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Telangana Congress criticised for delayed response on Bandi Sanjay's son case

Hyderabad: Criticism is mounting over the Telangana Congress for its 'delayed' reaction to the Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay's son alleged involvement in a minor girl's assault case.

Incidentally, the Telangana Congress reacted to the issue much later than the party did in New Delhi. T. N. X. @INCIndia said, "Modi's favourite Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar's rogue son Bhageerath has sexually assaulted a minor girl."

PM Modi to dedicate Rs 1,535 crore railway projects in Telangana during Hyderabad visit

Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate Key railway infrastructure projects worth around Rs 1,535 crore in Telangana during his visit on Sunday. According to the South Central Railway (SCR) officials, these include multiple sections of the Kazipet-Vijayawada multi-tracking project covering 118 km. The project will enhance line capacity on the busy Grand Trunk corridor, enabling faster train operations, reducing congestion improving punctuality and boosting freight traffic across the region

Haryana to Bengal: BJP Secures First-Time CMs in 9 States Since Modi Became PM



New Delhi, May 9

With the BJP's resounding victory in West Bengal, ending the 15-year rule of the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government, the party has secured the chief minister's post for the first time in nine states since Narendra Modi became prime minister in 2014. The journey began with Haryana and Maharashtra in 2014, followed by Assam (2016), Arunachal Pradesh (2016), Manipur (2017), Tripura (2018), Odisha (2024), Bihar (2026), and now West Bengal.

In Haryana, the party formed a government on its own for the first time and appointed Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister.

In Maharashtra, Devendra Fadnis became the state's first BJP chief minister after the BJP emerged as the single-largest party in the assembly polls and formed the government with allies in the Mahayuti alliance.

The BJP expanded its footprint in the Northeast in 2016 by winning Assam, where Sarbananda Sonowal

became the party's first chief minister in the state.

Since then, the BJP has retained power in Assam and won two more consecutive assembly elections, including the one held in April.

The same year, 2016, the BJP formed its first full-fledged government in Arunachal Pradesh after a major political realignment in the state.

In July 2016, Congress leader Pema Khandu took over as chief minister amid a prolonged political crisis, but in September, he and a majority of Congress MLAs joined the People's Party of Arunachal (PPA), an ally of the BJP.

A few months later, in December 2016, Khandu, along with 33 MLAs, joined the BJP, giving the party a clear majority and its first stable government in the state.

The BJP had briefly headed a government in Arunachal Pradesh in 2003 under former chief minister Gegong Apang. Apang, who had left the Congress and joined the BJP at the time, headed the government for

only 44 days before returning to the Congress.

In 2017, the BJP stitched together a post-poll alliance with the National People's Party (NPP), Naga People's Front (NPF), and other regional parties in Manipur and installed N Biren Singh as chief minister, marking the party's first government in the border state.

In 2018, the BJP ended the Left Front's decades-long rule in Tripura and formed its maiden government under Biplab Kumar Deb.

The party achieved another breakthrough in eastern India in 2024 by defeating the Biju Janata Dal in Odisha, where Mohan Charan Majhi took oath as the BJP's first chief minister in the state, ending Naveen Patnaik's uninterrupted 24-year run.

In Bihar, where the BJP has long been part of coalition governments led by Nitish Kumar, it did not have a chief minister from the party until 2026.

Kumar, who served multiple terms as chief minister for more than two decades with brief interruptions, stepped down earlier this year and moved to the Rajya Sabha.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Justice inaugurates new court complex in East Godavari

Rajamahendravaram (Andhra Pradesh): Andhra Pradesh High Court Chief Justice Lisa Gill on Saturday inaugurated the newly constructed 'Ten Courts Building Complex' in East Godavari district.

High Court judges Battu Devanand, R Raghunandan Rao, BVLN Chakravarthi, Sumathi Jagadam and Nyapathy Vijay also attended the inauguration ceremony. "The Ten Courts Building Complex in Rajamahendravaram was inaugurated by High Court Chief Justice Lisa Gill," a press release said.

Following the inauguration, the judges inspected the court halls and other modern facilities. East Godavari Principal District Judge Sunitha Gandham explained the features of the complex to the High Court judges, the press release added.



Telugu Woman in US Dies

Hyderabad, May 9

In a tragic incident in the United States, a Telugu woman lost her life after reportedly drowning in a swimming pool in Florida. The incident has left her family members and relatives in deep shock and grief.

The deceased, identified as Veena, was residing in Virginia. She had travelled to Florida two days ago to attend a family function. During her stay, she reportedly drowned in a swimming pool.

Veena's parents, Devender Reddy and Sunitha, reside in the Lingoji Guda division under the LB Nagar constituency in Hyderabad. The sudden demise of their beloved daughter has plunged the family into mourning.

ED Arrests Punjab Minister Sanjeev Arora in Money Laundering Case

New Delhi, May 9

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday arrested Punjab minister Sanjeev Arora in connection with an ongoing Rs 100 crore money laundering investigation linked to alleged fraudulent Goods and Services Tax (GST) transactions, officials said.

Arora's arrest came after a day-long search operation carried out across multiple locations associated with him and his business entities. The raids were conducted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. According to officials, ED teams initiated coordinated searches early on Saturday at five premises spread across Delhi, Gurugram and Chandigarh. Of these, four locations were directly linked to Arora and his associated entities, while one office premises belonged to Hampton Sky Realty Limited, which is also under the agency's scanner in the case. Meanwhile, AAP MP Sanjay Singh reacted strongly to the arrest of Punjab Cabinet Minister Sanjeev Arora and alleged misuse of central investigative agencies in opposition-ruled states ahead of elections. Speaking to ANI, Singh said, "ED is acting like a contract killer. State after state, raids are being done on rivals and they are being jailed. This has become the trend of ED. Their experiment in other states is being replicated in Punjab by PM Modi, ahead of elections. Today, cabinet minister Sanjeev Arora has been arrested. Nothing was found from Sanjeev Arora in three raids. Despite that, he has been arrested because this is the election model of the BJP. I would like to tell PM Modi, that his Aurangzeb-like policy will not work in Punjab..." The investigation pertains to an alleged large-scale money laundering network involving fake GST transactions.

AP CM Chandrababu heads to Kolkata for West Bengal CM Swearing-In

Amaravathi, May 9

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has departed for Kolkata to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the West Bengal Chief Minister. He left his Undavalli residence by helicopter at 7:05 AM today (Saturday) to Vijayawada Airport, where he boarded a flight to Kolkata at 7:40 AM. He is expected to arrive at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport at 9:20 AM.

From there, he will travel by road to the Brigade Parade Ground, participating in the ceremony from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. At 1:45 PM, he will depart for Hyderabad, arriving at Begumpet Airport by 3:45 PM, before returning to his residence in Jubilee Hills.

Meanwhile, Suwendu Adhikari is set to assume office as West Bengal's Chief Minister. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, several Union Ministers, NDA Chief Ministers, and BJP cadres are expected to attend the event.



Tamil Nadu cliffhanger ends, TVK's Vijay to take oath as CM on Sunday

Chennai, May 9

After five days of uncertainty, Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar on Saturday invited C Joseph Vijay to form the government after the TVK chief satisfied the former of a majority support.

Vijay met the Governor for the fourth time on Saturday evening since the declaration of results on May 4 placed his TVK ahead of others as the single-largest party. Traditional Dravidian players — DMK and AIADMK — trailed far behind.

Vijay presented to Arlekar the letters of support from 118 MLAs — 107 of the TVK, five of the Congress, and two each of CPI, CPM and VCK — after which the Governor appointed him Chief Minister and invited him to

form the government. Vijay, along with leaders of the Congress and other supporting parties, called on the Governor after the VCK offered the support of two lawmakers. With this the cliffhanger in Tamil Nadu ended. VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan had earlier met Aadhav Arjuna, TVK general secretary, and handed to him a formal letter of support for the TVK. Arlekar had all along been asking Vijay to prove his majority with 118 MLAs — the halfway mark in the state Assembly of 234 lawmakers. On Friday, the Governor house had said Vijay had the support of only 116 MLAs (107 of his own party, five of the Congress and two each of the CPI and CPM).

The VCK had earlier said it would take the cue from the Left on whether to back Vijay.



All day along on Saturday, allegations of horse-trading against the TVK flew thick and fast with the AMMK, an ally of the NDA in the state, accusing Vijay of attempting to buy off lawmakers, a charge the TVK denied. Vijay's rise in Tamil Nadu heralds a temporary halt to the dominance of Dravidian parties in the state. The Dravidian influence in Tamil Nadu goes back to 1957, when the DMK first rose to prominence under CN Annadurai. In 1967, the AIADMK was formed by megastar MG Ramachandran, who quit the DMK.

Vijay, also an actor, however, comes with no ideological baggage and his party, TVK, is only two years old.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

NCRB data shows the net is only widening

IT may not give the entire picture and there is no denying that drug overdose deaths often go unreported, but the significance of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data lies in the insights it provides. According to the latest report, of the 978 drug overdose deaths reported across India in 2024, Tamil Nadu accounted for 313, followed by Punjab at 106. Punjab has shed the dubious distinction of leading the tally, but the situation on the ground remains worrying. The number of deaths has gone up from 89 in 2023, when the national tally was 654. What's more alarming, the drug net is widening. Himachal Pradesh reported 31 deaths, up from 21, and Haryana three, from zero a year earlier. Each death denotes a failure at many levels, most of all the inability to prevent the supply lines and offer de-addiction support at critical moments. Similar to Punjab, the drug issue now dominates the political discourse in Tamil Nadu. In 2021, the southern state led the national tally with 250 deaths of a total of 737. It managed to bring the numbers down sharply, but the reversal points to the vulnerability. No region is safe. The fight against drugs loses sting in the absence of relentless, coordinated crackdowns against the kingpins, and not just the peddlers. With a focus on supply reduction, there is negligible policy push on demand reduction by addressing the causes of addiction and offering solutions. Punjab has the second-highest NDPS Act crime rate at 29 cases per lakh population and the fourth-highest number of cases. Kerala tops the list in both categories. It's an unfair assessment that the governments in Punjab have ignored the drug menace. What's inescapable is that they have largely failed. Clearly, the strategies are not working.

Efforts Will Be Made to Resolve Issues in Ganesh Nagar Colony, Ramanthapur



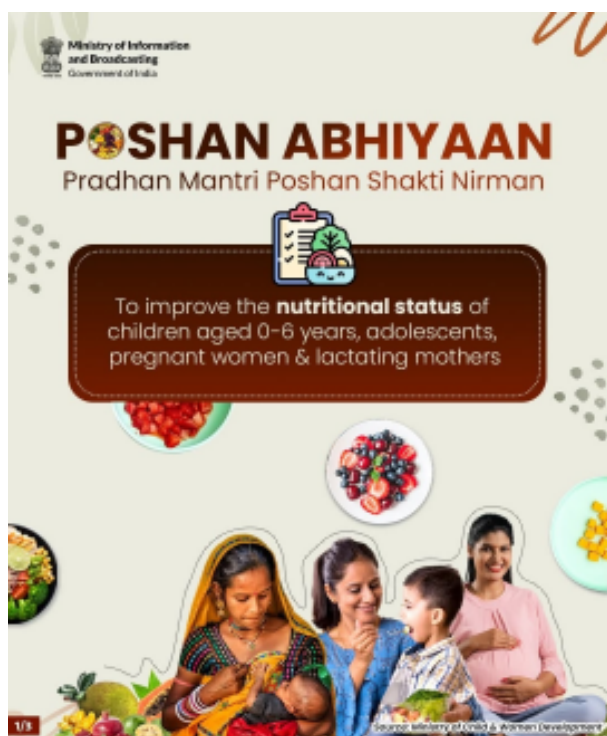
— Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy (UPPAL, MAY 09 (INDIAN CHRONICLE)): "Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy visited Ganesh Nagar Colony in the Ramanthapur Division to understand the problems being faced by local residents. During the visit, the colony residents explained several key issues affecting the area. "The residents mainly highlighted the following concerns before the MLA: "Relocation of Bus Stop: Residents stated that the present bus stop location is causing severe traffic congestion and inconvenience to commuters. They requested that the bus stop be shifted to a more suitable location." "Shifting of Hyderabad Mandi House: Locals complained that the activities of the Mandi House are leading to heavy congestion, sanitation problems, and foul smell in the colony. They appealed for the facility to be relocated to another area." "Removal of Dangerous Badam Tree: Residents informed that a large Badam tree in the colony has become hazardous during rains and strong winds, posing a danger to public safety. They requested its immediate removal." "High-Tension Power Lines: People expressed concern over the high-tension electricity lines passing over the colony, stating that they create fear and safety risks. They requested that the lines be shifted to a safer location." "Illegal Vehicle Parking: Residents also pointed out that illegal parking on roads is obstructing traffic movement and causing inconvenience. They sought immediate action against unauthorized parking." "MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy listened carefully to all the grievances and assured the residents that he would discuss the issues with the concerned officials and work towards resolving them at the earliest. BRS State leader Gandham Nageshwar Rao, colony representatives, apartment association presidents, BRS party leaders, and party workers also participated in the program.

93 Blocks Divided, 91 Enumerators Appointed for House Enumeration Survey

"Khammam, May 09 (Indian Chronicle): "The house enumeration survey will begin in Nelakondapalli mandal from May 11 and continue until June 9, said Tahsildar P. Ramprasad. "Speaking at a press conference held at the mandal tahsildar office on Saturday, he stated that the mandal has been divided into 93 blocks for the purpose of conducting the door-to-door survey. A total of 91 enumerators and 16 supervisors have been appointed for the survey work. "He said the survey will be conducted from May 11 to June 9 and appealed to the public to extend full cooperation during the process. The collected household details will be compiled into a comprehensive report and submitted to the government. "The officials have taken all necessary steps to ensure the survey is carried out accurately and efficiently, he added."

IS THE SURVIVAL OF POSHAN ABHIYAAN EMPLOYEES AT STAKE

State Government Disregarding the Objectives of the Prime Minister



"KHAMMAM MAY 9 INDIAN CHRONICLE: "The functioning of the State Women and Child Welfare Department officials clearly illustrates why the Central Government's 'Poshan Abhiyaan' scheme is being weakened in Telangana and why the livelihood of the employees working under this scheme has become questionable. The Central Government officially launched the Poshan Abhiyaan scheme in the state in 2018 with the noble intention of providing pre-primary education and nutrition in Anganwadi centers. Under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), this scheme is to be implemented with a 60% share from the Center and a 40% share from the State Government. It is well known that State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has stated on several occasions that Telangana, which was once a surplus budget state, is now running on a deficit budget due to the previous government's performance. Due to this deficit, intellectuals opine that the state is adjusting the 40% share it owes for Poshan Abhiyaan by utilizing the 60% funds released by the Center, thereby

creating a situation where welfare schemes are struggling to move forward. "The funds for the Poshan Abhiyaan scheme have become the focal point of this issue. The Prime Minister's vision is to transform India into a malnutrition-free nation by providing nutrition at the right time and offering pre-primary education in Anganwadi centers on par with corporate educational institutions. The eligible beneficiaries under this scheme in the state include: "Pregnant Women: "From the time of conception until delivery." "Lactating Mothers: "From the birth of the child up to 6 months (for the mother) and up to 2 years (indirectly for the child)." "Children: "Between the ages of 6 months and 6 years." "Adolescent Girls: "Particularly those between 14 to 18 years of age suffering from anemia or malnutrition." The nutrition funds currently being provided to the 38,500 Anganwadi centers in the state also fall under the Poshan Abhiyaan scheme. To implement this effectively, 149 Block Coordinators for 149 projects, 33 District Coordinators for 33 districts, 33 District Project Assistants, and a 10-member Project Management Unit at the state level were sanctioned under ICDS. Agreements were previously made with the Aga Khan Foundation—a global organization of international standards—to ensure transparency and field-level implementation. "However, after the formation of the current government, despite the Aga Khan Foundation providing services for eight years and stepping in with their own funds for salaries and nutritional supplies during delays in Central funds, the state has failed to renew the agreement which expired on March 31. Critics state that the failure to appoint another agency or renew the existing one reflects negligence and goes against the visionary policies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Furthermore, intellectuals express concern that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who holds the education portfolio, is showing a lack of initiative regarding pre-primary education in Anganwadis.

Employees working with the goal of social service despite meager salaries are now in a state of limbo, not knowing which organization they are currently working under. "Amidst these issues, allegations of a ₹30 crore scam have surfaced regarding the distribution of 4G smartphones to Anganwadi teachers and coordinators. It is alleged that instead of modern devices, "old generation" phones were distributed, leading the opposition to take the matter to the Central Government. Despite the Center seeking a comprehensive report and continuing to release funds for 40 lakh beneficiaries, the state's dual-application system has caused significant...

Development Works Worth 34 Lakhs Launched Near Uppal Shiva Temple

Former Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy Inspects Development Works



"UPPAL MAY 09 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Development works are progressing rapidly in the Uppal division. Former Corporator Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy has been continuously monitoring the ongoing civic projects. As part of this, she toured various areas of Uppal Sri Rama Colony on Saturday. "Along with local residents, she inspected underground drainage development works being undertaken at a cost of ₹32 lakhs. The new drainage system is being constructed to prevent drainage-related issues in Uppal Sri Rama Colony. "Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy stated that the CC road works in the colony would also be completed soon. "Those who participated in the programme included Bavikadi Satti Reddy, Raghavender Gupta, Madhu Chari, Raju Ravinder Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Prashanth Reddy, Soma Mallesh, Darsha Reddy, Chandrasekhar, Kishore, Soma Balamani, Sai Babu, Malamma, Prabhavathi, Yadamma, Parvathalu and others."

Ramantapur Division Congress President Mohammed Rafeeq Extends Solidarity to Hanumantha Rao's Indefinite Hunger Strike



"UPPAL MAY 09 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Ramantapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafeeq on Saturday expressed solidarity with the indefinite hunger strike being undertaken by State Government Advisor and former PCC President V. Hanumantha Rao, demanding the immediate implementation of caste census along with BC categorization. "Mohammed Rafeeq visited the protest camp and extended his support to the ongoing agitation. Speaking on the occasion, he said the movement was aimed at securing social justice for Backward Classes (BCs) and emphasized the need for a continuous struggle to achieve their rights. "He described Hanumantha Rao as a courageous leader who raises the voice of the people before the Central Government. Rafeeq strongly criticized the Centre, stating that "not only a caste census, but proper categorization ensuring justice to BCs must also be implemented." "He further asserted that uncompromising struggle on public issues is the ideology of the Congress party and said that the voice of the people from Ramantapur is growing stronger. Rafeeq announced complete support for Hanumantha Rao's indefinite hunger strike and stated that ensuring justice for BCs remains Hanumantha Rao's primary objective. "TPCC General Secretary Shaik Sameer Bhai, Jangir Bhai, Gangaputra Bhaskar, Chinna, Chotu Bhai and others participated in the program.

Census is Every Citizen's Responsibility: Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy



Complete Self-Enumeration by May 10 "Comprehensive Data is the Foundation for National Development" "Participate in Census for Better Development" Additional Collector Flags Off Census Awareness Walk Rally "Khammam, May 9: indian Chronicle: "District Addi-

tional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy stated that the Census is the responsibility of every citizen and that comprehensive data serves as the foundation for the nation's development. "To create awareness among the public regarding the Census, an awareness walk rally was organized on Saturday morning from Sardar Patel Stadium to ZP Center in Khammam. The rally was flagged off by the Additional Collector, who also participated along with sportspersons, walkers, and members of the public. "Speaking on the occasion, Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy said that as part of the Census process, the self-enumeration facility will continue until May 10. He urged people to voluntarily register themselves and help increase the percentage of self-enrollment by actively participating in the process. "He informed that the door-to-door enumeration process will begin from May 11 and will include a total of 34 questions. He assured the public that all information collected would remain completely confidential and appealed to citizens to answer all questions without fear. A dedicated help center has also been established for assistance, he added. "The Additional Collector appreciated the enthusiastic participation of officials, staff, students, and citizens in the awareness rally conducted to spread awareness about the Census. "He appealed to every family in the district to provide accurate information and cooperate in making the Census successful. He said the Census would help the government gain a clear understanding of the social and economic conditions of the people, thereby enabling effective implementation of welfare schemes. "Stressing the importance of accurate statistics for national development, he called upon everyone to participate in the Census with the spirit of "Our Information - Our Future." "Among those who participated in the programme were CPO Srinivas, DSDVO Sunil Reddy, SO Sridhar, Deputy Municipal Commissioner Srinivasa Rao, Assistant Municipal Commissioner Anil Kumar, officials from various departments, sportspersons, youth, students, and city residents.

Vem Narender Reddy Participates in Hemadri Venkateswara Swamy Idol Consecration Ceremony



— District President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav and Uppal Constituency In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy also attend "MEDCHAL-MALKAJIGIRI Staff Reporter Kishore, May 9 (Indian Chronicle): "Rajya Sabha Member Vem Narender Reddy participated in the idol consecration ceremony of Lord Hemadri Venkateswara Swamy held at Bogaram. On the occasion, he took part in special

prayers and religious rituals conducted at the temple. "Among those who attended the ceremony were District Congress President Thotakura Vajresh Yadav, former MLA Mallepeddhi Sudheer Reddy, Kuna Srisailem Goud, Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-Charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Market Committee Chairman Chiluka Madhusudan Reddy, Congress leaders, Temple Chairman Kandadi Hanumanth Reddy, and Kandadi Anji Reddy. "The dignitaries were welcomed traditionally by Vedic scholars with Poorna Kumbham amid the sounds of mangala vadyams. Later, temple priests offered Vedic blessings and presented sacred theertham and prasadam to the chief guests inside the temple premises. "The temple committee members extended a warm welcome to the guests and felicitated them with shawls. A large number of devotees and local residents participated in the grand religious event.

Pukhraj Singh Gill wins ADT Players Championship after thrilling play-off

Hyderabad: Pukhraj Singh Gill, who held at least a share of the lead since the end of the first round, ultimately won the ADT Players Championship in Kuala Lumpur, presented by The R&A, but only after a tense three-way play-off. A courageous Gill overcame a two-shot deficit over the last two holes and then finished the job in extra holes at Saujana's Palm Course. Gill (72), who plays for the team Honer Homes Gurugram in the IGPL, totalled 13-under along with Thanawin Lee (68) and Sean Ramos (68). It took Gill two extra holes to secure the title and a cheque of \$19,250 at the Saujana Golf and Country Club.

Kodali Govinda Rao Appointed as Mandal Congress President

"Khammam, Nelakondapalli, May 09 (Indian Chronicle): "Kodali Govinda Rao has been appointed as the Mandal Congress President of Nelakondapalli. The appointment orders were issued by PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud. "Govinda Rao, who hails from Bodulabanda village in the mandal, has been a close associate of State Revenue, Housing and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy since the beginning of his political career. "Celebrations were held in several villages following his appointment. Leaders including Shakhamuri



Ramesh, Bachalakuri Nagaraju, Jerripothula Anjini, Kadiyala Naresh, Namburi Rama Rao, Boyina Venu, Pentamalla Pullamma, Tigulla Bhavani, Pakanati Kanna Reddy, Cherukupalli Rajesh, Vadlamudi Narsaiah, Cherukupalli Venkatamma, Kothapalli Veeramma, Anam Venkata Reddy, Karla Ashok, Mandadi Naga Srinu and Vulloji Prabhudas expressed happiness over the appointment.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Meets Malkajgiri Police Commissioner Sumathi IPS



“UPPAL, MAY 09(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy paid a courtesy visit to Malkajgiri Police Commissioner Sumathi IPS on Saturday. During the meeting, they discussed law and order issues within the constituency and measures needed to provide better policing services to the public. “The MLA brought several key issues to the Commissioner’s attention, including traffic problems in Uppal, security arrangements in residential colonies, special measures for women’s safety, and strength-



ening night patrols. He requested the police department to work in coordination to ensure that the public does not face any inconvenience. “Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner Sumathi IPS stated that public safety remains their top priority and assured that policing in the Uppal area would be further strengthened. “BRS State leader Bandari Neelam Reddy, former corporator Kotha Rama Rao, BRS leaders Kasam Mahipal Reddy and Raji Reddy, along with party leaders and workers, also participated in the meeting.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Tours Uppal Bhagayat HMDA Layout West Phase



“UPPAL, MAY 09(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal constituency MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy extensively toured the Uppal Bhagayat West Side Colony and visited several apartment complexes to understand the problems being faced by residents. “During the visit, residents brought to the MLA’s attention various civic issues including damaged roads, poor drainage facilities, inadequate street lighting, the need for a community hall building, and difficulties caused by garbage tractors dumping waste indiscriminately on roads from outside the layout, leading to severe inconvenience for commuters and residents alike. “Responding to

the grievances, the MLA assured residents that he would discuss the issues with the concerned officials and work towards resolving them at the earliest. “Bhagayat Welfare Association president Mekala Madhusudan Reddy, Shivaprasad, Dr. Raghavender, Sriram, Sandeep, Vishnuvardhan Reddy, Mallikarjun, Kamal, Mahipal, TVSS Krishnamurthy, Aditya, Balakrishna, Narottam Reddy, Sheshachari, Krishna, Raju, Sandeep Reddy, Govardhan Reddy, residents of Vasavi Metro Police Apartments, and several apartment committee members participated in the program.

Census Data Forms the Foundation for Development Planning

— DCC President Inagala Venkatram Reddy at Census-2027 Awareness Walk”



“Warangal, May 9 (Indian Chronicle) : Hanumakonda DCC President and KUDA Chairman Inagala Venkatram Reddy stated that census data collected by the Government of India serves as the cornerstone for planning and implementing development programmes. He participated as the chief guest in the awareness walk organized on Saturday under the leadership of Warangal District Collector Satya Sharada Devi to create public awareness about the prestigious Census-2027 exercise. “The rally commenced at MGM Circle and concluded at Pochamma Maidan, drawing enthusiastic participation. During the walk, Inagala Venkatram Reddy encouraged officials and members of the



public to actively take part in the awareness initiative. “Addressing the gathering, he emphasized that the census is a crucial national exercise that plays a vital role in the country’s development.

He noted that accurate population data is essential for the formulation of welfare schemes and the allocation of government funds. Referring to the programme conducted under the slogan “Let us walk together for a better tomorrow,” he described the initiative as commendable. “He appealed to the public to cooperate with enumerators without fear or hesitation and to ensure that accurate information is provided during the census process.

Irrigation Development a Key Government Priority

MP Kadiyam Kavaya and MLA KR Nagaraju inaugurate new check dam across Akeru Vagu. “Wardhannapeta/Warangal, May 9 (Indian Chronicle) : MLA KR Nagaraju stated that ensuring irrigation water to every acre remains a key objective of the government, which is placing special emphasis on the development of irrigation resources. On Saturday, Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavaya, along with Wardhannapeta MLA KR Nagaraju, inaugurated a newly constructed check dam across Akeru Vagu on the outskirts of the town. “The inauguration was held as part of the State government’s ‘Rythu Varotsavam’ (Farmers’ Week) programme. Following the event, the public representatives inspected the check dam along with local farmers and discussed their irrigation requirements. “The MLA explained that the earlier check dam at the site had been damaged, causing irrigation difficulties for farmers in the command area. Taking this into consideration, the government constructed the new check dam at an estimated cost of ₹46 lakh, adhering to modern engineering standards. He noted that the project would benefit hundreds of acres in the Akeru Vagu catchment area by ensuring reliable irrigation water supply to farmers. “Speaking on the occasion, MP Kadiyam Kavaya reiterated that farmers’ welfare remains the foremost priority of the government. She said that strengthening irrigation infrastructure would improve the economic condition of families dependent on agriculture. The check dam, she added, would help store rainwater during the monsoon, raise groundwater levels, and recharge wells and borewells in nearby villages, thereby improving water availability throughout the year. “She further stated that the government is focusing on ensuring remunerative prices for farm produce, irrigation facilities, free electricity supply, and development of agricultural infrastructure. Rural development and agricultural



growth, she observed, are interlinked, and farmers’ progress directly contributes to village development. “MLA KR Nagaraju reiterated that the government is committed to providing irrigation water to every acre and is prioritising works such as construction of check dams, canals, and restoration of tanks. He expressed confidence that the new check dam across Akeru Vagu would provide long-term benefits to farmers and assured that more development works would be taken up in the future. “He advised farmers to adopt modern agricultural practices and use water resources efficiently to enhance productivity through the use of technology. He also assured that the government remains committed to addressing farmers’ issues at all times. “Municipal Chairman Sarangapani, Vice Chairman Shobharani, Irrigation SE Ramprasad, EE Kiran Kumar, DE Raju, AE Amarnath, Market Chairman Venkatayya.

Grand Consecration of Abhayanjaneya Swamy Idol

Endowments Minister Konda Surekha Attends as Chief Guest

Geesugonda, May 9 (Indian Chronicle) : Konda Surekha, Minister for Endowments, stated that the government is extending full support for the development of temples across the state. “She attended the grand idol consecration ceremony of Abhayanjaneya Swamy held on Saturday at Rampur village in Geesugonda mandal as the chief guest. On the occasion, the Minister formally inaugurated the consecration ritual by breaking a coconut, marking the ceremonial commencement of the event. “Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized that the government is committed to the overall development of temples and stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness in temple premises. She noted that devotees can concentrate on their prayers with greater devotion only when the surroundings are clean and serene. She wished that the blessings of the deity bring peace, prosperity, and happiness to the people. “Later, the Minister participated in the Annadanam (community meal) programme organized at the Sitaramanjanya-Harihara Putra Ayyappa Swamy Temple in Kashibugga, 19th Division. Following special prayers, she



personally served food to the devotees. “On this occasion, the Minister reiterated the government’s commitment to temple development and announced that a Kalyana Mandapam will soon be constructed within the temple premises.

A Housewife Left Home After a Family Dispute

... Inform Uppal Police Station if You Have Any Information About Her Whereabouts. “UPPAL, MAY 09 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “A housewife from Adarsh Nagar Colony in Uppal went missing after leaving home following a family dispute, and the Uppal police have launched a search operation. “According to Admin SI Madhava Reddy, Saranga Jamuna (36), wife of Ramudu, has been residing with her family in Adarsh Nagar, Uppal for the past several years. On the afternoon of May 3, following an argument with her husband and children over family matters, she reportedly left home at around 2:30 PM and did not return. “Her husband searched for her but could not trace her whereabouts. Subsequently, on May 4, he lodged a complaint at Uppal Police Station. Based on the complaint, Uppal police registered a case and initiated search efforts. “SI Madhava Reddy requested that anyone who has information regarding the woman shown in the photograph should immediately inform Uppal Police Station.



Bharatanatyam Festival Held at Uppal Mini Shilparamam

Natya Sootram” Showcases the Grandeur of Bharatanatyam, Indian Culture and Devotional Tradition



“UPPAL, MAY 09 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “The “Natya Sootram” programme, organized by Sri Lasya Nrityalaya in association with International Pride World Records, commenced grandly on Saturday evening at 5 PM at the Mini Shilparamam in Uppal. “The event was conducted under the divine blessings of Jagadguru Shankaracharya Sri Sri Sri Vidyaranya Bharati Mahaswami and under the guidance of renowned dance guru Dr. Vishakha Prakash. The programme beautifully reflected the richness of Bharatanatyam, Indian culture, and devotional traditions. “The festival featured various classical



Bharatanatyam performances including Shlokam, Pushpanjali, Alarippu, Jatiswaram, Varnam, Keerthanam, and Tillana.

Through “Natya Sootram,” the programme also presented important aspects of Natya Shastra such as shlokas, hand gestures (hastas), variations (bhedas), and their applications. “Organized as a world record attempt under the banner of International Pride World Records, the grand cultural event offered audiences a memorable experience through the harmonious blend of art, culture, and spirituality.

The dream of the poor to own their own home comes true - Indiramma Indla inauguration



— MLA K.R. Nagaraju attended as the chief guest. “Wardhannapeta/Warangal, May 9 (Indian Chronicle) : The Telangana government is effectively implementing the Praja Gharana-Pragati scheme with the primary objective of ensuring the welfare of the poor, said Wardhannapeta MLA K.R. Nagaraju. “As part of this program, Indiramma House construction programs were held in several villages in Wardhannapeta and Parvatagiri mandals on Saturday. The MLA attended these programs as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the newly constructed houses by cutting the ribbon. “With the financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakhs sanctioned by the government, beneficiary families in Katrala and Upparapalli villages of Wardhannapeta mandal and Parvatagiri town have completed the construction of their houses. The beneficiaries of this scheme include Mohammed Shamim Hamad, Kandagatla Subhadra-Venkateshwarlu, Tallapalli Sujatha-Raju, Botla Mahender-Kumaraswamy, Kasala Mangamma (wife of late Kumaraswamy), Chinthakuntla Swaroopa-Bhikshapati, and Patel Elender-Naveen families. “The MLA congratulated the beneficiaries and handed over clothes to the families. He wished them a healthy and happy life in their new homes. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the government is taking steps to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligible family directly. He stated that the government’s main commitment is to provide own houses to poor and middle class families through the Indiramma Griha Nirman Yojana. He opined that the beneficiaries completing the construction of houses and moving to the villages is a proof of the success of this scheme. To ensure that the benefits of various schemes are availed by the eligible beneficiaries, special attention

was paid to identifying them in every village of the constituency. “Those who attended these programmes included Warangal District Congress Committee President Mohammed Ayub; Wardhannapeta Market Committee Chairman Narukudu Venkataiah; local public representatives, officials, party leaders and activists.

Uppal Youth Congress President Arun Patel Responds to Colony Issues in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division

“UPPAL, MAY 09(INDIAN CHRONICAL): “Following the instructions of Uppal Constituency Congress Party In-charge Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, Uppal Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel has initiated efforts to resolve the long-pending civic issues in the colonies under Venkat Reddy Nagar Division. “Residents of Madhura Nagar, East Srinivasapuram, and Ram Shankar Nagar in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division have been facing severe difficulties for several months due to problems related to major CC roads, open drains, drainage systems, and drinking water pipelines. “As nala (drain) works have remained pending for the last 4-5 months, public transportation and movement have been badly affected. Small traders in the area are also suffering heavy losses. Local residents have demanded that the drinking water pipeline be laid separately instead of passing through the nala. “After residents brought these issues to the notice of Uppal Youth Congress President Aakarapu Arun Patel, he responded immediately and visited the colonies on Saturday to inspect the situation personally. “With the support of Uppal Congress Party President Mandamula Parameshwar Reddy, Arun Patel spoke to the concerned officials and urged them to complete the pending nala and pipeline works on a war footing to provide relief to the public. “Officials and leaders who participated in the program included GHMC AE Swetha, HMWS Manager Tirupati, Ranjith Reddy, Jalender Reddy, Srinivas, Vitthal, Shekhar Reddy, Bhooopayya, Chota Rajesh, local colony members, and others.

Foundation Stone Laid for Sri Sathya Sai Premamrutha Vidyaniketan and Nature Cure Hospital at Nagulavantha



“Khammam, Chintakani, May 09 (Indian Chronicle):” “A Bhoomi Pooja ceremony with Vedic chants was conducted on Saturday morning for the construction of Sri Sathya Sai Premamrutha Vidyaniketan and a Nature Cure Hospital under the aegis of the Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organizations at Nagulavantha village. The organizers stated that the educational institution will provide value-based education from KG to PG along with free computer education and technical training in Agri-Tech. Challa Kotaiah, a native of Nagulavantha currently residing in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, donated 5 acres of land worth nearly Rs. 3 crore for the establishment of the institutions. Following the foundation stone ceremony, an annadanam (community food distribution) program was organized. Prominent participants in the event included Nagulavantha Sarpanch Naragani Rambai, Matkepalli Agricultural Market Committee Chair-



man Ambati Venkateswara Rao, Seethampeta Sarpanch Alla Manemma, VVC Organizations head Vankayalapati Rajendra Prasad (Raja), Bayyana Babu (NRI, Seethampeta), directors Challa Kotaiah, Madhavarapu Nagendra, Vangaveeti Bhaskar Rao (Nelakondapalli), Sri Sathya Sai Seva Organizations District President and State Vice President Dammalapati Sudhakar, Sri Sathya Sai Dhyanamandali Chairman Bikshama Guruji, Madiraju Ramachandra Rao, Cherukuri Krishnamurthy, Vemula Venkanna, and several others.

Christian Community Appeal for Dedicated Hall in Kagaznagar

Memorandum Submitted to MLC Dande Vittal and MLA Dr. Palvai Harish Indian Chronicle, Taj Khan, Kagaznagar, May 9: The Sirpur Constituency Christian Peace & Social Justice Society has appealed to MLA Dr. Harish Palvai for the allotment of a government hall or building for Christian community activities in Sirpur Kagaznagar. The association stated that nearly 28,000 members of the Christian community currently lack a dedicated place for spiritual gatherings, meetings, cultural programs, and welfare activities. According to the memorandum, the proposed hall would be used for prayers, community meetings, Christmas celebrations, social programs, and cultural activities promoting social justice. The Society assured authorities that the premises would be properly maintained and used strictly for community welfare purposes. The request was submitted under the leadership of President Balka Shyam Kumar and other office bearers of the Sirpur Constituency Christian Peace & Social Justice Society (Reg. No. 453/2025). Community representatives expressed hope that the government would respond positively to the appeal, stating that the proposed facility would help strengthen unity, encourage social service activities, and provide a common platform for spiritual and cultural programs in the constituency.



Villagers Appeal to Minister Srinivas Reddy for Construction of Bridge Across Ralla Bandham Stream



“Khammam, Nelakondapalli, May 9: (Indian Chronicle):” “Villagers submitted a representation to State Revenue, Housing, and Information Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy requesting the construction of a bridge across the Ralla Bandham stream located between Cheruvumadharam and Mangapuram Thanda villages in the mandal. As part of the minister’s visit to Koratlagudem

on Saturday, local residents met him and submitted petitions highlighting several development issues. Speaking on the occasion, Electricity Department DEE Dheeravath Koteswara Rao said that the minister responded positively to their requests. The villagers also urged the minister to construct a bridge over the Chapta stream, build a new road across the Nandigama Canal, and develop a new road connecting the area. According to the villagers, Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy assured them that the issues would be resolved soon. They expressed gratitude to the minister on behalf of the entire village community. Those who participated in the program included Cheruvumadharam Fishermen Cooperative Society Vice President Dheeravath Radhakrishna Murthy, Society Chairman Dheeravath Balaji, Matta Durgaprasad Reddy, Palthiya Raja, Market Committee Chairman Seetharamulu, Shakhamuri Ramesh, Bachalakuri Nagaraju, Anjni, Satyanarayana, Kadiyala Naresh, Mekala Venkateswarlu, Boyina Venu, Namburi Ramarao, Pakanati Kannareddy, Cherukupalli Rajesh, Anam Venkata Reddy, Karla Ashok, Mandadi Naga Srinu, Ulloji Prabhudas, and others.

Triveni Director Dr. Gollapudi Veerendra Chowdary Congratulates State Topper



“Khammam, May 09 (Indian Chronicle):” “Following the recent announcement of the Class 10 examination results, Triveni Educational Institutions Director Dr. Gollapudi Veerendra Chowdary congratulated student L. Neha for securing 595 marks and achieving third place at the state level. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Gollapudi Veerendra Chowdary said that, like every year, Triveni students had once again achieved outstanding results. He stated that the institution not only focuses on academic excellence but also teaches students how to live responsibly in society and develop compassion towards others. Student L. Neha, who scored 595 marks, credited her success to the school’s academic planning, study hours, slot examinations, dedicated efforts of teachers, encouragement from her parents, and motivational classes conducted by the school. She said

these factors greatly contributed to achieving her state rank. Neha also expressed gratitude to the Director, management, and teaching staff of Triveni School for establishing an institution that shapes students into achievers and stated that she would always remain thankful to them. Others who attended the program and congratulated the student included CRO Katragadda Muralikrishna, Cheekati Appa Rao, School Principal Rajendra Prasad, Vice Principal Mustafa, Swapna Campus In-charge Charles, Transport In-charge Sandeep, and members of the teaching staff.

Launch of ‘Kia Syros’ in Warangal

— Hanamkonda DCC President Ingala Venkatram Reddy attends as Chief Guest “Warangal, May 9 (Indian Chronicle): The newly introduced model ‘Kia Syros’ by Kia was ceremonially launched on Saturday at the Malik Kia showroom on Mulugu Road in Warangal by Hanamkonda DCC President and KUDA Chairman, Ingala Venkatram Reddy. On the occasion, he examined the vehicle’s features and specifications. Addressing the gathering, he appreciated the company’s efforts to make vehicles equipped with advanced technology and high safety standards accessible to the general public. He expressed confidence that the Kia Syros would offer an enhanced driving experience to customers.



Food Donation to Orphans at Mother Teresa Ashram by Unity in Diversity Voluntary Service Organization

“Khammam, May 09 (Indian Chronicle):” “The Unity in Diversity Voluntary Service Organization has been continuously conducting social service activities for the poor, underprivileged, destitute, and orphans, including providing food and fruits to mentally challenged individuals and elderly residents in various ashrams, said Khammam district president Katti Nehru and secretary Dr. S.K. Jaffer. On this occasion, members of the organization distributed food items and conducted an annadanam (food donation) program for elderly people and orphans at the Mother Teresa Ashram in Khammam city under the banner of the Unity in Diversity Voluntary Service Organization. Speaking at the event, the organizers said that as part of their social service initiatives, they spent time with the ashram residents after distributing food items. They appealed to everyone in society to participate in service activities and support the poor and needy. Stating that “Service to humanity is service to God,” they emphasized that such charitable activities serve as an inspiration to society. They also said that the Unity in Diversity Voluntary Service Organization has been actively organizing various welfare and social service programs beyond caste and religious differences. They called upon people to cultivate a spirit of service and come forward to organize welfare activities for orphans and the needy. Those who participated in the program included organization members V.D.I. Jayaraj (Vice President), Giri (Treasurer), Rakam Shyam Babu (Assistant Secretary), and members Jizji Jako, Saidulu, Jai Sun, and others.



Unclean Surroundings in Front of Government Offices Raise Public Concern

“Khammam, Enkoor May 09 (Indian Chronicle):” “Residents have expressed anger over the unhygienic conditions and negligence near government offices in Enkoor mandal headquarters, questioning whether roads are cleaned only when VIPs visit and why officials are ignoring the issue. According to locals, trees cut down for ongoing road expansion works have been lying on the roadside for several weeks in front of the MPDO office, Police Station, and MRO office without being removed. As part of the development works from Enkoor Center to the Nacharam Sri Abdhuta Venkateswara Swamy Temple, a four-lane road and central lighting system are being constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 47 crore. During the road widening and divider construction works near the local police station, roadside trees were cut down and left abandoned on the road. Residents said that despite nearly 20 days passing since the trees were cut, the contractor has failed to clear them. People alleged that the contractor, reportedly an influential individual, is behaving negligently with the attitude that no action would be taken against him. Locals warned that the fallen trees pose a serious risk to motorists on the busy road used daily by thousands of vehicles. They expressed concern that accidents could occur, especially at night when drivers may not notice the logs and branches lying on the roadside. Citizens also criti-



cized officials for failing to maintain cleanliness in front of government offices, stating that if authorities themselves neglect sanitation, it becomes difficult to advise the public about cleanliness and civic responsibility. The local residents demanded that the authorities respond immediately and ensure the removal of the cut trees from the roadside to prevent accidents and maintain cleanliness in the area.

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Grand Consecration Ceremony of Jeeva Dhawaja, Gangamma and Pothuraju Idols Held Amid Devotional Fervour



Temple Premises Echo with “Jai Shri Ram” Chants “Large Number of Devotees Attend Dhvajasthambam Consecration” “Khammam, Karepalli, May 09 (Indian Chronicle):” “The consecration ceremony of the Jeeva Dhawaja Yantra, Gangamma, and Pothuraju idols was conducted in a grand and devotional atmosphere on Saturday at the Sri Abhayanjaneya Swamy Temple located in Lingambanjara-Ramalingapuram under Karepalli mandal. Under the leadership of Surapreddy Vishnuvardhan Reddy, the temple management committee, along with chief priest Pemmaraju Achyuta Rama Rao Sharma and Vedic scholars Nagasai Sharma, Kiran Kumar Sharma, Aditya Sharma, and Ramu Sharma, performed special rituals and Vedic ceremonies related to the consecration program over three days in accordance with sacred traditions. As part of the ceremonies, rituals including Ganapathi Puja, Karmana, Punyahavachanam, Garta Nyasam, Jeeva Dhawaja Yantra installation,

Dhwajasthambam and idol consecration, Poornahuti, Mandapa Udvassana, and Ashirvachanam were conducted. Devotees were later offered teertha prasadam. During the Dhvajasthambam consecration, the temple premises reverberated with loud chants of “Jai Shri Ram” by the devotees, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere. Annadanam (distribution of free meals) was also organized in the temple premises. Apart from temple committee members, a large number of devotees from Lingambanjara, Ramalingapuram, and nearby villages attended the consecration celebrations and participated in the religious events.

Kondagattu temple gears up for Pedda Hanuman Jayanthi celebrations

Jagtial: Stage is all set for Pedda Hanuman Jayanthi celebrations to be held at the Kondagattu Anjaneya Swamy temple.

Elaborate arrangements have been made for the three-day event to be held from Sunday to Tuesday. Besides decorating the temple with colourful lighting, temporary pandals have also been arranged up to the check post in view of the summer. Welcome arches have also been arranged at the JNTU check post as well as at the bottom of the Kondagattu shrine. About 2,000 staff from various departments, including police personnel, officials and sanitation workers, have been engaged for the celebrations.

Agriculture Department Creates Awareness on the Use of Tank Silt in Farmlands



“Higher Crop Yields Possible Through Use of Tank Silt” Tank Silt Enriches Soil Nutrients: District Agriculture Officer Pullayya “Khammam, Karepalli, May 9 (Indian Chronicle): “District Agriculture Officer Dhanasari Pullayya stated that the use of tank silt in agricultural fields helps

improve soil nutrients and enables farmers to achieve higher crop yields.” On Friday, as part of the Praja Palana Pragathi-Pranalika program, the District Agriculture Officer participated in an awareness program organized by irrigation officials at the Appayigudem tank. Addressing the farmers, he explained that applying tank silt to farmlands increases soil fertility and boosts productivity. “He also advised farmers not to burn agricultural waste in their fields. Pullayya warned that burning crop residue can destroy beneficial bacteria and microorganisms in the soil that are essential for maintaining fertility.” He urged every farmer to make use of the summer season to transport tank silt to their agricultural lands and plough their fields to improve soil health and productivity. “The program was attended by Irrigation DE Banoth Venkanna Nayak, AEs Appa Rao, Nagayya, and Sandeep, Rajiv Gandhi Appayigudem Sarpanch Dandu Praveen, AEOs, and local farmers.

Grand Idol Consecration Ceremony for Kantha Maheshwara



“Nallabelli/Warangal, May 9 (Indian Chronicle) : The annual festivities of Lord Kantha Maheshwara commenced with great devotion and spiritual grandeur in the village of Bollonipalli (Arshanapalli) in Nallabelli Mandal. As part of these celebrations, a magnificent idol consecration ceremony was held on Saturday for the deities Kantha Maheshwara Swamy, Suramamba Devi, Renuka Yellamma, Vanam Maisamma, and Potharaju. “Ananthula Ramesh Goud, State Working President of the ‘Gouda Jana

Rakshana Porata Samithi’ (Gouda People’s Protection Struggle Committee), and District President Gopagani Venkat Goud participated in the event and took part in special prayers. Subsequently, special rituals were performed within the temple premises. At 6:00 AM, the temple complex was beautifully adorned with mango leaves and flowers; later, at 9:00 AM, a traditional ‘Maladharana’ (sacred vow-taking) ceremony was conducted for members of the Gouda community. “The idols were donated in memory of Tippani Rajayya Goud, the son of the couple Tippani Yashoda and Sailu Goud. Family members—including Tippani Vijaya and Sambayya Goud, Tippani Lakshmi and Ravinder Goud, Tippani Rajitha and Mahender Goud, and Tippani Srujana and Lingamurthy Goud—participated in the rituals and offered special prayers. Prominent figures present at the event included Gowda Association elder Tippani Sambayya Goud, Sarakola elder Medipalli Prasad Goud, President Kotagiri Devender Goud, Vice President Gajarla Raju Goud, Secretary Kotagiri Ramesh, Bodige Raju Goud, and members Bodige Sambayya Goud, Gajarla Ramachandrudu Goud, Jakki Ramulu Goud, Devender Goud, Pidamalla Rajesh Goud, Swami Goud, Sammalu Goud, among others.

Action Plan to Resolve Every Petition Within Three Months: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy



“Praja Darbar Organized to Address Public Grievances” Government Will Procure Paddy and Maize at MSP in Every Village “Bhoo Bharati” Introduced to Resolve Dharani Issues “Khammam, Tirumalayapalem, May 09 (Indian Chronicle): “Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the government has prepared an action plan to ensure that every application submitted during the Praja Darbar programme is resolved within three months. “The minister participated in the Praja Darbar held at the Mandal Parishad office in Tirumalayapalem village along with District Collector Divakar T.S. and Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy. “Speaking on the occasion, the minister recalled that soon after the formation of the government, officials were sent directly to the people to understand and resolve their problems. As part of the “Praja Palana Pragati Pranalika” programme launched after completing two years in office, the government is explaining its welfare and development initiatives through major departments while also receiving applications from the public for grievance redressal through Praja Darbar. “He said the Palair constituency has been divided into three clusters in every mandal, covering 10 to 15 villages in each cluster, where applications related to public issues are being collected directly. Applications that can be resolved immediately are being addressed on the spot, while others are being resolved within a week or a month depending on the issue. An action plan has been prepared to ensure all petitions are resolved within three months. “The minister said that around 14,700 applications have been received so far in the Praja Darbar programmes conducted in the Palair constituency. Most of these relate to Indiramma houses, land disputes, pensions, and free 200-unit electricity connections. “Criticizing the previous government, he alleged that during the last ten years, no effort was made to provide houses that symbolize the self-respect of poor families. He stated that within the first year itself, the present government sanctioned 4.5 lakh Indiramma houses and introduced a transparent system under which funds are directly credited every Monday into the bank accounts of beneficiary women based on con-

struction progress. “He said public confidence in owning a house has increased significantly, leading to a large number of applications for Indiramma houses. The second phase of sanctions will begin by the end of May. “The minister stated that the Dharani portal had caused several difficulties for people. Even when only part of a survey number was acquired for projects, the entire survey number was placed under the prohibited list, creating multiple complications. He said the government introduced “Bhoo Bharati” specifically to resolve such issues and assured that applications related to simple sale agreements (Sada Bainama) would also be settled in a manner beneficial to poor families. “Highlighting welfare measures, he said the government has implemented several schemes including free bus travel for women in RTC buses, free electricity up to 200 units for poor households, supply of fine rice through ration shops, distribution of ration cards to eligible poor families, 40 percent increase in diet charges and 200 percent increase in cosmetic charges in Gurukul institutions. “He further stated that with the objective of strengthening farmers, the government implemented farm loan waivers up to ₹2 lakh for 25 lakh farmers. Referring to criticism from previous governments against paddy cultivation, he said the present government is procuring the entire paddy produce at Minimum Support Price (MSP) and providing an additional bonus of ₹500 per quintal for fine varieties. “Under Rythu Bharosa, the government is providing ₹12,000 crop assistance per acre and distributing agricultural equipment at subsidized rates. He assured farmers that all paddy and maize crops in every village would be procured fully at MSP and that farmers need not worry. “The minister criticized opposition leaders for visiting procurement centres and making speeches despite allegedly neglecting procurement during their tenure. He said people of Khammam district have not forgotten how farmers were treated under the previous government. “Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy said that under the minister’s directions, officials are being brought directly among the people through Praja Darbar programmes to resolve issues efficiently. Every application is being examined and reports are being submitted on grievance resolution. “Beneficiaries Sukanya and Priyanka thanked the government for sanctioning Indiramma houses to them. They expressed happiness that bill payments are being released based on construction progress. They also stated that bank linkage loans were not sanctioned during the previous government, but after the new government came to power, their Malika women’s group received ₹63,000 as interest reimbursement. Priyanka added that interest-free loans for women are proving highly beneficial. “The programme was attended by Maddulapalli Market Committee Chairman Harinath Babu, ATMA Committee Chairman, district officials, public representatives, sarpanches of various villages, and other officials.

Chalo Parade Ground’ Public Meeting Must Be Made a Success



— Dr. Gogula Rana Pratap Reddy, BJP Warangal District General Secretary “Narsampet/Warangal, May 9 (Indian Chronicle) : Narendra Modi is scheduled to address the ‘Chalo Parade Ground’ public meeting taking place today at the Parade Grounds in Secunderabad. In this context, Dr. Gogula Rana Pratap Reddy, the BJP Warangal

District General Secretary, has called upon constituency leaders and party workers to ensure that this event becomes a resounding success. “In a press statement released on Saturday, he urged party cadres to depart from their respective Mandal headquarters by 9:00 AM. Given that a massive public meeting is being organized under the aegis of the Bharatiya Janata Party at 3:00 PM, he appealed to every booth-level worker, Shakti Kendra in-charge, as well as leaders and members of all party wings—including the Mahila Morcha (Women’s Wing) and Yuva Morcha (Youth Wing)—to make it a point to attend this gathering at the Parade Grounds. “He issued a specific call for participation from the Narsampet Town, Narsampet Rural, Nallabelli, Duggondi, Khanapur, and Chennaraopet Mandals. Dr. Rana Pratap Reddy advised the leaders and workers attending the meeting to leave their respective Mandal headquarters at 9:00 AM and to contact their respective Mandal Presidents regarding vehicle arrangements and route maps.

BJP Leaders Distribute Pamphlets Inviting Public to Prime Minister Modi’s Grand Public Meeting



“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, May 9: “BJP leaders appealed to the public to participate in large numbers and make the grand public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi a grand success. The meeting is scheduled to be held at the historic Secunderabad Parade Grounds as part of the Prime Minister’s visit to Telangana after assuming office as the Prime Minister of India for the third consecutive term. “As part of the campaign, BJP leaders and party work-

ers distributed pamphlets among the public, inviting citizens from various sections of society to attend the meeting in huge numbers. The leaders highlighted the developmental initiatives and welfare programs being implemented by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and stated that the upcoming public meeting would be a historic event for the people of Telangana. “Speaking on the occasion, the BJP leaders said that Prime Minister Modi’s visit has created enthusiasm among party cadres and the general public across the state. They expressed confidence that lakhs of people would attend the public meeting and extend their support to the BJP leadership. “The pamphlet distribution and public outreach program witnessed active participation from BJP Medchal Council Member Sangishetty Ravindra Sagar, BJP Mahila Morcha President Sabitha Yadav, Division President Naresh Sagar, Division President Pushpalatha, along with several BJP activists and local leaders. “The leaders further urged the public to attend the meeting with their family members and contribute to making the event a grand success.

Brokers tried to seize patta lands in Hussainabad..pattas are being terrorized..



Jaganmohan Rao, their staff was sent to the scene and removed the trees twice. The Tahsildar strongly warned the brokers that legal action would be taken against anyone who tried to occupy the road again. The thieving brokers, who did not give up, once again came to their lands. They threatened them by saying that they had registered the lands here, created fraudulent papers and owned their land, and showed them the boundaries somewhere.. here... They came to their land on Friday evening with a vehicle bearing JCB number AP 24 N 6054, removed their trees and flattened the land. When they called DSP Ravinder to the police high-ups in this regard, they immediately sent an SI. With this, SI Lakshmi Narasaiah, who arrived there, asked the squatters to come to the police station and took the JCB vehicle to the police station. The squatters alleged that these brokers, who cannot produce any paper, have been causing them trouble for the past year, and that despite several complaints at the Bonagiri police station, the police have not taken any action against them, so once again the squatters and brokers are getting angry and causing many troubles to the three or four farmers who are patta holders. The agricultural farmers said that they had recently met the DSP a week ago and submitted a petition to the Bhuvanagiri SP five days ago, demanding legal action against the squatters and brokers. They are requesting the police chiefs to identify the land grabbers behind these brokers who are harassing them by encroaching on their lands, take legal action against them, and ensure that they receive due justice.

Agricultural farmers are appealing to the police to take action against the land grabbers “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 9):- Brokers who do not have any land came to their lands and tried to occupy the land by erasing the boundaries, removing the fences and trees. The land grabbers who were trying to seize the land. The brokers.. Nakkala Anjaiah, Gundeboina Narasimha, Allam Mallesha, their sons.. Marri Chandraiah.. and other women from Bhuvanagiri Tata Nagar were illegally leveling the land with a JCB in Survey No. 208 Bye-A in Hussainabad on Friday evening, and agricultural land owners Mandava Srisailam and others have lodged a complaint with the police. Recently, ten days ago, the same land grabbers and brokers had occupied the government road from Hussainabad to Hanumapuram Velle and planted trees twice. When they complained to Uppal Tahsildar

Every single unemployed person who has online in the job fair organized by Kumbham Foundation should participate in tomorrow's interviews



the unemployed and their parents. Special buses will be arranged from Bhuvanagiri bus stand from 7 am and transport facility to New Dimension School will also be provided free of charge. HRs of many major companies across the country will also participate in these interviews. I wish you to get it. Kumbham Foundation will support you without any trouble. In this program, PCC General Secretary Potana Pramod Kumar Baba Infra Developer Chairman Majeed Baba District Library Chairman Aves Chisti Vice Chairman Pothamshetty Manjula Councilor. Laik Ahmed Bonthala Narasimha Sheikh Mazar Pasha Bablu Padigela Pradeep Mazar Chikula Venkatesham Manga Praveen Vasudeva Reddy’s Items Sai Nikhil Edumekala Mahesh Potnak Satya Sivaprasad Battula Nagesh Masood and others participated.

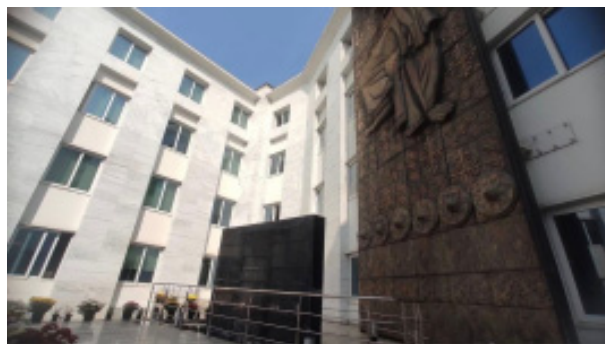
- Kumbham Foundation Chairman Kumbham Keerthy Reddy “(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau..Indian Chronicle...May 9):- On the 2nd day of the job fair organized by Kumbham Foundation, Kumbham Foundation Chairman Keerthy Reddy informed that around 800 students and youths have registered online to participate in the job fair organized tomorrow by about 27 companies in collaboration with One Million One Billion. Happened. Kumbham Foundation Chairman Keerthy Reddy said that almost 2600 people who have registered online should participate in the interviews to be held tomorrow. On this occasion, Keerthy Reddy said that many poor families in Bhuvanagiri constituency of the joint Nalgonda district of South Telangana region have been suffering from unemployment even after studying higher education. With the idea that there is no idea, this job fair in collaboration with our Kumbham Foundation under the auspices of our Kumbham Foundation, with all kinds of infrastructure, 150 volunteer volunteers with 150 volunteer volunteers to provide fresh water accommodation to the unemployed for the youth, the unemployed, and to the students who participate in the interviews tomorrow,

Approach road of second bridge across river Godavari sinks in Kothagudem

Kothagudem: The approach road of the second bridge built across river Godavari caved in within two years of it being commissioned in April 2024. The approach road on the right side of the bridge at Sarapaka suddenly caved in on Thursday night and officials suspended vehicular traffic on the bridge between Sarapaka and Bhadrachalam. Vehicles are now being allowed to move on the ageing old bridge, which is over 60 years old.

However, motorists expressed safety concerns as both up and down traffic was being allowed on the old bridge. Before the incident, both bridges shared the up and down traffic. The police have advised motorists to exercise caution and drive slowly.

'Himanta only will win': Mood subdued at Assam House in Delhi, but support intact



GNS News Agency, May 9

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is heading for a decisive third consecutive term in Assam, going by evening trends Monday. In the national capital, however, the atmosphere at Assam House in Chanakyapuri remained subdued. Staffers and security guards The Indian Express spoke to said no programme by any political party or state executive member was scheduled or likely. They also said no procession by supporters was known to

be scheduled as of now. Staff deployed near the reception were tuning into the results every now and then while taking orders for guests.

A Delhi Police van was briefly stationed outside the Assam House in the morning, but drove off in the afternoon. Unlike at Kerala House a 10-minute car ride away, there were no sweets being distributed here. The in-house restaurant, too, saw no special announcements or menu items. At one point, the chatter of a monkey on the perimeter was louder than the sound of the TV channels discussing the results on a guard's phone. The quietness in Delhi contrasted with the definitive political realities emerging from the counting centers across Assam. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and former Congress leader Pradyut Bordoloi took big leads in their respective constituencies, setting the tone for the ruling alliance's overall performance. Conversely, the broader opposition faltered significantly from the start of the counting process. Gaurav Gogoi, the Congress state unit chief and the party's primary election face, lost from Jorhat. The AIUDF, too, managed to establish leads in just two seats. Currently, the BJP-led alliance has 74 seats in the assembly, the Congress alliance 28, and the AIUDF 15.

Mumbai's AC trains Relief from heat, not from delays: AC locals disrupt Mumbai's rail rhythm



GNS News Agency, May 9

Officials add that increasing the frequency of AC services is another step towards easing congestion. Officials add that increasing the frequency of AC services is another step towards easing congestion. In the wake of Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR) expanding their network of AC local trains, commuters complain that persistent delays and unreliable service substitutions continue to plague Mumbai's suburban rail system. From May 1, CR converted 14 non-AC suburban services to AC, while WR transformed 12 non-AC locals, taking their total AC services to 108 and 145, respectively.

Despite the expansion, AC services are running into chronic delays, often inconveniencing passengers. "I usually take the evening fast AC local train to Kalyan, and almost inevitably it is held back by a minimum of 10 to 15 minutes," said Varsha Dasani, a 38-year-old commuter who travels daily from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT). With few viable alternatives amid Mumbai's stifling heat, she says she has come to accept the delay as part of her routine. Such disruptions have a cascading effect across the network. Even a brief delay in the departure of an AC local can push back subsequent non-AC services, increasing wait times for general passengers. "My non-AC local was delayed by 20 minutes because an AC train from Virar arrived late," said a 51-year-old passenger travelling from Churchgate railway station one afternoon.

While similar complaints have emerged from non-AC commuters, railway officials maintain that delays are systemic rather than limited to a particular service type. "If any part of the system gets delayed, it affects the trailing services as well," said a senior railway executive. The issue is compounded by what officials describe as over-utilisation of track capacity, with Mumbai's suburban network currently operating at 120% to 130% capacity, leaving minimal buffer between train movements and affecting punctuality. Apart from scheduling constraints, AC suburban services are also

grappling with overcrowding. During peak hours, large crowds attempting to board AC trains often block the sensor-controlled automatic doors, delaying departures until they can fully close. In one instance earlier this year, an AC service between Thane and Kalyan reportedly ran with its doors open after commuters crowded near the entryways, highlighting the strain on these services. In response, authorities say they have initiated remedial measures, including deploying personnel from the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railway Police (GRP) along with ticketing staff to manage crowds. Queueing protocols have also been introduced at busy stations to streamline boarding. In February, WR implemented a colour-coded queueing system at Nalasopara railway station, prioritising alighting passengers before allowing others to board. Officials add that increasing the frequency of AC services is another step towards easing congestion. "We have doubled the number of AC locals on the Harbour line from 14 to 28, considering rising passenger demand. CR has also added an AC service during the morning peak and a corresponding one in the evening," said Swapnil Nila, Chief Public Relations Officer of Central Railway. With more AC rakes expected to be inducted, officials say any crowding pressures will gradually ease.

However, commuters argue that these measures do not address unreliable substitutions and poor communication. Sudden switches between AC and non-AC services without timely updates often leave passengers stranded. Ruth Vaity, a 23-year-old student commuting from Dahisar to Churchgate, said she frequently learns of such changes only on reaching the platform. "I end up skipping my train when it is converted into an AC service and wait for the next non-AC local," she said. The issue is particularly acute at smaller stations, where display boards often fail to reflect real-time changes, forcing commuters to rely on apps like M-Indicator. Passengers also point to the price disparity between AC and non-AC services. "A commuter holding a Rs 105 AC ticket feels deceived when the service is replaced by a non-AC train, forcing a choice between travelling in a non-AC train or waiting significantly longer for another AC train," said Lata Argade, president of the Suburban Railway Passengers' Federation. Argade also argues that passengers are rarely compensated for the fare difference in such instances. AC suburban services in Mumbai have expanded steadily over the years. WR introduced its first AC local in 2017 on the Borivali-Churchgate route, while CR launched AC services on the Main line in 2020 between CSMT and Kalyan. However, AC services on the Harbour line were introduced much later, in January 2026. Currently, the Main line runs 80 AC services, while the Harbour line operates 28.

School admissions, jobs, counselling: How cops bring families back from the brink

GNS News Agency, May 9

A 17-year-old girl in a village in Fatehabad district had lost all hopes of going to college and had dropped out of school as her father and brother were drug addicts. Gurdeep Singh (29), a resident of Dholu village in the Bhuna area had lost his job at a petrol pump owing to his addiction. He first started drinking at parties and then moved on to chitta and gradually fell prey to medical drugs. These two are among the many who Haryana Police helped rehabilitate under its Operation Jeevan Jyoti campaign.

The 17-year-old girl's case was brought to the attention of Fatehabad SP Nikita Khattar. Acting on the directions of the 2018 batch IPS officer, the police team accompanied the girl and her grandparents to a government school and completed all admission formalities. For over a year now, police in this Haryana district have been running Operation Jeevan Jyoti, a rehabilitation-focused campaign against drug abuse. The initiative aims not only to tackle addiction but also to provide emotional support to affected families and help rehabilitated youth reintegrate into society. Efforts include ensuring school admissions for children and help in securing employment for young men who have overcome addiction. Since its launch on January 1, 2025, the campaign has helped 135 youths find jobs or rehabilitation-linked employment after successfully leaving drugs. Additionally, medicines for de-addiction have been provided to 510 youths, mainly aged 17-35, along with regular counselling sessions. The SP says, "Our work goes beyond crime control—we are committed to social reform and youth rehabilitation with full sensitivity."

The campaign has transformed several lives. Three months ago, during an awareness camp in his village, Gurdeep Singh's family sought help from the de-addiction team led by Sunder Lal. On the SP's instructions, Gurdeep's counselling and treatment began immediately. The journey was difficult—marked by anger and destructive behaviour—but the police team persisted with patience and care, creating a family-like atmosphere. Today, Gurdeep is drug-free and employed again at a petrol pump. He says his greatest joy is when his daughter runs to hug him in the evening as he returns home from work, a moment that fills his life with happiness. A 21-year-old youth from Bhirdana village has also reclaimed his life. "At a wedding three years ago, friends persuaded me to drink, saying nothing would happen. That



single step led me to opium, 'bhuki,' 'chitta,' and eventually medical drugs." His addiction devastated his family's transport business and strained their finances. During a de-addiction camp, his mother described his condition with trembling voice. Through medicines, counselling, and family support, the youth gradually overcame addiction. Today, he confidently manages his family's four trucks and drives himself. "Without timely guidance, I might not even be alive," he admits. Recently, an emotional scene unfolded when SP Nikita Khattar met eight young men who had broken free from drugs and returned to normal life. She encouraged them with heartfelt words. Vinod Kumar of Bhardpur village shared: "I was addicted to medical drugs for 12 years, spending thousands daily, which shattered my family. With counselling and medicines from the police team, I am now completely drug-free and living a normal life." Virendra of Lahli village said: "What began with friends as consuming 'chitta' turned into medical addiction. Family conflicts grew, my mental balance deteriorated, but with police support I defeated addiction and am moving toward a brighter future." Gurvinder Singh of Bhundarwas village revealed: "For nearly nine years I consumed 'chitta' and medical drugs, even selling household items to satisfy cravings. Today, with police help, I have been restored to society with dignity." SP Khattar remarked: "This was not just a felicitation ceremony, but a living example of struggle, inner strength, and rebirth—stories of young men who defeated the deadly demon of addiction and brought new light into their lives." On the enforcement front, police have underscored that arresting and jailing traffickers is not enough; their illegal earnings must also be eliminated. Under this "double action" strategy,

Mentally ill man suspected of being a thief beaten to death in Ghaziabad; 1 arrested



GNS News Agency, May 9

Station House Officer (SHO), Khoda, Naresh Kumar Sharma, told The Indian Express that the accused was arrested on Sunday and sent to judicial custody. A 31-year-old man has been arrested by Ghaziabad Police for allegedly assaulting and beating to death a man with a mental health condition, after the latter wandered into a residential area and was wrongly identified as a thief, police said.

According to police, the accused, Ankit Yadav, had thrown the body outside Noida's Post Graduate Institute of Child Health Hospital and had been absconding since April 27. Station House Officer (SHO), Khoda, Naresh Kumar

Sharma, told that the accused was arrested on Sunday and sent to judicial custody. "We began investigating after we were informed by the Noida Police that they had found an unidentified body near the PGI Child Health Hospital. We found that the deceased, Vinod, was mentally ill and had left his home around midnight without informing anyone and reached Saraswati Vihar. Later, he was mistaken as a thief and was beaten by the accused," the SHO said. Noida Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police, Maneesha Singh, said Noida Police had registered a Zero FIR after they found the body outside the hospital on April 27. "When the accused realised that Vinod was severely injured, he planned to take him to the hospital but Vinod died on the way. Seeing this, the accused fled the spot," the officer said. Noida's Sector 20, SHO, Aravind Kumar, said, "A review of surveillance camera footage from the area around the hospital pointed investigators back toward Ghaziabad, ultimately tracing the origin of the crime to the Khora locality." According to police, the post-mortem examination subsequently confirmed that the death was caused by physical assault. Police said locals and the victim's parents said he had mental health issues and used to roam the neighbourhood. We have not ruled out the involvement of additional persons and the investigation remains active. For now, we have made one arrest in the case," the Khoda SHO said.

Census in Pune cantonment: self-enumeration until May 15; 132-member team for house-listing



GNS News Agency, May 9

Census preparation is progressing systematically across the Pune cantonment, with 103 house-listing blocks created across eight wards, said Vidyadhar Pawar, CEO of the Pune Cantonment Board. Pawar said that awareness activities are being conducted simultaneously through social media, and hoardings are planned to promote the self-enumeration programme and the census. The census will

be conducted in two phases. The first phase includes self-enumeration, from May 1 to May 15, followed by house-listing, from May 16 to June 14. The second phase is scheduled from February 9 to 28 in 2027. Officials have appealed to citizens to participate in the self-enumeration process by filling in the information. As many as 113 enumerators and 19 supervisors have been registered on the census portal, making a combined workforce of 132 personnel for the cantonment. "Training for enumerators and supervisors has been planned in three batches, of which the first batch was successfully completed on April 29," Pawar told The Indian Express. As per Census 2011 data, the cantonment comprises 15,102 houses with a population of 71,781, spread over an area of 11.54 sq km. Ward-wise demarcation of blocks has been completed, with Ward I having 11 blocks, Ward II 8 blocks, Ward III 9 blocks, Ward IV 14 blocks, Ward V 12 blocks, Ward VI 20 blocks, Ward VII 21 blocks, and Ward VIII 8 blocks, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the entire area. Officials said their structured deployment aims to ensure efficient and accurate execution of census activities across all wards.

Dramatic twist in Ambedkar Nagar mass murder case: Accused identified, killed in encounter

GNS News Agency, May 9

In a dramatic twist to the deaths of four children and their mother in Uttar Pradesh's Ambedkar Nagar, police Monday shot dead their 19-year-old neighbour in an encounter alleging he was behind their murders. Police initially suspected the mother, 35-year-old Ghasia Khatoon, had killed her children; her body was found in a drain on Sunday afternoon. Police said during their investigation, they uncovered the involvement of Khatoon's neighbour, Aamir, who was a frequent visitor to their house. Police added that Aamir had a criminal record with cases registered against him for murder, rape, and offences under the Cow Slaughter Act. He had reportedly been released from jail around five months ago.

On Saturday, police found the bodies of Khatoon's four minor children — aged 14, 12, 10, and 8 — on a bed inside their locked home. They were suspected to have been drugged before being bludgeoned to death. Initially, police suspected that Khatoon was behind the killings. They earlier said she was in distress after she found out on a trip to Saudi Arabia, where her husband was working, that he had married a Pakistani woman. But on Sunday evening, police found her body in a drain near her house. Sources said police began suspecting the involvement of another person

after Khatoon's post-mortem report indicated that her death was caused by ante-mortem injuries — she had suffered a head injury, suspected to have been inflicted by a blunt object. In the early hours of May 4, police said they received information that the suspect likely involved in the killings was in Sudari Atzalpur village and teams were dispatched to the spot. When officers attempted to apprehend him, police claimed the suspect allegedly opened fire. Police fired back in self-defence, injuring the suspect. Two policemen — a sub-inspector and a constable — also sustained injuries.

The three were immediately rushed to a hospital, where the suspect, Aamir, was declared dead on arrival. Police claimed when they searched the body, they found yellow earrings and silver anklets belonging to Khatoon in his pocket. Superintendent of Police, Ambedkar Nagar, Prachi Singh said Aamir's name cropped up during investigation. She said the ornaments recovered belonged to the deceased woman. Ambedkar Nagar Circle Officer Nitish Kumar Tiwari said it emerged that Aamir killed the children and dragged Khatoon out of the house, which is situated in a secluded area, and killed her. He later threw her body in a drain. He added that the investigation of the case is ongoing.

Mumbai housing projects under scanner as MahaRERA cracks down on 8,000+ defaults



The Maharashtra Real Estate Regulatory Authority has issued show-cause notices to 8,212 housing projects across the state for failing to upload mandatory quarterly progress reports for the January-March period, raising concerns over transparency and compliance in the real estate sector. Of the 33,029 ongoing projects registered with the regulator, over 8,000 defaulted on filing quarterly progress reports (QPRs), which disclose key details such as number of flats sold, expenditure incurred, and any changes in construction plans. Officials said the absence of these updates deprives homebuyers of critical information about project status. Developers have been given 60 days to submit the pending reports, failing which MahaRERA has warned of strict action, including freezing of project bank accounts, suspension of registrations, and a halt on advertising and marketing. Non-compliant projects also risk being barred from registering sale agreements, along with a penalty of Rs 50,000.

"Developers must comply with disclosure norms. MahaRERA will not hesitate to cancel or keep registrations in abeyance if quarterly reports are not updated despite repeated follow-ups," said chairman Manoj Saunik, adding that such situations should ideally be avoided. The highest number of defaulting projects is in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) and Konkan belt, accounting for 4,644 cases.

Within this, Thane leads with 1,475 projects, followed by Mumbai Suburban (1,263), Raigad (842), Palghar (612), and Mumbai City (267). Pune region reported 2,311 such projects, with Pune district alone accounting for 1,957. Other regions include Khandesh with 511 projects, Vidarbha with 483, and Marathwada with 238. A smaller number of defaults were also recorded in Dadra and Nagar Haveli (18) and Daman (7). The quarterly reporting mechanism, mandated under RERA norms, is aimed at ensuring accountability and enabling homebuyers to track project progress. Officials said stricter enforcement is being pursued to improve compliance and restore buyer confidence in the sector.

Pijush Hazarika becomes MLA for fourth consecutive term in Assam

Guwahati: Assam minister Pijush Hazarika on Monday won the Jagiroad Assembly seat, defeating the Congress nominee by 93,584 votes, according to the Election Commission of India.

The BJP leader won from Jagiroad for three straight terms and became an MLA for the fourth consecutive time. He began his electoral journey in 2011 by winning the Raha seat, followed by successive victories from Jagiroad constituency in 2016, 2021 and 2026. Hazarika secured 1,55,129 votes compared to Congress candidate Bubul Das' 61,545 votes, the EC data showed.

The Assam minister, who handled portfolios such as Water Resources, Parliamentary Affairs and Information & Public Relations, was earlier with the Congress and is considered a close confidant of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.

Iran says it turns back US warship from Strait of Hormuz, US official denies missile strike



DUBAI/DORAL, GNS News Agency, May 9 Iran said it had forced a U.S. warship to turn back from entering the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, but a U.S. official denied a report that it had been struck by Iranian missiles, according to an Axios journalist. Iran's navy said it had prevented "American-Zionist" warships entering the Strait of Hormuz area by issuing a "swift and decisive warning". The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

In response, Iran's unified command told commercial ships and oil tankers to refrain from any movement that was not coordinated with Iran's military. "We have repeatedly said the security of the Strait of Hormuz is in our hands and that the safe passage of vessels needs to be coordinated with the armed forces," Ali Abdollahi, head of the forces' unified command, said in the statement.

"We warn that any foreign armed forces, especially the aggressive U.S. Army, will be attacked if they intend to approach and enter the Strait of Hormuz." Iran has blocked nearly all shipping into and out of the Gulf apart from its own since the start of the war, cutting off around a fifth of the world's oil and gas shipments and sending oil prices soaring by 50% or more. U.S. Central Command, which for its part is blockading Iranian ports to put pressure on Tehran, said it would support the rescue effort with 15,000 military personnel and more than 100 land- and sea-based aircraft, plus warships and drones. "Our support for this defensive mission is essential to regional security and the global economy as we also maintain the naval blockade," Admiral Brad Cooper, the CENTCOM commander, said in a statement. Reporting by Reuters bureaus; Writing by Andrew Goudsward, Lincoln Feast and Gareth Jones; editing by Clarence Fernandez and Kevin Liffey

Iran says it turns back US warship from Strait of Hormuz, US official denies missile strike

DUBAI/DORAL-GNS News Agency, May 9 Iran said it had forced a U.S. warship to turn back from entering the Strait of Hormuz on Monday, but a U.S. official denied a report that it had been struck by Iranian missiles, according to an Axios journalist. Iran's navy said it had prevented "American-Zionist" warships entering the Strait of Hormuz area by issuing a "swift and decisive warning". The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. Iran's semi-official Fars news agency said two missiles had hit the warship near the port of Jask at the southern entrance to the strait, where Iran's navy has a base, but a senior U.S. official immediately denied the report, Axios' Barak Ravid said.

Iran had warned U.S. forces on Monday not to enter the strategic waterway after President Donald Trump said the United States would "guide out" ships stranded in the Gulf by the U.S.-Israeli war on Iran. Trump gave few details of the plan to aid ships and their crews that have been confined to the vital waterway and are running low on food and other supplies more than two months into the conflict.

"We have told these Countries that we will guide their Ships safely out of these restricted Waterways, so that

they can freely and ably get on with their business," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social site on Sunday. In response, Iran's unified command told commercial ships and oil tankers to refrain from any movement that was not coordinated with Iran's military. "We have repeatedly said the security of the Strait of Hormuz is in our hands and that the safe passage of vessels needs to be coordinated with the armed forces," Ali Abdollahi, head of the forces' unified command, said in the statement. "We warn that any foreign armed forces, especially the aggressive U.S. Army, will be attacked if they intend to approach and enter the Strait of Hormuz." Iran has blocked nearly all shipping into and out of the Gulf apart from its own since the start of the war, cutting off around a fifth of the world's oil and gas shipments and sending oil prices soaring by 50% or more. U.S. Central Command, which for its part is blockading Iranian ports to put pressure on Tehran, said it would support the rescue effort with 15,000 military personnel and more than 100 land- and sea-based aircraft, plus warships and drones.

Our support for this defensive mission is essential to regional security and the global economy as we also maintain the naval blockade," Admiral Brad Cooper, the CENTCOM commander, said in a statement.

Russian missile attack kills five in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, officials say

GNS News Agency, May 9

A firefighter extinguishes a car, which was damaged during a Russian missile strike in the town of Merefa, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in the Kharkiv region, Ukraine, May 4, 2026. Press service of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine in Kharkiv region/Handout via Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab May 4 (Reuters) - A Russian missile attack on the town of Merefa, in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region, killed five people and wounded several others, Ukrainian officials said on Monday.

Regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said that at least 10 houses, an administrative building, four shops, a car repair workshop and a food establishment were damaged in the attack. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. "Today during the day, the occupiers attacked civilian infrastructure of a town quite far from the front with a missile," he said on Telegram. He said that two men and three women had been killed and 18 others wounded, including four taken to hospital in serious condition.

Regional prosecutors said Russian forces appeared to have used an Iskander-type ballistic missile. Emergency services posted photos of a building with a damaged roof



and blown out windows, a firefighter extinguishing a burning car, and rescuers attending to a woman lying on the ground with her face and hands covered in blood. There was no immediate comment from Russia. Moscow has denied intentionally targeting civilians during the war although its attacks have killed thousands of them since it invaded at full scale in February 2022. Ukraine has also hit civilian targets in Russia or Russian-occupied areas, though on a far smaller scale.

Warned off vaccine actions, Kennedy seeks quick health wins ahead of midterms



dropped out of the 2024 race to support Trump, his political base — a coalition of vaccine skeptics and opponents of pesticides and processed foods — was viewed by some Trump allies as a boost to the president's re-election prospects. The health secretary received wide latitude to carry out his policies in the first year of the new administration.

The MAHA "green hats" cheered when Kennedy replaced a federal advisory board on immunization with new members who shared his views on vaccines. His appointees limited eligibility for COVID vaccines, dropped a universal recommendation for hepatitis B shots and promoted the view, not backed by science, that Tylenol taken by pregnant women may contribute to autism in their children. But the White House eventually grew concerned about the potential political consequences, the current and former officials said.

published by Tony Fabrizio, a pollster who works with Trump, showed strong bipartisan support for routine childhood vaccines, even among some of the MAHA voters who view Kennedy as their standard-bearer. A Republican or Democratic candidate who opposed existing childhood vaccine recommendations would "pay a price in the election," Fabrizio wrote in a published memo, concluding that "vaccine skepticism is bad politics." At the time, Kennedy and his top deputies were preparing to remove more vaccines from the recommended U.S. schedule, according to three people familiar with the discussions. Kennedy made the case to the White House to move forward, arguing that he needed to keep MAHA supporters on board, according to four senior administration officials.

Trump advisers, worried about Fabrizio's findings, told Kennedy that would be his last big effort on vaccines ahead of the November midterms, the four officials said. On January 5, the federal government scrapped recommendations for childhood immunizations against flu, rotavirus, meningococcal disease and hepatitis A, saying families should decide on their use with their doctors. Public backlash was swift, including from major medical organizations that had already sued to stop Kennedy. The White House contrasted that criticism to a broadly positive response to Kennedy's moves on nutrition, such as new dietary guidelines that recommend whole foods and protein over sugar and highly processed items, a senior administration official said. The reaction in both the White House and health secretary's office to the new food guidelines was "You know what? this is pretty cool," the official said. "They thought, 'Enough already with the negativity, let's move forward with (food policy). This is where the year begins.'"

A TURNING POINT? Since January, the White House has taken a bigger role in staffing key positions at the health department to ensure Trump's priorities are carried out and to avoid negative news coverage of controversial appointees and policies. Last week, Trump nominated a new surgeon general who has supported vaccines after it became clear that Kennedy ally Casey Means, a wellness influencer and non-practicing doctor, would not be confirmed by the Senate.

It has not all been smooth sailing. Top White House advisers sought to remove Kennedy's chief of staff and long-time adviser, Stefanie Spear, and place her elsewhere in the administration, leading to a fight between the teams. In a White House confrontation — in which Trump was not present — Kennedy refused, according to three people familiar with the incident. Spear remains a top adviser to the secretary, but her standing has been diminished, two senior administration officials said. Trump officials elevated Chris Klomp, former head of the U.S. Medicare program, in February to help enforce the president's priorities at the agency as Kennedy's No. 2. The change, at the behest of Trump officials to help bring order to the health department, has improved the working relationship with the White House, four officials said. Spear and Klomp did not respond to requests for comment.

Klomp has played a key role advancing more conventional health appointees, such as Erica Schwartz, the former deputy surgeon general tapped to lead the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, three officials said. A handful of close advisers to Kennedy helped convince him that Schwartz would not undermine his earlier work on vaccines, and White House advisers made clear they supported her nomination, one of the officials said. Kennedy and his team have also aimed for greater cohesion with the White House in recent weeks as they put the finishing touches on new announcements unrelated to vaccines, four senior officials said, while warning it was too early to say whether core differences between MAHA and MAGA will create new tensions in the future. Bo Erickson is a White House reporter based in Washington, DC. He focuses on the Trump administration's domestic, political, and cultural agenda, as well as daily news throughout the world. Previously, he covered Congress and US politics for Reuters, and before that, at CBS News. He is proud to be a Minnesotan at heart. Please send story ideas to: Bo.Erickson@thomsonreuters.com

What to know about US military presence in Europe?



Donald Trump announced plans to reduce US troop presence in Europe, including a drawdown in Germany, challenging NATO strategy. The move shifts focus toward China and homeland defence, raising concerns over European security amid ongoing global tensions

GNS News Agency, May 9

Washington: President Donald Trump's vow to shrink America's military deployment in Germany has put a new spotlight on the US role in Europe. There are usually 80,000 to 100,000 troops on the continent, with more than 36,000 in Germany. The Pentagon announced on Friday that it would remove 5,000 troops from Germany, and Trump said the next day that he would go "a lot further" than that.

The US military presence is a legacy of World War II, when Americans helped stabilise and rebuild Europe, and the Cold War, when the troops served as a bulwark against Soviet expansion. More recently, the deployment has played a key role in supporting operations in the Arctic, Africa and the Middle East, including the current conflict with Iran. But Trump has broken with years of bipartisan consensus, criticising European allies in NATO and following through on threats to reduce the US commitment to the continent's security. The recent announcement comes after escalating tensions with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz, who last week said the US was being "humiliated" by Iran and accused Washington of lacking a clear strategy. Here's a look at America's current deployment in Europe and how it could change.

What to know about the US defence posture in Europe The US European Command, created in 1947 and known as EUCOM, is one of 11 combat commands within the Defence Department, and covers some 50 countries and territories. In addition to more than 36,000 troops in Germany, Italy hosts more than 12,000, and there are another 10,000 in the United Kingdom, according to Pentagon numbers from December. The Pentagon has offered few details about which troops or operations would be affected in the drawdown announced Friday. The US increased its European deployment after Russia launched its full-scale war on Ukraine four years ago. NATO allies like Germany have expected for over a year that these troops would be the first to leave. European deployment has a global role

Aside from its role as a deterrent to Russia, the US military presence in Europe helps Washington project power across the globe. US Gen. Alexis Grynkewich, who is the

commander in Europe of both US and NATO forces, reinforced the benefits of a strong footprint on the continent to the Senate Armed Services Committee in March. "It is having capabilities in Europe, munitions in Europe that allow us to help US Africa Command to target terrorists in Africa, or to help US Central Command as they execute Operation Epic Fury," he told lawmakers, referring to the Iran war. "The distances are shorter, it's less expensive, and it's much easier to project power." Germany hosts the headquarters of the US European and Africa commands, Ramstein Air Base and a medical centre in Landstuhl, where casualties from the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq were treated. US nuclear weapons are also stationed in the country. The US has approximately 100 nuclear bombs deployed to bases in Europe that would be delivered by aircraft, according to a March estimate from the Federation of American Scientists. The group's report said the bombs are at bases in Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey, while it's possible they're also at a base in the United Kingdom. A call to move US forces further east in Europe

Even before Trump's comment Saturday to reporters, Republican leaders of both armed services committees in Congress expressed concern about the Pentagon plan, warning a premature drawdown in Europe would send "the wrong signal to Vladimir Putin" as the Russian president continues his war in Ukraine. Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Rep. Mike Rogers of Alabama said troops should be shifted to bases in Eastern Europe rather than withdrawn. The lawmakers also said allies have made "substantial investments to host US troops." Wicker and Rogers said the Pentagon, following its announcement Friday, has also decided to cancel the planned deployment to Germany of one of the US Army's long-range fires battalions, which operate ground-launched missile systems.

As part of its National Defence Strategy announced in January — a sweeping document laying out a vision on everything from deterring China to defending against cyberattacks to disrupting Iran's nuclear ambitions — the administration said Europe must do more for its own defence. While "we are and will remain engaged in Europe, we must — and will — prioritise defending the US Homeland and deterring China," it said. Among other things, the document noted that Europe's economic power, while shrinking in relative terms globally, remains significant, and said that Germany's economy alone "dwarfs that of Russia." "Fortunately, our NATO allies are substantially more powerful than Russia — it is not even close," it said, noting a recent commitment among NATO allies to raise national defence spending to 5 per cent of GDP in total, a push led by Trump. What Germany has been doing to beef up its forces Germany has moved to modernise its long-neglected military, or Bundeswehr, since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. That year, it set up a 100 billion euro (USD 117 billion) special fund to boost the Bundeswehr, much of which has been committed to procuring new equipment. Late last year, Merz's government announced plans to raise the number of military personnel to 260,000, up from about 180,000. In 2001, when Germany still had conscription, the headcount was 300,000 — more than a third of them conscripts. Berlin says it will also need around 200,000 reservists, more than double the current figure. Defence Minister Boris Pistorius, in comments to German news agency dpa after the Pentagon's drawdown plan was announced Friday, acknowledged that Europe must take more responsibility for its own security — and said the Bundeswehr is growing, military equipment is being procured more quickly, and infrastructure is being developed.

Gujarat man took weight-loss pills without medical advice, it ended in a cancer diagnosis



Fifty-five year-old Gujarat resident Ravi* had heard of the weight-loss properties of semaglutide, a diabetes regulating drug with spin-off effects on obesity. While he found it difficult to take the injectable drug, he bought oral pills over-the-counter from a local pharmacy. Several months later he decided to go to Dr Anoop Misra's clinic to get evaluated, worried about the side effects he had read about.

While undergoing tests, he was diagnosed with medullary thyroid cancer. In fact, he had a family history of this type of cancer, and, therefore, belongs to a group of patients unsuited for new-age weight loss drugs. Some animal studies have linked an increase in the risk of this type of cancer with the use of GLP-1 drugs such as semaglutide. "Those with a family history of this type of cancer should not be prescribed semaglutide — the drug comes with a warning. This is why we need to carefully select patients who are given GLP-1 drugs. The drug should not be prescribed by anyone other than diabetologists, internal medicine specialists, or in some cases cardiologists. And, it should definitely not be taken without the advice of a doctor," says Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis C-Doc, Diabetes and Allied Sciences, New Delhi.

While this was a very prominent case where the patient should not have received the drug at all, Dr Misra is worried about many self-medicators, taking both oral and injectable versions on their own. This number has increased to one case every 10 days at his clinic since the injectable drugs became available in India last year. "These numbers are likely to go up further with cheaper generic versions of semaglutide now available in the market," he says. As for side effects, he has seen patients come in with gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea or vomiting or in some cases other more severe symptoms such as pancreatic pain. "These drugs can lead to substantial weight loss and improve blood sugar control, making them attractive options for obesity and diabetes management. But the protocol has to be customised according to the patient's profile. 'Who should not take the drug?' Thyroid Cancer Risk: Individuals with a personal or family history of Medullary Thyroid Carcinoma (MTC) or Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia syndrome type 2 (MEN2) should avoid these medications due to potential cancer risks. Pregnancy and Breastfeeding: GLP-1s are not safe during pregnancy (should stop 2 months before conception) or while breastfeeding. Pancreatitis: A history of pancreatitis is a contraindication as these drugs can increase the risk of pancreatic inflammation. Severe Gastrointestinal Disease: Those with severe gastrointestinal issues, particularly gastroparesis (slow stomach emptying), should not use these drugs. Allergy: Known serious allergies (anaphylaxis) to GLP-1 agonists or their ingredients. Diabetic Retinopathy: Individuals with vision damage from diabetes should consult a doctor, as rapid blood sugar improvement can temporarily worsen this condition. Mental Health Conditions:

A history of eating disorders or depression requires careful evaluation. Kidney Impairment: People with an eGFR below 30. Patients with advanced kidney disease may require careful monitoring, particularly because nausea, vomiting and dehydration can worsen renal function.

Selecting the correct dose and scaling it up slowly is the right way to ensure weight loss drugs do their job, according to Dr V Mohan, chairperson of Dr. Mohan's Diabetes Specialities Centre in Chennai. "This is the reason why the medicine should always be taken under the guidance of a doctor," he adds. The drug is meant for people with a body mass index over 30 or between 27 and 30 if they have other obesity-related conditions such as diabetes or hypertension.

Take the case of 50 year-old Chennai resident Sangeeta* who took a very high dose for her first shot. She mistakenly dialled a high 1 mg instead of 0.1 mg on her pre-filled pen. She ended up in a hospital with severe vomiting, which took doctors nearly two days and several saline drips to control properly. "Most patients experience nausea and vomiting initially, some may also experience diarrhoea. But every patient reacts differently. Some experience the symptoms initially even with the smallest doses, but don't experience it later with the higher doses once they have adjusted to it. Others might experience such symptoms only on higher doses and thus have to maintained on a lower one. Some may need to continue with the lower dose longer than the recommended four weeks before scaling up or they may need to skip a week in between. This is the reason they have to be constantly followed up," says Dr Mohan. This dose adjustment, other than selection of the patient, also plays an important role in safe use of the drug. Dr Mohan adds, "Even before the generic versions entered the market, there were some unscrupulous gym trainers, beauticians, and wellness studios who were prescribing the drug to people. That's how the trend of Mounjaro brides began, where women take the drug before their wedding to shed the extra kilos. While most patients experience just gastrointestinal symptoms, the drugs also have some serious side effects." The GLP-1 drugs have been linked with an increased risk of thyroid cancer, pancreatitis, stomach paralysis and even a specific type of blindness. "The drugs have also been linked to depression. If anything happens to a person, who will take care of the symptoms, who will be responsible? If a doctor prescribes the medicine, they would be responsible for managing the side effects as well," says Dr Mohan. Increased prescription

With cheaper generic versions costing up to 90 per cent lower than the innovator molecule, their prescription has increased. "There has certainly been an increase in prescription of the GLP-1 drugs with the generic versions becoming available and the innovators dropping prices. What this essentially means is that people, for whom the price might have been a barrier earlier, are now considering using the drugs," says Dr Amrith Mithal, Chairman and Head of Endocrinology and Diabetes at Max Healthcare. While he hasn't seen patients landing up with acute side effects in his clinic, he does see patients who have started taking the drug without consultation but later reach out to him after family or friends advise against it. "While there are strict guidelines as to who should be prescribing the medicine, enforcing it can be a challenge. Some doctors may also prescribe it because they know if they don't, someone else will. But it should definitely be given only to those it is meant for. When appropriately prescribed and monitored, GLP-1 drugs remain safe and effective for many patients," says Dr Mithal.

Watermelon, lemon or coconut water? The summer drink that replenishes electrolytes best

As temperatures rise across India, hydration becomes critical not just for comfort but for maintaining energy, muscle function and overall health. Summer heat increases fluid loss through sweat, and with it the body also loses essential electrolytes such as sodium and potassium. While plain water remains the gold standard for daily hydration, many people turn to fruit-infused waters and natural drinks for minerals or electrolytes. These help regulate fluid balance, support nerve signalling and keep muscles functioning efficiently. During prolonged heat exposure or physical activity, the body loses significant amounts of sodium through sweat, along with smaller amounts of potassium and magnesium. Replacing lost electrolytes becomes important to prevent fatigue, cramps and dehydration, making the right beverage choice more than just a matter of taste.

Watermelon-Infused Water: Refreshing, But Limited Watermelon is nearly 92 per cent water, which makes it naturally hydrating and particularly appealing during hot weather. It also contains small amounts of potassium and natural sugars that can provide a mild energy lift. However, when watermelon is simply infused into water, the transfer of electrolytes is minimal. What it does offer is flavour, which can encourage people to drink more water through the day. It is an excellent option for light hydration, but it should not be mistaken for a meaningful electrolyte replacement after extended sun exposure. Cucumber has long been associated with cooling and hydration because of its exceptionally high water content. It contributes trace amounts of minerals and antioxidants, but like watermelon, its electrolyte contribution in infused water is negligible. Its real benefit lies in making water more palatable and refreshing, which can support consistent hydration. On particularly hot days, cucumber-infused water can be a practical way to stay refreshed, though it is best viewed as a hydration enhancer rather than a recovery drink.

Lemon water remains one of the most effective and accessible homemade summer electrolyte options. Lemon contributes vitamin C and small amounts of potassium, while its sharp flavour often encourages greater fluid intake. Adding a pinch of salt significantly improves its utility by introducing sodium, the primary electrolyte lost through sweat. This simple combination creates a light rehydration drink that can be particularly useful after moderate outdoor exposure. It offers a practical balance between taste and functionality without the excess sugar often found in packaged beverages. Among natural hydration choices, coconut water stands apart for its electrolyte profile. It is naturally rich in potassium and also contains magnesium and modest amounts of sodium, making it more effective for replenishment than standard infused waters. Research has shown that coconut water can support post-exercise rehydration comparably to some sports beverages, particularly for mild to moderate fluid loss. However, because sweat losses are primarily sodium-heavy, coconut water alone may not always be sufficient after prolonged intense activity. Pairing it with a lightly salted snack can improve its effectiveness. Its natural calorie content also means it is best consumed



mindfully rather than as an all-day beverage.

For regular daily hydration, plain water remains unmatched, with watermelon and cucumber infusions offering flavour and variety. For moderate sweating or time spent outdoors, lemon water with a pinch of salt provides a practical electrolyte boost. Coconut water is most beneficial after exercise or extended heat exposure when potassium replenishment becomes more important. While fruit-infused waters help, genuine electrolyte replenishment, especially during India's peak summer heat, happens with lemon-salt water and coconut water. Ultimately, the most effective hydration strategy is consistency: drinking enough fluids throughout the day and matching your choice of beverage to your level of heat exposure and physical activity.

Scrambled words: real reason you can still read jumbled text

You've probably seen it on social media before: a paragraph of scrambled text that looks like nonsense at first glance, yet somehow you can read it with surprising ease.

According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letters be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

This effect, often playfully referred to as typoglycemia, is frequently shared online as a quirky insight into how our brains work. But this viral claim is only part of the story. To understand why it works, we need to look at how the brain actually processes written language. The claim that usually accompanies this snippet is that as long as the first and last letters of a word are in the right place, the order of the middle letters doesn't matter. At first glance, the claim seems plausible. But while there is a kernel of truth here, the explanation is misleading. Reading scrambled words has much less to do with a magical "rule" about first and last letters, and much more to do with how our brains use context, pattern recognition and prediction.

Power, politics and the chair: The hidden stories of seating in India



What a king, a pope and an artist say with their chairs is as distinct as it is silent. For emperor Shah Jahan, the Peacock Throne, with its elaborate ornamentation, was a way to tell his subjects that his divine right brings him closer to heaven than earth while Pope Francis replaced the opulent papal throne with a wooden chair to hint at his pastoral duties to the faithful. Ghana artist Ibrahim Mahama's installation Parliament of Ghosts (showcased at the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2026), that used jute bags and repurposed chairs, told stories of continuity and resistance. In popular culture, the Iron Throne in the Game of Thrones series is a cue of how power can be a burden and hold a violent past. Each of these examples unpack stories of ourselves, values, norms and conventions. The act of sitting itself has been universal and timeless since man walked the earth. And yet the intent of the seat is different for people across regions and cultures. Communication is embedded in the material, height and appearance of a seat but often the hidden layers surface only when we look for it beyond forensic data.

In her book *From the Frugal to the Ornate: Stories of the Seat in India* (Godrej & Boyce, 2022), Bengaluru-based designer and researcher Sarita Sundar writes about her grandfather's charukassala (reclining chair) in Kerala: "It was the dignity and loftiness with which my grandfather assumed his seat that drew me — and most of the village — to his side... It was a station of vantage and power... his reputation for astute advice saw villagers seeking his counsel often. They were afforded positions, determined by their social standing... benches with backs, benches with stools or none at all." Her research for the book brought her to serendipitous discoveries that kassera, the Malayalam word for chair, takes its inspiration from the Portuguese cadeira and that naalkaale, the Telugu or Tamil word for chair, also means 'four-legged one'. The politics, history and subversion of the seat have, in recent times, seen exhibitions, symposiums and books dedicated to it. There can never be a single narrative or lens to view these ideas and to understand them, we need to go back to the evolution of sitting itself.

Jay Thakkar, professor, CEPT University, Ahmedabad, says, "The story of sitting in the subcontinent begins at floor level and slowly rises, layer by layer, into the world of benches, stools and chairs. To follow how people sat is to follow how they understand the body, the divine, the community and their social hierarchy." It's not uncommon in stone reliefs or Company Style paintings (from the 18th and 19th centuries) to see how seating signalled posture and function. For instance, while a worker may be squatting on the floor as he weaves a textile or shapes an object, the client or the owner is usually seen on a raised stool or mooda. If one were to begin with the rituals of prayer, in a puja, the worshipper is often sitting cross-legged on a mat or cloth, as a conscious act of being in sync with the earth. Thakkar observes that the deity, however, is almost never placed on the floor. There will be a low wooden or ornate table to reinforce the sense of honour. Low seating is ubiquitous across India, its variations depend entirely on region, climate and function. Be it a low seat (paatlo or palakka), a bench (paat or bankdo), a charpai or a baithak. From palaces to modern-day homes, their uses are multiple and quite often, they are easy to move around.

"These pieces are not just objects but instruments of social choreography. Who sits on the floor, who on a paatlo, who on the low stool with a backrest — each decision quietly arranges relationships of deference, care and authority within the domestic space," says Thakkar, who has co-authored *Sahaj: Vernacular Furniture of Gujarat* (CEPT University, 2018).

Low seating with backrests have been associated with gurus and merchants for many years. At the Hastashilpa Heritage Village Museum in Manipal-Udupi, Karnataka, which preserves the architectural heritage of traditional homes from different parts of India, one can see a trader's home from the 1800s. With large windows to pay daily wages to porters, the house has several low-seating arrangements for ease of transaction. While the traders sat upright on the wooden squares with backrests, workers were on carpets or outside. "The hierarchy is subtle but clear: The back-supported body is one of authority, the unsupported body listens," says Thakkar. It's not hard to imagine a courtyard house in north India, where the charpai takes centre stage, with the matriarch seated cross-legged or with one leg on the floor, hookah in hand, watching the helps and daughters-in-law potter about.

While the paatlo or the palakka consolidates the individual, the paat or patta (large raised wooden platform) is about the collective. During his field visits to Rajasthan, Thakkar would see men gather around at a chowk, seated on a paat, to play cards, hear speeches, hold informal panchayat meetings or nap in the afternoon. This seat, by its function blurred the lines, becoming both a living room and a community space for the village. Sometimes, several paats would be brought together for a wedding, transforming these benches into a single continuous surface on which an entire village could sit, eat, watch and participate. Many households would also have gender and age diversification when it came to seating. The eldest family member usually got the charpai, while the next in line got a chair with a lower back, while the youngest was usually given a dhurrie. Thakkar calls it the diagram of age and seniority rendered in wood, rope and cloth.

Then came the modern chair with the British and the Portuguese, one with an aspiration tag. It was seen in offices, restaurants, clubs and elite homes by the early 1900s. "One sat on a kursi not simply to be comfortable but to show that one is next in line after the person on the charpai," observes Thakkar.

The Planter's Chair, seen as a mode of leisure, was a British favourite, which came with flexible fabric or cane. Cane chairs were an antidote to brave the humid Indian climate while the armchair and the dining chairs made their appearance felt in high-end restaurants across Bombay. But even there, one saw differences in the use of wood. Dutch and Portuguese designs towards Goa and beyond used rosewood while the British couldn't get enough of Burma

teak and mahogany. Abigail McGowan, professor, University of Vermont, USA, in her essay 'Unsettling Chairs' in Sundar's book writes, "Even as dining chairs brought men and women to the table together side by side, armchairs tended to isolate male bodies from the demands of work and family alike." Advertisements from the late 1950s, from a foam company in a magazine, shows a man leisurely seated on a cushioned armchair, reading a newspaper, with his dog at his feet, while another ad for an air-conditioner that says 'Secret for better homes', has the man sitting comfortably in an armchair reading a book, while the woman is seated upright, looking at a book together with their child by her side. "Armchairs therefore offered particular refuge to only specific bodies, enshrining the power dynamics within the household," writes McGowan.

The world at the time was also seeing a shift in approaches to design. Elaborate carving and padded armrests were making way for the Art Deco movement of the 1930s with their narrow seats and wooden arms. Designer seating such as the Eames and Barcelona chairs were on the bucket list of the wealthy. As India became independent and materials were available, companies such as Godrej & Boyce and Army and Navy stores in Bombay began producing standard furniture lines for homes and offices.

"Factory manufacturing made furniture available and inexpensive for the larger population. That's the context in which Godrej was set up. And while industrial, assembly line furniture can potentially cut through the hierarchy of traditional seating, today you can even order a chief executive's chair which is in some way different; it has a higher back or softer cushioning. So, in some ways, modern seating still continues to facilitate hierarchy," says Sundar.

Designers began experimenting with materials from tubular frames to lightweight polypropylene chairs, otherwise called the Monobloc chair, those that could be stacked and mass produced. Haven't we all seen them, at weddings, exhibitions, public gatherings of every sort? We would be lying if we say we don't have at least one of them in our homes, for the sheer moveability and ease of comfort they provide. They are available the world over in varying designs and styles.

Eames lounge chair Eames lounge chair: What was born out of necessity during WWII is a luxury icon with its 'fits like a glove' seating comfort. However, besides the Chandigarh Chair, designed in the 1950s by Pierre Jeanneret and his team who built government institutions and offices across Punjab's new Capital, India has little to boast about in its furniture design, which has little or no recall value internationally.

That's why when Mumbai-based Chiki Doshi and Anand Gandhi managing directors, of the House of Mahendra Doshi, purveyors of antiques and period furniture since 1974, exhibited their restored pieces in an exhibition called 'A History of India through Chairs' last month, they wanted to testify to Indian craftsmanship and the possibilities in material. "Large manufacturers are not investing in good designers, we have a huge legacy of exemplary work down the ages.

In our exhibition, we showcased pieces from the early 19th century and onward, which were designs by the Dutch, the Portuguese, the French and the British, each of them acquired from different parts of India. But we will never know the provenance, the name of the carpenter or the designer. And today, with development in wood and technology, there is a huge scope in tapping the international market," says Doshi, who has been with the company for more than three decades. "Nowadays, people in their 30s are taking a keen interest in period furniture. They are house proud and are willing to make a conscious investment in furniture of a particular era," he says, adding that many of his clients are from Delhi and north India. "Good design is not unaffordable; rather it can bring value and quality to a space," says Mumbai-based designer Ajay Shah. But he cautions that in India, we need to move beyond craft and make design development integral to our work. "The creation of making something iconic is a lengthy process. It involves a company's vision, the passion of its founder, committing to design, seeking new materials and technologies and a sustained effort over a long period of time," says Shah. His furniture line under Industrial Playground has a specific aesthetic. The forms, materials and colour propose a lifestyle that's less formal and conventional, bringing flexibility and lightness to spaces.

As a nation, we seem to have come full circle, from customising how our furniture should look to where we place them. The evolution of sitting in India, however, is not linear. Shabnam Gupta, principal designer, Orange Lane Studio, affirms that furniture is a keeper of space in a home. It determines comfort, function and direction. "At the entrance, it's not uncommon for a client to want statement chairs. These are not very comfortable but they afford visual value. In the TV room, they expect to have sunken sofas or massage chairs. The living room is usually more formal. Sometimes, clients ask for a chair to face a particular direction as per Vaastu to help their decision making," she says.

But then to subvert all these notions of being civilised and sophisticated, Mahatma Gandhi's way of sitting in his ashrams was a disruption. He would choose to sit on the floor, be it to receive heads of state or important dignitaries, making them very uncomfortable in the process. It was another weapon to undermine British authority, as did his war against foreign goods and violence, observes Sundar.

On May 9, the International Design History Society will hold a symposium on 'Crafting Furniture in the Global South' where among other researchers, Sundar and academic Rachel Lee from TU Delft will talk about the craft and production of the Planter's Chair.

Known as the charukassera in Kerala and the aram kursi in Bengal, it has connotations of colonial leisure. But even today, it is not uncommon to visualise one's grandfather on such a chair, looking out of the window or receiving guests at the verandah. So when we say we ought to have a 'seat at the table' or that we want the 'best seat in town', let's remember, every chair we sit on comes loaded with the history, politics and stories of its time.

BHEL Q4 net profit doubles to Rs 1,290 crore on higher revenues

New Delhi: State-owned BHEL on Monday posted a two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,290.47 crore during the quarter ended March 31, supported by growth in revenues.

It had reported a net profit of Rs 504.45 crore in the same period a year ago, the company said in an exchange filing.

During the fourth quarter, its total income surged to Rs 12,553.50 crore from Rs 9,142.64 crore in the January-March period of the preceding 2024-25 financial year.

Beyond solitary spotlight: How these 4 singers are shattering 'solo diva' myth in Indian music



GNS News Agency, May 9

For decades, the image of the female singer in the Indian music industry has often been solitary — a single voice at the microphone, fronting a performance largely shaped by others. The Womaniaz, however, offers a different picture. The nine-member band, that performed recently in Pune, places four women vocalists at the centre of the stage, creating music together rather than individually. The group's four lead singers — Deepti Rege, Tanishq Karnawat, Veda Nerurkar and Shreya Jain Khandelwal — come from different generations and musical backgrounds, yet share a common foundation in classical training and a strong commitment to live performance.

What makes the group unusual is not just its music, but its structure. Instead of competing for space, the four singers share it. "We were friends first," the group says. "We already knew and respected each other's music. Over time, the idea of creating something together just felt natural. Each of us brings something different to the table," says Deepti Rege, the band's co-founder and senior-most member. Their musical journeys, however, began long before the band itself — often in homes where music was nurtured by families who encouraged daughters to follow artistic ambitions. For Rege, music is almost hereditary. A Hindustani classical vocalist with over 25 years in the industry, she has contributed vocals to several Bollywood productions, including Gangubai Kathiawadi, Bajirao Mastani, Padmaavat and Super 30. Her connection to music stretches back generations. "My grandmother was a disciple of Hirabai Badodekar and also a Marathi poet. I grew up hearing my mother's riyaz at home. Today, fam-

ily support continues to play a crucial role in my career. My in-laws proudly talk about my work even more than I do," she says with a smile.

For Tanishq Karnawat, the path to music was shaped early by her parents' encouragement. She began learning to sing at the age of three and continues to train in Hindustani classical music. "My parents were the ones who first encouraged me," Karnawat says. "My mother used to perform at events and also taught music when she was younger, so music was always part of our home," she says. Growing up in that environment helped transform a childhood passion into a profession. Today, alongside performing with The Womaniaz, Karnawat also mentors young singers as a vocal instructor at the Kailash Kher Academy for Learning Art.

Singer Shreya Jain Khandelwal similarly grew up surrounded by art. Her grandmother had a deep love for Indian classical music and was trained in the sitar, while her mother carried that artistic tradition forward as a Bharatanatyam dancer. "My parents always gave me the freedom to pursue what I love. Because of that support, I could embrace music wholeheartedly," she says. Khandelwal, trained at the Shankar Mahadevan Academy and under Pt Murlidhar Manohar Shukla, later performed at large-scale events such as the Ekam Satt Unity Concert at Jio Garden curated by Ameya Dabli, which featured composer A R Rahman. For Veda Nerurkar, the earliest musical lessons came directly from home. "My mother was my first guru. I grew up surrounded by music," she says. Nerurkar first came into the spotlight as a runner-up on Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Marathi Li' Champs and later appeared on The Voice India Season 2. But behind those milestones was the steady support of her parents. "They travelled with me for competitions, auditions, and rehearsals. Their belief in me is the reason I could pursue music professionally," she says. While their journeys differ, the singers say those individual influences shape the sound of the band. Their performances often run for nearly two hours, weaving together melodies from different eras of Hindi cinema. A sold-out ticketed show at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre remains one of their most memorable milestones. Yet the singers say the most meaningful aspect of the project is the sense of solidarity it represents. "When women come together creatively, something powerful happens. On stage, we're not competing with each other — we're supporting each other," they say.

Trump eases oil sanctions on Iran, says Hormuz should be guarded by other nations

GNS News Agency, May 9

United States President Donald Trump said that he is considering "winding down" the war on Iran, adding that securing the Strait of Hormuz — now under Iran's control — is the responsibility of other nations, even as Washington temporarily eased sanctions on Iranian oil shipments in a bid to ease the global supply crisis. "We are getting very close to meeting our objectives," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post, adding that the U.S. has "degraded" Iran's missile capability, "destroyed" its defence industrial base, and "eliminated" its Navy and Air Force, including anti-aircraft weaponry. Adding that the U.S. had taken out Iran's nuclear capability, and would never allow Tehran to rebuild it, he vowed to protect America's allies in the region, "including Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, and others."

While Mr. Trump declared victory over Iran, the U.S. Treasury Department on Friday (March 20) said it was temporarily lifting sanctions on Iranian oil already loaded onto vessels, to tackle supply disruptions and rising prices. "By temporarily unlocking this existing supply for the world, the United States will quickly bring approximately 140 million barrels of oil to global markets, expanding the amount of worldwide energy and helping to relieve the temporary pressures on supply caused by Iran," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement. "This temporary, short-term authorization is strictly limited to oil that is already in transit and does not allow new purchases or production." The U.S. and Israel have carried out thousands of air strikes in Iran since they started the war on February 28. At least 1,400 people have been killed, including Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and its Security Council Secretary Ali Larjani. Mr. Trump has repeatedly claimed that the U.S.-Israeli strikes have destroyed Iran's military capabilities.

Iran's continuing attacks Despite such claims, Iran has consistently carried out missile and drone attacks against Israel and America's Persian Gulf Arab allies, besides taking control of the Strait of Hormuz through which one-fifth of the world's traded oil passed before the war. On Saturday evening (March 21, 2026), Alireza Tangsiri, commander of



the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy, said the Guards had attacked two American bases in the Persian Gulf. "IRGC pounded the facilities of the two Al-Minhad [UAE] and Ali Al-Salem [Kuwait] air bases, the hangars, and the fuel depots of American-Zionist aircraft with a massive volume of ballistic missiles and suicide drones. These bases were the origin of the aggression against #IranianIslands," Mr. Tangsiri said in a post. The attacks on oil facilities in the Gulf and the closure of the Strait have driven up oil, gas, and fertilizer prices. Brent crude closed at \$106 a barrel on Friday (March 20), up from \$72 on February 28, the first day of the war. Changing stance on Hormuz "The Hormuz Strait will have to be guarded and policed, as necessary, by other Nations who use it — The United States does not! If asked, we will help these Countries in their Hormuz efforts, but it shouldn't be necessary once Iran's threat is eradicated. Importantly, it will be an easy Military Operation for them," Mr. Trump said, signalling that regional countries should lead any military operation to open the Strait. Mr. Trump had earlier sought help from America's NATO allies as well as China to open the Hormuz Strait. As most countries rejected his call, he said the U.S. did not want anybody's help. But again, on March 20, he called NATO partners "cowards" because they did not send any assistance. At the White House, Mr. Trump told reporters on Saturday (March 21) he was not looking for a ceasefire with Tehran. "I think we have won. I don't want to do a ceasefire. You know you don't do a ceasefire when you're literally obliterating the other side," he said.

Suvendu Adhikari to hold Bengal BJP government's first administrative meeting on May 11

GNS News Agency, May 9 Kolkata: Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, who was sworn in on Saturday, will hold his government's first administrative meeting on May 11, officials said. Superintendents of police and senior officials of all districts will take part in that meeting, the first one of the state's maiden BJP government, during which law and order and administrative preparedness will be discussed. The first cabinet meeting of the government is also likely to be held in the later half of next week, officials said.

After taking the oath of office on Saturday, Adhikari held a meeting with Chief Secretary Dushyant Nariala, Director General of Police Siddh Nath Gupta, and a few police and civil officials to review the law and order situation in the state. Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nand was also present at the meeting, sources said. Sources in the state administration said that during the meeting held at a PWD office, it was decided that the oath-taking ceremony for newly elected MLAs will be held on Wednesday and Thursday.

"The government's immediate focus is to ensure continuity in administration and public services during the transition phase. The chief minister has made it clear that ongoing projects must continue without interruption," another senior bureaucrat said.

The new CM also enquired about the operations of various schemes introduced by the previous Trinamool Congress (TMC) government and directed the chief secretary to ensure that the schemes continue to function smoothly without disruption, the sources added. Adhikari also enquired about the progress of the renovation work being carried out at the iconic Writers' Buildings, a nearly 250-year-old edifice in the heart of Kolkata, which is likely to be



the state secretariat. The Mamata Banerjee government's seat of power has been at 'Nabanna', a new 14-story building in Howrah. Banerjee left Writers' Buildings, which has been the state secretariat since Independence, for Nabanna in 2013, two years after she first came to power in the state. Officials said that it would take some time before the entire infrastructure becomes operational at Writers Buildings.

Rethinking textbook development in India



Of late, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been in the news for several controversies related to textbook content. The latest concerns its decision to remove a map from the Class 8 Social Science textbook that depicted Bikaner, Bundi, and Jaisalmer as part of the Maratha Empire after the royal family of Jaisalmer objected and claimed this was historical inaccuracy. Another instance was a two-page section in the Class 8 Social Science textbook discussing corruption at various levels of the judiciary, included in the chapter titled "The Role of the Judiciary in Our Society". This prompted a strong response leading the Supreme Court to take suo motu cognizance of the matter. NCERT not only withdrew the textbook but also issued an apology. But the controversy did not end. The Chief Justice of India ordered immediate seizure of all copies of the book, the initiation a probe to identify those responsible, and demanded accountability from NCERT.

Questions raised These controversies raise several important questions such as what content textbooks should contain, what ought to be taught, whether the Court's intervention is justified, and whether textbook writers and editors have violated established guidelines or, conversely, whether their academic freedom has been compromised.

While it is important to assess whether the Court's action is justified, it is even more crucial to examine why the NCERT has faced sustained criticism over the past decade. Much of this centres on its revision of school textbooks through the selective removal, reduction, or alteration of content in ways that appear to reflect a particular political ideology or an attempt to rewrite history. This, in turn, raises a deeper concern: does the institution's recent functioning demonstrate genuine autonomy or suggest that this so-called "autonomous body" has become vulnerable to the influence of those in power? We cannot say whether the NCERT has learned, or will learn, a lesson from the recent controversy. However, it offers a valuable lesson for those involved in materials preparation, textbook writing, and editing. In this context, it is necessary to consider what makes a good textbook for school students, the factors to be considered while writing one, and what should be avoided in

preparation. It is also essential to reflect on the key questions that school administrators and educators should ask when selecting textbooks for their schools and students. Requirements Considering the questions raised about NCERT textbooks, it is essential to provide professional development courses for all textbook writers and editors, and to develop new guidelines grounded in both universally accepted and contextually relevant principles.

In a multilingual, multi-religious, and multicultural country like India, textbook writers and editors are expected to not only possess expertise in their respective fields but also to value inclusiveness. They should be open-minded, principled, and committed to the cause of education. Additionally, they need to be trained to prepare instructional materials in a professional and pedagogically sound manner. The content should be appropriate for the target group; engaging, relevant, accurate, up-to-date, and inclusive. It must be free from religious, cultural, and gender bias, while remaining culturally and linguistically sensitive. Content, particularly in subjects such as history, should be presented objectively with accurate, reliable, and evidence-based information. Above all, it should align with the prescribed curriculum. Since the purpose of education is to inculcate values and promote logical reasoning and critical thinking, activities should be designed to foster empathy and encourage independent thinking. Freedom to choose

Schools should have the flexibility to select one that best suits their students from a range of textbooks by different publishers. This choice-based approach offers several clear advantages. Each author tends to emphasise different dimensions of a subject — such as historical context, social relevance, or technical detail — thereby giving students a broader and more balanced understanding rather than a single, limited viewpoint. Moreover, when a concept is not clearly explained or insufficiently illustrated in one textbook, another may present it in a simpler, more practical, or more relatable manner.

Exposure to multiple explanations of the same topic helps reinforce learning and strengthens students' grasp of fundamental concepts. From an assessment perspective, choosing a book from a variety of textbooks also exposes students to diverse types of exercises. Some authors, particularly those specialising in competitive examinations, provide higher-order and application-based questions that go beyond standard curriculum materials, thereby better preparing students for advanced assessments. What matters most is academic freedom for textbook authors and editors who are committed to education, understand the importance of sound guidelines, act in students' best interests, and stand firm against pressure from powerful forces to compromise their work. After all, their unwavering intellectual commitment and courage should be reflected in their work, inspiring educators and learners. Those in power, including the judiciary, must respect academic freedom.

A redoubt of cosmopolitanism

In an age when nationalism increasingly presents itself as grievance, and patriotism is confused with hostility towards difference, a question seeks attention. What kind of civilization is being invoked in the name of the nation? It is understandable that India must imagine its future with pride and not any rancour in its heart. But pride, if it is to transcend mere posturing, must be anchored in memories that unsettle the prevailing ethos of ethnic politics rather than pander to the self-flattering narratives of present day India. During my recent visit to Fatehpur Sikri, I felt this unsettling quality of the past's proximity, an inescapable sensation manifested palpably in a Proustian reverie of my childhood in the 1950s and 1960s. That was the halcyon era, seemingly untainted by the hardened fault lines of communal discord or the political grammars of difference that would later inscribe themselves upon our social fabric. In that early in-between space, childhood existed before the world began to demand an explanation of sectarian consciousness.

As Walter Benjamin might suggest, Fatehpur Sikri's ruins evoked for me a "Messianic cessation of happening", a jolt that arrests linear time, allowing fragments of the past to erupt into the present. My visit became an act of "brushing history against the grain," thereby interrupting the present narrative of division through childhood memories of times when communal harmony was not a utopian ideal but a given reality.

In an age when Europe was still inching toward what Francis Bacon would later call "the advancement of learning," Fatehpur Sikri had already become a living laboratory of intellectual cosmopolitanism. At the heart of Fatehpur Sikri stands the Ibadat Khana, the House of Worship. Standing there in the silence of a cold winter morning, I could visualize the Sunni and Shia theologians debating alongside Hindu pundits, Jain monks, Zoroastrians, and Jesuit priests, the encounters sustained in a form of brainstorming. Akbar was not seeking a final synthesis, nor endeavouring to declare authority as the final truth, but expose his rule itself to debate. Scholars, missionaries, theologians, Central Asian mystics, artists, architects and philosophers crossed linguistic and civilizational frontiers to gather at his court, an approach that we later see Rabindranath Tagore introducing in Shantiniketan.

The Ibadat Khana was not merely a hall of worship but a theatre of ideas, where translation, disputation, and philosophical encounter unfolded in real time. One is reminded of Bacon's utopian vision in New Atlantis, the ship that sails across oceans gathering knowledge from distant lands, or even of Napoleon's Egyptian expedition, when defeat at sea did not prevent him from carrying scientists, engineers, astronomers and archaeologists up the Nile, inadvertently laying the foundations of Egyptology. Fatehpur Sikri belongs to that larger genealogy of experimental cosmopolitan spaces, a court that imagined empire not simply as territorial dominion, but as the orchestration of knowledge, language and belief across borders. Commonly described as a "ghost city," abandoned for logistical reasons, it would be a mistake to consider Fatehpur Sikri as an architectural wonder of a past rather than of political thought. What was attempted here in the sixteenth century was not simply imperial administration, but a civilizational argument about power, belief, and difference. The city matters not because it failed, but because of what it dared to imagine and experiment.

From this practice emerged Sulh-i-Kul or "peace with all", not as a sentimental ethic, but as a principle of governance. It rejected the assumption, now taken almost for granted, that political stability requires cultural uniformity. In Akbar's imagination, power was strong enough to survive doubt which, to him, was not an administrative inconvenience but a condition of ethical rule. This confidence is pre-



it will be a mistake to consider Fatehpur Sikri an architectural wonder of a past rather than of political thought

cisely what contemporary nationalism lacks. Across democracies today, the authoritarian turn is overtly proclaimed, but is imperceptibly allowed to proceed through the narrow narratives of ultra-nationalism and belonging. Race, religion, and culture are thereby mobilised as instruments of political consolidation. While dissent is made out to be disloyalty, the minorities are deemed to be demographic threats.

Standing in the midst of such a space, I could feel deep within me its philosophical essence resonate with other sub-continental traditions that resisted structures of centralized authority. Sikh thought, emerging soon after, made a decisive break by transferring sovereignty from rulers and lineages to the Word. With the declaration of the Guru Granth Sahib as the eternal Guru, authority was removed from charisma, bloodline, and coercion. Truth was placed beyond capture. The Bhakti movement similarly unsettled caste and religious hierarchies through devotion that refused social arrogance. Poets like Kabir dismantled Hindu-Muslim binaries with disarming clarity, insisting that spiritual truth dissolves identity pride. Sufi traditions, with their emphasis on humility and inward ethics, offered another sustained resistance to punitive religion. What unites these traditions is a refusal of the finality of interpretation, of dominance, of the claim that power alone can arbitrate truth. The tyranny of thought stood out rightly rejected.

Fatehpur Sikri therefore, represents power as a process of dialogue. The Diwan-i-Khas, with its central pillar and radiating paths, suggests that multiple perspectives can emerge from a shared space without needing uniformity. To remember Fatehpur Sikri today is for me a political act, challenging the claim that equality, pluralism, and human rights are embedded in our own civilizational experiments, articulated long before modern constitutionalism gave them legal form. The struggle for equality gains strength, not weakness, when anchored in such memory. My visit to Fatehpur Sikri underscored a crucial question: can a civilisation secure in its identity afford to engage in dialogue, debate, and evolution toward a more humane system? The answer will shape not only the future of pluralism but also the trajectory of democracy itself.

Rupee falls to record low of 95.23 against US dollar



on Friday on account of Maharashtra Day. Dilip Parmar said the Indian rupee hit a record low as the dollar recovered and crude oil prices held firm. He said the ongoing surge in oil prices, combined with foreign fund outflows, was putting visible pressure on India's trade balance and broader economy. "Persistent dollar demand is expected to keep pressure on the rupee in the short term, driving the USD/INR higher towards the 95.35 and 95.70 levels," Parmar said. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 98.26, up 0.11 per cent. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.37 per cent higher at USD 109.65 per barrel in futures trade. Investors were also focused on the counting of votes for the West Bengal state elections, IFA Global said in a research note. It added that a BJP victory would be positive for domestic assets. However, the impact was likely to be short-lived as global geopolitics would continue to be the driving factor due to its direct impact on supply chains and industry. On the domestic equity market front, Sensex rallied 355.90 points to settle at 77,269.40, while Nifty climbed 121.75 points to 24,119.30. Foreign Institutional Investors offloaded equities worth Rs 8,047.86 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Meanwhile, V Vualnam on Friday said the upcoming few quarters and the coming year would possibly have "a lot of stress points". "The fiscal stress is indeed very much a reality, but at the same time, capex would really be a priority item, which we would like to preserve and ensure that it continues at the budgeted level," Vualnam said at the ICPP Growth Conference organised by Ashoka University.

Mumbai: The rupee fell 39 paise to close at an all-time low of 95.23 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, as ongoing Middle East tensions caused volatility in global markets, keeping oil prices high and raising fears of inflation and economic slowdown. Forex traders said Brent oil, hovering near USD 110 per barrel, was maintaining pressure on oil-importing economies like India. Moreover, factors such as unabated foreign capital outflows amid rising geopolitical uncertainties dented investor sentiment further. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 94.95 against the US dollar, then lost ground and finally settled at 95.23 (provisional), registering a fall of 39 paise over its previous close. On Thursday, the rupee had settled at 94.84 against the American currency.

Stock exchanges and currency markets were closed

Shanti law in, US nuclear 'mission' on its way to tap new tie-ups

A high-powered US nuclear 'executive mission' is headed to India later this month with a two-pronged agenda: Taking stock of India's nuclear energy landscape less than six months after a landmark legislation opened up this critical sector and to communicate the American industry's interest, as well as coordinate US government messaging, on the emergent opportunities in this field.

Organised by the Washington DC-based Nuclear Energy Institute, a lobby group of America's commercial nuclear energy industry, and the US India Strategic Partnership Forum, the industry delegation's visit is expected to have meetings with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Union Power Minister Manohar Lal, besides likely meetings with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel. Deliberations planned during the course of the delegation's five-day schedule (May 17-21) include meetings with the Department of Atomic Energy top brass, NITI Aayog, other energy ministries and representatives of state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) and NTPC Ltd. The delegation would likely land in New Delhi on May 17 and stay until May 19, before heading to Mumbai on May 20 for a series of meetings spanning two days. US Ambassador Sergio Gor and the US Embassy staff are likely to set the agenda for the delegation's series of formal meetings that get underway on the morning of May 18.

The Mumbai leg is likely to include meetings with India's private sector energy players including Reliance Industries Ltd, the Adani Group, Tata Power Company Ltd, JSW Energy, Vedanta, Larsen & Toubro Ltd, Tata Consulting Engineers and Hindalco Industries. Last December, Parliament had passed the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act, 2025, marking a major shift in how India's tightly-controlled nuclear power sector will be governed in the coming years. For the first time, the Act enabled private players to enter the operations side of this critical sector as well as areas such as fuel management, which had remained under tight public-sector control for decades. Alongside the increased role for the private sector in nuclear plant operations, the deployment of imported Light Water Reactor-based projects, aided by foreign funding, are two outcomes in the wake of the passage of the new legislation, which opens up the possibility of more imported LWR-based nuclear projects of the kind that are being set up by the Russians in Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu. India is also keen to look at the possibility of the deployment of small modular reactors or SMRs.

The SHANTI law aims to transform the country's energy landscape. Private players will be allowed into opera-



tions and fuel management, accelerating capacity while breaking state monopoly. The focus on imported light water reactors and small modular reactors suggests a move towards next-generation technology that is simpler to finance and deploy. Although India's civil nuclear programme has expertise in manufacturing pressurised heavy water reactors — from 220MWe PHWRs to the new 700MWe reactors — an impediment of sorts for the country's nuclear establishment is its reactor technology. Based on heavy water and natural uranium, the PHWRs are a technology that India's nuclear establishment has a mastery over, but one that is increasingly out of sync with the LWRs that are now the most dominant reactor type across the world. The Americans, the Russians and the French are among the leaders in LWR technology. Also, India's dominant nuclear tech-no-logy — its main-stay PHWRs — has scalability issues.

The government's move to look outwards for col-lab-or-a-tions on nuclear is driven by two clear policy imperatives: the desperate need for base load alternat-ives to coal-fired capacity to tide over the lim-it-a-tions of renewables; and more import-antly, the external out-reach for nuclear col-lab-or-a-tions is driven more by the need for cap-ital than the need for tech-no-logy, a top government official had indicated ahead of the passage of the nuclear amendments. The SHANTI Act was passed amid Opposition's concern over allowing private players and changes in the liability regime, particularly the whittling down of provisions fixing responsibility on equipment suppliers in the event of a nuclear accident. This new Act replaced two earlier legislations — the Atomic Energy Act, 1962 (AE Act) and the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010 (CLNDA) — and effectively redrew the rules that govern India's nuclear power sector. From who can build and operate plants and how accident liability is capped, to the role of the safety regulator and the mechanisms for dispute resolution and compensation, all of these have been tweaked or changed.

Top 500 companies' profits grew 30% post Covid, but no investments: CEA

INDIA'S TOP economist on Saturday criticised the private sector asking it to reflect why it has been reluctant to invest, which in itself might have contributed to demand uncertainty. Addressing the second annual Isaac Centre for Public Policy Growth Conference organised by Ashoka University, Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran said, "Post Covid, if you look at BSE 500 or NSE 500 companies, corporate profits grew at 30.8% per annum. But still, our overall capital formation rates from the private sector have been disappointing." The CEA also warned about a more restrictive external environment and said India needed its own "answer" to Chinese and American laws that secure their supply chains and inward investments. He said global companies will find it "more and more difficult" to move out of China, and warned that India will have to "accept and be willing to work alongside" such a restrictive global environment. India Inc accumulating profits, not investing in real assets. According to the CEA, companies and second or third generation entrepreneurs "chose to accumulate those cash profits and probably set up family offices elsewhere rather than investing in real assets on the ground". This, he said, is something that warrants reflection from the private sector because even the regulatory environment has been improving at the margin at the state and Central level. The CEA said, "Corporates and the second or third generation entrepreneurs chose to accumulate those cash profits and probably set up family offices elsewhere rather than investing in real assets on the ground." Much of the nation building in developed countries happened not because of public policy alone, but also because the industry acted in national interest and found a fusion between their private interest and national interest, he said. "So, it's always easier to point a finger at the government but sometimes the gaze also has to be reversed on the part of the industry," Nageswaran said. The current juncture presented the private sector "a good reason to invest", with the gap between the Indian rupee and Chinese yuan's real effective exchange

rates (REER) closing, the CEA pointed out. This should make it relatively expensive to import from China and relatively inexpensive to export, everything else being equal, allowing the diversification of supply sources away from China. The Indian rupee hit a new all-time low of 95.34-per-dollar on Thursday after fresh concerns about the war in West Asia propelled global crude oil prices to a four-year high. The rupee is now down more than 4% since the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. The Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by India also give companies access to foreign markets while also exposing them to more competition. However, it is important Indian companies make use of these FTAs, he said. "One of the problems is the free trade agreement utilisation by India is very poor compared to other countries. So, the industry association and bodies have to do a much better job of talking about them," Nageswaran said. Commenting more broadly on the manufacturing sector, the CEA argued it has been able to maintain its share in the country's Gross Value Added at 17-18% in real terms "in the face of unprecedented competition from China". "So, it is not therefore a story of failure. It's probably a story of stability or stagnation, depending on the eye of the beholder." Use market access lever to attract companies "In Hotel California, you said you can check out but not leave. But China is saying you can neither check out nor leave," Nageswaran said on Saturday, referring to two directives issued in April: Regulations on the Security of Industrial and Supply Chains (Decree No. 834) and Regulations on Countering Foreign Improper Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (Decree No. 835). The two decrees allow foreign companies and executives to be penalised for trying to relocate their supply chains away from China in compliance with foreign directives and measures. Further, the decrees also try to counter what it called "improper extraterritorial jurisdiction measures" by a foreign country that endangers China's national sovereignty, security, and development interests and harms the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and organisations.

Air India pilot dies of heart attack hours after medical test: What triggers a cardiac episode without warning?



The death of an Air India first officer in Bali this week has unsettled far more than the aviation community. Here was a 40-year-old pilot, who was medically cleared pre-flight, operated within prescribed duty limits, completed an eight-hour flight, with no publicly known history of disease. He had checked into his hotel during a routine layover, complained of discomfort, had a heart attack and could not be revived despite being rushed to hospital. So how does someone pronounced fit enough to command an aircraft die of a cardiac event hours later? "The uncomfortable reality is that a heart attack comes like an earthquake, without prior notice, even in people who have every outward marker of health. An electrocardiogram (ECG) may appear normal in a resting state even when the arteries are blocked 70 per cent. So the plaque could rupture and blood would clot around it, creating a bigger block and triggering a heart attack. Besides, there could be an undiagnosed condition, a family history or other behaviour-induced risk factors like lack of sleep and stress, all of which can trigger a chain reaction," says Dr Ranjan Shetty, lead cardiologist and medical director, Sparsh Hospital, Bengaluru. Speaking to The Indian Express, he says, "Just tame your risk factors aggressively." Excerpts:

Can long-haul flying be a trigger if the patient has other risk factors?

The reduced air pressure and oxygen levels in the cabin can stress the heart, while dehydration causes blood to thicken, increasing the risk of clots. Dehydration alters electrolyte levels (potassium and sodium), which are crucial for maintaining a steady heart rhythm and may lead to irregular heart beats or arrhythmia. These electrical impulses could go awry and stop the heart suddenly, what we call sudden cardiac arrest. Long-haul flights of 8-10 hours increase the risk of deep vein thrombosis (DVT) which can lead to a pulmonary embolism (a clot traveling to the lungs).

Screen time linked to autism signs by age 3, says AIIMS study



ASD is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting brain development, characterised by persistent challenges in social communication, interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviors. ASD is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting brain development, characterised by persistent challenges in social communication, interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviors. (Image generated using AI) If you have been exposing your infant to colourful cartoons on devices, hoping they would be distracted and finish their meals, that screen time could affect their brain. A study by the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi has found that children exposed to higher screen time before the age of one were more likely to show signs of autism by the age of three.

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) not only showed earlier and more problematic digital media use than peers but also had higher rates of sleep problems and reduced physical activity. ASD is a neurodevelopmental condition affecting brain development, characterised by persistent challenges in social communication, interaction, and restricted or repetitive behaviors. It is considered a "spectrum" because symptoms, severity, and abilities vary widely, ranging from individuals needing significant support to those who are highly independent.

Dr Shefali Gulati, professor of paediatric neurology at AIIMS Delhi, said, "The findings will help us develop structured, ASD-specific screen-time guidelines and caregiver counselling norms. The study clearly shows that exposing

Besides, if a person already has unstable or vulnerable plaque, the physiological changes during flight can increase shear stress on vessel walls, leading to plaque rupture and subsequent heart attack. The risk of cardiovascular events, including potential ruptures, is highest 24-48 hours after arrival due to the body recovering from the stressors. Why a medical clearance is not a guarantee against sudden heart attack

Aviation medical examinations are designed to identify overt abnormalities — structural defects of the heart, uncontrolled hypertension, rhythm disorders or established disease serious enough to compromise operational safety. What they cannot always predict is the precise moment when an apparently stable cardiovascular system becomes unstable. Even an ECG only records about 10 seconds of electrical activity. If your heart receives adequate blood flow during those 10 seconds, the ECG will appear normal.

Why are younger people getting heart attacks despite leading disciplined lives?

Stress is one reason. Sometimes there is the cumulative physiological burden of sustained high-alert functioning. In professions such as aviation, the body often operates under a low but persistent elevation of stress hormones such as cortisol and adrenaline. Over time, these can promote inflammation, elevate blood pressure, and increase clotting tendency, all of which make vulnerable plaques more dangerous. Sleep disruption is another invisible accelerant. Even when duty rosters comply with regulations, circadian disruption exacts a biological cost. Irregular sleep triggers inflammation, destabilises blood pressure regulation and leads to wear and tear. Then there is dehydration, often underestimated in commercial flights. Reduced cabin humidity, irregular hydration patterns and post-flight fatigue can increase blood viscosity and impose additional stress on the cardiovascular system. Genetics may be the deepest hidden factor of all. A person may carry substantial inherited cardiac risk and not know about it because his parameters are within range.

What about prevention?

If leading a high stress life, go for calcium scoring to assess plaque deposits, continuous rhythm monitoring, and deeper family-history mapping. This will be alongside routine hypertension and blood lipid, kidney and liver function tests. Sometimes the heart offers no warning at all. It passes every test, performs every task demanded of it, and then, in the space between one ordinary hour and the next, fails. That's why regular monitoring of markers, lifestyle correction and sleep hygiene are a must.

infants to screens before 18 months can have consequences. Future research should track people over time, use brain scans and measure hormones like melatonin and dopamine to better understand how biological changes happen." Simultaneously, there should be emphasis on balanced digital exposure and physical activity. The AIIMS study was conducted on 250 children aged between three and six years, including 150 children with autism and 100 children with normal development milestones. They found that children with autism had higher scores for media addiction, lower scores for sleep and physical activity. The study is currently in the process of publication.

Dr Gulati said that previous international research also supports this association. "A large 2022 study in 'JAMA Paediatrics', involving over 84,000 mother-child pairs, found that longer screen time at one year of age was significantly associated with ASD at three years," she added. Multiple meta-analyses have similarly shown a strong association between early screen exposure (especially between ages 0 to 5 years) and increased likelihood of autism, with longer duration of screen time linked to higher risk. Dr Gulati said that screen time falls under environmental triggers of autism, alongside genetic and epigenetic or environmental influences. "Autism has a genetic basis with heritability patterns seen in twin studies, but environmental exposures such as pollution, pesticides, parental age, and lifestyle factors also play a role by influencing genes," she added.

Dr Gulati stressed that early identification is crucial. "Signs can be detected even in the first year of life, such as lack of eye contact, not responding to name, delayed speech, or loss of acquired language. Children with autism may also focus on some parts of a toy or item rather than playing with them. The term 'spectrum' means every child is different. Not all children show the same signs, and the severity also varies widely," she explained. She further argued for early screening and intervention because brain plasticity is highest in the first three years, leading to better outcomes. She pointed out that the prevalence of autism is rising globally. "Older Indian data suggested about one in 89 children, but newer international estimates, including recent CDC data, indicate much higher prevalence. The WHO estimates around 1 in 100 globally," she said.

Weight-loss drug semaglutide has a surprising benefit: It may help people drink less, says Lancet study

Dr Anoop Misra says GLP-1-based agents like semaglutide not only aid weight loss but may also reduce harmful alcohol consumption. (Photo generated using AI) Dr Anoop Misra says GLP-1-based agents like semaglutide not only aid weight loss but may also reduce harmful alcohol consumption. (Photo generated using AI) Semaglutide, the novel drug that regulates blood sugar and aids weight loss by mimicking a hormone that slows digestion, reduces appetite and increases fullness, can reduce alcohol consumption, too, according to a new study. The findings, which were based on analysis of people with obesity (body mass index of 30 or higher) and alcohol dependence, have been published in The Lancet.

"The results suggest that semaglutide not only affects appetite but also influences the biological mechanisms underlying addiction," says Professor Anders Fink-Jensen, principal investigator of the study from the Copenhagen Research Centre for Mental Health at Bispebjerg and Frederiksberg Hospital. "This opens the door to complementing existing treatments for alcohol use disorder with a GLP-1 receptor-targeted approach," he adds. Alcohol use disorder accounts for 5% of deaths worldwide annually, and there is an urgent need for new treatments. According to Prof Fink-Jensen, a lower price after patent expiration of semaglutide means that the drug can be accessed by

people with lower incomes. Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, Fortis C-DOC for Diabetes and Allied Sciences, concurs, saying the dual problems of obesity and alcohol misuse in India's urban and semi-urban areas are intersecting. "This new study highlights a promising therapeutic convergence: GLP-1-based agents like semaglutide not only aid weight loss but may also reduce harmful alcohol consumption," he adds. In this randomised clinical trial, 108 patients were assigned to receive either a weekly injection of semaglutide — in this case, Wegovy — or a placebo. Both groups also received psychotherapy targeting their alcohol use disorder. At baseline, participants reported an average of 17 heavy drinking days — defined as consuming at least 60 grams of alcohol for men and 48 grams for women — within the past 30 days. After six months, patients treated with semaglutide reduced their number of heavy drinking days to an average of five days per month, compared to nine days in the placebo group. The treatment was also associated with reduced overall alcohol consumption, more alcohol-free days, fewer drinks on drinking days and lower alcohol cravings. First author Mette Kruse Klausen explains that this is a patient group with a high disease burden and a substantial risk of both physical and mental complications. "Reducing the most harmful drinking pattern could make a meaningful difference for patients," he says.

R Ashwin on why Washington Sundar's 40* was key vs Punjab Kings: 'Addressed a key question around Gujarat Titans' middle order'



GNS News Agency, May 9

Former India player Ravichandran Ashwin lauded Washington Sundar's important cameo vs Punjab Kings on Sunday, saying that that innings has addressed some of the concerns that Gujarat Titans had about its middle order. The Titans have always relied heavily on their top 3 in Shubman Gill, Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler to score the bulk of their runs in the IPL but their middle order has more often than not failed to fire. Washington addressed some of these concerns after scoring 40 not out off 23 balls with

help of five fours and a six to help GT chase down 164 with a ball to spare. "Washington Sundar's innings was extremely important because it addressed a key question around Gujarat Titans' middle order. While a lot of their runs come from the top three, contributions like this show the depth they have. Washington has often been used as a flexible option, but he stepped up, handled the pressure well, and ensured the chase was completed. It might not have looked flashy, but it was a very composed and clinical effort to get the team over the line," Ashwin told JioStar after GT beat PBKS by five wickets.

Chasing targets like 164 can be tricky and what sets GT apart from other sides, is their methodical approach, based on conditions. "Gujarat Titans were once again incredibly composed in the way they approached the chase. Their batting may not always look explosive, but it's highly methodical and built around understanding conditions. On pitches like these, where 160-170 is a competitive score, it is about controlling the game and executing your plans rather than chasing big numbers. They have shown remarkable consistency over the years with this approach, and credit goes to both, the management and the players, for sticking to their process and getting the job done under pressure," Ashwin said.

Jannik Sinner surpasses record held by Roger Federer, Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal with Madrid Open win

GNS News Agency, May 9

Jannik Sinner's comprehensive straight-sets win over Alexander Zverev helped him clinch his first Madrid Open title and thus do something that not even the Big 3 of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic were able to do over the course of their illustrious careers. Sinner has become the first man to win five successive Masters 1000 titles. He has also become the first man to win all of the first four Masters events of a season, having earlier taken the titles at Indian Wells, Miami and Monte Carlo. Before these, he had won the Paris Masters last year. His success thus spans both hard and clay courts. He was earlier level with Djokovic, Federer and Nadal for having won four Masters 1000 titles in a row across seasons.

Sinner had made history before winning the title itself. His 6-2, 6-4 win over Arthur Fils made him just the fourth and youngest man to reach final of all nine ATP Masters 1000 events, after the Big 3 themselves. On Sunday, he beat Zverev 6-1, 6-2 in a match that lasted just 57 minutes to achieve the milestone. It was Sinner's 10th win in 14 meetings with Zverev and his ninth in a row since the German last beat him at the 2023 US Open. Across that nine-match sequence, Zverev has managed only two sets. Sinner raced through the Madrid final, turning a marquee contest into a one-sided affair and leaving little doubt about the current balance of power at the top of the sport. The Italian,



who has won four Grand Slam titles thus far, set the tone early, opening with an ace and two unreturnable serves. He broke Zverev in the second game and surged to a 3-0 lead, striking the ball cleanly off the clay as the German struggled to find his rhythm. After breaking serve again to lead 4-0, Sinner had conceded just five points through the opening five games. Zverev briefly held to make it 5-1, but Sinner closed out the set with an ace after 25 minutes. The second set offered only fleeting resistance. After both players held serve early on, Sinner broke in the third game following another Zverev unforced error and never looked back. He moved comfortably to 4-2 before breaking again and then served out the match without difficulty to complete the rout.

RCB's Phil Salt returns to England for scans on his finger



GNS News Agency, May 9

Royal Challengers Bengaluru were dealt with a blow as their campaign to retain their IPL title heats up. Oponer Phil Salt has returned to England for scans on his finger after he sustained an injury on it last month. The finger injury has prevented the batter from joining Virat Kohli as the team's opener in RCB's three previous games. This has allowed his England teammate Jacob Bethell to step in at the top of the order.

The 29-year-old opener from England apparently damaged a finger on his left hand while diving to save a boundary at deep backward square leg during RCB's defeat to Delhi Capitals at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on April 18. "Salt, who is centrally contracted by the ECB, has since returned home at the request of England's management and has undergone scans on his finger," ESPNcricinfo reported.

The news report states that RCB and the player believe that the opener can make a speedy recovery and could be back in India as early as later this month so that he can be available for the business end of the league. Despite Bethell replacing him in Royal Challengers Bengaluru ranks, Salt's absence has ranked for the team, particularly since he scored 202 runs in his six innings at a strike rate of 168.33. Salt is the fourth highest run-scorer this season despite missing out on multiple games. He's behind Kohli (379 runs), Devdutt Paddikal (282) and team captain Rajat Patidar (257 runs). Bengaluru, who lost their previous game to Gujarat Titans and will take on Lucknow Super Giants on Thursday, are currently in second spot in the IPL points table. While RCB are just one point behind IPL league leaders Punjab Kings, there are three more teams on 12 points, making the race for the playoffs a tight affair.

Jason Holder reveals desire for return to Test cricket amid IPL heroics: 'Haven't closed that chapter...'

GNS News Agency, May 9

Gujarat Titans took their time getting Jason Holder in as a regular in their playing eleven this season and the senior all-rounder has been pivotal to their recent upturn in fortunes. Holder took four wickets for 24 runs on Sunday as GT beat table-toppers Punjab Kings and thus managed their third consecutive win. Before that, he took two wickets for 29 runs against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, in addition to taking a slew of important catches. Holder's success on Sunday in particular could be in part attributed to him hitting the good length consistently despite batters looking to hit every ball out of the park, something that is a byproduct of a long and successful career in Test cricket.

Holder, who captained West Indies in 37 Test matches between 2015 and 2020, and was rated as the best all-rounder in the world at various points during this period, said after the game on Sunday that he still hasn't closed the doors on the format. "Fair to say that, last year and a half I have only played T20 cricket, haven't played Test cricket. I would love to still play some Test-match cricket," he said. "I haven't yet closed that chapter."

Holder's last Test match came in August 2024 against South Africa. He last played first class cricket in a domestic game for Barbados in March 2025. In 69 Tests, Holder has taken 162 wickets thus far and scored 3073 runs at an average of 29.83 with three centuries and 14 half-centuries. He has also played 138 ODIs in which he took 159 wickets and scored 2237 runs. T20Is remain the only format in which Holder still plays in every game that the West Indies plays and he has taken 108 wickets in 96 matches. Holder has also scored 888 T20I runs at a strike rate of



Gujarat Titans took their time getting Jason Holder in as a regular in their playing eleven this season and the senior all-rounder has been pivotal to their recent upturn in fortunes. Holder took four wickets for 24 runs on Sunday as GT beat table-toppers Punjab Kings and thus managed their third consecutive win.

140.06. In the four matches that Holder has played thus far in the 2026 IPL, he has taken seven wickets and boasts an economy of 6.94. He is yet to show his full range of skills as a batter though, having scored 40 runs in three innings at a strike rate of 148.14. Holder said that he was disappointed that he couldn't finish the last two matches for GT with the bat. "I am probably a little disappointed that I didn't finish the last two games," Holder said. "But I am still in a good frame of mind. That's the most important thing for me. Just keeping a fresh mind, staying positive, understanding my role, and just trying to execute when called upon. Just try to make an impact and execute as well as I can under pressure."

Why RCB, Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings at the IPL make a difference to merch vendors



in Mumbai.

A few metres away, another vendor, Imran 46, travels from Ghaziabad during the season, says the earnings are not guaranteed. "Some days we sell 20, some days 50. It depends on the match and the crowd. Weekend matches are better." He says, indicating to the pile of unsold jerseys because of a weekday match. "People come, ask the price and leave. Many already have branded jerseys or jerseys bought earlier when they arrive," he says. A vendor who sells team jerseys for anything between Rs 200 to Rs 250. (Photo: Navya Dua) A vendor who sells team jerseys for anything between Rs 200 to Rs 250. For 24-year-old Rohit Kumar, the work is temporary. A resident of Seelampur, he works at a garment shop the rest of the year, stitching and packing clothes. "During the IPL, I take time out to come here," he says. "From this we can earn money faster but this job is not steady. After the matches, I go back to my regular work. You cannot depend on this for the whole year."

The vendors arrive early morning to secure a spot near the stadium, but where they sit is often negotiated. "We are not allowed on the main road. The police ask us to move to the side because of the crowd," says Maahi. Most vendors operate without formal licences, relying on the turnout outside the stadium rather than access to licensed selling spaces, which are often inside the stadium. They rely usually on last-minute buyers – those who arrive without team colours but want to be a part of the crowd. "Some people don't want to spend too much. They just want something for the match," says Imran. As the evening goes by, the difference between those entering the stadium and those waiting outside become sharper. Groups of fans, many already in branded jerseys, walk past without stopping, while others pause briefly, bargain and move on. Nineteen-year-old college student Aditya Sharma, who is attending the match with his friends, says he chose to buy the jersey here, outside the stadium. "Branded ones are too expensive. Here you can get something for Rs 200-300. It's good for one match," he says. For vendors, the sale is less about impulse, more about survival. "We sit the whole day for this," says Imran. "If the match is not between popular teams or if the crowd is less, then we get nothing." By the time the match begins and the crowd lessens, the pace slows down. Some vendors pack up early, while others wait for the post-match rush. The outcome, they say, is rarely certain. "Some days it works, some days it doesn't," says Maahi, folding unsold jerseys back into her bag as the first cheers from inside the stadium start rising. "But, we come with hope for every match," she says.

Outside the Arun Jaitley Stadium in Delhi, the evening builds gradually. It's April 27 and chants of "RCB, RCB" rise from groups of supporters as they spill out of autos and the Delhi Metro. Between the sea of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Delhi Capitals jerseys at entry gates, along the pavement is a parallel economy. There are blue plastic sheets spread on the concrete path, jerseys and caps in neat piles while some are draped on shoulders as a waking advertisement. It's a market that depends on these ardent, exuberant crowds, who have paid anywhere from Rs 1,400 to Rs over 2,500 for a ticket, but their margins as merch vendors are way narrower.

For 28-year-old Maahi, who has been selling jerseys for nearly 10 years, the cricket leagues remain the most reliable period of business in the year. "If it's a good match, I can earn Rs 2,000-3,000," she says, arranging a stack of RCB jerseys. Originally from Bihar, she moved to Delhi after her marriage about 12 years ago. "My husband does not get paid regularly. So this helps run the house" she says. "There is a lot of hard work, but not much profit." She sources the jerseys from Mumbai at around Rs 160 a piece and sells them for Rs 200 to Rs 250, depending on demand. On days when popular teams such as RCB, Mumbai Indians, Chennai Super Kings play, she is able to sell about 40 to 50 pieces. Unsold stock, she says, is returned to the supplier

Sai Sudharsan breaks Chris Gayle's 13-year-old record en route to powering GT's neryv win over PBKS

Sai Sudharsan's 57 in 41 balls ended up playing a crucial role in Gujarat Titans' neryv win over Punjab Kings in the 2026 Indian Premier League (IPL) match on Monday. In the process, 24-year-old GT opener ended up breaking a record that has been held by West Indies legend Chris Gayle for 13 years. This was Sudharsan's 50th innings in the IPL and he ended the night with a career tally of 2178 runs in the tournament. This makes him the batter with the most runs after his first 50 innings in the IPL, surpassing Gayle's 2061 runs in his first 50 innings. Earlier this season, Sudharsan had broken Gayle's record and became the fastest batter to reach 2000 career runs in the IPL. Sudharsan got there in 47 innings while Gayle took 48.

Sudharsan has grown to be an integral part of GT's plans since making his IPL debut for them in 2022. Last season, he scored a whopping 759 runs in 15 innings at a strike rate of 156.17 and average of 54.21 with a century and six half-centuries. This year, he has scored 385 runs thus far in 10 innings with a strike rate of 158.43 at 38.50 with a century and three half-centuries. While GT had a somewhat shaky start, things seem to now be falling in place for them as the race for the playoffs heats up. The victory against Punjab Kings was their third consecutive win and



importantly, it was against a side who had suffered their first loss of the season only in their previous match. Jason Holder led the way with figures of 4/24 as he and fellow fast bowlers Mohammed Siraj (2/28) and Kagiso Rabada (2/22) restricted the mighty PBKS batting lineup to a score of 163/9. Sudharsan lost opening partner and captain Shubman Gill early and it was a rather scruffy stand with Jos Buttler for the rest of the powerplay. He eventually fell to Vijaykumar Vyshak in the 15th over. However, Washington Sundar's unbeaten 40 in 23 balls powered GT to victory.

Understand the art of batting by watching Kohli: Bethell

Hyderabad: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Jacob Bethell continues to grow in confidence and stature. Currently in his second year with the franchise, the 23-year-old from England reflected on his journey from Barbados, adapting to the IPL's intensity, and learning from senior figures within the setup. On his journey, Bethell reflected, "I grew up in Barbados, always with a bat and ball. Around 10-12, I started taking it seriously. I moved to England for school, progressed to Warwickshire, and signed my first contract in 2021. A stress fracture set me back, but I came back strong, earned an England call-up, and then arrived in Bengaluru."

On the spotlight around him, Bethell said: "The lime-light is a funny thing, life is still the same, but when people want to watch you play, it's a privilege. I don't know how many people in India would be calling me Starboy. It's pretty incredible." On adapting to the IPL, Bethell noted: "When I got to RCB, I was curious about the experience. Watching Virat, Rajat, and speaking to DK, I realised the game shifts here. It's played at a high tempo; you have to be aggressive and brave."

On learning from Virat Kohli, he observed: "Watching Virat chase, you understand the art of batting, how to control a chase and stay not out. It's about shifting gears based on the situation." On the cricket culture in India, Bethell shared: "People here love talking about cricket. It's more hands-on, with more information shared. The passion and volume of cricket at a young age is incredible." On working with the coaching group, he remarked: "Andy observes and speaks only when needed; you listen when he does. DK is excellent at spotting things and identifying scoring areas quickly."

On his approach to the IPL, Bethell emphasised: "I wanted to be better than last year. Whether you play a few games or many, it's about hunger. This is the marquee tournament, if you don't improve here, when will you?" On playing in front of RCB fans, he recalled: "Walking out with Virat, hearing the crowd, it was loud. You have to stay completely switched on." Head Coach Andy Flower also underlined Bethell's potential, he said: "My first sight of Bethell was in the Under-19 World Cup, a very talented batsman with real flair. We targeted him straight away. He's got a mature cricketing brain and won't be cowed or bullied by anyone, which is a trait you see in top players. One of the key skills at this level is filtering information well, and he does that exceptionally. The IPL and RCB environment will stand him in really good stead, I expect great things from him."



He's ready not just to compete with the best, but to thrive in that company."

Marta Kostyuk wins maiden WTA 1000 title, rises to career-high World No. 15

Madrid: Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk scripted the biggest moment of her career by clinching her maiden WTA 1000 title, capping a dominant run on clay and surging to a new career-high ranking of World No. 15 in the latest WTA Rankings. Kostyuk, who dropped just one set through the tournament, continues a strong 2026 season after earlier reaching the Brisbane final. Her Madrid triumph marks her third career title and second consecutive crown, underlining a resurgence following an injury-disrupted start to the year. Notably, she now boasts five Top 10 wins this season, putting her level with Aryna Sabalenka and just behind Elena Rybakina in that metric. Teen sensation Mirra Andreeva also enjoyed a significant boost, rising to World No. 7 after finishing runner-up in Madrid, her third WTA 1000 final and first on clay. Meanwhile, Iga Swiatek climbed back into the Top 3 despite an early exit due to illness. Several players broke new ground with career-best rankings following impressive performances. American Hailey Baptiste climbed to No. 25 after reaching the semifinals, highlighted by a stunning upset of World No. 1 Sabalenka in which she saved six match points. Romania's Jaqueline Cristian rose to No. 29.

Divyenndu's Mirzapur character was more 'constructed', his Glory role is based on me: Karan Anshuman



ages upon returning to their hometown after the tragic murder of their sister. Conventional wisdom would suggest they'd rush and embrace each other tightly. But Haryana machismo doesn't allow as much as even an eye contact. "I've always been fond of Divyenndu's work. Our way of working is very different. But it was exciting because I know what all he's done and the level to which he can perform. So, I was a little skeptical if I'd be able to match up to him," confesses Pulkit. "I didn't know him personally at all. So, the comfort came from him. The entire brother dynamic we have on the show, it all came from him. He held my hand at so many places during rehearsals and workshops that it didn't feel like we were performing. It just felt like we're being Divyenndu and Pulkit trying to be Ravi and Dev," he adds. Both Divyenndu and Pulkit agree that it was while exploring Bhiwani in Haryana together that they came close to understanding each other as actors and people. "We were lucky to be in a space where we could both just like each other's energies and vibes, and not be insecure of each other's standing. It's very easy to like Pulkit. He's a very nice chap, and comes with a very open heart," chimes in Divyenndu.

Pulkit's streaming debut Pulkit's first job in Mumbai was playing Lakshya Virani in Ekta Kapoor's popular daily soap Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi back in 2005. After quitting the show two years later (and being replaced by Yash Pandit), it took Pulkit five years to debut in Bollywood with the flop comedy Bittoo Boss. In fact, it's only his second release, Mrighadeep Singh Lamba's buddy comedy Fukrey (2013) and its two follow-ups that have secured Pulkit box office success across his 14 years as a lead actor, all the way up to Rahu Ketu earlier this year, in which he reunited with Fukrey's Choocha, Varun Sharma. After a couple of cameos as Sarfaraz Khan in the two seasons of Prime Video India's popular show Made in Heaven, Pulkit has finally made his streaming debut with Glory. Between his two long-format outings — Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi and Glory — the world has changed, and so has the storytelling, at least on OTT. Pulkit confesses he relied on both Divyenndu and Karan Anshuman for tracing his arc across seven episodes of content. "In films, you have about roughly two to two-and-a-half hours of journey. In a series, I had to explore a character from episode 1 to episode 7, and by God's grace, season 2. I have never worked on an arc like that and how to hold a character for so long. So, I used to ask these guys how to design a character arc on a streaming platform because they've been so successful at it," says Pulkit. But he admits his first job also taught him the very basics. "TV taught me what happens behind the camera. I was very excited to see different lenses, how to catch the line and reach the mark. Because I never assisted or got a formal training in acting. That's where I learnt a lot," adds Pulkit. As they sign off, Karan concludes Pulkit's journey with a signature zany one-liner, "You've come from the idiot box to the boxing ring."

Nine years after coming up with Prime Video India's maiden streaming show Inside Edge, creator Karan Anshuman is now back in a sports arena. This time, it's not as glitzy and popular as Indian Premier League, but raw, rooted, and messy like a boxing match. With Glory, streaming on Netflix India, Karan traverses the familiar turf of a thriller, long-format storytelling, and sports, but a new terrain of boxing as the background. To balance the old with the new, he also roped in actors with whom he's worked in the past — Divyenndu (Mirzapur), Pulkit Samrat (Bangistan), and Sayani Gupta (Inside Edge). Divyenndu plays Dev, a volatile former boxer who's ready to enter into a street fight at the drop of a hat. But Karan claims that he wasn't concerned about the character being compared to Munna Bhaiya, a similar hot-headed one the actor plays in Prime Video India's popular thriller show Mirzapur.

"This is a very different character because at the heart of it, he's a good person," Karan tells SCREEN in an exclusive interview. "Dev comes from me. At the time of shoot also, we started looking similar. My hair also grew as long. I was also a brash, rebellious guy on set. I put a lot of myself into that character. And I don't think it's necessarily true of someone like Munna Bhaiya for example. That was a very constructed character. This has come very much from my heart. That starting point itself separates anything we've done before," adds the director. How Pulkit and Divyenndu broke the ice? The unfamiliar equation in Glory was between the two leads — Divyenndu and Pulkit Samrat. They play brothers, but with the "love language of Haryana", as the former puts it. Even in their first scene together, the two reunite after

Kapil Sharma warned Samay Raina 24 hours before India's Got Latent row: 'Something bad's going to happen'



When Ranveer asked Kapil if he had watched any episodes from India's Got Latent, he replied, "I have watched many episodes. I even called Samay. I called and told him, 'How is there not a single case against you?'" Samay added, "And I swear, the day my show shut down, sir called me a day before that, he told me something bad is going to happen to you." "I told him that you're in the limelight now, be careful. I was telling that from experience, I'm not a clairvoyant. You can be famous by saying anything, but once you're famous, you can't just say anything," the host said, pointing out how he has also faced legal cases because of the content of his jokes and his late night tweets. Both Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahbadia's lives changed dramatically overnight in February last year. The controversy led to many personal, professional, legal and financial issues for them. Recalling the difficult moment, Samay shared, "Genuinely, Kapil sir was the first person to call me at that time. I still don't know whether it was concern or an insult. He said, 'Samay, just like your good days got over, your bad days will be over soon too'." The YouTuber continued, "We were waiting for something to happen. Kapil sir also stopped tweeting around then. The first couple of weeks were so quiet. Udit Narayan also stopped kissing people," leaving everyone laughing uncontrollably. During the episode, Ranveer Allahbadia sparked a controversy on Samay Raina's show by asking a contestant if they would rather watch their parents have sex every day or join in once to make it stop. The vulgar and obscene remark led to intense backlash and legal disputes for everyone involved in that episode. After multiple FIRs, Samay was forced to take down all the videos of his famous show, India's Got Latent, from his YouTube channel. Despite the huge fallout, Samay and Ranveer reunited on The Great Indian Kapil Show. The episode is now streaming on Netflix.

Netflix's The Great Indian Kapil Show's much-awaited special episode, featuring Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahbadia as guests, finally released on Saturday. This marks the YouTuber and the podcaster's first appearance together, after the India's Got Latent row that left them both dealing with legal issues and a pause on their careers. Host Kapil Sharma and the duo left everyone in splits with their digs at each other. In the episode, Samay recalled getting a warning call from the Kapil, a day before the controversy erupted. He also revealed that the comedian-actor was the first person to call him right after it all started.

Kriti Kharbanda's surprise hug melts Pulkit Samrat's heart

Mumbai: Actor Pulkit Samrat received an adorable surprise from his better half, Kriti Kharbanda. On Monday, the 'Veerey Ki Wedding' actress took to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle and published a short clip of giving a warm hug to Pulkit. Along with the heart-melting clip, Kriti also dropped a sweet message for the 'Fukrey' actor, saying, "The most wonderful boy deserves the tightest hugs! (sic)." Reciprocating the love, Pulkit also re-shared the post on his handle and wrote, "This hug calms the storms within!" Talking about their love journey, Pulkit and Kriti first met on the sets of the 2019 drama 'Pagalpanti'. Their friendship soon turned into something more, and after dating for some time, the lovebirds finally tied the knot on March 15, 2024, in an intimate wedding in Manesar, Haryana, in the presence of close family and friends. For those who do not know, this is Pulkit's second marriage. He was earlier married to Shweta Rohira. However, the couple got separated within just 11 months of getting married. On the professional front, Pulkit has been receiving a lot of praise

for his recent appearance in the sports drama, "Glory". Pulkit revealed that he feels that he'll know he's achieved 'glory' when people stop comparing him to others. When people stop comparing me with others and start comparing others with me, I think that is where I will say that I have achieved glory, Pulkit said. He added that it would be nice if people finally appreciated his work. I guess, doing the kind of work I am happy doing, if people appreciate it, that would be nice, shared Pulkit. "Glory", which premiered on Netflix on May 1, also stars Suvinder Vicky, Divyenndu, Jannat Zubair, Ashutosh Rana, Sikandar Kher, Kunal Thakur, Sayani Gupta, Yashpal Sharma, and Kashmira Pardeshi in crucial roles.



Kangana Ranaut offered to marry Rahul Gandhi if he joins BJP? Actor reacts to viral post



The page did not stop there and took to the description box to emphasise that Kangana Ranaut had actually passed the remarks. Mentioning that Kangana had drawn attention on social media once again with a "bold and slightly unexpected remark," Naughtyworld affirmed that she "reportedly said she would 'marry' Rahul Gandhi if he joins the BJP." The page added, "The comment quickly went viral across social media, with people debating whether it was sarcasm, a political dig, or just classic Kangana-style drama." However, the actor-politician, who currently serves as an MP in the Lok Sabha, representing the Mandi constituency in Himachal Pradesh as a BJP member, did not let the so-called "meme" go unchallenged. Taking to her Instagram stories, Kangana called out the post, which she found distasteful, and the page that created it.

An Instagram meme page recently stated that Kangana Ranaut had offered to marry Rahul Gandhi if he joined the BJP. An Instagram meme page recently stated that Kangana Ranaut had offered to marry Rahul Gandhi if he joined the BJP. She also pointed out that this was just another instance of women being disrespected in public, no matter their position. "How pathetic is this fake news. No dignity for women even in politics. Shame on those who are spreading these fake news," she wrote. Just a few weeks ago, Kangana Ranaut had made some sharp attacks on Rahul Gandhi. Slamming him for his alleged behaviour with other MPs, she told news agency ANI in March, "We, the women, get very uncomfortable seeing the way he (Rahul Gandhi) conducts himself. He walks in like a 'tapori' (rowdy) and heckles those giving interviews. He should see his sister's conduct and behaviour, which is very good. Rahul Gandhi himself is a shame." As usual, her comments stirred controversy and politicians like Supriya Shrinete, Priyanka Chaturvedi, Uday Bhanu Chib, and Sukhdeo Bhagat slammed her for them. Subsequently, she doubled down and defended her remarks. Maintaining that she harbours "respect for everybody," Kangana stated that it didn't mean she had to glorify the Leader of the Opposition's stature.

"I have respect for everybody. But I cannot pretend unnecessarily to put a crown on his head, which he doesn't deserve. Why should I glorify him? Is that the standard of opposition that we are setting and the standard of conduct that we're talking about? In Mumbai, a tapori is someone who may not have the formal etiquette," she told the news agency. Disclaimer: This information is based on unverified social media claims and does not constitute official statements or verified news. Readers are encouraged to exercise discretion when consuming content originating from viral social media sources.

Kangana Ranaut recently tore into a social media meme page that peddled alleged misinformation about her, calling one of its posts problematic and derogatory. Kangana Ranaut slams an Instagram meme page for spreading fake news about her marriage offer to Rahul Gandhi. (Credit: Facebook/@KanganaRanaut, @rahulgandhi) Be it in Bollywood or the political domain, Kangana Ranaut has never shied away from speaking her mind, nor has she minced words when calling out those she believes are against her. The actor-politician recently tore into a social media meme page that peddled misinformation about her, calling one of its posts problematic and derogatory.

On Sunday, April 3, an Instagram meme page called Naughtyworld shared a post falsely attributing certain remarks to Kangana that she apparently never made. The post mentioned that the actor-politician had offered to marry Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rae Bareilly Congress MP, if he jumped ship to the BJP. "Agar Rahul Gandhi BJP join karenge toh mein use shaadi karne ke liye tayar hoon (If Rahul Gandhi joins the BJP, I am ready to marry him)," she was quoted as saying.

Farah Khan's family once owned Mumbai's Khar-Danda area before donating it; she recalls growing up 'a pauper'

We have all heard stories about Farah Khan—born into a film family, yet far removed from its glamour until she carved her own path in the industry. Despite being the daughter of Meneka Irani (sister of Daisy Irani and Honey Irani), and filmmaker Kamran Khan, Farah grew up in poverty after her father gambled away his earnings, home, and property on the 1971 film Aisa Bhi Hota Hai. Within a single weekend of its release, the family was pushed into severe financial debt. What's lesser known is that even before this downfall, Farah's grandfather, Aman Gul Pathan, once owned vast property in Khar West. However, he donated the entire estate to a mosque. After his passing, the land was gradually encroached upon, leaving the family with no ownership.

Farah recently visited composer Ismail Darbar, who shares a warm bond with her despite not meeting often. Crediting her upbringing and grandparents—whom he had once met—he praised her as one of the nicest people he knows. During their conversation, Darbar reflected on his past, saying he understood "God's gestures" well, recalling his days in Amal Gul's Pathan Chawl.

"I understand his gestures very well. I lived in Amal Gul's Pathan Chawl," said Ismail Darbar.

A surprised Farah revealed that the entire Khar-Danda area once belonged to her grandfather. Turning to Zaid Darbar, she remarked that few people know this part of her history. She added that her grandfather had donated the land to a mosque, and over time, it was encroached upon and lost. In a lighter moment, she even joked: "He died and it was all gone. Is there any government policy to claim it back?" Earlier, in a conversation with Ranveer Allahbadia, Farah had opened up about her family's financial collapse. "We became paupers. I am not a nepo kid. My dad died a pauper. When he died, he had Rs 30 in his pocket," she shared. She also recalled the emotional toll of those years, saying that as evening fell, fear would set in, knowing her



father's struggles with alcohol could lead to anything during the night. What began as a story of success quickly turned into "riches to rags," triggered by her father's ambition to produce a bigger, colour film—ultimately costing them everything. Farah's journey, however, didn't end there. She rebuilt her life from the ground up—starting as a background dancer, then moving on to become an assistant, a celebrated choreographer, and eventually a successful filmmaker. Today, she continues to connect with audiences through her popular YouTube vlogs, adding yet another chapter to her remarkable story of resilience. Disclaimer: This article touches upon themes of significant financial hardship, family loss, and struggles with addiction. While these narratives highlight resilience and personal growth, they are shared for editorial and storytelling purposes and should not be taken as professional financial or medical advice.

Namitha Pramod reveals reasons behind shutting down her T-shirt brand Peprikka India

Film stars turning entrepreneurs isn't news. In fact, most celebrities have either invested in other firms or launched their own, viewing such moves as sound business strategies. From Shah Rukh Khan's Red Chillies Entertainment and his son Aryan Khan's D'YAVOL X, to Deepika Padukone's 82°E, Katrina Kaif's Kay Beauty, and Hrithik Roshan's HRX, there are many examples of this phenomenon. Malayalam actor Namitha Pramod is also among the many actor-turned-entrepreneurs in Indian cinema.

Who is Namitha Pramod? Namitha Pramod made her acting debut at the age of 15 in director Rajesh Pillai's Traffic (2011), widely regarded as the movie that changed the course of a stagnant Malayalam cinema and ushered in a new era marked by modern narrative and cinematic techniques.

Namitha subsequently rose to fame, appearing in several notable films such as Dulquer Salmaan's Vikramadithyan, Prithviraj Sukumaran-Jayasurya-Indrajith Sukumaran trio's Amar Akbar Anthony, Kunchacko Boban's Pullipulikalum Aattinkuttiyum and Law Point, Nivin Pauly's Puthiya Theerangal, and Dileep's Sound Thoma, Villai Veeran, Chandrethan Evidaya and Kammara Sambhavam, among others. Her role in Adi Kapyare Kootamani also earned her significant appreciation. However, Namitha's career

has been on the decline for the past few years. Not only has she not had a bona fide box office success since Adi Kapyare Kootamani (2015), but the number of movies coming her way has also dipped dramatically, affecting her market value in turn. Namitha Pramod business ventures

Nonetheless, much like any other savvy celebrity, Namitha Pramod has also turned to entrepreneurship, making a better name for herself as a businessperson than she earned as an artist. In Panampilly Nagar, Kochi, she runs a vintage café named Summer Town Cafe, which is a hit, particularly among youngsters. In the meantime, she also launched a T-shirt brand called Peprikka India. Unfortunately, it did not work out and incurred losses. The actor recently opened up about shutting down the enterprise and the factors that contributed to it.

ICYMI | Patriot worldwide box office collection day 3: Mammooty-Mohanlal's film dips in India, but overseas earnings propel it to Rs 64 cr! I started a clothing business focusing on T-shirts, but it didn't work out, so I closed it. If a business is running at a loss and you don't see a bright future for it, it's better to shut it down than continue investing in it. Instead of wasting money and making things worse, you should close it as soon as you realise things are going wrong. Then you can think about the next step," she shared during an interview with Reporter Business.