiri Suman Kalyan, Pochampally Medical Officer Dr. Srivani, MLHPs, supervisors, staff and concerned officials participated in this program.



Immediate compensation should be paid to the project's displaced people and farmers losing their lands on the railway line

Second phase of Indiramma houses should be given to all those who are eligible:-CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha “Public problems in villages across Bhuvanagiri Mandal should be resolved..CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha”



(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...April 28):- CPM State Committee Member Kondamadugu Narasimha demanded that the government immediately pay full compensation to the displaced people who have lost and are losing their lands and houses in the Basvapuram project, and pay compensation to farmers who are losing their lands on the second railway line from Nadikudi to Bibinagar at the open market rate. He suggested that the government immediately announce the second phase of Indiramma houses and provide houses to every poor family in the village, not just to Congress workers. On Monday, after organizing a “dharna” program under the auspices of the CPM Mandal Committee in front of the Bhuvanagiri Mandal Tahsildar’s office to resolve the public problems in the mandal, the Tahsildar submitted a memorandum to Jagan. Narasimha participated in this occasion and said that for the last four to five years, the elderly, widows, disabled and professionals have been waiting to apply for pensions. He questioned why the Revanth Reddy government, which had said that it would increase the pensions to everyone who is eligible after assuming power, has not increased them in two years. He said that this government is discriminating against the Basvapuram project, which is very important for irrigation in the district. He said that if only Rs 500 crore is allocated, more than one lakh acres of land in the district will come under cultivation, due to which farmers, agricultural laborers and professionals will be able to support their families. He said that the unemployment problem will also be solved to some extent. He criticized the previous government for not providing a solution to the many problems that had accumulated in the



mandal, despite the struggles it had waged for many years. He demanded that the link roads that had stalled between various villages in the mandal be completed and a high-level bridge be constructed on the highway near Nagireddypalli. Canals were dug from the fields of farmers to carry water from the Basvapuram project to various villages, but the farmers did not construct bridges to cross the canals, so he suggested that bridges be constructed over the canals in the respective villages. He demanded that mosquito repellent be sprayed in the villages to prevent mosquitoes, that people’s lives be saved from the monkey plague, that the ban on land distribution be lifted and that government lands in the respective villages be distributed to the homeless poor as house sites and cultivation lands. He said that in the context of increasing heat waves, the shortage of fresh water in the respective villages should be prevented and drinking water should be provided. He said that street lights, CC roads and dirt canals should be established in the villages. He asked the officials to hold a meeting with all political parties to resolve the problems and take appropriate suggestions and recommendations to resolve the problems. CPM District Committee Member Dayyala Narasimha and Mandal Secretary Pallerla Anjaiah spoke while Mandal Secretariat Member Edunuri Mallesham, Konda Ashok Mandal Committee Member Mota Yellaiah, Kondapuram Yadagiri, MP RD District President Surupanga Prakash, Chimalakondur CPM Branch Secretary Bodu Anjaneyulu, party leaders and people of the respective villages Bandi Srinivas, Ragula Poshaiha, Kishtaiah, Thotakuri Ayilaiah, Surupanga Mallesh, Motkupalli Swamy, Siliveru Satyanarayana, B. Ganesh, Harinath and others participated in the program.

Make May Day a Success: CPI Calls for Participation in Khammam Rally



Khammam April 28 indian Chronicle: “Communist Party of India (CPI) National Council member Bagam Hemanth Rao has called upon workers to make the upcoming May Day celebrations a grand success. He emphasized that workers’ rights are being undermined under the rule of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and stated that struggle is the only way to protect these rights. “He was speaking at a CPI city committee meeting held on Tuesday at Giriprasad Bhavan, chaired by Mohammed Salaam. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Hemanth Rao said that attacks on the working class are happening at an unprecedented level. He alleged that the central government is diluting the hard-earned rights of workers by restructuring them into four labour codes. “He further criticized the government for acting in favor of corporate forces at the expense of workers and urged laborers to launch movements demanding the repeal of the four labour codes. He stressed that May Day is not just a celebration, but a symbol of workers’ struggle and their fight for rights. “Hemanth Rao called for organizing May Day programs at village and mandal levels to spread awareness among workers. He announced that a public meeting will be held on May 1 at the Old Bus Stand in Khammam, followed by a rally in the city. He urged workers to participate in large numbers and make the event successful. “CPI district secretary Dandi

Suresh, city secretary SK Janimiah, state committee member Apuri Latha Devi, and several other leaders and members attended the meeting.”

Fuel supplies increased to curb panic buying in Telangana

Hyderabad: The Telangana Civil Supplies Department officials, to ensure uninterrupted access to fuel, have increased statewide petroleum supplies by 126 per cent since Sunday. “This quick and decisive action was taken to stabilise local fuel stations that are currently facing strain from a sudden and unusually high demand,” said Stephen Raveendra, Commissioner, Civil Supplies Department.

The unexpected rush at local fuel pumps was being driven by a combination of three major factors, he said. First, following a recent price revision that raised industrial diesel to Rs. 150 per litre, bulk commercial buyers are exploiting the system by filling up at regular public fuel stations, where the price is still capped at Rs. 95 per litre. Second, supply issues in neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have caused heavy cross-border traffic, with out-of-state buyers flocking to Telangana border districts like Khammam and Nirmal to purchase fuel. The last is that false rumours regarding upcoming post-election price hikes have caused the general public to unnecessarily panic buy and hoard fuel, rapidly depleting local reserves. “The department issued emergency orders to Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to effectively flood the market with fuel. To front-load the supply chain, OMCs are taking advance indents from dealers and have deployed a massive fleet of 3,100 fuel tankers across the State,” said the official. To ensure these stocks reach the pumps before they run dry, the department has escalated its oversight, mandating ground-level stock reports from all retail outlets every three hours.

Working in the Scorching Sun Despite Blistered Hands..



Employment Guarantee Workers Denied Minimum Wage: Kondamadugu Narsimha, District General Secretary of the Labor Union (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – April 28): Kondamadugu Narsimha, District General Secretary of the Telangana Agricultural Labor Union, expressed deep anguish over the plight of Employment Guarantee Scheme (EGS) workers. He noted that due to new economic policies adopted by governments and subsequent changes in the agricultural sector, these workers are unable to find adequate work in farming. Consequently, to support their families, they are forced to toil in the scorching summer heat—often until their hands blister—yet they remain deprived of the statutory minimum wage and are left to live in semi-starvation. “Speaking on Tuesday after visiting an EGS worksite in Jaikesaram village (Choutuppal Mandal)—a visit organized under the aegis of the Telangana Agricultural Labor Union’s Mandal Committee to understand the workers’ grievances—Narsimha urged the ruling authorities to personally witness, at least once, the suffering and hardships endured by these workers at their worksites. He stated that the problems and struggles faced by the EGS workers in Jaikesaram village are truly indescribable. He highlighted the immense difficulties they face while excavating soil near a hillock under the blazing sun, noting that they are compelled to fetch water in earthen pots from a nearby tank just to moisten the soil before digging. He expressed distress over the fact that out of approximately 50 workers engaged at the site, more than 30 have developed blisters on their hands. Furthermore, he criticized the administration for failing to provide even basic drinking water—a service that should ideally be supplied by the Gram Panchayat—noting that this lack of drinking water supply is a reality not only in Jaikesaram but in hun-



dreds of villages across the entire district. He questioned the officials as to why, despite the intention to set up tents for shade, this measure was not being implemented. He asked how it could be considered just for the ruling authorities to display such discrimination toward employment guarantee workers—individuals who have brought about significant changes in the rural economy and secured sustainable incomes through the employment guarantee scheme. He demanded that the government, even at this stage, assume its due responsibility by scheduling work exclusively during the morning hours, abolishing the mandatory “two-time photo” attendance system, providing basic amenities and work tools at job sites, and ensuring 200 days of work per year along with a daily wage of ₹800. Narsimha issued a call to action, urging workers to participate in large numbers in the nationwide strike of employment guarantee workers on May 15th to ensure its success; he emphasized the need to uphold the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)—enacted in 2005 for employment security—while demanding the repeal of the new “Jiranjit Act” and the resolution of workers’ grievances. Participating in this program were Telangana Agricultural Workers Union State Committee members Gangadevi Saidulu, Mandal Assistant Secretary Potta Venkataiah, Farmers’ Union leader Potta Srinu, Village Deputy Sarpanch Bodas Venkatesh, Mandal leader Chapala Marayya, and workers including Turupunti Maisamma, Antati Prabhavati, Latha, Bonthala Andalu, Alivela, Gangadevi Lachamma, Padma, Mothe Andalu, Nakka Yadamma, Doddi Lakshmi, Edla Lakshamma, Ragiru Venkatamma, Alakuntla Yellayya, Lokasani Ramireddy, Konapuri Narasimha, Gandikota Gangamma, and Shankamma, among others.

Comprehensive Plan Needed to Make Indira Mahila Dairy a Success

District Collector T.S. Divakar



“Khammam, April 28 Indian Chronicle: “District Collector T.S. Divakar has emphasized the need to implement a comprehensive and systematic plan to ensure the success of the Indira Mahila Dairy project, drawing inspiration from the Vijaya Dairy model.” On Tuesday, the Collector, along with Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Sreeja, reviewed the progress of the Indira Mahila Dairy program with concerned officials at the Collectorate. “Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that a structured approach should be adopted in implementing the project. He suggested including representatives from Vijaya Dairy on the board, which would not only benefit women’s groups but also help in the effective management of the program.” Currently, Vijaya Dairy collects around 6,000 liters of milk per day in Khammam district. Through the Indira

Mahila Dairy initiative, the administration aims to distribute livestock to about 40,000 beneficiaries in phases and increase milk procurement to 80,000 liters per day. “The Collector directed officials to adopt the Vijaya Dairy model as a framework and organize necessary training programs. He also advised utilizing the expertise of retired employees for guidance. Departments were instructed to prepare clear action plans and ensure all decisions are documented and implemented systematically.” He further suggested using MGNREGS funds for the construction of cattle sheds for beneficiaries. The purchase of livestock should be carried out with the consent of beneficiaries, and any issues related to procurement guidelines must be resolved promptly. “At the BMU level, the Vijaya Dairy staffing model should be followed, with women taking on various responsibilities under the Indira Mahila Dairy project. The Collector also instructed officials to hold a special meeting with the Lead District Manager (LDM) to ensure timely credit of subsidies and to facilitate the opening of non-operative bank accounts for beneficiaries. “Noting that the state imports a significant quantity of milk from other states daily, the Collector stressed the need to reduce this dependency. He called for effective agreements to ensure proper collection of milk produced under the scheme and to gradually enhance production capacity.” Additional Collector Dr. P. Sreeja briefed the Collector on the implementation strategy of the project, stating that necessary plans are being developed to ensure its success. “Officials from DRDO, Tribal Welfare, BC, SC, Minority Welfare departments, APMs, MPDOs, and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

Manakondur MLA calls for concerted action against child marriages

Highlights health risks; stresses role of parents and teachers.



Karimnagar April 28 (Correspondent) : Manakondur MLA K. Satyanarayana on Tuesday underscored that the prevention of child marriages is a collective responsibility and called for coordinated efforts by parents, teachers, and society. Addressing an awareness programme on child protection and safety at the Collectorate auditorium, he said child marriages deprive girls of their rights and lead to serious physical and psychological consequences. The programme was organised by the Department of Women Development and Child Welfare for adolescent girls, including Sneha group members, as part of the ongoing 99-day Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika initiative.

Mr. Satyanarayana said early marriages often result in premature pregnancies, leading to anaemia and malnutrition, and pose significant risks to the health of both mother and child. He cautioned that such practices increase the likelihood of maternal and infant mortality. Referring to the growing influence of social media, he noted that some girls are being misled in the name of relationships and urged them to focus on higher education and career goals. He emphasised that parents invest considerable effort in raising and educating their children and advised girls to make informed decisions about their future. He appealed to the public to report any instances of child marriage to the Child Helpline (1098), stressing the importance of timely intervention.



NALSAR University consultant David Raj explained the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, while Dr. Madhusudan Reddy spoke on the adverse impacts of child marriages. Participants also took a pledge to prevent child marriages. SUDA Chairman Komatreddy Narendra Reddy, Deputy Mayor Y. Sunil Rao, Child Welfare Committee Chairperson Dhanalakshmi, District Welfare Officer Saraswathi, Additional DRDO Ravi, Additional DMHO Sudha, police officials, and others were present.

Sajjapur Colocasia set to get GI tag

Hyderabad: Renowned Sajjapur Colocasia (chamadumpa) may soon get a Geographical Indication (GI) tag as the application to the GI Registry, Chennai, has received technical acceptance. The Sajjapur chamadumpa is the first Colocasia variety applied for GI protection. Subhajith Saha, Head, Legal, Resolute4ip, filed the application in the name of Telangana Council of Science and Technology (TGCOST). Dr. Pidigam Saidaiah, professor at Telangana Horticultural University, is the principal investigator of the GI project supported by TGCOST. Prior to filing, Dr. Saidaiah gathered vital information on proof of origin of Sajjapur chamadumpa, its varietal characters, biochemical profiling, farmers’ practices,

Land with survey numbers 700 should be leveled and plots should be given to the poor

- CPM State Committee Member Battupally Anuradha (Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...April 28):- CPM State Committee Member Battupally Anuradha on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to RDO Krishna Reddy demanding that land with survey numbers 700 be leveled and plots should be given. Under the auspices of the CPM, the State Committee Member Battupally Anuradha attended and organized a large-scale dharna in front of the RDO office to resolve the problems in the town. CPM State Committee member Battupalli Anuradha, who participated in this dharna program, said that during the CPM Porubata, public problems were studied in every house in the town. Personal problems related to the people as well as basic problems were studied under the auspices of the CPM. On this occasion, a dharna program was organized in front of the RDO office today, Tuesday, to find out the public problems and to solve them. He said that many poor people in the town who have been given 700 survey numbers for years are living in houses or rented houses, and are also living in poor houses with problems. The state government had promised to provide houses and plots to all the eligible poor before the last assembly elections, but the government machinery has failed to fulfill them, and she demanded that houses and plots be provided to all the eligible poor immediately. He demanded that pensions be granted to all the eligible poor immediately, saying that due to the lack of pensions for many years, old widows and single women are facing many difficulties. “She demanded on this occasion that the government and the administration have failed to provide basic facilities in the town, that there are many difficulties due to lack of under-drainage and CC roads in 35 wards of the town, that the government hospital, which is the district headquarters, is not able to provide medical services, and that there is a need to develop the government hospital to meet the medical needs of the people across the district by increasing its level. She gave a memorandum to the local RDO Krishna Reddy on the problems faced by the people. She warned on this occasion that if the problems of the people are not resolved in



the future, she will mobilize all the people and organize a large-scale struggle under the auspices of the CPM party. CPM city secretary Maya Krishna, executive members Gandhamala Mataiah, Bandela Yellaiah, Vanam Raju, city leaders Barla Venkatesh, Valdas Anjaiah, Chintala Shiva, Kotha Laiitha, Eerla Rahul, Venkatesh, Riyaz, Talla Pelli Shiva, Manne Raju, Kanya Boyana Aruna, Ikurthi Kalavathi Somaia and other CPM leaders participated in the program.

Farmers Advised to Avoid Excessive Use of Pesticides: District Agriculture Officer

Khammam, Enkoor April 28 Indian Chronicle: “District Agriculture Officer Danasari Pullaiah has urged farmers not to use pesticides and fertilizers indiscriminately on crops, as it increases cultivation costs and harms soil health. He conducted awareness meetings with farmers in several villages of Enkoor mandal. “Speaking to farmers at Ramnagar Thanda, he emphasized that excessive use of chemicals should be avoided and encouraged adopting balanced agricultural practices. He also advised farmers not to burn crop residues after harvest, but instead plough them back into the soil to improve nutrient content and increase carbon levels. “Pullaiah further instructed farmers to purchase cotton and chilli seeds only from authorized dealers during the upcoming rainy season. He warned that strict action would be taken against the storage and sale of unauthorized or illegal HT cotton seeds. “The officer informed that task force teams have been set up at district, mandal, and village levels to inspect seeds and fertilizers and prevent illegal activities. “Later, he participated in the “Rythu Nestham” pro-



gram at the Enkoor farmers’ platform. “Mandal Agriculture Officer A. Narasimha Rao, agriculture extension officers, and farmers were present at the event.”

Grand Birthday Celebrations of Man Power Development College Chairman Satish



“UPPAL, APRIL 28 (INDIAN CHRONICAL) : “The birthday celebrations of Man Power Development College Chairman Malayala Satish were held grandly on Tuesday. On this occasion, a festive atmosphere prevailed on the college premises. “Students, faculty members, and staff came together to cut a large cake and conveyed their heartfelt birthday wishes to Chairman Satish. “Later, an annadanam (food donation) program was organized. More than 800 local resi-



dents, colony members, and passersby attended and received the food prasadam. “Speaking on the occasion, Man Power Development College Correspondent Malayala Nagalakshmi said that, for the past six years, the Chairman’s birthday celebrations have been marked by annadanam along with several service activities. “The event witnessed large-scale participation from the college management, teaching staff, students, relatives, and others.

Division Visits Accelerate Development

-Permanent solutions to every problem are our goal-- MLA 'Nayini' Foundation stones laid for development works worth 1.64 crore in 62nd Division“

“Kazipet, April 28 (Indian Chronicle) : Stating that division-level visits are being used as a platform to fast-track development and understand public grievances firsthand, Nayani Rajender Reddy, MLA of Warangal West Assembly constituency, said his focus is on providing permanent solutions to local issues. “On Tuesday, the MLA undertook an extensive tour of the 62nd Division. He was accorded a warm welcome by local public representatives and leaders on his arrival at Somidi Bodrai. He later visited the SC Colony and laid the foundation stone for the construction of internal roads at an estimated cost of 50 lakh. “Interacting directly with residents, the MLA identified damaged internal roads and a poor drainage system as key concerns. He assured locals that development works would begin immediately and be completed within the stipulated timeframe. He also promised to provide basic amenities at the cremation ground and resolve long-pending drainage issues. “Subsequently, at Rahmath Nagar, he laid the foundation stone for CC roads and CC drainage works worth 1.14 crore. Officials were instructed to immediately address the problems near the FCI godown boundary in Kazipet. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said a special action plan is being implemented to permanently resolve issues in every division. Plans have been prepared to tour two to three divisions every week. Alongside development visits, meetings are also being held with booth-level committee members to discuss party strengthening and reorganisation. “He urged residents to observe the visible development difference between past and present Kazipet and to extend support to leaders who are committed to public service. “Among those present were 62nd Division Corporator Jakkula Ravinder Yadav, Division In-charge Tautam



Ravinder, Kamalapuram Market Chairperson Tautam Jhansi, Congress party workers, and local residents.

DRI seizes Rs 11.4 crore worth crystal meth at Secunderabad

Hyderabad: In a major operation, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Hyderabad Zonal Unit (DRI-HZU), seized 11.4 kilograms of amphetamine (Crystal Meth) valued at approximately Rs. 11.4 crore and arrested two persons on Monday.

Sikh groups to approach Supreme Court against Punjab’s new anti-sacrilege law



GNS News Agency, April 28

Planning to move the Supreme Court with a contempt plea, ‘Guru-Adab’ Morcha Sirhind and ‘Lok-Raj’ Punjab Wednesday criticised the Anti-Sacrilege Law for Sri Guru Granth Sahib enacted on April 13, calling it a “partial” measure and a “contemptuous circumvention” of the court’s judgment recognising the scripture as a “juristic person” and “living Guru” in the Sikh faith.Speaking to The Indian Ex-

press, Dr Manjit Singh Randhawa, convener of Guru-Adab Morcha, Sirhind, and president of Lok-Raj Punjab, stated, “We have decided to file a contempt plea in the Supreme Court... Till date, the Punjab Government has connived with the culprits of sacrilege cases. It miserably failed to do justice in the 2015 Bargari sacrilege case...”He described the Punjab Government as a “propaganda government” with intentions that remain “not clear and bona fide”.

“Prosecution sanction had been delayed for the Dera Chief in sacrilege incidents involving Sri Guru Granth Sahib. Accused Honeypreet was not arrested. Cases have been transferred out of Punjab for the culprits’ convenience. Now suddenly, the orchestrated propaganda has shifted from ‘failure of delivery of justice’ to mere ‘enactment of strict law,’ when law and order situation is pitiaibly hopeless to justice with already existing laws,” Randhawa added.The new Act shifts responsibilities to devotees and gurdwara committees as “custodians” without defining the “self-defence rights of devotees/custodians” to protect “Pargat Guran ki Deh (Sri Guru Granth Sahib as embodiment of the 10 Sikh Gurus),” Randhawa said.

Risks to public order, youth radicalisation: Punjab Police urge Centre to block ‘Lawrence of Punjab’ docuseries

GNS News Agency, April 28

In a strongly worded letter, the cybercrime division of the Punjab Police has urged the Centre to invoke Section 69A(1) of the Information Technology Act, which empowers the government to block online content in the interest of sovereignty, security, and public order, and direct ZEE5 not to air the docuseries Lawrence of Punjab, scheduled for release on April 27.The Punjab Police have also demanded a global block on the series’ trailer, citing risks to public order, youth radicalisation, and ongoing law-enforcement efforts against organised crime.Sources said a letter was written by V Neeraja, Special Director General of Police (Cyber Crime), to the Joint Secretary, Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.It reportedly points out that the series depicts the life and criminal trajectory of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and includes references to high-profile crimes such as the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala and other firing incidents involving prominent personalities.Neeraja is learnt to have also said that there is a reasonable apprehension that the docuseries is harmful to public order and has the potential to incite the commission of cognisable offences.

It formally recommends blocking it under Rule 6 of the Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009.According to the police, the content features dramatised portrayals, real-life footage, and narrative elements that glorify and amplify organised crime and criminal elements.The police have highlighted that the series has already attracted strong objections from various sections of society, and its release could attract widespread public attention and negatively influence youth by normalising or romanticising organised crime, undermining ongoing law enforcement efforts against gangsterism and disturbing public order, potentially leading to heightened tensions in Punjab.The police have also referred to the series’ trailer URL, asking the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to block access to it.The request draws heavily on directions from the Punjab and Haryana High Court when the court took suo motu notice of jail interviews of Lawrence Bishnoi and ordered the removal or blocking of such content from YouTube and other platforms, observing that it



promotes criminal activities and could influence trials and witnesses in an order dated December 21, 2023.On January 28, 2026, the High Court reiterated directions to the Director General of Police, Punjab, to identify and immediately remove videos/posts that “tend to glorify crime and criminals” from websites and social media.The police move also comes amid a growing political and public storm over the docuseries.

Punjab Congress president and MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, a close friend of Sidhu Moosewala, who was allegedly killed by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang in 2022, has already filed a PIL in the High Court and sent a legal notice to ZEE5 demanding an immediate ban, describing the series as disrespectful to the victims and glorifying a gangster.The official trailer, released days ago, portrays Bishnoi’s journey from a law student and campus politician to a notorious gang leader, framing it against the backdrop of Punjab’s history of militancy, masculinity, political patronage, and media amplificationDirected by Raghav Dar, the series is billed as an exploration of how criminal identities are shaped by culture and systems rather than a straightforward biopic.Lawrence Bishnoi, currently lodged in a high-security prison in Gujarat, remains a highly sensitive figure in Punjab. His gang has claimed responsibility for several high-profile killings, and authorities have repeatedly flagged the danger of jail-recorded interviews and social-media content that projects him as a larger-than-life anti-hero.

Sunetra Pawar votes, hints at record voter turnout as tribute to Ajit Pawar



GNS News Agency, April 28

Holding back tears, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar cast her vote at the Baramati bypoll on Thursday morning, hinting at the possibility of a record turnout as a tribute to her late husband, Ajit Pawar, who died in a plane crash on January 28.“To date, Baramatikars have broken many records. If Baramatikars decide to do something, they can accomplish any task. And I think they have taken upon themselves to vote in large numbers,” Sunetra said, speaking to reporters at the Katewadi polling centre.“Today, as a responsible citizen of this country, I exercised my right to vote at the Zilla Parishad School in Katewadi on the occasion of the Baramati Assembly byelection. To make our democracy stronger, I urge as many citizens as possible to exercise their fundamental right to vote,” she added.

Asked how she felt about the first elections being held since Ajit Pawar’s death, Sunetra said, “Baramatikars have supported the Pawar family for the last 60 years. Since this election is being held without Ajit dada’s presence, the people of Baramati have taken it into their own hands. They want to exercise their vote as a tribute to Ajit dada. Voters everywhere, including villages, are turning out to vote. Even those who are living outside Baramati have returned home to exercise their franchise.”The Nationalist Congress Party candidate reiterated that the people of Baramati were turning out to vote out of their love, admiration, and trust for Ajit Pawar. “Everywhere in the constituency, people are turning out to vote. I won’t say they are turning out to vote out of enthusiasm...they consider it their duty to vote for me because of Ajit dada’s contribution to Baramati,” she said.“We will have to accept that Ajit dada is not among us. Keeping this in mind, Baramatikars should cast their votes,” she added.Sunetra Pawar Sunetra Pawar addresses the media after casting her vote. She said that NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar was unwell and would not be casting his vote. (Manoj More)Asked about the health of NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar, Sunetra said, “I have enquired about his

health. He is not feeling well and therefore would not be casting his vote. However, his blessings are invaluable to the people of Baramati and me.”

Saying that Sharad Pawar’s contribution to the development of Baramati, Maharashtra, and the country was inspiring, she added that it was under his guidance that Ajit Pawar preserved the rich tradition of developmental politics.“The people of Baramati will surely give a spontaneous response to the appeal made by Pawar Saheb. The citizens of Baramati are connected with the ideology of development, and that same direction will continue in the future. Heartfelt prayers for respected Saheb’s speedy recovery,” she said in a social media post.Jay Pawar, her younger son who led the campaigning, also hoped Baramatikars would turn out in record numbers. “The percentage of votes will certainly go up. We are hoping that there would be 85 to 90 per cent voting,” he said.

PSPCL schedules power cuts till April 26, Cong MLA questions govt’s ‘surplus’ claim

The scheduled power cuts, ranging from three to nine hours, announced by the Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) from April 22 to April 26 in six cities namely Ludhiana, Patiala, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Bathinda and Mohali have triggered widespread anger across the state.

This notice comes as temperatures soar close to 40°C and amid a heat wave alert from India Meteorological Department (IMD).The outages across the state have lasted between three and nine hours in several districts, and on any day minimum 50 colonies per district face scheduled maintenance.In Amritsar, the situation turned tense on Tuesday night when a group of consumers allegedly forced entry into a power sub-station after an outage, the PSPCL officials said. The people manhandled the staff and switched on the supply themselves, the officials said.The power corporation has maintained that the outages are part of the pre-planned maintenance aimed at improving supply during peak summer demand. However, the maintenance’s timing has drawn criticism from within the department itself.Ajaypal Singh Atwal, General Secretary (PSEB Engineers Association), said, “...every year we used to do maintenance in winters when demand is less and even consumers don’t feel bad in case of a scheduled power cut.

Only 10% ancient manuscripts available, millions yet to be traced: scholar at IAS



GNS News Agency, April 28

Sanskrit scholar Dr Uma C Vaidya addresses the workshop at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) in Shimla on Wednesday. ExpressSanskrit scholar Dr Uma C Vaidya addresses the workshop at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) in Shimla Millions of ancient manuscripts covering various aspects of Indian culture remain untraced, while scriptures available in the public domain constitute only 10 per cent, of which about 5 per cent have been preserved and another 5 per cent are currently being preserved, said eminent Sanskrit scholar Dr Uma C Vaidya, former vice-chancellor of Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University, Ramtek, Nagpur, on Wednesday.

“A significant portion of these manuscripts lies in museums and other institutions in foreign countries,” Dr Vaidya said on the concluding day of a two-day workshop on “Heritage of Ancient Writing Traditions in the Western Himalaya—

Conservation of Scripts and Manuscripts of Himachal Pradesh” held at Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS), Shimla.Dr Vaidya, also a Tagore Fellow, said, “The scriptures available in our country today are merely one-fourth or less than one-fourth of the material which foreign invaders destroyed. What is even more tragic is that many valuable manuscripts are yet to be traced. These were hidden and lying undetected.”

Elaborating further, she said, “Kautilya (Chanakya) wrote the Arthashastra around 324 BC, but this remarkable work was rediscovered only in 1904 by scholars. I am certain many such invaluable manuscripts still exist but remain untraced.”Dr Vaidya emphasised three key aspects: “First, preservation; second, conservation; and third, restoration. Beyond these, we need dedicated scholars who can invest their time and resources in discovering hidden manuscripts.”The two-day workshop concluded after deliberating extensively on various aspects of ancient scripts and manuscripts, including their conservation, reading traditions, digitisation, and documentation. Workshop coordinator Prof Om Prakash Sharma said the objective was to promote the study and preservation of manuscript traditions and scripts prevalent in the Western Himalayan region, particularly in Himachal Pradesh. He highlighted scripts such as Pabuchi, Tankri, Pandavani, and Chandvani, which evolved from the Sharada script.Sharma added that these manuscripts contain valuable material related to India’s knowledge traditions, especially the Vedas, Puranas, Jyotisha, and Ayurveda, and are considered highly significant from a research perspective.

‘An addict and a liar’: Former house help accused of sexually assaulting, killing IRS officer’s daughter

GNS News Agency, April 28

Gambler, drug addict, and a compulsive liar — this is how the Delhi Police on Wednesday described 23-year-old Rahul Meena, who allegedly sexually assaulted and strangled to death the daughter of an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer with a mobile phone charger at her Southeast Delhi home on Wednesday morning.Police said Meena came to work for the family about 18 months ago from his hometown Rajgarh in Rajasthan’s Alwar district.“The father of the victim received calls from some GST officials in Alwar, who said that Meena used to work at their office, and would be a good hand for him... The officials requested that he be hired. So, the family hired him without going through a tenant verification process,” said an officer.

A neighbour said Meena used to live in the servant’s quarters, located in the parking lot of the building.Months after starting working at the house, Meena allegedly started exploiting the trust the family had on him, police said.“He used to go to shops, buy things for the household, and put it on the family’s tab... He would ask the shopkeepers to take money from the family at the end of the month and keep the money for himself,” the officer said.A local chemist told The Indian Express, “He used to buy medicines worth Rs 400-500 in one go, and ask me to take the money from his employer. The boy looked decent, was soft spoken, so I would often trust him... But the father later strictly told me not to give medicines to Rahul without taking money.”Police said the family received multiple complaints about Meena buying products from shops and not paying up. Eventually, he



was let go two months ago after neighbours complained he had allegedly taken a Rs 1.5 lakh-loan from them.

“House helps come and go, and are often fired for transgressing. He was just asked to politely leave,” said a family member. But Rahul took it personally, police said.“Initial investigation shows he is into betting apps, and also addicted to drugs,” said an officer.After allegedly murdering the victim, Meena, police said, was captured on CCTV cameras wearing fresh clothes and carrying a backpack while leaving the house around 7.30 am.While he was seen wearing black trousers before entering the house, while leaving, he was seen in white trousers. Also, he had no backpack with him when he had entered the house, the CCTV footage showed.An officer said that Meena’s father is a farmer and a part-time labourer in Rajgarh. “Meena has four siblings, including a sister,” the officer added.

‘Insufficient grounds’: Amritsar court dismisses anticipatory bail plea of Laljit Bhullar’s father



GNS News Agency, April 28

The court observed that the SCCL had consistently and near-uniformly classified workers with grave, identifiable, and permanent disabilities, such as amputation, severe neurological deficits, loss of vision, advanced cardiomyopathy, chronic renal failure, and seizure disorders with structural brain pathology, under the “general debility” category.An Amritsar court on Wednesday rejected the pre-arrest bail plea of Sukhdev Singh Bhullar, father of jailed AAP MLA Laljit Singh Bhullar, in the Gagandeep Randhawa suicide case, clearing the way for his arrest. (Representational Image)

In a setback to former Punjab transport minister and AAP Patti MLA Laljit Singh Bhullar, the District and Sessions Court in Amritsar on Wednesday dismissed an anticipatory bail plea of his father, 76-year-old Sukhdev Singh Bhullar, in connection with the abetment to suicide case of Punjab State Warehousing Corporation (PSWC) district manager Gagandeep Singh Randhawa.Laljit Bhullar, his father and his personal assistant Dilbag Singh, alias Baaga, were booked after Randhawa died allegedly by suicide after consuming poison on March 21, alleging months of harassment over tenders in Patti and Khemkaran areas. The trio was booked in the FIR No. 52 registered — hours after Bhullar resigned — at the Ranjit Avenue police station under sections 108 (abetment to suicide), 351(3) (criminal intimidation), and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

The court dismissed the anticipatory bail application, citing insufficient grounds, despite Sukhdev Bhullar in his plea alleging that the police were working under pressure.“After the registration of the present case, all political persons, on account of political reasons and rivalry, started raising the issue. Not only this, but the matter in question has become a media trial. Even police officers are acting under the pressure of political persons as well as mediapersons. However, in the case, given the totality of the circumstances, it cannot be considered to be a case for which the present application can be considered to be the abettor of the crime,” Sukhdev Bhullar stated in his plea.Sukhdev Bhullar in the application claimed “no overt act or direct involvement”, and noted that he was “named only as the main accused Laljit’s father”. “Randhawa’s video,

recorded before the suicide, mentioned only the minister, not Sukhdev. And, FIR allegations stemmed from hearsay by complainant Upinder Kaur, Randhawa’s wife, who witnessed nothing,” Sukhdev said in his application.Highlighting his age, multiple ailments, clean record and willingness to cooperate in probes, Sukhdev Bhullar said there was “no need for my custody since nothing was to be recovered”.According to the FIR, the minister and his PA threatened Randhawa’s family over WhatsApp calls, stating they knew the schools where three children attended and the location of his wife’s workplace.

In Finland, Mann urges diaspora to be a catalyst in further propelling economic development of Punjab

GNS News Agency, April 28

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Wednesday urged the Punjabi diaspora in Finland to play an active role in the socio-economic development of the state.The chief minister, who is on a visit to Finland, along with a Punjab government delegation, on investment promotion outreach, said Punjab is making rapid development under the incumbent regime, and every Punjabi should be a part of this historic move.

Mann urged the diaspora to act as a catalyst in further propelling the economic development of the state through their expertise.Mann also advocated for a deeper and mutual collaboration with Finland in the area of the White Revolution, particularly in dairy systems, animal science and value-added food processing to benefit the farmers of the state.Highlighting that Punjab has a good partnership with Finland as teachers from the state are sent here for training on existing ties, the chief minister expressed his keenness to further strengthen this mutually beneficial partnership to boost the progress of Punjab and the prosperity of its people.“Finland’s economy is robust and progressive, with key areas of manufacturing, including electronics, engineering and forest products driving exports, along with dairy and other sectors,” Mann said.Mann also held a detailed meeting with Indian Ambassador to Finland Hemant H Kotalwar and discussed avenues for boosting bilateral trade and strengthening cooperation between Punjab and Finland.

Lifting trash from one point only to dump it in close proximity: Residents of Daumajra wake up to new reality



GNS News Agency, April 28

Residents of Dadumajra on Wednesday woke up to a brazen civic apathy, something which they videographed too — trucks lifting trash from one point of the dump only to transfer it to the other point hardly 100 feet away.While Municipal Corporation (MC) Commissioner Amit Kumar refused to comment on the issue when asked, Chandigarh Mayor Saurabh Joshi said that the matter, if it occurred, will not be taken “lightly.” “I will ask the authorities concerned as to why this is happening. If this has happened, it will not be taken lightly. Dump is a serious issue for all of us. Strict action shall be taken for this,” Joshi said.

He added that today itself the Sub Divisional Officer told him that CCTVs have been installed.Dyal Krishan, a local resident while speaking to The Indian Express, said that the authorities are just pretending that the waste is being cleared and place levelled.“However, when we tracked the movement of trucks, they were dumping the lifted waste at a point nearby. This does not solve the solution. It is just like spreading the waste,” he said.“People are just being fooled. We have shot the video of the entire sequence from point A to point B. This is not the way things are done. Only a few days ago the Mayor came here to inspect and say

that the waste should be cleared as soon as possible. But this is how they are clearing the present trash.”

According to the residents living in the vicinity, this is the third mountain of trash from where the waste was being lifted and transferred to another point.Currently, the third mountain of waste of 2.4 lakh metric tonnes is being cleared by the civic body. Several deadlines have already been missed.In January 2025, the Municipal Corporation (MC) gave a deadline of May 31, 2025, which was extended to July 2025. It was again extended to September and then to November 2025.A fresh deadline of April 2026 was later given, which now stands at the first week of May.

The Punjab and Haryana High Court’s Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry was hearing a public interest litigation concerning the Dadumajra dumping ground, where the petitioner, advocate Amit Sharma, placed on record a tabulated application, detailing instances of alleged forgery, showing the use of altered documents in court proceedings.Senior Standing Counsel for the Administration Amit Jhanji had submitted that “so far as dumping is concerned, there is no fresh dumping happening. It is only the clearing which remains,” adding that as per instructions received, the process would be completed by the first week of May. He requested that the matter be taken up then.Jhanji said that while an earlier internal target of April 30 had been considered, a buffer had been kept in view of possible disruptions.One inspection after the other without any resolutionMeanwhile, the civic body is focusing on just inspections at the dumping ground.While on November 17, 2025 previous Mayor Harpreet Babla had gone on an inspection at the dump, just after a month UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria went and inspected the progress in December and January again.Chief Engineer Sanjay Arora then went on a check on April 1 followed by Mayor Saurabh Joshi’s visit on April 13. After a few days, Commissioner Amit Kumar visited the dump

Probe Ambala’s SDM, RTO offices over ‘irregularities in vehicle registration’: Vij

GNS News Agency, April 28

The Haryana transport minister, Anil Vij, on Wednesday directed the concerned officers to conduct a thorough investigation of all the Sub-Divisional Offices and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) over alleged irregularities in vehicle registration in Ambala’s four sub-divisional offices.According to the directions issued by the minister, the state’s Vigilance Department and the Anti-Corruption Bureau will conduct the probe.

The Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department, and the Additional Chief Secretary, Transport Department, have also received necessary instructions from the minister.Vij said, “Such irregularities may not be limited to Ambala... could exist in other Sub-Divisional Offices and RTOs across the state... Cases have emerged in Ambala where vehicle registrations were carried out through the SDM offices using incomplete addresses in Tamil Nadu and other states. These cases are currently under investigation in Ambala.”Apart from this, the minister also took a strict stance on vehicles transporting dust, sand and other loose construction materials without proper covering.Directing the officials, he said, “All such trucks and transport vehicles must be properly covered with tarpaulin or other suitable means.”The transport minister issued official orders to all the District Transport Officers-cum-Secretaries and Regional Transport Authorities in the state in this regard. “Violators will be fined under the Motor Vehicles Act and Pollution Control guidelines. Additionally, transporters and drivers are to be made aware of these regulations.”

West Bengal Phase 1 polling begins with heavy security, CAPF cover



GNS News Agency, April 28

With unprecedented security in place, the first phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections began Thursday across 152 constituencies, with 2.4 lakh personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and state police deployed to oversee polling.In a first, CAPF personnel have been given charge of security up to 100 metres around polling stations to prevent intimidation or violence.No civic volunteers or contractual staff from the state or the Central government were assigned polling duties. A central control room has been set up at the Chief Electoral Officer’s office in Kolkata, where senior officials are monitoring the process.Mock polls began at 5 am across 44,376 booths, with long queues of voters—particularly women—seen in several of the 16 poll-bound districts. A total of 1,478 candidates are contesting in this phase.Cooch Behar Dakshin, Karandighi, and Itahar have the highest number of candidates at 15 each, while Chandrakona in West Medinipur has the lowest, with five candidates.Following the last-minute inclusion of 139 electors, the total voter count for this phase stands at 3,60,77,310. Samsherganj in Murshidabad has the lowest number of voters (1,61,435), while Daspur in West Medinipur has the highest (2,90,045).

To ensure free and fair polling, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has also arranged webcasting at all polling stations and appointed 152 general observers and 58 police observers.Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal reviewed preparedness late into Wednesday night, holding meetings with observers and officials overseeing the 16 districts.Key political figures whose electoral fate will be decided in this phase include Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari, BJP leaders Dilip Ghosh, Shankar Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul and Nisith Pramanik; TMC leaders Udayan Guha, Kajal Sheikh, Kanailal Agarwal, Goutam Dev and

Arpita Ghosh; and Congress leaders Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Mausam Benazir Noor and Ali Imran Ramz Victor.Polling was briefly delayed at a booth in Mothabari due to an EVM malfunction.Meanwhile, incidents of violence were reported from parts of the state. In Sitalkuchi, a BJP Kisan Morcha leader was seriously injured after an alleged assault. In Naoda, TMC candidate Sahina Mumtaj claimed she was attacked by supporters of the Aam Janata Unnayan Party, a charge denied by party leader Humayun Kabir.

Man beheads wife, roams with severed head in Chhattisgarh’s Korba

GNS News Agency, April 28

Korba: A 58-year-old man allegedly beheaded his wife at a village in Chhattisgarh’s Korba district and then roamed around carrying the severed head, police said on Thursday.The incident occurred on Wednesday evening in Bundeli village under the Rajgamar police outpost limits.The accused, Salik Ram Yadav, a watchman at a local poultry farm, allegedly attacked his 50-year-old wife with a sharp meat-cutting weapon following a dispute while under the influence of alcohol, a police official said.

After the murder, the man was seen roaming in the village carrying the severed head in one hand and the weapon in the other. He then allegedly placed the severed head and the weapon in a plastic sack, leaving the torso at the spot, and reached the Rajgamar police outpost, the official said.

During questioning, the accused claimed that he committed the crime after frequent disputes with his wife, who allegedly suspected his character, he said.

The couple, originally from Ajarbahar Haldimada village in Korba block, had been working at the poultry farm for the past three years and have four children.

The accused has been arrested and the weapon used in the crime has been seized, the official said.The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and further investigation is underway, he added.

Mayor wants a new National Highway corridor to decongest Chandigarh, writes to PM



GNS News Agency, April 28

Chandigarh Mayor Saurabh Joshi has proposed a new National Highway corridor from Chandigarh to Dharampur via Kasauli to PM Modi, aiming to bypass city bottlenecks and streamline transit traffic under the PM Gati Shakti plan.Chandigarh Mayor Saurabh Joshi has proposed a new National Highway corridor from Chandigarh to Dharampur via Kasauli to PM Modi, aiming to bypass city bottlenecks and streamline transit traffic under the PM Gati Shakti plan.

In a bid to decongest the growing traffic congestion in the ‘City Beautiful’, Chandigarh Mayor Saurabh Joshi has submitted a comprehensive proposal to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the declaration and development of the Chandigarh–Karoran–Tanda–Prempura–Gariran–Paploha–Bar Shalu Khurd–Jangeshu–Kasauli–Dharampur corridor as a National Highway under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan.Highlighting Chandigarh’s critical role as a transit hub for traffic moving between Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Haryana, Delhi, and other northern states, the Mayor emphasised the urgent need for an alternative high-capacity corridor to ease the mounting pressure on key routes such as Madhya Marg and the Panchkula–Pinjore–Dharampur stretch.In his pro-

posal, the Mayor underlined that the suggested corridor would provide a direct, shorter, and efficient route to Himachal Pradesh, significantly reducing travel time and decongesting the city’s internal roads.

He pointed out that the Tricity region, despite being a major administrative and economic hub, continues to rely on limited and overburdened road networks, leading to frequent traffic bottlenecks, especially during peak tourist seasons.The proposed alignment, passing through the Shivalik foothills and Kandi belt, will incorporate advanced engineering solutions such as slope stabilisation, climate-resilient drainage systems, and smart traffic infrastructure to ensure safety and sustainability.The proposal further highlights the corridor’s critical role in strengthening emergency healthcare access to premier institutions like the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, ensuring faster response during medical emergencies. Additionally, it is expected to boost tourism by providing seamless connectivity to destinations like Kasauli and Dharampur, while also serving as a reliable alternate route during natural disasters and monsoon disruptions, the Mayor mentioned.The project is poised to deliver substantial socio-economic benefits, including rural development, enhanced market access, employment generation, and promotion of local enterprises across Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Chandigarh.

Joshi also emphasised that a portion of the proposed alignment has already been notified as a National Highway in Himachal Pradesh, making a strong case for extending the status to the entire corridor for continuity and maximum impact.Citing strong public and political support, he urged the Prime Minister to take immediate action, including formal declaration of the corridor as a National Highway, its inclusion under PM Gati Shakti, expedited DPR preparation, dedicated funding allocation, and time-bound execution through an inter-state coordination mechanism.Describing the project as a “strategic growth engine for North India,” the Mayor stated that its timely implementation will not only benefit lakhs of citizens but also significantly decongest Chandigarh, improve regional connectivity, and promote sustainable and inclusive development across the northern region.

HC suspends Chandigarh judicial officer amid probe into objectionable video

GNS News Agency, April 28

HC suspends Chandigarh judicial officer, Chandigarh judicial officer, Chandigarh judicial officer suspended, Punjab and Haryana High Court, Indian express news, current affairsFinding that at this stage, no offence of extortion is attracted under Section 308(1) of the BNS and that the allegations may at best fall under an attempt to commit extortion, the court allowed the bail plea of the accused lawyer.A full bench of the Punjab and Haryana High Court has placed a judicial officer posted in Chandigarh under suspension in connection with a matter involving the circulation of an allegedly objectionable video clip on social media.

According to the order on Tuesday, the suspension has been ordered in exercise of the High Court’s disciplinary jurisdiction under Article 235 of the Constitution, read with Rule 4(b) of the Haryana Civil Services (Punishment and Appeal) Rules, 2016. The full bench, comprising the Chief Justice and other judges, has also directed that the officer’s headquarters during the suspension period will be in Haryana.The development comes after a Chandigarh court granted bail to a lawyer who had been arrested in a case linked to an alleged Rs 1.5-crore extortion attempt involving a purportedly morphed video.

As per police records, the case was registered on a complaint by the judicial officer, who alleged that on February 18 he received calls from unknown numbers asking him to check his WhatsApp. Upon opening the application, he reportedly found a video clip containing what he described as manipulated and objectionable images of himself. The clip, he stated, disappeared shortly after being viewed.The complainant further told police that his mobile phone had been lost earlier and expressed suspicion that data from the device may have been misused to create the content.



He also indicated apprehension that the act could be linked to his handling of certain sensitive cases.Based on these allegations, the police invoked provisions including Section 308(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and arrested the lawyer from Haryana on April 11.The accused subsequently moved a bail application, which was allowed by a Judicial Magistrate court on April 20. Granting relief, the court observed that delivery of property is an essential ingredient to establish the offence of extortion.After hearing the plea, the court said: “the complainant was put in fear of injury, but there is no delivery of property, i.e. any amount by the complainant to the accused. The prosecution has not placed on record any document in order to prove that any delivery of property in the form of money took place between the complainant and the accused person at any point in time”.Finding that at this stage, no offence of extortion is attracted under Section 308(1) of the BNS and that the allegations may at best fall under an attempt to commit extortion, the court allowed the bail plea of the accused lawyer.

‘How did my son die if nobody planned the blasts?’: 19 years on, Malegaon victims are still waiting for justice

GNS News Agency, April 28

In the photo on the Chinese visa that came two days after he was killed in the 2006 Malegaon blast, Sajid looks grave. All of 18, he looks steadily into the camera — a man on a mission.Sajid was to leave for China to study medicine in 10 days. But those dreams were cut short when he, along with his 17-year-old cousin Shahbaz, was killed as bombs tore through Malegaon on September 8, 2006 — among the 31 killed. Over 300 people were injured in the attack, which occurred after Friday prayers.

“Ummeed khatam ho gayi (We lost hope),” his 59-year-old father, Shafique Ahmed Mohammed Salim, who owns a chemist shop not far from the blast site, tells. “His bags were packed, all preparations done. The visa-stamped passport came two days after his death, rendered useless.”On Wednesday — nearly two decades after the Malegaon blast — the Bombay High Court quashed a special court order that had framed charges against the four men who were the last remaining accused in the case. The decision came on appeals filed against the trial court’s move to frame charges against Manohar Narwaria, Rajendra Chaudhary, Dhan Singh, and Lokesh Sharma on September 30, 2025, for murder and criminal conspiracy under the Indian Penal Code, along with provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, paving the way for trial.For victims of the blast — such as Shafique’s family — the development deals yet another blow to their already shaken faith. This follows the discharge of nine others in 2016 — meaning that even after nearly 20 years, there are no clear answers in the case.Sajid and Shahbaz were on their way to visit their grandfather’s grave in the Bada Kabrastan with Shafique when one of the blasts occurred around 1.50 pm. Shafique too was wounded, but survived.But with the HC now discharging all four suspects, Shafique questions the prolonged legal proceedings. “My son was walking with me that day. If nobody caused the blasts, how did he and the 30 others die?” Shafique asked. “How is it that the culprits of such a big incident are not brought to book, even after 20

years? First, another group of persons were arrested. Then, a new agency said these men were responsible. Now, they too are cleared of the charges. What message does this give to those involved in terror cases?”How did my son die if nobody planned the blasts?: 19 years on, Malegaon victims are still waiting for justice The blast spot at Mushawarat chowk at Malegoan. (Express photo by: Prashant Nadkar/File)It is a question that haunts 54-year-old paan shop owner Mohammed Arif, who lost his eight-year-old son, Aamir, in the blast. Aamir was playing with neighbourhood children at the time; three of them lost their lives.

Aamir lived in Mumbai with his aunt and was only visiting when he died. “He had come back to Malegaon only a night before. He studied in a school in Mumbai. I wish he had not been visiting.”After the HC ruling, Arif has but one question: “Will justice ever be done? We have to accept what the court has said, but how and where do we seek justice now?”

The Bombay HC ruling comes a year after seven people — including former MP Pragya Thakur — were acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case that killed six people and injured 100. Reading its order in July last year, a special court in Mumbai observed that there was strong suspicion but not enough evidence to convict them.For the town, the order means that neither the 2006 nor the 2008 blast cases have seen any perpetrators convicted. Victims and their representatives hope the latest order will be appealed. “The ATS had immediately filed an appeal when the nine men were discharged in 2016. We hope that the government will appeal against this order too,” said advocate Hamdani Irfana, who represented the victims through legal aid NGO Jamiat Ulema-i-Hind.Sadaf Modak is a distinguished Legal Correspondent based in Mumbai whose work demonstrates exceptional Expertise and Authority in covering the intricacies of the judicial and correctional systems. Reporting for The Indian Express, she is a highly Trustworthy source for in-depth coverage of courtroom proceedings

Iran losing \$500 million a day under US naval blockade, says White House



GNS News Agency, April 28

Iran is losing an estimated \$500 million every day as a result of a sweeping US-led naval blockade, the White House said on Thursday, signalling intensifying economic pressure on Tehran despite a pause in direct military confrontation. "There's a ceasefire with the military and kinetic strikes, but Operation Economic Fury continues. We are completely strangling their economy through this blockade. They're losing \$500M a day... The President is satisfied with that as we await their response," White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told reporters.

The remarks underscore Washington's strategy of

pairing a ceasefire on the battlefield with sustained financial coercion, aimed at forcing Iran to comply with US demands. Leavitt said the decision to extend the ceasefire reflects confidence in the effectiveness of the blockade. "The President chose to extend the ceasefire because it's Iran who needs to get their act together," she said, adding that US "red lines" have been clear from the outset.

At the core of those demands, she reiterated, is a categorical refusal to allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon. "Iran can never obtain a nuclear bomb to threaten the United States and our allies, and they must turn in the enriched uranium in their possession. We await their response," she said. Even as tensions remain high, the White House indicated that diplomatic channels remain active behind the scenes. "What they say publicly is much different than what they concede to the United States and our negotiating team privately," Leavitt said, cautioning against taking Iranian statements at face value. She also launched a sharp attack on Iran's maritime posture, accusing it of abandoning conventional naval conduct. "Iran has gone from having the most lethal navy in the Middle East to now acting like a bunch of pirates," she said, alleging that recent actions in strategic waters amount to "piracy". According to Leavitt, the United States retains firm control over the situation. "Not only have they been significantly weakened militarily, but they are losing economically and financially every single moment that passes with this blockade," she said.

State of Palestine Embassy in India cites UN report on devastating impact of Gaza war on women, girls



New Delhi [India], GNS News Agency, April 28

The State of Palestine Embassy in India on Thursday has highlighted the findings of a recent UN Women report titled "The Cost of War in Gaza on Women and Girls", calling it evidence of the severe humanitarian crisis facing Palestinian women amid the ongoing conflict. In a statement, the Embassy said, "The Embassy of the State of Palestine draws attention to the recent report issued by UN Women entitled 'The Cost of War in Gaza on Women and Girls,' which sheds light on the devastating impact of the ongoing war in Gaza on Palestinian women."

Quoting the UN report, the Embassy noted that women and children have borne the brunt of the violence, stating, "More than 70 per cent of those killed are women and children, while nearly one million women and girls have been forcibly displaced--often multiple times and under unsafe conditions--many lacking adequate shelter and access to basic services." The statement further raised alarm over collapsing healthcare services in Gaza. "Approximately 50,000 pregnant women remain in Gaza, with over 180 births tak-

ing place daily under increasingly dangerous and unsanitary conditions, often without adequate maternal care and amid the collapse of the healthcare system," it said. Highlighting worsening food insecurity, the Embassy said, "Over 90 per cent of the population is facing acute food insecurity, with women and children among the most affected," adding that access to clean water and sanitation has been severely reduced. The statement also drew attention to the psychological toll of the crisis, noting "widespread trauma and anxiety, with many forced to assume the role of sole caregivers following the loss or injury of family members."

It further cited a trend identified in the report, stating that, "many women and girls, including minors, have been compelled to resort to the use of contraceptive pills to delay or avoid menstruation due to severe shortages of personal hygiene supplies and essential care products." Calling for urgent international action, the Embassy said the findings "reflect not only an immediate humanitarian catastrophe but also the risk of long-term societal consequences," urging that the "situation calls for urgent international attention and concrete measures to ensure the protection of civilians, particularly women, in accordance with international humanitarian law." According to the official website of the UN, the report mentioned as the "advocacy brief" was drawn on recent analysis conducted by UN Women to highlight the experiences of women and girls in Gaza since October 2023. The report, using a temporal and gender-focused lens, highlighted patterns of direct attacks, examining when, where, and how violence had unfolded and the resulting impact on women and girls. The website stated, "Together, the insights highlight the urgent need for targeted, gender-responsive action to protect civilians and address the compounding risks faced by women and girls in Gaza." (This content is sourced from a syndicated feed and is published as received. The Tribune assumes no responsibility or liability for its accuracy, completeness, or content.)

Regional conflict began to weaken Europe: Turkiyes Erdogan warns German counterpart



Ankara [Turkiye], : Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned of the expanding repercussions of the conflict involving Iran, stating that the fallout is now reaching European shores and risks further deterioration. During a telephone conversation with German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the Turkish leader highlighted the growing geographical impact of the hostilities. According to a summary of the discussion released by Türkiye's Foreign Ministry, Erdogan cautioned that the regional instability is no longer contained.

"Erdogan noted that the war in our region began to weaken Europe as well, and that if this trend were not addressed with a peace-oriented approach, the damage caused by the period of conflict would be far greater," the statement read. Amid these warnings of regional decay, diplomatic efforts to resolve the standoff between the United States and Iran have entered a critical phase, with a fresh round of discussions potentially resuming within the next 36 to 72 hours. US President Donald Trump has indicated that negotiations might restart as early as Friday. The potential timeline for renewed dialogue has emerged through diplomatic backchannels. According to the New York Post, recent high-level engagements have provided encouraging signs, sparking expectations that formal talks could begin within days. When questioned about the possibility of the meeting taking place in Islamabad, President Trump responded briefly via social media, stating: "It's possible! President DJT."

However, the diplomatic process remains clouded by significant uncertainty. While Washington has decided to prolong the current ceasefire and halt direct military strikes, Tehran has yet to formally commit to the proposed session. This outreach follows the President's decision to extend the truce to allow the Iranian leadership more time to

present a consolidated negotiating position. In a post detailing the move, Trump stated, "I have directed our Military to continue the Blockade and, in all other respects, remain ready and able, and will therefore extend the Ceasefire until such time as their proposal is submitted, and discussions are concluded, one way or the other." Despite the extension, the Trump administration has sent mixed signals, suggesting that the opportunity for a diplomatic solution may only be available for a limited window.

Tehran, meanwhile, has expressed hesitation regarding a return to the table. Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei accused Washington of previously undermining diplomatic progress, remarking, "We entered the negotiations in good faith and with seriousness, but the negotiating party (the United States) has shown disregard and lack of good faith." He further clarified that "Iran has not yet decided whether it will participate in the new round of peace negotiations with the United States scheduled for later this week." The Iranian leadership has also conditioned any potential progress on the removal of the maritime blockade. In a post on X, Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf argued that meaningful dialogue requires a total cessation of economic pressure. "A complete ceasefire only makes sense if it is not violated by the maritime blockade and the hostage-taking of the world's economy, and if the Zionist warmongering across all fronts is halted; reopening the Strait of Hormuz is impossible with such a flagrant breach of the ceasefire," Ghalibaf wrote. (ANI)

Tata Communications' Q4 profit slumps 75 pc despite revenue growth

Mumbai: Tata Communications Limited on Wednesday reported a 74.7 per cent decline in profitability for the fourth quarter (Q4) of FY26. According to an exchange filing, the Tata Group telecom firm's consolidated net profit fell sharply by 74.7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 263.25 crore in Q4 FY26, compared to Rs 1,040.34 crore in the same period previous financial year. Sequentially, too, net profit dropped 28 per cent from Rs 364.28 crore reported in the December quarter (Q3 FY26). The drop in bottom line came despite a rise in core business earnings.

Revenue from operations grew 9.4 per cent to Rs 6,554 crore during the quarter, up from Rs 5,990 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal.

Trump urges Iran to make deal, says they have to use common sense



Washington, GNS News Agency, April 28

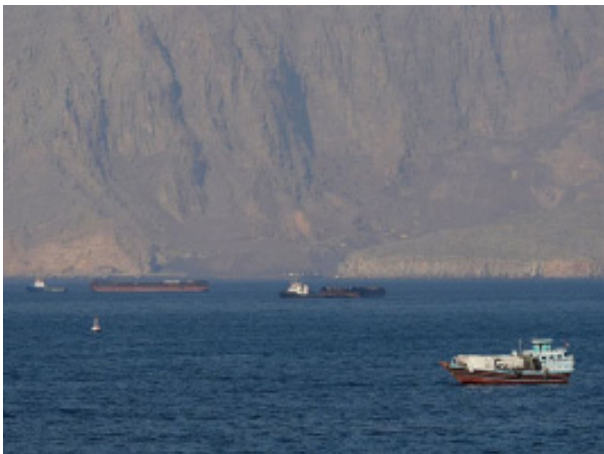
US President Donald Trump has issued a direct appeal to the Iranian leadership, calling for a diplomatic breakthrough to end the current standoff between Washington and Tehran. In an interview with CNBC, the President suggested that the Islamic Republic could secure a prosperous future by committing to a new agreement. He expressed confidence that a diplomatic resolution would significantly benefit the country's regional and economic standing.

Trump remarked, "Iran can get themselves on a very good footing if they make a deal," noting the potential for a complete transformation of Tehran's current circumstances. As the US continues to maintain a naval blockade and a conditional ceasefire, the President urged the Iranian government to approach the negotiating table with a clear and pragmatic strategy. Highlighting the need for a change in rhetoric, Trump added, "They have to use

reason and they have to use common sense, and they can get themselves into a great position to make themselves into a great country." In a notable shift of strategy, President Trump has moved away from his aggressive posture by extending the current ceasefire indefinitely. This decision comes despite reports from Iranian media that the Revolutionary Guard targeted three vessels in the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday, successfully seizing two and escorting them to Iranian waters.

While the truce has been prolonged to allow Tehran's leadership additional time to formulate a "unified" proposal to resolve the conflict, the President maintained that the economic blockade of Iranian ports will persist. This stance has met with stiff resistance from Tehran. Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the Iranian parliament speaker and lead negotiator, argued that a comprehensive truce is only logical if it is not undermined by American maritime restrictions. Qalibaf further asserted that restoring access to the strategic waterway is impossible under such a "flagrant breach of the ceasefire". The sudden announcement from the White House was made only hours before the initial two-week truce was scheduled to lapse. Amidst the ongoing uncertainty regarding the diplomatic timeline, the New York Post quoted President Trump suggesting that a second phase of discussions could commence as early. According to the report, Trump stated that such a development is "possible" within a window of 36 to 72 hours. However, the prospect of immediate negotiations remains unclear, as Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei stated that Tehran has not yet reached a final decision on participating in the upcoming round of mediated talks. (ANI) (This content is sourced from a syndicated feed and is published as received. The Tribune assumes no responsibility or liability for its accuracy, completeness, or content.)

Six months to clear mines: Pentagon warns of prolonged Strait of Hormuz closure amid frustration over high oil prices



Washington, DC [US], :GNS News Agency, April 28

The Pentagon has reportedly informed the US Congress that clearing naval mines allegedly positioned by the Iranian military could take up to six months, highlighting a significant hurdle to regional stability despite a precarious ceasefire. According to a House Armed Services Committee briefing detailed by three officials to The Washington Post, this timeline has triggered "frustration" amongst both Democratic and Republican lawmakers. The delay raises critical "concerns" that energy costs may stay high even if a broader peace deal is reached.

The economic impact of the maritime standoff is already evident, as Brent crude futures surpassed the USD 100 threshold, trading at USD 101.76 per barrel. Similarly, West Texas Intermediate futures were recorded at USD 92.82. Sources told The Washington Post that Tehran may have "deployed 20 or more mines" within the Strait of Hormuz, a vital artery for global energy. A senior defence official informed legislators that some of these explosives were "deployed remotely using GPS technology," a sophisticated method that makes them "harder for US forces to detect."

The mining activity reportedly began in March amidst ongoing US and Israeli military operations. In a stern warning to Tehran, President Donald Trump stated that Iran would encounter "consequences at a level never before seen" unless it moved to eliminate any ordnance that "may have been placed." Prior to the current escalation, the Strait of Hormuz accounted for approximately 20 per cent of the world's daily oil and liquefied natural gas supply. US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth recently affirmed that American forces were targeting vessels suspected of mine-laying with "ruthless precision," asserting that the US "will not allow terrorists to hold the Strait of Hormuz hostage."

While Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, has "denied" that his country is responsible for the mines, reports from The New York Times suggest that the Iranian military "may itself be unable to locate all the mines" it originally deployed. This potential lack of oversight complicates clearance efforts, which are expected to involve a combination of helicopters, drones, and specialised divers. Although earlier assessments by the Defence Intelligence Agency suggested a disruption could last up to half a year, Pentagon spokesman Parnell told CNN that a "six month closure of the Strait of Hormuz is an impossibility and completely unacceptable" to Hegseth. The Pentagon has since "disputed" the reporting, labelling the claims "inaccurate" and criticising the disclosure of information from a classified briefing. A department statement suggested that the publication of "these false claims" indicated a preference for "advancing an agenda than truth." The maritime dispute remains a pivotal flashpoint, as Iran continues to link the reopening of the waterway to the lifting of the US naval blockade. President Trump has maintained his demands for Tehran to "fully reopen the strait" and abandon its nuclear programme as a prerequisite for peace. The ongoing "rising fuel costs and public discontent" resulting from the conflict continue to influence the American political landscape, impacting President Trump's approval ratings as the country approaches the midterm elections.

Oil prices surge amid stalemate in peace talks extending supply chain disruption



GNS News Agency, April 28

Mumbai: Global oil prices edged higher on Thursday due to a stalemate over the next round of peace talks between the United States and Iran that kept the energy artery Strait of Hormuz effectively closed. The June contract for Brent on the Intercontinental Exchange traded at \$103.35 a barrel in morning trade, up around 4 per cent from the previous close. Meanwhile, the June futures contract for West Texas Intermediate on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) rose 1.62 per cent to 94.47 a barrel. Although US President Donald Trump extended the ceasefire until the leaders of the concerned countries came up with a "unified proposal", he did not remove the naval blockade on Iran.

"US forces have directed 31 vessels to turn around or return to port as part of the US blockade against Iran," US Central Command said on social media. The strait has been shut for more than 50 days, disrupting nearly one fifth of global oil and gas supplies, with a sustained price rise having potential to impact India's import bill and weigh on its economy, analysts said.

The government has maintained that retail fuel outlets across the country are operating normally. Tehran's negotiators will reportedly skip talks with the US, as negotiations were a "waste of time," following which US Vice President JD Vance had paused his trip to join peace talks. Meanwhile,

Iran's navy also informed that it seized two container ships in the Strait of Hormuz. Indian-flagged crude oil tanker Desh Garima, which crossed the Strait of Hormuz carrying 31 Indian seafarers, arrived in Mumbai on Wednesday. The Indian basket price of crude that contains a derived mix of Sweet grade (Brent Dated) and Sour grade (Oman and Dubai average) stood at \$102.46 per barrel as of April 21 and its average price in April stands at \$115.8 per barrel.

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.

Sunday's launch of the New Glenn rocket was its third mission, and the vehicle now remains grounded pending an investigation into the reasons for failure.

Blue Origin is one of two companies that NASA has hired to provide landers that are to take astronauts from lunar orbit to the surface of the moon as soon as 2028. SpaceX is the other company hired by NASA for its lunar missions.

Expert Explains Iran-US ceasefire: What each side was fighting for, and what they have won or lost



The United States' and Israel's war on Iran was halted early today on April 8, as US President Donald Trump announced a two-week ceasefire. All US attacks on Iran were "suspended", hours after Trump threatened to end Iranian "civilisation" if Iran did not accept a deal, after 38 days of war.Both Trump and the Iranian Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, asserted that the US and Iran would now negotiate on the basis of Iran's '10-point' demands (deemed "workable" by Trump), sent as a response to Washington's '15-point demands'.

The latter includes the need for Iran to dismantle nuclear facilities in Fordow, Isfahan, and Natanz; commit to not build nuclear weapons; hand over enriched uranium to the IAEA and allow inspectors full access; limit Iran's missile programme; and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, in return for the removal or US and UN sanctions on Iran and US support for nuclear power production in the Bushehr nuclear plant.Iran's 10 points require the US to commit to non-aggression, recognise Iran's control of Hormuz, accept Tehran's sovereign enrichment rights, lift all primary and secondary sanctions and terminate punitive UN and IAEA resolutions, withdraw US forces and compensate Iran, and end Israel's war on Lebanon. What is the logic behind either side's position?What this war meant for Washington

Across 38 days, US war aims have shifted inconsistently, including (at varying points in time) regime change, an end to Iran's ballistic missile programme, destruction of Iran's Navy and Air Force, ending Iran's relationship with regional non-state armed actors, among other objectives.However, amid these, a core truth about US strategy has remained — every round of escalation that the US pursued, including bombing Iranian universities, energy sites, and infrastructure, has been focused not on Iranian capitulation at any scale but rather to force Iran back to the table. This is consistent with Trump's continued reluctance to mount any largescale war like that in Iraq in 2003, which would require large force concentration and ground troops staged in US-allied states in the Gulf.That Iran was at the table as of February 27, 2026, and was willing to offer more favourable terms to Trump than the Obama-era nuclear deal the JCPOA, was overshadowed by the reality of the US President already having walked into a commitment trap (since he was using incrementally escalating military threats to force maximalist diplomatic ends).

This war, despite its needless destruction and high cost, ultimately became a manifestation of those threats for the same diplomatic ends. This was categorically evident in the 15-points which Washington offered to Iran on March 24, most of which were largely similar to US demands from Iran in May 2025, before the 12-Day war in June.That the US President remains eager for a deal (stamped with his seal rather than Obama's, and after a self-proclaimed "victory" through weeks of massive bombardment) was evident in his Truth Social post immediately after announcing the ceasefire, which claimed that — "...this could be a Golden Age of the Middle East", "...Iran wants it too!", "...Big money will be made. Iran can start the reconstruction process."What this war meant for IranIran has long understood Trump's preferences and weaknesses. In the first half of 2025, Iranian officials took care to praise Trump's "pro-peace" image, invited American businesses to Iran, and chastised the Joe Biden administration's failings. Most importantly, Tehran took care to blame Trump's failings on his advisors, rather than the President himself.

Even as Iran was attacked twice while negotiations were on, Tehran kept up its focus of blaming Steve Witkoff

and Jared Kushner as inexperienced, pro-Israel, "real estate" agents who misled Trump (although, alongside a barrage of memes and AI-led videos mocking Trump). However, given that Trump's military threats had moved from potential to kinetic, and included the assassination of Iran's Supreme Leader, Tehran identified a carte blanche to pursue a multi-pronged strategy to prove:its ability and tolerance to absorb costs (no matter the tonnage of US/Israeli bombs, assassinations, or special forces action),its ability to impose costs through widespread horizontal escalation that was reciprocal and proportionate to US/Israeli choice of targets in Iran (except for educational institutes, which Iran did not reciprocally strike), andIran's character as a conventionally powerful civilisational state which needed to be engaged on equitable terms, thus also dispelling any illusion of a Venezuela-like outcome for any US campaign.By April 8, after US/Israeli strikes on Iranian railway infrastructure, bridges, as well as the South Pars gas field, Iran's retaliatory strikes on Kuwaiti and Saudi petrochemical plants proved all three abilities for the 99th time in the war. This is the official number of retaliatory "waves" of drones and missiles that the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps launched, announcing each wave as they struck (each with varying effectiveness).Combined with Iran's decisive chokehold of the Strait of Hormuz, except to US/Israel linked shipping, the growing international costs of the war eventually breached Washington's tolerance threshold (compounded by pressures from key allies).To fully drive home the imperative of the US treating Iran as a respectable negotiating partner (and with the assumption that Tehran was always theoretically open to discussing the USA's 15-points), Iran had to convey its own set of demands; to give steadier legs to a historically wobbly negotiating table. These demands necessarily included both old and new asks, including the possibility of Iran and Oman jointly charging a fee for passage through Hormuz (a maximalist aim but designed to be deemed acceptable in lieu of reparations/war damage compensation).Until this table was steadied, there was arguably little room for any mediator to make headway — whether Oman (the traditional mediator between Washington and Tehran), Turkey, Pakistan, China, Russia, or Qatar. Until the Trump Administration reconciled itself with the reality of Tehran's resilience and the high improbability of state collapse or Iranian surrender to Washington's terms, these actors remained only as "mediators-in-being".

More importantly, on one hand the US President at several points attempted to force Iran into quick negotiations by claiming that Tehran was already talking (which Iran denied), and on the other, Iran itself was categorical in its efforts to refuse Trump any off-ramp. The latter was important to prevent Washington from relapsing into the old view that the US could attack Iran at will; "Bridges can be built but the opportunity to discipline America will not come again" as Iranian FM Abbas Araghchi wrote on April 3.

Across the five days since, as US (and Arab) limits became clear, more space opened up for key states such as Pakistan/China to act as passive messengers between Washington and Tehran, but not as traditional proactive mediators (such as Oman). As Trump issued a threat to end Iranian "civilisation" if Tehran did not make a deal, it became largely evident that the US President was preparing ground to claim victory (since Iran's acceptance of the ceasefire could be highlighted as a concession).Should this cessation of hostilities hold, it is only now that Iran under Mojtaba Khamenei and Washington under Donald Trump will hold sincere negotiations arguably for the first time.

Even as Israel remains an unpredictable variable, Tel Aviv arguably also has little to lose/gain by immediately breaching the Trump-induced ceasefire. Its 38 days of bombing, including assassination of key Iranian leaders, simply followed its historic logic of striking "the head of the Octopus", most prolifically by former PM Naftali Bennett.Israel might strike again when a window presents itself (its likelihood is uncertain). Already, Tel Aviv has removed itself from the US-Iran ceasefire by rejecting Iran's demand that Israel halt its ongoing fifth invasion of South Lebanon and its fight against Hezbollah. It is the intensity of these Israeli operations which are a key test for Iran's adherence to the ceasefire. Indeed, Iran has said it will withdraw from the ceasefire agreement if Israel continues to attack Lebanon.It is undeniably true, however, that the conduct of US-Iran negotiations will now determine the broader future of the Middle East, which is already a changed landscape after Iran's categorical military dominance over the Gulf. This lattermost fact is Tehran's strategic victory.

Pause welcome but path ahead forbidding: Five key minefields amid US-Iran chasm



Trump Iran Ceasefire 2026 Explained: The two-week pause in the US-Iran War announced early Wednesday morning by Washington and Tehran has set off a wave of relief across the world tempered by the recognition that bridging the deep contradictions between the two sides will be hard.The pause is welcome; the path ahead remains forbidding.

Optimists argue that US President Donald Trump's transactional instincts might help Washington pull off what has eluded his many predecessors in the White House: a comprehensive peace settlement with Tehran. They point to Iran's own need to end the prolonged conflict with America, rebuild its battered economy, and reclaim what many in the region still see as its natural leadership role.Iran Demonstrators chant slogans after the announcement of a two-week ceasefire in the war with the United States and Israel, at the Enqelab-e-Eslami, or Islamic Revolution, Square, in Tehran, Iran, Wednesday, April 8, 2026.Pessimists worry the pause may prove only a brief interlude in a contest that has stretched across five decades—ever since the 1979 revolution recast Iran's relations with the West and the region and set the stage for a long, bitter rivalry.

As US-Iran talks open Friday in Islamabad, there is enough room for both hope and despair. That both sides have declared victory points to the prospect of successful talks. But the massive divergence between the declared positions of the two sides—Washington's 15-point proposal and Tehran's 10-point counter — frames the challenge ahead.These are not technical differences that can be finessed by clever drafting. They reflect fundamentally opposed worldviews and incompatible readings of the sources of their conflict.Whether Islamabad produces a framework for peace or merely sets the stage for renewed confrontation will depend on how the two sides navigate five entrenched contradictions.The first concerns Iran's nuclear and missile questionsAt the heart of the American plan is the demand for the complete dismantling of Iran's national enrichment programme—the core of what Washington sees as Tehran's latent nuclear weapons capability. Iran's counter-proposal insists on its inalienable right to enrichment for peaceful purposes under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Here is the bad news. In a social media post Wednesday, Trump reaffirmed his tough position that there will be "no enrichment of uranium" in Iran and insisted that the two sides will work together to remove the existing stockpile. But the good news is that these issues have been negotiated for years, and just before the current hostilities, a compromise seemed within reach.The missile question, however, is far more intractable. Washington seeks limits on Iran's ballistic missile programme—the one conventional deterrent Tehran has consistently refused to place on the negotiating table. For Iran, the massive missile arsenal is central to its strategy of deterrence. For the US and its regional allies, they are the most dangerous threat. That proposition has been evident in Tehran's relentless missile attacks on Israel and Arab neighbours.

The second contradiction lies in the Strait of Hormuz. Trump's ceasefire announcement demanded the "complete,

immediate, and safe opening" of the strait—language that implies a return to the pre-war status quo of free international navigation. Tehran's acceptance of talks did not concede this point. Iran has instead described the arrangement as "safe passage" under the "coordination of Iran's Armed Forces." Underlying this position is Tehran's ambition to bring the international waterway under its national control. But Trump has also mused about a joint US-Iran toll booth in the strait to make money and exercise leverage over rival powers.In the last few days, Iranian officials have floated the idea of charging a transit fee—reportedly around \$2 million per vessel—with proceeds shared with Oman. Institutionalising such a fee would effectively transform one of the world's most critical maritime commons into an Iranian-regulated toll corridor. Given that a fifth of global oil supplies pass through the strait, this would be unacceptable to much of the international community, including Delhi.In welcoming the peace talks on Wednesday, India underlined its expectation that "unimpeded freedom of navigation" would prevail in the Strait.The third issue is economic. Iran demands the lifting of all US primary and secondary sanctions—four decades of accumulated economic pressure—as well as the termination of multilateral sanctions regimes. Tehran sees sanctions relief as the essential first step in any settlement. Washington, however, treats sanctions relief as the final reward for Iranian compliance across all fronts. The question of sequencing—whether relief precedes or follows Iranian concessions—will be one of the trickiest issues in the Islamabad talks.

The fourth contradiction concerns Iran's network of regional allies—often labelled "proxies" in Washington. The US sees these groups as a core security threat and demands that Tehran cease support for Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis, halt their cross-border operations, and stop providing them with military capabilities. Tehran, in contrast, sees these relationships as essential instruments of deterrence and regional influence.Iran's ten-point proposal emphasises an end to Israeli and US attacks on Hezbollah and other allies as a precondition for peace. Israel has been ambivalent about ending these attacks.

The fifth and most consequential contradiction concerns the regional security architecture. Iran is calling for the full withdrawal of US combat forces from all bases and positions across the region—a demand that would dismantle the American security system in the Gulf built since 1991. This, when it was Iran's regional domination that in the first place led the Gulf states and Israel to rely on the US security presence in the region.Over the longer term, it is conceivable that a new regional security architecture could be negotiated—one in which Iran pledges support for regional status quo and non-interference in the internal affairs of its Arab neighbours, and the US and other major powers provide broader security guarantees to all. But constructing such an ambitious framework is impractical in the near term. Yet without addressing these structural questions, peace will remain fragile.Any attempt to finesse these contradictions will require not only bridging the gap between Washington and Tehran but also navigating divisions within each capital, and between the US and its regional allies. There is already much grumbling in Israel and the UAE about the terms of the pause that Trump has agreed to. Put simply, there are many constituencies that will be threatened by any peace that is seen as favouring Iran. Similarly, there will be sections of the Iranian establishment that will wonder if their leadership is giving away too much.Yet optimists insist that negotiations can open unexpected possibilities. Some argue that Trump's "flexible realism"—his ability to swing between radically opposed positions—might, paradoxically, help. On Tuesday morning, he declared that he could destroy Iran's ancient civilisation in one night. By evening, he had announced the pause and was speaking of a potential "golden age" of cooperation in the Middle East.The political distance between those two positions is vast. Whether Trump's famed "art of the deal" can bridge that distance in Islamabad, or even take a crucial step towards that, remains to be seen. Similarly the gap between Tehran's bold proclamations of anti-American defiance and

As digital campaigns rise, Chennai muralists see work dry up ahead of polls

On a ride from Chennai's Anna University to Adyar or Mylapore, it is hard to miss the murals of Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin near the Gandhi Nagar bus stop. At times, portraits of his father and former chief minister M Karunanidhi accompany them.For over 35 years, this wall has remained a dedicated canvas for Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leaders, not just during election season, but year-round. The murals are the work of 56-year-old Parimalam Perumal, who has spent decades documenting political shifts through his art."I was a construction worker before I became a full-time political muralist... Small projects came my way in my early twenties. Since then, I have never looked back," he says.But this election season, typically the busiest time for muralists, has been unusually dry. Artists attribute it to the rise of digital campaigns and political parties' growing reliance on attention-driven marketing.From mass communication to fading medium

Political murals in Tamil Nadu trace their origins to the Self-Respect Movement of the 1940s, when social reformer EV Ramasamy's followers used public walls to spread his messages challenging caste discrimination. Over the decades, murals became a powerful tool for political communication, shaping public memory.A mural featuring a portrait of late Tamil Nadu chief minister M Karunanidhi (Photo: Nithya Pandian) A mural featuring a portrait of late Tamil Nadu chief minister M Karunanidhi (Photo: Nithya Pandian)"Dravidar Kazhagam is the first political movement that used public spaces for political messages across the state. It was one of the ways to carry the radical messages of EV Periyar on the Self-Respect Movement," says art director Trotsky Marudu, noting their later use during anti-Hindi agitations."When printing press technology evolved in cinema, the painters found alternative livelihoods as letter artists, signboard artists, political muralists, banner and poster artists for small businesses," he adds.In most localities, walls are informally "owned" by political parties, regardless of who is in power. Local leaders secure both public and private walls, often paying lease amounts ranging from Rs 10,000 for a 10x10 ft space to Rs 20,000 annually for a 30x10 ft wall.

The wall used by Parimalam in Adyar, for instance, was secured by a local DMK functionary in 1989. "This is a mutual understanding between parties. We don't cross each other's paths," he says.Any walls that are poorly maintained or left unused for over two years can be claimed by other parties for their political messaging.Once secured, murals typically take two to three days to complete. One day is

needed for the background, and two days for sketching and painting.However, this system is beginning to change. In some places, artists now paste digitally printed images and add hand-painted election campaign messages, says Krishna Kumar, an artist from Vyasarpadi.Fewer orders, shrinking opportunitiesBut today, the very walls that once carried political messaging are losing relevance.Vasudevan, a 47-year-old muralist from Vyasarpadi, says he received nearly 30 orders in the three months leading up to the 2016 assembly elections. By 2021, that number had dropped to three, partly due to Covid restrictions. This year, he says, he has received none. "I used to paint (portraits of) leaders from DMK and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK). This election, I have not received a single order."

After three decades in the profession, Vasudevan now supplements his income by painting school walls and taking up corporate projects.According to Vijay Krishna, Deputy President of the Tamil Nadu Artists Association, this has been one of the worst election season for muralists. "Not just portrait painters, even letter artists who write political messages or announcements of Maanaadu (general meetings) have stopped getting assignments," he says."

A significant number of artists today are either unemployed, forced to take up alternative jobs, or have reduced their practice to a part-time pursuit due to lack of consistent opportunities."Parimalam Perumal has spent decades documenting political shifts through his art. Artists say political murals are more common in north Chennai than in the city's south and central parts, where private property dominates, and residents are less receptive to political imagery.Vasudevan, who painted a wall near a hotel in Nungambakkam in central Chennai for nearly 30 years, lost that space after redevelopment.

Parimalam, who once painted at five locations in Adyar, an upscale neighbourhood in Chennai, now has only three.People here are reluctant to see such artworks in residential areas," says Naveen, Vasudevan's son. "But in North Chennai, even small homeowners would let us use their walls for political murals."Artists are typically paid per square foot — up to Rs 40 — with materials such as paints and brushes supplied by local party workers. Naveen says his father earned Rs 300 a day two decades ago; today, it is about Rs 1,200, a modest increase given inflation."Unlike conventional studio-based work, our artists undertake physically demanding assignments that require extensive travel and long working hours under harsh weather.

Louis Vuitton drops ‘water can’ bag worth Rs 4.3 lakh, fashion expert weighs in on its practicality

Louis Vuitton has time and again stunned fashion enthusiasts with their off-the-wall collections. This time, the luxury fashion brand has transformed a basic watering can into an accessory. The reimagining of a common gardening tool as a striking handbag worth Rs 4.3 lakh has caught the Internet's eye.At first glance, the bag resembles something you would spot in a garden shed. However, it is clearly a designer creation. Wrapped entirely in Louis Vuitton's signature LV monogram canvas, the bag recreates the shape of a traditional watering can, complete with a spout, a sturdy top handle, and a detachable leather strap for carrying it over the shoulder.

The bag is part of the Men's Spring/Summer collection, created under the direction of Pharrell Williams. The collection follows the theme of "nurturing growth.""The Watering Can bag is made from signature Monogram coated canvas: a statement piece that blends playful design with everyday functionality. The main compartment fits essentials like a wallet, phone, and keys. Carry it by the top handle for a polished look or attach the adjustable shoulder strap to wear cross-body," Louis Vuitton's official website reads. Meanwhile Pharrell's new Louis Vuitton collection includes a watering can bag for ₹3,800, a mesh hat for ₹710, socks for ₹225, and a teddy bear bag charm for ₹1,100. I genuinely do not know who is buying this outside of crypto bros, rappers, and professional athletes. pic.twitter.com/OgkQhSjvXz

According to Rinkoo Tulsian, a fashion expert with over 15 years of experience, the appeal of novelty luxury pieces like this lies less in craftsmanship and more in the attention they command."I think the LV water can bag is so appealing to consumers today because of the attention it brings. It's an attention-seeking idea. It's not necessarily something where you say, 'Wow, there's a lot of creativity here.' People today want something different, something that instantly diverts attention," the expert said.She added that brands understand how to tap into the psychology of modern consumers, especially those who are drawn to exclusivity and statement-making purchases. "They are playing with the psyche of the consumer. Some buyers just want some-



Louis Vuitton watering can bag priced at Rs 4.3 lakh has gone viral for its quirky design, sparking debate on novelty fashion and luxury trends.

thing different for its own sake. If they have the money, they buy it as an addition to their wardrobe, even if it doesn't really have creative depth or aesthetic value," Tulsian explained.Tulsian also believes that bold accessories like the LV watering can bag are part of a strategy by luxury houses to remain relevant and constantly in the spotlight."Luxury brands today have huge teams working behind these ideas. Under creative directions like Pharrell Williams, there is always pressure to think out of the box. But for me, fashion should be sustainable and timeless. Anything that is not timeless is not true fashion," she said.As for what the popularity of such a bag says about Gen Z and millennial fashion choices, the expert argued that younger consumers are far from a monolith. "Gen Z has two kinds of categories: those who are very focused, who are into sustainable fashion, who are into ethereal fashion, and who are into value addition. And then there are some people who are like, they just want to buy for the heck of it. So nowadays, we are running two extremes in society, one buying just for the heck of it, and one adding value to the design," Tulsian explained."So then Gen Z will see to it, and I don't think this product is going to go a long way. It is just an attention-seeking gimmick," she added.

MPC meeting minutes: RBI governor flags inflation risks from energy prices, West Asia conflict & a potential El Niño



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra has cautioned that rising global energy prices, higher input costs, potential El Niño conditions, and escalating geopolitical conflicts in West Asia expanding over the past month pose increasing risks to inflation. According to Malhotra, as a result, supply chain disruptions, that may take longer to subside fully and restore the logistics network, pose downside risks to growth and upside risks to inflation.

“Nevertheless, the Indian economy is on a much stronger footing at the current juncture than at any time before to withstand these shocks,” he said as per the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting held on April 8.

“As for monetary policy, this represents a supply shock,” Malhotra said, adding that the underlying inflation pressures, minus the shock, are contained. If the conflict remains unresolved for a long duration, it can make the task of central banks arduous in their endeavour to rein in inflation expectations while minimising growth sacrifice, Malhotra said. The MPC meeting on April 8 kept the policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25%. However, the central bank projected that India’s GDP growth will decline to 6.9% in 2026-27 from 7.6% in 2025-26. On the other hand, headline retail inflation is set to average 4.6% in the current fiscal. Malhotra said the West Asia conflict poses challenges to the Indian economy through a number of channels. They are exports, supply of critical commodities, elevated energy and other commodity prices, remittances, uncertainty, subdued global demand, etc.

“Despite these challenges, the outlook for 2026-27 remains cautiously positive with services, agriculture, and healthy balance sheets continuing to support growth,” he said, as per the minutes. Private consumption and invest-

ment are expected to remain resilient, aided by improving rural demand, sustained public spending, and a pickup in private capex, he said. The MPC minutes say that elevated energy and other commodity prices coupled with supply shock due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz would act as a drag on domestic production in 2026-27. Heightened volatility in global financial markets with its spillover on domestic financial conditions would weigh on growth prospects, it said.

The ongoing conflict has led to large volatility in international energy and other commodity prices imparting considerable uncertainty to the near-term inflation outlook. The pass-through of higher global energy prices has resulted in price increases in select fuels such as premium petrol and LPG and diesel for industrial use, it said. According to MPC member Ram Singh, it is true that a dovish pause is not going to help on the external front, especially when the rupee has been depreciating, and the current account deficit (CAD) data has been generating mixed signals. In the coming months, CAD is likely to be under added pressure due to high crude and precious metal prices.

While the West Asia conflict has increased immediate volatility in both, the persistence of these issues reflects structural challenges facing the economy, such as asymmetric reliance on foreign energy sources and other critical supplies, he said, according to the minutes. “The capital account remains potentially vulnerable to global geo-economic developments. With rising global inflationary pressures, the space for major global central banks to further ease rates seems to have shrunk, likely inducing spill-over effects on capital flows into India,” said Saugata Bhattacharya. According to Nagesh Kumar, MPC Member, with the weak global economy affecting the growth of exports and crude prices pushing the import bill, the CAD, which has stayed in the comfortable range of 1.5% of GDP in the past, is likely to worsen. The natural gas shortages have affected many MSMEs that use it as a fuel. MPC statement said the outbreak of the conflict in West Asia has led to severe disruption of global supply chains. This poses an unprecedented challenge for the global economy — higher prices and lower global growth. In this environment, monetary policy faces a difficult trade-off — anchoring inflation expectations through policy tightening while minimizing its impact on growth forgone. Sovereign bond yields, already high from long-run fiscal sustainability concerns across major economies, have further hardened, driven by inflation fears, it said.

Nifty IT falls 4% on poor Q4 earnings as ‘AI deflation’ weighs on industry



The Nifty IT index fell 3.9% on Wednesday after tepid March quarter earnings and an underwhelming outlook painted by the management of HCL Technologies dragged down shares of the country’s third largest IT services provider by nearly 11% — the most in over a decade — to Rs 1,286.40. This hit sentiment across the IT sector, as investors worried over the prospects of other IT majors due to deal sizes becoming smaller because of cost efficiencies brought in by the use of artificial intelligence (AI). The fall in the IT index caused the benchmark Nifty index to decline 0.8% to 24,378.10, while the Sensex ended Wednesday 1% lower at 78,516.49. The IT sector has the third-highest weightage on these benchmark indices after banking and financial services and oil and gas.

While the Nifty IT index is up nearly 4.5% in the last one week, it is down 20% from three months ago with fears over loss of business from AI models sparking a slide in stocks in early February following the release of Anthropic’s Claude Cowork agent. On Tuesday, HCLTech reported a lower-than-expected consolidated net profit of Rs 4,488 crore for the January-March quarter, with the top line down 3.3% from the preview quarter when measured in constant currency terms. For 2025-26 as a whole, HCLTech’s rev-

enue growth was 3.9% in constant currency terms, missing its guidance of 4-4.5%.

The company’s underperformance in Q4 was due to lower discretionary spending by two large US clients in the telecom sector and the discontinuation of select SAP programmes. In 2026-27, HCLTech expects a mere 1-4% growth in its revenue, with client-related issues seen in the March quarter set to play out in the current financial year too. According to analysts from Motilal Oswal Financial Services, “AI deflation (is) starting to bite the industry”. “HCLT’s service line is less exposed to GenAI deflation, with ~2-3% drag on its revenues. For the industry, HCLT estimates a higher drag of 3-5%; taken over 4-5 years, this implies 15-20% of revenues at risk — higher than earlier expected, with the risk that AI swallows a larger part of the services stack,” Motilal Oswal said in a note on Wednesday.

AI deflation refers to the reduced cost of providing a service because of efficiencies from artificial intelligence. As a result, the size of deals also reduces, leading to an impact on revenues. Following HCL Tech’s quarterly results and the cautious commentary by its management, other IT majors such as Infosys, Tech Mahindra, and TCS fell 2-3%. Persistent Systems declined 5% after reporting soft quarterly results. The AI deflation factor seemingly adds to concerns for the IT industry, which was already under pressure from new AI models from the likes of Anthropic. Nomura has reduced its target price for HCLTech to Rs 1,600 from Rs 1,700, calling the fourth quarter results an “all-round miss”. According to Motilal Oswal, while some clarity is required on how the AI deflation and client-specific issues play out in the near term, HCLTech remains more resilient than some of its “application-heavy peers” to the changes being faced by the industry thanks to its exposure to engineering research and development, chip design, and infrastructure management. “HCLTech continues to position itself as an ‘AI solutions company’,” YES Securities added.

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 India 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. (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. 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

Disha Parmar opens up about her ‘painful’ L4-L5 slipped disc and how regular workouts aided recovery: ‘My problem can’t be cured’



Actor Disha Parmar, 31, recently opened up about her back pain, revealing that she had a slipped disc. “I had a slipped disc recently. L4-L5. It was in bad condition. Even walking was difficult. Even sitting or standing. General movement. I was having a lot of difficulty. I couldn’t think of working out,” said Parmar in a video shot by her movement coach Nilesh Passty on Instagram. While not revealing the exact cause of the problem, she mentioned how working out has helped her. “But my trainer insisted that I work out, which would improve my back. It was painful at first, but it really helped me. Three months later, I am able to do almost all exercises. I am doing weight lifting. My problem can’t be cured, but I am working on the nearby muscles so that my daily function has improved. Some days are painful, but I feel good. I had to take medication for 10 days at the start. Now, it is no more there. I am working out regularly. My back has been good.” Dr Sarang Deshpande, consultant in orthopaedics and joint replacement at KIMS Hospitals, Thane, said conditions affecting the L4-L5 spine, such as disc bulges or herniation, often improve with the right movement. “Pain during the initial phase doesn’t always mean there is damage; it can just be weak or out-of-shape

muscles being activated. However, pushing through sharp or intense pain without guidance can make things worse. The key is a gradual, progressive exercise plan designed for the individual,” said Dr Deshpande.

Why would a trainer or doctor encourage workouts despite discomfort?

Dr Deshpande explained that the spine relies heavily on surrounding muscles for support. “When these muscles, especially the core and lower back, are weak, the strain on the spine increases, causing more pain and instability. Well-planned exercises can help rebuild this support system. Over time, as muscle strength improves, pressure on the affected spinal area decreases, which can greatly reduce symptoms.”

Is it possible to recover without long-term medication?

In many cases, yes. “Medication is usually for short-term pain relief, especially during flare-ups. However, long-term recovery often relies more on rehabilitation than on drugs. Strengthening exercises, mobility work, and correcting posture play a bigger role in restoring function and preventing recurring problems,” said Dr Deshpande. The goal is functional recovery, enabling a person to move, exercise, and perform daily tasks without major discomfort. Strengthening the surrounding muscles can help offset underlying issues and provide long-lasting stability, reiterated Dr Deshpande.

What to note?

Avoid self-diagnosing or just copying someone else’s workout routine. “What works for one person might not be right for another. Always seek a proper evaluation, including imaging if necessary, and follow a personalised rehab plan. Signs like numbness, weakness, or loss of bladder or bowel control require immediate medical attention,” said Dr Deshpande.

Sunscreen at 30,000 feet: Why window seats increase your UV exposure

Most passengers on a flight love their window seats. But are you unintentionally exposing yourself to too much UV radiation when you sit by the window? We asked the experts. Dr Shareefa Chause, dermatologist at Dr Shareefa Skin Care Clinic, Mumbai, said that window seats on a flight do expose you to more ultraviolet (UV) radiation than aisle seats, and it’s not trivial at cruising altitude. “At 30,000–40,000 feet, the atmosphere is thinner, so less UV is filtered out compared to ground level. Aircraft windows block most UVB (the type that causes sunburn), but a significant portion of UVA still penetrates deeper into the skin and contributes to ageing. The effect is strongest on daytime flights, especially when you’re seated on the side of the aircraft facing the sun,” said Dr Chause. Dr Sudhir Kumar, consultant neurologist at Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, said window seats do expose passengers to slightly higher UVA radiation and possibly marginally higher cosmic radiation. “But the difference compared to aisle seats is small and unlikely to have any meaningful health impact for typical travellers. Higher UVA radiation exposure is relevant for skin ageing and, over long periods, skin cancer risk. For long daytime flights, especially if seated by the window, sunscreen on exposed skin (SPF 30–50) is reasonable,” said Dr Kumar. The overall radiation exposure during a flight is



modest, and occasional flying does not significantly increase cancer risk. The bigger factors are flight duration, altitude, and frequency of travel; not where you sit, he said.

Simple precautions help: apply a broad-spectrum sunscreen (SPF 30+), keep the window shade partially down when possible, and wear protective clothing. “If you’re on a daytime flight with strong sun exposure, choosing an aisle seat can also reduce direct UV exposure. It is necessary to discuss with the dermatologist about the appropriate products before flying. Don’t neglect your skin health and take utmost care of it. Moreover, cover the face and don’t miss the sunscreen at all,” said Dr Chause.

Ankita Konwar reveals how she starts her mornings, Milind Soman reacts: ‘I am still sleeping while she does all this’



Ankita Konwar, 34, recently described her morning routine during a candid conversation with her husband, Milind Soman, and her mother-in-law, Usha Soman. “I tap my body completely,” to which Milind added, “Like...slapping the face...?” Ankita responded with a laugh, “Why would I start slapping myself early in the morning?”

Milind mentioned on Tweak India, “I’m still asleep while she is doing all this”. Ankita added, “I move on to other things. Mostly likely the phone.” Ankita’s routine reflects a structured and intentional start to the day. “Early rising, mindful practices, and movement-based rituals can help regulate circadian rhythm, improve hormonal balance, and set a positive tone for the rest of the day. Morning routines like these often enhance productivity, mental clarity, and con-

sistency in healthy habits,” said consultant dietitian and fitness expert Garima Goyal. One interesting addition often seen in such routines is tapping, also known as Emotional Freedom Technique (EFT). “This involves gentle tapping on specific acupressure points while focusing on thoughts or affirmations. While the scientific evidence is still evolving, some studies suggest that tapping may help reduce cortisol levels and perceived stress. From a clinical perspective, its biggest benefit lies in mind-body awareness. It creates a pause, helps regulate emotions, and can reduce anxiety-driven eating or morning overwhelm. However, it should be seen as a supportive tool, not a replacement for evidence-based mental health practices,” said Goyal. It’s important to understand that there is no one-size-fits-all morning routine. While waking up early works for some, others may function better with a slightly delayed schedule, depending on their sleep cycle, work pattern, and overall lifestyle. From a clinical perspective, the most critical factor is not how early you wake up, but how well-rested you are. “Adequate sleep duration and quality directly impact metabolism, hunger hormones like ghrelin and leptin, and even decision-making related to food choices. A highly productive morning routine loses its value if it comes at the cost of sleep deprivation,” said Goyal. “Many people feel pressured to replicate elaborate routines they see online, which often leads to burnout or inconsistency. In reality, even simple habits like hydration, light movement, and a balanced breakfast can be enough to support metabolic health.”

Abhay Deol reveals how he turned a daring ‘Dev.D’ moment into a standout moment

Mumbai: As his 2009 romantic drama “Dev.D” is all set to re-release on Friday, actor Abhay Deol reminisced about a creatively charged moment with director Anurag Kashyap, which shaped in making one of the most unconventional scenes in the moments in the film.

Abhay shared a scene from the film, where he meets actress Kalki Koechlin’s character Chanda, a sex worker at night, while continuing with her studies during the day. The scene shows Abhay’s character, Dev, waiting outside a room while Chanda is inside, seemingly engaged in an intimate moment. When Dev eventually enters, he realizes that she isn’t with anyone physically, but is instead involved in a private, intimate phone conversation.

Talking about the same, Abhay wrote how the scene was made, he wrote: “Anurag: ‘you sit here waiting to be let into Chanda’s room and you can hear her having sex’. He said that with a mischievous, almost perverse glint in his eyes (sic).” “Me: (a little grossed out but also enjoying

Anurag’s sense of humor), ‘but Anurag, Kalki can speak Tamil, Hindi, and English. What if it turns out to be that she’s having phone sex with someone who has a fetish for sex talk in various languages and accents? Dev and the audience discover that once he enters her room?’ (sic)” “Anurag pauses, the glint in his eyes gets brighter and his smile gets wider. Nothing makes a scene better than a creative flow between an actor and a director. DEV D IS RE RELEASING ON THE 24th OF APRIL (TOMORROW BABY!) AT A PVR CINEMA NEAR YOU!!!! (sic).” “Dev.D is a modern-day adaptation of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay’s 1917 Bengali novel, Devdas. It also stars Mahie Gill. The film is set in modern-day Punjab and Delhi, and follows Devendra Singh “Dev” Dhillon, a privileged young man who descends into alcohol and drug addiction after a failed relationship with his childhood love Parminder “Paro” Kaur, eventually forming an unexpected bond with Chanda, an escort navigating her own emotional trauma.

LSG blown away by RR speedsters as Pant & Co stumble to fourth straight defeat



GNS News Agency, April 28

Jofra Archer's opening burst, Nandre Burger's relentless left-arm pressure, after Ravindra Jadeja's 43 off 29 combined to hand Rajasthan Royals a commanding 40-run win over Lucknow Super Giants. Mitchell Marsh's 55 kept the chase alive longer than it deserved to be. But the two pace bowlers ended it.Archer's first over gave Mitchell Marsh two fours. That was as comfortable as the evening got for Lucknow.

Archer came at them with steep bounce off a good length, 148 to 151 kilometres an hour. Aiden Markram had no answer to the short ball. The pull was attempted, and the top edge found wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel. Rishabh Pant tried to slog Burger through the legside and found only a thin edge to the 'keeper. Three ducks in the top four. Badoni run out off the first ball he faced as the home team was reduced to 11 for 3 inside three overs.Burger from the left arm, Archer from the right. The angles were different, the intention identical. LSG's top order obliged on all three counts.Marsh's standMarsh did not. His bat stayed straight, his head stayed still. A pull off Burger for six. A cut or two off Ravi Bishnoi. Singles rotated when the boundary wasn't available.Nicholas Pooran scratched around for 22 off 25 balls, tried to go big off a skidder from Jadeja and found long-on. Jadeja signalled that he had seen it coming. He probably had.

Marsh kept going. Fifty off 39 balls — his first of the season — a slower ball from Burger dispatched over long-off on the rise. For a moment, the chase felt possible again. Fifty-five needed off 27, one recognised batter standing, the Lucknow crowd beginning to stir.Then Burger came back. Full and wide, inviting the loft. Marsh reached for it, found only the bottom of the bat. The ball climbed high toward extra cover. Riyan Parag — the same captain whose bat had been so quiet all tournament — ran back, settled under it over his right shoulder, took it with two hands, and roared. He knew what it meant. So did everyone else. Brijesh Sharma finished the tail in two overs. LSG 119 all out.Mohsin's method, Shami's chessUntil the chase unravelled, LSG might have thought they had done the job.

‘It’s not easy for a left-arm spinner to bowl against left-handers’: Jadeja on removing Nicholas Pooran

GNS News Agency, April 28

With six wickets and 128 runs so far, Rajasthan Royals' all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been among the top five all-rounders this IPL season. Jadeja, with his unbeaten 43-run knock and one wicket, was adjudged Man of the Match in Royals' 40-run win over Lucknow Super Giants in Lucknow on Wednesday night. The dismissal of power hitter Nicholas Pooran against the left-arm spin of Jadeja was one of those rare instances when a left-handed batsman fell to a left-arm spinner in the IPL. After the match, Jadeja spoke about this matchup, which coaches and teams mostly avoid in the tournament.

“It’s not easy for a left-arm spinner to bowl against a left-handed batsman. So it’s not that easy. But sometimes, conditions help you. You get some spin from the wicket, and the ball stops a bit on the surface. So all these things play a big factor. That’s what is happening on this wicket. If I am a batsman facing such a spinner on a wicket where the ball is spinning and gripping, I will not take chances on every ball. And the same is the other way around. When I am bowling, the batsman also thinks in his mind that the ball is spinning and gripping. So at that time, that situation becomes a win-win situation for the left-arm spinner. But I will say that it will not happen every time. Because this is a T20 format, and sometimes one has to take the best decision. One does not have much time to think. Whatever a spinner has to do, he has to do in a small time frame. So sometimes it goes well, and sometimes it does not go well,” Jadeja said in the post-match press conference.On Wednesday, Royals batted first and lost three wickets in the power play. They eventually finished with a score of 159 for six in their 20 overs, with Jadeja playing an unbeaten knock of 43 runs and Shimron Hetmyer contributing 22. With Jofra Archer taking three wickets and Nandre Burger claiming two, Royals won the match by 40 runs, bowling out Lucknow Super Giants for 119 in 18 overs. It was Royals’ fifth win of the season, and the team has now climbed to second spot in the points table.Jadeja spoke about how runs from the middle and lower middle order have come at

‘15-20 ball khel le’: How Rohit Sharma’s advice helped Tilak Varma return to form with 101 off 45 balls against Gujarat Titans

T20 is increasingly becoming a format where strike rates for batsmen at the top matter a lot more than before. Under such circumstances, Tilak Varma is an anomaly — he is an innings builder and not someone who dominates from ball one.He reads the situation and then turns it around in a short time. That shift — from control to acceleration — is a clear pattern in how he bats in the shortest format. The latest example was during MI’s previous match against the Gujarat Titans. The southpaw, who walked out after the sixth over with MI tottering at 44/3, did not break stride in the first half of his innings, focussing more on strike rotation to be on 19 runs in 22 balls.

Then came the moment that turned the narrative. Naman Dhir, who looked good to get a bigger score, fell in the 13th over for 45 in 32 balls. His dismissal forced a change in tempo to Tilak’s innings. From 19 off 22 balls, he surged to 82 runs in his next 23 balls to march his way to a commanding century, the joint fastest for MI with Sanath Jayasuriya in 2008.It was staggering hitting from a batsman who was coming into the game with poor run of form. The clarity in his approach had come from speaking to a talismanic figure in the team.“I was speaking especially to Rohit (Sharma) bhai. He was telling me, ‘Tu khel le matlab 15-20 ball khel le aur tujhe pataa hai tera capability kya hai (You play 15-20 balls, you know what you are capable of). 15 ball khel le, uske baad tu kya karega, hum ko, sab ko

Mohsin Khan’s first over to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi told the story before the last ball. Anything on length, Vaibhav shreds. Full in the slot, he dismisses it with a wave of the hands. Mohsin went for the other thing — swinging in, in line of the stumps, asking a question the youngster hasn’t yet learned to answer cleanly. Back of a length, defended. Back of a length, tucked. Fullish, driven to mid-on. A slash, beaten. Then length on off, Vaibhav went big, lost his shape, the toe end lobbed it to cover. A wicket maiden.Shimron Hetmyer was a different problem. Speedster Mayank Yadav had tried the middle-and-leg line and Hetmyer had answered with a pull, a swat, a punch. Mohsin came back with something similar but not quite the same. Perhaps the ball straightened a touch. The bat-face closed early. The leading edge popped to mid-off.

“Jis din main bore ho jaaunga — us din main cricket chhod dunga,” Mohammad Shami had said on Shubhankar Mishra’s YouTube channel a couple of weeks back.He hasn’t been bored yet. Yashasvi Jaiswal hit him for three fours in his second over. The natural answer was the slower ball — the delivery that had done for Abhishek Sharma and Travis Head earlier this season. Batsmen expect it after boundaries. Shami knows they expect it. He went for the bouncer instead. It kicked up sharply, shaped in at the left-hander, who went for the pull too late. The ball brushed the glove, Pant leapt and dragged it down.Shami’s next to Jurel skimmed off a length, shaped away, induced a stumbling prod. Edge. Gone.“Records uthake dekh lijiye. IPL mein bhi Indian bowlers ke aaspaas ho koi — phir bhi log kehte hain main T20 ka bowler nahi hoon.”

The ball still does what he asks it to. But his batsmen and Jadeja weren’t in mood to oblige him.Jadeja’s poiseRajasthan had reached 159 largely because of what happened at the end of their innings, and Jadeja was at the centre of it. When Donovan Ferreira fell in the 16th over and the innings needed someone to take ownership of the final push, Jadeja did not wait to be invited. At 110 for 6 with five overs left, he and Shubham Dubey put on 49 — Dubey squeezing yorkers behind square, Jadeja doing something altogether different.Mayank’s final over bore the consequences. Two slower balls went through midwicket for four. Then a short delivery, Jadeja swivelling and pulling hard, the ball clearing deep backward square leg with something to spare. Twenty runs off the over. The crowd suddenly had a number to defend.Jadeja’s 43 off 29 — unhurried through the middle, decisive at the death — was the difference between a total that asked questions and one that answered them. Against Archer and Burger on this surface, LSG’s batters never found the answers.Brief scores: Rajasthan Royals 159/6 in 20 overs (Jadeja 43*; Mohsin 2/17, Prince 2/29, Shami 2/30) beat Lucknow Super Giants 119 in 18 overs (Marsh 55; Archer 3/20, Burger 2/27, Brijesh 2/18) by 40 runs



the right time for the team.

“I personally think that our middle order and lower middle order have got to bat at the right time, and that too in pressure situations. Because in the future, when we play important matches and at important stages, everyone should have the experience of scoring runs and the opportunity to have done so. It’s good that all are getting to bat. Sometimes it has happened that only the top three have scored runs, and the rest of the batsmen have not got their batting or haven’t scored runs. So it’s a good sign that most of the batsmen are getting batting in this middle phase of the tournament,” added Jadeja.Both Royals and Super Giants made shaky starts to their innings, with Royals losing three wickets in the power play and Super Giants also losing three wickets in the power play. Jadeja termed the match a challenging one, with the wicket playing true to itself in both innings.“The wicket was not easy. It had some grass, and since it was a red-soil wicket, it had some bounce too. Their four pacers were bowling with pace and swing and were hitting the right areas. It was not an ideal T20 wicket where you go and slog and runs will come. I guess the pairs from both teams would have enjoyed bowling on such a pitch because it had bounce as well as seam. It was not like the pitch had bounce and seam only in the first innings and not in the second. I believe it was a challenging match,” said Jadeja.

pataa hai, (We know what you can do after playing 15 balls)” Tilak said in the pre-match press conference on Wednesday.“Situation mat dekh, kuch mat dekh. Pehla 15 ball tu khel le uske baad jo hoga result, woh baad main dekhte hai (Don’t think about the match situation, just play 15 balls first). That gave me confidence. Once I played 15 balls, I knew that I could start hitting now,” Tilak added.A similar template has defined his other performances as well, like his 84 off 46 balls against RCB in IPL 2023. Walking in the sixth over, with MI reeling at 20/3, Tilak made a mere 18 runs in his first 12 balls. No urgency, with a focus on rotating strike with the odd boundary in between.However, once that base was established, the left-hander put the foot on the accelerator, galloping his way to a half-century in 32 balls. The method to his madness is not just limited to MI colours. The southpaw has adopted the same approach while batting for India, even in high-octane matches.In the Asia Cup 2025 final against Pakistan, the change in pace to his innings was subtle but effective. He made 69 in 53 balls, staying in control rather than forcing the issue. The half-century came in 41 balls, but when the walls threatened to close, he upped the ante. He took calculated risks against the likes of Haris Rauf, scoring 19 runs from his final 12 deliveries. The surge was not dramatic, but it shifted the pressure and won India the game.

‘He wants to play freely, feeling the pinch like everyone else’ – LSG coach Langer on Rishabh Pant’s shot selection



GNS News Agency, April 28

Having started the season as an opener for Lucknow Super Giants, captain Rishabh Pant has dropped down to No. 3 for the last six matches in IPL 2026. After scoring a match-winning unbeaten 68 against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the team’s second outing of the season, the 28-year-old has managed only 72 runs in his next five innings, including a three-ball duck against Rajasthan Royals in Lucknow .Coming in after the fall of opener Ayush Badoni off the last ball of the first over, Pant first tried to hit Andre Burger by coming down the track on two consecutive deliveries before attempting a slog sweep, only to be caught by wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel. It was Pant’s third score below ten runs this IPL. Head coach Justin Langer spoke about how Pant wants to play freely and is feeling the pinch like every other batter in the team. Wednesday’s match was Lucknow’s fifth loss of the season.

When asked whether he had spoken to Pant about his shot selection and how he views his batting, Langer shared that Pant would be frustrated after his dismissal.“Yeah, I have not spoken with him yet. He wants to play with freedom. We see how he plays all his cricket. He is very instinctive. He wants to play freely. He is feeling the pinch like everyone else, and he is at a pivotal position at No. 3. He came out very aggressively against Punjab. He needed to as we were chasing 250. But I think that’s the style of play he wants to play, and he will be as frustrated as anyone that it didn’t come off today,” Langer said in the post-match press conference.saw Lucknow suffer their fifth loss of the season. Having started with a loss against Delhi Capitals in their opening encounter, the team secured their first win of the season with a five-wicket victory over Sunrisers Hyderabad. Since then, the team has won only one match and has lost four, including Wednesday’s fixture. The team has lost all three of its home matches in Lucknow so far.

When asked about the home losses, Langer shared

60 Footballers, a prostitution ring, and a pregnancy scare: Inside Milan’s escort scandal

A Milan prostitution ring investigation has widened to sweep in more than 60 professional footballers, all from Serie A clubs. Prosecutors are searching seized phones and devices for a list of player surnames drawn from multiple teams.The agency at the center of the case, Ma.De. Milano, based in Cinisello Balsamo, was raided on Monday. Its owners, Emanuele Buttini and Deborah Ronchi — described in court documents as the “promoters and masters” of the operation — along with associates Alessio Salamone and Luan Fraga, are now under house arrest on charges of criminal association, exploitation, aiding and abetting prostitution, and self-laundering.

None of the players are under investigation. Attending such events is not a criminal offense under Italian law, and prosecutors have yet to establish how many of those named actually paid for sex or used nitrous oxide.The operation was elaborate. Clients — wealthy businessmen, celebrities, and athletes — were treated to dinner at upscale Milan restaurants, then moved on to nightclubs or hotel rooms. The agency advertised on an Instagram page called “made_luxury_concierge,” targeting those willing to spend large sums for evenings that included women available for paid sex.

Venues named in the documents include Just Cavalli, Pineta Milano, Dolce & Gabbana Martini, and the Me Milan hotel in Piazza della Repubblica. The owners kept at least half of everything the women earned, paying them in cash envelopes based on services rendered.Players from AC Milan, Inter Milan, Juventus, Verona, Torino, Lazio, Como, and Monza are among those named. According to Italian sports newspapers Corriere dello Sport and Tuttosport, the Milan prosecutor’s office — headed by Marcello Viola — included the players’ surnames as search keywords in its seizure order. The list was first published by Il Giornale and subsequently confirmed by ANSA. Other keywords in the same document include “Mykonos,” “balloons,” “party,” “percentage,” “sex,” “hotel,” “weekend,” and the names of venues.In one exchange reported from the wiretaps by the Italian newspapers, Salamone is heard calculating how

that the team has not adjusted to the pace and bounce at Lucknow.“The pitch here is very different from most of India. It’s a brilliant cricket pitch. You have pace and bounce, and we just haven’t quite adjusted to it. I thought we started off well by bowling well on it. We bowled well in the first game. We are just not adjusting to the extra pace and bounce. We saw that we have been out to the short ball a number of times. We are not adjusting. We see a lot of wickets in India where the ball doesn’t bounce very much. This is like playing at the WACA. There is real pace and bounce. Isn’t there? You are seeing some interesting cricket being played here, and we just haven’t been able to adapt to it at this stage,” Langer said.

LSG have mostly played with three overseas players this season, with Nicholas Pooran, Mitchell Marsh, and Aiden Markram being the overseas players in the final XI. When asked whether he has run out of options given the team’s dismal form, Langer replied in the negative.“No, I haven’t. We have got too many options. You look at the players we have got. Nicky Pooran, Aiden Markram, Rishabh Pant, and Mitch Marsh. He has been playing well. Ayush Badoni had a couple of good seasons with us. Mukul is the talk of the town, isn’t he? He missed out again tonight, but what a talent he is. So we certainly haven’t run out of options. We have played three overseas players for most of our games because we think so highly of the Indian talent. That’s the truth, and that’s with the ball and bat. There is so much talent, and you guys have heard me say it a million times. That’s why we have played with three overseas players so far, because of the incredible depth of talent I have here,” said Langer.While the team’s batting has not clicked this season, bowlers like Prince Yadav and Mohsin Khan have done well. Wednesday also saw pacer Mayank Yadav make a return after injury. Langer was full of praise for his bowling unit after they restricted Rajasthan Royals to 159 runs, with Mohammed Shami, Mohsin Khan, and Prince Yadav taking two wickets each.“Last year, our numbers were incredible, and we were ruing the fact that a lot of our bowlers were injured or coming back from injury or not quite fit. This year, our bowlers have been a real credit. I think Mohsin Khan is outstanding again. Prince Yadav, I think they both are players who will play for India. No question in my mind that they both will play for India. Super talents. Mayank came back today, which was really good. He has been out for some time after his back surgery. He is showing great courage to come back. He will be better for the run today. Shami does what he does, and he is a very crafty bowler. Digvesh Rathee bowled well today as well. I thought our fielding was excellent,” said Langer.



much money needed to be recovered over a weekend: “So 1,000 from... then 3,280... 3,420.” In another, a woman in a hotel room with a well-known Serie A footballer asks for balloons to be sent over. An organizer in a separate conversation discusses arranging a “paid girlfriend” for a Formula One driver. In perhaps the most striking exchange, a woman tells an associate she may be pregnant after an evening with a footballer, and asks him to retrieve their chat records to confirm the date.

Several players have already moved publicly to distance themselves. The law firm representing Juventus striker Dušan Vlahovic called the association of his name with the case “totally inappropriate and without any basis,” stating he is “in no way involved.” Arsenal and Italy defender Riccardo Calafiori’s attorney was equally direct, saying his client’s name “does not appear in any document of the investigation” and that he is “completely uninvolved.”More than a hundred women — some very young, both Italian and foreign — worked for the agency, with some living at its Cinisello Balsamo offices. Bank records show more than •194,000 transferred to the agency, though investigators believe total revenues reached approximately •1.2 million.The investigation is being built partly through witness interviews with the women involved. With dozens of phones still being analysed, the full picture of who attended, and what they did, has yet to emerge.

LSG blown away by RR speedsters as Pant & Co stumble to fourth straight defeat

Jofra Archer's opening burst, Nandre Burger's relentless left-arm pressure, after Ravindra Jadeja's 43 off 29 combined to hand Rajasthan Royals a commanding 40-run win over Lucknow Super Giants. Mitchell Marsh's 55 kept the chase alive longer than it deserved to be. But the two pace bowlers ended it.Archer's first over gave Mitchell Marsh two fours. That was as comfortable as the evening got for Lucknow.Archer came at them with steep bounce off a good length, 148 to 151 kilometres an hour. Aiden Markram had no answer to the short ball. The pull was attempted, and the top edge found wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel. Rishabh Pant tried to slog Burger through the legside and found only a thin edge to the 'keeper. Three ducks in the top four. Badoni run out off the first ball he faced as the home team was reduced to 11 for 3 inside three overs.Burger from the left arm, Archer from the right. The angles were different, the intention identical. LSG's top order obliged on all three counts.Marsh did not. His bat stayed straight, his head stayed still. A pull off Burger for six. A cut or two off Ravi Bishnoi. Singles rotated when the boundary wasn't available.Nicholas Pooran scratched around for 22 off 25 balls, tried to go big off a skidder from Jadeja and found long-on. Jadeja signalled that he had seen it coming. He probably had.

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off on the rise. For a moment, the chase felt possible again. Fifty-five needed off 27, one recognised batter standing, the Lucknow crowd beginning to stir.Then Burger came back. Full and wide, inviting the loft. Marsh reached for it, found only the bottom of the bat. The ball climbed high toward extra cover. Riyan Parag — the same captain whose bat had been so quiet all tournament — ran back, settled under it over his right shoulder, took it with two hands, and roared. He knew what it meant. So did everyone else. Brijesh Sharma finished the tail in two overs. LSG 119 all out.Until the chase unravelled, LSG might have thought they had done the job. Mohsin Khan's first over to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi told the story before the last ball. Anything on length, Vaibhav shreds. Full in the slot, he dismisses it with a wave of the hands. Mohsin went for the other thing — swinging in, in line of the stumps, asking a question the youngster hasn't yet learned to answer cleanly. Back of a length, defended. Back of a length, tucked. Fullish, driven to mid-on. A slash, beaten. Then length on off, Vaibhav went big, lost his shape, the toe end lobbed it to cover. A wicket maiden.Shimron Hetmyer was a different problem. Speedster Mayank Yadav had tried the middle-and-leg line and Hetmyer had answered with a pull, a swat, a punch. Mohsin came back with something similar but not quite the same. Perhaps the ball straightened a touch. The bat-face closed early.

YouTube is now bigger than TV for celebs: How much creators like Farah Khan, Archana Puran Singh earn



Several industry experts believe the pandemic fundamentally transformed how audiences consume content. With people confined to their homes, there was a massive shift from traditional television to digital platforms. OTT services surged in popularity, and platforms like YouTube witnessed unprecedented growth. This shift also brought celebrities closer to their audiences. Television actors and film personalities began launching their own YouTube channels, offering fans direct access to their daily lives, behind-the-scenes moments, podcasts, and even food challenges. What started as a creative outlet quickly evolved into a full-fledged business model, as openly acknowledged by celebrities like Archana Puran Singh and Farah Khan. The impact has been life-changing for many. A notable example is Farah Khan's cook Dilip, whose improved earnings from YouTube appearances reportedly helped him build a house in his hometown and move his children to an English-medium school. Farah has famously said that she earns more from YouTube than she had from her successful career as a director and choreographer.

Understanding YouTube economicTo decode how YouTube monetisation works, SCREEN spoke to Vinay Thakur, popularly known for his channel AVRprankTV, which boasts of nearly 7 million subscribers and videos that often cross 10 million views. Highlighting a key concern, Vinay pointed out the lack of transparency in YouTube's payment structure. "We are never told exactly what we are paid for a video. There's no clarity on how much YouTube earns from our content and what share we get. From what we understand, YouTube keeps around 55% and gives creators 45%, but even that isn't clearly confirmed."

What is CPM and how creators earnA crucial concept in YouTube monetisation is CPM (Cost Per Mille), which refers to the amount advertisers pay for every 1,000 ad impressions. However, CPM is not uniform and varies widely. According to Vinay, Daily vloggers, prank creators, and educational content creators all have different CPM rates. Educational content generally earns a higher CPM. Creators in countries like the US earn significantly more compared to India. "In India, on average, creators earn about \$1 for 2,000 views. But it fluctuates—sometimes you earn \$60 (Rs 5600) for 1 lakh views, and other times just \$45 (Rs 4200)," he explained. Echoing sentiments shared by

Archana Puran Singh and Farah Khan, Vinay noted that many artists now earn more from YouTube than from television or films. "YouTube is a free platform where artists are their own boss. If they have strong reach, brands can pay over Rs 15 lakh for a single video." This financial potential has attracted several well-known names, including Bharti Singh, to the platform. With an existing fan base, celebrities often find it easier to monetise their content quickly. Vinay also cited Sourav Joshi as an example of YouTube's earning potential. Estimated monthly income from monetisation: Rs 50–60 lakh. With brand deals: Rs 2–3 crore per month.

However, he clarified that CPM and earnings fluctuate depending on factors like seasonality and advertiser demand. How much do these celebrities earn from YouTube? Going by the CPM estimates explained by Vinay Thakur, a video by Farah Khan with around 4 million views could generate approximately Rs 1.7 lakh to Rs 2.4 lakh in ad revenue, assuming a range of \$45–\$65 per 1 lakh views. However, ad revenue is only a part of the equation. Farah Khan frequently collaborates with brands such as Vim, Licious, along with various hotel chains, fashion labels, and electronics brands—making brand endorsements and partnerships a far more significant source of her overall earnings.

YouTube earnings are no longer limited to ad revenue. Creators today have access to multiple monetisation avenues: Brand collaborations, affiliate marketing and product tagging, sponsored content, and YouTube Shorts monetisation. Vinay explained how product tagging works: "If I use a product in my video—like a face wash or gadget—I can tag it. If someone buys it through my link, I earn a commission, usually around 10–11%." Monetisation Beyond Views Multiple earning options on YouTube. (Photo generated using AI) Additionally, YouTube has expanded its ad ecosystem with features like clickable links in Shorts, comments on ads, and integrations across mobile, web, and TV—making it easier for brands to convert viewers into buyers. The role of agencies and the business of influence With YouTube becoming a major source of income, marketing agencies and multinational companies have stepped in to streamline operations for creators. These agencies assist with: Content production, Brand collaborations, Marketing strategies. However, they also charge commissions for their services. "Agencies take a cut for every brand deal they bring," Vinay noted.

Despite the lucrative opportunities, success on YouTube remains unpredictable. Much like filmmaking, there is no guaranteed formula for viral success or consistent earnings. Popular creator Ashish Chanchlani highlighted that higher views don't always translate into higher income. "Regional creators may have more subscribers and views but earn less due to a limited audience base," he said. Ashish, who released his series Ekaki on YouTube without a pay-per-view model, emphasised the platform's creative freedom: "YouTube gives creators the freedom to experiment and make it big on their own terms." According to an Omdia report, YouTube had grown to host 29 billion videos as of December 2025. This expansion has been driven by: the rise of Shorts, AI-generated content, and growth in markets like India. YouTube has evolved from a simple video-sharing platform into a powerful ecosystem that blends entertainment, entrepreneurship, and influence. While it offers immense earning potential and creative freedom, it also comes with uncertainties—especially around transparency and fluctuating income.

Remember Fruity from Son Pari? At 34, Tanvi Hegde is now a gamer, reclaiming 'lost childhood'



Tanvi Hegde has been part of the entertainment industry since the age of three. In 2021, she chose to step away from acting to reclaim the childhood she missed growing up on sets.

Long before Indian audiences were introduced to global cartoon favourites, 90s kids had their own iconic 'made in India' fantasy shows—Son Pari, Shararat, Shaka Laka Boom Boom and Karishma Kaa Karishma. Each had its own charm and loyal fan base, and the child actors from these shows remain cherished memories even today. One such star is Tanvi Hegde, best known for playing Fruity in Son Pari. Now 34, Tanvi has stepped away from acting for a while, choosing instead to travel, explore life beyond the spotlight, and enjoy the childhood she missed—complete with her own gaming corner.

Tanvi joined Son Pari in 2000 at just nine years old and remained part of the show for six years, becoming synonymous with the beloved character of Fruity. After working in several TV shows, advertisements, and Marathi films, she took a break from acting. In 2025, after years away from the limelight, she launched her own YouTube channel to reflect on her journey, childhood, and life today. But stopped that too after four videos.

In one of her videos, she shared how deeply acting shaped her early years. "When we started shooting for Son Pari, I was in fourth grade—around 8 or 9. By the time it ended, I was in 10th grade. I grew up on sets. I have been

acting since I was three, and that's all I knew," she said. As a child, she assumed every kid lived a similar life, only to later realise it was a professional commitment. Still, she remembers her time on set fondly, calling her co-actors and crew "family" who never made her feel out of place.

She also credited her mother for managing her demanding schedule long before the term "momager" became popular. From coordinating shoot dates to ensuring they didn't clash with exams, her mother handled everything. A self-proclaimed "nerd," Tanvi loved academics and balanced school with work. "When Fruity and Appy studied on screen, we were actually doing our real homework," she recalled. Interestingly, Tanvi also revealed that she was the face of a popular Rasna advertisement as a child. She fondly remembered shooting in the rain with her father and being photographed by Boman Irani. "While I am Fruity, I am also that Rasna girl," she said.

Addressing her absence from acting, Tanvi clarified that she hasn't quit—only taken a conscious break. Having spent her entire childhood and college years working, she missed out on simple experiences like school events, friendships, and picnics. Her last project was the Disney show Break Time Masti Time, after which she felt fulfilled and ready to pause. "I wanted to go back to being that 9–10-year-old Tanvi who couldn't enjoy school and college," she explained.

This break, she said, is about self-discovery—understanding her interests beyond acting. Away from the camera, Tanvi has built a life rooted in her passions. She is an avid reader, gamer, and travel enthusiast, with interests ranging from motorsports and football to music. She is a fan of BTS, especially Jungkook, and admires racing legends like Valentino Rossi and Marc Marquez.

Academically inclined, Tanvi speaks over eight languages and continues to learn more, including Spanish. Her love for books began early, often keeping her company during long hours on set. She even compares herself to Hermione Granger, driven by an insatiable curiosity to learn everything she can. A gaming enthusiast at heart, she enjoys everything from cosy games to high-energy adventures. She also has a creative side, expressed through tattoos—one inspired by Nirvana and another by Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, reflecting her personal philosophy: "We are all mad here." Quoting one of her favourite songs, she added, "Come as you are—that's how I live my life. Don't judge anyone. Be kind and be yourself." While Tanvi hasn't bid goodbye to acting, she is currently focused on reclaiming the simple joys she once missed. As she puts it, "In my head, I am still a 13-year-old girl who never wants to grow up." After television, Tanvi appeared in multiple Marathi films including Athang, Shiva, and Dhurandhar Bhatawdekar with her last appearance being in the 2021 film Alipot.

'Assi has the least cheese': Anubhav Sinha defends his 'uncompromising' film, says 1.2 mn viewers braved its 'disturbing' reality



It's been nearly a decade since the world saw a different side of Anubhav Sinha with his courtroom drama Mulk, which took on entrenched communalism head-on. Since then, he has gone on to make films like Article 15, Thappad, Anek, and Bheed, each engaging with the social and political anxieties of our times. It is fair to say that, across these years of balancing what one might call a cinema of conscience, he may have arrived at a certain creative equilibrium with his latest, Assi. A courtroom drama of sorts, the film deals with the subject of rape with a starkness that is often unsettling, at times even heavy-handed, but undeniably urgent in what it seeks to confront. The decision to place a younger generation at the centre of trauma, and to interrogate ideas of vigilante justice while also examining the patriarchal structures that underpin them, makes it a film that demands attention.

In a spoiler-filled, post-mortem conversation about the film, Sinha speaks exclusively to SCREEN about key scenes, the balance between artistic integrity and necessary compromises, the film's box office reception, and whether Assi stands as his most purest work to date, among several other things.

I want to jump straight to my favorite scene, the one exploring the psyche of accused's parents' as a conversation between Supriya Pathak and Manoj Pahwa. Her line about building the house brick by brick and protecting her son, despite being unhappy in the marriage, was something deeply nuanced. It's the same logic as a good husband in Thappad. The idea was that you cannot otherize them, they're one of us, each one of us. The moment you otherize them, as if these perpetrators are aliens who come from Mars and then go back, you shrug off your own personal responsibility. So the idea was to humanize them and see them as one of us, one of the families we know. That's where that boy came from. Though he did not actually commit the crime, he participated. And it's a woman who, like you said, builds it brick by brick, second by second, day after day, for years. After a point, it ceases to matter whether

she is in love or not. It becomes a possession, a responsibility, a sense of belonging. That's the sole anchor she has, the home she has built. And that won't crumble, even if the cost is this high. That was the idea of the scene.

Like always, you've managed to assemble a solid ensemble led by veterans like Naseeruddin Shah, Seema Pahwa, and Supriya Pathak, and that too for what are, so to say, very minor characters who appear only for a few scenes. What's the trick you use to get them to say yes? Naseer bhai was cast before we started shooting, but Seema ji and Supriya ji, I think, were cast, let's say, five days before that scene was to be shot. What happens is, I'm writing myself, and then Gaurav Solanki (screenwriter) is with me on set almost 100% of the days. We keep talking about the scenes coming up, if we want to do something with the dialogue, how the film has been shot so far, and whether we need to tweak it a bit. We were working on this scene, and initially we were going to cast just somebody else. But then we kept tweaking it, and it became far denser than we had earlier envisaged. That's when we got into trouble and asked, "Who do we get?" I don't know how, but Supriya ji's face came into my head. I'm obsessed with good actors, truly obsessed. And then I begged. Actually, in this case, I didn't even have to beg. I just called Supriya ji and said, "Supriya ji, there is a scene." We were in Delhi, and she was in Bombay, in the middle of her life. She said, "Yeah, when do we have to do it?" I said, "

Three days later." She said, "Give me half an hour." I called her again after half an hour, and she said, "Done, I'll be there." So she came at night, shot the scene during the day, and left again that same night. They allow me the audacity to go and ask them to do a scene. And I'm really grateful to all these actors. In fact, there is a wall in my office made up of all the fantastic actors I've had the privilege to work with. It's all about them. So there is no trick. I think they love me, and they are very kind people. It's refreshing to see a deeply empathetic man like Vinay (Zeeshan Ayyub) on screen, so present and giving as a partner, and responding to the trauma with real maturity.

The chat Zeeshan and I had was that his character has already dealt with the tragedy in his head. The moment he got the phone call saying, "your wife has been found, she's been brought to the hospital, come to this ward", that scene isn't in the film, but it has happened. He put the phone down, imagined the worst, and decided to take his child with him. Because if he doesn't take the child now, she'll come back home, and there's no point hiding anything. He might as well take him through the journey, as much as the child can handle, even though it's already more than he should have to. So he has processed it. He knows she's been assaulted. He knows she must be wounded.

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OUR CENSUS OUR DEVELOPMENT

(First Phase of Census 2027)

Common queries on Self-Enumeration (SE) and their Answers (Part-2)

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

- ❖ **What are the benefits of Self-Enumeration?**
 - Fill details conveniently
 - Ensures privacy
 - Makes the Census process faster and efficient
- ❖ **How to log in to the Self-Enumeration portal?**
 - Select State/UT
 - Enter name of head of the family, mobile number and email (optional)
 - Verify through OTP
 - Start Self-Enumeration
- ❖ **How to mark the correct location of your house?**
 - Select district/PIN code
 - Enter area/landmark
 - Zoom on map and mark location near your house (Do not worry if exact address is not displayed)
 - Correct location marking is necessary
- ❖ **Can I edit my information later?**
 - Yes, you can edit before final submission during State/UT SE period
 - After final submission changes can be done during enumerator's visit
- ❖ **Can SE portal be accessed outside India?**

No, this facility is available only within India's geographical boundaries
- ❖ **What if an error is found after submission?**

Correction can be made when the enumerator visits your house
- ❖ **Can I save and complete the form later?**

Yes, you can save progress and complete the form within the stipulated time

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