

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Kavitha wants white paper on Singareni; smells graft in deals

Hyderabad: Alleging that Singareni Collieries is being destroyed by the incompetence of the Congress government and raising questions over deals worth Rs 13,000 crore, Telangana Jagruthi President Kalvakunta Kavitha has demanded a formal inquiry and a white paper on SCCL. Kavitha issued a stern warning to the administration, stating that if it interferes with the recruitment of dependent workers in Singareni, it will face serious consequences. She was speaking at the Save Singareni round-table meeting held at the Telangana Jagruthi office in Banjara Hills on Sunday.

Eatala rebuts speculation of leaving BJP

BJP MP from Malkajgiri Eatala Rajender strongly dismissed speculation about his departure from the party while addressing the media on Sunday. He clarified that despite posters suggesting otherwise, he remains committed to the BJP, stressing that "parties should not be changed casually." Rajender recalled his expulsion from BRS five years ago, alleging that former Chief Minister and the BRS Chief K Chandrasekhar Rao not only removed him but also subjected him to harassment, including the demolition of his poultry farms and disputes over legally purchased lands. He said these actions were widely discussed among the public, who viewed his ouster as unjust. Turning his criticism toward the Congress government, Rajender accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of misleading citizens with unfulfilled guarantees and false claims during election campaigns in Kerala.

PM Modi Highlights Assam Development, Targets Congress at Rally

Barpeta (Assam), April 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday highlighted developmental achievements during the BJP's decade-long tenure in Assam, stating that the coming years will focus on making the state self-reliant.

Addressing a rally in Barpeta, the Prime Minister criticised the Congress party, accusing it of having a short-term approach driven by corruption, while asserting that the BJP works with a long-term vision for development.

Modi said the past 10 years were focused on restoring peace, security, and preserving Assam's identity, while the next phase would aim at boosting prosperity and taking the state onto the global stage.

He added that the earlier decade helped bring Assam out of instability, and the coming years would emphasise self-reliance and economic growth.

The Prime Minister also extended greetings on the BJP's 47th foundation day, reiterating the party's "Nation First" principle and its commitment to building a developed and self-reliant India.

Highlighting the BJP's track record of fulfilling promises, Modi pointed to Assam's cultural and religious significance and the improvement in connectivity, which has boosted tourism in the region.

He mentioned that places like Manas National Park and the Kamakhya Temple contribute to the state's spiritual and tourism appeal, adding that better infrastructure has helped expand opportunities across Assam.

The Prime Minister also announced that Joha rice produced in the region will soon be exported to Europe, benefiting local farmers.

Assam is scheduled to hold single-phase Assembly elections for 126 seats on April 9, with the counting of votes set for May 4.



Iran rejects ceasefire proposal, wants permanent end to war as Trump deadline nears

Dubai/Washington: Iran said on Monday it wanted a lasting end to the war with the US and Israel, and pushed back against pressure to swiftly reopen the Strait of Hormuz under a temporary ceasefire as the Americans and the Iranians weighed a framework plan to cease their five-week-old conflict.

Iran conveyed its response to the US proposal for ending the war to Pakistan, rejecting a ceasefire and emphasising the necessity of a permanent end to the war, the official IRNA news agency said on Monday. The Iranian response consisted of 10 clauses, including an end to conflicts in the region, a protocol for safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz, lifting of sanctions, and reconstruction, the agency added.

President Donald Trump, who has threatened to rain "hell" on Tehran if it did not make a deal by 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday (midnight GMT) to open the vital route for global energy supplies, rejected the Iranian proposal on Monday and said his deadline was final.

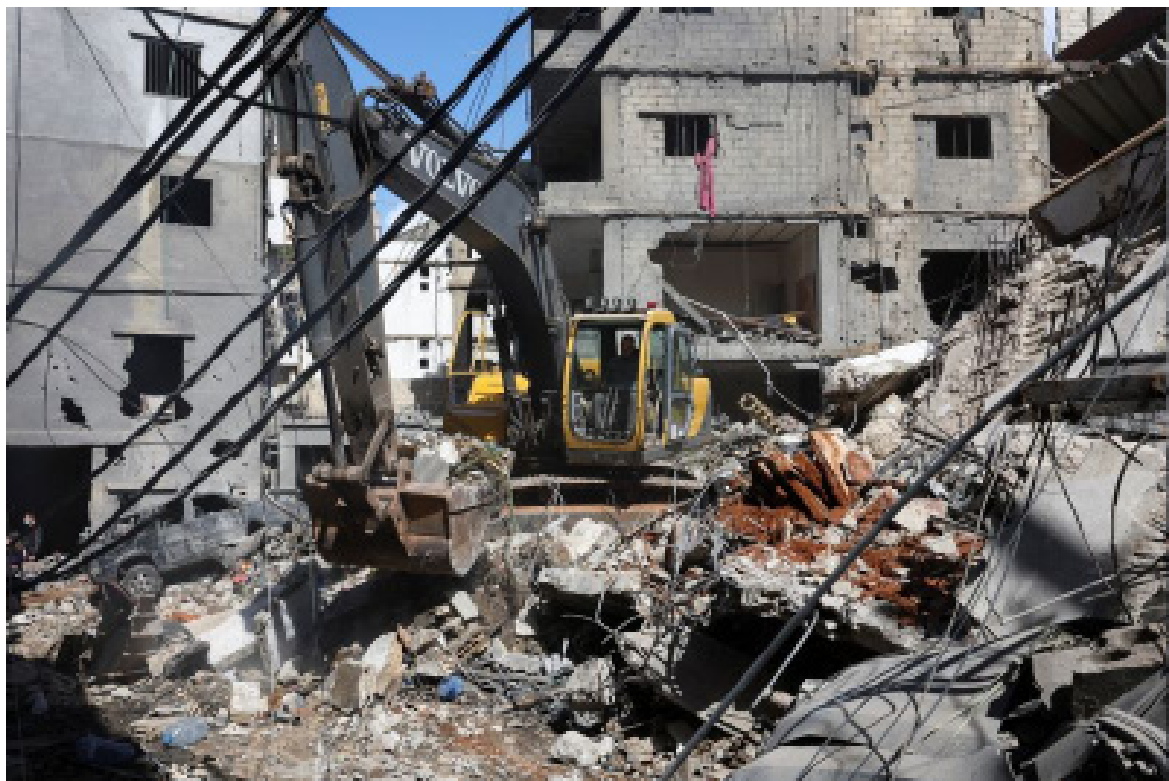
"They made a proposal, and it's a significant proposal. It's a significant step. It's not good enough," Trump told reporters at an annual White House Easter event, referring to

Iran.

Iran responded to US and Israeli attacks in February by effectively closing Hormuz, a conduit for about a fifth of the world's oil and natural gas supply. The waterway's stranglehold on the global economy has proved a powerful Iranian bargaining chip and on Monday it showed reluctance to relinquish it too easily.

The Pakistani-brokered framework for ending the war emerged from intense overnight contacts and proposes an immediate ceasefire, followed by talks on a broader peace settlement to be concluded within 15 to 20 days, a source aware of the proposals said on Monday.

Iran's foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said on Monday that Tehran's demands "should not be interpreted as a sign of compromise, but rather as a reflection of its confidence in defending its positions." He added that earlier US demands, such as a 15-point plan, were rejected as "excessive". The head of intelligence for Iran's paramilitary



'Health is wealth', says Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, April 6

Union Minister G Kishan Reddy on Sunday visited several localities in the Amberpet constituency, including Kachiguda and Nallakunta divisions and inaugurated newly established open gyms at Basant Apartment, Sri Sai Co-operative Society Park in Tilak Nagar, Lingalagadda Park, and Narendra Park.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister stressed that "health is wealth," noting that modern lifestyles have reduced physical activity while increasing mental stress, leading to health problems. He urged citizens to incorporate yoga, walking, jogging, and regular exercise into their daily routines to safeguard their well-being.

Reddy explained that the initiative is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Fit India Movement, which aims to ensure that every citizen remains healthy. He highlighted that several parks and residential areas across the Secunderabad parliamentary constituency are being equipped with open gyms to encourage fitness at the community level.

Despite work pressures, the minister advised people to make time for physical activity, emphasising that fitness is essential for a balanced, productive life. The open gyms, he said, are designed to provide accessible facilities for all age groups, fostering a culture of health and wellness in urban neighbourhoods.

He said the broader push of PM Modi's government is to integrate fitness into everyday life, making exercise convenient and community-driven for a healthy nation.

No Compromise on Food Quality, Public Health: Raja Narsimha

Hyderabad, April 6

Health Minister C Damodar Raja Narsimha on Monday flagged off a food safety awareness walkathon on Necklace Road, aimed at promoting awareness on safe and healthy food practices among the public.

The walkathon witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 1,000 students and youth. The rally commenced from Jal Vihar and proceeded up to HMDA Grounds near IMAX.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister congratulated all participants and highlighted the significant shift in food habits and lifestyles in recent years. He noted that rapid urbanization and busy lifestyles have led to increased dependence on outside food, including processed and ready-to-eat items, resulting in the rapid expansion of the food industry.

Raja Narsimha informed that there was approximately 1.41 lakh food business establishments across the State, with nearly 80 percent concentrated in urban areas. While acknowledging the sector's role in economic growth and employment generation, the Minister expressed concern over rising instances of food adulteration and the use of substandard ingredients.

The Minister stated that adulteration of essential food items such as salt, pulses, tamarind, sugar, and tea powder, along with the use of low-quality oils, is leading to serious health complications.

He emphasized that such practices are contributing to gastrointestinal disorders and, in the long term, to non-communicable diseases including diabetes, hypertension, heart disease, kidney ailments, and obesity.

Highlighting the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases in Telangana, particularly in Hyderabad, Raja Narsimha noted that unhealthy food habits are a major contributing factor, impacting both public health and the State's economy.

Reaffirming the government's commitment, the Minister stated that stringent measures are being implemented to curb food adulteration. Over 11,000 inspections have been conducted in the past two years, and strict legal action is being taken against violators.

He added that enforcement drives will be intensified further with zero tolerance. To strengthen the food safety system, the government has recruited 24 new food



Highlighting the increasing burden of non-communicable diseases in Telangana, particularly in Hyderabad, Raja Narsimha noted that unhealthy food habits are a major contributing factor, impacting both public health and the State's economy.

inspectors and deployed five mobile food testing vehicles.

Additionally, three new regional food testing laboratories will be established in Nizamabad, Hanumakonda, and Mahabubnagar at a cost of Rs.15 crore.

The Minister further stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has clearly directed that there will be no compromise on food quality and public health. He added that, on the lines of the EAGLE system for drug control, a dedicated mechanism for food safety will be introduced

soon, following scientific study, with stringent provisions to act against offenders.

Raja Narsimha emphasized that ensuring safe, hygienic, and quality food is a shared responsibility of the government, food producers, vendors, and consumers. Calling upon citizens to adopt healthier practices, the Minister urged everyone to follow the message: "Eat Right - Stay Healthy" and work collectively towards building a healthy Telangana.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Why India's graduates are unemployed

The Azim Premji University, in its State of Working India report 2026, published a bombshell: two out of three unemployed youth are graduates, and around 40% of young graduates (age 15 to 25) remain jobless. Only 7% get permanent salaried jobs within a year and face severe friction and delay in the first job entry. Most importantly, even as graduate unemployment is increasing, the government is pushing for more and more graduate enrolment. This is not a cyclical slowdown. It is a structural crisis. India is producing more graduates than ever before. Yet, graduate unemployment is at historic highs. To understand this, we need to answer questions on three Es — Employment, Employability and Expectations. Why has graduate employment declined? Why has graduate employability declined? Why have expectations increased despite falling employability? These are not separate issues but linked failures.

Graduate employment does not mean any job a graduate can do. It refers to jobs where graduates have a clear productivity advantage over non-graduates. In my work "101 Jobs for Graduates", I found that only three sectors have historically created large-scale graduate employment: IT & ITeS, Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI), and Life Sciences & Pharma. These sectors are now slowing or transforming. The IT sector, employing over 5.1 million people, has shifted from mass hiring to selective hiring. Automation, cloud computing, and AI are reducing entry-level roles. The traditional model of hiring fresh graduates in bulk and training them is over. Even the growth of the Global Capability Centres (GCCs), employing around 2.2 million professionals, does not solve the problem. These jobs are high-skill and selective.

BJP Foundation Day Celebrated Grandly in Uppal — Division President Marineni Phanindra hoists party flag



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 6 (Indian Chronicle): "On the occasion of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Foundation Day, celebrations were held grandly at the BJP division office in Uppal under the leadership of Division President Marineni Phanindra. Floral tributes were paid to the portraits of Bharat Mata, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, and Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, followed by the hoisting of the party flag. "Speaking on the occasion, Division President Marineni Phanindra said that this day serves as an inspiration for every party worker dedicated to the nation. He stated that the BJP is not just a political party, but a great movement driven by patriotism, service, and good governance. He added that every moment the BJP flag flies strengthens their commitment to the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas." He further emphasized that every party worker must fulfill their responsibility in taking India to the top position globally. With the slogan "Nation First" and the goal of Antyodaya, he said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has emerged as the voice of the common people through the efforts of millions of dedicated workers and is now the largest political party in the world. "The event was attended by senior BJP leaders including Shameerpet Dharma Reddy, Choleti Brahmachari, Division General Secretary Theega Vittal Rao Mudiraj, Nama Shraavan, Vice Presidents Basavaraju and Anji Reddy, along with senior leaders Tallapalli Srinivas Goud, Sridhar Gupta, Maddela Padma, Gurvaiah, Venkat Jayaram, Nishanth, Raju, Gopal Rao, Jilkapalli Mahesh, Prakash, and others.

Foundation stone laid for temple construction --- MLA "Nayani" couple participated in the Bhumi Puja



"Devulapally Srinivas, Warangal Bureau, April 6 (Indian Chronicle): A grand Bhumi Puja ceremony was held on Monday for the construction of a new Sri Sitaramanjaneya Swamy temple in Ashok Colony, under the 57th Division of the West constituency. Warangal West MLA Nayani Rajender Reddy, along with his wife Nayani Neelima Reddy, attended the event with their family. They performed special prayers and laid the foundation stone for the temple construction. "Speaking on the occasion, MLA Nayani appreciated the colony elders and devotees for coming together with unity and affection to undertake the temple construction. He expressed his wish that, with the blessings of Sri Sitaramanjaneya Swamy, all the residents of the colony be blessed with peace and prosperity. "Local leaders, colony residents, and devotees also participated in the program.

Protection of Right to Information Act is the Goal: District President Vangari Praveen



"Indian Chronicle, Jade Srinivas. March, 06. "Kagaznagar, Komaram Bheem Asifabad District: "A program was organized in Kagaznagar mandal under the leadership of District President Vangari Praveen of the RTI Protection Society. On this occasion, Sirpur Constituency President Madas Nagesh handed over appointment letters to Basika Satyanarayana of Bhattupalli village as a Sirpur constituency committee member, and to Gagan Roy of Isgaon village as a Kagaznagar mandal committee member. "Speaking on the occasion, Vangari Praveen stated that the Right to Information Act is a powerful weapon for common people. He emphasized that it is everyone's responsibility to protect the Act from misuse. He further said that the organization's main objective is to create awareness among people about the Act and to promote transparency in governance. "He also advised officials to ensure that accurate information is provided to the public on time and to work with commitment towards public welfare without misusing or diverting the Act. "[16:05, 6/4/2026] +91 99485 55073: End..

Development Works Launched in Uppal Hills Kurmanagar at a Cost of 2.5 Crore



— Works inspected by Parameshwar Reddy and former corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy. "KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 6 (Indian Chronicle): "Development works are progressing rapidly in the Uppal division. Former Uppal corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy has been closely monitoring the works on a regular basis. As part of this, on Monday, constituency Congress in-charge Parameshwar Reddy along with Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy toured Uppal Hills extensively. They inspected the ongoing development works along with local residents in Uppal Hills Colony, Samadhan Society, and Kurmanagar. The works include construction of CC roads at a cost of ₹1.72 crore and underground drainage development works worth ₹72 lakh. New drainage systems are being constructed to prevent drainage problems in Uppal Hills and Kurmanagar. Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy stated that the CC road works will be completed soon. "Several local leaders and residents including Durgam Naveen, Abbayya, Sudhakar Yadav, Govind Kumaraswamy, Srinivas Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Mahender, Govind Kumar Raju Chari, Srinivas Goud, Govindu, M. Sudhakar Reddy, Satyanarayana Chari, Akku Ravi, T. Srinivas Reddy, P. Mahender, K. Beeraya, Amruth Raj Kumar, Amruth Ramesh, K. Ramesh Yadav, K. Madhu, Govind Komurayya, Swami, Vimal, Hussain Kumar Venkatesh (Auto Chandu), Poola Chandu, Srinivas Nares, K. Raju, Kesani Mallesh, Sandeep, Narasimha Goud, Mallayya, Ellayya, Krishna, and others participated in the program.

Tributes Paid on the 36th Death Anniversary of Comrade B.T. Ranadive



Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas. April, 06. "Under the aegis of CITU, tributes were paid to veteran trade union leader Comrade B.T. Ranadive on the occasion of his 36th death anniversary at the Hamali workers' adda in Sirpur Town mandal, Kurmanagar Bheem Asifabad district. Floral tributes were offered to his portrait by workers and leaders. "Speaking on the occasion, CITU District Joint Secretary Velishala Krishnamachari said that Comrade B.T. Ranadive (Balachandra Trimbak Ranadive) was a ??? leader of the Indian communist movement and an extraordinary fighter. Born on December 19, 1904, in Bombay (Maharashtra), he actively participated in the freedom struggle against British rule and led several movements for workers' rights. "He played a key role in organizing trade unions in Bombay and dedicated his life to the welfare of the working class. From its formation in 1970 until 1991, he served as the President of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU). His selfless commitment was such that he even prioritized workers' struggles over personal matters, setting an example for the entire working class. Though B.T. Ranadive is no longer with us, his ideals continue to inspire. It was stated that the labour laws and rights achieved through great sacrifices are now being weakened by the policies of the present rulers. While corporate wealth is rapidly increasing, issues like poverty, hunger, unemployment, and farmers' suicides are also on the rise. "In this context, he emphasized that building a broad and united workers' movement against anti-people policies is the true tribute to Comrade B.T. Ranadive. Leaders of the Telangana All Hamali Workers Union (CITU), including Ramesh, "Ganesh, Mahesh, "Suresh, Akash, Satish and others, participated in the program."

Grand Celebration of BJP's 46th Foundation Day in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division



"KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 6 (Indian Chronicle): "On the occasion of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Foundation Day, celebrations were held grandly on Monday in the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division. "Under the leadership of Division General Secretary Chelloju Ellachari, the party flag was hoisted in Venkat Reddy Nagar, Vivek Nagar, and Balakrishna Nagar areas. "Speaking on the occasion, senior leaders stated that disciplined and patriotic workers are the true strength of the party, and called upon everyone to further strengthen the party from the booth level. "Senior BJP leaders including Gaddam Saikiran, Vemulakonda Somashekar Goud, Praveen Kumar, Daram Venkatesh Gupta, Avula Sudhakar, Ragi Venkat Reddy,

Vemula Venkat Reddy, Poreddy Maheshwar Reddy, Illitam Narasimha Reddy, Padigam Nagesh, Parupalli Hanumantha Rao, Pisari Shankar, Poojari Somaiah Goud, Akkenapalli Venkateshwar Chari, Pentavalli Venkanna, Poola Krishna, Pentaji, Anjaiah Patel, Ashok Raja, Rapolu Sai Kumar, Jagadeesh Chari, CH Ramulu, Srinivas, senior woman leader Balamani, Mahila Morcha President Ragi Latha Reddy, Gaddam Bhavani, Musigampala Shiva Kumar Goud, Sudarshan Reddy, Pabbala Ramu, Venkat Sai, Kalkamalla Lingam, Jetta Sai, Dheeraj, Venkateshwarlu, Govind, Box Haribabu, Soudam Mahesh, and a large number of party workers participated and made the event a success.

Officials seize 48 LPG cylinders used for commercial purposes in Jagtial

Jagtial: Civil Supplies and revenue department officials seized 48 subsidised LPG cylinders for utilisation for commercial purposes in Korutla on Monday. In the wake of illegal utilisation of subsidised gas cylinders for commercial purposes across the State in the recent past, officials carried out surprise checks in hostels and tiffin centres in the town.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA											
Revenue (LA) Department											
COLLECTORATE: MAHABUBNAGAR											
PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION											
FORM-VI											
(See sub-rule (1) of rule-19 and Section-11(1) of the Act-30/2013)											
No. Rev/0001/2026-G-Section: _____ Dated: 03.2026											
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/ District Collector that an extent of total Ac. 2.3112 qts of land is required in the Shakapur Village of Addakal Mandal, Mahabubnagar District for public purpose, namely for excavation of Distributary-13 of Major on Ghanpur Branch Canal under Mahatma Gandhi Kawakurthi Lift Irrigation Scheme. The Government of Ms. No. 51, Irrigation & CAD (LA R&R/A2) Department dt. 25.07.2017 exempted the Mahatma Gandhi Lift Irrigation Scheme from the application of the provisions of Chapter-II & III of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013. Therefore Social Impact Assessment Study has not been carried out as required U/s 4(1) of the said Act. No families are likely to be displaced due to the Land Acquisition. The Additional Collector (Revenue) is appointed as Project Administrator for the purpose of Rehabilitation and Resettlement of the affected families.											
Therefore it is notified that for the above said project in the Shakapur Village of Addakal Mandal, Mahabubnagar District a piece of land measuring more or less 2.3112 qts. of standard measure, whose detailed description is as following, is under acquisition:											
Village: Shakapur Mandal: Addakal District: Mahabubnagar											
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Dry/ I/D/ Wet	Type of land	Area proposed under Acquisition (in aces) Ac. Gts.	Name & Address of Person interested	Boundaries				Trees	Structures
						N	S	E	W		
1	72	Dry	Patta	0.04	Madda Shan thamma W/o Chinnala	71	74	VB	73	-	-
2	72	Dry	Patta	0.03	Chinna Balaiah S/o Veeranna	71	74	VB	73	-	-
3	72	Dry	Patta	0.02	Nanne Saheb S/o Sangisab	71	74	VB	73	-	-
4	72	Dry	Patta	0.02	Katal Ahamed S/o Mahabub Ali	71	74	VB	73	-	-
5	72	Dry	Patta	0.02	Sangab S/o Sangisab	71	74	VB	73	-	-
6	72	Dry	Patta	0.02	Dhada Saheb S/o Katal Ahamed	71	74	VB	73	-	-
7	72	Dry	Patta	0.03	Andotikar Srinivas S/o Bajrang	71	74	VB	73	-	-
8	73	Dry	Patta	0.05	Kummari Buchanna S/o Galanna	71	74	73	76	-	-
9	73	Dry	Patta	0.04	Boyakavali Laxmanamma W/o Rajanna	71	74	73	76	-	-
10	73	Dry	Patta	0.04	Boya Rajanna S/o Pedda Kurmaiah	71	74	73	76	-	-
11	74	Dry	Patta	0.051/2	Vedamshu A. Products Private Limited Dairy K.S.S. Anapureshwari W/o K. Sravanthi	75	VB	VB	113	-	-
12	75	Dry	Patta	0.03	Harjan Chinnu Naganna S/o Balaiah	70	74	73	76	-	-
13	75	Dry	Patta	0.03	Godha Kavitha W/o Venkat Ramulu	70	74	73	76	-	-
13	75	Dry	Patta	0.03	Vattam Chennalaiah S/o Balaiah	70	74	73	76	-	-
14	75	Dry	Patta	0.03	Nellikondi Satyanarayana S/o Sai	70	74	73	76	-	-
15	75	Dry	Patta	0.03	Nellikondi Sai Kumar S/o Rama Krishna Guardian: Avelamma	70	74	73	76	-	-
16	75	Dry	Patta	0.03	Kavali Shiva Kumar S/o K. Venkataiah	70	74	73	76	-	-
17	75	Dry	Patta	0.03	Kavali Naga raju S/o K. Venkataiah	70	74	73	76	-	-
18	76	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Kondalaih S/o Kankaiah	70	74	75	77	-	-
19	76	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Narayana S/o Kankaiah	70	74	75	77	-	-
20	76	Dry	Patta	0.03	Madda Ramulu S/o Kankaiah	70	74	75	77	-	-
21	76	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Basappa S/o Venkataiah	70	74	75	77	-	-
22	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Srinivasulu S/o Nagaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
23	113	Dry	Patta	0.01/2	Madda Kur mura S/o Anjaneyulu	77	VB	74	114	-	-
24	113	Dry	Patta	0.01/2	Madda Kupe ndar S/o Venkataiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
25	113	Dry	Patta	0.01/2	Madda Thiru patala S/o Anjaneyulu	77	VB	74	114	-	-
26	113	Dry	Patta	0.01/2	Madda Raju S/o Balaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
27	113	Dry	Patta	0.01/2	M. Anjaneyulu S/o Balaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
28	113	Dry	Patta	0.01/2	Madda Basappa S/o Mallaiiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
29	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Mallaiiah S/o Kankaiah (No Record)	77	VB	74	114	-	-
30	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Mallesh S/o Kankaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
31	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Pushpa W/o Kurmuthy	77	VB	74	114	-	-
32	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Papanna S/o Sayanna	77	VB	74	114	-	-
33	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Golla Madda S/o Kankaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
34	113	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Ram chardraiah S/o Sayanna	77	VB	74	114	-	-
35	113	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Mahesh S/o Ramak	77	VB	74	114	-	-
36	113	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Shiva Kumar S/o Madda Ramulu	77	VB	74	114	-	-
37	113	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Chennalaih S/o Sayanna	77	VB	74	114	-	-
38	113	Dry	Patta	0.02	Madda Mallaiiah S/o Ramchand raiiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
39	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Anjaneyulu S/o Nagaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
40	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Parvath Rai S/o Nagaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
41	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Mallaiiah S/o Nagaiah	77	VB	74	114	-	-
42	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Srinivasulu S/o Kanakanna	77	VB	74	114	-	-
43	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	B. Rameshwari W/o J. Suresh	77	VB	74	114	-	-
44	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Thirupathamma W/o Srekar	77	VB	74	114	-	-
45	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Balraj S/o Seetharamulu	77	VB	74	114	-	-
46	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Ramesh S/o Seetharamulu	77	VB	74	114	-	-
47	113	Dry	Patta	0.01	Madda Ravi S/o Seetharamulu	77	VB	74	114	-	-
48	114	Dry	Patta	0.04	Godda Dharmadar Goud S/o Pedda Rajanna	112	VB	113	115	-	-
49	114	Dry	Patta	0.03	Godda Srinivas S/o Istiaiah	112	VB	113	115	-	-
50	114	Dry	Patta	0.04	Godda Laxman S/o Venkataiah	112	VB	113	115	-	-
51	114	Dry	Patta	0.03	Godda Raju Goud S/o Dadanna	112	VB	113	115	-	-
52	114	Dry	Patta	0.03	Godda Srinivasulu S/o Dadanna	112	VB	113	115	-	-
Total:						2.3112					
This notification is made under the provisions of Section 11(1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act of 2013 (Act No.30 of 2013) to all whom it may concern.											
A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Mahabubnagar & Special Deputy Collector LA R&R, Unit-II, Irrigation Project, Mahabubnagar on any working day during the working hours. The District Collector, Mahabubnagar Collector - cum - appropriate Government is pleased to authorize the Special Deputy Collector LA R&R, Unit-II, Irrigation Project, Mahabubnagar and his staff to enter upon and survey land, take levels of any land, dig or bore into the sub-soil & do all other acts required for the proper execution of their work as provided and specified in section (12) of the said Act.											
Under section 11(4) of the Act, no person shall make any transactions or cause any transactions of land, i.e. sale, purchase, etc., or create any encumbrances on such land from the date of publication of such notification without the prior approval of the Collector.											
Objections to the acquisition, if any, may be filed by the person interested within 60 (sixty) days from the date of publication of this notification as provided under section (15) of the Act before District Collector, Mahabubnagar.											
Sd/-	Special Deputy Collector, LA R&R, Unit-II, Irrigation Projects, Mahabubnagar				Sd/-	Additional Collector (Rev) Mahabubnagar				Sd/-	Distric Collector, Mahabubnagar
DIPR RO.No.08/LA/PPAdvt/Pub/2026-27											

Habsiguda Leaders Meet Medchal-Malkajgiri DCC President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav

“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 6 (Indian Chronicle):“Habsiguda leaders met Medchal-Malkajgiri DCC President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav at his residence and extended their gratitude. Boppanapalli Sudhakar Reddy, who was recently appointed as DCC Vice President, thanked Vajresh Yadav for playing a key role in his selection. On the occasion, he felicitated Vajresh Yadav and expressed his appreciation by offering sweets.“Former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President Kandi Shraavan Kumar Reddy, senior leader Kandi Aagi Reddy, Habsiguda Division General Secretary Dharmaraj Naik, District ST Cell President Ganesh Naik, Division Youth Congress President Vasu Naik, Indiramma Committee Member Gundu Rajanna, Pulla Reddy, and others participated in the program.



Nivrutti De-Addiction Centre Inaugurated at Cherlapalli Central Prison



“Dedicated in-prison facility to address substance abuse“ Comprehensive rehabilitation initiatives for inmates“ Significant step forward in prison reforms“ Medical care and counselling transforming inmate lives“ Expansion of Nivrutti centres across the state“ Skill development and employment support for inmates“ Addiction must be treated as a public health issue“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“CHERLAPALLI: The Nivrutti De-Addiction Centre was inaugurated at Cherlapalli Central Prison on Monday by Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla. Director General of Prisons Dr. Soumya Mishra welcomed the gathering. The event was attended by Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare Department Secretary Anita Ramachandran, Director B. Shailaja, Uppal Zone DCP K. Suresh Kumar, and other officials. Speaking on the occasion, the Governor stated that substance abuse has become a serious social and public health concern and requires a comprehensive approach. He noted that he is aware of the challenges faced by inmates and prison staff and highlighted measures taken to improve prison conditions and staff welfare. He added that several initiatives have been introduced to ensure a more humane environment within prisons. He said the de-addiction centres are in line with the objectives of the national “Nasha Mukta Bharat” programme and will strengthen ef-

orts to eliminate substance abuse in the state. He appreciated the reform-driven approach of the prisons department. Dr. Soumya Mishra said the launch of the centre at Cherlapalli marks an important milestone in prison reforms. She emphasized that addiction should not be treated merely as a criminal issue but as a health condition requiring medical treatment, psychological counselling, and rehabilitation. She informed that Nivrutti centres have been established in central prisons at Chanchalguda, Cherlapalli, Sangareddy, and Nizamabad, as well as in the Special Prison for Women in Hyderabad. These centres are supported by psychologists and social workers. A total of 2,915 inmates have been screened so far, out of which 590 have undergone detailed evaluation and are receiving treatment and counselling. She stated that prisons are gradually transforming into reform institutions, enabling inmates to rebuild their lives with dignity. Following the inauguration, the Governor visited the agricultural colony within Cherlapalli prison and interacted with inmates. He reviewed farming and vocational training activities. He also visited the Area 77 Nature Camp and Adventure Park, developed under a public-private partnership model, and appreciated the initiative for creating employment opportunities and supporting inmate rehabilitation. He further reviewed organic farming, beekeeping, and other activities, noting their role in promoting skill development and discipline among inmates. Senior officials of the prisons department and staff were present at the programme.

BJP FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATED ON A GRAND SCALE

Hyderabad, Mar 6 :: Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao today urged every worker in Telangana to act as a voice for the people and protect democracy.“ He was addressing a gathering after hoisting party flag at state party office on the occasion of 47th Sthapana Diwas (foundation day). The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Foundation Day was celebrated on a grand scale at the state party headquarters here. “ The BJP State President called upon every worker to be a partner in building a strong, self-reliant “Viksit Bharat” under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.“ He stated that the BJP has grown into the world’s largest political force today due to the selfless sacrifice and dedication of millions of workers. He extended his heartfelt thanks to every worker who contributed to this growth. He remarked that this is not just a day for celebrations but a proud day to reaffirm commitment to the ideology of “Nation First.”“ Rao said that the party is marching forward irresistibly on the foundations laid by great leaders like Syama Prasad

Mukherjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.“ The event saw the participation of former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, BJP National Leader Muralidhar Rao, BJP Floor Leader in the Legislative Council AVN Reddy, MLC Malka Komuriah, BJP State Organizational General Secretary Chandrasekhar Tiwari, and other prominent leaders and workers in large numbers.“ Meanwhile, BJP National President Nitin Nabin called BJP State President Ramchander Rao to extend his greetings on the occasion of the BJP Foundation Day. He conveyed his best wishes to the people of Telangana and the party workers.“ He expressed his desire for the Bharatiya Janata Party to strengthen itself in Telangana and emerge victorious in the upcoming elections. He urged party leaders and workers to reach out to the public and seek their blessings.“ He stated that the National Leadership believes the BJP is emerging as the only alternative in Telangana and is optimistic about the party coming into power in the state.“

Mega Health Camp to Mark World Health Day - Puppala Bhaskar

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“On the occasion of World Health Day, a mega health camp is being organized under the leadership of GHMC Division President Puppala Bhaskar, with support from Malla Reddy Nursing Institutions. The camp will be held on April 7 at 10:00 AM at Maruti Medical Hall X Roads, Sanjay Gandhi Nagar, Shapur Nagar. BRS Party Whip and MLA KP Vivekananda, District President and MLC Shambhipur Raju, and former corporator Mantri Satyanarayana will attend the event as chief guests. Key highlights of the programme include a special awareness skit on dengue conducted by nursing students of Malla Reddy Institutions, and free medical check-ups by expert



doctors. Residents of the division are encouraged to make use of this opportunity and take a step towards building a healthier community.

Grand BJP 47th Foundation Day celebrations

““Flag hoisted by contested MLA candidate Dr. Kambampati Pulla Rao, District Publicity Secretary Balne Jagan ““Devulapally Srinivas, Warangal Bureau (Narsampet), April 6 (Indian Chronicle): The 47th Foundation Day celebrations of the BJP were held grandly on Monday. In this program organized under the leadership of town’s 152 booth presidents Ramesh Pandya and Madlapelli Kranthi, Narsampet contested MLA candidate Dr. Kambampati Pulla Rao and District Publicity Secretary Balne Jagan attended, hoisted the flag, and conveyed their greetings. ““On this occasion, Dr. Pulla Rao stated that the Bharatiya Janata Party, established on April 6, 1980, under the leadership of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has today emerged as the party with the largest number of members in the world. He said that the BJP’s ideology of “Nation First, Party Next, Self Last” has made it an unbeatable force. Starting with just two MPs, the BJP has now grown to a position of ruling the country, forming the central government three consecutive times. He mentioned that the party will continue forward without betraying the trust and confidence placed in it by the people of the country. ““He further stated that the Modi government at the center has given top priority to national security and the country’s development, and since coming to power in 2014, it has been moving forward



in a planned manner to provide permanent solutions in every sector. He extended Foundation Day greetings to all the people of the country. ““Koonamalla Prithvi Raj, Panjala Sriram, Thagur Shivanjan Singh, Damera Akash, Kanuka Ganesh, and others participated in the program.

Anti-Mosquito Drive Intensified in Kapra; Oil Balls Released in Stagnant Water

“NARRA SRINIVAS REDDY (NSR) Medchal - Malkajgiri Staff Reporter, April 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Kapra: As part of the 99-day Praja Palana Pragathi programme, mosquito control measures were carried out in Kapra Circle on Monday as per official instructions. Under the supervision of the Kapra Circle Deputy Commissioner, teams conducted inspections across multiple colonies and identified stagnant water sources and ponds that could support mosquito breeding. Oil balls and anti-larval chemicals were applied in these areas. Fogging operations are also being planned during evening hours, according to Deputy Commissioner Srihari. In Vambuguda, Mithila, and Lakshmi Nagar areas, action was taken at Rambagh Apartments, which has around 120 flats. Uncovered septic tanks and open manholes were identified as major breeding sources. Insecticides were sprayed and oil balls were released into septic tanks to control mosquito larvae. An awareness programme was conducted for apartment association members and residents on mosquito prevention measures. The drive was carried out in the presence of Entomology AE Ramesh, Sanitary Supervisor Sudarshan, and entomology staff. Officials advised residents to prevent water stagnation in their surroundings and to observe a weekly “Dry Day” every Friday. Use of mosquito nets and other preventive measures was also recommended to avoid mosquito bites.



Work should be done in coordination to build a healthy society – District Collector “P. Pravinya“Sangareddy



Indian chronicle correspondent Sunil. April 06:- As part of the Public Administration Progress Plan, the District Collector Praveenya advised the officers to make the “Health Week” programs being organized in the district a success in a coordinated manner and to work towards increasing health awareness among the people.“The Collector held a district task force meeting at the Collector Camp Office on Monday on the “Health Week” programs being organized from 6 to 11 this month with the aim of strengthening health services in the district and increasing health awareness among the people.“Officers from the District Medical and Health Department, Drugs Control, Food Safety, Women and Child Welfare Department, Police De-

partment, and principals of medical and nursing colleges participated in this meeting.“The Collector reviewed the programs to be organized daily during the Health Week, district-level activities, and measures to create awareness among the people and gave directions.“Speaking on the occasion, the Collector advised that all departments should organize the Health Week programs to be held from April 6 to 11 in a coordinated manner. He said that steps should be taken to ensure widespread participation of the people, public representatives, women and youth in the respective programs. He suggested that rallies should be organized widely on the occasion of World Health Day to create awareness among the people on health.“As part of the Health Week, “April 6 is Food Safety Day, 7th is World Health Day, 8th is Safe Motherhood Day, 9th is AIDS Awareness & Prevention Day“10th is Homeopathy and AYUSH Day“11th is Drug Control Strengthening Day“The officials were instructed to provide complete awareness to the people on the relevant issues during the programs. He advised the District Medical and Health Department Officer to submit a report with photos and details on the programs conducted every day.“Additional Collector Pandu, DM&HO Vasant Rao, Deputy DM&HO, GGH Superintendent Muralikrishna, DCHS Kavitha, program officers, Dr. Naganirmala, Dr. Shashank, DWO Lalitha Kumari, Drug Control, Food Safety, Prison Department officials and others participated in this meeting.

Former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj Inspects CC Road Works Worth 23 Lakhs in Sitarama Colony



Former Corporator Bannala Geetha fulfills her promise“KISHORE VADDEPALLI, Uppal, April 6 (Indian Chronicle):“On Monday, former Chilkanaagar Division Corporator and GHMC Standing Committee Member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj inspected the ongoing CC road construction works in Sitarama Colony of Beerappa Gadda Division, being undertaken at a cost of ₹23 lakhs.“Speaking on the occasion, Geetha Praveen Mudiraj stated that she is committed to fulfilling every promise made during the



elections in Sitarama Colony and is moving forward accordingly. She also instructed the contractor to strictly adhere to quality standards during the construction and warned that any delays in the work would lead to strict action.“The program was attended by BRS party state leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Kokkonda Jagan, Eddula Kondal Reddy, Ramanjaneyulu, Muddam Srinivas Yadav, Balakrishna Goud, Shivakumar, Suresh, Pale Venu, Beerappa Gadda Balu, Shyam, and others.

BJP FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATED ON A GRAND SCALE

Hyderabad, Mar 6 :: Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao today urged every worker in Telangana to act as a voice for the people and protect democracy.

He was addressing a gathering after hoisting party flag at state party office on the occasion of 47th Shapana Diwas (foundation day). The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Foundation Day was celebrated on a grand scale at the state party headquarters here. The BJP State President called upon every worker to be a partner in building a strong, self-reliant 'Viksit Bharat' under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He stated that the BJP has grown into the world's largest political force today due to the selfless sacrifice and dedication of millions of workers. He extended his heartfelt thanks to every worker who contributed to this growth. He remarked that this is not just a day for celebrations but a proud day to reaffirm commitment to the ideology of "Nation First."

Rao said that the party is marching forward irresistibly on the foundations laid by great leaders like Syama Prasad

Mukherjee, Deendayal Upadhyaya and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The event saw the participation of former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, BJP National Leader Muralidhar Rao, BJP Floor Leader in the Legislative Council AVN Reddy, MLC Malka Komuriah, BJP State Organizational General Secretary Chandrasekhar Tiwari, and other prominent leaders and workers in large numbers. Meanwhile, BJP National President Nitin Nabin called BJP State President Ramchander Rao to extend his greetings on the occasion of the BJP Foundation Day. He conveyed his best wishes to the people of Telangana and the party workers.

He expressed his desire for the Bharatiya Janata Party to strengthen itself in Telangana and emerge victorious in the upcoming elections. He urged party leaders and workers to reach out to the public and seek their blessings.

He stated that the National Leadership believes the BJP is emerging as the only alternative in Telangana and is optimistic about the party coming into power in the state.

Be alert to the intensity of summer – comprehensive measures should be taken to prevent heatstroke District Collector P. Pravinya “Sanga Reddy



April 6:-indian chronicle correspondent Sunil."In view of the rising temperatures during the summer, District Collector Praveenya has instructed the officers to take preventive measures in coordination with all departments so that people do not suffer from heatstroke. He clarified that raising awareness among the people is of utmost importance."Speaking at a meeting held at the Collectorate Grievance Hall on Monday after receiving complaints, the Collector suggested that measures should be taken in advance as temperatures are likely to be higher than usual this time. He said that a task force committee has been formed at the district level."The CPO was instructed to share the heat wave temperature report with the district officers' group every day. He said that drinking water should be made available in labor camps and workplaces so that workers and the general public do not suffer from the heat."He advised the district medical and health department officers to keep ORS packets in abundance in all the Basti Dawakhanas, PHCs and CHCs in the district. He also asked for steps to be taken to ensure that ORS packets are available in Anganwadi centers, health centers,

Gurukuls, and dormitories. He instructed the DPO to give instructions to the Panchayat Secretaries to ensure that 100-200 ORS packets are available in every Gram Panchayat office."He said that a wide campaign should be conducted on the topics of "What to do and what not to do" on the prevention of sunstroke and that awareness should be created among the people at all sub-center levels. He suggested that health staff should provide advice to the people from time to time."He said that since mainly agricultural laborers, employment-guaranteed workers, those working in industries, and construction workers are at high risk of sunstroke, special attention should be paid to providing them with necessary facilities. He ordered to set up cold centers at workplaces, bus stands, and industries."He suggested that Municipal Commissioners and MPDOs should set up cold centers wherever necessary within their jurisdiction and provide relief to the people. Collector Praveenya asked the officials to work with dedication so that people do not suffer from heatstroke anywhere in the district."Additional Collectors Madhuri, Pandu, Sub-Collector Uma Aarti, District Officers, Revenue Divisional Officers, Municipal Commissioners and others participated in this meeting.

Controversy Over PM SHRI Funds Usage – Allegations of Irregularities at Sirpur(T)ZPHS



"Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas.April, 06."A serious controversy has arisen over the utilization of funds under the PM SHRI (PM Schools for Rising India) scheme at the ZPHS school in Sirpur T mandal. Allegations have surfaced that the funds released by the Central Government for school development were misused in violation of established guidelines. According to PM SHRI guidelines, all school-related expenditures must be recorded through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS). Vendor selection must also be transparent, and contracts should not be awarded to School Management Committee (SMC) members or their family members to avoid conflict of

interest. However, documents indicate that these norms were allegedly violated at Sirpur T ZPHS. Notably, payments totaling ₹3,91,980 were reportedly made in three installments (₹1,78,500, ₹1,20,000, and ₹93,480) in the name of a family member of the headmaster. This has raised serious concerns about rule violations. Additionally, records reveal payments of ₹2,31,000 to an outsourcing employee, ₹3,28,250 to a Hindi teacher, and several lakhs to other staff members. The lack of clarity in overall fund utilization has further intensified suspicions. As per the guidelines, expenditures exceeding ₹75,000 require quotations, and all payments must be made transparently through bank accounts. However, it is alleged that these procedures were not properly followed. There are also reports that money was collected from students for school development activities. Parents were allegedly burdened with charges for computers, lab equipment, and technology-related works. It is learned that complaints have already been submitted to higher authorities. Locals and parents are demanding a thorough inquiry by district education officials to uncover the facts. Attempts to get a response from the school headmaster and the Mandal Education Officer (MEO) have not yielded any clear explanation. People are urging strict action if transparency in PM SHRI fund usage is not ensured.

Medical Camp Successfully Conducted in Gundala Villag

"Indian Chronicles. Jade Srinivas.April, 06."Tiryani Mandal:"As part of the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika – 99 Days Program, a medical camp was successfully organized at the Gundala Sub-Center under Gundala Gram Panchayat in Tiryani Mandal. The camp was conducted as part of the NCD and Cancer Care Phase-II program. During the camp, villagers were provided with medical services including screening for diabetes (sugar), blood pressure (BP), and cancer. In addition, ENT (Ear, Nose, Throat), eye, and dental check-ups were also conducted. A large number of villagers attended and benefited from these medical services.

The program was attended by Dr. Pallavi (DDO, PHC Rompalli), Dr. Yashwanth (MO PMJANMAN), Anusha (MLHP), Bharati, Sushila, Kanthaleela, HEO, ANMs, and ASHA workers. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Pallavi stated that the main objective of the program is to provide quality healthcare services to rural people under the Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika initiative. She emphasized that early detection of diseases like diabetes, hypertension, and cancer can help prevent serious health complications. She also advised villagers to make good use of such medical camps and take care of their health. At the end of the program, the villagers expressed their gratitude to the medical staff.



District SP Nitika Pant Receives Complaints at Prajavani Program



"Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas.April, 06."During the Prajavani program held on Monday at the Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District Police Office, District SP Nitika Pant personally listened to the grievances of complainants and responded to their concerns. She directed the concerned officials to resolve the issues faced by the public promptly in accordance with the law. On this occasion, a total of 12 complaints were received from people coming from various parts of the district. The SP carefully reviewed each complaint,

understood the seriousness of the issues, and spoke with the concerned police officials over the phone, instructing them to take immediate action. She advised the public to make use of police services without fear or the need for any recommendations or influence. She also encouraged people to utilize the Prajavani program conducted every Monday. SP Nitika Pant stated that the district police department is committed to being more accessible to the public and ensuring the maintenance of law and order.

Massive central funds for a historic temple

-Revival of Kakatiya glory through the efforts of MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya "Devulapally Srinivas, Warangal Bureau, April 6 (Indian Chronicle): Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, who has been working tirelessly for the development of the Warangal parliamentary constituency, has achieved another significant milestone. Her efforts have borne fruit in securing substantial funds from the central government for the development of the historically significant Rudreshwara Swamy "Thousand Pillar Temple" in Hanumakonda. The MP played a key role in getting ₹14.44 crore sanctioned for the development and expansion of the Thousand Pillar Temple, the Kalyana Mandapam within the same?????, and for completing the remaining restoration works. With these funds, work will be undertaken with the aim of restoring the architectural grandeur of the Kakatiya era."The result came from MP Kavya's persistent efforts, including multiple meetings with Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, where she explained the need for the temple's development. Earlier, she personally visited the temple along with Archaeological Department officials to study the restoration requirements and promptly submitted proposals to the Centre. Recently, with the Archaeological Department calling for tenders, the stage is set for the commencement of works. On this occasion, MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya expressed special gratitude to Union Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Archaeological Department officials. She requested that the works be completed swiftly to restore the temple's former glory.



Recalling that she had submitted a request last year seeking approximately ₹15 crore in funds, she stated that the Centre's positive response in allocating ₹14.44 crore is a good sign for Warangal's development. She noted that the development of the Thousand Pillar Temple, a symbol of Kakatiya architectural heritage, would boost tourism as well as support the local economy. With the goal of "development while preserving heritage," the people of the parliamentary constituency expressed their gratitude to MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya for her continuous efforts to bring new projects to Warangal.

Financial Assistance of 37,000 Provided to Victim's Family



Indian Chronicle. Jade Srinivas.April, 06. "A poor married woman, Sonurle Manjula, from Goyagam village in Kerameri mandal of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district, has been suffering from serious health issues for the past two months. Due to kidney swelling, her lungs were affected, and she suffered paralysis, leaving her unable to move her

hands and legs and in a very critical condition. Upon learning about her situation, members of the Phule Seva Samithi visited and consoled the victim. Under the leadership of Samithi President Morle Tirupati, donations were collected to support her medical treatment. "With the help of donors, a total amount of ₹37,000 (Rupees Thirty-Seven Thousand only) was collected and handed over to the victim's family to meet medical expenses."The villagers of Goyagam and the victim's family expressed their heartfelt gratitude to the members of Phule Seva Samithi for extending financial support to a family that depends on daily wages for survival. The program was attended by Phule Seva Samithi members Morle Tirupati, Gurle Srinivas, Morle Pandurang, Chatare Vijay, Morle Sudhakar, Kotranghe Seenu, and villagers Ade Shankar, Sonurle Ramesh, Gautre Emaji, Gautre Kishan, among others.

Inaugural Ceremony of 5-Day IDE Bootcamp (Edition 3 – Phase 1) Held at CMR Engineering College, Hyd



"CMR Engineering College proudly launched the much-awaited IDE Bootcamp Edition 3 - Phase 1 today with a grand inaugural ceremony. The five-day event is being conducted under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education, AICTE, and MoE's Innovation Cell."The ceremony was inaugurated by the distinguished Chief Guest, Mr. Ashok Bagade, Product Manager at Microsoft Inc. The event witnessed the gracious presence of Sri Ch. Srisailam Reddy, Secretary and Correspondent of CMR Engineering College; Dr. A. Srinivasula Reddy, Principal of CMR Engineering College; Dr. Bhemma Lingeshwar Reddy IN, Manager of MoE's Innovation Cell; Dr. Nara Kalyani and Mr. Shyam Perika, resource persons from Wadhawani Foundation; Dr. M. Laxmaiah, SPOC of the IDE Bootcamp; Dr. Suman Mishra, Convener; along with faculty members of CMR Engineering College."In his address, Mr. Ashok Bagade emphasized the importance of innovation-driven entrepreneurship and encouraged participants to leverage the bootcamp as

a launch pad for their ideas. He appreciated the college's commitment to fostering a culture of ideation and problem-solving."Sri Ch. Srisailam Reddy reaffirmed the institution's dedication to nurturing young innovators and thanked the Ministry of Education, AICTE, and MoE's Innovation Cell for their continued support. Dr. A. Srinivasula Reddy motivated the participants to actively engage in all phases of the bootcamp and translate their ideas into impactful solutions."The inaugural session witnessed an enthusiastic response, with over 250 participants along with group mentors in attendance. The bootcamp aims to guide students through the process of idea validation, prototyping, and pitching, with expert mentorship from industry and academic leaders."The event marks a significant step in strengthening the innovation ecosystem at CMR Engineering College and aligns with the national vision of promoting start-up culture and entrepreneurial mindset among students."CMR Engineering College, Hyderabad

PCMC collects property tax revenue of Rs 961 crore for 2025-26



GNS News Agency, April 6

The Tax Collection and Taxation Department of Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) has collected a property tax revenue of Rs 961 crore in the 2025-2026 financial year. "The tax department has recorded a remarkable feat by crossing the Rs 950 crore mark for the second consecutive year," the civic administration said.

Out of 7.32 lakh registered property owners, 6,31,615 have paid their taxes. Mayor Ravi Landge, Commissioner Vijay Suryavanshi, and other office bearers expressed their

gratitude to the honest taxpayers. Currently, there are approximately 7.32 lakh registered properties in Pimpri-Chinchwad, including residential, non-residential, industrial, and others. The number of taxpayers has been increasing annually, showing a positive response from citizens. Last year, the department collected Rs 966 crore. This year, the tax collection staff was involved in municipal election duties for three months, which slightly impacted the overall recovery process, the administration said. "The significant increase in recovery is due to effective planning and providing transparent, easy-to-use facilities for citizens," said Suryavanshi. "After taking charge on February 2, we accelerated our planning and recovered nearly Rs 250 crore in just two months. This collective effort helped us cross the Rs 950 crore milestone again," Sachin Pawar, Deputy Commissioner, PCMC. The tax department initiated rigorous measures over the past year, officials said. These included: "Seizing properties of defaulters and disconnecting water connections." Publishing names of major defaulters in newspapers. "Extensive advertising via hoardings, flyers, social media videos, and loudspeaker announcements in busy public squares." Providing both online and offline payment facilities with various discount schemes. To provide relief to defaulters, the PCMC implemented the Amnesty Scheme.

PCMC registers record service tax collection of Rs 1.1 cr from slum area



GNS News Agency, April 6

This special arrangement was made to ensure easy payment and to avoid any inconvenience to the public, officials said. This special arrangement was made to ensure easy payment and to avoid any inconvenience to the public, officials said. The Slum Eradication and Rehabilitation Department of the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) has achieved a historic feat by collecting a staggering Rs 1,10,60,421 in slum service tax for the financial year 2025-26.

This marks the highest service tax collected in a single financial year over the last five years, the civic administration said today. Mayor Ravi Landge and Municipal Commissioner Vijay Suryavanshi expressed their heartfelt gratitude

to the citizens for this achievement, which was made possible through the municipal corporation's planned recovery campaigns, the administration said.

Under the guidance of Mayor Ravi Landge, Deputy Mayor Sharmila Babar, and Municipal Commissioner Vijay Suryavanshi, and led by Additional Commissioner Trupti Sandbhor and Deputy Commissioner Anna Bodade, the department effectively utilised modern technology for tax collection this year. Convenient facilities were provided for citizens to pay their service tax through both online payment systems and offline methods, the administration said. To assist citizens, the Slum Eradication and Rehabilitation Department office remained open even on weekly and public holidays throughout March 2026. This special arrangement was made to ensure easy payment and to avoid any inconvenience to the public, officials said. Due to these streamlined facilities, PCMC witnessed a record-breaking increase in revenue. "The record-breaking slum service tax recovery is the result of the Municipal Corporation's planned policies and the positive response from citizens. The contribution made by citizens by paying their taxes on time is vital for the city's development," the Mayor said. "Record recovery was made possible this year through the use of modern technology, easy-to-use facilities, and special collection drives. Slum residents have cooperated in the city's development by paying their taxes on time. In the future, PCMC will focus on increasing revenue while providing even more convenient services to citizens," the commissioner said.

Honesty in judiciary not a virtue, but given, says Justice Nath

GNS News Agency, April 6

Stating that honesty in judiciary was not a "distinguishing virtue" but a given, Supreme Court Justice Vikram Nath on Saturday said "celebrating honesty" in judiciary "risks lowering the standards" that the society was entitled to expect. He also said artificial intelligence (AI) had the potential to assist the judiciary, but it was imperative to "clearly define the limits" of AI-use in the judicial process. Justice Nath was delivering the inaugural address at a two-day annual conference of judges of district judiciary and organised by the Gujarat High Court and the Gujarat State Judicial Academy (GSJA). He invoked the concept of "seven lamps of advocacy" described by British judge Justice Edward Abbott Parry, which are honesty, courage, industry, wit, eloquence, judgment and fellowship, to drive home the point that the "pursuit of justice" began at the stage of lawyers and advocates who go on to become judges.

Stating that honesty was the "very foundation" and a "non-negotiable condition" of judicial existence, Justice Nath said: "To describe a judge as honest, as though it were a distinguishing virtue, is in a sense, illogical. Honesty is not an attribute that elevates a judge above others: it is the very foundation upon which the office itself rests. It is a sine qua non, or a non-negotiable condition, of judicial existence. A judge cannot choose to be honest; the system presumes and demands it..." He further contemplated honesty as a virtue and said, "This expression extends to any individual discharging public functions... To celebrate honesty as an exceptional quality risks lowering the standards that the society is entitled to expect. Honesty is not a virtue in judicial office, it is a given. The absence of it is not a shortcoming, it is a disqualification..." Justice Nath also stressed the ethical and institutional responsibility that comes with holding a judicial office. Stating that district judiciary and trial courts form the bedrock of the judicial system, he noted, "The role of a judge often requires taking decisions that may be unpopular, inconvenient or subject to public scrutiny. Judicial independence is not an abstract principle. It is sustained by the courage to uphold the law, even when it is difficult to do so... The 'lamp of industry' judges a student for life, who is constantly learning..."



Justice Nath also delved into the use of AI in judiciary, emphasising the evolving role of technology in justice delivery. Stating that AI can significantly enhance efficiency of the judiciary, he stressed defining their limits. Noting that the virtual hearings during the Covid-19 pandemic marked a significant transition for the judiciary, Justice Nath spoke of the judiciary's digital transformation initiatives, especially the e-Courts Mission Mode Project and the digitisation of court records as well as the introduction of electronic case management systems that provide access to online case information. He said, "In the judicial context, AI has the potential to assist in several areas. It can aid in case management, helping courts organise and prioritise cases more effectively. It can assist in legal research, enabling faster identification of relevant precedents. AI can also facilitate translation and transcription making court proceedings more accessible and efficient..."

However, it is important to clearly define the limits of AI in the judicial process. Justice Nath added, "Adjudication is not a purely mechanical exercise but involves interpretation, discretion, and a nuanced understanding of facts and human circumstances..." "It requires empathy, fairness and a sense of justice that cannot be reduced to algorithmic outputs. AI systems operate on data that is fed into them. If that data contains biases, the outcomes generated may reflect those biases. AI must therefore be viewed as a tool to assist judges, not as a substitute for judicial decision making..."

'Came to visit relatives': Rajasthani man attacked by unidentified assailants in Bengaluru, dies

GNS News Agency, April 6

Unidentified assailants murdered a person who was visiting Bengaluru from Rajasthan. The incident occurred near Balagere Main Road on the intervening night of Friday and Saturday. The deceased, identified as Dala Ram, 26, hailed from Diwandi village in Pali district. According to the police, he had travelled to Bengaluru around five days ago to visit his relatives and was staying in HSR Layout. "The victim was walking when four to five assailants approached him and attacked him with deadly weapons, killing him on the spot," the police said. Sources said Dala Ram attempted to escape after the initial assault but collapsed on the footpath due to severe bleeding. He died at the scene before medical assistance could be provided.

Passersby alerted the police, who shifted the body to a hospital for postmortem examination. A case has been



registered at Varthur police station under Sections 103 (murder) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

Cleaning Yamuna: Trash skimmer machines deployed at Najafgarh drain



GNS News Agency, April 6

As part of its ongoing measures to clean and rejuvenate Yamuna, the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) department on Saturday deployed two advanced dual purpose weed harvester-cum-trash skimmer machines – worth Rs 2.9 crore – at the Najafgarh drain, from where pollutants significantly enter the river. While inaugurating the machines, I&FC Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said, "Cleaning Najafgarh drain is directly linked to cleaning the Yamuna. We are now using modern, Made in India machines aligned with the vision of Swachh Bharat to deliver real, visible change."

Built on a stable catamaran design and equipped with a dual weed-cutting system, these machines can efficiently remove weeds and floating waste in one go. "This ensures continuous cleaning, better water flow, and reduced water-logging. Our focus is clear-efficient systems, effective execution, and outcomes that people can see on the ground," Singh said. The Najafgarh drain has long carried floating waste, invasive weeds, and untreated pollutants into the Yamuna. By targeting the problem at its source, these machines are expected to significantly reduce the pollutant load entering the river while also improving drainage efficiency across the city, officials said. Powered by a 112 HP engine and equipped with a storage capacity of approximately 14 cubic meters, the machines can cut, collect, and remove dense aquatic vegetation such as water hyacinth along with floating trash, they added.

"Built with marine-grade steel, they are designed for durability across varied water conditions, including shallow stretches. Their advanced conveyor system ensures continuous harvesting and unloading, enabling faster and uninterrupted operations," said an official. "Beyond routine maintenance, the deployment will strengthen flood preparedness ahead of the monsoon while contributing meaningfully to the larger mission of Yamuna cleaning," the official added.

Bengaluru IPL theft case: 13 apprehended, including 9 juveniles; 75 mobile phones recovered

GNS News Agency, April 6

The Bengaluru city police Saturday informed that they have arrested four people and apprehended nine minors in connection with a series of mobile phone thefts reported during the IPL match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on March 28. According to the police, 75 mobile phones have been recovered so far, including 70 stolen devices and five phones belonging to the accused that were used to coordinate the offences.

The case was registered at the Cubbon Park Police Station following multiple complaints from spectators on the day of the match. The police said the first breakthrough came on March 31, when one of the key accused, Shubham Kumar, 26, was apprehended along with seven minors. Based on their interrogation, 21 stolen mobile phones were recovered. Kumar was produced before a court and taken into police custody, while the minors were sent to a government observation home on the directions of the Juvenile Justice Board. Subsequently, three more accused – identified as Eshal Kumar, 23, Sanjeeth Kumar, 24, and Sohan Kumar – were nabbed along with two minors, taking the total number of those apprehended to 13. The three adult accused were produced before the court and remanded in police custody. On April 3, further interrogation led to the recovery of additional stolen devices, pushing the total number to 75 mobile phones.

The probe revealed that the accused, all hailing from Jharkhand, operated as a coordinated gang. They allegedly wore RCB jerseys to blend in with the crowd and targeted spectators in densely crowded areas inside and around the stadium. According to investigators, the gang gained entry into the stadium using tickets that were either stolen from spectators or sourced through unauthorised channels.



The accused allegedly carried out thefts at multiple locations – inside the stadium, near entry and exit gates, outside the premises, and even around nearby metro stations. Police sources said the minors, who are from Jharkhand, were brought to Bengaluru by a handler for the operation and were paid Rs 5,000 each to steal mobile phones. Their travel, food, and accommodation were allegedly arranged by the gang. "The accused coordinated and directed the movement of the minors brought to Bengaluru for the thefts," a police source said, adding that Shubham Kumar is believed to be the 'mukhiya' or key handler of the group. Investigators also suspect links to similar mobile theft cases reported during IPL matches in Chennai and Mumbai. Police teams were sent to both cities to gather further information and establish possible inter-city connections. Further investigation is ongoing, and efforts are underway to identify other members of the network and return the recovered phones to their rightful owners. Meanwhile, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh appealed to the public to remain vigilant. "We are strengthening our crime teams, increasing CCTV coverage, and displaying cautionary messages, including on screens during intervals," he added.

Hydroponic weed of Rs 33L seized at Pune Airport

GNS News Agency, April 6

Officials said the contraband was found in two transparent vacuum sealed packets wrapped with carbon paper from inside. Officials said the contraband was found in two transparent vacuum sealed packets wrapped with carbon paper from inside. Customs department officials seized hydroponic weed worth Rs 33.6 lakh from a passenger at Pune International Airport on Friday.

As per a press release issued Saturday, based on profiling, officers from the Air Intelligence Unit at Pune International Airport intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok on Air India Express Flight on Friday. A search of his hand bag revealed the presence of hydroponic weed – which is marijuana grown using hydroponic techniques.

Officials said the contraband was found in two transparent vacuum sealed packets wrapped with carbon paper from inside. "The contraband was seized, and the passenger was arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985. Further investigation is ongoing," the press release stated. Last month, on March 26, the Customs officials had seized hydroponic weed worth Rs 26.8 crore found in an import consignment of "food items of Chinese origin", which arrived at the Pune International Airport from Thailand. As stated in the press release, the goods in this consignment were declared as "Mandarin or-



ange Sacs' and were packed in white thermocol boxes. Also, on March 3, the Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs Department at Pune International Airport seized 745 gram of hydroponic weed, estimated to be worth Rs 74.5 lakh, from the lavatory of an Air India Express Bangkok-Pune flight. On February 11, the Customs Department had arrested a suspect at Pune International Airport for allegedly possessing 5.429 kg of hydroponic weed valued at Rs 5.42 crore in the illicit market. The suspect had arrived from Bangkok by an Air India Express flight. Contraband was stored in transparent packets inside five toy boxes in his luggage bag, officials seized.

'Laws of Sikh Gurdwaras in India': Book goes beyond Sikh Gurdwaras Act of 1925

GNS News Agency, April 6

The event, held under the aegis of the Gujranwala Khalsa Educational Council, brought together scholars, academicians and students for an engaging and insightful deliberation on the legal frameworks governing gurdwaras in India. The event, held under the aegis of the Gujranwala Khalsa Educational Council, brought together scholars, academicians and students for an engaging and insightful deliberation on the legal frameworks governing gurdwaras in India. (File Photo)

A discussion on a book "Laws of Sikh Gurdwaras in India" authored by Dr Kashmir Singh was held at the Centre for Punjab Studies of Gujranwala Guru Nanak Khalsa College in Ludhiana on Saturday. The event, held under the aegis of the Gujranwala Khalsa Educational Council, brought together scholars, academicians and students for an engaging and insightful deliberation on the legal frameworks governing gurdwaras in India. Dr SP Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) and president of the Council, said that unlike many existing works, this volume goes beyond the Sikh Gurdwaras Act

1925 and presents a comprehensive compilation of various legal provisions related to Sikh religious institutions across different regions.

The keynote speaker, Dr Kehar Singh, former chairman of the Punjab School Education Board, elaborated on the legal structures governing gurdwaras in regions such as Nanded, Patna Sahib, Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, emphasising the diversity and complexity of these frameworks. He appreciated the author's effort in not only compiling these laws but also providing critical commentary and well-reasoned conclusions, which add depth and clarity to the subject. He said the book serves as an important reference for researchers, legal scholars and those interested in Sikh institutional history. Author Dr Kashmir Singh spoke about the evolution of the book from his doctoral research. He noted that the work is the result of years of rigorous study, fieldwork, and dedication. He emphasised the challenges of collecting dispersed legal material and presenting it in a coherent, accessible manner. He expressed hope that the book would contribute meaningfully to academic discourse and policy understanding on gurdwaras.

Diplomatic spat between India and Poland as Foreign Ministers spar over Pakistan and Russia



GNS News Agency, April 6

India and Poland sparred over their respective regional rivals as External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Polish Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Radoslaw Sikorski aired their differences over Pakistan and Russia on Monday (January 19, 2026) as the two Ministers met for talks in New Delhi. Taking aim at Poland's renewed ties with Pakistan, Mr. Jaishankar told visiting Mr. Sikorski that India expects its partners not to help "fuel" terrorism in the neighbourhood. Mr. Jaishankar also delivered a severe message to the visiting dignitary about the European Union's sanctions against India's trade and oil imports from Russia, calling it "selective targeting". In televised opening remarks at the Hyderabad House, Mr. Jaishankar said he wanted to "discuss some of [Mr. Sikorski's] recent travels to the region", a direct reference to the Polish FM's visit to Pakistan in October 2025, where he had met Pakistan's top leadership. The visit to Pakistan by Mr. Sikorski appears to have upset the government as it came a few months after the India-Pakistan conflict in May. "Poland should display zero tolerance for terrorism and not help fuel the terrorist infrastructure in our neighbourhood," Mr. Jaishankar said. Mr. Sikorski is a former journalist who covered the war in Afghanistan in 1986-1989 and spent considerable time in Pakistan. Mr. Jaishankar said he was "no stranger to the region", and would be "certainly familiar with the longstanding challenge of cross-border terrorism".

Speaking to reporters after the meeting at Hyderabad House, Mr. Sikorski said that the conversation about India and Poland's respective regions had been "frank", and said that while the two sides agreed on concerns over terrorism, India's participation in "Zapad-2025" military exercises in Russia and Belarus was seen as "threatening". Regional

concerns "We all have regional concerns and we all have neighbours, and with neighbours you have opportunities and challenges," Mr. Sikorski said, adding that on terrorism India and Poland are of "one mind". "We also have concerns. India took part in the Zapad exercises in Russia that we find threatening," he stated. The exchange of differences between Delhi and Warsaw was seen as unusual given that the two countries have been improving relations in recent years, and India and the European Union are close to a major trade agreement next week. The visit by the Polish Minister is the first since Mr. Modi visited Warsaw in August 2024, from where he travelled to Ukraine as well. During talks, Mr. Jaishankar turned to the issue of India's imports of Russian oil that he said Mr. Sikorski had been speaking about "publicly" during his visit. In Jaipur on Monday (January 19, 2026), the Polish Foreign Minister had said that he was "pleased" that India had cut its purchase of Russian oil, and added, during an interview with The Hindu, that he hoped India shares the view that "principles still matter", while criticising Russian President Vladimir Putin for his actions in Ukraine.

Sources said that New Delhi had also taken exception to Mr. Sikorski's comments in Paris earlier this month on the sidelines of the "Weimar Triangle" talks when the Polish Foreign Minister had said that he was "satisfied" by India's reduction of Russian oil imports "because this is financing the war machine of Putin".

"I have repeatedly underlined that the selective targeting of India is both unfair and unjustified. I do so again today," Mr. Jaishankar told Mr. Sikorski, referring to the comments and possibly to the EU's decision to sanction Nayara energy, a partially Russian-owned refinery in India in July 2025, as well as other Indian companies for their imports.

Trade push India and Poland have increased trade 200% in the past decade to \$7 billion and both sides have plans to increase direct flights, trade and technology cooperation. The Polish Deputy PM's visit is one of a number of other visits this month by high-level European leaders, including the German Chancellor and France's National Security Adviser, just ahead of the visit by the EU's top leadership for the Republic Day Parade and the EU-India Summit next week. MEA officials did not respond to queries about whether the issue of "selective targeting" of India would also be raised with the European Commission and Council Presidents Ursula Von der Leyen and Antonia Costa during talks next week.

Bangladesh says most incidents involving minorities in 2025 were non-communal

GNS News Agency, April 6

The statement issued by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus Press Wing came days after India, on January 9, pressed Dhaka to "swiftly and firmly" deal with attacks on minorities in Bangladesh and described as "troubling" the attempts to attribute the incidents to extraneous reasons. New Delhi's reaction had come against the backdrop of the killing of several Hindu individuals in Bangladesh in the last few weeks. Citing a yearlong review of official police records, the interim government said a total of 645 incidents involving minority communities were recorded between January and December 2025 across Bangladesh. "While every incident is a matter of concern, the data presents a clear and evidence-based picture: the overwhelming majority of cases were criminal in nature rather than communal," it said. According to the statement posted on the Chief Adviser's verified social media handle, of the 645 incidents, 71 were identified as having communal elements. These included 38 cases of temple vandalism, eight of arson, one of theft, one murder and 23 other incidents such as threats to break idols, provocative social media posts and damage to worship pavilions.

Police cases were filed in 50 of these incidents, and arrests were made in an equal number, while other preventive or investigative measures were taken in 21 cases, the statement said. The remaining 574 incidents were linked to criminal or social disputes unrelated to religion, including neighbourhood disputes (51), land-related conflicts (23), theft (106), prior personal enmity (26), rape (58) and 172 cases of unnatural death. Police registered 390 cases in this category, filed 154 unnatural death reports and made 498 arrests, with additional measures taken in 30 incidents. The interim government said the report "does not deny challenges, nor does it claim perfection; rather, it seeks to provide a factual, evidence-based picture of crime trends affecting minority communities within the broader national context". "While all crimes are serious and demand accountability, the data demonstrates that most incidents involving minority victims were not driven by communal hostility, but by broader criminal and social factors that affect citizens across religious and ethnic lines," it said. According to the 2022 census, the Hindu population in Bangladesh is approximately 13.13 million, which accounts for about 7.95% of the country's total population. The Buddhist population is approximately 1.01 million (0.61%), Christians nearly



5,00,000 and other religions, including Sikh and Animist, approximately 2,00,000 (0.12%).

Earlier this month, the Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHBCUC) in a statement alleged that as the date of the general elections draws nearer, communal violence is increasing at an alarming rate in the country. Parliamentary polls are scheduled on February 12. The forum alleged that the violence is aimed at preventing minority voters from casting votes for candidates of their choice. The Council said it has recorded 51 incidents of communal violence in December 2025 alone.

The interim government in the statement reiterated that ensuring safety and justice for all citizens, including Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Christians and people of other beliefs, remains a constitutional and moral obligation. On January 9, reacting to the recent spate of violence targeting Hindus in Bangladesh, External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We continue to witness a disturbing pattern of recurring attacks on minorities as well as their homes and businesses by extremists." Such communal incidents need to be dealt with swiftly and firmly, he said. "We have observed a troubling tendency to attribute such incidents to personal rivalries, political differences, or extraneous reasons." Such disregard only emboldens the perpetrators and deepens the sense of fear and insecurity among minorities," Mr. Jaiswal said. The relations between India and Bangladesh were strained after the interim government headed by Mr. Yunus assumed charge following the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government in August 2024. India has been expressing concerns over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in Bangladesh.

Trump's Gaza plan: France 'won't join', Canada 'won't pay'

GNS News Agency, April 6

France "does not intend to answer favourably" to an invitation to join U.S. President Donald Trump's "Board of Peace" at a source close to President Emmanuel Macron told AFP on Monday (January 19, 2026). The board was originally conceived to oversee the rebuilding of war-torn Gaza, but the charter does not appear to limit its role to the occupied Palestinian territory. Its charter "goes beyond the sole framework of Gaza", the source close to the French President said.

"It raises major questions, particularly regarding respect for the principles and structure of the United Nations, which under no circumstances can be called into question," they added. France is a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Earlier on Monday (January 19), the French Foreign Ministry issued a statement reiterating the country's commitment to the U.N. "This remains the keystone of effective multilateralism, where international law, the sovereign equality of states, and the peaceful settlement of disputes prevail over arbitrariness, power politics and war," it said. The Ministry added it was reviewing the proposed legal framework of the board with its partners, raising concern that the "project extends beyond the situation in Gaza". The source close to the French President, however, noted that France "remains fully committed to a ceasefire in Gaza and to a credible political horizon for Palestinians



and Israelis". Canada will not pay for seat

Meanwhile, Canada will not pay to be on the board, a government source told AFP Monday (January 19, 2026), after Prime Minister Mark Carney indicated he would accept an invitation to join the body. "Canada will not pay for a seat on the board, nor has that been requested of Canada at this time," the government source said. Member countries, represented on the board by their Head of State or Government, would be allowed to join for three years or longer if they paid more than \$1 billion in cash within the first year, the charter says.

Trump tells Norway his Greenland threats linked to Nobel Prize snub



GNS News Agency, April 6

U.S. President Donald Trump linked his drive to take control of Greenland to his failure to win the Nobel Peace Prize, saying he no longer thought "purely of Peace" as the row over the island on Monday (January 19, 2026) threatened to reignite a trade war with Europe. Mr. Trump has intensified his push to wrest sovereignty over Greenland from fellow NATO member Denmark, threatening punitive tariffs on countries which stand in his way and prompting the European Union to weigh hitting back with its own measures.

The dispute is threatening to upend the NATO alliance

India, UAE deepen ties with mega defence plan, LNG deal

GNS News Agency, April 6

Against the backdrop of growing military tension in the Gulf region, the United Arab Emirates and India on Monday signed a 'Letter of Intent for a bilateral Strategic Defence Partnership'. The Letter of Intent was sealed during the three-hour visit by the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, when the two sides set a goal of doubling bilateral trade to \$200 billion by 2032. Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the leader of the UAE at the Palam Airport, and the two leaders discussed, among other issues, the situation in Gaza, where President Donald Trump's peace plan will be tested in the coming weeks as well as the protests in Iran. In a press briefing after the departure of the dignitaries, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the two leaders also discussed the situation in Yemen, over which Saudi Arabia's relations with the UAE have nosedived.

In response to a question on whether the India-UAE strategic defence partnership could drag India into a future conflict scenario in the Gulf region, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the Letter of Intent is aimed at "work on concluding a framework agreement for Strategic Defence Partnership". "So I would really characterise it as a natural evolution from the already considerable defence cooperation between the two countries and not necessarily a response to any specific event that may have taken place in the region or of any intent to get involved in a hypothetical future scenario in the region," said Mr. Misri explaining the India-UAE Letter of Intent on Strategic Defence Partnership. The Letter of Intent on defence between India and the UAE came as the Gulf region is dealing with the repercussions of hostilities between the U.S.-Israel and Iran over Tehran's crackdown on protesters who were demanding overthrow of the Islamic Republic government in Tehran.

Apart from that, there has been greater involvement of the Pakistani military in safeguarding Saudi defence and security interests in the Arabian Peninsula and especially in Yemen. The Saudi-Pakistani defence cooperation has intensified since the two countries signed a mutual defence agreement on September 17, 2025. The Saudi-Pakistan military alliance has been active in the Yemen theatre, which has increased pressure on UAE, erstwhile ally of Saudi Arabia in Yemen. Both Saudi Arabia and the UAE are among the most important energy suppliers of India, and apart from that, they also are hosting large number of Indian expatriate workers. India has traditionally maintained a cautious position in hostilities and conflicts in the Gulf because of India's

that has underpinned Western security for decades and which was already under strain over the war in Ukraine and Mr. Trump's refusal to protect allies which do not spend enough on defence. It has also plunged trade relations between the EU and the U.S., the bloc's biggest export market, into renewed uncertainty after the two sides painstakingly reached a trade deal last year in response to Mr. Trump's swinging tariffs. In a written message to Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Stoere that was seen by Reuters, Mr. Trump said: "Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about what is good and proper for the United States of America." The Norwegian Nobel Committee annoyed Mr. Trump by awarding the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize not to him but to Venezuelan opposition leader Maria Corina Machado. She gave her medal last week to Mr. Trump during a White House meeting, though the Nobel Committee said the prize cannot be transferred, shared or revoked. In his message, Mr. Trump also repeated his accusation that Denmark cannot protect Greenland from Russia or China... and why do they have a 'right of ownership' anyway?" he wrote, adding: "The World is not secure unless we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland."



vital interests. Mr. Misri pointed out that India's defence engagement has grown not just with the UAE but with "a few other countries in the region as well". Officials told The Hindu that despite the current prevailing tension between Saudi Arabia and the UAE, New Delhi expects the two sides to de-escalate tension in the near future. The Indian side also noted that Pakistani Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar held a telephone conversation with Saudi Foreign Minister Al Farhan even as the President of the UAE arrived in New Delhi. The visit came a day after the United States invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to be on the 'Board of Peace for Gaza', which will feature the leaders from the Arab countries of the Gulf. Mr. Misri did not go into the specifics but said that matters around the Gaza conflict were discussed between Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Prime Minister Modi. Both leaders also welcomed greater civil nuclear cooperation between India and the UAE. During the brief visit, the two sides also signed an energy deal between HPCL (Hindustan Petroleum Company Ltd) and ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company Gas) that will allow the purchase of 0.5 MMPTA LNG by HPCL from ADNOC over 10 years starting from 2028. The two sides also discussed setting up of 'digital embassies' that will safeguard 'sovereign data'. Another Letter of Intent was signed between the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre and the Space Agency of the UAE for the development of the Space Industry in the UAE. Regarding the space agreement, a joint statement issued after the visit said, "This initiative aims to produce an integrated space ecosystem with end-to-end infrastructure and a strong industrial base. It aims to enable India-UAE joint missions, expand global commercial services, create high-skilled employment and start-ups and strengthen bilateral investment through sustainable business models."

Greenland issue: EU, U.K. attempt to negotiate with Trump, while keeping possibility of retaliation open



GNS News Agency, April 6

While European leaders kept open the possibility of retaliatory trade measures against the U.S., for now they appeared to engage in negotiations with U.S. President Donald Trump, who, on Saturday (January 17, 2026), announced tariffs on seven E.U. members and the U.K. The tariffs were announced to pressure the European nations to hand over Greenland, a semi-autonomous territory of Denmark to the U.S. German Chancellor Frederick Merz said on Monday (January 19, 2026) that he would try to meet with President Trump and the World Economic Forum in Davos on Wednesday (January 20, 2026) to discuss the Greenland issue.

Mr. Merz argued that the U.S. economy was not doing as well as Americans had imagined, and part of that was due to tariffs. The E.U. and the U.S. reached a trade agreement in July last year, which resulted in most E.U. goods entering the U.S. being tariffed at 15%. Mr. Merz said he did not want a tariff war, but kept retaliatory options open.

"If we are confronted with tariffs that we consider unreasonable, then we can react," he said at a party press conference, adding the E.U. would discuss the matter further at an emergency summit on Thursday (January 22, 2026). An EU package of €93 billion in tariffs on U.S. products is due to kick in on February 6, unless a suspension, currently in effect, is extended beyond this date. Germany's Vice Chancellor and Finance Minister Lars Klingbeil appeared to back a stronger response than the Chancellor. "We are constantly experiencing new provocations..." he said

at a joint press conference with his French counterpart, earlier on Monday (January 19, 2026). "Germany and France agree: We will not allow ourselves to be blackmailed," he added. Mr. Klingbeil said legally permissible economic retaliation should be looked into, as he appeared to support French President Emmanuel Macron's push for the EU to restrict the U.S.'s access to the Single Market, by invoking the bloc's Anti-Coercion Instrument. The European Council, comprised of member states, met on Sunday (January 18, 2026) and reached a "shared assessment that tariffs would undermine transatlantic relations and are incompatible with the EU-U.S. trade agreement," according to its President, Antonio Costa. In the U.K., Keir Starmer, arguably Mr. Trump's closest ally in Europe, ruled out a tariff war, i.e., retaliatory tariffs, saying these were not in anyone's interest. "We have not got to that stage, my focus is making sure we don't get to that stage."

He stood by the U.K. and European position that the future of Greenland was up to Greenland and Denmark. He also said that it was "completely wrong" to threaten allies with tariffs. He admitted that the tariffs from the U.S. had been "very badly received" across the U.K., even as he said the U.S. remained a close ally on defence, security, intelligence and nuclear capability.

But we must stand up for our values," he said. It was in the U.K. national interest to work with the U.S. on defence and security, Mr. Starmer said. The Prime Minister linked the U.K.'s national security and specifically the effectiveness of Britain's nuclear deterrent, to having a good relationship with the U.S. He was responding to a question on whether he would consider economic retaliation via tariffs on the U.S., and whether his government would advise Britain's King Charles III to not travel to the U.S. to celebrate America's 250th anniversary of independence. Mr. Starmer said that he had explained to the president that the limited number of European troops in Greenland "were clearly there to assess and work on risk from the Russians" and he said he hoped there was clarity on that. The two leaders spoke on the phone on Sunday (January 18, 2026). Asked if he thought Mr. Trump was actually considering military action, Mr. Starmer, said, "I don't actually."

Downed planes spell new peril for Trump as Tehran hunts missing U.S. pilot



GNS News Agency, April 6

Iran's forces were hunting on Saturday (April 4, 2026) for a missing U.S. pilot from one of two warplanes downed over Iran and the Gulf, officials from both sides said, while two airmen were rescued. The incidents show the risks still facing U.S. and Israeli aircraft over Iran as the war entered its sixth week, despite assertions by President Donald Trump and his Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth that U.S. forces had total control of the skies. The prospect of a U.S. service person alive and on the run in Iran raises the stakes for Washington in a conflict with low public support among Americans and no sign of an imminent end. Tehran mocks Trump's war aims.

Iranian fire brought down a two-seat U.S. F-15E jet, officials in both countries said, while two U.S. officials said the pilot ejected from an A-10 Warthog fighter aircraft that crashed in Kuwait after being hit by Iranian fire. Two Black Hawk helicopters engaged in the search for the missing pilot were hit by Iranian fire but made it out of Iranian airspace, the two U.S. officials told Reuters. The scale of injuries to the crew was unclear.

Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps said it was combating a southwestern area near where the pilot's plane came down, while the regional governor promised a commendation for anyone who captured or killed "forces of the hostile enemy." Iranians pummeled by American air power since the U.S. and Israel began their attacks on Friday 28 celebrated the plane downings. Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said on X the war had been

"downgraded from regime change" to a hunt for pilots. Mr. Trump has been in the White House receiving updates on the rescue effort, a senior administration official told Reuters. The Pentagon and U.S. Central Command did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Iran has told mediators it is not prepared to meet with U.S. officials in Islamabad in coming days and that efforts led by Pakistan to reach a ceasefire have hit a dead end, the Wall Street Journal said on Friday. The war has killed thousands, sparked an energy crisis and threatened lasting damage to the global economy since the initial strikes that killed Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The conflict has killed 13 U.S. military service members, with more than 300 wounded, the U.S. Central Command says. Trump threatens bridges, power plants.

Iran has rained drones and missiles on Israel and taken aim at Gulf countries allied to the United States, which have held back from joining the war directly for fear of further escalation. On Saturday (April 4, 2026), authorities in Dubai said no injuries were reported after debris from aerial interceptions hit the facades of two buildings in the emirate. In a security alert on Friday (April 3), the U.S. embassy in Beirut said Iran and armed groups aligned with it may target universities in Lebanon and urged U.S. citizens to leave while commercial flights still operated. Israel has been waging a parallel campaign against Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon after the militant group fired at Israel in support of Iran. Early on Saturday (April 4), Israel's military said it was striking the militants' infrastructure sites in Beirut. Iran struck a power and water plant in Kuwait on Friday (April 3), after Mr. Trump threatened to hit Iran's bridges and power plants, underlining the vulnerability of Gulf states that rely heavily on desalination plants for drinking water. On Thursday (April 2), Mr. Trump posted images of billowing dust and smoke as U.S. strikes hit the B1 bridge set to open this year, linking Tehran and nearby Karaj. He threatened more attacks.

"Our Military, the greatest and most powerful (by far!) anywhere in the World, hasn't even started destroying what's left in Iran. Bridges next, then Electric Power Plants!" he wrote. On Friday (April 3), a drone hit a Red Crescent relief warehouse in the Choghadak area of Iran's southern province of Bushehr. Kuwait Petroleum Corp said drones hit its Mina al-Ahmadi refinery, while other attacks were reported to have been intercepted in Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi. Missile debris landed near the Israeli port of Haifa, site of a major oil refinery. Oil markets were closed after benchmark U.S. crude prices jumped 11% on Thursday after Trump offered no clear sign of an imminent end to the war in a speech.

For Trump, the cost of Iran war is rising

"We are roaming free over Tehran, can do whatever," U.S. President Donald Trump said on March 25. "We literally have planes flying over Tehran... they can't do a thing about it," he told reporters on the South Lawn of the White House, listing what he called the achievements of the war. Nine days later, on the 35th day of the war, Iran shot down two American fighter jets and hit at least one Black Hawk helicopter, dramatically increasing the cost of war for the American President. On March 5, the Israel Defence Force said Israel had destroyed 80% of Iran's air defence systems and more than 60% of its ballistic missile launchers, "a very significant achievement that reduces the damage to the home front". Pete Hegseth, the U.S. Secretary of War, stated on March 10 that, "[W]e are winning decisively with brutal efficiency, total air dominance". Over the past few weeks, Mr. Trump had repeatedly claimed that the U.S. was winning the war. He said Iran was being "decimated"; its navy, air force, radars and anti-aircraft systems were all "destroyed". On April 1, in his primetime national address, Mr. Trump said the U.S. was completing all of its objectives of the war.

Despite Mr. Trump's claims of "destroying" Iran's military capabilities, Tehran has continued to hit American bases in the Persian Gulf and hundreds of targets in Israel. According to an investigation of satellite images by the New York Times, "many of the 13 American military bases in the region are all but uninhabitable". [Both in Israel and the Gulf monarchies, there is a strict censorship on the impact of the Iranian attack.]

In his April 1 address, Mr. Trump compared the war on Iran with his January 3 attack on Venezuela when U.S. troops flew into the South American country, abducted its President Nicolas Maduro and got out. The U.S. suffered no major human or material losses in the raid. But the war on Iran is turning out to be a different story. At least 13 U.S. servicemen have been officially confirmed killed since the war began, and hundreds of others were wounded. The U.S. lost three F-15Es due to what the Pentagon called a "friendly fire" incident over Kuwait's skies on March 1. At least one F-35, the most advanced American fighter jet, was damaged and forced to make an emergency landing after Iranian air defence fire on March 19. On March 12, one KC-135 Stratotanker aerial refueling aircraft crashed in western Iraq due to "an accident". The Pentagon said the crash was not caused by enemy fire. A second KC-135 involved in the incident sustained severe damage.

At least six KC-135s were damaged in two Iranian missile and drone attacks at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia. On March 27, one Boeing E-3 Sentry AWACS airborne surveillance aircraft was destroyed in an Iranian



attack. The U.S. has also lost at least 12 MQ-9 Reaper drones since the war began, according to some reports. Besides aircraft, America's AN/TPY-2 THAAD radar units (used for long-range missile detection) have been hit or destroyed at several bases in the Gulf and Jordan. Other radar systems got hit include AN/FPS-132 early warning radar at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar and AN/MPQ-64 Sentinel Systems.

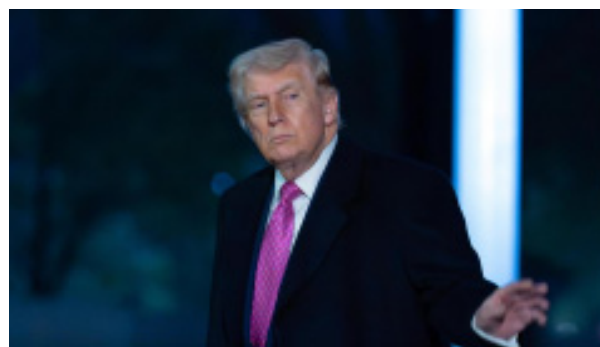
Mr. Trump has so far played down the Iranian attacks. But he may not be able to do the same about the losses on April 3 as two jets went down—one in Iran and the other in the Persian Gulf. This was the first time since the war began enemy fire brought down an American fighter, according to U.S. officials. The F-15E Strike Eagle was carrying a crew of two military officials when it came under Iranian fire. They ejected from the aircraft. According to U.S. media, one of them was rescued, while the status of the other crew member remained unknown. Separately, an A-10 Warthog, another Air Force combat plane, with the lone pilot, crashed in the Gulf. The pilot was reportedly rescued. It's not yet clear if the remaining crew member is in Iran's custody. The Black Hawk helicopter, which was involved in search and rescue operations, landed safely in Iraq after getting hit by Iranian fire, according to U.S. officials. The U.S. and Israel have been pounding Iran for five weeks. Last week, Mr. Trump shared a post about strikes on Iran's tallest bridge. Independent information from inside Iran is scarce, but the attacks have caused enormous damages in Iran. Yet, despite thousands of airstrikes, Tehran's continued attacks show it still retains offensive capability and defensive firepower. As material losses mount, the political cost of the war—already unpopular at home—is rising for Mr. Trump, who has yet to outline an exit strategy. He has repeatedly said the war would end "soon" and urged Iran to make a deal or face "Stone Age" bombing. But Tehran appears in no hurry to negotiate.

Drinking water scarcity in 324 villages across 60 taluks in 20 districts in Karnataka: Priyank Kharge

Drinking water scarcity has been reported in 324 villages across 60 taluks in 20 districts of Karnataka, said Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, and Information Technology & Biotechnology. The Minister said in a release on Saturday (April 4) that water is being supplied to 76 villages through 76 tankers, while 248 villages are being provided water by leasing 280 private borewells. "To address urgent requirements, 760 crore has already been allocated to districts. Additionally, 748 crore has been released towards clearing pending bills of works undertaken by the task forces in March 2026. Further, 714.50 crore has been allocated for the repair of purified drinking water units," the Minister stated. Officials at district, taluk, and gram panchayat levels, including Chief Executive Officers of zilla panchayats, are maintaining continuous monitoring and conducting regular review meetings to ensure uninterrupted supply, he said.

"Water quality testing is being carried out across villages and habitation areas using field testing kits. In cases where water quality exceeds permissible limits, samples are being re-tested in nearby laboratories. Where contamination is confirmed, alternative safe drinking water sources are being arranged," Mr. Kharge said. The State has 26,676 villages across 31 districts, with 57,883 habitation areas covering over 1.01 crore households. During summer, many water sources dry up and borewell yield reduces. To address this, daily monitoring systems have been put in place, and emergency drinking water works are being undertaken to ensure supply during drought-like conditions, the release said. "Priority is given to leasing private borewells wherever drinking water scarcity arises in rural areas. If required, water will be supplied through tankers. Efforts are also being made to resolve issues through flushing and deepening of borewells."

White House seeks \$1.5 trillion defence budget as Iran war drives costs



U.S. President Donald Trump asked lawmakers on Friday (April 3, 2026) to approve a massive \$1.5 trillion defence budget for 2027, as the United States faces rising costs from its war with Iran and mounting global security commitments. The proposal would lift Pentagon spending by more than 40 percent in a single year—the sharpest increase since World War II—as Washington seeks to sustain military operations and rebuild depleted weapons stockpiles. The request highlights the growing financial pressure of a conflict now in its fifth week, and sets up a political battle in Congress over how to fund a dramatic expansion of military spending. U.S. media—citing closed-door congressional briefings—have reported that the Iran war could be costing as much as \$2 billion a day, underscoring the scale of the burden even before longer-term reconstruction and resupply costs are factored in.

To offset part of the increase, Mr. Trump is proposing around \$73 billion in cuts to non-defence spending—roughly 10%—"reducing or eliminating woke, weaponized and wasteful programs, and by returning State and local responsibilities to their respective governments." The President has framed the defence increase in urgent terms, arguing that military investment must take precedence during wartime, even at the expense of federal social programs. "It's not possible for us to take care of day care, Medicaid, Medicare," Mr. Trump said at a recent private event, adding that such responsibilities could be handled at the state level while Washington focuses on "military protection." "Reckless foreign wars"

Democrats swiftly attacked the proposal, with the party's Senate budget leader Patty Murray warning it prioritized military spending over Americans' needs and accus-

ing Mr. Trump of pursuing "reckless foreign wars." "Donald Trump might be happy to spend more money on bombs in West Asia than on families here in America—but I am not," Ms. Murray said in a statement. The White House released the request as part of a detailed 92-page budget proposal, alongside summaries outlining its priorities across federal agencies. The plan is not binding but serves as a statement of the administration's priorities as Congress begins drafting spending legislation, with lawmakers retaining the power to rewrite or reject it. Mr. Trump is urging Congress to approve the bulk of the defence budget—more than \$1.1 trillion—through the standard appropriations process, while seeking to pass a further \$350 billion using a party-line mechanism that would bypass Democratic support. Republican leaders have shown openness to that approach, particularly as they push for higher defence and immigration enforcement spending. But the plan may face resistance within Mr. Trump's own party, where some lawmakers are wary of deepening federal deficits. The United States is already running annual shortfalls approaching \$2 trillion, with total debt exceeding \$39 trillion, leaving limited fiscal space for new spending without further widening the gap.

Lawmakers from both parties have also raised concerns about the scale of the proposed military increase, particularly as the administration has provided limited detail on the trajectory of the Iran conflict. There is similar skepticism about the domestic cuts, many of which Congress has previously rejected. Spending bills passed earlier this year largely preserved funding for programs the White House is again seeking to reduce or eliminate. Beyond defence, the administration is proposing increased funding for federal law enforcement, including a boost of more than \$40 billion for the Justice Department. Even so, the plan could add trillions more to the federal debt over the coming decade if enacted in full, highlighting the trade-offs facing lawmakers as they weigh wartime demands against long-term fiscal pressures. Some Republicans, however, backed the push, with congressional defence leaders saying the increase would help move U.S. military spending toward five percent of GDP and strengthen deterrence. Roger Wicker and Mike Rogers, the respective chairmen of the Senate and House armed services committees, praised Mr. Trump in a joint statement for "sending a clear signal for our allies and partners to build on recent progress and meet this benchmark alongside us."

Compliance eased for managing plastic waste

India's latest amendment to its Plastic Waste Management Rules leaves headline recycling targets unchanged, but introduces a series of provisions that allows companies to shift their compliance deadlines. These provisions include allowing companies that fail to meet their targets in 2025–26 to carry forward the shortfall for up to three years, provided they make up at least a third of the deficit annually. Prior to this, companies were bound to comply annually. "The unfulfilled target for the year 2025–26 may be carried forward for three subsequent years starting 2026–27... provided that at least one-third of the unfulfilled target is met in each of those years, until the entire carried-forward target is achieved," says a gazette notification by the Environment Ministry dated March 31.

The rules also formalise a system of tradable certificates, enabling companies to meet their obligations by purchasing credits from others that exceed their targets. While this creates flexibility and may reduce compliance costs, it also means firms are not necessarily required to recycle their own plastic footprint. Targets also do not apply where other regulations—for example, food safety standards—restrict the use of recycled plastic. This could exclude significant segments of packaging from the mandate, particularly in the food and beverage sector.

The 2026 amendment retains a phased set of targets for recycled content and reuse in plastic packaging, continuing the trajectory first introduced under the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework in 2022, which for the first time specified collection targets for plastic waste producers and users of plastic packaging. For 2025–26, producers, importers and brand owners must ensure that rigid plastic packaging (Category I) contains at least 30% recycled material, rising to 60% by 2028–29. Flexible plastics (Category II) are subject to a 10% requirement in 2025–26, increasing to 20% thereafter, while multi-layered plastics (Category III) must meet a 5% threshold, rising to 10%. In parallel, the rules mandate reuse obligations for rigid packaging: 10% for smaller containers (0.9–4.9 litres), 70% for large water packaging, and 10% for large non-water pack-



aging in 2025–26, with incremental increases over time.

Category 1 includes PET water or soft drink bottles or HDPE milk bottles / shampoo bottles. These are the easiest to collect. Category 2 includes Plastic carry bags / grocery bags, snack or chips packets (single-layer flexible film). Category 3 or multi-layered plastic, such as Tetra Pak cartons, foil snack wrappers, are the hardest to collect. India's plastic waste rules require companies to collect and process the equivalent of 100% of the plastic they introduce into the market by 2024–25, marking the final phase of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) rollout. However, there is no public evidence to suggest that this target has been fully achieved in practice. No comprehensive public dataset or official assessment demonstrates system-wide compliance, and much of the reporting continues to rely on self-declarations through a centralised portal. The Environment Ministry has said that, while recycling has scaled up significantly under EPR, it is still far from complete coverage. Since the framework came into force in 2022, over 20.7 million tonnes of plastic packaging waste have been recycled. However, annual generation remains high—about 4.13 million tonnes in 2022–23 alone. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) in 2023 had unearthed more than 6,00,000 fake pollution-trading certificates from audits at four plastic-recycling companies in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Nyam-Osor Uchral sworn in as Mongolia's new Prime Minister

Ulan Bator: Mongolia's new coalition government, led by newly-appointed Prime Minister Nyam-Osor Uchral, who is the Chairman of the ruling Mongolian People's Party (MPP), was sworn in on Saturday at the State Palace in the capital Ulan Bator. The coalition government, formed by the MPP, the opposition Hun Party, and the National Coalition, comprises a Prime Minister, 19 Ministers, and 16 ministries. Addressing the plenary session of the Parliament after appointing and approving the members of his Cabinet on Saturday, Uchral said that his government consists of a total of 19 members. Of these, 16 Ministers are appointed from the Mongolian People's Party, two from the Human Rights Party, and one from the National Alliance.

The political transition followed the resignation of former Prime Minister Gombojav Zandanshatar, who stepped down at his own request last week, Xinhua news agency reported. According to local media reports, he is believed to have resigned due to internal disagreements within the party or in line with the convention that a chairman of the ruling party also serves as Prime Minister. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, the MPP won a narrow majority, securing 68 of the 126 seats. The Hun Party secured eight seats, while the National Coalition obtained four seats. In the 2024 parliamentary elections, the MPP won a narrow majority, securing 68 of the 126 seats. The Hun Party secured eight seats.

Earlier, Mongolia's State Great Hural, the country's unicameral parliament, elected Sandag Byambatsogt as its new speaker. During a plenary session of the 126-seat parliament on Friday, 114 lawmakers were present, with 76.3 per cent voting in favour of Byambatsogt's appointment. He



Nyam-Osor Uchral was sworn in as Mongolia's Prime Minister, leading a coalition government of 19 ministers. Former PM Gombojav Zandanshatar resigned last week. Parliament elected Sandag Byambatsogt as the new speaker, securing 76.3% of the vote.

replaced Nyam-Osor Uchral, Chairman of the ruling Mongolian People's Party, who was appointed Mongolia's Prime Minister on Monday after former Prime Minister Gombojav Zandanshatar stepped down last week. Byambatsogt, aged 51, has been elected to parliament five times and has held several key government positions, including minister of justice and internal affairs, minister of road and transport development, minister of defence, and head of the cabinet secretariat.

Canadian High Commissioner meets Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi to discuss investment



pressed keen interest in expanding cooperation in sectors such as green energy, LNG/LPG, critical minerals, artificial intelligence, and advanced technology. He underscored the importance of collaboration in education and research, stating that partnerships between leading Canadian institutions and Uttar Pradesh could accelerate skill development, innovation, and global talent exchange. He also noted that the state's strong infrastructure, improved connectivity, and investor-friendly policies make it an attractive destination for global companies. The High Commissioner further said, "Canadian companies are actively exploring opportunities for long-term investment and technology partnerships in Uttar Pradesh." He added, "Canada's expertise in sustainable energy, clean technology, and advanced manufacturing aligns naturally with Uttar Pradesh's development aspirations, paving the way for a strong bilateral partnership." Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath highlighted the state's investor-friendly environment, industrial growth, and policy reforms, inviting Canadian companies to invest in Uttar Pradesh. Referring to the Defence Industrial Corridor and the BrahMos project, he underlined the state's growing industrial capabilities. The Chief Minister said, "The Uttar Pradesh government is ensuring a transparent, stable, and industry-friendly policy environment, and will provide all necessary institutional support to accelerate technology, skill, and innovation-based collaboration with Canada. Both sides agreed to further strengthen partnership in investment, technology collaboration, and skill development."

Canadian High Commissioner Christopher Cooter met Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 and held detailed discussions on advancing partnership in the areas of investment, technology collaboration, and skill development in Uttar Pradesh. High Commissioner Christopher Cooter emphasized the vast potential to elevate India-Canada trade and investment ties to new heights, highlighting Uttar Pradesh as an emerging center for investment and innovation.

Praising the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for the state's transformation, he noted, "Uttar Pradesh has made significant progress in infrastructure development, policy reforms, and governance in recent years, emerging as a reliable and attractive destination for global investors." During the meeting, the High Commissioner ex-

'Not our war': Europe says no to Trump

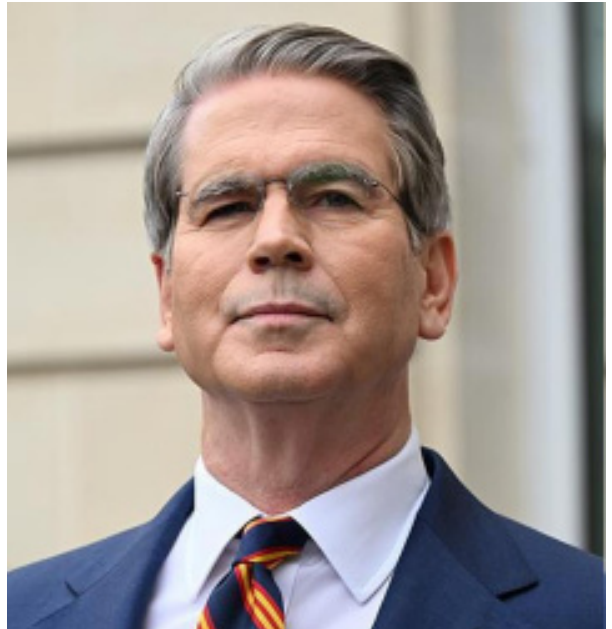


leader during World War Two. But Mr. Starmer and others have public opinion on their side. A poll by YouGov suggested Britons opposed the attacks by 49% to 28%. That has forced Nigel Farage's populist Reform U.K. party and the opposition Conservatives to temper their initial support for the U.S. and Israeli strikes and even to offer some support. "I'm Keir Starmer's biggest critic, but the war of words coming from the White House is childish," Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch said. "I don't like to see our Prime Minister be berated by foreign leaders," Robert Jenrick from Reform UK said. In Spain, Prime Minister Sanchez was quick to denounce the attacks on Iran as reckless and illegal and brushed off threats from Trump to cut trade with Spain if it did not allow jointly operated bases to be used for the war. "We are certainly not going to be anybody's vassals, we won't tolerate any threats and we'll defend our values," Deputy Prime Minister Maria Jose Montero said earlier in March.

The Government's stance is widely shared by Spaniards, with 68% declaring in a poll by Spanish company 40db that they were opposed to the war. A survey by ARD DeutschlandTrend showed 58% of Germans oppose the war while 25% support it. Criticism has even come from the far-right Alternative for Germany, a party that has courted the Trump administration. "Donald Trump started out as a peace president - he will end up as a war president," its co-leader Tino Chrupalla said. Europeans strive to manage Trump's unpredictability. European governments say they do not want to enter a war on which they were given no say and where they cannot see the endgame.

A European official, who asked not to be identified due to the sensitivities involved, said American war aims were not defined or clear, and were probably different from Israel's war aims, notably on regime change. In another sign of the strains, Mr. Merz and others have criticised Trump for loosening oil sanctions on Russia in an attempt to cool soaring global prices, suggesting the U.S. had blindsided its allies. European powers have responded to the war in Iran but on their own terms. Mr. Starmer has said Britain was working with allies on a plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20% of the world's oil is transported. France has sought to put together a coalition to secure the strait once the security situation stabilises - and without a U.S. role. Paris has been consulting European, Asian, including India, and Gulf Arab states over the past week over a plan that would eventually see warships escort tankers and commercial ships. Such a plan would involve political and technical talks, including with the maritime industry, insurers and others, said Mr. Macron. "This work will require discussions and de-escalation with Iran." In the end, European leaders have sought to project unity above all and learnt to manage what they see as Trump's erratic leadership. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas told Reuters in an interview this week the bloc was "now more calm, because we are ... expecting unpredictable things to happen all the time and take it as it is, put some ice in our hats, and be calm and stay focused."

U.S. may remove sanctions on Iranian oil stranded in tankers, Bessent says



reduce prices, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said on Thursday (March 19, 2026). "In the coming days, we may un-sanction the Iranian oil that's on the water. It's about 140 million barrels," Mr. Bessent told Fox Business Network's "Mornings with Maria" program. "So, depending on how you count it, that's 10 days to two weeks of supply," he added. Mr. Bessent said the addition of sanctioned Iranian oil into global supplies would help keep oil prices down for the next 10 to 14 days. Oil prices have been above \$100 per barrel for much of the past two weeks as Iran has closed the Strait of Hormuz to shipping and has attacked tankers.

The Treasury recently took a similar step to allow the sale of sanctioned Russian oil stranded in tankers, which Treasury said added 130 million barrels to global supplies. Mr. Bessent said the U.S. would take other actions to increase supply, including a unilateral release of stocks from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve above last week's coordinated joint G-7 release of 400 million barrels. He said the Treasury would "absolutely not" try to intervene in oil futures markets, but would take actions to increase physical supplies to try to make up for the 10 million to 14 million barrel-per-day deficit caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. "So, to be clear, we're not intervening in the financial markets. We are supplying the physical markets." Mr. Bessent said President Donald Trump would also talk to Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi at the White House on Thursday about the Japanese navy taking part in securing safe passage for vessels through the Strait of Hormuz, as that is where Japan gets most of its oil. "She's very pro-U.S. I think we're going to have a very good discussion today," Mr. Bessent said, adding that Ms. Takaichi also may release more oil from Japan's strategic petroleum reserve above its release in the joint action.

Bessent said the addition of sanctioned Iranian oil into global supplies would help keep oil prices down for the next 10 to 14 days.

GNS News Agency, April 6

The U.S. may soon remove sanctions from Iranian oil that is stranded on tankers to help lift global supplies and

EU asks for reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and no more strikes on energy, water sites



day to contribute to "appropriate efforts" to ensure ships can pass safely through the Strait of Hormuz.

France, Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands, alongside the United Kingdom and Japan, issued a joint statement welcoming "the commitment of nations who are engaging in preparatory planning" for securing the key oil route, and demanding Iran "cease immediately" its drone and missile attacks and other attempts at blocking it. Chancellor Friedrich Merz said the war must end before his country can help with matters such as keeping shipping lanes clear. "We can and will commit ourselves only when the weapons fall silent," he said of potential German military support to secure shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz. "We can then do a great deal, up to opening sea lanes and keeping them clear, but we're not doing it during ongoing combat operations." He said that would require an international mandate, among other complicated steps, "before we can even consider such an issue." While the EU isn't a party to the conflict, Dutch Prime Minister Rob Jetten said he understood the U.S. and Israeli reasons for launching the campaign against the "brutal" Iranian government. He called for the EU to increase both sanctions on Iran and support for Iranian opposition groups. But others blasted the war as "illegal" and destabilizing. "We are against this war because it is illegal," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said. "It's causing a lot of damage to civilians, of course, refugees and the economic consequences that the whole world, especially the global south, is already suffering." Mr. Trump had mentioned NATO support for clearing the Strait of Hormuz but has not officially requested it, said Evika Silina, Prime Minister of Latvia, one of the 23 out of the 27 EU nations that are NATO members.

"When there will be some official requests, I think we always have to evaluate those requests," she said. The European Commission has told leaders it has a mix of financial instruments that member nations could deploy to lower energy prices, which will be up for discussion. No single policy will likely work to blunt the economic shocks from the war across the bloc's myriad markets from Romania to Ireland. EU leaders are hoping their experience weaning off of Russian energy in the wake of the 2022 invasion of Ukraine and of building up the bloc's military spending toward self-sufficiency will enable them to do the same for energy independence. While some European capitals have called for the suspension or scrapping of climate policies to stave off the worst of the recent spike in energy prices because of the war, others have argued that the EU's long-term energy strategy should be home-grown sustainable energy decoupled from vulnerable fossil fuel markets. Leaders from Italy, Austria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia asked Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen to slow the rollout of the EU's Emissions Trading System. They said it was "too steep and overly ambitious" in light of "fragility of today's economic ecosystems" in a letter seen by The Associated Press.

European leaders have demanded the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a moratorium on strikes on water and energy infrastructure in the West Asia as they met in Brussels to grapple with rising energy prices caused by the war. All heads of the 27 European Union nations known collectively as the European Council issued a joint statement Thursday calling for the stabilization of energy shipments and "de-escalation and maximum restraint" from warring parties.

"The European Council deplors the loss of civilian life and is closely monitoring the far-reaching impact of the hostilities, including on economic stability," the statement read. The leaders also asked Iran to stop striking neighbors across the Persian Gulf, sought international cooperation to prevent any large-scale refugee crises in the West Asia, and said some EU nations are exploring ways "to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz." European leaders have deflected entreaties from U.S. President Donald Trump to send military assets to secure the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for the global flow of oil, gas and fertilizer. However, rising energy prices because of the war and fears in Europe of a new refugee crisis have pushed leaders to make the West Asia a priority at the summit. "We are very worried about the energy crisis," said Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever ahead of the summit. He said that energy prices were too high before the war, but that the conflict "created another spike." Leaders also discussed alternative funding Ukraine after they failed to convince Hungary to stop opposing a massive loan for the cash-strapped and war-torn country. European leaders were deeply critical of the Iranian government, but none have offered immediate help to the U.S. Britain is flat-out refusing to be drawn into the war. France says the fighting would have to die down first.

Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker said that Europe "will not allow itself to be blackmailed" into joining the United States and Israel military campaign in the West Asia. "Europe — and Austria as well — will not allow itself to be blackmailed," he said ahead of the European Council summit of the leaders of the 27 EU nations. "Intervention in the Strait of Hormuz is not an option for Austria anyway." EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said there was "no appetite" among leaders to expand a European naval force in the Red Sea to help secure the Strait of Hormuz or otherwise join the fray. Four of the EU's largest economies signaled a willingness Thurs-

A tax moratorium to enable a foreign AI invasion



ever, with fast-expanding cloud and AI context, and a likely withering of coding as service and even software as service, their digital trade surplus could soon be deeply in the red. Countries may devise new opportunities, but that requires all options to be kept open. Digitalisable goods may be an obsolete term. An abiding belief among the Moratorium-opposing nations that this is only about digitalisable goods has now become counter-productive. The Trump administration's pressure in this matter is severe, and countries face tough choices with immediate concerns in key areas such as agriculture and manufacturing topmost on their mind. In relation to these pressing concerns, they may review their own 'digitalisable goods' imports, and the customs duties loss from it, and feel that it may not be that big a deal. This may be why country after developing country has been caving in on the Moratorium issue. It is unclear how long India, Brazil and South Africa can resist such U.S. pressure unless they focus on the real 'AI invasion' risks posed by the Moratorium. In their own bi/pluri-lateral digital trade agreements, the U.S. and its allies are increasingly clear, in their definition sections, that 'digital products' subject to customs duty moratorium, include services. With no authoritative WTO or trade deals text using the term 'digitalisable goods', it now solely appears in the documents by developing countries and pro-South analyses. This is discordant and distracting, even if the 'digitalisable goods' approach was useful in earlier stages. Policymakers should either enshrine it explicitly in the Moratorium text or stop treating this obscure and outdated term as the Moratorium's main focus, and instead be upfront in dealing with the real issue of digital services. Even the 'weights' of an AI model can be imported via an external drive and run on local data to produce AI outputs. But does this make AI a 'digitalisable good'? This deliberately pushes the argument to its extreme, highlighting how dubious this category has become. Today, virtually everything digital qualifies as a digital service — streaming movies (Netflix) or music (Spotify) are already considered services under established definitions, including at the WTO.

The moratorium is really about border taxing AI. For the U.S., the Moratorium is about securing the AI-driven future; in any case, no one is currently imposing customs duties on the so-called 'digitalisable goods'. AI will soon be embedded in nearly all socio-economic activities, with economies reorganising themselves around AI platforms. Current trajectories indicate that almost all of such foundation AI will be owned by the U.S. and China. In 2019, the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) estimated that 90% of the capitalisation of the world's top 70 platform companies lay inside the U.S. and China. This was pre-AI. AI is even more super-concentrated. We may be looking at nearly 100% of the top 10 AI platforms owned by the U.S. and China. Such is the scenario in which developing countries need to locate their Moratorium-related positions. The least that one can do at this stage is not to give up the right to border tax digital/AI services. Even Big Tech leaders such as Bill Gates, Sam Altman and Elon Musk have spoken about taxing AI profits for universal basic income schemes to offset job losses and wage depression due to AI. But the question for developing countries is this. While the U.S. and China might as well super-tax their AI super-corporations for universal basic income and other welfare schemes, who would they tax, and how; with almost all top foundation AI corporations in the U.S. or China? Kai-Fu Lee, former head of Google China, and former President of Microsoft Research Asia, observed in an article in The New York Times (2017): "So if most countries will not be able to tax ultra-profitable A.I. companies to subsidize their workers, what options will they have? I foresee only one:

Towards the end of the 1990s, artifacts such as books and music/video CDs, which were physical things, and thus subject to customs duties on import, began to also be streamed across borders over the Internet. Importing countries were worried about the lost customs duty revenue. At the 1998 World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial, members agreed to a temporary moratorium on customs duties for so-called 'digitalisable goods', recognising it as a novel phenomenon. The actual term mentioned in the text however is 'electronic transmissions'. This 'E-commerce Moratorium' has since typically been extended from one Ministerial to the next, currently till the next WTO Ministerial in Yaoundé, Cameroon, Africa, between March 26-29, 2026.

The United States comes to this Ministerial with the top priority of making this Moratorium permanent. Under intense tariff-related and other threats from the Trump administration, opposition to the Moratorium is breaking down among the developing countries. Recently, Indonesia, previously a key opponent of the Moratorium, agreed with the U.S. to make it permanent. In its trade deal discussions with the U.S., India also seems to be under intense pressure to concede. The Yaounde Ministerial will find this issue centre stage.

What the subject matter of the Moratorium is. The Moratorium text says: Members will "continue their current practice of not imposing customs duties on electronic transmissions". But no one seems certain what 'electronic transmissions' stand for, and, therefore, what exactly the customs duty moratorium is applicable to. Developing countries have long argued that the definitions should be clarified first. However, the U.S. and its allies have not engaged with this obvious rational approach, casting doubt on their real motives.

Unfortunately, developing countries have so far been unable to expose this bluff. They have not understood the U.S.'s real intention, which is tied to the AI-driven future, where the primary flow of value across borders will be AI, with AI power hyper concentrated in the U.S. and China. Trade negotiators rely on their IT ministries to advise them on such matters, but IT ministries in developing countries are typically besotted with positive digital and AI possibilities. They take a short-term approach to working off U.S./China cloud/AI, not appreciating the emerging structural digital realities. The duties in the Moratorium text are meant to be interpreted by the U.S. in the near future as possible border taxes on AI flows. They seek to preempt any such possibilities, which is all what the Moratorium is really about.

Developing countries also hope that by avoiding discussions on clarifications, the subject will, in good faith, remain limited to 'digitalisable goods'. However, this term is not actually mentioned in the Moratorium text, and in emerging contexts, such an approach risks becoming akin to burying one's head in the sand. Some key developing countries such as India have huge digital services exports, and they fear discussions going in the direction of taxing them. How-

The opportunity in Cameroon to rebalance the WTO



WTO no longer reflects today's reality. Emerging economies now export advanced and technology-intensive products, climate-related trade measures are expanding, and digital networks are reshaping how global production works. Rules designed for a late 20th century trading system cannot fully govern a 21st century one. Reform must start with restoring credibility to enforcement. Without a functioning dispute settlement system, commitments lose their value. Members need to rebuild a binding, trusted mechanism rather than relying mainly on temporary alternatives that lack universal acceptance. A robust dispute-resolution system helps remove politics from conflicts and keeps confidence in multilateral rules. At the same time, predictability must go hand in hand with fairness. Long-standing disputes over agricultural subsidies, market distortions and unequal openness need transparent solutions. Many developing countries argue that while WTO rules ensure the rule of law, they do not always deliver the rule of justice. In other words, rules may be legally correct but still produce outcomes that feel unequal or developmentally unfair.

Reform should, therefore, improve transparency on subsidies, create credible responses to distortive practices, and revisit special and differential treatment so that it remains meaningful in today's economic conditions. Institutional adaptability is also important. The WTO's structures were designed for a smaller and less complex membership, which contributes to today's deadlock. Some countries are moving ahead in smaller groups on issues such as e-commerce, investment facilitation, and services. These efforts can help progress, but they must remain transparent, inclusive and connected to the wider WTO framework. Flexibility should help the system move forward, not divide it. If such initiatives remain open to all members and eventually become part of common WTO rules, they can support reform instead of fragmentation. Ultimately, WTO reform is not only technical but also normative. The Munich Security Report warns that a world shaped mainly by transactional deals would favour the powerful and leave weaker countries vulnerable.

The WTO's value lies in preventing exactly this outcome by ensuring that trade is governed by rules rather than coercion. In an era of strategic competition, rules do not weaken sovereignty; they protect countries from economic domination. The choice before the MC14 is crystal clear. Members can undertake serious reform, preserving the WTO's stabilising core while updating its rules, procedures and developmental balance, or allow the system to drift further into fragmentation. Achieving reform will require political will and shared responsibility. Rebalancing the WTO is ultimately about securing a workable framework for cooperation in a world where economic interdependence is still unavoidable. If the MC14 seizes this opportunity, it can show that meaningful reform remains the most credible path to sustaining global trade governance. Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedi is an Associate Professor, heading the School of International Relations and Peace Studies, and founding coordinator of the Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies, Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar. Anushka Padmanabh Antrolikar is a postgraduate scholar at Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar

Government blocks 300 'illegal' gambling and betting platforms



The Centre has blocked about 300 websites and applications for allegedly running illegal gambling and betting operations, taking the total number of prohibited websites so far to nearly 8,400, according to government sources. The banned entities include sports betting portals, casino platforms offering slots and roulette, live dealer tables, betting exchanges functioning like peer-to-peer betting marketplaces, "satta/matka" gambling networks, and "real-money" cards and casino game applications.

A majority of such platforms, close to 4,900, have been blocked after the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act came into force last year. The law passed by Parliament on August 21, 2025, is aimed at shielding citizens from the menace of online money games while promoting and regulating other kinds of online gaming activities. "This legislation is designed to curb addiction, financial ruin and social distress caused by predatory gaming platforms that thrive on misleading promises of quick wealth. It reflects the Government's resolve to safeguard families while guiding the digital economy towards safe and constructive

growth," the government had earlier said. It said that the World Health Organisation classifies gaming disorder as a health condition in its International Classification of Diseases, describing it as a pattern of play marked by loss of control, neglect of other daily activities, and persistence despite harmful consequences. Earlier, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Rajya Sabha that as per an estimate, 45 crore people were negatively affected by online money games and faced a loss of over ₹20,000 crore. The government also found that some gaming platforms were being used for terror financing and illegal messaging, which compromises the country's security. The Information & Broadcasting Ministry had issued advisories in 2022, 2023, and 2024 to media platforms, advertisers, and influencers, cautioning against publishing or promoting misleading online betting advertisements.

The Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, amended in April 2023, laid down norms for online gaming platforms, aimed at ensuring online gaming intermediaries did not share unlawful or illegal content on their networks. Section 69A of the IT Act empowers the government to block access to illegal websites or links. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Section 111 penalises unlawful economic activities, and cybercrimes and Section 112 prescribes punishment for unauthorised betting and gambling. Offenders face a minimum of one year imprisonment, extendable up to seven years, along with fines. Illegal and offshore gaming platforms are regulated under the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act. Online money gaming suppliers are required to register under the Simplified Registration Scheme. The Directorate General of Goods & Services Tax Intelligence is authorised to direct intermediaries to block access to unregistered or non-compliant gaming platforms.

Before salt, there was water: why Mahad Satyagraha deserves its centenary

Think of a child in school. He is thirsty. There is water in the classroom. But he cannot drink it. Not because the water is dirty. Not because there is a rule against drinking in class. He cannot drink because the peon who is supposed to pour the water into his cupped hands, from a height, so that the vessel is not polluted by his touch, happens to be absent that day. No peon, no water. That was the rule that governed the childhood of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. He wrote about it with quiet, devastating precision in his autobiographical essay *Waiting for a Visa*, and in the fragment known as *No Peon, No Water*. He and his siblings, travelling to meet their father, arrived at a railway station parched with thirst. No one would give them water. They were Mahars. They were "untouchable." The public tap was not for them.

Let that image stay with you for a moment: small children, thirsty, surrounded by water, unable to drink. Not in a desert, but in a school. Not in a time of famine, but in a time of plenty. That boy grew up. He went to Columbia. He went to the London School of Economics. He read law at Gray's Inn. And then he came home and walked to a water tank. What happened at Mahad

On March 20, 1927, Ambedkar led a procession of thousands through the streets of Mahad, a small town in the Konkan, in the Bombay Presidency. Their destination was the Chavdar Tale, a public water tank. The Bombay Legislative Council passed the Bole Resolution in 1923, and the Mahad Municipality opened the tank to the depressed classes in 1924. But resolutions on paper and water in the throat are different things. The upper castes ensured that the resolution remained a dead letter. Ambedkar walked to the tank. He bent down. He drank. Thousands followed him — men, women, children. They drank. For perhaps the first time in their lives, they drank water from a public source as a matter of right, not as an act of stealth or charity. And then the violence came. Rumours spread that the satyagrahis intended to enter the Veereshwar temple. Returning delegates were attacked in the streets, in their bullock carts, in their villages. The tank was "purified" with cow dung and urine, as though human dignity were a contaminant that could be washed away. When Ambedkar returned to Mahad in December 1927 for a second conference, he brought with him not just the resolve to drink water again but a deeper symbolic intent. On December 25, 1927, the conference publicly burned a copy of the Manusmriti. That fire was not a mere gesture. It was a declaration that the future republic, if it was to mean anything at all, would rest on rights, not on graded inequality codified in ancient texts.

On December 12, 1927, even before the second conference began, Hindu residents filed a civil suit in the Kolaba District Court seeking a temporary injunction to prevent the depressed classes from using the Chavdar tank. The injunction was granted on December 14, 1927. Ambedkar, true to his belief in constitutional methods, chose to respect the court's order while continuing his conference. He addressed the gathering. He burned the Manusmriti. But he did not go to the tank. The litigation dragged on for a decade. It passed through the trial court at Mahad and then the court of the Assistant Judge at Thana. At every stage, the courts held that the plaintiffs had failed to establish any immemorial custom entitling caste Hindus to exclude untouchables from the tank.

The case finally reached the Bombay High Court, where it was decided on March 17, 1937, by Justices Broomfield and N.J. Wadia in *Narhari Damodar Vaidya v. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar*. Justice Broomfield, in a passage that deserves to be remembered, held that the appellants had not established the immemorial custom they had alleged. The tank belonged to the municipality. It was public property. The untouchables had every right to use it. A man led a procession to drink water from a public tank in 1927. It took until 1937 for the courts to confirm that he was entitled to do so. The law vindicated Ambedkar. But the fact that vindication took a decade tells its own story about the depth of the resistance he faced. Salt versus water

Three years after Mahad, on March 12, 1930, Mahatma Gandhi set out from Sabarmati ashram on his march to Dandi. The Salt Satyagraha was a masterstroke of political mobilisation. It challenged the economic apparatus of the colonial state and captured the imagination of the world press. Its place in the national narrative is secure, and rightly so. But consider what each satyagraha actually demanded, and of whom. The Salt March demanded freedom from the British. The Mahad Satyagraha demanded freedom from fellow Indians. Dandi identified an external oppressor and asked him to leave. Mahad identified an internal sickness and asked a civilisation to heal itself. One required courage against a foreign ruler. The other required something harder: the willingness to look one's own neighbours, one's own co-religionists, one's own countrymen in the eye and say, "You have treated us as less than human, and we will not



The republic must mark the centenary of the Mahad Satyagraha with the seriousness it deserves; it calls for a year of honest reckoning to ask whether the constitutional promise of dignity and freedom from untouchability has become a lived reality for all

accept it any longer." There is no dishonour to the Salt March in saying this. But there is a historical imbalance that needs correcting. The salt tax was an imposition of an empire. Once the empire left, the tax could be abolished by a stroke of the legislative pen. Untouchability, by contrast, did not arrive with the British and did not leave with them. It was woven into the social fabric of Indian life for millennia. It required not a change of government, but a change of heart, of custom, of the very conception of who counts as human.

It is no accident that the man who drank water at Chavdar went on to draft the Constitution. The architecture of Part III bears the watermark of Mahad. Article 15, which prohibits discrimination on grounds of caste and specifically addresses access to wells, tanks, bathing ghats, and places of public resort, reads as though Ambedkar had the Chavdar tank before his eyes.

Article 17, which abolishes untouchability and makes its practice a punishable offence, is the Mahad Satyagraha transmuted into constitutional text. The Dandi March gave India the aspiration for Swaraj. Mahad gave India the grammar of equality. Swaraj could have been written by many hands. The grammar of equality could only have been written by one who had been denied water as a child. The case for a centenary. The 100th anniversary of the Mahad Satyagraha falls on March 20, 2027. We are now in the 99th year. If this republic has any sense of its origins, any honest memory of the struggles that gave it a Constitution, it must mark this centenary with the seriousness and grandeur it deserves. I would propose a year-long commemoration beginning on March 20, 2026, and culminating on March 20, 2027, with a great gathering at the Chavdar tank. Let citizens of every caste, creed, and class come to Mahad and drink together. Let it be a constitutional baptism: a re-immersion in the founding promise that no Indian shall be diminished by the accident of birth. But let us not stop with only ceremonies.

Let the centenary year become a year of honest reckoning. Let us ask whether the child in a government school in rural India today, the Dalit boy, the Adivasi girl, the daughter of the sanitation worker, truly lives free of the "no peon, no water" principle, or whether that principle has merely found new vocabularies while retaining its venom. Let us ask whether the manual scavenger who cleans our sewers with bare hands occupies a fundamentally different position from the Mahars barred from the Chavdar tank. Let us ask whether the constitutional text has become the reality of the republic. The centenary must be a call for true equality for all, for the last, the least, and the lost. For every Indian whom the lottery of birth still consigns to a life of diminished citizenship, of invisible labour, of social suffering that is too familiar to even register as injustice any more. The waters of the Chavdar tank must flow again, not as historical memory but as living commitment. Ambedkar did not merely draft a Constitution. He first had to prove, by walking to a tank in a small town and drinking water from it, that those for whom he would one day write that Constitution were human enough to drink. That act, radical and simple and shattering, remains the foundational moment of Indian constitutionalism. It came before Dandi. In what it demanded, and of whom it demanded it, it went deeper than Dandi. And in the unfinished business of Indian equality, it still awaits its full redemption. The centenary approaches. Let the republic remember, lest it forget.

Should India align its accounting education with global GAAP standards?



Global accounting as a common language International business relies on standardized accounting practices for everything to stay consistent. U.S. GAAP is still used for the reporting of many multinational corporations, especially those with operations or listings in the U.S.. Along with IFRS and Ind AS, it is part of the "working knowledge" required for those in international business. India has become an important player in this world, especially in the development of Global Capability Centres. It is the location for 55% of the world's GCCs, generating \$64.6 billion in export revenue, with predictions for this to rise to \$110 billion by 2030. It is the location for a wide range of finance functions, and those in these environments are familiar with a range of accounting systems. This is not specialised knowledge, it is required knowledge.

The gap in current commerce education Commerce education in India remains closely aligned with examinations and structured problem-solving. The curriculum covers the basics of accounting principles and Indian standards well. The basics are important, but students get little exposure to global frameworks and how they are applied. They are not likely to be working with full financial statements prepared in U.S. GAAP or IFRS as part of the coursework. Differences in treatment, disclosure, and reporting formats are not examined in depth. As a result, the transition from classroom learning to professional work involves a period of adjustment. The employability data reflects this gap. Commerce graduates in India have an employability rate of 62.81%. The issue lies in application and context. Theoretical clarity does not always translate into the ability to interpret real financial reports across standards. Employability in a global finance ecosystem The demand for finance experts in India has increased in line with the growth of multinational operations and outsourcing centers. Global Capability Centers and shared services are gradually expanding their workforce strength for international business operations. By 2030, the workforce strength in India for GCC is expected to rise to 3.46 million, adding 1.3 million jobs. These jobs usually anticipate professionals who are skilled enough to work with various accounting standards with precision. This demand reflects a clear preference for professionals who can work across accounting frameworks, a capability that current academic training does not consistently provide. While academics are important, they are not the only factors that determine job readiness. Not all academics cover every aspect of job readiness. People with exposure to international accounting practices are expected to settle in these jobs smoothly.

Reframing the curriculum for industry relevance To fill this information gap, commerce education needs to be revised with careful thought given to this aspect. Indian accounting standards should form the core of the study material, as they are most relevant to the Indian context. In addition, U.S. GAAP and IFRS could be integrated as comparative studies, which could help students understand the differences in a structured manner. Case-based learning can bring practical depth, using company reports to examine how standards operate in real settings. Simulation exercises can provide exposure to consolidation, reporting adjustments, and audit processes within a guided environment. Interaction with industry professionals can add context and current perspective. Such steps would allow students to connect foundational knowledge with practical application before entering the workforce. Conclusion India's position as a centre for global finance operations places clear expectations on the quality of its accounting talent. Harmonising the education in the field of commerce with international reporting standards can also strengthen this position. The graduates with the right mix of knowledge and insight can be more employable in the international arena. This can also strengthen India's role in the global financial system.

Teenagers sue Musk's xAI claiming image-generator made sexually explicit images of them as minors

Nashville: Three teenagers in Tennessee sued Elon Musk's xAI this week, claiming the company's image-generation tools were used to morph real photos of them into explicitly sexual images. The high school students, who are seeking to proceed under pseudonyms, filed the lawsuit in California, where xAI — Musk's artificial intelligence company — has its headquarters. They are seeking class-action status in order to represent what the lawsuit says are thousands of victims like themselves who either are minors or were minors when sexually explicit images of them were created. According to the lawsuit, Jane Doe 1 was alerted anonymously in December that someone was distributing sexually explicit images of her on a social media website. "At least five of these files, one video and four images, depicted her actual face and body in settings with which she was familiar, but morphed into sexually explicit poses," the lawsuit states. It claims the person distributing the images knew Doe and used xAI's image generation tools to turn real photos of her into sexually abusive ones.

US announces 100% tariff on patented pharma; limited impact on India



ports were also exempt from the 50% tariffs imposed by the Trump administration on most Indian goods. While India's exports are primarily in the patented segment, Sun Pharma is the only Indian company with sizable sales from patented products in the US. According to HSBC analysts, it reported global sales of \$1,217 million from patented products in FY25, of which the US market accounted for 85-90%. However, India has been pushing for the manufacturing of patented medicines too under its flagship Production Linked Incentive Scheme (PLI). According to an official statement, the PLI focuses on biopharmaceuticals, complex generic drugs, "patented drugs or those nearing patent expiry", gene therapy drugs, orphan drugs and complex excipients.

The PLI Scheme for Pharmaceuticals was approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021, with a financial outlay of Rs 15,000 crore and a production tenure running from FY 2022-23 to FY 2027-28. Former trade officer and founder of think tank Global Trade Research Initiative, Ajay Srivastava, said that for India, the immediate impact is limited as around 90% of India's pharmaceutical exports to the US are generics, which remain exempt. In 2025, India exported \$9.7 billion worth of pharmaceuticals to the US, accounting for 38% of its global pharma exports of \$25.8 billion, he said.

"However, Indian firms producing branded or specialty drugs, or supplying inputs for patented medicines, could face tariff pressure. The larger concern is future uncertainty if tariffs are extended to generics," Srivastava said. Trade experts said the US could use tariffs mainly as a pressure tool, not to raise revenue but to push drugmakers to cut prices in the US, shift some manufacturing locally, and to gain greater control over critical pharmaceutical supply chains, treating the sector as strategically important like semiconductors. And this is the reason tariffs are designed to be avoidable; companies that lower prices or invest in US production can escape them.

THE US on Thursday announced a 100% tariff on import of patented pharmaceuticals and associated ingredients starting July 31 on grounds that Washington is heavily reliant on imports, which threatens to limit access to life-saving medications in the event of "global supply chain disruption". US President Donald Trump said that new tariffs will not include generic drugs "at this time". But a decision on adjusting imports of generic pharmaceuticals and their associated ingredients could be taken within one year. India is primarily an exporter of generic pharma products, but has introduced various schemes to boost production of patented drugs too.

"I have determined that it is necessary and appropriate to impose a 100% ad valorem duty rate on the import of patented pharmaceuticals and associated pharmaceutical ingredients... The Secretary [of Commerce] found that the present quantities and circumstances of imports of pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutical ingredients threaten to impair the national security and economy," Trump said.

The US is India's largest market for pharmaceutical exports, accounting for an almost 40% share. Pharma ex-

Fresh IBC amendments: How govt looks to plug gaps in insolvency code

The IBC was enacted in 2016 to create a time-bound mechanism to deal with companies that default on their loans — by reviving them through resolution or liquidating them if resolution is not possible. The amendment seeks to speed up the resolution process and introduces provisions for an out-of-court mechanism, group insolvency and cross-border insolvency. Before this amendment, the IBC had already been amended six times to address the pressing issues of the time and incorporate the needs of the stakeholders.

Over the years, the IBC has improved discipline among borrowers and lenders but has also faced criticism over delays, backlog of cases and low recovery rates for banks. To address some of these concerns, the Bill to amend the IBC was introduced in Lok Sabha on August 12, 2025, and referred to a Select Committee on the same day. The committee submitted its report on December 17, 2025 with 11 recommendations. All 11 have been incorporated, along with one by the Ministry of Corporate

Affairs. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday that the amendments focus on swifter admission of insolvency applications and strict timelines for adjudicating authorities to reduce delays. They also enhance creditor oversight and remove procedural overlaps. According to the existing code, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), which oversees the corporate insolvency resolution process, has 14 days to decide on admitting an insolvency application. But it often takes months to initiate insolvency proceedings. The amendment attempts to streamline this hurdle at the very first stage. The NCLT must now admit applications once the default is proven. There are no other conditions except ensuring that the resolution professional faces no disciplinary proceedings and procedural requirements are met. The Bill makes it clear that an application cannot be rejected on any other ground. Another major change in the IBC framework is the introduction of the Creditor-initiated Insolvency Resolution Process (CIIRP).

This provides for an out-of-court initiation mechanism which can be done by only "specified financial creditors". At least 51% of financial creditors will have to agree to initiate this process. Varun Singh, Founder & Managing Partner, Foresight Law Offices India said that the CIIRP aims to address the problem of unsatisfactory alternatives to insolvency proceedings. The options were either a long, uncertain process under the NCLT with no opportunity for recovery after three years or a weak out-of-court reorganisation process. "Investors and distressed asset funds could be relieved by the reforms, as they eliminate delays in admission stages (bottlenecks for potential investors), impose a time frame for judicial determination of admission, and reduce the time frames and availability of delays caused by litigation to the resolution process," said Singh.

The Bill also introduces a framework for group insolvency and cross-border insolvency, aimed at improving investor confidence and aligning domestic processes with



international best practices. The other key changes to the IBC in its 577-page report, the select committee chaired by BJP MP Baijayant Panda made 11 recommendations (all incorporated in the final Bill) to strengthen the insolvency law. These are some of the major ones. It proposed removing conflicts of interest by disallowing the resolution professional (RP) of a corporate debtor from becoming the liquidator. The committee observed that the RP may have a potential "perverse incentive" to favour liquidation over resolution to secure additional fees, as the liquidator's remuneration is often a percentage of the liquidation estate, unlike the RP's fixed monthly salary. It recommended a three-month timeline for the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) to reduce "undue appellate delays".

It called for clearer rules on cross-border insolvency. The committee said that the rules should detail the process for recognition of proceedings involving specified foreign countries/territories, alongside the process for granting relief, judicial cooperation, assistance, and coordination. This explicit listing of process components within the primary law (the Code) itself serves as the codified basic tenets that prevent undue delegation, said the committee. The committee recommended adding an explanation to Section 240C to clarify and broaden the term "corporate debtor" to explicitly include any person incorporated with limited liability outside India. It also recommended lowering the voting threshold for pre-packaged insolvency resolution process (PPIRP) to 51%, and empowering Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to set timelines and conduct standards for the Committee of Creditors. The committee called for replacing criminal penalties with civil penalties for offences such as contravention of moratorium or resolution plan and non-disclosure of dispute or payment of debt by operational creditor. Its reasoning was that non-implementation or delayed implementation of resolution plans may not always be attributable to mala fide intent. During the discussion on the Bill in Rajya Sabha, many members raised concerns regarding recovery rates. Responding to these, Sitharaman stated that the IBC was never intended to be a debt recovery tool. "IBC is a framework for rescuing viable businesses and resolving financial stress while preserving enterprise value," she said. As of December 2025, IBC has facilitated the resolution of 1,376 companies, helping creditors to recover 4.11 lakh crore. Financial creditors have seen recovery exceeding 34% of their claims.

New NSE OTR framework for options to take effect from April 6

Mumbai: The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has revised the order-to-trade ratio (OTR) framework for the equity derivatives options segment, with the changes set to come into effect from April 6, in line with SEBI guidelines issued earlier this year. Under the revised criteria, orders placed within a range of (+/-)40 per cent of the last traded price (LTP) of the options premium or (+/-)Rs 20, whichever is higher, will be exempt from the framework for imposing penalties on high OTR.

This marks a significant relaxation compared to the earlier norm, under which only orders within 0.75 per cent of the LTP were excluded from OTR computation, resulting in a relatively narrow exemption band. The exchange also clarified that no changes have been made to the OTR framework for the equity derivatives futures segment and the cash segment. In these segments, orders entered or modified within 0.75 per cent of the LTP will continue to remain exempt from OTR calculations.

As per the SEBI circular issued earlier in February, algorithmic orders placed by designated market makers for market-making activities will not be considered in the computation of OTR, providing a specific carve-out within the framework. The OTR metric tracks the ratio of total orders placed, including modifications and cancellations, to the



number of trades executed by a trading member. It is used by exchanges to monitor excessive order placement and ensure orderly market functioning. The changes follow representations from stock exchanges, consultations with market participants and recommendations of the SEBI's Secondary Market Advisory Committee (SMAC). In addition, a mock trading session for the revised functionality was conducted on March 14. The NSE said all existing penal charges, actions and other modalities under the OTR framework, as specified in earlier circulars, will remain unchanged.

'Maine dara diya ki tu sahi se nahi karega toh...': How Farah Khan scared Jimmy Shergill into his iconic Mohabbatein debut



Ask any Bollywood music buff, and they'll tell you that the song Aankhein Khuli from Mohabbatein holds a special status. Even after two decades, it remains a massive hit. But did you know it was Jimmy Shergill's first-ever dancing experience? Farah Khan once recalled on The Kapil Sharma Show Season 2 how she scared an already nervous Shergill into performing well on his first-ever dance shoot. "Jimmy Shergill ko maine bahut daraya tha ki tute theek se nahi kiya to Aditya Chopra tujhe nikal dega is gaane se. Jimmy Shergill ne dance nahi kiya tha pehle kabhi, to usko maine dara diya tha ki dekh ye tera test hai, agar ye nahi hua to tu out hai picture se aur doosra koi aa jayega... darke mare dance kara tha pooraa" (I told him that if you don't dance well, you'll be fired and someone else will be taken in the song, as well as the film) While Khan's confession was candid, fear in the workplace often plays an important role. To understand how such fear can impact performance, we reached out to Neha Parashar, clinical psychologist at Mindtalk, who shares insights on how first-time challenges and performance pressure affect creativity, confidence, and long-term skill development.

1. How does fear act as a fuel when doing something for the first time?

Parashar explains that fear often activates our body's natural alert system, pushing us into a "heightened state of focus and energy." "When channelled positively, this physiological arousal can help people perform better, think faster, and become more mindful of their actions." She adds that for someone doing something new, a bit of fear can sharpen

attention and motivate preparation. The key, she warns, is keeping that fear within healthy limits so it drives, not paralyses.

2. How does fear of judgment from peers or authority figures affect creativity and confidence?

"Fear of judgment can sometimes stifle creative expression because the individual becomes more focused on avoiding mistakes than on experimenting or taking risks." Parashar further explains that confidence thrives in psychological safety — when people feel free to try and fail. However, occasional external evaluation can also push individuals to refine their ideas and deliver their best, according to the psychologist.

3. Can a playful exaggeration or 'tough love' from a work senior motivate better than gentle encouragement?

The psychologist explains that it depends on the individual's personality and emotional resilience. "For some, a senior's teasing or playful pressure can be energising, signalling trust and camaraderie. When 'tough love' comes from a place of humour and genuine belief in someone's potential, it can inspire effort. But if perceived as humiliation or threat, it harms morale instead of building it."

4. Can being 'scared into action' enhance long-term confidence and skill retention?

"Fear-driven motivation may produce short-term results, but long-term confidence usually comes from mastery and positive reinforcement. If a person overcomes a challenge under pressure and receives appreciation afterwards, it can boost self-esteem and memory of success." Parashar cautions that repeated fear-based motivation can lead to burnout and performance anxiety over time.

5. How can a person cope with performance pressure when the stakes are high?

Parashar recommends grounding techniques like deep breathing, visualisation, or positive self-talk to regulate the body's stress response. "Breaking big goals into smaller, manageable steps reduces the feeling of overwhelm. Most importantly, focusing on the process rather than the outcome helps individuals perform with calm confidence. Seeking feedback, rather than fearing it, also transforms pressure into a learning opportunity," she concludes.

'Do not disrespect the gut and brain axis': Rujuta Diwekar shares vital warning against reading in the toilet



Are you guilty of reading or scrolling while on the toilet? Celebrity nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar says, "You really don't need over-the-counter pre, pro and post biotics, you need the buddhi to do the basics right." Her only advice? "Do not disrespect the gut and brain axis by reading on the pot". A simple habit most of us are guilty of. But the long-term consequences can be deadly for gut health and bowel movement. Indianexpress.com spoke to a health expert to understand the long-term ramifications of reading in the toilet. Here's what we found.

Dr Anupama N K, Senior Consultant — Medical Gastroenterology, Aster CMI Hospital, Bangalore explained that the gut-brain axis, which is the communication network between our brain and digestive system. This network helps regulate digestion, nutrient absorption, and overall gut health.

What happens if you read on the pot?

Bhagyashree says water isn't enough for summer: 'Make sure its with the right salts'

Hydration is not just limited to water any longer. From alkaline water to sparkling water, electrolytes, and liquid IVs, the options to keep yourself hydrated are endless in today's market. Electrolytes are essential minerals, such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium, that carry an electrical charge when dissolved in water and keep your body running smoothly. Our bodies get these electrolytes from the food we eat and the fluids we drink. They help perform various bodily functions, such as moving nutrients into cells, removing waste products from cells, helping rebuild damaged tissues, balancing the body's pH levels, and regulating the function of the nervous, muscular, heart, and brain.

Talking about their importance, Bhagyashree shared a quick video on Instagram ahead of the impending summer season in India. "Post Holi, the heat always gets going...so a simple reminder to stay hydrated. But the key is to make sure it's with the right salts," she mentioned in the caption of her post. The actor said that when you are feeling too hot or sweaty, just water is not enough to keep your body hydrated, because your body's potassium, sodium, and sodium chloride levels start to diminish. "While potassium helps attract water molecules towards the cells of your body, chloride helps maintain the fluid balance, since too much water inside the cells can cause more harm than usual," she shared in the video. In fact, when you feel like fainting in the summer heat, Bhagyashree said it indicates a lack of potassium and calcium in your body, which are water-soluble salts that send signals between the body and the mind. Thus, post-exercise or during the hotter months, she advised drinking coconut water, lemon water, or electrolyte mixtures in water to combat dehydration.

Which electrolytes should you pick?

Pooja Udeshi, Consultant, Sports Nutritionist, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai, shared a quick guide for electrolytes based on your daily needs:

Regular diet: For most people, daily hydration can be managed through water and foods rich in electrolytes. Bananas, leafy greens, citrus fruits, curd and coconut water are excellent natural sources. If you are not exercising heavily or living in extreme conditions, this everyday intake

She elaborated that the concern about reading on the toilet stems from the possibility that it may interfere with natural bowel habits. "When we sit on the toilet for long periods, especially while reading, we tend to strain or sit in awkward positions. This can slow bowel movements, weaken pelvic muscles, and increase the risk of constipation or haemorrhoids over time," she shared. Check out these expert tips for better bowel health. Check out these expert tips for better bowel health. (Source: Freepik)

To add to that, spending extra time on the toilet can stress the gut-brain connection. Dr Anupama said that the body receives signals from the gut to the brain when it's time to pass stool, and prolonging this process may confuse or dull these signals. "The gut works best with routine, short, and stress-free bowel habits. By turning the toilet into a reading space, we risk turning a natural process into a sedentary habit, which can negatively affect digestion, gut motility, and even microbiome balance over time," she said. However, this effect is gradual, and occasional reading is unlikely to cause major harm. The key is not to make the toilet a place for prolonged leisure. Instead, Dr Anupama emphasised focusing on proper posture, keeping feet flat on the floor or on a small stool, relaxed breathing, and responding to natural urges without delay. In the long run, maintaining this simple routine supports smoother digestion, healthier gut flora, and a more efficient gut-brain axis, thereby improving digestive comfort and overall well-being.



Electrolytes are essential minerals, such as sodium, potassium, magnesium, and calcium, that carry an electrical charge when dissolved in water and keep your body running smoothly. Our bodies get these electrolytes from the food we eat and the fluids we drink. They help perform various bodily functions, such as moving nutrients into cells, removing waste products from cells, helping rebuild damaged tissues, balancing the body's pH levels

is usually enough. Post exercise: Workouts and outdoor activities in the heat can cause heavy sweating and loss of sodium and potassium. That's why athletes often rely on sports drinks. A simpler option is a homemade mix: water, a pinch of salt, lemon and a little honey. This combination replenishes electrolytes without added sugar or additives.

When blood pressure is low: For those who experience dizziness or fatigue due to low blood pressure, sodium plays a key role. Adding a bit more salt to food or sipping on clear soups and oral rehydration solutions may help. However, it's important to avoid overcorrection — always check with a healthcare professional before making changes. Coping with heat or illness: Hot climates, dehydration, vomiting, or diarrhoea can quickly strip the body of vital salts. In such cases, ORS (oral rehydration solution) is the most reliable choice, as it is formulated for rapid absorption. Energy drinks or high-caffeine beverages should be avoided, as they may worsen fluid loss.

Anurag Kashyap had two heart attacks, went to rehab thrice after Netflix's 'miscarriage' of Maximum City: 'They were silent for 1.5 years'



"It got India all wrong. Anything based in India, I won't do it in English. So, I've been walking the same path. When Suketu said do Maximum City in Hindi, I was very happy. It was greenlit by Netflix before I even wrote it. I asked them to read the book, but none of them did except one person. I said, 'Know what you're greenlighting,'" recalled Kashyap. By then, he'd already adapted Sacred Games for the platform, which turned out to be their maiden India Original, back in 2017. Kashyap then argued that since the problem was in the first 15 pages of his script, Netflix could've flagged it right there and then, but they didn't stop him from writing 900 pages. "Their silence for one-and-a-half years was even more triggering." Netflix India cancelled a number of shows and films, including Dibakar Banerjee's Tees, after 'policy changes' post the Tandav-Prime Video India controversy in 2021.

And then to compensate, they were sending me mediocre scripts. When I said it's mediocre and I need time, they said, 'No, but we have the actors' dates in four months.' I said no, I can't do it. If you want me to do it, I'll do it but I need time," said Kashyap. He revealed Netflix loved the pilot of a show he wrote, but wanted him to turn it into the Indian version of breakout Spanish thriller show Money Heist. Kashyap backed out, left Netflix India, and grieved for months. "It was like a miscarriage. Because of that grieving, I had heart attacks, was on blood thinners, and then the vaccine reacted. I got asthma, I was on steroids. With blood thinners and steroids, my mind was so abuzz as if it was on drugs," recalled the filmmaker. "I went into rehab three times, had a heart attack, my health went down, I didn't know how to deal with it. Then slowly, I crawled back. I'm myself now. But I still went on making films," Kashyap told SCREEN in 2022. "Unlike other people, I don't have the luxury to sit and wait. I don't do massive budget films which can sustain my people, my team," he added. Depression and asthma weren't the only health scares as Kashyap also began drinking a lot and ordering in a lot of unhealthy food, which led to him gaining 35 kg within just eight months. "My daughter was very worried. She sent me to rehab. I went to the rehab to fix myself, and I fixed myself. But I got a tear in my right leg in the rehab while playing cricket. And because of being on blood thinners, I couldn't go for surgery. I couldn't walk and was on a wheelchair. I was on bed rest for months," recalled Kashyap.

Anurag Kashyap's next release, Kennedy, starring Rahul Roy and Sunny Leone, is finally coming out this Friday on ZEE5. The film has been doing the rounds for two years now, and was written by Kashyap overnight back in 2023. That happened after two to three years of personal and professional setbacks, starting with the shelving of his ambitious adaptation of Suketu Mehta's 2004 book Maximum City by Netflix India. "I was only grieving over Maximum City. I was frustrated over Maximum City because the investment in that was so much. Because I'd been attached with Maximum City since 2009, when Danny Boyle was producing it. Slumdog Millionaire writer was writing it, and he wanted me to direct it at that time," revealed Kashyap in a new interview.

After the global crossover success of the Oscar-winning 2009 British film Slumdog Millionaire set in India, director Danny Boyle decided to adapt another Indian book, Maximum City, with screenwriter Simon Beaufoy, but it didn't work out. Kashyap told The Hollywood Reporter India he even turned down Showtime's offer to adapt Vikram Chandra's 2006 novel Sacred Games into a show produced by legendary filmmaker Ridley Scott and Warner Bros' offer to adapt Gregory David Roberts' 2003 book Shantaram with Forrest Gump-fame Eric Roth attached as the screenwriter.

Mammootty on recent health scare that forced him to take break from acting: 'I couldn't smell or taste anything'



George and his brother Ebrahimkutty, confirmed that he had been declared free of it. Now, Mammootty has finally opened up about what he went through during this challenging period, revealing the physical impact it had on him.

Speaking at the 16th-anniversary celebrations of the Care & Share International Foundation, a non-profit charitable organisation he founded, the actor shared that both his olfactory and gustatory abilities were compromised during this time. "Eyesight and hearing are very important aspects of human life. Even while breathing, some people are unable to smell anything. I was unable to smell or taste anything for a long time. We only understand the value of such abilities when we lose them," he reportedly said. Although he has recovered from the health issue since then, his sense of smell and taste are only gradually returning to normal.

When a man 'threw away' hearing aid Mammootty gifted him

During his address, Mammootty also took a trip down memory lane and recalled a time when someone discarded the hearing aid he had gifted them. The megastar noted that having a functional auditory sense was new for the person, and he felt extremely overwhelmed upon experiencing it for the first time. "During a shoot, I bought a hearing aid for someone I knew. He wore it for a short while and then removed it and threw it away. Sound was something he had never experienced before. It overwhelmed him, almost frightened him, and he never used the device again. Even today, he does not use it." One of the most influential and successful actors in the history of Malayalam cinema, Mammootty has appeared in over 400 films in a career spanning five decades. He was most recently seen in director Jithin K Jose's Kalamkaval, where he played the antagonist, and Adhvaith Nayar's Chatha Pacha, where he made a cameo appearance. Mammootty will next be seen in Mahesh Narayanan's Patriot, marking his on-screen reunion with Mohanlal after 18 years.

Early in 2025, a rumour started circulating on social media that sent chills down the spines of Malayalees worldwide. "Mammootty is unwell," people began saying, with some even claiming that he had been diagnosed with cancer and was stepping away from professional commitments for a while for treatment. Although his team quickly dismissed the rumours as fake, the following months saw Malayalees' fears come true as industry insiders indirectly confirmed that the megastar was dealing with a health scare. Mammootty's absence from the public eye further fueled the speculation, which reached a peak when fellow superstar Mohanlal performed a special offering for Mammootty at the Sabarimala temple in Pathanamthitta, Kerala.

Months later, in August, his co-stars and people close to him announced that he had recovered from the disease. While no one explicitly mentioned what health crisis he had been dealing with, they, including his long-time associate

Gangs of Waseypur made me, ruined me: Anurag Kashyap blames the film for his recent box office failures

Anurag Kashyap has directed 12 feature films, three short films, and one show since his 2012 two-part seminal gangster saga Gangs of Waseypur. He's even turned an actor and starred in 10 feature films and one show since then. But he believes that franchise, starring Manoj Bajpayee, Nawazuddin Siddiqui, Richa Chadha, and Huma Qureshi among others is still an albatross around his neck.

"I don't think other than Farhan Akhtar or Karan Johar, there's no filmmaker who clicks more selfies than I do. And they all know me as either an actor or the director of Gangs of Waseypur. And I have a filmography of 200 plus. They remember nothing else. And the only question they ask me, '3 kab bana rahe ho sir?' (When are you making part 3?)," said Kashyap in a recent interview.

He claims he's started telling them point blank that he won't make a Gangs of Waseypur threequel because he wouldn't cave in to audience expectations. "I didn't make films to compete in this market of who's the most successful filmmaker. I came here to make films, and I will make films. I'm ready to bear the consequences. I'll go back to my indie days," Kashyap told The Hollywood Reporter India.

Kashyap also blames the "shadow of Gangs of Waseypur" for the box office failure and underwhelming response to his latest two-part crime comedy, Nishaanchi, which released last year. He claimed that while the film was conceived with Prime Video India as a streaming-only release, the craze for Gangs of Waseypur prompted them to split it into two parts and release the first one in cinemas. However, Kashyap points out that didn't work for the film as a lot of people were taken aback by the abrupt



Kashyap also blames the "shadow of Gangs of Waseypur" for the box office failure and underwhelming response to his latest two-part crime comedy, Nishaanchi, which released last year

ending of the first part. He said whoever liked Nishaanchi, watched it in one go, either during the trials or on Prime Video once both parts were dropped at the same time. In fact, he insisted that both parts be released together on the platform since the first part failed to collect even Rs 2 crore at the domestic box office.

'Not as critical as reported': Dr Jalil Parkar clarifies Salim Khan's status after neurological procedure



Salim Khan was brought in around 8.30 am on Tuesday to Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital by his family physician, Dr. Sandeep Chopra, following a haemorrhage. Salim Khan was brought in around 8.30 am on Tuesday to Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital by his family physician, Dr. Sandeep Chopra, following a haemorrhage.

Veteran screenwriter Salim Khan, 90, was admitted to Lilavati Hospital in Bandra on Tuesday morning after his health condition deteriorated. Hospital officials confirmed that Khan was brought in around 8.30 am by his family physician, Dr. Sandeep Chopra, following a haemorrhage. On Wednesday, Dr. Jalil Parkar, pulmonologist at Lilavati Hospital, in a press briefing said Khan was initially treated in the casualty ward before being shifted to the ICU. "After seeing him in the casualty and giving him some medications, we realised he needed ICU hospitalisation and we took him to

ICU. He was having jerks and his blood pressure was high, for which we treated him. We had to put him on the ventilator as a safeguard while certain investigations were carried out. It was not that he was critical, as reported on various news channels," Dr. Parkar clarified.

On Wednesday, Khan underwent a medical procedure performed by neurosurgeon Dr. Nitin Dange. "The procedure, called DSA, has been accomplished successfully. He is fine, stable, and being shifted back to the ICU. By tomorrow, if all goes well, and God wishes, he will be off the ventilator. All in all, he is doing quite well, age is a factor and we understand, that is why the process of recovery takes a little time," Dr. Parkar said. Digital Subtraction Angiography (DSA) is a minimally invasive imaging technique used to visualize blood vessels in detail. It involves injecting a contrast dye into the bloodstream and using X-ray fluoroscopy to capture images. By digitally subtracting pre-contrast images from post-contrast ones, doctors can clearly see abnormalities such as blockages, aneurysms, or haemorrhages in the vascular system. DSA is often used in neurology and cardiology to diagnose and guide treatment for vascular conditions.

Family members, including actor Salman Khan, were seen at the hospital soon after news of his admission broke. Salman was spotted leaving the facility after visiting his father, while other relatives remained present. Salim Khan is widely regarded as one of the most influential screenwriters in Hindi cinema. As one half of the legendary Salim-Javed duo, he co-authored some of Bollywood's most iconic films of the 1970s and 1980s, including Sholay, Deewar, Zanjeer, and Trishul. His work helped define mainstream Hindi cinema and continues to inspire generations of filmmakers.

'Trying to make the world better': Vin Diesel compares 'birthday twin' Priyanka Chopra to Nelson Mandela, Nick Jonas adjusts her dress

Prime Video and Russo Brothers' production house AGBO hosted a grand premiere of Frank E Flowers' upcoming action thriller The Bluff, which is headlined by Priyanka Chopra. The star-studded event in Los Angeles was attended by Priyanka, her husband and actor-singer Nick Jonas, Fast & Furious star Vin Diesel, and Karl Urban among others.

While addressing the media at the premiere, Vin Diesel was all praise for his birthday twin Priyanka, who was standing by her. "She is so amazing in this movie. And she's such an incredible talent. And she was so nice with my kids in New York, where they had a screening. And we share our birthday. And the only other person I can think of is the great Nelson Mandela. And we're all trying to make the world a better place," said the actor. The official Instagram handle of AGBO shared this video with the caption, "Joe Russo, isn't your birthday also July 18th? (dance emoji)."

Earlier in the evening, Priyanka arrived at the premiere of The Bluff with Nick Jonas. As they posed on the red carpet, Nick was seen gently adjusting the trail of her dress. They also shared a kiss on the red carpet. Priyanka also posed on the red carpet with the cast and crew of The Bluff, including The Boys star Karl Urban, with whom her character locks horns with in the film. Set against the historical and cultural backdrop of the Cayman Islands, The Bluff follows a former pirate whose peaceful life is upended by the return of her violent past. Priyanka plays Ercell Bloody Mary Bodden, a skilled ex-pirate who believes she has left behind a life of bloodshed to live quietly with her family.

"But when her notorious former captain, Connor (Urban), arrives seeking revenge, Ercell's world is torn apart. Forced to confront the demons she's tried to bury, Ercell is thrust back into a deadly game of secrets and survival. Armed with lethal swordsmanship, cunning traps, and a fierce will to protect those she loves, she wages a brutal war against Connor's merciless crew. Ercell's fight to save her family becomes a journey of redemption, as she re-



claims her power and embraces the warrior she once was," read the official logline. Priyanka's co-star from her upcoming Telugu time-travel epic Varanasi, Mahesh Babu, also hyped her up when the trailer of The Bluff came out. "Loved the trailer... @priyankachopra is uncompromising and formidable yet again. Wishing the entire team of #TheBluff the very best for Feb 25th," he wrote on X last month while sharing the trailer. Co-written by Joe Ballarini and Flowers, The Bluff marks Priyanka's reunion with Avengers directors Russo Brothers — Joe and Anthony Russo — after their 2023 Prime Video India espionage thriller show Citadel. Priyanka has already shot for season 2 as well, which will drop on the platform this year. The Bluff will release on Prime Video on February 25.

Dhurandhar sweeps Chetak Screen Awards 2026 with 14 wins

Bollywood blockbuster Dhurandhar swept the Chetak Screen Awards 2026 with 14 wins at a glittering ceremony on Sunday, including Best Actor (Male) for Ranveer Singh, Best Director for Aditya Dhar and Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male) for Akshaye Khanna. The film dominated the technical categories too, winning awards for editing, sound design, special effects, cinematography, production design, background score, action, hairstyling and make-up. It shared the Best Costume award with another blockbuster Chhaava.

Haq, Suparn Verma's film documenting the landmark Shah Bano case, won Best Actor (Female) for Yami Gautam Dhar's portrayal of Shah Bano, and Best Film for Gender Sensitivity. The evening's other significant recognitions, including for Best Film, went to Neeraj Ghaywan's Homebound, inspired by a true story of friendship and tragedy during the Covid lockdown. Homebound award Karan Johar-backed Homebound won the Best Film award. On stage to receive the award was the entire team, from director Ghaywan and lead actors Ishaan Khatter and Vishal Jethwa to producer Karan Johar and Adar Poonawala, who now holds a stake in Dharma Productions. Khatter dedicated the award to those who fight every day for their identity. "This film is an effort to give voice to the voiceless and I would like to thank everyone for giving our film a voice," he said. The award was presented by Nita Mukesh Ambani, Chairperson, Reliance Foundation, and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. The award for Best Film Writing, Story and Screenplay went to Homebound, shared by Basharat Peer, Ghaywan and Sumit Roy. The film also bagged the Best Supporting Actor (Female) award for Shalini Vatsa. The presentation was streamed live on SonyLIV, Sony Entertainment Television, and YouTube, during an evening that belonged equally to blockbusters, quietly powerful films, and to a legend the industry bid farewell to last year. The Lifetime Achievement Award was bestowed posthumously on Dharmendra. Javed Akhtar, who presented it alongside Maharashtra Chief Minister Fadnis and Ramesh Sippy, recalled meeting the actor in 1965, when Akhtar was 20 years old and earning Rs 175 as an assistant director. "I have no idea why he shook my hand with so



much warmth," he said. He remembered a phone call years later: "I am launching my son. You have to write the script." That film was Betaab. "He was a strange combination of tremendous self-respect, dignity and complete humility," Akhtar said. The award was received by Bobby Deol. "I see the love for my father in all your eyes," said a teary-eyed Deol, adding, "He touched all of your hearts through his work, through his reels, which was a new hobby of his. He unlocked so many hearts — for my brother, for me, for every family member. I still feel like I will go home and tell him, 'Papa, I am bringing your award because you couldn't come...' I am grateful to God for making me his son. Thank you, Screen. Papa, you are the best." In the OTT category, Stolen, inspired by real incidents and following two brothers in a desperate search for a kidnapped baby, won four of five awards: Best Film (Karan Tejpal), Best Actor (Abhishek Banerjee), and Best Script (Karan Tejpal, Gaurav Dhingra and Swapnil Salkar). Best OTT Actor (Female) went to Sanya Malhotra for Mrs., a remake of the Malayalam film The Great Indian Kitchen, in which she plays a newlywed woman navigating regressive patriarchal traditions. In music, Mohit Suri's Saiyaara dominated. Faheem Abdullah and Shreya Ghoshal won Best Playback Singer Male and Female, respectively, for the film's title track. The song itself won Best Song, credited to Tanishk Bagchi, Abdullah and Arslan Nizami. The film's leads, Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, won Breakthrough Debut Male and Female, respectively. Sitaare Zameen Par, R S Prasanna's sports dramedy produced by and starring Aamir Khan as a self-absorbed basketball coach

How Sameer Rizvi's six-hitting masterclass flattened Mumbai Indians



GNS News Agency, April 6

On what was termed a slow wicket, 22-year-old Sameer Rizvi launched an assault that stunned MI after DC's bowlers defanged Rohit and Suryakumar. The first one in the 12th over of Delhi Capitals' chase was over long on. This hit was more about hand swing than foot movement. But the next was classic Rizvi, quickly coming down the track and launching a straight six. On a pitch which was not conducive to slam-bang batting, the 22-year-old made it seem like the 22-yard strip had been switched when he walked into bat at No.4. His treatment of the tall South African fast bowler Corbin Bosch, though, was a testament to his confidence. It happened in the 11th over of the DC innings, just before Markande's, shifting the momentum easily. Batting on 25 from 23 balls, Rizvi had flicked Bosch for a glorious six in the previous over. What followed was pure mayhem.

He put away a wide ball through mid-off for a four to begin the assault. The next delivery, he displayed class and improvisation. Rizvi expected the ball to be short and had lined up to pull it before realising the stroke wasn't on. In a flash, he angled his bat and ramped it past the wicket keeper for another four. The next two shots would have hurt Bosch's ego. A mighty slash over deep point for a six, followed by another six over long on. His fearlessness and ability to judge the length quickly, except against Jasprit Bumrah, were impressive. Going for a six when on 90, with no personal milestone in mind, would have pleased the coaches. The greats Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav couldn't play free-flowing innings when the Mumbai Indians batted, the former saying 'it was a pretty slow wicket' at the innings break. Rizvi, promoted to No.4 this season for DC

and coming off a match-winning, unbeaten 70 off just 47 balls against Lucknow earlier this week, didn't slow down once he got going. He scored his fifty from just 31 balls, with 26 runs coming from just 8 deliveries after a sedate start. His six-hitting needs special mention. Seventy of his 90 runs came via boundaries. His seven sixes, three more than the combined total of the mighty Mumbai batsmen, on what was a slow surface, eventually made it a one-sided match as DC won by six wickets and 11 balls to spare. If Rizvi made it a stroll for DC, their bowlers deserve credit for shackling the Mumbai batsmen.

Defanging the Mumbai Indians' power-packed batting line-up is not for the faint-hearted, even with Hardik Pandya sitting out because of an illness. In their first home match, the Delhi Capitals bowlers were on the money. Not many can match Delhi Capitals' fast bowler Lungi Ngidi's slower ball, but Mukesh Kumar produced a wonderful specimen for off Mi's No.3 Tilak Varma. The ball stopped on Tilak, and Mukesh had a caught-and-bowled victim. Before this, Ryan Rickelton paid the price for trying too hard to whack a length ball into the stands to be caught at mid-off. Two wickets in one over from Mukesh was the ideal start. At 18 for 2 in the third over, the Mumbai Indians' two best batsmen – Rohit and Suryakumar – were tasked with the responsibility of rebuilding. But Rohit's wonderful timing deserted him, and Suryakumar wasn't at his free-flowing best on the 'slow' surface. Run-making was tough with the first six of the innings struck off the last ball of the seventh over, Rohit launching leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam back over his head. But it wasn't Rohit's day because in the very next over, he smashed a wishful ball from Axar to Nitish Rana at cover. The spinners got the ball to turn on the slow wicket. They came into play early. Axar brought himself on in the fourth over and bowled Nigam in the next. Nigam ripped a delivery past the bat after Suryakumar had swept him for a four to put doubt in the mind of one of the best strikers of the ball. There were two fine sixes from Suryakumar, one a trademark sweep by picking the ball outside off stump from Patel and depositing it to the deep fine leg boundary. For the other six, he used his feet to deposit Kuldeep Yadav for a straight six into the sightscreen. That Suryakumar's fifty took 35 balls told the story of the bowlers keeping it tight. When Ngidi dismissed Suryakumar in the 16th over, before he could step on the gas, any hopes of MI posting a big target vanished.

Journeyman Jaydev Unadkat emerges as SRH's bowling leader in IPL 2026

GNS News Agency, April 6

During Thursday's IPL 2026 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) captain Ajinkya Rahane never looked comfortable against Jaydev Unadkat's pace variations, and eventually, the sharply disguised slower one put Rahane out of his misery on the night. Unadkat's 115.3 cutter dug into the surface, took eternity to reach the KKR skipper, who could not get any timing on the shot, and ended up chipping the ball in the air, which Eshan Malinga collected, running in from the deep. Unadkat would return later in the game and, with his cutters, take two more wickets to help SRH register their first win of the season.

The 34-year-old has played a crucial part in SRH's bowling plans since coming into the setup in 2024, bowling his pace-off deliveries at different phases of the game. Until Pat Cummins becomes available, he has spearheaded the inexperienced bowling attack. "Like Pat, he can bowl in all stages of the game, and that's incredibly important," head coach Daniel Vettori said about Unadkat's role. "He's a bit of a rock for us with Pat out. You can see that Ishan uses him in a myriad of ways. Just to have that sort of bowler, and he's performed for the last 10 games for us, he's been incredibly impressive," Vettori conceded.

Journeyman cricketer Although Unadkat is the leading wicket-taker in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy with 128 scalps, he has been a journeyman in IPL, representing eight franchises, and things have not always gone his way. "So in the earlier days, you know, he had a lot of speed and everything. But he knew that if he wanted to survive in this competitive world, he had to execute all the deliveries. So if you want to bowl that outside the off-stump yorker, you need to execute that well in the match. And that's what, over the years, he has tried to work on, and he has done really well in executing the deliveries right," Saurashtra head coach Niraj Odedra told.

And that perfection in execution has come from the tough grind in the drills he does in the off-season, when no one is watching, practicing "target bowling." Explaining the method, Niraj said: "You walk on your own, you have somebody just looking at what you bowl and just analysing all those things. You don't have batsmen or anything. But you go into match mode. You make sure that you do all the drills which are specific to the match situation. That's the best part." It is not just his bowling skills. Unadkat has been one of the most successful captains in domestic cricket, winning the Ranji Trophy twice with Saurashtra in 2019/20 and 2023/24. Niraj attributed Unadkat's personality trait of being self-aware, making him good at the leadership role and his determination to take junior players under his wing to see progress in them too. Jaydev Unadkat SRH IPL Jaydev Unadkat of Sunrisers Hyderabad celebrates the



wicket of Ajinkya Rahane of Kolkata Knight Riders during Match 6 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Kolkata Knight Riders and Sunrisers Hyderabad at Eden Gardens, Kolkata, India, on April 2, 2026.

"Chetan Sakariya was struggling with his injury and a few other things, but Unadkat fully backed him. He told him what's required of Sakariya, what sort of player Sakariya is. Constantly, he was with me, feeding all the good ideas and all the experience he has. And that helped Sakariya to come back from injury in a better way. The more you see Chetan Sakaria in the coming years, it's thanks to Jaydev that he's been talking and guiding him," shared Niraj.

And he has not been too different in his orange jersey either. Unadkat is the bridge between the domestic players who are finding their feet and the leadership group at SRH. "He has a really good understanding of domestic players around the country, so we utilise him a lot in terms of his information around some players that maybe the coaching staff hasn't seen a lot of, but because he's played so much domestic cricket, he's a valuable resource for us," Vettori said. It has not been an easy journey for Unadkat, although he has had immense success at domestic cricket; the same has not transpired in international cricket, with him being in and out of the side. But he always continues to go back to the grind of domestic cricket, doing the non-fancy job of putting in the hard yards in front of the empty stadiums. "Sometimes it's the passion.

So, regardless of whether he gets a chance to play for India or not, the motivation he always has is that, first of all, I love this game," said Niraj with glee. And coming into the season, Unadkat discussed the same with his Saurashtra Head Coach. More than anything, he wishes to play all the games for SRH this season. "For him, it was first to make sure that he consistently plays for the team... they (SRH) were runners-up a couple of years back. Everybody wants to win the trophy for the team. But I think for him, it was very important that he played all the games," concluded Niraj in a hopeful tone.

game as well. Was a good game. We need to bring out 100% here," Rashid added at the toss. It was the second time on Saturday that a captain was unavailable for an IPL clash. Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya was also ruled out of the match against Delhi Capitals due to illness, with Suryakumar Yadav leading in his absence. RR captain Riyan Parag won the toss and elected to bat first. It was the first instance of a skipper opting to set a target in the current season. Parag said that the inaugural champions would look to post a score of around 210 and rely on the bowlers to defend the score later in the evening. "We are going to be batting first. We got to assess and adapt to different conditions. Hopefully we will put up a good score around 210 and defend it later on. We want to be a team that can play in all conditions. I want it to be a team that is flexible. We don't want to play one brand of cricket.

Inside Glenn Phillips' art of the impossible catch: 'I enjoy being in the air'



GNS News Agency, April 6

Glenn Phillips remembers the catches he had spilled more than the ones he had pounced. "Sometimes you remember the ones that you drop a little bit more than the great ones," he tells The Indian Express. He dusts up memories of the worst catch he had dropped. "There was one in the Caribbean League when I was younger. It was a pretty dolly catch out on the boundary. I got my hands up, it slid straight through," he says, with a chuckle. Self-deprecatory jokes apart, he dwells on his three favourites. He rattles out the instances rather than being in a dilemma to pick from his album of spectacular catches. There are all sorts: gravity-defying, bone-bending, fence-trimmers, diving backwards, sideways, forward. He is a one-man catching manual, arguably the greatest when factoring in his mastery of fielding and catching in different ones. "The one that I keep close to my heart? The Marcus Stoinis one in the T20 World Cup in Australia." Stoinis lofted left-arm spinner Mitchell Santner over cover. The shot was not lusty enough to clear the fence, but it seemed to be falling in no man's land when Phillips sprinted from deep cover and flung himself fully in the air, suspending like an aeroplane, and swooped it. "Well, I remember just the moments," he says.

The two others are a couple of snaffles in Test cricket at the Hagley Oval in 2024. First was Marnus Labuschagne, who glided a wide-ish ball towards third man. Phillips hurled from gully, full stretch and grabbed it one-handed. The next catch was similar, but he was fielding at backward point. Ollie Pope's cut was full-blooded. But Phillips leapt and stuck his right hand out, like a telescope. "Big dives to the right side," is all that he remembers. The technique in both those instances, and a deluge of one-handed screamers, is fascinating. The catches were completed behind his suspended-in-the-air body. He explains the rationale. "That little bit of extra second, to catch the ball from behind my body, helps to cushion) ball a little bit and make sure that I get into a position that when I hit the ground, the ball stays in." A fourth favourite suddenly pops up, the Kyle Mayers catch in 2020. Phillips was fielding at deep mid-wicket when he vaulted towards the right side and grabbed a stunned near the ropes. "Yeah, that one probably stung it," he says, laughing.

Time, says Phillips, is his biggest enemy when catching. Too much time to catch the ball, too much time for negative thoughts to creep in. "Because often I think those are the ones that my mind overcomplicates a lot of the time. There's definitely been times where the ball's just about to hit my hands, and I have a feeling it's going to pop out," he says. "So the catches where I'm actually diving, those are almost the easier ones from the perspective. If you don't have time to think, the reaction takes over." Before the twinking reflexes kick in, he anticipates the trajectory of the ball. Anticipation, he stresses, is not premeditation. "If I'm fielding at point, I know that the catches, say it's a fast bowler, I'm probably going to be looking to go to my left-hand side if it's a right-hander or my right-hand side if it's a left-hand batter. So, you have to put your eggs in a basket and say, you know, I'm not going to premeditate, but understand that if I see the ball go off the face of the bat, that's probably the first way I'm going to move," he details.

Glenn Phillips catches IPL Time, says Phillips, is his biggest enemy when catching. Too much time to catch the ball, too much time for negative thoughts to creep in. (AP) Stillness is fundamental. Unlike the South African backward point prowlers, he does not walk towards the batsman as the bowler releases the ball. "You try to be as still and as reactionary as possible from that," he points out. His pre-game training involves a lot of high catches, not just because they are the easiest to complicate, but they are the most frequent ones, too. "Most of the time, you get a very easy catch. Make sure that you take that one. But there is nothing like an easy catch in the game," he says.

But he makes sure he studies the ground before every game. "Every ground I go to, I try to understand the dimensions of it, try to get a 360 (degrees) around the ground to catch the different angles the catches would come. If it's a day game, I like to see the sun from different angles at different times. You see the sky with slightly different colours," he says.

He dissects the ground with forensic eyes. "Some grounds have better gaps than others. In places like Ahmedabad, where there's a bit of a ring of fire out there, understanding what the best body positions to get into if the ball goes through those lights and comes back out is important," he says. Flying an aircraft is different from being airborne when taking a catch. A licensed pilot, he is in a caged cockpit when steering a steel bird several feet above the sea level. "Obviously, it's a slightly different kind of flying," he says. When flying on the pitch, he could feel the air, the turf, the light. More than self-gratification, he loves to entertain the audience. "People enjoy seeing feats of athleticism. Whether you get there or not, it is part of all the entertainment. And I do enjoy being in the air, and I guess using my body to its full potential," he says. Phillips has made the spectacular look routine. But every time he takes a blinder, he takes the breath away, even if he has taken a thousand similar catches.

Sameer Rizvi slams 90 as he guides Delhi Capitals to 6-wicket win vs Mumbai Indians

Sameer Rizvi DC vs MI IPL Sameer Rizvi of Delhi Capitals raises his bat after scoring a fifty during Match 8 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Sameer Rizvi was Delhi Capitals' main man once again when he blazed 90 runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL) match against Mumbai Indians at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday as he guided his team to a 6-wicket win. This performance follows on from his last match's performance when he slammed 70 runs and helped his team win against Lucknow Super Giants on April 1.

Delhi got off to a stuttering start when they lost KL Rahul and Nitish Rana early with the scoreboard reading 7/2. After that, Rizvi and Pathum Nissanka (44) helped steady the innings before the 22-year-old helped drag DC over the line with David Miller. This season was loaded with high stakes for Rizvi. CSK bought him for Rs 8.4 crore at the 2024 auction. But he featured in just 5 innings (No.5 the highest spot he batted at) after which CSK released him. He went to Delhi Capitals for Rs 95 lakhs last year. His unbeaten 58 against Punjab Kings was in a dead rubber.

In the LSG match, Rizvi and Tristan Stubbs stitched together a 119-run unbeaten partnership for the fifth wicket after Delhi Capitals were knocked back during the chase of 142. Earlier, MI stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav struck a patient half-century but Delhi Capitals bowlers dominated



to restrict Mumbai Indians to a modest 162 for 6. Suryakumar anchored the innings with a 36-ball 51, hitting three fours and two sixes, while Rohit Sharma hit 35 even as other MI batters found it difficult in the middle. Delhi's bowlers, however, kept things tight.

Skipper Axar Patel was exceptional, conceding just 22 runs in his four overs and removing the dangerous Rohit Sharma. Leg-spinner Vipraj Nigam (1/24 in 3 overs) chipped in with a wicket, while Kuldeep Yadav (0/31 in 3 overs) proved slightly expensive. The pace trio of Mukesh Kumar (2/26), Lungi Ngidi (1/34) and T Natarajan (1/24) also played their part, sharing four wickets between them.

'I know Kuldeep pretty well, likes to take the DRS': Rohit Sharma on review incident vs Delhi Capitals

Rohit Sharma Kuldeep Yadav IPL MI vs DC DRS Rohit Sharma of Mumbai Indians and Kuldeep Yadav of Delhi Capitals during Match 8 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi, India, on April 4, 2026. Former India skipper Rohit Sharma opened up about the DRS incident during Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals where he outsmarted DC in wasting a review. The incident happened in the 9th over when Rohit tried to sweep, got a deflection off his pads and the ball was caught by KL Rahul. While DC appealed, the umpire said no. Rohit then seemed to have started his walk towards the pavilion before coming back which prompted DC to take the review. It ultimately was ruled not out and the review was wasted. "I know Kuldeep pretty well, likes to take the DRS. So, yeah, I was just trying a little bit of luck there. But again, I got out pretty much in the next over. I couldn't carry on. I wanted to take the game as deep as possible, but couldn't do so. But yeah, a little bit of fun there with the guys out there," Rohit said about the incident in the post-innings break. "I was just trying to be, I was just trying to walk there. So, I know Kuldeep, he likes to take the DRS as soon as there is a 50-50 chances. So I was just trying my luck there. It turned out in our favor, but like I said, I got out in the next over. Wanted to bat deep, but couldn't do so," he added.

Stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav hit a combative 51 but Delhi Capitals restricted Mumbai Indians to 162 for six in their Indian Premier League (IPL) match. Mumbai Indians could not build partnerships and only Rohit Sharma (35) and Suryakumar contributed from



"I know Kuldeep pretty well, likes to take the DRS. So, yeah, I was just trying a little bit of luck there. But again, I got out pretty much in the next over. I couldn't carry on. I wanted to take the game as deep as possible, but couldn't do so. But yeah, a little bit of fun there with the guys out there," Rohit said about the incident in the post-innings break.

the top and middle order. Naman Dhir contributed 28. Mukesh Kumar (2/26) did well by rattling the Mumbai top-order. Delhi Capitals skipper Axar Patel won the toss and opted to bowl against Mumbai Indians. For the five-time champions Mumbai Indians, skipper Hardik Pandya was indisposed and in his absence Suryakumar Yadav was named the skipper. In Hardik's absence, MI made a few changes to their lineup with Deepak Chahar coming in for the star all-rounder. The five-time champions also brought in Corbin Bosch and Mitchell Santner, replacing Trent Boult and Allah Ghazanfar in the lineup. Delhi Cap

Shubman Gill ruled out of GT's IPL 2026 clash against RR, Rashid Khan to lead in Ahmedabad

Shubman Gill ruled out IPL match vs RRR Shubman Gill of Gujarat Titans during Match 4 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans at New International Cricket Stadium, New Chandigarh, India, on March 31, 2026. Shubman Gill was ruled out of Gujarat Titans' (GT) IPL 2026 clash against the Rajasthan Royals (RR) in Ahmedabad on Saturday. Stand-in captain Rashid Khan said that the 26-year-old was unavailable due to muscle spasms and hoped that he would return to action soon. "We wanted to bowl first. Gill has a muscle spasm, hopefully he will be back soon," Rashid said at the toss. Jharkhand wicket-keeper batter Kumar Kushagra was handed a debut in Gill's place. "KK (Kumar Kushagra) is playing his first game and look forward to see him play. We played good cricket in the last