

Uttam Kumar Reddy orders scale-up of paddy procurement amid rain threat

Hyderabad: As farmers continue to stage protests over delays in procurement, Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to initiate measures to scale up paddy procurement operations. He also asked officials to take steps to protect farmers from untimely rains and losses. There is a forecast of untimely rains for the rest of the week. Apart from this, heavy showers battered multiple districts on Sunday, wreaking havoc on paddy stocks at harvest centres and market yards.

Fake currency and 1:3 exchange scam uncovered in Warangal, eight held

Hanamkonda: Warangal Task Force and Narsampet police arrested eight persons involved in currency related crimes.

Among the arrested, three were involved in printing counterfeit notes and circulating them in the market while five persons were defrauding people promising to exchange real currency for larger amounts of fake currency at a ratio of 1:3.

Lotus Blooming From Gangotri to Gangasagar: PM Modi On BJP's Assembly Election Win

New Delhi, May 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the lotus is now blooming from Gangotri to Gangasagar with the BJP's historic victory in West Bengal and asked all parties to work for change, not revenge, and ensure that the state's future trumps over fear. Addressing BJP workers at the party headquarters after the win in assembly elections in West Bengal, Assam and Puducherry, Modi said it was a special day in many ways as it heralds a bright future for the country.

"It is a day of trust in the great democracy of India, trust in the politics of performance, trust in the resolve of stability, trust in the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat.

"I bow before the people of West Bengal, Assam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and Kerala," he said at the victory celebration event where BJP President Nitin Nabin, Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, among others, were present.

Modi said on November 14 last year, when the Bihar election results came in, he told the BJP workers from this very spot that the Ganga flows onward from Bihar all the way to Ganga Sagar (in West Bengal).

"And today, with victory in West Bengal, from Gangotri (Uttarakhand) to Ganga Sagar (West Bengal), it is nothing but the lotus in full bloom. Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal today, in these states surrounding Mother Ganga, there are BJP-NDA governments," he said.

Democracy, not fear, won in this festival of democracy in West Bengal, Modi said.

When the BJP has won in Bengal, there should be talk of 'badlav' (change) not 'badla' (revenge), 'bhavishya' (future) not 'bhay' (fear), he said.

The Prime Minister said winning and losing are a natural part of democracy and politics, but the people of the five states have shown the world why the country is the mother of democracy.

"Democracy is not just a system for us; it is the river of traditions in our veins. Today, not only has India's democracy triumphed, but India's Constitution has also triumphed. Our constitutional institutions have triumphed; our democratic processes have triumphed," he said.

Modi said the nearly 93 per cent voter turnout in West Bengal has been historic in itself, and new records of voting have also been set in Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Kerala.

He said women's participation in this election has been exceptionally high and this is emerging as the brightest picture of Indian democracy.

"Today is a historic day, unprecedented. When years of penance transform into attainment, the joy that appears on the face, that joy today I am seeing on the faces of BJP workers across the country," he said.

The Prime Minister also congratulated the Election Commission, all its employees, all the personnel involved in the voting process, especially the security forces, for the successful conduct of the assembly elections.

"History will always remember your contribution to maintaining the dignity of India's democracy," he said.



Mamata, Stalin defeat big setback to INDIA bloc; Kerala silver lining for Congress

Chennai, May 4

The opposition INDIA bloc suffered a setback on Monday as regional titans Mamata Banerjee of the Trinamool Congress and MK Stalin of the DMK lost their home turfs West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, respectively, and the Kerala win of the Congress-led UDF was the only silver lining.

The impact of the election results will be felt deeply in national politics, with the cohesion of the INDIA bloc set to be tested after the fall of the state stalwarts and BJP continuing with its winning momentum ahead of the next round of assembly elections in states including Uttar Pradesh.

The West Bengal results came as a huge blow not just to TMC but to the entire opposition bloc, which has been struggling to keep the parties and cadres intact and upbeat. Only a few days ago, the INDIA bloc member AAP lost seven Rajya Sabha MPs to BJP. And today, the defeat of Mamata Banerjee and Stalin spells a challenging road ahead for the anti-BJP alliance.

Having lost both West Bengal and Tamil Nadu, the opposition bloc would be forced to come together and stand united against a resurgent BJP. Leaders in the opposition alliance feel they have to rework their strategy and remain cohesive in the fight against BJP.

The electoral reverses have also raised questions on the opposition strategy behind opposing the Constitution 131st Amendment Bill 2026 on the grounds that it sought to advance delimitation in the garb of 33 per cent women's reservation.

West Bengal BJP leaders are already saying that the results in the state are a resounding rejection of TMC which opposed the women's quota legislation.

The Congress, DMK and SP too voted against it, prompting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to urge women to punish these parties.

For the Congress, the results in Kerala come as a face-saver after a series of election debacles in Maharashtra, Delhi, Haryana and Bihar.

The party is now in power in three southern states of Karnataka, Telangana and Kerala, besides Himachal Pradesh. It will face assembly polls in Himachal later next year.

The loss in Assam, however, does not bode well for the party as it failed to dislodge BJP which has been in power there for a decade. BJP under Himanta Biswa Sarma registered an emphatic victory with a two-thirds majority.

The outcome is a major upset, especially given the party had rallied behind its media chairman Pawan Khara after Assam police took action against him for his allegations that Sarma's wife held multiple passports, a charge she denied. The Congress got around 29.5 per cent of the votes in Assam, while it got 28.8 per cent votes in Kerala. In West Bengal, the party polled only 3.13 per cent votes and got 3.38 per cent votes in Tamil Nadu. It is likely to win a lesser number of seats in Assam than it did even the last time. The Monday results are also likely to have a bearing on the 2027 election cycle when key battleground states of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Goa and Uttarakhand go to polls. For the Congress, which leads the INDIA segment, the top challenge will be to keep the alliance relevant and find narratives that can bring all regional players together on one platform as the BJP consolidates gains after the 2024 setback when it failed to garner a majority on its own in the Lok Sabha.

Telangana cabinet orders CBI probe into power purchase agreement

Telangana Cabinet orders a CBI probe into power purchase agreement, approves land value revision, clears OTS scheme for dues, and plans solar projects, while assuring procurement support to farmers hit by unseasonal rains



Hyderabad, May 5

The State Cabinet on Monday decided to hand over the Madan B. Lokur Commission report on alleged irregularities in power purchase agreements, as well as the Bhadradi and Yadadri power plants, to the Central Bureau of Investigation for a detailed probe. This is the second issue to be referred to the CBI by the Congress government after the Kaleshwaram project. City & Local Guides

The Lokur Commission, had submitted its 114-page report to the government in October 2024. The report was examined earlier and shared with the Advocate General for legal opinion. Based on his advice, the Cabinet approved a CBI inquiry, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said. The decision was taken as the power purchase agreements involved multiple States and certain central government organisations in execution of two power plants, he said at a press conference.

The Cabinet also decided to revise land and registration values scientifically. The new rates would be implemented before May 26. This is the first revision since February 2022. The revised land values will apply to acquisitions for irrigation, Roads and Buildings, and other public projects. Farmers and landowners will be compensated at the enhanced rates. Industrialists applying for ownership under the HILT policy before the revision will be allowed to pay 10 per cent of the cost at existing rates. The remaining amount must be cleared within 90 days.

The Cabinet approved the transfer of Narmul Mother Dairy to the National Dairy Development Board. It also cleared a proposal to set up solar power plants on government land near substations. As part of a pilot, 19 locations have been identified across the State.

A One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme was also approved to clear tax arrears owed by different government departments to GHMC, Malkajigiri and Cyberabad municipal corporations, and HMWSSB. The total outstanding dues, including interest and penalties, stood at Rs 5,864 crore. After waiving interest and penalties under the OTS, the payable amount comes down to Rs 1,686 crore.

The Minister said the government would procure paddy and maize from farmers. He acknowledged that unseasonal rains have caused difficulties at procurement centres.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Quick response across states a challenge

INDIA's emergency architecture is entering a new phase. The "Extremely Severe Alert" that rang out across millions of phones on Saturday during a nationwide test by the National Disaster Management Authority and the Department of Telecommunications was more than a technological trial. Using cell broadcast, messages can be pushed simultaneously to all devices in a defined area, bypassing congested networks and even silent modes. In disaster scenarios, that capability can mean the difference between timely evacuation and chaos.

But early warning is only the first link in the chain. Its value depends on what follows. Here, the performance of the Himachal Pradesh Police under the 112 Emergency Response Support System is instructive. With an average response time of about three minutes 36 seconds and minimal dispatch delays, it shows how integrated control rooms, GPS-enabled patrols and streamlined call handling can translate alerts into action. Such efficiency is particularly critical in terrains like Himachal's, where geography often slows intervention. The broader lesson is about integration. India now has the building blocks of a modern emergency grid: a unified helpline (112), real-time alert capability and improved data-driven policing. Yet, these systems do not operate uniformly. Response times in many states remain significantly higher, reflecting disparities in manpower, training and infrastructure.

Equally pressing is the communication gap. The recent alert triggered confusion because citizens were not adequately informed about test protocols or alert categories. Trust in such systems depends as much on public awareness as on technological reliability. The way forward lies in convergence and consistency.

Illegal collections in maize procurement at Muthapuram Society...

"20 collected per bag..." "Procurement center becoming a burden on farmers..." "Farmers demand inquiry and action over irregularities in maize procurement..."



Khammam Nelakondapalli May 04 Indian Chronicle: "Former Society Director Ravella Krishna Rao alleges: "Farmers are expressing strong anger that corruption has been openly prevailing at the maize procurement center in Muthapuram village of Nelakondapalli mandal in Khammam district since its inception. They allege that 220 is being forcibly collected for every 50 kg bag. When questioned about why this payment should be made, the person involved reportedly evades responsibility by saying, "I have nothing to do with it, it must be given to the lorry driver," and continues the illegal collection. With hundreds of bags coming from each farmer, it is alleged that up to 712,000 is being illegally collected from 600 bags per farmer. As this practice continues daily, farmers say that not just thousands but lakhs of rupees are being exchanged illegally. Farmers claim that over one lakh bags have already been weighed at the Muthapuram society, and around 50,000 more bags are yet to be processed. Based on this, the scale of illegal collections has reportedly reached massive levels. "Farmers are expressing anger that no one is addressing this system, which they say is "sucking their blood." They are demanding that this collection mafia be stopped immediately and that strict action be taken against those responsible. "Meanwhile, former director of Muthapuram Society, Ravella Krishna Rao, alleged that commissions are being taken and lorries meant for Muthapuram are being diverted to nearby villages, causing inconvenience to farmers. He stated that instead of providing relief, the procurement center has become a burden for farmers, and demanded that the authorities respond immediately and put an end to this exploitation."

Grand Spiritual Festivities Begin at Mahanandeeshwara Ashram

"Zaheerabad, May 4 (Indian Chronicle): "Grand spiritual programs are set to begin from Tuesday at the Mahanandeeshwara Ashram located in Nyalkal mandal headquarters of Zaheerabad constituency. The month-long events will be conducted under the guidance of Pujya Shri Shivanandagiri Maharaj, with the objective of spreading spiritual awareness among devotees, organizers said."



Annadanam (free food distribution), teertha prasadam, and other service activities have also been arranged for devotees. Organizers have invited people from various regions to participate in large numbers. Elaborate arrangements have been made by ashram members and local villagers to ensure the smooth conduct of the programmes. "Several prominent spiritual leaders will grace the occasion as chief guests

Development is a Continuous Process--MLA 'Nayini Rajender Reddy'



"Hanamkonda, May 4 (Indian Chronicle) : Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy stated that infrastructure works are being expedited with a clear focus on the overall development of the constituency. He emphasized

that development is a continuous process and noted that significant progress has been achieved over the past two years under the people's government. "On Monday, along with Baldiya Mayor Gundu Sudharani, the MLA laid foundation stones for internal road and CC drainage works to be taken up at a cost of 7110 lakh in Nayeem Nagar of the 52nd Division and 750 lakh in Rayapur of the 9th Division. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA made it clear that the priority is to complete every sanctioned work without delay. He said that special action plans are being implemented to ensure that works in flood-prone areas are completed before the onset of the monsoon. "He observed that developmental activities in the constituency have gained momentum in the last two years after the formation of the Congress government and termed it a positive development that corporators from all parties are actively participating in development works. With the corporators' tenure set to end on May 6, the MLA appreciated their services. "The MLA further clarified that development works are being carried out with equal focus, without giving importance to politics, caste, or religion. "Local public representatives, party leaders, officials, and residents of the colonies participated in the programme.

Farmers' welfare is the Congress Party's goal..

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao revealed this at Tandur as part of Rythu Varotsavalu. "



"Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (May 4) "As part of the Prajapalana Pragathi Pranalika program in Tandur, Vikarabad district, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, along with local MLA Manohar Reddy, participated in Rythu Varotsavalu on Monday. "They inspected palm oil crops cultivated by farmers in Uppala, Yal mandal. Afterward, at a meeting organized there, they launched the Organic App. The minister said that through the app, consumers can directly contact farmers and purchase products. "Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the responsibility to protect Mother Earth lies with all of us. For that, farmers should show interest in natural farming. He expressed concern that use of chemical pesticides is not only damaging crops but also making people fall ill. He said if palm oil crops are grown in the district, efforts will be made to set up industries. "He alleged that the central government has failed to supply urea to farmers. He lashed out at BRS and BJP, saying opposition parties are politicizing farmers' hardships. He lamented that the Centre is not procuring alternative crops that farmers grow instead of paddy. He said, with the intention that farmers in Telangana alone should not suffer unlike in other states, the government is procuring maize. "The minister stated that loan waivers have been provided to farmers facing financial difficulties. He expressed hope that Pranahita Chevella and Palamuru-Rangareddy projects



will be constructed properly and will provide water to farmers' fields. "MLA Manohar Reddy praised the minister for working day and night for farmers, people, and the development of the region. He said he is very happy that Rythu Varotsavalu were organized in Tandur. He urged farmers to follow the advice and suggestions given by officials and scientists. He suggested that crops should be grown as per market demand and crop rotation must be followed without fail. "Later, MLA Manohar Reddy requested the minister to work toward setting up a red gram board in Tandur. He said Tandur market yard has a good reputation, and since the minister has approved the yard's construction, the tender process is underway. He expressed confidence that Tandur will be developed with the cooperation of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and other ministers.

"MLA Manohar Reddy, Agriculture Department Principal Secretary Surender Mohan, Chevella MLA Yadayya, Corporation Chairperson Sujatha, District Collector Deepak Tiwari, DCC President Dharasingh, Municipal Chairperson Neeraja Bal Reddy, AMC Chairpersons Patlolla Narsimlu, Anjaiah, Madhav Reddy, ATMA Committee Chairman Shankar Reddy, Lakshma Reddy, district agriculture department officials, farmers, leaders, and workers participated in the program.

Speed up paddy procurement at PPC centers: Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy

"Hamali (labor) and transport arrangements must be efficient" District Collector participated from Khammam Collectorate in the VC held by state ministers from Hyderabad "

"Khammam, May 04 Indian Chronicle: "Civil Supplies Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy has directed officials to accelerate paddy procurement at PPC centers. "In a video conference conducted from Hyderabad under his leadership, ministers Vakiti Srihari, Ponnamm Prabhakar, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Adluri Laxman Kumar, and Duddilla Sridhar Babu participated. From the Khammam Collectorate, District Collector Divakar TS, along with Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, took part. During the meeting, ministers stated that a total of 21.34 lakh metric tonnes of paddy had reached PPC centers, of which 13.32 lakh metric tonnes have been procured so far. They instructed officials to ensure immediate procurement, along with efficient arrangements for labor and transportation. Paddy that got wet due to unseasonal rains should be procured without delay and transported to boiled rice mills. They also emphasized providing continuous weather alerts to farmers and maintaining adequate tarpaulins at the district level. Facilities such as drinking water, ORS packets, and shade should be ensured at all PPC centers, and procurement should be intensified during morning and evening hours. Farmers were advised to stay away from electric poles and large trees during lightning and rain. "After the video conference, District Collector Divakar TS held a review meeting with officials and instructed that FAQ-grade paddy be lifted immediately. Payments to farmers should be made



promptly without delays, and sufficient stocks of gunny bags must be maintained. Awareness should be created that the government will also pay for gunny bags brought by farmers. "It was noted that 49 lakh gunny bags are currently available in the district, and orders have already been placed for additional requirements. Officials were directed to ensure adequate stocks at every PPC center. "The Collector also instructed officials to prevent issues related to labor, ensure timely generation of truck sheets, and continuously monitor paddy quality. A special meeting should be held with PPC center in-charges regarding tractor and labor charges for maize procurement. Officials from various departments, including CPO Srinivas, DRDO Sriram, DCO, RTO, agriculture, marketing, and others, participated in the conference.

: State Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy unveiled the poster for the "People's Blessing Meeting for the People's Government.

"Khammam, May 04 Indian Chronicle: "The poster was officially launched by the minister at the Kusumanchi camp office. Speaking on the occasion, he said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress government formed in Telangana has been giving top priority to the welfare of the poor. He highlighted that schemes such as Indiramma housing, free bus travel, 200 units of free electricity, fine rice distribution, LPG cylinders at 7500, and bonuses for farmers have won the hearts of the people. To express gratitude to the government, a "People's Blessing Meeting" will be held on Sunday, the 31st of this month, at 5:00 PM at Kusumanchi Bus Stand Center. Organizer Kommu Prasad has called upon all Congress party leaders, supporters, and the general public to attend in large numbers and make the event a grand success. Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy appreciated Congress leader Kommu



Prasad for initiating such a meaningful program. He stated that the Congress government is a government for the poor and, through initiatives like the Praja Darbar program, is taking governance closer to the people.

Maranahomam 1990 Film Poster Launch



Khammam, May 04 Indian Chronicle: "The poster of the film Maranahomam 1990 was unveiled at VITS Computer Education in Khammam city. As part of the film's promotions, the poster was launched today in the presence of the film's team, including hero Bandhu Naresh and villain Vattam Ravi (Pandu). On this occasion, hero Bandhu Naresh stated that Maranahomam 1990, presented under N.K.S Films Samanvita Presents, is based on real-life incidents and reflects situations closely related to contemporary society. He mentioned that since they hail from Manuguru, they are conducting promotional activities along with artists from the erstwhile Khammam district, and as part of those efforts, they appeared before the audience today. He also expressed hope that everyone would watch and support the film Maranahomam 1990, which is set to release in theaters soon. "The event was attended by VITS Computer Education organizers Kodirekka Umashankar and Gogula Chandrasekhar, faculty members Satish Mohan and Kallepu Akhila, along with students and others.

Assurance to the Poor Living in Huts by Former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy



"UPPAL, MAY 04 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): "Under the directions of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, former Medchal-Malkajgiri District Youth Congress President and Habsiguda Congress leader Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy assured support to the poor people living in huts on the bund of Ramantapur Pedda Cheruvu in Habsiguda Division. "He urged the residents not to believe the false propaganda being spread by opposition parties in the name of "Hydra," clarifying that there are no plans to remove their huts. He further assured that even if the huts are removed as part of lake beautification works, he would take responsibility to ensure the allocation of double-bedroom houses to the affected families. Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy also assured that he would stand by and protect the poor families who have been living on the lake bund for several years. Later, he interacted with the local residents and inspected the lake bund. "Habsiguda Division President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, Dharma Naik, Kishan Naik, Laxma Reddy, Murali Mudiraj, Malu Naik, Gundu Rajanna, Vasu Naik, Suman Naik, Sai Kiran, Shiva, and others participated in the program.

BC Leaders Attend Tenth-Day Ritual of RTC Driver Kola Shankar Goud

"Narsampet/Warangal, May 4 (Indian Chronicle) : The tenth-day death ritual of Kola Shankar Goud, a driver with the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation who recently died by suicide, was held on Monday at Muttojipet village. Leaders of various BC associations attended the programme and paid floral tributes to the deceased. "On the occasion, Dyagala Srinivas Mudiraj, Warangal district president of the BC Welfare Association and in-charge of the Narsampet constituency, expressed anguish that Shankar Goud may have believed his sacrifice would help resolve the issues faced by RTC workers. "He urged the State Government to promptly implement the assurances given to Shankar Goud's family. He also appealed to the government not to neglect the problems of RTC employees, who work closely with passengers every day, and to take appropriate decisions in their interest. "Those present included Dyagala Srinivas, Kamagoni Srinivas, Ananthula Ramesh Goud, Vemula Ravi, Kandikonda Mohan, Rangaiah, Bodige Raju, Boora Suman Goud, Manda Raju Goud, Godishala Mallaiah, Boora Venkateshwarlu, Bandi Babu, Bucchiramu, Oranganti Kommalu, Nampalli Raju, Chandrapal and Machika Mallikarjun, among others.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Suraj (Old Name), S/o Rajeshwar, Residing at Bahadurpur, Jainath, Adilabad, Telangana, Pin 504309. hereby inform that I have changed my name to "Polkam Suraj S/o Polkam Rajeshwar" (New Name) and will be known as Polkam Suraj for all future purposes and both names are same person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, HARIKANTH L (Old Name), S/o ASHA REDDY, Residing at H.No. 6-41, DEEPAIGUDA VILLAGE, Jainath MANDAL, Adilabad, Telangana, Pin 504309. hereby inform that I have changed my name to "LOKA HARIKANTH S/o LOKAASHAREDDY" (New Name) and will be known as LOKA HARIKANTH for all future purposes and both names are same person.

State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, DCC President Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud, and former DCC President Puvvalla Durgaprasad visited and consoled the victims of a fire accident in Patharlapadu.



“KHAMMAM CHINTHAKANI MAY 04 INDIAN CHRONICLE:“In Patharlapadu village of Chintakani mandal, Madhira constituency in Telangana, an accidental fire broke out last night, resulting in the loss of a maize crop and the death of Approximately 30 sheep. Upon learning about the incident, Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, DCC President Nuthi Satyanarayana Goud, and former DCC



President Puvvalla Durgaprasad visited the village and consoled the affected families. They inquired about how the incident occurred and assured the victims not to lose hope, promising government support and assistance. “Market Committee Chairman Ambati Venkateswara Rao, Govind Rao, Madupalli Bhaskar, Bandela Nagarajuna, local farmers of Patharlapadu village, and others also participated in the visit.

Foundation Laid for Development Works Worth 1.12 Crore by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy



“UPPAL, MAY 04 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):“Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended as the chief guest and laid the foundation stone for several development works worth ₹1.12 crore in Chilkana Nagar and Beerappa Gadda divisions. The projects mainly include the construction of CC roads in various colonies and bastis. Former corporator and GHMC Standing Committee member Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj also participated in the program. Speaking

on the occasion, MLA Lakshma Reddy said that development works worth ₹129 crore have been undertaken in Chilkana Nagar division. He stated that CC road works are being taken up in phases in areas where underground drainage has already been completed. “Former corporator Geetha Praveen Mudiraj expressed her gratitude to the MLA for his continuous support towards the division’s development. She said that the promises made during elections are being fulfilled through ongoing development works and appreciated the MLA’s efforts in securing major projects for Uppal constituency. She also highlighted that the credit for bringing a 100-bed hospital to the constituency goes to MLA Lakshma Reddy, noting that previous MLAs had not achieved this. “She further added that the Mallikarjun Nagar sewerage outlet works will soon be approved and completed. She also thanked the MLA for sanctioning ₹30 crore funds for the HMT Lake near High Court Colony. Additionally, proposals for development of Vaikuntha Dhamams in the division have been submitted and are expected to be sanctioned soon through the MLA. Several BRS party leaders, local residents, and women participated in large numbers in the program .

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

“Over 3,200 job opportunities through 80 companies““Appointment letters to selected candidates on May 23““Youth urged to make use of private job opportunities““



“Khammam, May 4 Indian Chronicle: District Collector T.S. Divakar stated that a Mega Job Mela has been

organized to provide employment opportunities for unemployed youth. “As part of the 99-day Praja Palana Progress Program, the Mega Job Mela was held on Monday at SR Gardens in Khammam city. District Collector T.S. Divakar, along with Additional Collector Dr. P. Sreeja, participated in the event. “Speaking on the occasion, the District Collector said that the job mela was conducted to create employment opportunities for unemployed youth in the district. He mentioned that around 80 companies from sectors such as IT, pharmacy, banking, manufacturing, and marketing participated, offering more than 3,200 job opportunities. The Collector announced that appointment letters will be distributed to the selected candidates on May 23. He advised unemployed youth not to neglect private job opportunities and encouraged them to make the best use of the opportunities currently available while staying focused on their long-term goals. He further suggested that youth should not remain unemployed for long periods and should be willing to accept jobs even if the initial salary is low, as it helps in gaining valuable experience. He highlighted that there are vast growth opportunities in the private sector and stressed the importance of continuously improving skills. As an example, he cited a person who started with a salary of ₹12,000 and, within eight years, is now earning in lakhs. Additional Collector Dr. P. Sreeja also addressed the gathering, stating that even if individuals have other goals, they should not ignore such opportunities. She emphasized that starting a job boosts confidence and helps in achieving future goals, while also providing valuable experience. Officials from TASK, DEET, district authorities, DYSO Sunil Reddy, EDM Durgaprasad, representatives from defense academies, company representatives, and a large number of unemployed youth participated in the program.

Achieving jobs in services like IAS and IPS brings special respect

— Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy““Medchal– Malkajiri, Staff Reporter, May 4 (Indian Chronicle):““Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy stated that securing jobs in prestigious services like IAS and IPS brings great respect. He interacted with students preparing for civil services at Signature IAS Academy near Uppal Depot. “He enquired about their preparation and expressed happiness over their dedication. He also appreciated R. S. Reddy, Director of Signature IAS Academy, for providing quality coaching to students. He expressed hope that more candidates from the Uppal area would secure top ranks in civil services in the coming years. “On this occasion, BRS leader Saijen Shekhar said that the presence of Signature IAS Academy in the area has eliminated the need for students to travel to distant places for coaching, as they can now access quality training locally. “Institute Director R. S. Reddy stated that they take responsibility for shaping every student who joins their academy into a future officer. He also mentioned that



they offer specialized courses for students across different age groups.

Journalist Madhusudan Remembered as a “Blessed Soul”“— Ram Narayana at Condolence Meeting“

Khammam May 04 Indian Chronicle: Senior journalist Maraboyina Madhusudan, who rendered long-standing services in journalism, was described as a “blessed soul” by TUWJ (IJU) State General Secretary K. Ram Narayana. He said Madhusudan conducted himself with humility and tact, like “a tongue within the mouth,” meaning he maintained balance and harmony with everyone. “A condolence meeting for the recently deceased Madhusudan was held on Monday at the local Press Club under the aegis of TUWJ (IJU). Union leaders paid floral tributes to his portrait. Speaking at the meeting, which was presided over by Press Club President Nama Purushottam, Ram Narayana said Madhusudan served with distinction as an Andhra Jyothi correspondent in Khammam district for about a decade. Through his reporting, he consistently worked toward resolving public issues. He noted that Madhusudan was closely connected with the journalist community in Khammam district and was a dear friend to many. He also served as a state leader of TUWJ (IJU) and as Nalgonda district secretary, contributing to strengthening the union. As Chief Information Officer to the Deputy Chief Minister, he successfully brought journalists’ issues to the attention of the government, Ram Narayana added. He also advised



journalists to focus not only on professional responsibilities but also on family and health. Others who spoke at the meeting included IJU National Council Member Nalajala Venkata Rao, district president and secretary Enugu Venkateswara Rao and Maisa Papa Rao, city president Cherukupalli Srinivas, Journalists’ Housing Society President Kanakam Saidulu, union leaders S.K. Mohinuddin and Y. Madhava Rao, and TJF leader Guddety Ramesh Babu. “District Vice President Pasupuleti Satyanarayana, City Secretary N. Janardhanachari, and several journalists attended the meeting.

May 10 Chalo Parade Grounds – Make PM Modi’s Massive Public Meeting a Grand Success:

Former Uppal MLA Prabhakar Modi for the nation... and we for Modi” — spreading awareness among the public, says former MLA NVSS Prabhakar““

“UPPAL, MAY 04 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):“As part of the preparations for the massive public meeting to be addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 10 at Parade Grounds in Hyderabad, a wall-writing campaign featuring BJP logos and slogans was launched in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division and Ram Shankar Nagar. “The campaign was initiated by former Uppal MLA NVSS Prabhakar. Speaking on the occasion, Prabhakar said that this would be the first major public meeting by PM Modi in Telangana during his third term. He stated that the meeting would pave the way for the development of the state. “He further mentioned that Modi’s welfare schemes have reached every household and that the poor are looking towards him with hope. He expressed confidence that this meeting would mark the beginning of the campaign for the 2028 Telangana Assembly elections and asserted that the BJP would hoist its flag in the state. “Senior BJP leaders Vallapu Jagan Yadav, Vangala Santosh Gupta, Sanjay Patel, Gaddam Saikiran, Chelloju Ellachari, Adi Satyanarayana, Peraka Badrinath,



Praveen, Dharam Venkatesh Gupta, Siddharth, Shiva, party workers, and local residents participated in the program.

Golden Nandi Award Conferred on Manda Venkateswarlu A symbol of social service Congratulations pouring in

“Khammam, May 4 Indian Chronicle: “Manda Venkateswarlu, a Telangana movement activist, social worker, and independent journalist from Khammam district, has been honored with the Swarna Nandi Award at Ravindra Bharathi Conference Hall in Hyderabad. The award was presented during the celebrations of World Laughter Day, organized with the support of Mogli Entertainment under the “Anando Brahma” program. “He received this recognition for his remarkable contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic, where he provided free meals, breakfast, and masks continuously for 83 days to orphans, the poor, and laborers. He was also actively involved in the Telangana statehood movement. “Manda Venkateswarlu has been working as an independent journalist for several years, raising public awareness on various issues and highlighting people’s problems, striving to get them resolved through government intervention. In recognition of his dedicated service to society and journalism, he was presented with the Swarna Nandi Award on Sunday at Ravindra Bharathi. “The award was handed over by former Labour Minister and noted comedian Dr. Palli Babu Mohan, along with Telangana State Handicrafts Development Corporation Chairman Naidu Satyanarayana. He currently runs the digital media channel “Porata Galam TV” and has delivered several impactful and sensational reports across the undivided Khammam district. Known for his fearless journalism, he exposes corruption and irregularities without yielding to pressure from powerful forces. With social service and journalism as his guiding principles, he stands firmly for the poor, upholds ethical values, and courageously fights injustice. Undeterred by threats from wrongdoers, he continues to move forward on his chosen path, serving as an inspiration to many. Senior journalists, leaders of various pub-



lic organizations, public representatives, and officials have extended their congratulations, wishing him continued success and greater achievements in the future.

MLA 'Nayini' Plants Saplings at Old Age Home Site

Hanamkonda (Red Cross), May 4 (Indian Chronicle) : Emphasizing that saplings play a pivotal role in environmental conservation, Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy called upon everyone to take up the responsibility of planting and nurturing trees. “Under the joint aegis of the Indian Red Cross Society (Hanamkonda Branch) and the District Welfare Department, the District Collector allocated a 20-gunta plot of land in Somidi village, Kazipet Mandal, for the construction of an old age home. The process of allocating this land was facilitated with the support of the MLA, who also serves as a Patron of the Red Cross Society. “On Monday, the MLA participated as the chief guest in a tree-planting drive held at the site and formally inaugurated the event. “Speaking on the occasion, he stated that construction work for the building at this site would commence shortly. He gave an assurance that efforts would be made to make the old age home fully operational as soon as possible. “Red Cross representatives stated that the construction work for the old age home would begin shortly, carried out with the cooperation of the District Welfare Department and under the supervision of the Hanamkonda branch. They expressed their gratitude to the District Collector for allocating the land and to the MLA for extending his support. Subsequently, they felicitated the MLA with a shawl and presented him with a sapling. “Red Cross Chairman Dr. P. was among those present at the event. Vijayachander Reddy, Treasurer Bommineni Papireddy, State Governing Body member E.V. Srinivasa Rao, District Governing Body members Pulluru Venugopal, Potlapalli Srinivasa Rao, and Billa Ramana Reddy, Red Cross Patron Ponnala Rammoan, Officer for the Welfare of Women, Children, the Differently-abled, and the Elderly M. Viswaja, Corporator Jakkula Ravinder Yadav, RDO Ramesh Rathod, President of the Transgender Community Orugunti Laila, and TNGOs District President Akula Rajender along with



Secretary Bairi Somayya participated in the event, alongside former public representatives, officials, police personnel, GWMC staff, and Red Cross members.

Fire accident kills sheep and destroys maize in Khammam

Khammam: Hundreds of quintals of harvested maize were consumed by flames and nearly 60 sheep perished in a fire accident at Patarlapadu in Chintakani mandal in the Deputy Chief Minister’s constituency in the district, reportedly due to a delay in procuring and transporting the produce. The fire accident was caused after unidentified persons burnt crop residue in the village on Sunday late evening, and a gusty windstorm led to the fire spreading rapidly in the fields where farmers had kept the produce for drying.

Woman Reported Missing in Chiragpally Limits – Case Registered



“Zaheerabad May 04 (Indian Chronicle) : “A case has been registered regarding a missing woman under the limits of Chiragpally Police Station in Sangareddy district, Sub-Inspector Rajender Reddy said in a press statement released on Monday evening. “According to the details provided, Nenavat Pandu (43), an agriculturist from Mirzampally Thanda of Mogudampally mandal, appeared at the police station on Monday (04-05-2026) at around 1:00 PM and lodged a complaint stating that his wife was missing. “As per the complaint, his wife Nenavat Rekhabai (40) has been suffering from mental illness for the past 10 years and has been undergoing treatment at the Erragadda Mental Hospital in Hyderabad. On April 27, the complainant went to Hyderabad along with his son to bring medicines, leaving Rekhabai alone at home. When they returned at around 6:00 PM the same day, she was not found at home. Despite searching among relatives and nearby places, her whereabouts”

Bhim Army Extends Financial Support to Ailing Home Guard Mogulayya

“Zaheerabad May 04 (Indian Chronicle) : “Mogulayya, a resident of Zaheerabad who previously served as a Home Guard in the Police Department, is currently battling paralysis. Belonging to the SC Mala community, he has been facing severe health complications along with financial difficulties, leaving him unable to afford proper medical treatment. “Upon learning about his condition, Telangana Bhim Army Chief Siddu Ravan stepped forward with a humanitarian gesture and provided financial assistance for Mogulayya’s treatment. Speaking on the occasion, he emphasized that it is everyone’s responsibility to support those in distress and appealed to the public and donors to come forward and extend help. “He also expressed hope that Mogulayya would recover soon and return to a normal life. The assistance provided by Bhim Army has been widely appreciated by locals. “The program was attended by Narsimlu, Balaram Kamble, Narasimha, Ashok (Police), Sandeep,



GO No. 7 Puts Poor Students’ Future at Risk – Immediate Withdrawal Demand



““??Former SC Corporation Chairman Y. Narotham....” “Zaheerabad May 04 (Indian Chronicle) “Former SC Corporation Chairman Y. Narotham expressed

serious concern that the recently introduced GO No. 7 by the Telangana government would have a severe impact on fee reimbursement and scholarship schemes that have long supported poor, middle-class, Dalit, BC, SC, ST, and minority students. “He alleged that the government is attempting to weaken these schemes through GO No. 7, which could result in lakhs of poor students across the state losing access to fee reimbursement benefits. He pointed out that colleges are already putting pressure on students over pending fees, withholding certificates and hall tickets, causing mental distress among students. “Narotham stated that the new system, which requires students to pay fees upfront with reimbursement promised later by the government, is a heavy burden on economically weaker sections. Due to delays

Support for Girl’s Marriage by Uppal PJR

“UPPAL, MAY 04(INDIAN CHRONICAL): “Uppal BRS leader Pooduri Jitender Reddy (Uppal PJR) extended financial support for the marriage of a daughter of a BRS ?activist. Treating the activist like his own sister, he provided financial assistance of ?15,000. On this occasion, Jitender Reddy said that he was happy to offer help in reducing the financial burden of the activist to some extent. He assured that he would always stand by party workers and leaders whenever they are in need. “He also stated that he is carrying out such service activities inspired by the efforts of the party’s Working President KTR, and will continue to support party leaders and workers.



Government Must Stand by the Family of the RTC Employee Who Committed Suicide

“--- Ananthula Ramesh Goud at the 10th-Day Memorial Ceremony of Kola Shankar Goud “ “Narsampet/ Warangal, May 4 (Indian Chronicle) : The 10th-day memorial ceremony (Dashadina Karma) for Kola Shankar Goud—an RTC employee who recently committed suicide—was held on Monday in Muththajipet village. “Ananthula Ramesh Goud, State Executive President of the ‘Goud Janahakkula Porata Samithi’ (popularly known as ‘Mokudebba’), attended the event. He garlanded the portrait of the late Shankar Goud and paid his tributes. “Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Goud stated that Shankar Goud had taken such an extreme step with the sole resolve of ensuring that the legitimate demands of RTC workers were fulfilled. He expressed deep anguish over the severe hardships the family has been facing in the wake of his passing. He gave an assurance that ‘Mokudebba’ would stand firmly by the bereaved family until all the promises made by the government are fully implemented. Kamagoni Srinivas Goud, Godishala Mallayya Goud, Vemula Ravi Goud, Dyagala Srinivas, Dupati Kanukayya Goud, Manda Raju, Boora Suman Goud, Boora



Venkateshwarlu Goud, Krishnamurthy Goud, Manda Mahender Goud, Boora Buchiramulu Goud, Kola Veeraswamy Goud, Pittala Kumar, Samala Anil, Nagelli Dileep Goud, Kunthamalla Arvind, Tanda Venkanna Goud, Raviteja Goud, Bommagani Shyam Goud, Naragoni Mohan Goud, Bommagani Ravi Goud, Veeranna Goud, and others participated in this program.



hope that Tamil Nadu would witness greater development and inclusive growth under Vijay’s leadership, and wished him success in public life.

IPL Ticket Scam Using Names of Ministers and Judges! Forged Signatures of Dignitaries



– Three Arrested, Two Absconding in Uppal “ “UPPAL, MAY 04 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “The Uppal police have busted a gang that attempted to make illegal money by exploiting the craze for IPL matches. What shocked the police was the way the accused misused the names of individuals holding the highest positions in the country and even deceived officials. “According to details, on May 3, during the IPL match at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Uppal, police on bandobast duty received credible information that tickets were being sold in black near the parking area. Acting on this, a team led by Uppal Sub-In-

spector A. Madhava Reddy conducted checks and identified a suspicious Mahindra Thar vehicle (AP-40 BB-6768). “Upon questioning the occupants, startling facts came to light. The gang was not only selling tickets in black but was also downloading official letterheads of judges, ministers, and governors from Google. They forged the signatures of these dignitaries and submitted the fake letters to cricket associations in Hyderabad, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. “Using these forged documents, they obtained expensive ‘complimentary’ tickets under the VVIP quota. These tickets were later sold to cricket fans for thousands of rupees each. “Three Arrested – Three Absconding: “In connection with the case, police arrested three individuals from Palkur village in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh: Gattamaneni Ashok, Kankanala Dinesh, and Singamaneni Venumadhav. Among them, one is a real estate businessman, while the other two are private employees. “Meanwhile, three other gang members from Chennai—Ashish, Senthil, and Tansil—are absconding, and police have launched a search for them. “Police seized IPL tickets worth ?1,10,000 (5 tickets), a Mahindra Thar vehicle, five mobile phones, and five forged letterheads from the accused. “The operation was carried out under the supervision of Malkajigiri Police Commissioner B. Sumathi, with the Uppal Zone DCP Suresh Kumar and the SOT team playing a key role. The accused were produced before the court on Monday, police said.

Complaint to Authorities: Replace Damaged Gym Equipment at Ramanthapur Mini Tank

“ “UPPAL, MAY 04(INDIAN CHRONICAL): “The open gym equipment at the Ramanthapur Mini Tank has fallen into complete disrepair and is no longer usable, prompting a formal complaint to authorities. On Monday, Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafeeq submitted a representation at the GHMC office, urging immediate action. “He explained that the open gym, which was originally set up to promote public health, is now neglected, with most equipment severely damaged. Morning walkers, youth, and local residents who regularly depend on the facility are facing significant inconvenience. He also highlighted that the broken equipment poses a serious risk of accidents, directly affecting public safety and health. “Rafeeq demanded that the authorities carry out urgent repairs and, if necessary, install new gym equipment. He stated firmly, “There will be no compromise on public safety and convenience. The fight will continue until the issue is resolved.” He urged officials to act swiftly on behalf of the residents of Ramanthapur. “Senior Congress leaders including Mogli



Lingam, Adinarayana Goud, Lagusani Srinivas Goud, Narasimha, Gattayya, MD Shakeel, Chotu Boy, Suri Icon, and NSUI Ramanthapur President Sai also participated in the program.

MLA 'Donthi' Stands by the Family of RTC Driver Shankar Goud

-5 Lakhs in Financial Aid and 'Indiramma' Housing Sanction Order Handed Over Narsampet/Warangal, May 4 (Indian Chronicle) : Fulfilling the promise he made to stand by the family of RTC driver Kola Shankar Goud—who sacrificed his life during the recent RTC strike—Narsampet MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy personally extended financial assistance to the bereaved family. Furthermore, on behalf of the government, he also presented them with an 'Indiramma' housing sanction order. In the wake of Shankar Goud's death—an incident that created a massive sensation across the state—the MLA had previously pledged to provide every possible assistance to the family. “Honoring that pledge, he handed over cash assistance of ?5 lakhs along with the 'Indiramma' housing sanction order to the family. “On Monday, the MLA's brother, Donthi Ajay Reddy, attended as the chief guest at Shankar Goud's 'Dashadina Karma' (10th-day memorial ceremony), held in Muththajipet, Narsampet town. He consoled the family members and formally handed over the financial aid and the housing sanction order to them. He assured the family that they would always stand by them, both on behalf of the government and at a personal level. “Remembering Shankar Goud's sacrifice, RTC employees and family members expressed their gratitude to the MLA for providing timely financial assistance. Municipi-



pal Commissioner Bhaskar, State Youth Leader Padidala Naveen Rao, former Municipal Floor Leader Vemula Sambayya Goud, Councilor Veena Vijender Reddy, Town Congress General Secretary Bairi Murali, Secretary Nampally Venkateshwarlu, Nallabelli Mandal Working President Vainala Ashok, Narsampet Mandal Vice President Gajji Raju, Madhu, Raju, Nallabelli Youth Congress President Purushottam Suresh, Ramu, Giragani Srinivas, Girigani Ramesh, Jijula Karthik, as well as RTC employees Rupika Suman, K. Rangayya, Mohan, and others participated in this program.

BJP Cadres Celebrate in Sanath Nagar

“Indian Chronicle, Secunderabad, May 04: “Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) cadres in Sanath Nagar constituency celebrated following the party's strong performance in the elections held across five states. As the election results were being announced, party workers expressed their happiness over the favorable outcomes. “Speaking on the occasion, BJP State Youth Leader Marri Pururava Reddy stated that the party's significant victory, especially in West Bengal, is a testament to the unity and integrity of the nation. “At the BJP constituency office in Begumpet, party workers praised the leadership of Narendra Modi and Amit Shah, burst firecrackers, and distributed sweets to mark the occasion. “Several leaders and workers including M. Mahesh Kumar Mudiraj, Sandhya Lakshmi, Lohith, Babu Rao, Gunthi Satyanarayana, Kirita, Manchala Gopi, B. Vikas, Gopi Srinivas, K. Naresh, Pitla Srinivas, K. Shravan, Vamsi,



Pramod, Durgesh, Vishal, Raj Kumar and others participated in the celebrations.

Khammam Police Commissioner Office Do Not Take Law Into Your Hands While Preventing Illegal Transportation

Report Illegal Transport to 8712659111: Police Commissioner* “ “Khammam May 04 Indian Chronicle: “Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt has stated that taking the law into one's own hands and engaging in personal attacks while trying to stop the illegal transportation of cows and calves is a punishable offense. “A meeting was held at the Police Commissioner's office with members of the cow protection committee to discuss legal provisions and regulations related to the transportation of cattle. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner warned that strict legal action will be taken against individuals who, in the name of cow protection, resort to violence, damage vehicles, or carry out unlawful acts. “He urged the public to immediately report any instances of illegal cattle transportation by calling 8712659111, informing local police, or dialing 100, instead of taking matters into their own hands. “The Commissioner also informed that seven check posts have already been set up at district borders. Authorities have been instructed to prevent illegal transportation and shift seized cattle to nearby shelters (gaushalas). “He further



stated that strict action will be taken against illegal transportation, sale, or slaughter of cows and calves. To ensure compliance with legal standards, officials are monitoring animal movement through check points operating in three shifts. “Transporters must carry valid veterinary certificates and official transport documents while moving cattle. “The Commissioner appealed to all concerned groups to cooperate with the administration in maintaining peace and following animal welfare regulations. He assured that strong police bandobast will be in place to prevent any untoward incidents. “ACP Ramanamurthy, Tirupati Reddy, Mahesh, and several Circle Inspectors participated in the meeting.

Highway protest over child’s rape-murder: Pune police used ‘mild force’ to clear blockade



GNS News Agency, May 4

The Pune police Monday stated they used “appropriate mild force” to clear the crowd that had gathered on the Pune-Bangalore Highway on May 2 in protest against the rape-murder of a three-and-a-half-year-old girl. In an official statement, the police said, “During the protest related to the heinous and brutal incident... some social media posts alleged that the police carried out a lathi charge at Navale Bridge. In response, we wish to clarify that we remained in constant communication with the victim’s family throughout the day. By the end of the day, the parents were extremely exhausted and, after receiving written assurance from the administration, they too expressed a desire to end the protest...”

“As some protesters remained adamant, appropriate

How the ‘uncle’ who raped two minor nieces got 20 years rigorous imprisonment

GNS News Agency, May 4

A special court in Pune last month sentenced a 46-year-old man to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for repeatedly sexually assaulting two minor girls, the daughters of his sister-in-law. The case dates back to January 2020, when the victims’ mother moved into her stepsister’s house in a village near Pune after having a dispute with her husband. Initially, the stepsister and her husband offered financial and emotional support, but over the following months, the situation took a dark turn. By November 2020, the mother noticed her daughters, aged 12 and 13, had become withdrawn and visibly distressed. Her suspicions deepened when she realised one of her daughters had missed her menstrual cycle. During the Diwali festival, the mother asked her sister to speak with the girls in confidence. The minors subsequently revealed that the accused had repeatedly taken them to hotels and assaulted them under the threat of killing their parents if they spoke out. Following an FIR lodged on November 21, 2020, under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, the Pune police moved swiftly to arrest the accused and file a chargesheet by January 2021.

The key evidence in the prosecution included lodge registers and Aadhaar card copies belonging to the accused from two hotels, testimony by a medical officer from the government-run Sassoon Hospital that confirmed vaginal penetration, and age proofs were verified through the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to confirm the victims were minors at the time of the offence. During the trial, the de-

Congress retains Bagalkot, leads in Davanagere South despite unease over candidate choice



GNS News Agency, May 4

Karnataka’s ruling Congress on Monday appeared poised to retain both Assembly seats for which bypolls were held on April 9. Its candidate Umesh Meti won Bagalkot by a margin of 22,332 votes against the BJP’s Veeranna Charantimath, while Davanagere South turned out to be a close contest. Though BJP candidate Shrinivasa Dasakariyappa secured a lead of around 5,000 votes in Davanagere South in the first seven rounds of counting, the lead swung in favour of the Congress’s Samarth Mallikarjun in the remaining 17 rounds.

The Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) candidate polled close to 19,000 votes, reflecting the anger the Congress faced from Muslim voters over the candidate choice. Back in the 2023 Assembly elections, SDPI polled only 1,131 votes in the constituency. The disgruntlement among a section of Muslim Congress leaders over picking 27-year-old Samarth, a third-generation politician of the

Ahmedabad cyber crime police arrest ‘love guru’ who targeted women online

The Cybercrime Branch of the Ahmedabad police said Monday it has arrested a man from Rajasthan and booked two others, who posed as “love gurus” and relationship advisors on Instagram, for extortion, sexual harassment, voyeurism, cheating and criminal intimidation, after a woman alleged she was blackmailed into paying Rs 1.44 lakh.

While the police arrested Rajnish Govindlal Bhargava, a resident of Rajasthan’s Bikaner, following the woman’s complaint, Vikas Pokhraj Bhargava and Ravi Satyanarayan Bhargava are absconding. “Bhargava projected himself as an astrologer ‘Pooja Kinnar GuruMa’ on Instagram and used this identity to defraud and blackmail victims under the pretext of performing rituals to make people fall in love / get married/settle divorce issues / solve relationship problems,” said a Cybercrime Police officer. The police said the accused created several Instagram IDs and identified himself as a “kinnar” (transgender person) on social media accounts to hide his male identity. “The accused contacted victims by offering solutions to personal issues such as relationships or marital problems through rituals and vashikaran rituals. They targeted the victims through Facebook and Instagram

mild force was used to disperse them and clear the road of unnecessary crowding... Thousands of commuters, including women, children, and even ambulances, were stranded due to the disruption,” the police added. The Pune police also assured that the investigation into the rape-murder case “is being conducted with utmost sensitivity and that all efforts are being made to ensure swift and strict punishment for the accused. The family has been kept informed throughout, and authorities reiterated their commitment to securing justice for the victim while urging citizens to maintain trust in the police and the justice system.” A 65-year-old man is in the custody of the Pune Rural Police for the rape and murder of the girl. The incident came to light on May 1 after the girl, who had left her grandmother’s house to play outside, did not return home.

The probe revealed that when the girl was playing near a local temple, the accused lured her and took her to a cowshed. He then raped and murdered the girl, according to the police investigation. The girl was visiting her grandmother’s house at the time of the crime. On May 2, a huge crowd blocked the Pune-Bangalore Highway at Navale Bridge, bringing traffic to a standstill for four hours. Late in the night, the police succeeded in convincing the family members and dispersing the crowd. However, allegations were made that the police resorted to a lathi charge on those demanding justice for the victim. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has said that the case will be tried in a fast-track court and the state will seek capital punishment for the accused.



fence attempted to discredit the girls by arguing they had since entered into “marriages” with friends despite being minors and that a girl was pregnant by her husband at the time she gave her testimony. However, the prosecution examined ten witnesses to prove the offence “beyond reasonable doubt”. The court dismissed the defence’s claims, noting that the testimony of the girls, their mother, aunt, medical officer, the hotel owner, registrar of births and deaths, a panch witness and the investigating officer, was “consistent, corroborative to each other, free from infirmities and inconsistencies”. In the final order dated April 11, 2026, the court found the accused guilty. Along with the 20-year sentence of rigorous imprisonment, the court imposed a fine of Rs 30,000.

Shamanur Shivashankarappa family, appears to have affected the results. They had asked for a Muslim candidate, as almost a third of the electorate in the constituency belongs to that community. Disagreements over the choice of the party candidate resulted in allegations of “anti-party” activities and action against Congress MLCs Abdul Jabbar and Naseer Ahmed.

And the counting of votes in Davanagere South faced two issues. The first, reported early on Monday, was that authorities misplaced the keys of a strong room where electronic voting machines (EVMs) were stored. The locks were broken before authorities could access the EVMs. The second issue was a technical glitch that three EVMs developed at the end of the counting process. Officials then decided to count the voter-verifiable paper trail (VVPAT) slips from the three machines. However, since the number of votes polled in the machines was fewer than the lead secured by Samarth, Congress workers started celebrations. Speaking to reporters, Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president D K Shivakumar said the party had expected a better margin in Davanagere South. “As of now, we are leading by around 4,900 votes. Results (of Davanagere South) are yet to be declared,” he said, adding that Samarth’s lead surpassed the votes that were yet to be counted. “In Bagalkot, our margin was less in 2023. There we have won by a huge margin,” he said. According to the Election Commission, the Congress candidate was leading in Davanagere South by 5,477 votes at the end of 23 rounds of counting. While Samarth has polled 69,302 votes, Dasakariyappa has received 63,825 votes. The SDPI’s Afsar Kodilipete has polled 18,857 votes.

advertisements – mostly females. They contacted around 300 females daily and had 60-65 clients per day for various ceremonies- charge was from Rs 3,000 to Rs 15,000 based on the puja/vidhi to be carried out,” the police said in a statement. On the modus operandi following successful contact with potential victims, Lavina Sinha, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Cyber Crime), said, “The accused collected personal information of the victims and, by maintaining continuous contact using multiple mobile numbers, obtained photos from them under the pretext of performing rituals. The accused then edited these photos and threatened to make them viral and forced the victims to undress during video calls for “shudhikaran vidhi” (cleansing rituals) and recorded the screen getting nude videos of victims.” “Later, these photos/videos were sent to the victims in “one view” mode, and the victims were blackmailed and extorted with threats of making the content go viral on social media. In this particular case, the accused extorted an amount of Rs 1,43,951 from the victim through multiple transactions,” Sinha added. During the investigation, based on technical analysis and human intelligence,

Khadia upset breaks BJP’s hold in ‘gadhdh’ that saw its rise



AT Golwad Pol, a two-storeyed, plain-looking building stands with an earthen lamp and a lotus mounted on either side of its walls. This is where the Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee-founded Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) took root in Gujarat in the 1970s. While the earthen lamp was the BJS’s symbol, the BJP later adopted the lotus.

Turned into a library, the former Jana Sangh headquarters is now known as Vasant Smruti Vanchanalay. An undergraduate student from Lakha Patel ni Pol, Dhairya Prajapati, 18, has been preparing for the CAT (Common Admission Test) for the past two months here. He claims to have not seen many others. ‘Vasant Smruti’-the former Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) headquarter now converted into a library in Khadia. ‘Vasant Smruti’-the former Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) headquarter now converted into a library in Khadia. Banners hanging from electric poles not far from the building show the four newly elected Congress corporators thanking voters of the Khadia ward for the “historic victory” in the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) elections. The BJP had never lost an election in Khadia since 1972, when it had fought as the Jana Sangh.

Surrounded by old houses — many now turned into either manufacturing units or godowns for electric cables, some small grocery and snack shops — Nathalal Jhagda, a key Ahmedabad-based Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Jana Sangh leader, would live here and work closely with Vasant Rao Gajendragadkar, Shankersinh Vaghela, Keshubhai Patel and (now Prime Minister) Narendra Modi. “Affectionately called ‘Natha Kaka’, he served as a crucial pillar during the Jana Sangh and Emergency period. He would look after logistics and administrative activities as other leaders would tour the state. Our meetings would also take place on the first floor. It was under him that the (BJP) bought an office in the Khanpur area, which remains active till date even as the state headquarters had been shifted to Kamalam in Gandhinagar,” says Dr Anil Patel, the BJP state spokesperson and a senior BJP leader, explaining why Khadia came to be known as the BJP’s ‘gadhdh’ (stronghold). Lanes of Khadia also seen is Poet Lakha Bhagat statue in Desai ni pol. Lanes of Khadia also seen is Poet Lakha Bhagat statue in Desai ni pol. (Express Photo by Ritu Sharma)

Not far is a snack shop by the name of Saurashtra Farsan run by Chetanbhai Sukhadia. Sukhadia remembers former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee savouring ‘ganthiya’ (a fried snack) from his shop. “Vajpayee ji would order ganthiya every time he came by, and ask it to be sent to the office. ‘Golwad na ganthiya’ (Golwad’s ganthiya) thus became the favourite snack of Narendra Modi, Ashok Bhatt and Harin Pathak,” says the 58-year-old. Ashok Bhatt, who held the Khadia Assembly seat for eight terms consecutively from 1975, went on to become a minister in the governments led by Keshubhai Patel and Narendra Modi in the state and the Assembly speaker while Pathak was a minister in the Vajpayee-led government at the Centre. He would also represent the Ahmedabad Lok Sabha constituency, of which Khadia was a part. Dr Anil Patel, who runs a clinic in the adjoining Dariyapur, remembers how from this very building the BJP chose its first mayor, Jayendra Pandit, and Pathak as the chairman of the Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service when the party first won the civic elections in Ahmedabad in 1987. “Ahmedabad’s first mayor was

from Khadia”, Patel says. A chink in this armour was noticed this past April 26, when Gujarat voted in the local body polls. “BJP ne pura gaon jeet liya par gadhdh hi haar gaye (The BJP won the entire region but lost its own stronghold)” is how Imran Khedawala, Gujarat’s lone Muslim MLA from the Congress, described the events of April 28, when the election results were announced. In the elections, the BJP secured nearly 59 per cent of the votes across 15 municipal corporations. It won 160 out of 192 seats in Ahmedabad, but lost Khadia to Congress. The latter slightly improved its tally from 28 in 2021 to 32.

Congress’s first-time corporators Meena Nayaa Brijuben Thakkar, Dhruv Kalapi and Ilyashkan Pathan beat BJP candidates, including a sitting corporator, who have been living in Khadia for generations. At Desai ni Pol, known for its grand bungalows, is the landmark Indo-Gothic style 20th-century haveli of textile businessman and philanthropist Chinubhai Madhavlal. Chinubhai was given the title of ‘Baronet’ by the British and was also a member of the legislative council in the Bombay state, of which Gujarat was a part till 1960. In February this year, the BJP’s national president Nitin Nabin, on his first visit to Gujarat after his election, sat with party workers to listen to PM Modi’s Mann ki baat at the Chinubhai Baronet haveli. Local residents say it was this haveli where Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore watched a garba performance in 1919. They go on to describe how Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who was the first president of the Ahmedabad municipal borough, was part of a “bhajiya club”. In the 1990s, residents of Khadia would become part of another movement, in the city’s heritage preservation, which would in 2017 earn the city the UNESCO tag of World Heritage City.

Dr Hemant Bhatt, the state media cell convener of the BJP, lives in Desai ni Pol. He calls Khadia “BJP’s Ayodhya in Gujarat” and draws up a comparison with the Ramjanmabhoomi movement. Seated on a wooden swing in his 200-year-old house, which has been designated as a heritage building, he calls Khadia the BJP’s khammeer (pride) and narrates how its association with history goes back to the Quit India movement. He recalls the “martyrdom” of Umakant Kadia, who was shot dead near the Khadia char rasta, and the 1909 incident when “country-made bombs were thrown at Lord Minto, then viceroy of India, near the Raipur Gate near Khadia. Well-known humourist Taarak Mehta also grew up in a Khadia pol or alley, local residents claim. Khadia has 179 alleys strung together by lanes and bylanes — some so narrow that barely a two-wheeler can pass through. It has 2,236 heritage structures of grade III (buildings representative of the lifestyle of a community) and another 450 of grade I (buildings of national and historical importance) and II (buildings contributing to the identity of the region) that include temples and mosques. Desai ni Pol, which has a statue of the Bhakti movement poet Akha Bhagat, alone has 20 heritage structures. Things took a turn in 1969 when the city saw a communal riot. Migration from the walled city began then to areas across the Sabarmati, its west bank. It picked up pace during the 1974 Navnirman Andolan and the 1985 anti-reservation movement, which turned into communal riots. Khadia was among the worst-hit neighbourhoods. An Assembly constituency by the name of Khadia existed till the delimitation of 2010. Parts of the surrounding Muslim-dominated areas were later incorporated into Khadia, and the segment was renamed Jamalpur-Khadia. Represented by Ashok Bhatt till his death in 2011, his son Bhushan represented it till 2017, when he lost to Congress’s Imran Khedawala. BJP leaders blame the recent “historic loss in the Khadia ward to the “changed demography” and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. A former corporator, who did not wish to be named, alleges that votes in Khadia “dropped from 93,000 to 73,000”, which resulted in “60 per cent reduction of voters” from a particular community. However, Pankaj Bhatt, a BJP corporator in the previous term who lost the election to the Congress, claims, “People are regretting having voted for the Congress and are already backing me.”

Venugopal or Satheesan? As UDF heads to victory in Kerala, talk of CM face in Delhi



With the Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) surging towards a comeback in Kerala, celebrations erupted outside Kerala House in Delhi on Monday. Members of the Kerala NGO Association and party supporters celebrated the early trends with drumbeats, firecrackers, and cups of payasam. Many remained glued to their phones, tracking constituency-wise leads and discussing margins, as excitement built through the morning. Though exit polls and anti-incumbency signals had hinted at a shift, the sheer scale of the UDF’s lead — crossing 100 seats in the 140-member Assembly — caught many by surprise. As the numbers climbed, so did the buzz. Posters of senior Congress leader K C Venugopal went up near the entrance, drawing cheers, while conversations quickly shifted to the next big question: who will be chief minister? “We don’t know the CM face yet. Even a woman candidate would be welcome. But among the names, V D Satheesan is the most deserving,” one supporter said. “Still, the K C Venugopal camp appears strongest, so Satheesan may have the least chance compared to others like Ramesh Chennithala.” Inside the premises, however, a group of younger supporters was seen raising slogans in favour of Satheesan.

Several attendees also expressed surprise at the scale of the setback faced by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and the Left Democratic Front (LDF). “Even with anti-incumbency, no one expected such a collapse,” said Muhammad Jasir. Referring to Dharmadam, Vijayan’s constituency, he added, “Last time, he won by around 50,000 votes. This time, it’s humiliating. It shows a clear message from the people.”

Others pointed to welfare measures and shifting voter sentiment. “Free bus travel for women, student concessions, and focus on the elderly have made an impact,” Jasir said. Kerala Assembly elections 2026 Celebrations outside Kerala House in Delhi, Monday. Muhammad Razeen, from Kannur, noted a broader organisational shift. “Kannur was considered a stronghold, but the cadre base is scattered

Even grassroots workers seem to have given a dissenting verdict. Otherwise, such a shift from places like Dharmadam is not possible. “Discussions also centred on constituencies like Payyannur and Mattanur — long seen as Left bastions — where the UDF put up strong performances. Many agreed that while the BJP appeared to be gaining ground in several seats, the dominant narrative remained a clear anti-incumbency push for change.

“It is a big need for us,” said R Jayesh, president of the Kerala NGO Association. “Government employees have faced difficulties in recent years, and the UDF has supported us. We are happy, and that is why we have gathered here.” A senior Congress leader present at the venue said key questions remain. “Centre-state relations, development priorities, education, and fiscal challenges... these will all need careful handling by the next government.” Away from the celebratory entrance, a quieter scene played out inside the Samridhi canteen, where small groups discussed politics over meals. Some wondered aloud whether more celebrations should wait until final results were declared — “padakam potikyanille... result declare aayal mathi (Aren’t they bursting firecrackers... once results are declared),” one attendee remarked.

Op Sindoor showed world Indian military’s capabilities: Rajnath

Prayagraj (UP): Days ahead of the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday described it as a “unique” example of how the Indian military utilised advanced technology to deliver a decisive blow to terror groups and their “patrons”. Addressing the inauguration event of North Tech symposium, Singh emphasised that while the armed forces “showed patience”, they were clinical in destroying terrorist infrastructure. He added that the operation served as a global reminder of the Indian military’s capabilities. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 last year in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. The operation targeted terror infrastructure in territories controlled by Pakistan. The strikes triggered four days of intense clashes that ended with an understanding on stopping the military actions on May 10. “The decisive response our soldiers gave to the terrorists and their patrons made the entire nation proud. It was a good thing that we showed patience and destroyed only the terrorists; otherwise, the whole world knows what our armed forces are capable of,” Singh said. He described the operation as a unique example of technology use. “

BMC moves to build Mumbai’s first civic shelter for stray dogs, invites NGOs



GNS News Agency, May 4

Over four months after the Supreme Court issued directives to remove stray dogs from public spaces, plans to develop Mumbai’s first civic-run shelter for stray dogs have received an impetus with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) floating an expression of interest (EOI), inviting NGOs to build and develop a dog shelter in Malad’s Malwani.Sprawled over seven acres in the western suburbs, the civic-run shelter home for Mumbai’s stray animals is poised to be equipped with healthcare facilities, kennels, isolation wards, operation and post-operative wards, feeding systems, as well as digital reporting mechanisms.

According to a report by the BMC and an NGO, titled ‘Evaluation of Street Dog Population Management and Sterilisation Impact’, Mumbai currently has an estimated 90,757 stray dogs, a marginal decline from more than 95,000 dogs recorded in 2014. Until now, the civic body’s approach to managing the stray dog population entailed sterilisation and release of animals back into their territories.However, amid rising cases of dog bites and directives by the Supreme Court in November 2025, which called for the removal of strays from sensitive locations, the BMC is set to change gears and develop the city’s first stray dog facility in Malwani.In light of the directives, the civic body seeks to capture stray dogs in a “safe and humane manner”, sterilise and conduct anti-rabies vaccina-

tion of the captured dogs, and provide care to all until they are fit for release. Permanent rehabilitation within the shelter home premises will be provided to unfit dogs as well as dogs in high-footfall and sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, railway stations, bus depots and government offices, who will not be released.BMC eyes PPP funding model

Sprawled over 30,000 sq m of civic land parcel, the BMC is eyeing to develop the dog shelter with a 6-feet tall boundary wall, kennels, isolation and sick puppy wards, administrative room, drainage, sanitation and washing areas along with a kitchen. While the cost and capacity of the facility are yet to be ascertained, the civic body is exploring the possibility of developing the shelter home under a PPP (Public-Private Partnership) model of funding, with the civic body last week floating an EOI for agencies to develop, maintain and operate the facility.According to officials, the facility will be developed in accordance with the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) guidelines. As per the norms, puppies between 0-2 months of age will be fed between 4-6 meals, while puppies between 2-6 months of age will be fed four meals. Adult dogs will be fed two meals a day, while senior dogs will be fed a diet of soft and easily digestible meals. As per the AWBI’s prescribed rates, the cost of feeding will be capped at Rs 15 for dogs up to 10 kg, Rs 30 for dogs between 10-25 kg, Rs 50 for animals weighing between 25-40 kg and Rs 60 for dogs over 40 kg.

While BMC staffers will capture and transport strays from sensitive premises, NGOs will be tasked with vaccination, care, and maintenance of the dogs. In order to ensure monitoring, the agency is expected to maintain shelter, feeding, and medical logs and upload the data on BMC’s digital system. Monthly reports are expected to be submitted to the BMC’s veterinary department.A senior official from BMC’s veterinary department, however, maintained that the development is in the preliminary stage. “We have rolled out the EOI to gauge the interest amongst NGOs. After we get an adequate response, we will explore the capacity to check whether the facility can house 1,000 dogs or more,” the official added.

Police arrest ex-kabaddi player, seizes heroin worth Rs 1.05 cr



GNS News Agency, May 4

Acting on specific inputs, police set up a checkpoint, intercepted Rashpal’s vehicle and seized the heroin, which was concealed under the driver’s seat.Acting on specific inputs, police set up a checkpoint, intercepted Rashpal’s vehicle and seized the heroin, which was concealed under the driver’s seat. The Panchkula Police have arrested a former state-level kabaddi player with 538 grams of heroin valued at around Rs 1.05 crore in Panchkula. The accused was arrested on April 23 by a Crime Branch team (Sector-26) near Pyarewala village on the Raipur Rani-Naraingarh road.

Police identified the accused as Rashpal Singh alias Lali, who was produced before a court on April 24 and sent to police custody for seven days. Rashpal is a resident of the Tarn Taran district, Punjab.Acting on specific inputs, police set up a checkpoint, intercepted Rashpal’s vehicle and seized the heroin, which was concealed under the

driver’s seat.Rashpal was involved in drug trafficking for a considerable period and allegedly sourced heroin from Punjab for its further supply in Panchkula, officials said.Police have registered a case under Section 21C of the NDPS Act at Raipur Rani police station. He has also disclosed key information about his suppliers, and further arrests are likely, they said.

The former athlete also has two prior criminal cases against him in Punjab, including attempted murder and fraud.Between January and April, 2026, police have registered 37 NDPS (Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) cases, which include 10 involving commercial quantities and 27 intermediate quantities.Over the past four months, a total of 58 accused were also arrested — 18 identified as the main suppliers, officials said.During this period, police also seized contraband — including over 5 kg of heroin, 27 kg of poppy husk, 6.2 kg of ganja, 1.5 kg of charas, 710 grams of opium and more than 40,000 banned tablets — worth around Rs 8.85 crore.The officials said police have also initiated action against assets allegedly built from drug proceeds. Properties linked to three accused — Amar Singh (Pinjore), Sultan (Panchkula) and Abhishek (from Uttar Pradesh but residing in Panchkula, Sector-14) — were demolished.Alongside enforcement, police have also expanded outreach efforts, the authorities said.Between January and March, they conducted 81 awareness programmes, reaching 3,699 people. As part of rehabilitation measures, 361 drug users were put on treatment, while 38 were admitted to de-addiction centres. In a recent exercise, drugs worth approximately Rs 2.02 crore, seized between 2022 and 2024, were destroyed at a hygiene facility in Bagwala.

How bank staff orchestrated a Rs 4.74 lakh pre-approved loan fraud in Gurgaon



GNS News Agency, May 4

Pune cyber fraudManesar worker files cyber fraud case after 74.74 lakh loan taken in his name through unauthorised mobile number change.Gurgaon Police have arrested a Deputy Manager from RBL Bank and an Axis Bank employee for allegedly running a “Pre-approved Loan” fraud.On December 6 last year, Dinesh Kumar (33) was taken aback when he saw an unauthorised deduction of Rs 12,585 from his Axis Bank account.On enquiring with the bank, Gurgaon Police said, he discovered that an unidentified person had changed his registered mobile number and fraudulently taken a loan of approximately Rs 4.74 lakh in his name. The deducted amount was the first EMI of the unauthorised loan.Alarmed, Dinesh, a worker at a private factory in Manesar, rushed to the Cyber Crime Police Station in Manesar to file a complaint.An FIR was registered on December 11 for the offence of cheating involving valuable security.

When police probed the case, they discovered that the fraud was carried out by someone who knew the ins and outs of the banking system and had access to customers’ details.Their investigation eventually led them to bank employees allegedly involved in a massive racket that extracted sensitive data from bank accounts with pre-approved loan offers to fraudulently siphon off funds.Four men have been arrested in the case so far, the latest being Mohammad Ali, Deputy Manager at an RBL Bank branch in Delhi, and Mohammad Asif, who worked at Axis Bank in Gurgaon.Police said Ali and Asif were nabbed in Delhi on April 23 and April 25. Both were produced in a local court and taken into police remand. Police stated that a total of four accused have been arrested in connection with the

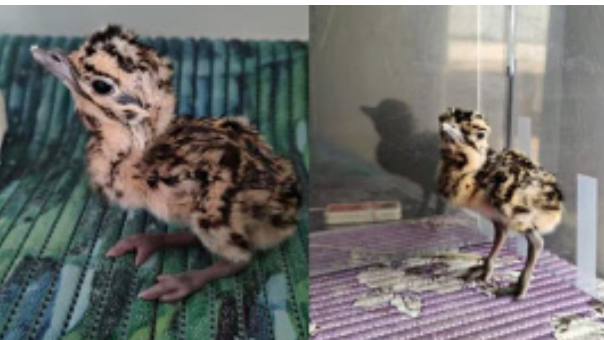
case so far.Ali hails from UP’s Ballia district and Asif from Delhi’s Govindpuri. They were living in Dayalbagh Colony in Faridabad.

Explaining how the racket cheated people, Gurgaon Police spokesperson ASI Sandeep Kumar said, “During police interrogation, it was revealed that Mohammad Ali was employed as a Deputy Manager at an RBL Bank branch in Delhi, while Mohammad Asif worked at Axis Bank in Gurugram. Investigators identified Ali as the mastermind of the operation. He allegedly instructed Asif to identify and extract confidential information from bank accounts that featured pre-approved loan offers. Asif accessed the banking system and shared sensitive customer data with Ali.”Following this, Ali allegedly passed the compromised data, along with SIM cards, to another co-accused, Mohammad Haseem (who was arrested on January 30), officers said.Haseem, along with other accomplices, allegedly altered the mobile numbers linked to the targeted bank accounts and used internet banking facilities to execute the pre-approved loan fraud, police said.Police plan to formally contact the respective banks to investigate the broader involvement of the accused in similar loan-related frauds.”Detailed interrogation of the accused is currently underway to ascertain their role in this and other cases. Further investigation into the matter is ongoing,” the police spokesperson added.He claimed, “The bank staff have been most uncooperative, they do not even pick up my calls.””But police have said I will get the money soon. Thankfully nothing else was debited since my account did not have (money for) the full loan amount anyway,” he told

Woman alleges cheating on marriage promise

Hyderabad: A 24-year-old man has been booked by Jubilee Hills police for allegedly cheating a woman after entering into a live-in relationship with her on the promise of marriage and later fleeing.According to police, the victim, a native of Kolkata, became acquainted with the suspect identified as Manowar Thesain, who hails from Assam, while both were working at the same restaurant. The acquaintance soon turned into a relationship, with the suspect reportedly assuring her that he would marry her.

‘Great Indian Bustard chick feared eaten by predator’: Gujarat Forest Department



GNS News Agency, May 4

A chick of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB), a critically endangered species, born in Gujarat’s Kutch on March 26 under a trans-state conservation effort, is feared dead after going missing a few days ago, The Indian Express has learnt.The development is a setback for Great Indian Bustard conservation in Gujarat, which had recorded the birth of a chick for the first time in a decade.“The chick that was born on March 26 had started taking flight on April 18. It was being monitored intermittently, as it was also necessary to ensure the bird was not disturbed. For the last 4-5 days, the bird has not been located,” a top source in the forest department said.“We are trying to locate it, but we also suspect it could have been eaten by a

predator...maybe by a jackal or fox. Which is a misgiving in that regard. Precautions were being taken to ensure that those predators do not come close by by driving them away, but humanly it is a bit difficult to cover the vast terrain,” the source added while implying that it is difficult to take any punitive action for any lapse in the episode.Sources also said this is a major setback for the conservation of GIB in Gujarat, even as the next egg-laying is likely to occur mostly after the monsoon, after which the jumpstart method could again be used to get a new chick by replacing the infertile egg with a fertile one for incubation.For the first time in a decade, Gujarat saw the birth of a GIB chick after a ‘trans-state conservation effort’ that involved an arduous 770-km road journey across a halt-free corridor to transport a 15-day-old fertile egg from Sam in Rajasthan’s Jaisalmer district to Naliya in Gujarat’s Kutch district.

This was the country’s first birth of the critically endangered bird under the ‘jumpstart’ method, where a female GIB in Kutch, which had laid an infertile egg, incubated a fertile egg chosen from a captive breeding centre in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.Gujarat has only three surviving GIBs in the wild, all of them female. Hence, their eggs are all infertile.There are only an estimated 150 GIBs in the wild, mostly in Rajasthan. The large bird, a key indicator species of the grassland habitat, has faced population declines over the years due to hunting, habitat loss, and, in recent years, collisions with energy transmission lines that crisscross its habitat in Rajasthan and Gujarat.

How New Zealand-India FTA will help Surat’s diamond industry, hit by conflicts & US tariff



GNS News Agency, May 4

The Free Trade Agreement (FTA) signed between India and New Zealand on Monday is being seen as an opportunity for the gems and jewellery business in Surat, which has been hit hard by three wars in succession since 2022, affecting supply chains of rough diamonds, and the latest West Asia conflict negatively impacting the market demand.The FTA signing held in New Delhi was presided over by Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and New Zealand Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay. The FTA would mean the export duty up to five per cent charged on gold, silver and imitation jewellery, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones etc will now be scrapped. The duty on polished natural diamonds was already nil.

Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), an autonomous body under the Union Ministry of Commerce with over 10,900 members across India, welcomed the FTA terming it “a timely strategic step that opens a high-potential market for Indian Gem and Jewellery exporters”.The industry experts believe there will be a USD 50 million growth in exports over the next three years on account of the deal. India’s gems and jewellery export to New Zealand in 2024-25 was worth Rs. 110.37 crores, which rose to Rs. 213.09 crores in 2025-26, a growth of 93.07 per cent as per the data of the GJEPC.Executive Director of the GJEPC Sabyasachi Ray said that with the market for gems and jewellery in the US and the Gulf falling by 65 %, “it is better for India to identify individual markets and explore them”. “With the FTA, we are able to tap newer markets,” he said.Nearly 30% of the gems and jewellery exports from India were to the US, which fell by over 60% with the imposition of the tariffs by the US last year.According to Ray, businessmen wanted to capture the market among the Indian diaspora, which is around four lakh people in New Zealand.“We were concerned about the Indian diaspora community, and around 2 lakh people from South Asian

countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka – making it to a total of over 6 lakh people. These people are purchasing a similar kind of Indian made jewellery (diamond-studded and non-studded) which was being sent through Dubai to New Zealand and Australia,” he said.Now with the market in Dubai also hitting due the West Asia conflict, the businessmen can approach these new markets directly.India’s current gem and jewellery exports to New Zealand stand at approximately USD 16.61 million.Following the imposition of tariffs by the US as high as 50% on gems and jewellery before they were scaled down to 18%, India had begun exploring newer markets. Earlier this year, India had signed an FTA with the European Union.

National Chairman of GJEPC Kirit Bhansali, said, “In today’s turbulent global environment, India’s continued progress in advancing and concluding FTAs is enabling the industry to strategically diversify its export markets and reduce overdependence on any single country such as US or regions like the GCC.”“New Zealand, with its high per capita jewellery consumption, presents new opportunities for Indian exporters. The agreement also provides a clear duty advantage over key competitors such as China and Thailand, enhancing competitiveness and enabling expansion of market share. Along with Australia and Fiji, New Zealand in Oceania presents a compelling avenue for diversification,” Bhansali explained.“Importantly, this FTA is not just an export opportunity, but also a platform for deeper economic engagement and investment, supporting a more balanced and resilient growth trajectory for the sector,” adds Bhansali.The agreement, experts said, offers a clear duty advantage over competitors such as China and Thailand, which is expected to strengthen India’s competitiveness and improve market share across gold, silver, platinum, studded, contemporary, couture, and fashion jewellery segments.Improved market access, combined with India’s strength in manufacturing diverse jewellery categories, is expected to generate employment opportunities across major jewellery-producing centres, including Gujarat, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and West Bengal.Surat Diamond Association president Jagdish Khut said, “Due to the war between Iran and Israel-US, the exports had gone down. The LGD (Lab Grown Diamonds) are supporting the natural diamond industry for survival. Once the war ends, the industry of natural diamonds will get its momentum. As the USA is a major importer of polished diamonds from India, we are also exploring other countries where we can find the market and export natural diamonds. There is no question of LGD in the market. We are hopeful that FTA with New Zealand will be a better scope for finding a better alternative or base to expand business to other countries.”

Jharkhand woman found dead under mysterious circumstances in rented Bengaluru house



GNS News Agency, May 4

A 34-year-old woman, who used to work in a private company in Bengaluru, was found dead in a semi-decomposed state inside her rented house in the city, the police said on Tuesday. The police identified the deceased as a native of Jharkhand and said that she had been staying alone. The incident came to light after neighbours noticed a strong foul smell emanating from the house and alerted the police. Upon arrival, the police broke open the door and discovered the body. Officials suspect the death may have occurred at least two to three days earlier.“She had been working at a private firm and left her job in March 2025. We found torn papers scattered across the room, and the old company ID card was recovered from the spot,” an officer said.The circumstances surrounding the woman’s death have raised questions, as the body was found naked. The police have registered an unnatural death report. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and further details are awaited.According to the homeowner, the victim had been staying in the house for the past three years. She was unmarried and primarily communicated in Hindi. “She was often visited by a young man, and they would frequently argue. However, the reason for their disputes was not known,” the house owner said. The police are investigating these claims.The homeowner said she last saw her

tenant on Thursday last week, while she went downstairs to purchase groceries. “After that, she was not seen. Neighbours informed us about the foul smell. When we opened the door, she was lying naked in a pool of blood, and the body was badly decomposed,” she said.The police are examining the woman’s call records and social circle to reconstruct the sequence of events leading to her death. The exact cause of death will be determined after the post-mortem report, police officials said.

The Great Bengal Exclusion | It's final: 1,468 more names added by EC, after 139

Just before the second phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections on Wednesday, 1,468 names are believed to have been added back to the electoral roll, while there are six whose names the tribunals have said cannot be included.However, there is no clarity on the overall number of cases the tribunals managed to take up, before the Bengal polls conclude Wednesday.With the addition of the 1,468 names, the total number of electors in Bengal for the second phase of elections is 3.22 crore. Polling will be held in 142 Assembly constituencies in this phase.Earlier, the Election Commission of India had said the 19 tribunals had received 34 lakh applications, including for exclusion. In the last supplementary list, ahead of the first phase of Assembly elections, 139 names had been included and eight deleted.The tribunals had been announced after the adjudication process marked out 27.10 lakh names for deletion due to “logical discrepancies”, but took a long time getting off the ground – despite the narrow window ahead of the polls – with confusion over their operations continuing to persist.

‘Attempted detonation’ on Punjab railway track leaves 1 dead; double murder in Batala shooting spree



GNS News Agency, May 4

A man was killed during an “attempted detonation” on railway tracks in Punjab’s Patiala district on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday on the Rajpura–Ambala railway line, when a low-intensity blast-like sound alerted residents and security agencies.The Punjab Police said the device failed to explode fully, with the detonator itself getting destroyed on the tracks, killing Jagroop Singh, a resident of Panjwar village in Tarn Taran district.

Meanwhile, the incident has affected the movement of trains passing through the track. Northern Railway authorities said that the details of the affected trains will be released soon.

Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Varun Sharma said a joint investigation is being carried out with the Railway Police and other agencies to probe the incident. “Preliminary investigation suggests it was an ‘at-

tempted detonation’ in which the operator was killed. We have recovered a SIM card and other material from the site.” Sharma said.The police said the recovery of suspicious material has raised concerns. Forensic teams have been called in to analyse the evidence and ascertain the nature of the device and possible intent.

In police terminology, an attempted detonation refers to a situation where there is an effort to trigger an explosive device, but it either fails to go off completely or does not achieve the intended impact.The development comes months after a blast was reported 40 kilometres from the current spot, near Sirhind railway station in Fatehgarh Sahib district on January 24, ahead of Republic Day. A portion of the track was damaged, and a loco pilot of a goods train was injured in the incident that occurred late at night while the train was passing through the stretch.Meanwhile, a firing was reported on Monday night at Bhoma village in Batala in which two people were killed, and one was injured. Sources said that six people came on two motorcycles and recklessly opened fire on the villagers. The deceased has been identified as Kashmir Singh, 40, and Jugraj Singh, 18. Another person named Jugraj Singh is stated to be critical.Reacting to the developments, Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh Raja Warring said, “The state has woken up to disturbing incidents, including a bomb blast on a railway track and violence elsewhere. These are ominous indications. The hard-earned peace is at stake in Punjab. With the Aam Aadmi Party government preoccupied, saboteurs and criminals are exploiting the situation. We have repeatedly warned about the deteriorating law and order situation, but the government’s priorities remain elsewhere.”

‘Don’t expect justice’: After Kejriwal, Sisodia’s ‘no lawyer’ letter to Delhi judge

GNS News Agency, May 4

After Arvind Kejriwal, AAP leader Manish Sisodia wrote to Delhi High Court’s Justice Swarana Kantha Sharma on Tuesday, conveying that he too will go unrepresented before her court in the alleged liquor excise policy scam.Stating that “there is no path left except Satyagraha” and claiming that he does not “expect justice”, Sisodia said, “No lawyer will appear on my behalf either. Your children’s future is in the hands of (Solicitor General of India) Tushar Mehta.”In a similar proclamation, AAP’s national convenor and the former Delhi CM Kejriwal had written to Justice Sharma, saying that he will “neither appear in person nor through a lawyer before her” in the excise policy case.

“I have lost hope of getting justice from Justice Swarana Kantha. Therefore, I have decided to follow the path of Satyagraha as shown by Mahatma Gandhi,” he said in his letter yesterday.Kejriwal primarily reiterated his apprehension regarding Justice Sharma’s “public association with the RSS’s legal front, Akhil Bharatiya Adhivakta Parishad” and pointed out Justice Sharma’s children are on the Union of India’s panels of advocates and are assigned cases by Solicitor General of India Tushar Mehta.Kejriwal and Sisodia are parties in CBI’s revision plea, challenging their discharge in the alleged liquor policy scam case that Justice Sharma is hearing. Justice Sharma last week refused to recuse herself from hearing CBI’s plea.Flagger his concerns, Sisodia has said, “My concern, too, much like Mr. Kejriwal’s,



is not born out of hostility to the court. It is born of a deep unease that, if I continue to participate despite these circumstances, I would be acting against my own conscience too while pretending before my fellow countrymen that all doubts stand resolved.”...for reasons substantially aligned with those set out by Mr Arvind Kejriwal in his letter to you, I respectfully state that I too shall not participate in further proceedings in this matter before this Hon’ble Court, whether personally or through counsel,” he added

The communications by Kejriwal and Sisodia come days after Justice Sharma refused to recuse from hearing the case despite the accused raising apprehensions of bias and conflict of interest.

‘We cook once a day’: How Karnataka low-income households are changing food habits amid LPG shortage

For Geetha, a 30-year-old domestic worker in North-east Bengaluru, the kitchen has become a source of anxiety amid the shortage of LPG cylinders due to the West Asia conflict.“All we do is wait for late night. We light a wood fire on the roadside and cook food for the next day. We do not have a cylinder, but don’t we need to run home?” asks the mother of two.She says she cannot afford the black-market cylinders priced at Rs 5,000. “Those who have space manage with wood fire, but most of us don’t,” she saysMeals for her family have been reduced to a minimum. “We cook only once a day now, and not many items,” she adds.Ratna, a cook, says her family alternates between LPG and firewood to stretch limited supplies. “It takes 20 days or more to get a cylinder. So we use gas for a few days, then switch to wood,” she says.Even booked cylinders arrive unpredictably, with delivery delays ranging from 10 to 30 days.

As the West Asia conflict stretches into its third month, the impact is being felt far beyond commercial establishments, with low-income families and migrant workers among the worst affected.For migrant labourers without LPG connections, refilling small cylinders was routine until the shortage hit. Others are forced to constantly adjust.A migrant worker near Hoskote says he now relies on one-plate meals when hunger becomes unavoidable. “The small shops I used to eat from have shut down because they can’t afford gas anymore. Now I have to find other ways to eat,” he says. The shortage is also reshaping food habits. Fuel-intensive dishes have disappeared from kitchens, and most households no longer cook multiple meals a day. The situation is similar in rural parts of the state. In Marigowdana Hundi, a village in Mysuru district and part of Varuna Assembly segment represented by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, the only eatery is now fully dependent on firewood.Its owner, Mahadeva, says he is now totally de-



pendent on wood fire. “After the LPG shortage, in the black market they are demanding Rs 3,500 to Rs 4,000 for a LPG cylinder. I cannot afford it,” he says.While restaurants in urban areas have raised prices and trimmed menus, citing a shortage of LPG cylinders, Mahadeva has tried to maintain both. “I haven’t cut down my menu. We still serve breakfast and lunch, but now we depend entirely on wood,” he addsTo keep the business going, his family spends hours each week collecting firewood from nearby vacant land. “We used to need one cylinder every three days. Now everything runs on wood,” he says.

While summer makes it easier to find dry wood, he worries about the monsoon. “If this continues into the rains, we don’t know how we’ll manage.”Concerns over LPG supply have grown as cargo shipments remain delayed in the Persian Gulf. However, the government has maintained that there is no shortage.On Monday, Sujata Sharma, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, said the country has adequate LPG supplies and no distributor is facing a dry-out. Sharma added that 93 per cent of cylinder deliveries are being carried out through OTP verification.

Gold, silver prices decline up to 2 pc as West Asia conflict push crude above \$110

Mumbai: Gold and silver traded sharply lower on Tuesday, declining by up to 2 per cent amid ongoing tensions between the US and Iran and a rise in crude oil prices, which breached the \$110 mark again.On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), gold futures (June 5) witnessed selling pressure. The yellow metal fell to an intraday low of Rs 1,50,450 per 10 grams, down 0.83 per cent or Rs 1,271, while it touched a high of Rs 1,51,802, up 0.05 per cent or Rs 81. At the last count, gold was trading at Rs 1,50,600, down Rs 1,121 or 0.74 per cent.Meanwhile, silver futures (May 5) also remained under pressure during the session. The white metal slipped to an intraday low of Rs 2,36,600 per kg, a decline of 2.16 per cent or Rs 5,224, while the high was recorded at Rs 2,41,250, down 0.23 per cent or Rs 574. At the last count, silver was trading at Rs 2,37,600, down Rs 4,224 or 1.75 per cent.A commodity market expert said the near-term outlook for precious metals remains cautious amid volatility and geopolitical uncertainty. “MCX Gold is

witnessing selling pressure near resistance levels, with Rs 1,52,000 acting as a key hurdle. A sustained move above this level could push prices higher, while a break below Rs 1,51,000 may lead to extended profit booking,” the expert said.“For MCX Silver, prices are hovering around Rs 2,40,000, indicating weak buying interest. A sustained move above Rs 2,42,000–Rs 2,44,000 could support recovery, while a break below Rs 2,40,000 may accelerate the downside,” the expert added.

In the international market, gold and silver prices also declined.On COMEX, gold was down 0.27 per cent at \$4,680 per ounce, while silver fell 0.73 per cent to \$74.48 per ounce. Moreover, gold has delivered returns of over 40 per cent in dollar terms over the past one year, while silver has doubled investors’ money, with an increase of 125 per cent.Tensions between the US and Iran have remained elevated, with peace talks witnessing significant volatility.

Simmering in DU, protests and dissent: Why students have been agitating in the university and its colleges for the past few months



It has gagged protests without permission. At the college level, Hansraj has launched an extraordinary crackdown on dissent, suspending students just for criticising the college administration on social media. There has also been an FIR naming 13 students.And for some time in March, Delhi Police imposed prohibitory orders under what used to be Section 144 CrPC on campus.

From leading utensil-banging marches over food shortages to protesting against the principals of Lady Shri Ram College for Women and Hansraj, students of DU have continued to be vocal about their views.In many cases, the protests have transcended the political divide between the BJP-backed ABVP and its opponents as students have pushed back against attempts by college and the university administrations to discipline them.DU’s attempts at making students fall in line began on February 17, when Proctor Manoj Kumar Singh issued an order prohibiting protests and public meetings on campus without prior permission.

The order, which came after several weeks of gradually tightening controls, was triggered by a violent protest against a set of guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission to deal with discrimination, including on the basis of caste, in institutions of higher education. YouTuber Ruchi Tiwari was allegedly manhandled at the protest.

The blanket ban on demonstrations ordered by the university was followed by the police imposing restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) across North Campus. The police then issued a second notification that barred “unrestricted” assembly for a month until April 25.On March 12, the Delhi High Court frowned at the sweeping restrictions on protests by students.Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya observed: “There are some pre-conditions that have to be met before passing any order under BNSS Section 163... Not only ‘apprehension’... if you’ve to prevent something which is going to happen tomorrow, only then can you use order under (BNSS Section 163). We are clearly of the opinion that there cannot be a blanket ban... We are also very doubtful if CrPC Section 144 (BNSS Section 163 equivalent) can be used.”But the court also cautioned students that “this liberty cannot be misused”, and asked that they conduct themselves “appropriately”.

DU remained undeterred by the HC’s observations. On March 23, the university formalised a new structure to regulate dissent on campus: any protest in central university spaces would require a signed application submitted 72 hours in advance, detailing names, affiliations, turnout, duration, logistics, and speakers.Social media announcements would not count. Outsiders were barred. Violations could invite rustication, expulsion, or police action.But the protests have not reduced. Besides students, staff and faculty have also been demonstrating. Consider.* Earlier this month, students of LSR protested after principal Kanika K Ahuja appeared in a video on the BJP’s official Instagram handle praising the Women’s Reservation Bill.

Why a Greater Noida resident has taken fight for an EV charging point to Supreme Court

For 41-year-old Rachit Katyal, the dream of green mobility quickly hit a wall in his own parking lot. A flat owner in Greater Noida’s Nirala Estate, a complex of 4,000 apartments, Katyal wanted to install an electric vehicle (EV) charging point — but, he claimed, the society management kept sitting on his request.Finally, he decided to move the Supreme Court and is currently at the centre of a legal battle pertaining to how residential societies in India are handling installation of EV charging points.Katyal said the society has 56 electric vehicles and claimed the management has provided just two charging points — 7KW and 3KW. He alleged even these slots were “sold to other flat owners”, who refuse to let others use them.“I was planning to buy an EV but I was concerned about the lack of charging infrastructure in my housing society. My sister-in-law, who lives with us and has an EV, is facing problems over this,” said Katyal, who works in the aquarium trade business.“I was particularly keen on having a personal charging point, so I would not have to depend on shared or external infrastructure and avoid inconvenience in day-to-day usage. However, I faced resistance in getting approval for this,” he added.As a professional with “very odd” working hours, Katyal found it impossible to rely on public charging stations, which were often occupied when he finally got off work.“In my case, there is a commercial charging station within the society. However, given the high number of EVs in the community, it is almost always occupied. This leads to long waiting times and uncertainty around when I will be able to charge my vehicle,” he added.

Katyal said he sent several emails to the society management over six months.In his initial email on May 26, 2025, he wrote: “I plan to install a certified EV charger, adhering to all necessary safety and electrical compliance standards... I assure you that all expenses related to the installation and usage will be borne by me.”The response from the property management was that the request had been “forwarded to upper management”, he said.

In an email dated July 24, 2025, he wrote, “It’s now 2 months since I have applied... many states have a policy for society to provide NOC within 7 Days... make sure now you don’t create any last minute chaos”.Katyal claimed the society remained non-committal, claiming they were “exploring the possibility” of space while pointing to the two existing chargers. In December, Katyal sent the final email, noting that the lack of home charging was affecting his “health, sleep, and daily routine”.Deciding he had enough, he moved the apex court. On February 24, the Supreme Court took up Katyal’s plea. While Chief Justice Surya Kant initially voiced concerns about the mushrooming of PILs, the bench took it up.His petition, filed through advocate Sriram Parakkat, relied heavily on the Centre’s “Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure-2024”.It read: “On September 17, 2024, the Ministry of Power, Government of India, issued Guidelines for Installation and Operation of Electric Vehicle Charging

Ahuja described the reservation legislation as “a constitutional course correction” and “long overdue”, which enabled a shift “from women’s development to women-led development”.But students argued that the principal’s appearance on a party platform blurred the political neutrality of the institution.It was later alleged that parents of protesting students were contacted. Ahuja told that no prior intimation had been given before the protest.According to the principal, she had appeared in the video in an “individual capacity”, and it was “important to distinguish between personal intellectual engagement with a social subject and a formal institutional communique”.* On April 16, students gathered outside the gates of IP College for Women to protest against the alleged cancellation of farewell events for those opting out of the Four-Year Undergraduate Program.

The protest was led by the ABVP, and also raised questions about the quality of infrastructure, food, and facilities on campus.* Around the same time, Gargi College witnessed clashes during student council elections. Left-affiliated groups alleged that ABVP members had forcibly entered the campus and engaged in intimidation and harassment. The ABVP, on the other hand, raised concerns about transparency in the electoral process. The organisation later claimed protests were held across almost 30 DU colleges in a single week.* At Dyal Singh College (Evening), it was faculty members who staged a protest against the proposed renaming of the institution after the Khalsa army commander Baba Banda Singh Bahadur.

Staff Association member Mithilesh Singh argued that DU’s March 23 order was for protests on the DU campus, and not on college campuses.* On March 18, before the proctor’s notification, the Congress-affiliated student organisation NSUI organised a “Thali-Taali Bajao Abhiyaan” across North and South Campus. Hundreds of students gathered, banging utensils to protest shortages of cooking gas cylinders that they said had disrupted mess services and daily meals.“Students in the national capital are being forced to sleep hungry due to LPG shortages... This is not just a supply issue, this is a failure of governance,” NSUI national president Vinod Jakhar said at the time.At the heart of the simmering turmoil is dissonance over what constitutes legitimate protest and the university’s stated imperative of enforcing discipline on campus. University authorities have maintained that the system is by and large being followed.

DU Proctor Manoj Singh said: “Since we have issued the notification to furnish their information, all student parties have notified us 72 hours prior to the organisation of demonstrations. This notification is particularly only talking about protests that happen in the university area like the Arts Faculty. We do not interfere in college matters... All we can say is any protests that have taken place following the notification, we have been informed and that has helped us coordinate with the police and minimise conflict on ground.”Singh could not give a specific number of the number of applications received by his office with the furnished information by different student groups before protesting.

ABVP’s Delhi State Secretary Sarthak Sharma said: “As soon as the notification came out, we made it clear that the ABVP is against this move. We only provide an intimation before the protest... but we are not furnishing any names of the students, we only give them a rough number of the people who are going to be mobilised.”He added, “This notification is not interrupting any mobilisation or gatherings students plan on holding on campus.”On March 12, while weighing in against the “blanket ban”, the Delhi High Court asked students not to “misuse” their liberty. “...We have to balance the situation,” Chief Justice Upadhyaya had said.



Infrastructure-2024... the EV Guidelines state that residents can install private EV charging stations in their designated parking spaces and the distribution licensee will ensure electricity supply through the resident’s existing meter or a separate sub-meter, depending on the consumer”.After hearing the petition, the SC issued notice to the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh government, seeking their response on the implementation of the 2024 EV guidelines.

Libya oil discovery reflects growing global footprints of Indian energy firms: Govt



GNS News Agency, May 4

New Delhi: The government on Tuesday said the recent oil and gas discovery in Libya by Indian oil marketing companies (OMCs) — Oil India Limited (OIL), and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) — with local operators reflects the growing global footprint of the country’s energy firms and their expanding presence in overseas assets. In a post on social media platform X, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) congratulated OIL and IOCL, which were part of an Indian consortium with SIPEX, Algeria as the operator for the discovery in the Ghadames Basin. The discovery was made in “contract area 95/96, where the well was drilled to a final depth of 8,440 feet,” the ministry said.

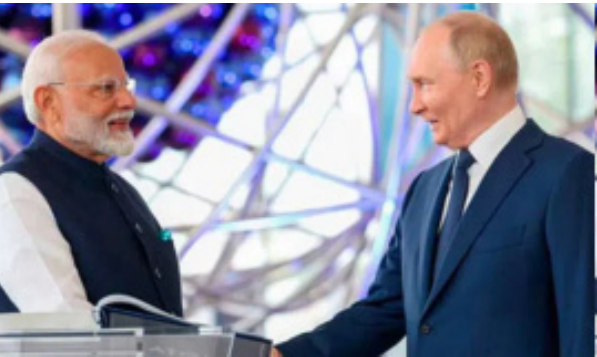
First LNG tanker crosses Hormuz chokepoint after weeks of disruption

New Delhi: The first liquefied natural gas (LNG) shipment, since the West Asia conflict began on February 28, appeared to have traversed the Strait of Hormuz, signalling a potential breakthrough at a key global energy chokepoint, reports said on Tuesday, citing ship-tracking data. The LNG tanker Mubarakz — which loaded cargo from Abu Dhabi National Oil Co’s Das Island facility in early March — was passing the southern tip of India, according to the ship-tracking data.

The vessel had remained idle inside the Persian Gulf for weeks and had stopped transmitting signals around March 31, before reappearing west of India on Monday. Global energy markets have been closely monitoring traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, through which roughly one-fifth of the world’s LNG supply passes. Moreover, ship movements had dropped to near zero over the previous two months amid escalating tensions and reciprocal blockades imposed by Iran and the United States.

At the time, the Mubarakz was signalling a terminal in China as its destination and was estimated to arrive by May 15, the data showed. Earlier in April, tracking data had indicated an empty LNG tanker exiting the Strait of Hormuz. However, no loaded LNG cargo had been confirmed to have made the transit until then. Several vessels carrying Qatari LNG had approached the strait in recent weeks but had turned back amid persistent geopolitical tensions. Notably, earlier in the month, Indian merchant vessel Green Asha had crossed the Strait of Hormuz and safely reached

India, Russia-led EAEU may hold next round talks for trade pact in June



GNS News Agency, May 4

New Delhi: India and the Russia-led EAEU group are expected to hold the next round of talks for a proposed free trade agreement in June in Moscow, an official said. India and the five-nation grouping, the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), on August 20 last year, inked the terms of reference for the agreement. The first round of negotiations was

What is North Korea's 'self-blasting' policy in Russia's war against Ukraine?

Among the thousands of weapons and troops North Korea has sent to support Russia’s war in Ukraine, reports of its soldiers taking their own lives to avoid capture are particularly striking. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Sunday praised soldiers who reportedly committed suicide, as part of warfare strategy, to avoid being captured while fighting Russia’s war against Ukraine, saying they died a “historic death in order to defend the great honour,” Bloomberg reported, citing state media.

The tactic, which involves soldiers taking their own lives on the battlefield rather than being captured, has drawn attention following Kim’s remarks. These comments come after earlier reports that North Korean troops in Ukraine were instructed to avoid capture at all costs, including by ending their own lives. Those claims were based on accounts from Ukrainian intelligence and testimony from a captured North Korean soldier. “Heroes who unhesitatingly opted for self-blasting, suicide attack, in order to defend the great honour,” Kim said in a speech. “They did not expect any compensation, though they performed distinguished feats,” he added. “They died a heroic death.” Memorial for North Korean soldiers To honour the soldiers who lost their lives fighting Russia’s war, the North Korean leader and Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov unveiled a memorial museum in Pyongyang, with top leaders of North Korea and Russia pledging a push for greater cooperation. Military jets flew overhead as white balloons were released into the sky during the event, which included the unveiling of a statue and the opening of the museum, BBC reported. According to state media, reported by AP, Kim was joined by visiting

During testing, the well achieved production of 13 million cubic feet of gas and 327 barrels of condensate per day from the Awynat Wanin and Awyn Kaza formations. The government also noted that the discovery showed the importance of strategic international partnerships and highlighted India’s push to strengthen energy security through the acquisition of overseas assets by national oil companies. It also wished the consortium continued success in unlocking greater value from the asset and described the find as a promising development for India’s global energy presence. Earlier this month, during the Budget session, the government informed that it had set a target to increase domestic crude oil production to 35 million metric tonnes by 2030, from about 29 million tonnes at present, to meet rising demand for petroleum products in the country. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, had said that the government was taking multiple steps to boost domestic output and reduce dependence on crude oil imports.

These included policies for early monetisation of hydrocarbon discoveries under the production sharing contract regime, the Discovered Small Field Policy, the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), and the extension of production sharing contracts, he said in a written reply in the Lok Sabha. On Tuesday, OIL shares were increased by more than 4 per cent at an intraday high of Rs 497 on the BSE. IOCL shares were trading on a flat note at Rs 145, down 0.3 per cent.



Jawaharlar Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) in Navi Mumbai with a cargo of 15,400 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), according to the government. Uncertainty around the geopolitical situation also remained, with US President Donald Trump reportedly not satisfied with Iran’s proposal as it did not address the country’s nuclear programme. “He doesn’t love the proposal,” a US official said. Trump had discussed the proposal with his top national security aides. The conflict remained at a stalemate, with energy supplies from the region affected. However, Iran has reportedly offered to reopen the Strait of Hormuz if the US lifts its blockade and hostilities end. In addition, oil prices remain elevated, with Brent crude rose 1 per cent to \$109.46 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) gained 1.22 per cent to \$97.55.

held in November 2025 here. “For the next round of talks, the Indian team may visit in June. Issues related to non-trade measures are likely to figure in that meeting,” the official said. The terms of reference signed on August 20, 2025, outline an 18-month work plan aimed at diversifying markets for Indian businesses, including MSMEs, farmers and fishermen. Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan are the five member countries of EAEU. The development is important as India is looking to diversify its export markets due to global economic uncertainties.

Russia is the top trading partner of India in the bloc, with bilateral trade worth USD 68.72 billion in 2024-25 (exports USD 4.88 billion and imports USD 63.84 billion). The high import numbers are due to a jump in crude oil imports. The bilateral trade with Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan was USD 315.18 million, USD 106.69 million, USD 349.48 million, and USD 56.78 million, respectively, in the last fiscal year. The official also said Oman team is likely to visit India next month to discuss issues related to implementation of the trade deal, which was signed in December last year.



Russian officials, including State Duma Speaker Vyacheslav Volodin and Defence Minister Andrey Belousov.

The museum’s inaugural ceremony was held in Pyongyang to mark the one-year anniversary of the end of an operation to liberate the Kursk region, according to KCNA. Reports also said Kim paid tribute to fallen soldiers by placing flowers and participating in memorial rites before signing a guest book alongside Russian officials. In his address, Kim said the fallen soldiers would remain “a symbol of the Korean people’s heroism” and would continue to support “a victorious march by the Korean and Russian people.” North Korea-Russia pact The two countries, North Korea and Russia signed a military pact in 2024, which includes a mutual defence clause. In 2025, the two countries announced that their soldiers fought together to repel a Ukraine incursion into Russia’s Kursk border region.

Amid US-UK tensions, King Charles to meet Trump 'off-camera', fearing a Zelensky-like clash



GNS News Agency, May 4

As the Iran war tests the ties between the United States and the United Kingdom, King Charles III is all set for this trip to Washington DC. Amid the tensions in ties between the long-standing allies, reports have stated that the British monarch is set to meet US President Donald Trump in a closed-door meeting. Unlike Trump’s previous meetings with foreign dignitaries, the meeting with King Charles is said to be an “off-camera” one. Off-camera meet amid diplomatic tensions

According to a Guardian report, British officials have pushed for the Oval Office meeting to remain offline, fear-

‘Can say whatever we want’: Jimmy Kimmel defends 'widow' joke on Melania after Trump calls for his firing

GNS News Agency, May 4

Late-night host Jimmy Kimmel is under fire after a joke about US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump, made on April 23, resurfaced following an attack during the White House Correspondents’ Dinner on April 25. However, Kimmel later defended himself and clarified that there was no connection between the joke and the incident. The host of Jimmy Kimmel Live! on ABC aired a parody of the upcoming dinner on April 23, saying, “Our First Lady, Melania, is here. Look at Melania—so beautiful. Mrs. Trump, you have a glow like an expectant widow.”

Two days later, a gunman opened fire outside the ballroom where the dinner was being held. The incident caused chaos, with the President, the First Lady, and other officials evacuated swiftly. The gunman—Cole Tomas Allen—was arrested and charged with attempting to assassinate the president.

Defending his joke, Kimmel clarified that there was no connection between his remarks and the incident. Trump called for his dismissal in a message to broadcaster ABC, describing the joke as a “despicable call to violence,” while Melania also urged the broadcaster to take action. While expressing sympathy for what the president, Melania, and others present went through, Kimmel questioned if “a joke I made three days ago before this dinner had any effect on anything that happened.” He clarified that the remark re-

ing a Zelensky-like clash with the US president. Last year, the Ukrainian president was berated by Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio during his visit to the US. Much to Zelensky’s humiliation, the meeting was being live broadcast across the globe.

Citing sources familiar with the matter, The Guardian reported that King Charles will be posing with cameras before his bilateral meeting with Trump, but will not be making any comments. Another reason for the off-camera meeting is the current tensions between Washington and London, especially after UK PM Keir Starmer stated that they will not be joining the war against Iran. Due to the UK’s refusal, Trump has launched many verbal attacks on the Labour leader, even more after the UK refused to allow the use of its military bases in the Middle East region. During his four-day visit to the US, King Charles III will also be addressing the US Congress, making him the first British monarch to do so since his mother, Queen Elizabeth II. Queen Elizabeth addressed the Congress in 1991, highlighting the shared history of the US and the UK and the democratic values of both nations. During his Tuesday address, the King is expected to draw reference to his mother’s speech, especially as the war against Iran tests their relations. As per Reuters, citing palace sources, the king’s speech is expected to be around 20 minutes and touch on several issues such as NATO, the ongoing conflict with Iran, Ukraine war and more.



ferred to the age difference between Trump and the Melania. “Donald Trump is allowed to say whatever he wants, as are you, as am I, and as are all of us because, under the First Amendment, we as Americans have a right to free speech,” Kimmel said Monday night on his show. Addressing the first lady, Kimmel added, “I agree that hateful and violent rhetoric is something we should reject. I do, and I think a great place to start dialing that back would be to have a conversation with your husband about it.” Kimmel earlier faced backlash over remarks following the assassination of Charlie Kirk. Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr urged stations to drop his show. ABC and major station owners had briefly suspended it too.

Majority of Canadians believe Carney has performed well as he marks one year in office

Toronto: On the anniversary of Prime Minister Mark Carney leading the ruling Liberal Party to an unexpected return to power, a majority of Canadians believe he has performed well in enhancing the country’s global reputation and in trying to diversify when it comes to trade partners, but are concerned over his handling of affordability.

The Liberal Party trailed the opposition Conservatives by double digit margins through most of 2024 and at the time Carney assumed charge from Justin Trudeau but he managed to turn the polls around and form a minority government after Federal elections were called on April 28 last year. However, it was at the head of yet another minority government, the third such outcome in a row. In the 2025 election, the Liberals captured 169 seats, up nine from 2021, and the Conservatives grew their presence from 119 to 144. On Monday, as three newly elected MPs joined the House of Commons, the Liberals enjoyed a majority, with 174 members in the 543-strong chamber, thanks to five defections and the recent by-election wins.

A survey released by the non-partisan Angus Reid Institute (ARI) on Monday found that a majority of Canadians, 64%, believed the Carney government has met or exceeded expectations on improving Canada’s international reputation, in diversifying Canada’s trade partners (57%) and managing its relationship with the United States (56%). After taking over the government, Carney gradually renewed the relationship with India, as part of the trade diversification effort, with negotiations towards a comprehen-



sive economic partnership agreement (CEPA) expected to be completed by the end of this year. But those sampled felt it has fallen short when it comes to improving housing affordability (at 67%) and in addressing the high cost of living (70%). ARI pointed out that it is “concerns from Canadians over pocketbooks that linger.” Overall, Canadians are evenly divided as to whether the one-year-old government has at least met their own bar on key election promises (41%) as say it hasn’t lived up to its goals (41%),” ARI noted. Those issues are driving a sense of pessimism with more Canadians likely to believe their country is on the wrong track (42%) than the right one (34%). Overall, Carney enjoys a 58% approval ratings and though elections are not due for another three years, the ruling party has the support of 42% of respondents, seven points higher than that for the Conservatives.

Netanyahu condemns Jesus statue incident, highlights Christian role in IDF

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israel is fighting for the rights of Christians throughout the Middle East through a video message released by the Prime Minister’s Office. Netanyahu made the statement from the Prime Minister’s office with a group of soldiers, he called them an exceptional group of young men and women and outstanding soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

He said that it is completely contrary to what is being presented outside, “Not only is Israel fighting for the rights of Christians throughout the Middle East, it has Christian soldiers who are fighting for the defence of Israel and for our Christian brothers throughout the region and beyond.” He also highlighted that he was impressed by the personnel stories, commitment, sacrifice and their achievements. He noted that “Israel is the only country in the Middle East where the Christian community is thriving, growing, and expanding. And it is very successful, with amazing men and women”. Earlier on April 20, PM Netanyahu condemned “in the strongest terms” the incident involving an Israeli soldier damaging a Jesus Christ statue in Lebanon, saying that he was left “stunned and saddened” after learning about the episode. The Prime Minister’s statement came after a picture went viral on social media showing an Israeli soldier



smashing a statue of Jesus Christ with a sledgehammer. Netanyahu said that military authorities are carrying out a criminal probe into the matter and will take disciplinary action against the offender. He added that Israel cherishes and upholds the Jewish values of tolerance and mutual respect between Jews and people of all faiths. On April 19, the IDF said that the incident is being viewed with great severity and the soldier’s conduct is “inconsistent” with the values expected of its armed forces.

The West Asia cauldron of conflict and its fallout



West Asia is currently enmeshed in what is essentially Benjamin Netanyahu’s war, aggravated by Donald Trump’s folly, lending itself to large-scale devastation. The conflict that began on February 28, 2026, when the United States and Israel launched large-scale joint military operations against Iran, is still continuing. What appeared to be a limited confrontation earlier in June (the 12-day war in June 2025) may now be seen as a kind of curtain raiser for this — the more devastating conflict taking place now. Titled ‘Operation Epic Fury’, the human cost of the war has been colossal, apart from other types of collateral damage. With several thousand Iranians killed, more than half of them civilians, it is apparent that the U.S. and Israel are preparing for a long campaign and, incidentally, in course of time, to commit troops on the ground. The world, nevertheless, needs to prepare for a long-drawn-out conflict

Iran survives the onslaught

To date, despite the widespread disruption and devastation, including the assassination of senior Iranian leaders such as Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and National Security Chief Ali Larjani among others, Iran has not only survived but its uranium stockpile also remains safe. Iran appears ready for an extended war. Also, Iran hopes to get its own back on the U.S., Israel, and their allies in the region by provoking a serious oil crisis through a blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, through which nearly 30% of the world’s shipment of oil passes. There has been other collateral damage as well, including the fact that many U.S. allies in Europe and elsewhere have openly refused to respond to Mr. Trump’s plaintive appeal for help in opening the Strait of Hormuz, even as Iran has made a tempting offer of safe passage (through the Strait) for countries friendly to it. Having survived the initial onslaught of the combined forces of the U.S. and Israel, Iran is now beginning to raise the stakes, at least as far as the U.S. is concerned, by calling for an American commitment to withdraw its bases in West Asia, to restrain Israel and arrive at an armistice of sorts.

Most experts believe that, if anything, time is on the side of Iran. Despite all the fire and fury visited on Iran in the first month of the conflict, and despite the loss of its top leaders, Iran has not only survived but has also managed to hit back, though with lesser intensity. The regime’s command structure has been disrupted, but a collapse of the Iranian state has not occurred. On the other hand, for the U.S., its strategy of saturation bombardment from the air is leading to certain other repercussions, in terms of both cost and replenishments of key weapons such as Patriot missiles, Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) Interceptors, Tomahawk cruise missiles and the like. Within the U.S., more so among sections of the U.S. Navy, signs of war weariness appear to have set in; while it is possible to overstate its significance, it cannot be ignored. In this respect, Israel’s strategy of containing the threat posed by Iran, while firing from Mr. Trump’s shoulders, may have gone awry. It would seem that the conflict has upended the Thucydides aphorism that “the strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must”, for in the present case, Iran has refused to accept suffering without hitting back with full ferocity. Notwithstanding this, the U.S. and Israel display few compunctions in persisting with a conflict that is focused ‘on extracting advantage, rather than in underwriting order’.

‘Netanyahu’s war’ escalatesThis is undoubtedly Mr. Netanyahu’s war, and while standard declamations may continue to be made, it is apparent that Mr. Netanyahu’s plans to decimate Iran with the aid and the support of the

An impeachment move with no winners

A win-win situation benefits all stakeholders even if a compromise is reached in search of a workable alternative. It could even be a way in which the winning side deludes the losing side to perceive its loss as a necessary price it paid for survival. The impeachment motion of the Opposition parties against the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) is one such example. It is a motion destined not to carry. Yet its prime movers may not see the loss as a defeat. But can the CEC see their loss as his victory?The move of the Opposition parties is doubtlessly dramatic. However, the question that needs to be pondered by the well-wishers of the Election Commission of India (ECI) is what prompted them to don the gloves for a fight with no chance of victory. Perhaps, sometimes one fights not to win but to wound the opponent. And the troubling part is that political parties treat the CEC as an opponent.

Steadfast defianceThe move to impeach the CEC is a first in the history of an institution that is supposed to be a vanguard of Indian electoral democracy. “India built many institutions after attaining freedom and adopting a Republican constitution...If anyone were to conduct an opinion poll on which of these institutions rendered the best service to Indian democracy with the highest degree of integrity, I have no doubt that the ECI will be our people’s first choice,” said Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Prime Minister at the ECI’s golden jubilee celebrations on January 17, 2001.

And now, 25 years later, 193 parliamentarians of the Opposition have submitted notices for an impeachment motion against the CEC citing charges of “partisan and discriminatory conduct”, “obstruction of investigation into electoral fraud” and disenfranchisement via the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The notice is as unprecedented as the manner in which the revision of electoral rolls has been undertaken despite serious challenge by most political parties, except the ruling dispensation. Such an alignment of thinking disconcerted the Opposition, which sharpened their attack against the CEC. The repeated press conferences by the Leader of the Opposition (LOP) exposing discrepancies in the electoral rolls of States where elections had been held, further eroded trust in the body.

While the aggressive style and severity of the LOP’s attack on the poll body, questioning its integrity was surprising, what was more surprising was the poll body’s obduracy in not providing a credible response to the doubts raised on its functioning and impartiality. As the attacks became more and more bitter, communication channels between the poll body and the opposition political parties seemed to choke.The nation had seldom seen such a re-

U.S. has gone wrong. What is surprising also is that, apart from U.S. support to Israel’s devious plans, much of the rest of the civilised world has not upbraided Israel for embarking on a patently illegal conflict, which has no merit whatsoever. The world continues to remain a mute spectator, notwithstanding the price it is paying due to the escalating cost of oil.

Israel’s obsession about seeking fulfilment of the ‘Biblical Promise of the chosen land’, notwithstanding the huge cost in human and economic terms, is unfortunately proving costly for the world at large as well. However, Israel remains adamant in pursuing the war with little regard for the costs involved, and, with Mr. Trump’s backing, hopes to expand the ambit of the conflict across West Asia to include Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria. All this, despite the already apparent severe maritime disruptions and retaliatory steps taken by Iran such as the closing of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Iran war today has entered a phase of ‘no peace, no large-scale war’, one defined not merely by military confrontation but through the weaponisation of the infrastructure underpinning the global economy. Energy prices, shipping lanes and logistical systems provide the essential backdrop to the current conflict and are, in a sense, central to the strategy of those involved. The U.S. has far more to lose than Israel if the world plunges into prolonged chaos — but the economies of most nations across the globe are already being, and would continue to be, adversely affected by the disruption of the oil economy and its fallout in every sphere.Notwithstanding the opinion of military experts that Israel’s objective of effecting a regime change in Iran is impossible without a ground invasion, Israel is pursuing such an objective with vigour. Neither the U.S. nor Europe display any enthusiasm for this. The economies of most nations concerned are, once again, in no position to undertake such a conflict — including the U.S. Both China and Russia are almost certain to oppose it. A war of this kind is, moreover, certain to throw up many other issues often lost sight of in the Councils of the World. The fact that Iran is a large country is often ignored, as also that Iranian forces are better acclimatised to carry out a war of attrition. Reliance on air power provides no significant advantage to any ‘aggressor’.

On Shia resistanceAdditionally, one must add a symbolic dimension to any conflict that is aimed at overthrowing a Shiite regime. Shiite political culture draws heavily on the memory of the ‘Battle of Karbala’ that symbolises civilisational resistance, and not just geopolitics. The narrative emphasises patience, sacrifice, resistance and strategic endurance. A war intended to change the present dispensation in Iran by outside forces such as Israel, would only provide an opportunity to enhance the religious, political and transnational aspects of Shiite Islam.Expansion of the current war launched by the U.S. and Israel is more likely to be perceived as approximating to striking at the roots of political Shism — in Iran and elsewhere. Western military superiority does not guarantee strategic victory. Nor will a war automatically result in altering geopolitical outcomes inside Iran and across the region, or to a regime collapse in Iran. All this would pave the way for a long drawn-out war, irrespective of the consequences.

The appointment of Mojtaba Khamenei as the Supreme Leader following Ali Khamenei’s killing on February 28, should again be viewed not as a mere rite of passage but as a triumph for the radical messianic-apocalyptic aspect of Shiite Islam. In a sense, it is triggering a revival of Shiite militancy — and in an aggravated form. This leaves little room for any expectation that the revolutionary fervour will diminish with the killing of additional Ayatollahs.The U.S. and Israel, hence, need to be careful before venturing into the ‘spider’s web’, for the cost of delusion could be grave not only for Israel and the U.S. but also for the world at large. There is still time, at least for the U.S., to retrieve the situation and alter the policy direction that has been initiated under Mr. Netanyahu’s instigation. Israel’s deliberate provocation, including its latest attack very close to Iran’s Bushehr nuclear power plant (built with Russian collaboration) was a needless — and perhaps a deliberate — act of provocation by Israel. Such issues need to be avoided lest the world is plunged into third world war, with untold sufferings for mankind.

lentless campaign against a CEC even as the Supreme Court heard endless petitions against his decisions. As the petitions failed to yield any substantive relief, frustration mounted and so did the CEC’s apparent indifference. The CEC persisted with the SIR despite the fortnight-long Vote Adhikar Yatra just before the Bihar State elections.

Not that there was no dialogue. The one between the poll body and the Trinamool Congress caused more rancour culminating in the theatrical presence of Mamata Banerjee in the Supreme Court. Never before had a Chief Minister appeared in Court arguing against the ECI’s unfair decisions. The dharnas against the SIR in West Bengal or officials dying in the course of conducting the SIR failed to deter the CEC or change his avowed commitment to “purify” the electoral rolls.The ECI invented the “logical discrepancy” tool that pitted electors against the AI used to detect discrepancies. West Bengal saw 58,20,899 electors deleted at the draft stage and 60,06,675 “under adjudication” in the final list. But the ECI went on to announce elections in the State, where the fate of nearly 10% electors remained undetermined. It employed micro-observers for finalising the revised rolls, something never done in the past. The SC also took the extraordinary step of appointing over 500 judicial officers to decide the fate of these electors in a short span.It is unusual for a constitutional body mandated with electoral rolls preparation to involve another constitutional body in discharging its routine functions by disregarding the elector’s voting right, which it was created to protect. The exclusion of even a single eligible voter due to the way the SIR has been conducted would legitimise the criticism of this arbitrary and aggressive exercise.However, does all of this justify the impeachment move? The answer depends on which side of the divide one stands. The crores of voters who figure in the final electoral roll might not protest, treating the tension and trauma during the revision process as part of the routine struggle that helpless citizens go through to secure their rights. The voice of those excluded doesn’t count in the elections in any case.Eventually, the valid concern of protecting the right to vote turns into the lament of losers who are left with no choice but to resort to the ultimate constitutional weapon against the CEC. Meanwhile, the ECI has sounded the poll bugle asking players to contest against each other rather than against the referee. It is now in full control. The successful completion of the poll process will justify all its decisions. Victors will exult; losers will find reasons to complain.What the nation would be left with will be a poll body in which the Opposition, representing more than half the voting population, has expressed no confidence.

Telangana Govt plans regulatory authority like EAGLE and HYDRAA to curb food adulteration: CM



Expressing serious concern over the growing menace of food adulteration in Telangana, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has said the State government is considering establishing a dedicated monitoring and enforcement authority on the lines of Telangana Elite Action Group for Drug Law Enforcement (EAGLE) and Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA).

In an informal interaction with reporters in Hyderabad on Monday (March 30, 2026), the Chief Minister observed that food adulteration had spread across sectors and was no longer confined to hotels and restaurants. “People are increasingly worried about the large-scale adulteration of food products, which is leading to unexplained and dangerous diseases. There is a growing demand for quality food materials,” he said.

Gender and identity: New questions arise

The biggest news story this week, forget health story, was the effort to fix the Transgender Persons Amendment Bill that went south quickly. The government introduced the Amendment Bill in Parliament claiming it intended to correct the flaws of the original Act. It created a huge storm in India, with the Opposition walking out and the LGBTQIA+ community across the country protesting on the streets. Their main complaints were that the new amendment removed the principle of gender self determination, there was an unfortunate conflation between the concepts of sex and gender identities, and that the community that it was meant to benefit was not consulted at all in a move that would affect their quality of life drastically.

We have reported this extensively, in our columns. Gopi Shankar Madurai writes a striking critique of the Transgender Persons Amendment Bill, calling it a flawed fix. The article lists: “It narrows the definition of “transgender person” to only specific socio-cultural identities such as kinner, hijra, aravani, jogta, eunuch, or biologically-defined intersex variations, or persons forcibly compelled into such an identity through mutilation, castration, amputation, or any surgical, chemical or hormonal procedure.”“It explicitly excludes persons with different sexual orientations and non-heteronormative gender fluid identities. The Bill removes the right to “self-perceived gender identity” from Section 4(2), replaces the simple District Magistrate process with a medical board “authority” headed by a Chief Medical Officer, and mandates hospitals to report every transgender surgery to the District Magistrate and the authority.”

Notwithstanding this very strong opposition, the Parliament passed the Bill, as we have reported, without any meaningful debate or discussion, or addressing the elephant in the room. However, that is not all: the protests continue. And as Abhinay Lakshman reports, in a further development, the Supreme Court-appointed panel asks Centre to withdraw Transgender Bill that removes right to gender self-determination. They have made the plea on the grounds that the proposal to “deny self-identification” of gender went against the decision of the Supreme Court in the 2014 NALSA v Union of India verdict.

Meanwhile, Ragavi M. and Ashna Butani report that two members from the National Council for Transgender Persons - southern representative Kalki Subramaniam and north east representative Rituparna Neog resigned. They called the amendment Bill “a step backward for our fundamental rights to self-identification and dignity”. Read here. Organisations have also written to the President of India, urging her not to grant assent to the Transgender Amendment Bill. The letter was written by All-India Feminist Alliance (ALIFA), a pan-India collective of grassroots organisations, along with the National Alliance for Justice, Accountability and Rights (NAJAR); the groups said they were ‘extremely alarmed and distressed at the undue and unjustifiable haste’ with which the Bill was passed in Parliament. However, President Droupadi Murmu has given her assent to the Bill, the Union Law Ministry said in a gazette notification on March 30, 2026.

There has been another issue that has exercised people across the world, and that is to do with social media addiction and children. A Los Angeles ?jury found Alphabet’s Google and Meta liable for a \$3 million in damages on March 25, 2026, in a landmark social media addiction lawsuit. This might set the stage for other successful trials against these large companies, as more and more evidence emerges that they have deliberately ignored or aided in addiction-causing behaviour among teens and children. Additionally, a New Mexico jury also said Meta harms children’s mental health and safety, violating state law.Some part of that discussion is happening in India as well, particularly in Karnataka: in

His remarks come in the wake of recent cases unearthed in Telangana, in which police and food safety officials uncovered large-scale adulteration through a series of raids. Authorities have seized adulterated cooking oil, spurious spices, synthetic milk, artificially ripened fruits, and misbranded packaged food products. Officials have also detected the sale of adulterated chilli powder mixed with artificial colours, turmeric laced with starch and chemicals, and edible oils diluted with cheaper industrial substitutes. The Chief Minister said a comprehensive regulatory and monitoring mechanism would be put in place. The proposed authority would function with focused enforcement powers, similar to EAGLE, which targets drug-related offences, and HYDRAA, which acts against illegal encroachments of lakes and lake beds in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister noted that while the government had ensured the availability of nutritious food through the Public Distribution System (PDS) and maintained surplus food stocks, the primary concern now was the quality and safety of food reaching consumers. “There is no shortage of food. The worry is about adulteration. Even households are unknowingly purchasing adulterated food materials for daily consumption,” he said.

Mr. Reddy warned that continued consumption of adulterated food could have long-term health consequences, contributing to the rise in lifestyle and unexplained illnesses. “It directly impacts public health. People are falling sick due to contaminated and substandard food,” he observed.



the State, a draft policy on ‘Responsible Digital Use Among Students’ sets goals for parents, schools. For a lowdown on what this is all about do watch this video by Rishita Khanna, Ravichandran N. Afshan Yasmeen writes about the recent NIMHANS study that flags rising parental concern over children’s screen time. Researchers say that parents are increasingly reporting difficulties in regulating their children’s technology use, especially when it begins to interfere with sleep, studies and daily routines.

For the flip side of it, here is a story from Telengana, where Lavpreet Kaur writes about Meta alerts and the local police’s response in stopping suicides. Do read, here.There is some regulatory action that cannot have come sooner. As Semaglutide slipped off patent and Indian pharma will now be able to manufacture the drug, there has been a sudden uprising of concern about quality of the drugs and fakes reaching the marker. Bindu Shajan Perappadan reports that the Centre intensifies regulatory surveillance over GLP-1 weight loss drugs. Telangana, too, cautions against unsupervised semaglutide use amid rising drug demand for weight loss.

Moving on to the topic of infectious diseases, here’s a study that says antibiotic resistance fuels 87% of India’s typhoid economic burden. Antibiotic-resistant typhoid infections accounted for at least 87% of India’s disease-related economic burden in 2023, according to a study in The Lancet Regional Health Southeast Asia. The total economic burden due to typhoid fever was estimated at ?123 billion. Divya Gandhi reports that Nipah virus could turn into something “far more severe”, scientists warn. Kyle B. Enfield in The Conversation warns that a new COVID-19 variant BA.3.2 is spreading quickly across U.S.—and explains what you need to know. This election season, we had better be mindful of the heat. We know in 2024, the heat turned out to be fatal for many polling officers on the field. In order to avoid the same situation, one needs to be watchful As Kerala goes to vote on April 9, the State’s Health department has issued guidelines. Others will do well, including the Central Election Commission, to put out such guidelines.

This article is for those who follow make up trends, going by social media hype. Athira Elssa Johnson explains how your skincare routine maybe wrong: experts flag increasing skin damage from misinformation. She also explains why the tendency to overlook and dismiss perimenopause must changeZubeda Hamid in the In Focus Podcast finds out: How to make a living will? In another episode, she discusses: Does India have enough health professionals to care for its rising senior population? And with the Shigella cases in India, do check out all you need to know about: shigellosisA.S. Jayanth writes on the surging cost of health care in KeralaAbhilasha Semwal points out that as digital health gets a push, there is a price to pay and asks who will bear these costs for the underpaid ASHA workersAditi Prasad Apte brings an important issue to the limelight: Are we over-supplementing with vitamins?

Oracle begins layoffs affecting thousands: Report

Cloud computing firm Oracle is laying off ?thousands of employees, CNBC reported on Tuesday (March 31, 2026), citing two people ?familiar with the matter.Late on Tuesday, Oracle ?said it will lay off 491 ?employees working remotely in Washington state and at its Seattle offices effective June 1, according to a notice filed under ?the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act.The job cuts are part of a “reduction in ?force and other terminations,” Oracle said, adding that ?its ?Seattle sites will remain open. The company had ?about 162,000 full-time employees globally as of May 2025.The WARN Act requires employers to provide at least 60 days’ notice ahead of ?layoffs.Oracle declined to ?comment on the CNBC report, although several social media users on Reddit, X and anonymous workplace network Blind, shared details of the potential cuts, fuelling uncertainty ?and confusion among employees.The layoffs come amid ?Oracle steps up spending on artificial intelligence infrastructure in an effort to better compete ?with cloud rivals, such as Alphabet and



Amazon.In a March filing, Oracle said it expects total costs tied to ?its fiscal 2026 restructuring plan to reach up to \$2.1 billion, largely driven by employee severance and related expenses.Shares in the company climbed more than 5% in afternoon trade, but remained down about 29% this year so far.

Government plans monthly indicator for service sector output using GST data



GNS News Agency, May 4

Government plans monthly indicator for service sector output using GST data. The index will cover sub-sectors such as wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food services, publishing, telecom, consultancy, computing infrastructure, finance and insurance, real estate, and arts, sports and recreation, among others. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on Monday outlined its plan to measure the output of the formal services sector every month, with the Goods and Services Tax (GST) data set to be a crucial input in the indicator. Releasing an 'approach paper' on the same, the statistics ministry on Monday invited comments by May 5 on its plan to compile an Index of Service Production (ISP) for the economy's formal sector with 2024-25 as the base year. The paper comes ahead of the revision of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) next month as part of MoSPI's overhaul of official statistics. Currently, there is no services counterpart to the IIP, which is one of the two monthly, or high-frequency data, published by the government, with the other being the Consumer Price Index (CPI), on whose basis the headline retail inflation number of the country is calculated. Both the IIP and CPI numbers are keenly eyed by policymakers to understand the trajectory of the economy and the underlying developments. To understand how India's services sector is performing, policymakers and economists currently refer to the S&P Global's HSBC Purchasing Managers' Index. However, the PMI is a survey-based sentiment index and does not measure actual output.

"The services sector is the most dynamic and rapidly expanding segment of the economy. In terms of economic significance, the services sector contributes more than half of India's GDP, generates millions of jobs and has been a major catalyst for the country's economic transformation in

the last few decades," MoSPI said on Monday. The index will cover sub-sectors such as wholesale and retail trade, transportation and storage, accommodation and food services, publishing, telecom, consultancy, computing infrastructure, finance and insurance, real estate, and arts, sports and recreation, among others.

The measurement of the service sector's output on a monthly basis is notoriously difficult for a variety of reasons. For one, there has been no "consistent high-frequency administrative data" available for real estate, professional services, retail trade, and health, among other major segments, MoSPI said on Monday. Further, for segments where output data was available – air and rail transport, banking, insurance, etc – their contribution in overall services was under 20%. Within these, data for banking and insurance services was in value terms. As a result, the diverse nature of the services sector made standardisation of output indicators and compilation "a challenging task". With GST Network data providing information on production and outward supplies across different sectors, MoSPI said it plans to use it to "monitor the progress of services sector". Since certain sectors such as health and education are exempt from GST, additional sources of data for them will have to be identified. As such, MoSPI also plans to use administrative data from specific ministries and organisations as well as its Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises (ASISSE), which is currently being conducted. All these three data sources exclude the services provided by the informal sector. "The exclusions due to lack of unavailability of data from the three sources under consideration... account for nearly 33% of the total GVA of services sector," MoSPI said, adding that the health and education sector – which will be excluded until the ASISSE results are available – accounts for nearly 10% of the Gross Value Added of the services sector.

To adjust the output for prices, while a Producer Price Index would have been the preferred option, MoSPI plans to use a variety of measures including non-food Consumer Price Index and sub-sector specific CPI, among others. "The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)... is working towards revising the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and developing a Producer Price Index (PPI). The Working Group constituted for the purpose has recommended methodologies for compiling PPIs for the services sub sectors like Banking, Insurance, Securities, Pensions, Air Transport, Railway (Passenger), Railway (Goods) and Telecom. The Quarterly Indices/trial indices of the above sub-sectors are likely to be available in near future," MoSPI said.

Women and Investing: A Shift in Mindset

In a recent episode of #BeTheSmartInvestor by BSE in association with The Indian Express, conversations on the street revealed a powerful shift – women are no longer just earning money, they are actively growing it. From SIPs and mutual funds to insurance and long-term planning, investing is becoming a regular part of everyday discussions among women. Traditionally, the domain of financial decision-making was considered a "men's domain," and women often did depend on their fathers, husbands, or other male members of their families for advice and guidance. However, this is no longer the case, and women are taking charge of their financial decisions by conducting their own research and making informed choices.

Interestingly, the journey often begins with a simple trigger: starting a career, seeking financial independence, or planning the future. While some still rely on trusted family members or advisors, many prefer to learn through online resources, social media, and financial communities. The rise of fintech platforms and accessible educational tools has made investing less intimidating and more inclusive. However, there is room for progress. Women often point out that financial literacy was absent in their early years, leaving certain concepts harder to understand later in life. What stands out most is the change in the mindset. Women today are not just aiming for financial independence



– they want financial awareness and control. As one sentiment captures it: "Mere paise hain. Decision bhi mera hoga." The takeaway is clear – knowledge of investment is accessible to everyone. With the right initiative, anyone can take charge of their financial future. This content is sponsored and does not reflect the views or opinions of IE Online Media Services Pvt Ltd. No journalist is involved in creating sponsored material and it does not imply any endorsement whatsoever by the editorial team. IE Online Media Services takes no responsibility for the content that appears in sponsored articles and the consequences thereof, directly, indirectly or in any manner. Viewer discretion is advised.

Better toilets, aesthetical coaches, fewer jerks: Railways begins major upgradation of Shatabdi, Jan Shatabdi trains



Better toilets, spruced up interiors and fewer jerks: Passengers travelling in Shatabdi Express, or its economical version – Jan Shatabdi Express – can expect to experience all this and more in days to come as the Railways has planned complete upgradation of these two key trains in its network. The Railway board has directed all zones to carry out detailed rake inspection of the trains to identify deficiencies and prepare a comprehensive short-term action plan for rectification and monitoring. The key areas identified for upgradation are toilets, and passenger amenities such as charging ports, snack tables and foot rests, etc. Besides, focus would be on providing a smoother quality of ride through reduction of jerks in coaches. "...concerned Primary Railways are advised to carry out detailed rake inspections, and prepare a comprehensive action plan covering... toilets including doors, engagement locks, wash basins, flushing systems, amenities, drainage etc... Seat upholstery and associated amenity items (Charging ports, snack tables, foot rests, arm rests, roller blinds, magazine pockets, etc.)," said the board in a letter issued to officials.

Other areas, which are likely to see improvement, are vestibule and gangway, overhead panels, coach interiors, panels, flooring inside coaches and toilet areas, exterior aesthetics of coaches, window glasses and destination, and lighting. Officials said that the strengthening of digital passenger information systems (PAPIS) along with CCTV-based surveillance will be done to enhance safety and communication.

"Railways have planned to upgrade around 100 services (50 trains) of Shatabdi and Jan Shatabdi trains. It is part of Railways' initiative to modernise the existing trains. Total expenditure required for this is yet to be finalised. Zonal Railways will implement this scheme. They have been asked to carry out audits, identify gaps, and implement corrective measures," said a senior Railways official. The first Shatabdi

Death doulas are changing how the world and India approach dying: Why this end-of-life care is gaining attention



Death is a subject that most of us avoid talking about and want to brush under the carpet most of the time. But we often forget that all of us, our parents, dearest siblings, partners, friends, and every other being, are finite. In the vast ocean of death literacy, 'death doulas' are gradually bringing compassion, presence, and dignity to people's lives. Recently, Hollywood actor Nicole Kidman revealed that she is learning and training to become a death doula after losing her mother, Janelle Ann Kidman, in September 2024 at the age of 84. During a HISTORY Talks event in Philadelphia, she shared, "It's helping people in the end stage of life. It's helping the families. It's being present, impartial. I think it's fascinating. It's, it's really fascinating, it's very beautiful, and you have to be a certain personality to be able to do it, but I found out that I'm actually that personality."

She mentioned that people often suffer in the last few days of their lives. "There is always suffering in life, right? But if there are people there who can help with that and make those final stages less painful, you can feel the connection and the love, and that is a lovely thing to be able to do. So that's what I'm exploring." She went on to share how death doulas are a "huge necessity" in modern life, considering longer life expectancies, loneliness, and the way in which "people are treated in (that) stage of life". She is not the only one. Director Chloe Zhao admitted to training to be a death doula to help her overcome fears around death. In most Indian urban households today, death has moved from the home to the hospital. Families dealing with a terminal diagnosis are managing medical decisions, financial strain, and their own grief all at once, often with no one guiding them through what is actually happening emotionally. "The dying person, meanwhile, is frequently sedated, surrounded by machines, and spoken about rather than spoken to. Death doulas are the ones who support the idea that how a person dies matters as much as the quality of care they received while living," described Dr Chandni Tugnait, MD (A.M), psychotherapist, life alchemist, coach, and healer, founder and director, Gateway of Healing. All the death doulas Families are overwhelmed, doctors are focused on the clinical, and the person at the centre of it all is frequently left without anyone whose sole purpose is simply to be there with them, without an agenda, without paperwork, and without the need to fix anything. "This is the gap that death doulas step into," mentioned Dr Tugnait.

A death doula, sometimes called an end-of-life doula or death midwife, is a trained non-medical companion who supports a dying person and their family through the process of death. "Their work includes helping someone articulate what kind of death they want, facilitating difficult conversations between family members, holding space during the final hours, and guiding families through the immediate period after death. "They are not there to manage symptoms or administer medication. They are there to ensure that the experience of dying is humane, considered, and as closely aligned to the wishes of the person dying as possible," said Dr Tugnait. Udaipur-based Bhawna Jain was working as a nurse in oncology and used to see deaths from close quarters. After she left nursing, she started homeschooling her children, and it was then that she started reading more about death. "I started reading and started helping relatives and people on my own. We have midwives to support a mother and child, and we feel safe when someone is holding that space. Just like delivering a baby, the dying person also has a labour. So, I facilitate that space as a death doula, as a channel, from 2022 for active dying, which includes even understanding signs, like not force-feeding people when someone's health is deteriorating," Jain, 49, said.

What it actually means to die with dignity Dying with dignity does not simply mean dying without pain, though that matters enormously. It means having your preferences heard and respected. It means not being alone unless you want to be. It means being able to say what needs to be said, and being treated as a full human being rather than a patient at the end of a clinical process. "Death doulas are trained to hold all of this, practically and emotionally, in ways that exhausted family members and time-pressured medical staff simply cannot," described Dr Tugnait. Jain mentioned, "This is not a negative space. It is something that is steeped in the science of care. I try to make the people and their families try and accept the eventuality," said Bhawna, who doesn't charge for the same.

Kacie Gikonyo, a 42-year-old based in Cleveland, Ohio in the United States, is a registered nurse, death doula, and death educator. While she has been working as a death doula since 2022, she has been in "end-of-life care since 2011 through my work as a nurse". A death doula provides non-medical support to individuals who are dying, as well

as their loved ones, as they navigate terminal illness, the dying process, and grief. "My work typically begins months before death, often six months to a year in advance, and focuses on helping people prepare emotionally, practically, and psychologically for what's ahead," she described. Kacie supports her clients in "creating end-of-life plans, understanding what to expect as the body changes, and making informed decisions about their care". "A large part of my role is helping people maintain a sense of autonomy and control during a time that often feels uncertain. I also help them focus on living fully in the time they have left, not just preparing to die," she mentioned. So, her support includes "emotional, spiritual, educational, practical, and logistical care". "This can look like facilitating legacy projects, helping coordinate additional caregiving services, guiding families through the healthcare system, and providing clear, honest education about the dying process. I work alongside hospice and medical teams, complementing the care they provide by focusing on the human experience of dying," she told indianexpress.com.

No two days in this work look the same. "Some days I am sitting with an individual having meaningful conversations or working on a legacy project. Other days, I am at the bedside, holding space and supporting both the individual and their family as death approaches. At times, that means simply being present and ensuring no one feels alone," she expressed.

Kacie is also the founder of Death Doula School, an international training programme that has educated death doulas around the world. "Through this work, I provide education, mentorship, and guidance to those entering the field. In addition, I teach and speak at hospitals, healthcare systems, and universities to help bridge the gap between healthcare and deathcare and to improve how we approach end-of-life care as a whole," she asserted.

At its core, her work is about changing the way people understand and experience death. According to Kacie, who is also the author of *Laboring Out of Life: A Death Doula's Approach to Intentional End-of-Life Care* (which is expected to be published in September this year (and available for pre-order), when people are supported, informed, and "given space to approach death intentionally, it can become less chaotic and more meaningful, not just for the person who is dying, but for everyone who loves them". Notably, her book expands on her work as a nurse and death doula, offering both practical guidance and a new perspective on how to approach death, dying, and the final chapter of life.

Dr Abhijit Dam, a palliative care specialist who did his MD from AIIMS in 1995, and founder of Kosish-The Hospice in Jharkhand (2004), has been doing a similar work in India's rural and tribal populations. "Since my early days, I was fascinated by technology and intensive care. I shifted to Bokaro, and started working with Steel Authority of India, and went there to start their ICU. I was working in the ICU. That was my passion at that time to try to save lives. Over the years, by 2003-04, I suddenly started realising that instead of actually saving lives, what I was actually doing was causing deaths that were painful, lonely, and undignified. People would die in the ICU beds hooked onto ventilators and life-sustaining equipment, devoid of their dignity in vain, with a financial drain on their whole family. That got me thinking that this wasn't the way that one should die. And that prompted me to embrace palliative care, and I went to Poland to begin my training in the same," he recalled. Despite being a strong atheist at that time, he shared that he "read the Vedas, Upanishads, and did advanced courses", along with studying compassionate end-of-life care. "I am a very scientific person, so I decided to understand the principles of Quantum physics. That too believes that consciousness never dies. The last few days of our lives are very important. In this modern society, people die with neglect and out of loneliness. So, who looks after them? So, I created my own hospice in Jharkhand and started training the village women who were otherwise neglected," he mentioned. In 6-month batches, they are taught how to look after and care for bedridden patients so that they don't die alone and feel supported. "Now, we have the 10th batch enrolled. They were being taught, trained, the passouts were called Farishteys," he said.

It led him to found the International Death Doula Foundation in 2023, which offers a "culturally appropriate" death doula course in India with its emphasis on the teachings of Quantum Physics, palliative medicine, and spirituality. "So that people from all phases of life... not necessarily healthcare professionals... are taught these things," said Dr Dam, who also founded the National Association for Palliative Care for Ayush and integrated medicine. Indian culture has never been afraid of death in the abstract. "Rituals, prayers, and ceremonies around dying are woven deeply into almost every tradition here, and yet, in the very personal, very human experience of sitting with someone who is actively dying, there is often a profound absence," expressed Dr Tugnait. "The concept of death doulas is still new in India, concentrated mostly in metros like Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Delhi, and largely accessed by urban, educated families. But the conversations are beginning, and a generation that has watched parents and grandparents die in hospital corridors is starting to ask whether there is a better way," reiterated Dr Tugnait.

Soha Ali Khan discusses latest blood report, says a gene makes her predisposed to heart disease: 'I have to keep my cholesterol even lower'

Soha Ali Khan, 47, recently opened up about her latest blood work, sharing that she has a gene that makes her "predisposed to heart disease". "I am so obsessed with being healthy. I have been told that the Mediterranean diet is the healthiest. I just did my blood test. My LDL, which is the bad cholesterol, is good; it is low, and HDL, which is the good cholesterol, is high, which is good, but I have a gene that is genetically predisposed to heart disease. I have to keep my cholesterol even lower than normal. But I have always been into eating healthy, and I thought this diet... which is about fresh food, lean protein, and the fats, oils we use. At some point, we all had vegetable oils, and Kunal (Kemmu; husband) said, out with them and... seed oils are what you should be cooking with," she told chefs Ranveer Brar and Garima Arora on her YouTube podcast.

What does her report actually mean?

Dr Parin Sangoi, consultant interventional cardiologist, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, noted that predisposition means the body may have a higher natural tendency to develop heart issues, even if routine reports look fine. "In these cases, factors like cholesterol should be kept under tighter control. A person may have normal or good levels but may still need to lower them to reduce long-term risk." He mentioned that a growing number of people are

realising that even with "good" reports, genetics can still affect heart health. This often leads to stricter lifestyle choices and more thoughtful eating.

If LDL is low and HDL is high, is there still a concern?

While those are positive signs, genetics can change the target range. "For someone with a family or genetic risk, doctors often recommend even lower LDL levels. It is not about panic but about being proactive and preventing future complications," said Dr Sangoi.

Does following a 'healthy diet' like the Mediterranean pattern help?

Yes, a diet focused on fresh foods, lean protein, nuts, seeds, and healthy fats supports heart health. It helps control cholesterol, reduce inflammation, and maintain overall balance. Consistency matters more than occasional healthy choices.

Are seed oils better?

The focus should be on using oils in moderation and choosing those with better fat profiles. "Instead of heavily processed or repeatedly heated oils, it is better to use fresh oils and rotate options like olive oil, mustard oil, or other balanced choices. The way oil is used often matters as much as the type," said Dr Sangoi.

Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar reduce Delhi to IPL’s lowest powerplay score — and Kohli steals the show anyway



GNS News Agency, May 4

Synopsis: Delhi Capitals batters meekly surrender in stunning opening spell from Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar as Royal Challengers Bengaluru cantered to an nine-wicket win in a low run-chase. Ask a Delhiite who their favourite cricketer is and prepare for a lookalike — conical beard, studs and tattoos — to burst into an RCB chant. Virat Kohli’s presence looms so large over this fixture that it needed something truly special to steal the spotlight away from him as Royal Challengers Bengaluru made their way to the Feroz Shah Kotla on Monday. A sensational new-ball spell from Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar, and some dire batting from Delhi Capitals’ top order, would do exactly that. The two pacers reduced the home side to the lowest-ever powerplay score in the IPL — 13 for 6 — and ended the prospects of this match being any kind of contest then and there.

RCB cantered to an eight-wicket win, taking only 39 balls to complete the 76-run chase. Two losses at home in two days — succumbing to the highest-ever chase in IPL history against Punjab Kings on Saturday, then this — have left Delhi reeling. Virat Kohli’s presence looms so large over this fixture that it needed something truly special to steal the spotlight away from him as Royal Challengers Bengaluru made their way to the Feroz Shah Kotla on Monday. (BCCI/Creimas Photo) Virat Kohli’s presence looms so large over this fixture that it needed something truly special to steal the spotlight away from him as Royal Challengers Bengaluru made their way to the Feroz Shah Kotla on Monday. There were no indications of Delhi’s pitch having the kind of spice that the scorecard suggests. It wasn’t outrightly dead; a bit

of seam movement was on offer. Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar’s ploys were predictable — the in-form pacers have been effective in the powerplay this season across a range of conditions. But the history-making feat came thanks to soft dismissals and poor technique as much as it did to quality bowling. Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar ripped through them with such ease that eight for six in the fourth over looked like a lucky break.

Bhuvneshwar got things started, ripping through the middle stump of left-handed Sahil Parakh on debut with a brilliant in-swinging yorker. The Indian veteran — 14 wickets after this game, joint highest wicket-taker in the competition — seems back to his best. The pace has expectedly not gone up with age, but then it had never been his weapon. The devilish movement with the new ball, and the craft, remain. Moving it both ways, he had Tristan Stubbs and Axar Patel both prodding to first slip and the keeper respectively, unable to read the late movement. There was no respite from the other end. Hazlewood was consistently quick and disciplined, sticking to his Test-match length — international-grade quality that Delhi’s batters simply could not handle. KL Rahul and Nitish Rana were both caught for pace, planted deep in their crease, attempting pull shots on balls that quickly rose on them and top-edging back to the pavilion. The Australian ended Abhishek Porel’s cameo, and the DC innings, with a scorching yorker to crown a spell of four for 12. No recovery

That Delhi needed an opening batter at No. 7 — coming to the middle while the team score was still in single digits and the new ball still zipping around — told the story. Porel survived and stayed the course. Those around him, including cameos from David Miller and Kyle Jamieson attempted a revival, but Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar had the game won for RCB long before that. The chase was over before it began, but the crowd finally rose as the RCB openers walked in. Kohli’s lofted straight drive for four off his second ball had them roaring for the first time all night. Devdutt Padikkal and Jacob Bethell tonked the Delhi bowlers around while the Delhi batter waited patiently at the non-striker’s end as the crowd chanted his name. He finished proceedings with two back-to-back sixes.

PBKS vs RR: Cheteshwar Pujara details how Arshdeep Singh needs to bowl to Vaibhav Sooryavanshi

GNS News Agency, May 4

Former India Test batter Cheteshwar Pujara believes that Arshdeep Singh has the necessary deliveries to trouble young Vaibhav Sooryavanshi when Punjab Kings take on Rajasthan Royals in their Indian Premier League match. The duo of Sooryavanshi and Yashasvi Jaiswal lit up teams at the start of the IPL and have shown the kind of talent that forces teams to have to plan their innings around containing the duo. Pujara, on Star Sports’ Game Plan, said that Arshdeep will need to keep the ball at a specific line and length and try to move it away from the left-handed Sooryavanshi to trouble him.

“Arshdeep, I think he, being a left-arm seamer, will come over the stumps for Vaibhav. He will have to ensure that he bowls that middle and off stump plan, where the ball is going away from him. We have seen that when Moshin was bowling against Vaibhav, he got that success against him. Arshdeep will have to do a similar thing,” said Pujara. “Try and bowl back of length on middle and off stump line. Try to keep hitting that channel more often and also try to utilize his slower deliveries because Arshdeep has very good slower deliveries,” he added. Pujara also felt that the yorker could be a great ball to deploy against the 15-year-



old southpaw. Try to use yorkers in between if needed. But early on, I think first four or five deliveries, just try and hit that back of length on middle and off stump,” he added. Previously Sooryavanshi faced off against Sunrisers Hyderabad and slammed 103 from a mere 37 balls. He currently has the third-most runs in this campaign of the IPL, only narrowly behind KL Rahul and top-scorer Abhishek Sharma. Rajasthan are on five wins and three losses from eight matches and are currently in fourth position. Punjab on the other hand, are at the top of the IPL table with no losses in their seven games.

India hassle China all the way, but lack finishing sharpness, ending with 5-0 loss in Uber Cup

GNS News Agency, May 4

Had the new badminton scoring system been in operation, PV Sindhu would’ve won all three sets against Wang Zhi Yi, the World No. 2, who by now must be battling nightmares of the Indian who fetches up agile, ageless and aggressive whenever she turns up. 15-13, 15-13, 15-10 were Sindhu’s dominant leads. But the Chinese know to finish things, especially the ones they don’t start. Playing the first singles of the Uber Cup, knowing in heart of hearts that she was India’s only possibility for a defiant point against mighty China, Sindhu was her usual menacing, marauding self like she’s been since age 17. But all those years that Sindhu had banished the Chinese away from podiums right until the 2025 World Championships, Wang Zhi Yi had been on her own Sindhu-path of old: one of long, punishing, effortful matches, narrow 21-19 losses in deciders, getting dubbed Silver Zhi Yi after losing 10 finals. That’s till the 25-year-old World No. 2, plugged most gaps, and started winning. So, it was that clutch play, raising the pace and accuracy and blind hitting-brilliance from muscle memory that helped Zhi Yi pull off two comebacks in the two sets she won. In the opening set, Sindhu was 14-11 up. Zhi Yi took 11 of the next 13 points, including 7 in a row to take it 21-16. After forcing a decider, Sindhu once more stayed ahead and went 18-12 up. But Zhi Yi has been forced to turn gladiatorial and claw back from impossibilities so often by An Se-young, that she once again launched an uphill climb with intense retrieving and winners from imbalanced positions, that she took 9 of the next 10 points.

Sindhu was afforded only one crosscourt smash in this period, as she ended on the losing side, 16-21, 21-19, 19-21. A 5-0 margin that saw India miss out on Uber Cup quarterfinals for the first time since 2018, will never zoom in on how close Sindhu came to nicking this, nor will the close 21-19 margin of decider be able to magnify how Zhi Yi flipped the script at the finish. But the pained expressions of Chinese coaches watching from the corners as Sindhu threatened to stay the nemesis into her 13th year of troubling the Chinese, told the story.

There’s a fluency that’s come into Sindhu’s game, since she started training with coach Irwansyah. Even he can’t get her to close out calmly and without allowing chaos into her thinking at the finish. But when fit, she moves well, her straight smashes have variations, her net pushes make her a looming presence at the net. And all that doubles with Tanisha Crasto has added the midcourt parallels to her options. Against Zhi Yi though, it was the tumbles and drops at the net with pace squeezed out, that yielded most dividends, as the lunging Zhi Yi could do very little to stem the points flowing towards Sindhu from her errors. Sindhu’s never been a slam-bang shuttler, but it needs a good day to



see her manoeuvre opponents around and construt points by playing those two set-up shots extra. The defense looks polished with her tweaked stance, and at one point mid-match, she had Zhi Yi flat on her back after being yo-yoed across the flanks. She stroked freely, used the body smashes well. But Zhi Yi chose her closing strokes better, had a point to prove, and chomped into Sindhu’s leads, knowing the Indian starts second guessing once that happens. The gap with China may be huge, and the Indian women (except Sindhu) are way off the endurance needed for pushing deciders and fighting in them. But Isharani Baruah did jolt Chen Yufei with her speedy game and clean striking.

Ambushing the former Olympic champion with a 4-0 lead, she led till 13-9 and 19-15 managing to wrongfoot the women’s singles player with stellar footwork. Especially adept in long rallies, with her jump smashes and zero fear of reputation, she will long regret not managing to finish it off from there, missing at 20-19. She bounced on the court hopping on her toes on a horizontal breadth, and showed great speed in cross smashes. But that 20-19 miss will haunt her for long. Also her propensity to let shuttles fall way inside the backline, leads to a frustrating number of very silly errors, besides raising her coach’s anger-cues. After Shruti Priya had lost the first doubles 21-11, 21-8, not much was expected of the second doubles. But Tanisha Crasto and Kavipriya Selvam gave a good account of themselves, though their finishing was equally tepid, as they went down 21-10, 12-21, 19-21. Tanisha showed some incredible electricity in her ability to string together one rally after another, without dropping shoulders. She plays a pretty buzzing and edgy game, but Kavipriya is clearly a cool head at the net with good hand skills and defensive rigour. The Chinese-Luo Xu Min and Zhang Shu Xian, didn’t quite settle through the length of the match except when they took off at 13-all in the decider. Then the finishing protocols kicked in. In the final match for India, Xu Wen Jing took pretty long to figure that Devika Sihag’s ground defense, the lunge, the sweep-ing low pickups at the forecourt are rather weak.

Josh Hazlewood on RCB’s nine-wicket win over DC: ‘We’ve just picked up from where we left off last year’



When Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) acquired Josh Hazlewood for Rs 12.5 crore at the mega auction in November 2024, they knew they were getting a three-dimensional bowler who could be effective across all phases in an innings. The Australian showed his prowess with the new ball, ripping the heart out of the Delhi Capitals’ (DC) top-order by claiming 4/12 in 3.3 overs and helping RCB bowl DC out for a mere 75 runs.

Hazlewood was supported by Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who took 3/5 in three overs, and he admitted to having fol-

lowed the Indian’s lead after being adjudged the Player of the Match for his spell. “It feels like Bhuvni, and I have been pretty close to producing a really good powerplay. So yeah, I just followed his lead basically again and, yeah, what happened, happened, so it was a great result,” Hazlewood said in the post-match presentation. RCB won each of seven away matches last season, and Hazlewood felt that, as a unit, they had picked up from where they had left off in IPL 2025. “Yeah, I think we’ve just picked up from where we left off last year. I felt like, in particular in our away games, we summed up conditions nicely, nice and quickly, whether we batted or bowled first, and adapted our games accordingly.

So we really went on a bit of a streak towards the back-end of last year and it feels like we’re sort of hitting our straps now at the right time of the tournament, I think,” the Australian said. As Axar Patel and Rajat Patidar had admitted before him, Hazlewood too expressed surprise at the bowler-friendly nature of the surface at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday, especially after 529 runs were scored there on Saturday. “Yeah, I think, probably turning up here after 500-plus runs last game, probably weren’t expecting what happened,” he said. RCB next take on Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Shock loss to Punjab Kings played a role in DC’s collapse against RCB

Fronting up to the media after a dire performance from his batting lineup, skipper Axar Patel admitted that the defeat to Punjab on Saturday, where the visitors managed the highest run-chase in IPL history, impacted his players. (BCCI/Creimas Photo) Fronting up to the media after a dire performance from his batting lineup, skipper Axar Patel admitted that the defeat to Punjab on Saturday, where the visitors managed the highest run-chase in IPL history, impacted his players. The list of excuses for Delhi Capitals’ collapse against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Monday began with the shock defeat to Punjab Kings two days prior. Fronting up to the media after a dire performance from his batting lineup, skipper Axar Patel admitted that the defeat to Punjab on Saturday, where the visitors managed the highest run-chase in IPL history, impacted his players.

Axar said that not only was it a huge psychological blow, after which they had to dust themselves off quickly and play again, but also influenced the thinking of the batters about the kind of pitch they should expect. “After what happened in the last game (not being able to defend 264 against Punjab), I feel like the team’s morale went down. After scoring so many runs, nine times out of ten, you win the game. But the team were down that they could not defend that score. I felt there was a little hesitation because of that,” he said at the Feroz Shah Kotla grounds on



Monday. “The batters felt like the ball will come onto the bat as nicely as it was on Saturday. And they probably thought that they needed to score even more than they did so they came out with that mindset,” he added. But the pitch was not as flat as it was on Saturday, and a quality new-ball spell from Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar skittled Delhi to the lowest powerplay score in IPL history — 13 for six — and eventually had them 75 all out. “Luck played a role today,” Axar said. “All the batters kept getting out within one or two balls, it’s not like anyone got set and lost their wicket. Nobody was able to stand tall. To lose three wickets in 15 or 16 balls was tough. We will just have to move on from this day.”

Rajat Patidar reacts to RCB’s nine-wicket win over DC: ‘On flat pitches, you need the bowling’

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) sealed a commanding nine-wicket win over Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Monday, led by outstanding new ball spells from Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Josh Hazlewood, who shared seven wickets between them. Captain Rajat Patidar credited his bowlers for setting up the win, but admitted that he was surprised by how the pitch behaved after he won the toss and elected to field first. “Absolutely. Even I am surprised the way wicket played. All credit goes to the bowlers, Bhuvni and Hazlewood. They hit the right areas. The swing was normal, but the good thing was we got early wickets, and that kept us in the driving seat. The way Suyash bowled, stump to stump, it was really good to see,” Patidar said during the post-match presentation.

Last game at the Arun Jaitley Stadium had seen a belter of a pitch, where Punjab Kings had chased down the highest successful score in IPL history. Patidar admitted that teams needed to have good bowling attacks while playing on flat surfaces.

“It is very important to follow your routines. We are taking it one game at a time. Different players are coming up and doing well. In T20 cricket, on flat pitches, you need the bowling, because bowlers only can win you tourna-



ments,” he said. RCB batsman Devdutt Padikkal admitted that watching the duo made him feel like there would be a catch coming his way almost every ball. “I think it was great to see the way we bowled in the first six overs, those two guys. I am expecting a catch every ball, and you don’t say that in the T20 game. It is a lot to do with the time out there. I wasn’t good in the initial days, but if you keep practising, then you become good. It was important to get it over as soon as possible, and the way Beth started it was easy,” Padikkal said after the match.

Why Vinesh Phogat is accusing Wrestling Federation of India of ‘deliberately’ blocking her comeback

GNS News Agency, May 4

Eying a comeback after nearly 20 months, Vinesh Phogat claimed the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) was ‘deliberately’ creating hurdles for her, a charge the governing body refuted. Vinesh, who walked away from the sport after the Paris Olympics heartbreak, said she was preparing to return for next month’s National Open Ranking tournament. However, she has not been able to register for the competition after the WFI portal said the registrations are closed. According to a WFI circular dated April 8, the last date for entry is April 30.

The Ranking tournament is scheduled to take place from May 10 to 12 at the Nandininagar Mahavidyalaya in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. The venue is former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh’s backyard — he is the founder of the Nandininagar Mahavidyalaya and is a former MP from Gonda. Brij Bhushan, a former six-time Member of Parliament, is facing trial in a Delhi court after some of the country’s top women wrestlers accused him of sexual harassment in 2023. Vinesh was at the forefront of those protests along with Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik. Indian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, and Sakshi Malik address a news conference as they take part in a sit-in protest demanding arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, who they accuse of sexually harassing female players, in New Delhi, India, Indian wrestlers Vinesh Phogat, Bajrang Punia, and Sakshi Malik address a news conference as they take part in a sit-in protest demanding arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief, who they accuse of sexually harassing female players, in New Delhi, India, Vinesh said her calls to the WFI administrative staff on Monday went unanswered. “I am hoping to make a comeback at the National Open Ranking Tournament. The registration for it was open till April 30. However, when I tried to register, the portal says it is now

closed. I have been trying to contact the administrative staff of the federation, but they haven’t responded to my calls,” Vinesh told. WFI president Sanjay Singh said there was no attempt to stop anybody. “We received similar complaints from other wrestlers, too. They got in touch with our staff, and their issues were resolved. We are not going to stop anybody from competing, and the tournament remains open for everyone,” Singh told this newspaper. Singh added that the tournament offers wrestlers who missed the 2025 National Championships and the 2026 Federation Cup a last chance to be eligible for the Asian Games selection trials. The WFI’s Asian Games selection policy stated that, among the seniors, only the medalists at these two competitions will be allowed to participate in the trials. Medalists at the Open Ranking tournament, however, will be picked for the national camp and thus are likely to be eligible for the selection trials.

Vinesh alleged that she faced problems even during the Federation Cup. “I intended to compete there, too, but the team selection criteria were changed at the last minute, so I couldn’t take part,” she said. “It feels like this is a deliberate attempt to stop me from competing, especially since this is an important tournament to remain in contention for the Asian Games and World Championship selection trials.” The Asian Games are scheduled to take place in September, and the World Championships in October. Vinesh had qualified for the final of the Paris Olympics in the 50kg category, but was disqualified on the morning of her gold medal bout for missing weight. After staying away from the sport for more than a year, she announced her return to the mat last December. As she resumed training, Vinesh had said that she was looking forward to the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics ‘with a heart that’s unafraid and a spirit that refuses to bow.’ Over the course of a 18-year-long career, Mihir Vasavda has covered 2010 FIFA World Cup; the London 2012,

I watched Grey’s Anatomy for 16 years; The Pitt made me realise we were never really in a hospital



For the longest time, I believed Grey’s Anatomy had exhausted the medical drama for me. I was not a casual viewer. I stayed with Grey’s for 16 years, right up to season 17. I had lived through the era of McDreamy and McSteamy, watched Cristina Yang love Preston Burke and then fall into that deeply complicated orbit with Owen Hunt, kept count of how many marriages, heartbreaks, deaths this hospital could possibly contain, and stayed invested in characters like Miranda Bailey and Richard Webber.Somewhere along the way, the series became too cluttered, too crowded with new faces and stretched storylines. It simply did not end. I finally lost the trail around season 17, and after that, I lost my appetite for another medical drama altogether.

So when The Pitt arrived, I gave it a miss. I was not looking for another hospital, another ER corridor, another round of medical emergencies.But word of mouth around The Pitt became impossible to ignore. It was not just that people liked it. It was that they were talking about it as something unusually intense, unusually precise. By the time it began collecting major recognition, including Emmy wins, curiosity got the better of me. I started watching, got hooked almost instantly, and by January, I had fully entered the world of its second season.I went into The Pitt as a Grey’s Anatomy fan, but I did not come out comparing the two. I came out realising they are trying to do two very different things, and that The Pitt understands the cost of being a medical professional in a way Grey’s Anatomy rarely did.

Grey’s Anatomy used medicine as a backdrop for personal drama. The surgeries, the trauma cases, the hospital politics, all of it mattered, but often as a stage on which the characters’ romantic lives, emotional wounds and interpersonal conflicts could unfold. The real engine of the show was always the personal lives of its doctors. Even its most devastating moments were filtered through relationships. Its doctors did not merely treat patients; they desired one another, wounded one another, chose one another and left one another, all while scrubbed in.

The Pitt strips much of that away. It is not especially interested in over-explaining everybody’s personal life, and that restraint is one of its strengths. We get glimpses of who these people are beyond the ER, but the show refuses to let their personal life overshadow the work. Instead, it focuses on the grind of being a medical professional: the pressure, the bureaucracy, the constant triage, the emotional overload, the impossible ethical choices, the wearying knowledge that there will always be another patient, another crisis, another family whose life has just been split into before and after.The brilliance, and the brutality, of The Pitt lies in its format. Each of the 15 episodes covers exactly one hour in the ER. So much happens in that one hour, medically, emotionally, administratively, that by the end of an episode, you feel nearly as exhausted as the

people on screen. You forget that what you have just watched was “only” one hour. The fatigue becomes part of the viewing experience. You begin to understand why the doctors and nurses are frayed, short-tempered, drained and occasionally numb. The format does not just tell us that this work is draining; it makes us feel the drain. The Pitt does not romanticise medical labour. It lets exhaustion sit there, ugly and visible.

The waiting room is full. Patients wait for hours. Some are treated too late. Some are frightened, some are angry, some are poor, some are invisible until they become urgent enough to be seen. The medical professionals are over-worked, emotionally stretched, and carrying more than they can say. There is no illusion here that competence protects people from collapse.It is one of the few recent shows to understand that hospital drama is also about delay, backlog, insurance, paperwork, staffing shortages, institutional failure and the psychic toll of caring within those limits. It is trying to show what repeated exposure to suffering does to people.Season 1 had already established that intensity, but season 2 pushes it even further, taking on medical insurance, the cost of treatment, immigration enforcement, and the emotional ties doctors form with patients even when they know those attachments may wound them later.

Season 2 also does something few medical dramas have the confidence to do: it steps entirely away from the doctors. Episode 6, “12:00 P.M.”, directed by Noah Wyle himself, belongs entirely to the nurses. It centres on charge nurse Dana Evans (played by Katherine LaNasa) managing trauma, staffing shortages, a tense confrontation with a patient. But the episode’s most telling moments are the ones nobody puts in a job description. Dana performing a rape kit, being the first person to reach a victim not just medically, but also humanly, holding that weight so the patient does not have to hold it alone. Dana bathing a dead body, teaching a younger nurse how to do it with dignity. These are not dramatic set pieces. They are the actual work. The show understands that nurses do not just treat people, they absorb them. And it costs something every single time.

Even the emotional arc of Dr. Robby (Noah Wyle) carries that weight. The signs are there if you are watching closely, the way he snaps at his staff, the way he keeps sidestepping conversations with Langdon. His conversation with Duke Ekins, his motorcycle engineer, is the most telling of all: outside the hospital, with someone who has no stake in his competence, something in him loosens. And then the final scene with the Jane Doe baby. By that point you are not watching a doctor who is tired. You are watching someone who has been holding the weight too long and has found, in this wordless, uncomplicated presence, something closer to relief than anything his own life is currently offering him.

Grey’s Anatomy taught us to invest in doctors as personalities. The Pitt asks us to see them as workers.And yet, this is not a criticism of Grey’s Anatomy. I still think its early years were some of the most emotionally addictive television of their kind. It gave viewers romance, aspiration, heartbreak and comfort television of a very high order. It was glossy, emotionally fluent and unabashedly sentimental.But The Pitt offers not escape, but confrontation. Not a hospital as fantasy, but a hospital as system. Not medicine as background, but medicine as burden, discipline, duty and damage.Maybe that is why it feels so powerful. Grey’s Anatomy made me care about the people in the hospital. The Pitt makes me care about the hospital itself, what it demands, what it withholds, and what it costs the people who keep showing up anyway.

‘Thank God we got pregnant’: Neha Dhupia on why she married Angad Bedi after 8 years of saying ‘no’



When Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi tied the knot in a gurdwara ceremony in 2018, it took everyone by surprise. The couple had never publicly confirmed their relationship, making their sudden wedding a talking point. Just six months later, they welcomed their daughter Mehr, sparking speculation around the timing of their pregnancy. The couple recently opened up about their unconventional love story, revealing how years of friendship, and an unexpected pregnancy brought them together.

Speaking on Bharti Singh and Harsh Limbachiya’s podcast, Angad shared that he had been trying to win Neha over for nearly a decade. “I was after Neha for 8 years. I kept going after her all that time, but she never said yes, she was very busy,” he said.Angad Bedi’s first meeting with Neha

Recalling his first impression, he added, “When I saw her for the first time, I thought she was very beautiful. She was running on a treadmill and I was standing behind, just watching and thinking, what amazing form. I fell in love with her running form. I was like, she’s an athlete.”Neha admitted she was focused on her career at the time. “I used to think I have to wake up, exercise, go to work—my entire focus was on work. It wasn’t like I only wanted to focus on work, but if I met someone interesting along the way, that was fine,” she said.Angad even tried to get closer by working with her. “She asked me to do a film with her and said there would be no narration—just show up. I went. I spent time with her on set, but her mother was also there. I ended up spending a lot of time with her mom. I thought, if her mother is so nice, she must be nice too,” he recalled.Still, things didn’t move forward. “There were 5-6 interesting people around her. I wasn’t even in her peripheral vision,” Angad said, adding that even her parents had given him their approval. “I went to her parents and they said, ‘We are okay, ask her.’ But she kept me on the side for years.”What finally changed everything was their pregnancy.

“I want to say thank God we got pregnant, she is the blessing that brought the love story,” Neha shared. “Other-

wise, you keep looking around. The love you’re searching for is right next to you, but we always look far away. He was right there next to me the whole time.”

She added, “It was our daughter who got us together because we were pregnant we were like just do it. The whole universe came together first for him, then for me, then for us.”Angad joked, “I’m in the top five of her priority list—first the kids, then work, then parents, then home, then me.” Neha, however, clarified with a smile, “Priority one is family, priority two is work—and me.”When Neha spoke about her pregnancy and marriageNeha Dhupia has previously addressed her sudden wedding, unexpected pregnancy, and the conversations that followed.In a conversation with Peeping Moon, she said, “Let me set the record straight, yes I was pregnant before I got married so its fine.”

Speaking to The Hollywood Reporter, Neha recalled how the news came as a surprise even to her close friends, including Soha Ali Khan. “At that point there was just chaos, I was pregnant.” She added that although she couldn’t invite Soha to the wedding, she was among the first to know about the pregnancy.Neha admitted that her relationship with Angad Bedi as still new at the time. “You are also like... not married, you barely dated the guy. This information, no matter how unorthodox or orthodox you are, it’s just easier to share it with your friends, and friends who have just had a baby as opposed to telling your parents. It’s a tough one to have.”

Preity Zinta slams intrusive paparazzi culture

New Delhi: Actor Preity Zinta says she is a “private person” and finds the intrusive paparazzi culture scary.Zinta conducted an AMA session on her X handle on Monday, where she answered the questions of her fans and followers. One user went on to ask the actor what she would choose between fame, privacy and peace of mind, and if she had to sacrifice any of them.Replying to the question, Zinta shared a lengthy note and said despite wanting to interact with her fans, there have to be certain boundaries. “Nothing is a sacrificeâ€¹. I have learnt to accept things the way they are & manage expectations. Now life is a big balancing act for me because I’m a very private person. I do love interacting with my fans & not disappointing anyone by giving them pictures but at the same time one has to set boundaries with people & the media,” she wrote.The actor noted she doesn’t like it when photographers try to capture pictures of her children without permission. “I don’t like it when people or media try to take photographs of my children (that’s non negotiable) & take pictures of me without asking cuz when anyone asks,

Pati Patni aur Woh Do: Do we need another film minimising adultery as a comedy of errors?



It’s 2026, human beings have managed to photograph the far side of the moon, but closer home, there is yet another iteration of Pati Patni aur Woh, titled Pati Patni Aur Woh Do, scheduled to grace our screens on May 15. Ayushmann Khurrana, the poster boy for progressive comedies that spotlight prickly social issues, will seemingly play a sperm donor of a different kind in this film. The teaser shows him romancing Wamiqa Gabbi, Sara Ali Khan and Rakul Preet Singh, but it is unclear (atleast to me) who his wife is. The Pati Patni Aur Woh Do teaser uses clips from the first Pati Patni aur Woh starring Sanjeev Kumar, which released in 1978 and the 2019 remake starring Kartik Aaryan, Bhumi Pednekar and Ananya Panday to inform us that “patiyon ki fitrat” or the innate disposition of husbands never changes. Whether that was supposed to be an admission of a problem or a sexist excuse for why men cheat, I can’t quite understand.

A week later, Varun Dhawan, Pooja Hegde and Mrunal Thakur starrer Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai releases in theatres. The film’s teaser has two VFX/AI babies discussing their parentage and wondering if they in fact have the same father. Varun will be seen romancing two women and potentially having kids with two different women.

Whether he is married to both, one or neither remains to be seen. Interestingly, the film’s title comes from a song in Biwi No 1 which was another film about a married man cheating on his wife. Before the ‘not all men’ or ‘please learn to take a joke’ brigade comes for me, let me clarify that the problem here is not portraying infidelity on screen. The problem is the tone and treatment of a film portraying infidelity, and Bollywood’s penchant for passing off serious indiscretions by men as humour or the hazards of their gender. Clearly, the release of films like No Entry, Thank You, or the Mastiii and Housefull franchises over the years were not enough. Or, worse still, the makers actually believe that we need more films to explore a man’s inability to contain his libido or remain faithful to his wife.For a country that still puts the institution of marriage on a pedestal and whose citizens flirt with bankruptcy to get their kids married, we have had a vast number of films over the decades that explore marital infidelity on screen. These films are in different genres as well, from comedies or sex comedies like the ones mentioned earlier, dramas like Paheli, Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna and Astitva, or romantic thrillers like Murder, Saheb Biwi Aur Gangster, and Haseen Dillruba. We have seen men and women cheat on the big screen, but where the difference really arises is in why they cheat and the consequences they face.

With a few exceptions, of course, in films across genres, men cheat because they are bored, they want some excitement in their lives, they want variety in their sex lives, or because a strange combination of biology

and patriarchy has allowed them to justify infidelity. The trio from the Mastiii franchise, Meet, Prem and Amar (Vivek Oberoi, Aftab Shivdasani and Riteish Deshmukh) have been sexually frustrated husbands over four films, finding excuses to have some masti (fun) and spice up their sex lives. Vinay (Anil Kapoor) in Salaam-e-Ishq, who cheats on his wife of 15 years with a much younger woman, Ranjeet (Kay Kay Menon), who has an affair with Neha (Kangana Ranaut), a young employee in his office, Anand (Ajay Devgn) in Dil Kya Kare, Prem (Salman Khan) from Biwi No 1, or Ram (Jeetendra) from Ek Hi Bhool, are some examples of husbands on screen who cheated on their wives but were all eventually forgiven. Except for perhaps Ardh, where Pooja (Shabana Azmi) refuses to forgive Indir (Kulbhushan Kharbanda), unfaithful husbands in Hindi films almost always get a second chance when they express remorse.

In contrast, there are no sex comedies or comedies of any kind where a woman is found cheating on her husband or long-time partner. Films with an unfaithful wife are always in more dramatic genres, with the lady in question facing serious consequences. Female characters don’t cheat simply because they want to have fun, they find commitment confining, or because they feel entitled to infidelity by their gender. It’s a step they almost always take out of an emotional disconnect with their partner or after facing abuse of some sort. In Mahesh Manjrekar’s film Astitva, Aditi (Tabu) has a one-night stand with her music teacher. Her chauvinistic husband, Shrikant (Sachin Khedekar), says he can’t forgive her but admits to having had multiple affairs. Thankfully, she decides to leave him rather than beg for forgiveness, but her indiscretion ends her marriage.

Murder (2004) was a remake of the Hollywood film Unfaithful. But instead of showing Simran (Malika Sherawat) committing adultery because she is a bored homemaker like the original film, the makers added the angle of her being a neglected second wife who has married her brother-in-law to care for her late sister’s son. Her affair ends with a murder, a police investigation and life-threatening situations.In Humari Adhuri Kahani, Vasudha’s (Vidya Balan) husband has been missing for five years. She falls in love with Aarav (Emraan Hashmi), but he is blown up by a landmine. Rani Kashyap (Taapsee Pannu) in Haseen Dillruba cheats on her husband, and the consequences include the death of her paramour, her husband losing his arm and their house exploding.

In Kalank, an unhappily married Roop (Alia Bhatt) falls for Zafar (Varun Dhawan), but sadly, their love story too ends with Zafar’s death. Even in the film B.A. Pass, where the married woman was the alpha, grooming a young man into prostitution, she is assaulted and raped by her husband as a punishment when he finds out. There is no “oh, women will be women” quip to justify female indiscretion. There is no simple ‘Please forgive me, I made a mistake,’ when it comes to women betraying their partners. Perhaps this difference in how infidelity is treated on screen is an insight into how society functions, or it’s a warning to women that being unfaithful to your partner can have no happy endings.The fact that films like Pati Patni Aur Woh Do and Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai still find financial and creative backing is a sign that our benchmark for acceptable or forgivable male behaviour remains dreadfully low. There is also no denying that people cheat in relationships. Infidelity is as old as the institution of marriage itself. But at what point can we stop using phrases like ‘patiyon ki fitrat’ and ‘patiyon ka universe’ to justify or normalise behaviour that is just plain wrong? Can we really expect change if we keep creating films where we either glorify violence and aggression as masculine values or undermine infidelity and dishonesty with humour?

Aamir Khan confirms 3 Idiots sequel with a 10-year leap; Rajkumar Hirani’s Phalke biopic shelved



Aamir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani’s 3 Idiots is set to get a sequel where Aamir will reprise Phunsuk Wangdu’s role.Aamir Khan and Rajkumar Hirani’s 3 Idiots is set to get a sequel where Aamir will reprise Phunsuk Wangdu’s role.

There was a time in Indian cinema when Aamir Khan’s name was synonymous with box-office records. Before director SS Rajamouli’s Baahubali films redefined theatrical success and set a benchmark for big-ticket movies, Aamir Khan’s films ruled Indian screens in an unprecedented manner.Without massive action set pieces or bloodbaths, his movies broke collection records, and none of them faced criticism for spreading bigotry or being pro-establishment, unlike today’s cases. In essence, most of them were simple, good, and thought-provoking films.

3 Idiots worldwide box office collectionDespite the presence of many stars in the industry, including Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, and Akshay Kumar, it was Aamir Khan’s Ghajini (2008) that officially launched the Rs 100 crore club in Bollywood. And it was his 3 Idiots (2009), a satirical coming-of-age comedy-drama helmed by Rajkumar Hirani, that took the Indian box office to new heights.

The movie grossed a total of Rs 400.61 crore worldwide, according to Bollywood Hungama. Registering an India nett collection of Rs 202.95 crore against a reported

budget of just Rs 55 crore, the film — revolving around three students at an engineering college — became a nationwide sensation.

3 Idiots sequel in the pipelineNow, 16 years later, Aamir Khan himself has confirmed the return of 3 Idiots with a sequel. “He (Hirani) is currently working on 3 Idiots 2. I heard the narration, and it has turned out well. There is still more work to be done on the script, but the story is very good,” the actor revealed during a conversation with Amar Ujala.

He added, “It has the same humour and an unusual story. It tells the story of the same ‘three idiots,’ but set 10 years later. This is one of the films I will be working on soon. I think it’s a beautiful story, and Abhijat (Abhijat Joshi) and Raju (Rajkumar Hirani) have written it very well. So I am also waiting to do that and turn Phunsukh Wangdu once again.”Also starring R Madhavan, Sharman Joshi, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Boman Irani, and Mona Singh, 3 Idiots won the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

However, during the conversation, Aamir confirmed that the Dadasaheb Phalke biopic, which was supposed to mark his reunion with Hirani, has been put on hold for the time being.“Phalke’s story is very inspirational, and Raju worked on it for quite some time. He wrote three drafts, but he isn’t happy with the script yet. So, he has put the project on the back burner for now. He might resume working on it later,” the actor noted.

Who was Dadasaheb Phalke?

Widely regarded as “the Father of Indian cinema,” Dadasaheb Phalke’s Raja Harishchandra (1913) is often considered the first full-length Indian feature film. He reportedly made as many as 27 short films and over 90 feature films during his nearly two-decade career as a filmmaker. Interestingly, the Government of India has even instituted the Dadasaheb Phalke Award in his honour, which is currently the highest award in the field of cinema in the country.In an earlier statement, Aamir Khan’s team had revealed that the superstar would begin working on the untitled project based on Phalke’s life after Sitaare Zameen Par (2025). “He will start preparing for his part soon after the release of Sitaare Zameen Par. VFX studios from LA has already created AI designs for the era and period of the film,” the statement read.“Rajkumar Hirani, along with Abhijat Joshi and two other writers, Hindukush Bharadwaj and Avishkar Bharadwaj, have been working on this script for the last four years. Dadasaheb Phalke’s grandson, Chandrashekar Srikrishna Pusalkar, has been supportive of the project and has provided major anecdotes from Dadasaheb Phalke’s life,” it added.