

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Address loopholes in banking system

The alarming rise in cybercrimes in India poses a serious threat to security and economy. Two recent cases of digital heist—the Rs 20-crore crypto con in Ludhiana and the Rs 22.9-crore digital arrest scam in Delhi—highlight the seriousness of the modern menace and the urgent need to reform cyber laws to check such frauds. They also expose lapses in the banking system and its surveillance mechanism. From celebrities, industrialists and politicians to retired professionals and homemakers, every section has become vulnerable to scams being perpetrated by online fraudsters using sophisticated technology tools. According to one estimate, people in India are losing nearly Rs 1.5 lakh to cyber criminals every minute. Strengthening critical infrastructure, fortifying technology, skills, regulations and increasing public awareness hold the key to preventing cybercrimes.

Cyber fraud refers to deceptive activities carried out through digital platforms such as unauthorised access, data theft, or online scams, which are often intended to cause financial loss to victims. The modus operandi of the fraudsters indicates that India's cybercrime is becoming increasingly sophisticated, systemic and scalable, making it difficult for the authorities to keep pace with them. In the Ludhiana case, an industrialist was lured through a fake crypto ecosystem and drained of Rs 19.84 crore, routed through 76 forged accounts across 15 banks. In the digital arrest case in the national capital, fraudsters impersonating law enforcement officials weaponised fear, isolating the victim, coercing compliance and extracting Rs 22.9 crore through staged urgency and intimidation.

Summer Camps Offer Many Benefits for Children

— Says Former Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy



“UPPAL, MAY 02(INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Former Uppal Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy stated that summer camps provide numerous benefits for children. She said that through summer camps, children can gain knowledge, enjoyment, and overall development.”Rajitha Parameshwar Reddy attended the CBC Summer Camp held at Beersheba AG Church in Uppal as the chief guest. On this occasion, she addressed the children participating in the camp. She mentioned that such camps help children develop new skills. In addition, they enhance creativity, self-confidence, and independence.”She also emphasized that one of the most important benefits is the reduction in screen time. By staying away from televisions and mobile phones at home, children can experience many positive changes.”During the event, prizes and certificates were distributed to children who showed talent in various fields. Prabhakar and Salla Prabhakar Reddy were also present at the program.”

Main Wall Issue in Sriram Colony Resolved by Ramanthapur Division Congress President Mohammed Rafiq



“UPPAL, MAY 02(INDIAN CHRONICAL):“The long-pending main wall issue in Street No. 15 of Sriram Colony, Ramanthapur, which had been troubling residents for years, has now been completely resolved. Demonstrating his commitment to public welfare, Ramanthapur Division Congress Party President Mohammed Rafiq personally visited the site and coordinated with officials to ensure the work was completed efficiently.”By taking direct action, he sent a strong message to the authorities who had previously neglected the issue. Once again, Mohammed Rafiq proved that he is a true leader who fights for the rights of the people.”Not just words... but action speaks. No compromise on public issues... the fight will continue until they are resolved,” he stated.

Welfare Schemes Must Reach People at the Grassroots Level: Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy



“Wanaparthy correspondent, Saturday 2, (Indian Chronicle):“State Sports Authority Chairman K. Shivasena Reddy said that the government's welfare schemes must effectively reach all eligible beneficiaries at the grassroots level. He was speaking at a constituency-level meeting held at Dacha Lakshmaiah Function Hall in Wanaparthy town as part of the “Praja Palana Pragati Pranali” program. The event was attended by State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Dr. Jillela Chinna Reddy, local MLA Tudi Megha Reddy, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Khimya Nayak, ZP CEO Yadaiah, Municipal Chairperson Madhavi, and other public representatives and officials. The program began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the Telangana song and a reading of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's message. Officials also presented details of beneficiaries receiving welfare schemes in the constituency. Addressing the gathering, Shivasena Reddy urged people to utilize government schemes and approach officials with their concerns. He stated that the Praja Palana initiative aims to ensure transparent and accountable governance. However, he noted



that many schemes are not fully reaching people at the grassroots level and called on officials to improve awareness and implementation.”He highlighted that the government is prioritizing women's welfare, with interest-free loans worth ₹14 crore being provided to women's groups in Wanaparthy constituency. He also directed officials to visit villages and educate farmers and the public about various schemes. Shivasena Reddy announced that sports grounds will be developed in villages and that cricket kits will soon be distributed to encourage youth participation. He reiterated the government's commitment to delivering all promised welfare benefits and advised people to directly approach officials if they have not received them. He further stated that the government is planning to introduce a family insurance scheme across the state and is establishing advanced training centers to create employment opportunities for youth. The meeting was attended by RDO Subrahmanyam, Municipal Vice Chairman Madhusudan Goud, Peberu Vice Chairperson Sumitra, Market Committee Chairperson Pramodini, CPO Harikrishna, DRDO Umadevi, and other officials and public representatives.

Major Development Boost for Parks in Chilkanagar and Beerappagadda Divisions



Former Corporator Bannala Geetha Praveen—Inspection of Development Works at Balaji Enclave and Raghavendra Nagar Colony Parks”

UPPAL, MAY 02 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):“Former Corporator of Chilkanagar Division and GHMC Standing Committee Member, Bannala Geetha Praveen Mudiraj, on Saturday inspected the ongoing development works in the

parks located in Balaji Enclave and Raghavendra Nagar Colony along with officials from the Horticulture Department.”Speaking on the occasion, she stated that development works such as walking tracks, benches, and plantation of flowering plants are being carried out in the park situated between Balaji Enclave and Raghavendra Nagar Colony. She further mentioned that the park will be named as a Senior Citizens Park, where facilities like carroms and chess will be arranged for elderly people, along with the installation of new benches.”She also added that play equipment for children will be installed. Responding to the requests of women in the colony, an open gym will also be set up in the park. Additionally, a gazebo will be constructed at the center of the park.”She instructed the horticulture staff to ensure that the works are completed at the earliest and announced that the park will be inaugurated next week by MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy.”The program was attended by BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, Jagan, Colony President Jagadeeshwar Reddy, Venugopal Reddy, Ramana Gupta, Horticulture staff Balu, and others.

Why Political Colors for Indiramma Houses?

Kongara Ravi, BJP Geesugonda Mandal President“

“Geesugonda, May 2 (Indian Chronicle) : BJP Geesugonda Mandal President Kongara Ravi strongly condemned the alleged attempts to intimidate beneficiaries of Indiramma houses by claiming that bills would be sanctioned only if the houses were painted in the three colors associated with the Congress party. He issued a press statement on Saturday criticizing the practice.”He termed it shameful to impose political colors on houses being constructed with public funds. He said that the Central Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has been allocating substantial funds with the objective of fulfilling the dream of home ownership for the poor across the country. In this context, he criticized certain local activists for allegedly threatening poor beneficiaries by saying that bills would be cleared only if the houses were painted in Congress colors, calling it a sign of arrogance.”Ravi remarked that while the Central Government supports the homeless poor beyond political considerations, projecting welfare schemes as the property of a particular party at the local level is laughable. He clarified that government schemes are funded by taxpayers' money along with Central assistance, and not from the pockets of any political party.”He stated that it is the right of every eligible beneficiary to receive the benefit without any political affiliation. He also expressed concern that officials were remaining



silent despite reports of harassment by local activists. He demanded that authorities clarify how a “colour rule,” which is not part of any government guideline, is being enforced.”He urged officials to immediately stop pressuring beneficiaries and to ensure that bills are released promptly upon completion of construction, irrespective of the color of the houses. Ravi asserted that the misuse of Central funds for political interests would not be tolerated and called upon officials to uphold democratic values.

Governance at People's Doorstep – Justice for Every Petition

Khammam Nellakondapalli, May 02 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the government is committed to delivering governance directly to the people through the Praja Darbar program and ensuring justice for every grievance submitted.”On Saturday, the minister participated in the Praja Darbar held at Bodulabanda village in Nellakondapalli mandal as part of the Prajapalana Pragathi Pranali – 99 Days Program, along with District Collector Diwakar TS.”Key Highlights:“The minister noted that the Bodulabanda cluster includes 12 villages and said that despite financial constraints, the government under Revanth Reddy has implemented several development and welfare schemes over the past 2.4 years.”



Welfare initiatives include: “o 200 units of free electricity “o Fine rice distribution to Ration card holders “o Issuance of new ration cards “

He criticized the previous government for not providing houses over 10 years, while the current government sanctioned 4.5 lakh houses within the first year. “

Funds for house construction are being directly deposited into beneficiaries' bank accounts every Monday. “Housing & Welfare:“Due to the lack of housing in

the previous regime, applications under the Indiramma Housing Scheme are high. “The second phase of house sanctions will begin by the end of May, with further phases planned. “Houses will be allotted to all eligible beneficiaries, irrespective of political affiliation. “Land Issues:“The minister acknowledged a large number of land-related complaints, attributing them to issues arising from the previous Dharani system. “He assured that all land issues will be resolved within two months. “Problems are being addressed through Bhu Bharati, and pending cases will be cleared soon.

“Illegal occupation of government lands through Sadabainama will not be tolerated. “Collector's Remarks:“District Collector Diwakar TS stated that this is the second cluster-level Praja Darbar in the mandal and has received an overwhelming public response. “Some issues are being resolved on the spot. “Others will be addressed within 7 days to 3 months, depending on complexity. “Emphasis is being placed on transparency in resolving grievances. “Beneficiary Response:“Indiramma housing beneficiary P. Shobha expressed happiness, stating that she never imagined owning a house. She credited the current government for making it possible and also mentioned receiving 200 units of free electricity.”Participants:“Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, Special Officer Ramesh (Palair constituency), RDO Srinivas, local representatives, sarpanches, and villagers participated in the program.

Increase Maize Procurement Centres



“Farmers stage protest at Gurijala Cross”Gurijala/ Narsampet, May 2 (Indian Chronicle) : Demanding an increase in the number of maize procurement centres, BRS party cadres along with farmers staged a dharna at Gurijala Cross on the Narsampet–Warangal main road on Saturday.”Speaking on the occasion, the leaders recalled that during the previous government, under the leadership of former MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, as many as 42 procurement centres were set up across the constituency and the maize procurement process was carried out efficiently. They demanded that the previously established centres be revived and the procurement process be expedited.”They stated that under the leadership of former Chief Minister KCR, the government had established five to six procurement centres in every mandal with the intention of purchasing every grain produced by farmers. However, despite maize being cultivated in nearly 90,000 acres at present, farmers are facing severe hardships as only seven procurement centres have been set up.”The speakers urged the authorities to entrust the management of procurement centres to PACS, FPOs, and IKP women's groups. They alleged that the discontinuation of maize procurement centres in agricultural markets across the constituency has delayed the procurement process, while private traders and middlemen are being given preference, depriving farmers of the Minimum Support Price (MSP).”They accused the Congress government of completely failing in establishing adequate procurement centres and ensuring MSP for maize. They further alleged that the local MLA, Collector, and officials are limiting themselves to nominal reviews, with no real justice being done to farmers.”The programme was attended by the constituency coordinator, Narsampet rural party in-charges, town party president, former MPP, former PACS chairman, cluster in-charges, mandal party leaders, sarpanches, councillors, BRTU district president, former sarpanches, former MPTCs, village BRS presidents, farmers, and leaders of affiliated

Strict Protocols, Full Security for NEET Exam: Collector Haritha



“Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, May 1:“NEET Examination: District Fully Prepared”Asifabad, May 1, 2026:“District Collector K. Haritha stated that comprehensive arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of the NEET 2026 scheduled to be held on May 3 in the district.”The examination centre has been at the Telangana Social Welfare School and Boys' Junior College in Janakapur, the district headquarters. A total of 316 candidates are expected to appear for the examination. Candidates will be allowed entry into the centre from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, while the examination will be conducted from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.”Candidates are instructed to carry their admit cards along with a valid original government-issued ID proof such as Aadhaar, PAN card, or student ID. They must affix a postcard-size photograph on the admit card and also bring an additional passport-size photograph.”The Collector emphasized that candidates are strictly prohibited from bringing items such as handkerchiefs, mobile phones, watches, belts, rings, chains, earrings, electronic or communication devices, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, or correction fluid into the examination centre. Any candidate found in possession of such items will be denied entry. If detected inside the examination hall, it will be treated as a serious violation, leading to cancellation of candidature and possible debarment from future examinations.”Transparent water bottles will be permitted. All candidates will undergo thorough frisking, and the entire examination process will be video recorded. A total of 22 CCTV cameras have been installed at the centre.”For supervision, 28 invigilators, one observer, and two Chief Superintendents will be on duty. Only authorized personnel assigned to examination duties will be allowed inside the centre, and no outsiders will be permitted.”No candidate will be allowed to leave the examination hall until the exam concludes. Each room will accommodate 24 candidates.”Media personnel will not be permitted inside the examination centre.”Issued by: District Public Relations Officer, Kumuram Bheem Asifabad District

GHMC sets up help desks for LRS-2020 applicants

Hyderabad: The GHMC has set up help desks in all circle offices to assist citizens in availing the Layout Regularisation Scheme (LRS)-2020, according to an official release on Saturday. The Special Chief Secretary, Hyderabad Metropolitan Area (HMA) and Urban Development, Jayesh Ranjan, extended the period for payment of LRS fee and charges with a rebate of 25% for three months, from 01/05/2026 to 31/07/2026.

Public Governance – Pragathi Plan: 99-Day Action Plan Constituency-Level Review Meeting in Uppal



Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Attends as Chief Guest“UPPAL, MAY 02(INDIAN CHRONICAL):“A constituency-level review meeting was held on Saturday at the Uppal Circle Office as part of the “Public Governance – Pragathi Plan” 99-day action plan.“Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy attended the meeting as the chief guest. Uppal Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, DRDO Medchal District Special Officer Sambasiva Rao, Uppal Circle Deputy Commissioner Shailaja, RTO officer Ravinder Reddy, MEO Rama Rao, Uppal MRO Pool Singh Chauhan, and other officials were also present.“The program began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the singing of the Telangana state song “Jaya Jaya He Janani Jayakethanam.” The Chief Minister’s message was read out to the attendees.“During the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Shailaja explained various development works, welfare schemes, and programs undertaken in different departments. MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy reviewed the progress of development activities in the constituency with officials from various departments and provided several suggestions. Officials assured the MLA that they would promptly address the issues raised. “Members of the public raised concerns regarding delays in borewell permis-



sions. The MLA questioned the MRO, who responded that steps would be taken to expedite approvals.“Regarding Indiramma housing, the MLA asked the Housing AE, who explained that beneficiaries are categorized into L1, L2, and L3 lists. Verification for L1 beneficiaries is currently underway, and sanction letters will be issued soon.“On government schools, MEO Rama Rao informed that the mid-day meal scheme is being implemented effectively.“The MLA also distributed bank loan cheques worth ?6.66 crore to 66 women’s self-help groups from Uppal, Kapra, and Nacharam circles.“When asked about the Kalyana Lakshmi scheme, the MRO stated that cheques for 33 beneficiaries are currently ready and also provided details of beneficiaries covered under the scheme over the past three years.“Presidents and secretaries of women’s groups, senior citizens, colony welfare association members, and public representatives attended the meeting.“Deputy Commissioner Shailaja concluded the program by thanking all the dignitaries and officials, including MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Zonal Commissioner Radhika Gupta, DRDO nodal officer Sambasiva Rao, MEO Rama Rao, RTO Ravinder Reddy, and MRO Pool Singh Chauhan.

Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, Hon’ble Governor of Telangana, Assures Action on Ex-Servicemen Welfare Issues

“Hyderabad, May 2:““A delegation from the Telangana BJP Ex-Servicemen Cell met the Hon’ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, at Raj Bhavan and submitted a memorandum highlighting key welfare issues concerning Ex-Servicemen (ESM) in the state.““The delegation was led by Lieutenant Colonel (Dr.) Sunkara Srinivasa Rao, PhD (Retd), Convenor of the Telangana BJP Ex-Servicemen Cell. Other members included Co-Convenor Subedar Major Rajender Singh (Retd), Subedar Major PSN Swamy (Retd), (Gen Secretary of ABPSSP Telangana), Subedar Neeraj Dubey (Retd) (Vice President Prant ABPSSP) and Havaladar Dubashi Sagar (Retd) (Vice President ABPSSP, Bhupalaply Dist).““During the meeting, the delegation raised several important issues, including:“- Delay in ex-gratia payments to families of martyrs and gallantry award recipients “- Need for establishment of a Sainik Corporation to create employment opportunities for ex-servicemen “- Improper utilization of Armed Forces Faj Day funds “- Requirement of an ECHS Polyclinic in LB Nagar/Kanchanbagh area “- Pay disparities among Special Police Officers (SPOs) “- Implementation of the Hon’ble High Court orders regarding 30% qualifying marks for ex-servicemen ““Additionally, the following key demands

were presented:“- Posting of ex-servicemen bank employees near their hometowns, instead of distance postings (200–300 km away), which are causing hardships for their Services“- Appointment of eligible ex-servicemen as permanent security personnel in banks “- Appointment of qualified ex-servicemen in Regional Sainik Welfare Officer (RSWO/ZSWO) posts instead of civilians “- Formation of District Ex-Servicemen Committees under the leadership of District Collectors, as per existing government orders “- Establishment of War Memorial at every District of Telangana to honor the sacrifices of martyrs and their dedicated services““The Hon’ble Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla Governor Telangana, paid attention on the relevant Issues of ESM and acknowledged that will be soon Taken to notice to the government for non implementation, they are significant and justified concerned to the welfare of ex-servicemen.“He also emphasized for timely and systematic action on these matters.““For further action, the Honourable Governor directed ADC, to examine the memorandum in detail and coordinate with the concerned authorities.““The delegation expressed confidence that with the Governor’s intervention, these issues will be addressed effectively, strengthening the welfare and support system for ex-servicemen across the state.

The main objective of the state government is to provide quality education and free comprehensive medical care to all....



Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha“Sanga Reddy, May 02:–“As part of the Public Governance - Progress Plan program, the Andol constituency level meeting was held at the Srirama Function Hall in Jogipet on Saturday, and State Medical and Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha participated as the chief guest.““Speaking on the occasion, the minister said that the main objective of the state government is to provide quality education and comprehensive medical services to every citizen. He said that all medical services are provided free of cost in government hospitals so that people do not face financial difficulties due to health problems. He said that modern facilities are being expanded to provide 90 percent medical services at the district level. He revealed that trauma and emergency services are being further strengthened to provide fast services in emergency situations and steps are being taken to provide full-

fledged medical services in all government hospitals.““The minister said that the government is giving special priority to women’s empowerment. He reminded that the Pavala interest scheme and later interest-free loan schemes were implemented in the past to strengthen women’s groups financially. He said that the government is currently allocating resources like Indiramma Canteens, solar units, petrol pumps to women and helping them become financially self-reliant.““He said that as part of the development of the education sector, every school and college is providing quality education along with nutritious food and basic facilities. He announced that a pharmacy college will be set up in the Andol area soon.““He said that a comprehensive plan is being taken forward to develop the Andol constituency as an education hub.““The minister said that the Singur line work has been undertaken at a cost of Rs. 200 crore. He said that a special action is being taken to develop the Singur area as a tourist center and that employment opportunities for the locals will increase through the development of the tourism sector.““District Collector Prateek Jain said that the district is making progress in all aspects in the education and medical sectors. He explained the facilities provided by the government to women, students and Anganwadi children. He said that the government is working for the comprehensive development of all sections of the people.““District SP Paratosh Pankaj said that as part of the Public Governance - Progress Plan, the police department is conducting extensive awareness programs on road safety, cyber crime, and women’s safety.““Additional Collector Pandu, local public representatives, district officials, officials of various departments, people and others participated in this program.

Karimnagar review stresses development, grievance redressal

Officials asked to ensure timely delivery of schemes; Collector reviews procurement centres.

KARIMNAGAR May 2 (Correspondent) : A review meeting on the implementation of the Praja Palana Pragati Pranalika in Karimnagar on Saturday underscored the twin priorities of accelerating development works and ensuring time-bound redressal of public grievances.Mayor Kolagani Srinivas and SUDA Chairman Komatireddy Narendra Reddy said the programme is aimed at improving service delivery and bridging gaps in welfare outreach, and called for greater public participation to make it effective on the ground.

At the constituency-level meeting held at the Collectorate auditorium, District Collector Chitra Mishra, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai and other senior officials reviewed department-wise progress. Officials outlined measures being taken to streamline access to civic services and welfare schemes.The elected representatives stressed the need for coordinated action among departments to address civic issues and ensure that benefits reach all eligible sections without delay. They also called for closer monitoring of implementation at the field level.

Mr. Desai said the programme was being executed in a structured manner, with parallel initiatives such as road safety drives, including Arrive Alive, being taken up to improve public safety. He urged citizens to utilise available welfare measures.Stalls set up by various departments were inspected by the officials and public representatives. CDPO Sabitha explained the activities of the Women, Children, Persons with Disabilities and Senior Citizens Department, and presented data on outcomes following the rollout of the programme.Beneficiary services, including issuance of orphan certificates, Aadhaar enrolment, opening of bank accounts and distribution of health cards, were carried out



during the event. A financial assistance cheque of 75,000 was also handed over to a transgender beneficiary under the ERS scheme.Farmer facilities revieweEarlier, Ms. Mishra conducted a surprise inspection of a paddy procurement centre at Islampur in Gangadhara mandal along with RDO Maheshwar. She examined the moisture testing process and records maintained at the centre.Directing officials to prevent inconvenience to farmers, she called for adequate basic facilities at procurement centres and emphasised transparency and efficiency in operations.“

High-Level Preparations Underway for CM Visit to Pranahita Barrage



Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, May 2:“Asifabad, May 2:“District Collector Haritha has directed officials to be fully prepared for the upcoming visit of the Chief Minister, along with Ministers and senior Irrigation Department officials, to the proposed barrage construction site across the Pranahita River at Tummidhi Hatti village in Koutala mandal.“The Collector issued these instructions during a preparatory meet-

ing held on Saturday at the Integrated Collectorate conference hall. The meeting was attended by SP Nithika Pant, Additional Collectors Yuvaraj Marmat and M. David, Kagaznagar Sub-Collector Shradha Shukla, and Asifabad RDO Lokeshwar Rao, among other officials.“Speaking on the occasion, Collector Haritha stated that as the Chief Minister is likely to visit the barrage construction site at Tummidhi Hatti in the near future, all necessary arrangements must be made in advance without any lapses.“She instructed officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements, including the construction of a helipad, barricading, stage setup, VIP and VVIP enclosures, gallery arrangements, issuance of official and media passes, sanitation measures, provision of drinking water for VIPs, VVIPs, and the general public, supply of ORS packets, stage decoration, and deployment of medical teams with camps.“Additionally, officials were directed to arrange refreshments and meals, and to ensure uninterrupted power supply with backup generators in place. The Collector emphasized that all arrangements must be executed meticulously to ensure the visit proceeds smoothly without any shortcomings.“Officials from various departments attended the meeting.“Issued by: District Public Relations Officer

Paddy Procurement Must Follow FAQ Norms: Additional Collector Vinod Kumar

““Wanaparthi correspondent ,May 2,(Indian Chronicle):““ The Additional Collector (Revenue), Vinod Kumar, has directed officials to carry out paddy procurement strictly in accordance with the FAQ (Fair Average Quality) standards prescribed by the government. On Saturday, the Additional Collector visited paddy procurement centers (PPCs) in Madanapur mandal, including Madanapur, Ajjakollu, Duppalli, and Ramanpadu villages, as well as Pinnamcherla village in Atmakur mandal.During the visit, he reviewed the ongoing procurement process at the centers. He inspected records and registers being maintained at the PPCs and inquired about the details. He also examined the facilities being provided to farmers and the procedures followed in the procurement of paddy. Later, he issued key instructions to the PPC in-charges, emphasizing that the procurement process should be conducted transparently and efficiently. He directed officials to ensure that farmers do not face any difficulties and to maintain proper records while adhering strictly to the government’s FAQ guidelines.



Here is your content translated into English:

“BRS Working President KTR Holds Meeting with Public Representatives and Leaders of United Ranga Reddy District “



— Discussion on Party Membership, Committee Formation, and SIR — Calls to Expose Congress Failures and Prepare for Upcoming Corporation Elections““Medchal-Malkajiri Staff Reporter, KISHORE,May 02 (INDIAIAN CHRONICAL):““BRS Working President K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) held a meeting on Saturday at his residence in Nandi Nagar, Hyderabad, with party public representatives and leaders from the united Ranga Reddy district.“During the meeting, discussions were held on strengthening the party in the district, the upcoming membership drive, and the formation of party committees. He also reviewed the action plan to be implemented under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) program and offered several suggestions.“KTR congratulated party leaders for achieving good results in the recent local body elections (Panchayat and Municipal). He urged leaders to expose the failures of the Congress government among the public and called on them to gear up for the upcoming corporation elections.“The meeting was



attended by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Medchal MLA Chamakura Malla Reddy, Malkajiri MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, MLC Shambipur Raju, Quthbullapur MLA Vivekananda, Kukatpally MLA Krishna Rao, along with BRS Malkajiri Parliament in-charge Ragidi Lakshma Reddy, party MLAs, MLCs, and other key leaders from the united Ranga Reddy district.

MLA highlights irrigation, education initiatives at review meet

Assures support to farmers; calls for improved facilities at procurement centres.



KARIMNAGAR May 2 (Correspondent) : The State government is according top priority to public welfare and is taking coordinated steps to ensure that benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries, Collector Chitra Mishra said at a constituency-level review meeting held at Papayya Palli in Gangadhara mandal on Saturday. The meeting, organised as part of a governance and development review programme, was attended by District Congress Committee president and Choppadandi MLA Medipalli Satyam, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Ashwini Tanaji Wakade, Revenue Divisional Officer Maheshwar, and officials from various departments.

Addressing the gathering, Ms. Mishra said the administration is focusing on resolving issues department-wise while closely monitoring the implementation of welfare schemes. Special attention is being given to women and

child welfare, housing, local bodies, and grievance redressal. She noted that a large number of applications received at district, mandal and village levels are being scrutinised and disposed of, with officials working in coordination at the field level. Officials presented details of beneficiaries covered under various schemes across six mandals in the constituency, including crop insurance, financial assistance for marriages, farmer support programmes, social security pensions, interest-free loans for women's groups, childcare services, and promotion of oil palm cultivation.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Satyam said welfare schemes are being implemented without political bias and are reaching all eligible sections. He highlighted measures such as free public transport for women, housing support, issuance of ration cards, and other social welfare initiatives. He said the government is supporting farmers through incentives for specific crop varieties and has implemented a farm loan waiver to ease their burden. The MLA also announced plans to establish a residential school in the constituency to strengthen educational infrastructure. He said efforts are under way to improve public facilities and expand development initiatives. On irrigation, Mr. Satyam said the completion of the Narayanapur project would address water needs in Choppadandi and adjoining areas. He added that funds have been sanctioned for land acquisition and further allocations are expected shortly.

Expressing concern over reports of inconvenience faced by farmers at procurement centres, he urged officials to ensure adequate facilities and transparency in operations. He called for regular inspections and warned against irregularities in weighing practices. The MLA advised newly elected village heads to focus on development activities and assured support in resolving local issues brought to his notice. As part of the programme, a video highlighting improvements in government schools, including infrastructure and teaching practices, was released to encourage enrolment. Students from a local government school presented a cultural performance, and the education department submitted its report on ongoing initiatives.

Transparency in Governance is the Primary Goal

---Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya""Parkal/ Hanumakonda, May 2 (Indian Chronicle) : Dr. Kadiyam Kavya stated that transparency in public administration and delivery of accessible services to citizens are the government's foremost objectives. She attended the Parkal constituency-level review meeting held on Saturday as part of the Prajapalana-Pragati programme, along with local MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy. "Addressing the gathering, the MP said special focus is being placed on strengthening essential infrastructure required for the development of the Parkal constituency. She noted that the government is committed to improving roads, drinking water supply, electricity, and healthcare services in rural areas. Officials were instructed to work in coordination to ensure that every welfare scheme reaches the intended beneficiaries directly. "She emphasized the need for a responsive administration that addresses public grievances promptly and called for collective efforts by public representatives and officials. She added that measures are being taken to expand employment opportunities for youth and that women's empowerment remains a priority for the government. She stressed that advancing Parkal constituency on the path of comprehensive development is a shared responsibility. "The MP stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Telangana government is implementing the prestigious 99-day Prajapalana-Pragati programme to ensure justice for all sections of society. She highlighted that several welfare schemes are being implemented to support farmers, students, women, and small traders. "Referring to the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme, she said the government is promoting women's financial empowerment by facilitating opportunities such as petrol pumps, paddy procurement centres, RTC buses, and solar plants, along with bank-linked loans. She also mentioned that subsidies on agricultural equipment are being provided to enable women to become owners and entrepreneurs. "Criticizing the previous government for failing to provide even a single double-bedroom house in ten years, she said that after coming to power, the Congress government sanctioned 3,600 houses for each constituency. She added that schemes such as subsidized gas cylinders at ₹500, Gruhajyothi, Mahalakshmi, and Rythu Bharosa are being implemented effectively, and directed officials to ensure that Rythu Bharosa benefits reach every eligible farmer. "Dr. Kavya stressed the need to increase



the number of institutional deliveries in government hospitals and called for awareness programmes in this regard. She suggested that Anganwadi teachers educate children about "good touch and bad touch" and provide guidance that supports their mental well-being. Officials were directed to immediately commence pending Health Sub-Centre works without citing land issues as a reason for delay. "She also informed that discussions have been held with the Centre regarding the launch of the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, with ₹30 crore released in the first phase and the possibility of an additional ₹300 crore to follow. She advised Northern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited officials to utilize CSR funds for education, healthcare, and women's welfare initiatives. "Pointing out that there was negligence in issuing ration cards over the past ten years, she said the present government has begun issuing new ration cards. She criticized the BRS and BJP for failing to undertake people-centric works and accused the BJP at the Centre of indulging in divisive politics. The MP also assured her support for establishing a dairy project in the Parkal constituency. "District Collector Chahat Bajpai, ZP CEO Sheshadri, DRDO Manager Srinivas, NPDC SE Madhusudan, RDO Narayana, Municipal Chairman Sunil, Parkal AMC Chairman Raju Reddy, Atmakur AMC Chairman Sudhakar, along with officials from various departments, MROs, MPDOs, sarpanches, and municipal councillors, participated in the programme.

Jayasimha's Mount Everest Expedition Should Be Successful



— BRS Working President KTR— Jayasimha dedicates his past achievements to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy""MEDCHAL –MALKAJIGIRI , Staff Reporter, May 2 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): "Kalali Jayasimha, founder of Sim Lion Fitness, an Ironman, endurance athlete, and mountaineer, has been bringing pride to India by scaling some of the world's highest peaks. He has successfully climbed challenging summits such as Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa, Mount Elbrus in Europe, and Aconcagua in Argentina. In addition, he has completed several ??? expeditions in Nepal and the Ladakh region. "Climbing peaks above 23,000 feet stands as a testament to his discipline, courage, and passion. He expressed his gratitude by dedicating his achievements to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy. The support and encouragement from Nacharam Corporator Saijan Shekhar have also been significant in his journey. "Recently, Jayasimha met prominent leader K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), who appreciated his accomplishments and assured his support for Jayasimha's goal of climbing Mount Everest in the future. "Speaking on the occasion, Jayasimha said, "My journey is not just about climbing mountains, but about inspiring people to push beyond their limits. With the support of leaders and well-wishers, I aim to represent India on the world's highest peak,

Mount Everest. "Through Sim Lion Fitness, Jayasimha is spreading awareness among youth and the public about fitness, discipline, and mental strength. His achievements send a strong message that with dedication and hard work, any peak can be conquered. "His upcoming Mount Everest expedition is set to be another significant milestone in his journey, reflecting the hopes and pride of Telangana and the entire nation.

Kuchipudi Dance Performances Enthrall at Uppal Mini Shilparamam"



""UPPAL, MAY 02 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): "As part of the weekend cultural programs at Uppal Mini Shilparamam, a Kuchipudi dance performance by the disciples of Guru Balaji Kumar from Satya Keerthi Nritya Dhamam captivated the audience on Saturday evening. The performers presented various classical pieces including Mooshika Vahana, Vinayaka Kautham, Brahmanjali, Ramayana Shabdam, Brindavana Nilaye, Dashavatara Shabdam, Sri Vighnarajam Bhaje, Sri Sharadamba, and the Annamacharya Keerthana Brahmapokkate. "Artists such as Vedam Reddy, Hasitha, Advitha, Sandhya,

Industry Leaders Visit KLH Bachupally to Celebrate Student Success and Strengthen Campus–



Corporate Connect""Hyderabad, 02 May 2026: The Department of Computer Science and Applications at KLH Bachupally hosted distinguished industry leaders, students, and parents at the campus, marking a meaningful occasion that went beyond placements to highlight student journeys, career readiness, and strong industry alignment. "The event gained significance with the presence of eminent industry professionals, including Ms. Aparna Vedom, Director, LTM, as Chief Guest, along with Mr. Kiran Macherla, Manager – Talent Acquisition (University Relations & Early Careers), LTM, and Ms. Rekha Singh, Senior Client Accountant Manager & US Delivery Head, C-Vision, as Guests of Honor. "The meet followed an impressive achievement performance by the department, where all 60 registered students from the Y23 BCA and Y24 MCA batches secured placements, presenting consistent outcomes across both undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Students received offers from reputed organizations such as SAP-STAR, Dell Technologies, Cognizant, LTMindtree, and Deloitte, with the highest package reaching ₹14 LPA. "Er. Koneru Lakshman Havish, Vice President, KL Deemed to

be University, stated , "Our focus has always been on building capabilities, not just securing placements. When students are equipped with the right skills, opportunities naturally follow. This achievement reflects the strength of our academic model and our deep industry engagement. "More than a celebration, the event served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, where industry leaders interacted with students, shared insights on evolving hiring expectations, and highlighted the importance of adaptability, continuous learning, and real-world problem-solving skills. "A key highlight of the meet was the recognition of students who secured multiple offers, showcasing their strong employability and competitive edge. The event also featured student testimonials, offering first-hand perspectives on how structured learning, mentoring, and hands-on exposure translated into successful career outcomes. "We are proud to see our son secure placement at Dell. The consistent guidance, structured training, and strong support from the faculty and placement team played a key role in building his confidence and preparing him for this achievement. We truly appreciate the university's efforts in creating meaningful career opportunities for students," said Mr. Ravi Ravella, Founder & Managing Director, Adhaata Computing Systems Pvt. Ltd. "Dr. L Koteswarao, Principal of KLH Bachupally appreciated the students and faculty for their dedication, noting that such achievements are a result of consistent academic rigor and industry-oriented training. Mr. P. Srinivasa Reddy, Head of the Department along with the career development team and faculty, congratulated the students and reaffirmed their commitment to nurturing future-ready professionals. "With a clear emphasis on student-centric learning and sustained industry partnerships, KLH Bachupally is steadily building a model where education seamlessly translates into meaningful career outcomes.

Every Family's Economic Progress is Congress Goal

- MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy""Parkal/ Hanumakonda, May 2 (Indian Chronicle) : Parkal MLA Revuri Prakash Reddy said the Congress-led people's government is working tirelessly to ensure the economic advancement of every family. He was speaking at a constituency-level meeting held as part of the 'Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika' 99-day programme at Mahadeva Function Hall in Parkal town on Saturday. "The MLA attended the meeting along with Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya and District Collector Chahat Bajpai. On the occasion, officials from various government departments explained the development and welfare initiatives being implemented under their respective departments. Public representatives visited the department-wise stalls set up at the venue and reviewed the details. Posters related to the Electricity Department and the Women and Child Welfare Department were also unveiled. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress government, with the support of the Cabinet, is working with commitment for the development of the State. He stated that the objective of conducting the 'Praja Palana Pragathi Pranalika' 99-day programme is to create awareness among people about the schemes being implemented and those proposed by the government, with active public participation. "He said the government is giving priority to education and healthcare while implementing welfare schemes aimed at strengthening the financial stability of families by enhancing employment opportunities. He alleged that people were misled during the previous government's tenure and urged them to understand the facts. "Highlighting the government's focus on farmers' welfare, he said that farm loan waivers, Rythu Bharosa, and Rythu Bima were implemented simultaneously. He added that a bonus of Rs.500 is being provided for fine paddy, subsidised seeds are being distributed, and farmers are being encouraged to adopt modern agricultural practices. He also stated that the



distribution of fine rice to the poor is helping protect their health. "The MLA said that several welfare measures such as 200 units of free electricity for domestic use, Rs.500 gas cylinder, and nutritious food for students are being implemented. He added that the long-cherished dream of housing for the poor has been realised through the Indiramma housing scheme, while the distribution of Indiramma sarees has enhanced the self-respect of women. "He said quality, value-based education is being provided in government schools and appealed to parents to enrol their children in these institutions. He further announced that works have been initiated for the opening of a government hospital soon, an ATC centre in the town, a new government degree college, and the construction of a Young India Integrated School. "For the economic empowerment of women, he revealed that an 'Indira Mahila Dairy' is being established in Parkal. As part of the programme, clothes were distributed to Anganwadi children.

MLA Nayini Inaugurates Summer Sports Training Camp



"Hanamkonda, May 2 (Indian Chronicle) : Warangal West MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy stated that sports not only enhance physical fitness but also pave the way for future employment and livelihood opportunities. "On Saturday, the MLA served as the chief guest and formally inaugurated the summer sports training camp organized by the Telangana Sports Department at the JNS Stadium in Hanamkonda. "Speaking on the occasion, he noted that the state government is giving special priority to the development of sports. He commended Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for allocating a dedicated budget for summer sports

training programs across the state. He explained that training would be provided in 21 different sports disciplines during this camp. "The MLA expressed his delight that 350 students were selected for this summer camp, adding that this initiative would further boost interest in sports among the youth. He assured the children of his full support in their efforts to excel in sports. He further suggested that through continuous hard work and dedication, the youth could reach great heights. "Sports Department official Prashanth, Boddireddy Prabhakar Reddy, other leaders, coaches, athletes, and parents attended the event.

Hyderabad police felicitate father-son duo for exposing gas cylinder scam

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Police Commissioner, VC Sajjanar, on Saturday felicitated a father and son duo for their alertness and bravery in exposing a gas cylinder theft racket that was exploiting common citizens. The fraud was unearthed last week in April, when Ashok Tiwari, a businessman from Chudi Bazaar, booked a gas cylinder. On delivery of the LPG cylinder, Tiwari's son, 16-year-old Naman Tiwari, noticed that the cylinder felt lighter than usual. Upon inspection, they found that the cylinder, which should weigh 30.4 kg, weighed only 28 kg. Suspecting foul play due to the rapid exhaustion of their household gas recently, they questioned the representatives of the delivery agency.

The bus driver everyone loved: TGSRTC employee’s death leaves family with no home, no income



GNS News Agency, May 2

“He was jovial and courteous, always smiling and making friends with strangers. Daily commuters on his bus loved him. He frequently drove from Narsampet to Srisaileam and back. Everyone he picked up along the way would greet him; he knew everyone and made new friends daily,” said Bura Suman, son-in-law of K Shankar Goud.

Goud, 50, committed suicide on Thursday evening at the Narsampet Bus Depot in Warangal district on the second day of the TGSRTC employees’ strike to press for a host of demands. Suman said that Shankar, with his friendly nature, approached a group of private bus drivers at the Narsampet depot and politely asked them to join the strike rather than oppose it by continuing to drive private buses. “He received a rude reply. I think my father-in-law did not expect that kind of behaviour. He went to other employees who, I think, told him to ignore them. He told them that he felt bad that their strike for the greater benefit of all the employees was being jeopardised and decided to take the extreme step to force a solution,” Suman said. Goud was an award-winning driver with over 25 years of experience. “He was rewarded several times for punctuality and dedication to his work. There was never a negative review or a complaint against him,” an official said. The Narsampet-Srisaileam route was his favourite because it is scenic and he loved

the long journey, a co-worker said. Shankar would also get short-distance route duty on some days, plying in Warangal or nearby districts.

He is survived by his wife Hemalatha, 45. His eldest daughter, Shamili, is married to Bura Suman, a small businessman, while Shankar’s son Hemanth is in his final year of college. “With my father gone, there is no source of income. We will be out on the roads soon,” Hemanth said. The devastated and heartbroken family gathered at Muthojipeta village, 4 km from Narsampet, at his native village for the funeral, even as tensions ran high. “They do not even own a house of their own, so we brought the body to my house in the village,” his son-in-law Suman said. Goud lived in a modest rented house on Tower Road but ensured that his daughter and son received a good education. “Except for his meagre salary, they had no other income,” Suman said. During the Telangana movement, Goud participated in many agitational programmes, his friends said.

On Thursday evening, after pouring petrol on himself and setting himself on fire, he was rushed to the DRDO hospital, where doctors said he suffered 80 per cent burns and was on ventilator support. He succumbed early Friday. As his body was brought to Muthojipeta village, a tense situation prevailed in spite of heavy police presence. Police allowed the family to take the body to the village for the last rites and not to any other place. Hundreds of angry and mourning TGSRTC workers descended on the village, raising slogans and demanding justice from the government. Their demand to take the body to the Narsampet bus depot for a few minutes was declined by the police, which further escalated the situation. A confrontation was ongoing between the police and workers who were sitting on the road and chanting slogans against the police and government. The workers said that the funeral would take place only after the body was taken to the bus depot for a few minutes, resulting in a stalemate. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy expressed shock over the suicide and said his family will receive all possible support from the government. He reiterated that the government is holding discussions with RTC workers and working to resolve their demands.

HR job to cheesemaker with global glory, meet this Mumbai woman PM praised

GNS News Agency, May 2

It had been a decade in the making. In 2013, the Mulund-based Narang, then a corporate girl with a high-paying job, started making cheese from her mother’s kitchen over weekends, driven by a simple craving she couldn’t satisfy any other way. By 2015 she was certain this was her calling, quit her job and started Eleftheria with one helper. In 2016, the first chef placed an order. Ten years on, her artisanal cheese, made at a creamery in Bhandup, has won awards consistently, most recently at the Mundial do Queijo do Brasil 2026, where India made its debut at the competition and came home with four medals. “The tweet from the Honourable Prime Minister is one of the greatest moments that my entire team and I will remember for our entire lifetime. It is a phenomenal recognition to have happened for an artisanal craft cheese maker in this country,” said Narang, 39, speaking from her Mulund office. Eleftheria has been winning at the World Cheese Awards since 2021, so international recognition is not new. But the scale of attention this time was different. “When I came back from my walk and saw my phone buzzing, that’s when I realised something had happened. I couldn’t have asked for anything better.”

The Mundial do Queijo do Brasil, now in its fourth edition, is a blind tasting competition that saw around 2,700 entries from approximately 30 countries, judged by 250 jurors. “Cheeses are split across tables, with three judges assessing each one on flavour, texture and visual appearance. The judges do not know where a cheese comes from. They score purely on merit,” she shared. Depending on the score, a cheese receives a bronze, silver, gold or super gold. Each table produces one super gold, which then goes forward to compete in the final 14 or 16, from which a world champion is selected. Eleftheria won across three categories — a super gold for Gulmarg, a French Brie-style cheese; a gold for Brunost, a Norwegian-style whey cheese; and a silver for Kaali Miri, an aged cheese ball coated in Kerala black pepper, Himalayan pink salt and garlic. “The holy trinity of flavours that everybody in India would love,” said Narang of the Kaali Miri. The fourth medal, a gold for Yak Churpi (soft), went to Thenlay Nurbuo of Nordic Farm in Leh, Ladakh, completing a remarkable debut for Indian cheese on this stage. “The most beautiful thing about an international platform like this is that it puts Indian cheese on the global cheese map. We have been eating dairy products since time immemorial, but artisanal cheese getting its recognition and earning its seat at the table next to all the Western counterparts is truly phenomenal.”

A little over a decade ago, none of this existed. It started with a craving and a sourdough loaf.

Narang had studied human resource management in the UK and worked for eight years in German and French conglomerates. She travelled extensively, lived in Germany for a period, and at 19 had her first Butterkäse, which is a German butter cheese. “That’s how it started. During my master’s in the UK, I would always have a block of cloth-bound cheddar in my fridge. Every week I tried different kinds of cheese. I felt like a kid in a candy store whenever I went to the supermarket there.” Back in Mumbai, working at Capgemini, she started baking sourdough bread over weekends. Then she couldn’t find cheese to go with it. “I decided to make it myself. I thought, how difficult can it be? I discovered it was extremely difficult. The ingredients simply weren’t available here. I had to source them from outside the country.” That was 2013, and what started as a weekend project quickly became an obsession. She tweaked the thermostat of the fridge in her room to 13 degrees Celsius, put a hygrometer inside to monitor relative humidity and began aging cheeses in it. At one point, she had 20 to 25 varieties aging in that single fridge. “My room really smelled because the cheeses had mould on them.” By 2015 she was working with 80 litres of milk in her mother’s kitchen. “I would not take holidays — I would make cheese instead.”

That same year, she quit her job. There were no cheese making schools in the country at the time, so she taught herself entirely through reading and trial and error. The philosophy that drove her was simple: “Cheese is milk’s leap towards immortality. Milk is such a fragile product and cheese is the best way to preserve it.” Her ambition was to make cheese as good as, if not better than, its Western counterparts, using local Maharashtrian milk, no preservatives, no artificial flavouring. “Just as a mother would make ghee or paneer at home. Our grandmothers used to collect



evening, Mousam Narang went for a walk, leaving her phone behind. When she came back, it was buzzing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had just tweeted about her cheese.

makhan over days and the cultured makhan would become ghee. We have been eating fermented foods for a very long time. I just wanted to do the same with cheese.” She rented a small space and started Eleftheria with one helper. For the first six months, it was purely experimentation. Then she did farmers markets and pop-ups to understand how people were responding. In 2016 she began approaching boutique restaurants. Chef Kelvin Cheung (then leading Bastian’s kitchen) was among the first to try her cheese. Chef Alex Sanchez (then at The Table) was another early believer. “I sent him my burrata and said, please just try a sample. He had a lot of questions: how is this cheese made in Mumbai, where does the milk come from? But he tried it and said the cheese tasted amazing and placed an order. That was my first validation.” Today Eleftheria has a team of 65 people and supplies to the HORECA segment across metros — the Oberoi Group, the Taj Group, and restaurants like O Pedro, The Bombay Canteen, CinCin, Americano and Otra, among many others. The brand launched B2C during COVID, when it launched an online cheese shop offering pairings, cheese boards and grazing tables. “A lot of people told us they had tried our cheeses at restaurants and would love to try them at home but didn’t know what to pair them with. So we made it easy.” The timing coincided with the grazing table phenomenon taking off, and the boards became popular for gifting, hosting and entertaining. Since COVID, the brand has seen 30 percent year-on-year growth. Eleftheria started with fresh varieties — fromage blanc, burrata, mozzarella. Kaali Miri was Narang’s first foray into aged cheese. Today the range runs to about 20 varieties.

Her best seller is the Brunost, a whey cheese inspired by Norwegian technique but made distinctly her own. “It tastes almost like a salted caramel milk fudge, toasty and caramelly, and is embossed with the Devanagari script initials of the brand. It resembles a kandi peda so much. Just as the peda makers used to stamp theirs, we decided to do the same.” People, she says, eat it grated on morning toast with berry jam, folded into cookies and cheesecakes, stirred into oats. The Kaali Miri — pepper, garlic, Himalayan pink salt — is the other consistent favourite. “Even my parents, who were apprehensive of the mouldy or unfamiliar cheeses, love this one. It appeals to the Indian palate.” Then there is Konark, a melty cheese for sandwiches and sourdough, and Gulmarg, the Brie-style that just won the super gold, best enjoyed on a board with crackers and honey. When asked if artisanal cheese continues to be intimidating for people at large, she shares that internationally, cheese is an agro product. “Farmers made it as a way to preserve milk. The same instinct has always existed regionally in India, in Bandel, in Kaladi, in the pastoral cheeses of the northeast made by communities for whom it was simply intuitive. There is no reason for it to feel intimidating. But because we haven’t made cheese in the Western sense on a large scale here — beyond cheddar and mozzarella — there is a gap in awareness.” Narang and her team’s approach on social media and in her messaging is deliberately demystifying. A cheese samosa. A halloumi taco thepla. Fromage blanc with thepla and koki at breakfast, the way her own parents eat it. “There is no need for fancy pairings, use what is already in your pantry.”

Synthetic dyes in your chai? Hyderabad raids expose city-wide tea adulteration racket



GNS News Agency, May 2

The Hyderabad Food Adulteration Surveillance Team (H-FAST) has seized 3,000 kg of adulterated tea powder during raids across 15 locations in the city on Friday. H-FAST in-charge DCP Gaikwad Vaibhav Raghunath said his team received inputs that large-scale adulteration of tea powder was going on in the city at several godowns. After gathering information about the location of the godowns, they were raided. H-FAST officials said that they were astounded by what they found: industrial-scale adulteration of expired tea powder procured from tea estates and factories in Assam and other states. “During the operation, 10 people were arrested for engaging in illegal adulteration practices,” Raghunath said.

‘Told it’s faster than dieting’: How weight-loss drugs backfired in young Delhi patients

At the Endocrinology Outpatient Department (OPD) of Delhi’s Apollo Hospital on a Wednesday, the familiar crowd of elderly patients with diabetes is now joined by well-built men and young women in their late 20s and early 30s. Clutching their reports, these younger patients scroll through their phones or quietly exchange notes on the latest wellness trend — the weight-loss drug. Inside the consultation room, Dr Subhash Wangnoo is now used to hearing a familiar refrain — “Doctor, I started this after seeing it on Instagram.” “This has become the most common opening line in my clinic now,” says the doctor.

Over the next few hours, the stories that unfold in this room reveal how medications like Semaglutide and Tirzepatide have moved far beyond their clinical intent. Originally developed as metabolic therapies for diabetes and obesity, they are increasingly being used as quick fixes for rapid, often cosmetic, weight loss — without medical supervision. The problem is not the drug,” Dr Wangnoo says between consultations. “The problem is how casually it is being started, without evaluation, without understanding, and without follow-up.”

One of his patients that day is 27-year-old Riya*, who walks in visibly exhausted. Her wedding is approaching, and she had one goal: to lose 10 kg in two months. A friend suggested an injection, and she obtained it directly from a pharmacy. Within five weeks, she had lost 7 kg. But it came at a cost: Nausea, vomiting, dehydration, and nutritional deficiencies. Her menstrual cycle had also become irregular. When asked why she did not consult a doctor at the onset of these symptoms, she says, “Everyone around me was taking it. It felt normal.” Dr Wangnoo says, “We are seeing normalisation of misuse. These are not cosmetic shortcuts. These are metabolic therapies that need proper screening, dose titration, and monitoring.”

Another patient, Karan* (34), an IT professional with borderline diabetes and fatty liver, began taking injections while continuing intense workouts and skipping meals. Within weeks, he developed acidity, constipation, fatigue, and low blood sugar. He had followed his gym trainer’s advice instead of a doctor. “He told me this works faster than dieting,” Karan explains. He poses a question to Dr Wangnoo, one he hears often: “If appetite is reduced, should food intake be cut drastically?” “These drugs are not starvation tools,” the doctor says firmly. “They work best with balanced nutrition, not extreme restriction. When patients start using them to justify not eating, that is where the danger begins.” Then comes a patient who illustrates what careful, supervised use can achieve. Bina* (52) had long struggled with Type 2 diabetes, obesity, joint pain, and poor sleep. Her treatment began with full metabolic evaluation, structured therapy, nutritional guidance, and regular follow-ups. Over eight months, her blood sugar improved significantly, she lost 14 kg, her blood pressure stabilised, and her knee pain reduced. “For the first time, I feel like the treatment is helping me,” she says. Dr Wangnoo emphasises that when used correctly, these medications are powerful tools. During his consultations, questions from patients also reflect the growing uncertainty around these drugs: Can I take this just for a wedding? My friend lost 8 kg, can I take the same dose? Will I regain weight after stopping? Is this what celebrities use? Can I buy it directly from a pharmacy? Can I stop eating normally if I’m on it?

“These questions reflect how social media has medicalised weight loss without educating people,” Dr Wangnoo observes. “Patients are coming with decisions already made. They are only looking for validation.” The question of generics Doctors are also observing how rapidly expanding access to these drugs, with generics flooding the market, is reshaping both demand and prescribing patterns. Dr Ambrish Mittal, Group Chairman – Endocrinology & Diabetology at Max Healthcare, says his practice had already been using GLP-1 drugs even before their wider rollout, so the introduction of generics did not significantly change prescription patterns in his own clinic. But he notes that the broader availability of these drugs has significantly expanded access. According to him, cheaper generic versions, especially of Semaglutide, have made these therapies affordable for many more patients who previously could not access them due to cost, thereby widening their reach across lower-income groups. This shift, he says, has also led to more doctors prescribing these medications and more patients actively requesting them, often asking specifically for less expensive options. While the market now has a large number of generic formulations, with dozens of companies manufacturing Semaglutide, he says his department has chosen to rely on a limited set of established, trusted pharmaceutical companies. Established firms, he says, inspire greater confidence because of their long-standing track record and global exports, which reduces concerns around quality.

At the same time, he cautions that it is too early to draw firm conclusions about differences in efficacy or safety between branded drugs and generics. Any perceived differences, he says, are often based on anecdotal impressions rather than robust comparative data. Claims that one version works better than another, he adds, should be treated cautiously unless backed by proper scientific

Investigation revealed that the accused were mixing synthetic food colours (including Sunset Yellow FCF and tartrazine), jaggery juice, and used and expired tea powder to enhance appearance and increase profits. Low-quality tea powder sourced from various regions was adulterated and repackaged under different brand names, then supplied to vendors while being misrepresented as genuine products, officials said. Approximately 3,000 kg of adulterated tea powder, 1,500 kg of expired tea powder, artificial colouring agents, and 100 kg of jaggery were seized. Officials said these activities pose serious health risks, including gastrointestinal issues, allergies, and long-term complications. Legal action is being taken under the Food Safety and Standards Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the DCP said. The DCP said small, roadside tea stalls were among those using the adulterated tea powder purchased at low prices from the culprits. The DCP and H-FAST inspectors demonstrated how the adulterated tea releases colour instantly in cold water, unlike genuine tea, which takes time in hot water. Cases have been registered under the Food Safety Act and BNS, with further investigation underway. “We appeal to the public to buy only genuine, properly packaged tea with clear manufacturing and expiry dates,” the DCP said, advising that the simple home test be carried out to detect adulteration. The adulterated tea powder was not only sold at low prices to small tea stalls and roadside vendors in Hyderabad, but in several other districts also, police said.



analysis. He also clarifies that the arrival of generics has not altered clinical guidelines. Doctors, he stresses, must continue to follow established protocol for patient selection, dosing, and monitoring. The primary impact of generics, in his view, is improved affordability and accessibility, not a change in how these drugs should be used. Dr Mittal, too, echoes concerns about misuse. These medications should be used strictly under medical supervision and not casually for minor or purely cosmetic weight loss goals, he stresses.

“One of the biggest problems I’ve seen is what I call the starvation mindset,” he says. He recalls a patient who, after experiencing appetite suppression, drastically reduced food intake. “She believed eating less would accelerate results. Instead, she developed sarcopenia: significant muscle loss, weakness, and metabolic compromise. Weight loss should not come at the cost of strength.” He recalls another case of a patient casually mentioning a past thyroid nodule while already on therapy. “We stopped the medication and carried out further evaluation. It turned out to be malignant,” he says. “This is exactly why proper screening matters. There are hidden contraindications, and missing them can have serious consequences.” Stressing again on the need for pre-evaluation, he says, “There are genuine concerns involving the pancreas, gallbladder, and gut — pancreatitis, gallbladder disease, severe gastrointestinal slowing, even bowel obstruction in susceptible individuals. These are not common in every patient, but they are significant enough that we cannot ignore pre-evaluation.” He adds, “Rapid improvement in blood sugar can sometimes worsen diabetic retinopathy. I may not have personally encountered it yet, but that does not mean we should ignore the risk. A baseline retinal check is always wise.” He recalls yet another case of a patient mentioning loosening of teeth. “It sounded dental initially, but we identified it as bone health. Rapid weight loss, especially with poor nutrition and protein deficiency, can affect bone strength. Sometimes patients celebrate weight loss while silently losing muscle and bone underneath.” “Obesity treatment cannot be reduced to a number on the weighing scale... the goal is not just weight loss, it is safe, sustainable, medically meaningful improvement in health.” As consultations wind down, his final message is simple but firm. “GLP-1 therapies are powerful metabolic tools, not cosmetic shortcuts. They work beautifully when used correctly and dangerously when used casually.”

Tesla plans expansion of supercharging network across India

New Delhi: American electric carmaker Tesla on Friday said it will expand its charging network, including superchargers, across major hubs in India as it looks to accelerate its journey in the country.

The company, which made its much-awaited entry into India, launching its Model Y, had on Wednesday launched its second model, a three-row six-seater SUV Model YL priced at Rs 61.99 lakh, and is simultaneously intensifying charging network expansion to address range anxiety among customers. “We already have five supercharging stations in India, which we have built around the lifestyle of our customers, where they go to work, shop, dine and travel,” Tesla India General Manager Sharad Agarwal told reporters here. He further said, “In the coming months, you will see that we will build charging infrastructure around the major hubs, which are Delhi, Chandigarh, Jaipur, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune.” These are the cities where Tesla is going to build the charging infrastructure — superchargers as well as destination chargers — to enable charging and reduce the range anxiety that people have, Agarwal added. Noting that Tesla is not just building cars but has also built “the largest charging infrastructure in the world”, he said the company has “more than 8,100 charging stations, which also means that we have 80,000-plus superchargers installed”. Stating that these have 99.95 per cent uptime, Agarwal said it “means that when you go to a Tesla charging station, you will always find it working. That’s the technology which we are also bringing to India”.

After BKC, pod taxi network planned across MMR; Thane, Mira-Bhayandar next in line



GNS News Agency, May 2

After the proposed pod taxi project in Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), the Maharashtra government is now looking at expanding the system into a wider network, with Thane and Mira-Bhayandar being selected as the two other places to implement the new transportation system. Officials said plans are underway to replicate the personal rapid transit (PRT) model across multiple urban pockets, positioning pod taxis as first- and last-mile connectors to the region's expanding Metro network. The projects are expected to be implemented on a public-private partnership (PPP) basis, with the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) as the nodal agency.

Detailed proposals are currently being finalised by the Thane and Mira-Bhayandar municipal corporations, based on feasibility studies conducted by Nippon Koei India Pvt Ltd. The studies have proposed a 43.5-km pod taxi network in Thane and a 32.5-km network in Mira-Bhayandar, to be rolled out in phases. Stations are planned at a distance of one kilometre, with routes designed to integrate with the upcoming Metro corridors.

"Discussions on the feasibility of the route have been ongoing for around five months now," said Saurabh Rao, Thane municipal commissioner. "With nearly 30km of Metro line coming up with the Thane Ring Metro, we want to ensure the route of the PRT forms an optimal network with it holistically. A formal decision on the route and financial model will be taken in the next two weeks." Radhabinod Sharma, commissioner of the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation, said, "Once the DPR is ready, a proposal will be sent to the MMRDA for execution." In Thane, the proposed network will span 43.5 km with 72 stations at an estimated cost of ₹2,806 crore, connecting key locations such as Majiwada, Viviana Mall, Manpada, Hiranandani Estate, Kasarvadavali, Teen Hath Naka and Shastri Nagar. In Mira-Bhayandar, a 32.5-

km network with 29 stations is estimated to cost ₹2,256 crore, linking Mira Road, Bhayandar, Kashimira, Golden Nest Circle, Shanti Park, Kanakia and other residential clusters.

The first phase covering around 12–13 km in each city is tentatively targeted for rollout by 2028, as per the consultant's plan. Officials said the system is being positioned as a solution to last-mile connectivity gaps, with pod taxis offering automated, point-to-point travel without intermediate stops. MMRDA Commissioner Sanjay Mukherjee said the proposals are currently under consideration at multiple urban local bodies. "The plans are under consideration at the Thane Municipal Corporation, Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation, and the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation," he said. Interest from private players is also gathering pace. Futran Podcars, one of the companies exploring participation, recently demonstrated its technology to Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik and MMRDA officials. "Our PRT are ESSPODS, standing in for elevated suspended self-steering pods. Each podcar has a capacity of 16 to 20 people, with 8 passengers sitting and the others standing. The podcar can travel at a speed of 60 to 70kmph, allowing for a capacity of 17,000+ people per hour in each direction. We are looking forward to the bidding process beginning soon," said Asit Sharma, senior vice-president at the company. He added that a tentative cost to passenger would be around Rs 8-10 per km.

The technology, originally used in mining haulage in South Africa, has been adapted for urban passenger transport and is currently being tested on a pilot track near Vadodara. Once approved by the municipal corporations, the MMRDA will take up execution and begin the tendering process. Work on Mumbai's first pod taxi project, planned in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), has already commenced which will introduce a driverless personal rapid transit system designed for short, point-to-point urban travel. The ₹1,016-crore project envisions an 8.85-km elevated network with 22 stations across the business district, where small automated pods carrying up to six passengers will run at intervals of 15–30 seconds. Built on narrow guideways supported by slim pillars to minimise road disruption, the system is aimed at easing last-mile congestion in BKC, which sees 4–6 lakh daily commuters. With a top speed of 40 kmph and a proposed fare of around ₹21 per km, the pods are expected to function as a quick, on-demand alternative to autos and taxis. The project, to be developed on a public-private partnership model and operated by Sai Green Mobility, is targeted for completion by 2031.

No solution at sight, Andheri subway may get inundated this monsoon, too

GNS News Agency, May 2

The Andheri subway, which is shut several times after getting inundated every monsoon, may continue to remain so in the upcoming season also, with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) not being able to find a solution till now. Civic officials said that a measure will be adopted soon, and the crisis will be mitigated from next year.

Located almost one kilometre from the Andheri railway station, the Andheri subway is a key east-west link in the western suburbs. However, during the monsoon, the subway is kept shut due to waterlogging. In 2025, the subway was shut 33 times between June and October, while in 2024, it was shut 35 times during this period, and in 2023, the subway was shut 21 times. Speaking to The Indian Express, Abhijit Bangar, additional municipal commissioner (Projects), said the authorities are looking at two probable options — diversion of the existing drainage network and construction of a holding tank. "The process of diverting the drains is going to be challenging since the drains have sharp turns, which cause disruption to the flow and lead to clogs and reduced lifespan of pipelines," Bangar said.

Therefore, according to officials, a holding tank is likely to be the probable solution to counter flooding in Andheri. A holding pond is like a detention basin that temporarily stores water during heavy rainfall. The water from a flood-prone area is routed to a nearby pond through pumps and pipelines, where the water is either kept in storage temporarily or channelled elsewhere using dewatering pumps. Holding ponds also act as a buffer between an area and its nearby waterbody. In Mumbai, a holding pond was constructed in Hindmata Junction, which was a key flood-prone area. Following this, the issue of waterlogging in that area decreased considerably. The BMC has roped in IIT Bombay to chalk out a solution for Andheri. Bangar said that the BMC has set a June 15 target to finalise the plan of implementation, following which tenders will be floated, with the construction work set to begin by October this year. In 2024, the BMC had proposed a Rs 200-crore proposal to mitigate the flooding issue at the Andheri subway. The civic body's objective was to augment the existing drainage system to ensure that the water-carrying capacity increases. The civic authorities had also planned to create an additional drainage line that would divert the flow of water towards the western side, eventually discharging the water to the nearby creek.

The two-phase project was supposed to begin in Oc-



tober 2025 and be completed by May 2026. However, the project didn't take off. "During a feasibility study, we found that the carrying capacity of the drains could be increased to tackle an average rainfall of 55 mm. At present, the carrying capacity is just 20 mm, and after the implementation of the proposed works, we would get only an additional cover of 35 mm of rainfall, which is not a wide range. Therefore, spending Rs 200 crore just to tackle 35 mm of rainfall will not be worth it, and we had to cancel this project to chalk out a more feasible project with a good cost-benefit ratio," an official said. Why does the subway and its adjoining areas get flooded

The location of the subway is saucer-shaped, making the entry and exit points elevated and have a slope-like curvature, due to which water from the adjoining areas also gets into the subway. Besides this, the Mogra Nullah, which originates 2 km away from the subway, passes downstream, abutting the subway, and whenever the water in the nullah overflows, it enters the subway and stays accumulated there. "One of the major challenges that we (BMC) are facing in keeping this particular point flood-free is the topography of this subway. This is a watershed area, where the gradient is very steep. During the rains, water gushes inside the subway at a very high speed. Unless any large-scale structural intervention is carried out, it will continue to be a challenge to keep the subway entirely flood-free," an official said. Bangar also blamed the 'reckless' disposal of solid waste for choking the drain. "Often we see materials like suitcases, furniture, plastic items, bicycles, being disposed of in the drain. These items obstruct the water flow, which, in turn, leads to overflow of the drains, causing flooding in the subway. We have been holding talks with local residents as well, however, no concrete result has emerged yet," the official added.

ED searches 11 locations in Punjab over ex-DIG Bhullar's money laundering case

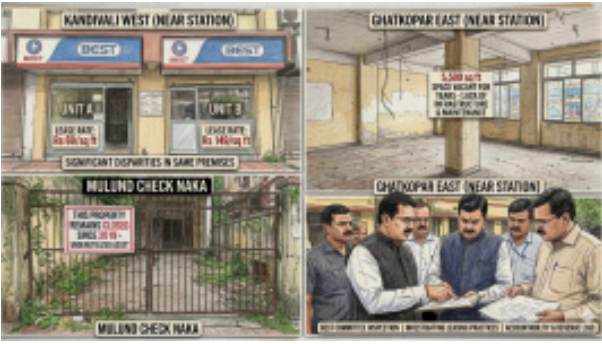
GNS News Agency, May 2

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) Monday launched search operations at 11 premises across Punjab and Chandigarh in a money laundering probe linked to former deputy inspector general (DIG) Harcharan Singh Bhullar and his associates. The raids were conducted under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. Among 11 locations, five are in Ludhiana district, two in Chandigarh, two in Patiala, one in Nabha, and one in Jalandhar. ED sources said the ongoing searches against Haracharan Singh Bhullar aim to uncover additional proceeds of crime, benami properties, and evidence of money laundering involving the accused, their associates, and suspected benamidars. The ED raids stem from predicate offences registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Chandigarh, involving allegations of bribery and possession of assets disproportionate to known sources of income. Bhullar, who served as DIG of Ropar Range, was arrested by CBI in October 2025 following a complaint by a Fatehgarh Sahib-based scrap dealer. The complainant alleged that Bhullar allegedly demanded illegal gratification through middleman



Kirshanu Sharda to settle a 2023 FIR registered against his business at Sirhind police station. According to the CBI FIR and investigation records, Sharda initially sought a bribe to close the case and later demanded Rs 8 lakh to prevent further police action. On October 16, 2025, a CBI trap led to Sharda's arrest while accepting Rs 5 lakh on Bhullar's behalf. Later, a case of disproportionate assets was also registered against Bhullar after the recovery of an unexplained cash of Rs 7,36,90,000, gold and silver jewellery worth around Rs 2,32,00,000.

BEST site visits flag pricing gaps, vacant assets; panel member raises tender concerns



GNS News Agency, May 2

BestThe BEST committee visited commercial properties in Kandivali, Mulund and Ghatkopar, during which committee member Nitin Nandgaonkar told The Indian Express that the team observed significant disparities even within the same premises. (AI-generated by Gemini)A near two-fold difference in lease rates for adjacent shops at a BEST property in Kandivali West has come under scrutiny after a recent committee inspection also flagged long-vacant commercial properties in Mulund and Ghatkopar East, raising concerns over leasing practices.

The BEST committee visited commercial properties in Kandivali, Mulund and Ghatkopar, during which committee member Nitin Nandgaonkar told The Indian Express that the team observed significant disparities even within the same premises. "At Kandivali, we saw four units in a single line at a prime location near the station. Two were leased at Rs 69 per sq ft, while two adjacent units were at Rs 149 per sq ft. We could not understand how such a difference exists for the same kind of space," Nandgaonkar said. He said the units had been allotted under different tenders, but maintained that the variation raised questions about the basis of rate determination. "There cannot be such wide differences without a clear rationale. This needs to be examined," he added. Nandgaonkar also pointed to the absence of periodic re-tendering in some cases. "Some properties have continued at the same rates for many years. If tenders are not refreshed and competitive bidding is not encouraged, revenue potential is automatically limited," he

‘Won’t appear in person or through lawyer’: Arvind Kejriwal shoots off letter to Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma

GNS News Agency, May 2

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal has fired off a letter to Delhi High Court judge, Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma, saying "he will neither appear in person nor through a lawyer before her", the party said on Monday. On February 27, a trial court had discharged Kejriwal and 22 others in the case. The CBI had then filed a revision plea, which was listed before Justice Sharma, whose roster deals with criminal cases involving MPs and MLAs. "I have lost hope of getting justice from Justice Swarana Kanta. Therefore, I have decided to follow the path of Satyagraha as shown by Mahatma Gandhi...", he said in his 25-point letter running into three pages. He said he has taken this decision by listening to the voice of his conscience. He also stated he will reserve the right to approach the Supreme Court in appeal against Justice Kanta's decision. Last week, Justice Sharma had rejected the pleas filed by the former Delhi Chief Minister and five others and refused to recuse herself from hearing the excise policy case. In all humility and with complete respect for judiciary, I have written the following letter to Justice Swarna Kanta Sharma, informing her that pursuing Gandhian principles of Satyagraha, it won't be possible for me to pursue this case in her court, either in person or through

Kejriwal and five others, including Delhi's former Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, AAP's ex-MLA Durgesh Pathak and the party's former communications in-charge Vijay Nair, had filed pleas seeking her recusal. Rejecting their pleas, Justice Sharma had said the applications did not carry evidence, but cast "aspersions,

said. The committee member further highlighted the issue of underutilised assets. In Ghatkopar East, a commercial property of around 5,500 sq ft near the station has remained unused for years, while a 6,400 sq ft plot near Mulund check naka has been shut since 2019. "If a property remains locked for years, it is a direct loss. Even at conservative estimates, such spaces could generate significant monthly revenue if properly utilised," he said. According to him, inadequate upkeep and lack of basic infrastructure may also be affecting demand. "In several places, there is no proper maintenance, no electricity or water connections, and no effort to make the property usable. Without these basics, how will anyone take the space on rent?" he said. He added that visibility of tenders could be another concern. "There has to be proper advertising and outreach. If people are not aware that a property is available, they will not come forward," he said.

Nandgaonkar said the committee plans to raise these issues in its upcoming meeting. "We will be questioning the administration on why these gaps exist and what steps will be taken. There has to be accountability, and going forward, we want proper valuation and transparent processes," he said. The observations come against the backdrop of concerns already raised over BEST's commercial leasing practices. A recent inspection by the committee had highlighted inconsistent pricing and unused plots across Kandivali, Ghatkopar and Mulund, bringing attention to potential revenue losses. Earlier reports have also noted that BEST has been under pressure to increase its non-fare revenue, with the state government mandating that a significant portion of its income be generated from such sources.

Officials have previously attributed lower lease rates to legacy agreements and older market benchmarks, indicating that some contracts were executed when prevailing rates were lower. They have also stated that lease rates may be reviewed. However, the findings from the latest site visits suggest that inconsistencies in pricing and delays in utilisation persist, raising questions about how effectively corrective measures are being implemented. With multiple committee members flagging similar concerns during inspections, the focus is now likely to shift to whether BEST undertakes a comprehensive review of its leasing processes and asset management practices in the coming months.



insinuations and doubts" on her "fairness and impartiality". "If the court was to recuse, it would not be prudence but abdication of duty, and would amount to lending legitimacy to aspersions and insinuations and doubts, and no ground for the same to exist. It would be an act of surrender... a signal that an institution can be bent and shaken," she had observed. Seeking Justice Sharma's withdrawal from his case, Kejriwal had raised grounds of reasonable apprehension of bias and claimed his analysis of the criminal cases pertaining to MP/MLAs before her court shows there are only two cases — one of them being his and another case involving a political opponent of the BJP — where the court is taking up the matters expeditiously. Kejriwal had also cited his apprehension of bias on political lines, as well as based on social media posts, stating that he is "strongly affected and apprehends bias of this court based on social media posts which show a conflict of interest of this court".

Demolition of madrasa belonging to UK-based preacher begins in UP, officials say court ruled it ‘illegal’



GNS News Agency, May 2

The Sant Kabir Nagar district administration on Sunday began demolishing a building allegedly linked to the UK-based Islamic preacher, Maulana Shamsul Huda Khan, after authorities found that the structure — earlier used as a madrasa — had been constructed without an approved building plan. Officials also said that the preacher, a foreign national, had purchased the land without obtaining permission from the competent authority. District Magistrate (Sant Kabir Nagar) Alok Kumar said the building was found to have been constructed without an approved map.

The double-storey building with a basement is spread over around five biswa of land, said an official posted in the district. On Sunday, a joint team of district officials and police personnel arrived in Moti Bazaar in Khalilabad tehsil with bulldozers and began demolishing the building. The area was sealed off. Officials said that it might take another two days to completely bring down the structure. "Nearly a year ago, a sub-divisional magistrate's court had ordered the removal of the building after declaring that it had been constructed illegally. The order was subsequently challenged before the district magistrate's court, which upheld the SDM court's decision. A further appeal before the commissioner's court also failed," an official said.

The ED initiated its probe based on three FIRs regis-

tered by the Uttar Pradesh Police, which include charges of fraud, forgery, and criminal conspiracy. "Khan was initially appointed as a primary school teacher in a madrasa in 1984 and later acquired UK citizenship in 2013. Despite becoming a foreign national, he allegedly continued to draw salary until 2017 and received pension benefits until 2023, even after retirement," said an official. Police have alleged that he concealed his foreign citizenship and misrepresented his nationality, enabling him to unlawfully acquire immovable properties and claim government salary and retirement benefits without entitlement. It is further alleged that funds were illegally routed through NGOs controlled by him, under the guise of donations, and were used to construct madrasas and acquire properties in UP.

CIC backs denial of RTI on India's Russia oil imports

New Delhi: Data on oil imports from Russia to India cannot be provided as it is exempted under the RTI Act due to its "commercial and confidential" nature, according to the Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell (PPAC) under the Oil Ministry, with the Central Information Commission too backing it, citing strategic and economic interests of the country.

The case relates to an RTI plea seeking details of crude oil imported from Russia to India between June 2022 and June 2025, including a company-wise breakup for firms such as IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC Videsh, Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy.

The Central Public Information Officer (CPIO) had denied the information, stating: "The information pertaining to country-wise and company-wise details of crude oil import is of commercial and confidential nature and is exempted from disclosure under section 8(1) (d&e) of the RTI Act 2005.

India’s leather sector eyes high-value manufacturing shift



GNS News Agency, May 2

New Delhi: The FTA with New Zealand is expected to give a big push to India’s leather industry, which expects to grow to \$50 billion by 2030, driven by a strategic shift from mass production to high-value-added manufacturing, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry said. On the eve of the signing of the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and his New Zealand counterpart Todd McClay participated in an Industry Engagement Programme at Agra.

New Zealand’s rich raw leather resources, combined with India’s manufacturing capabilities, offer a strong complementarity that both sides expressed keenness to harness. On the occasion, both ministers, along with Industry representatives, spoke of positioning Agra as a global sourcing destination, an employment engine, and an export powerhouse on the world stage,” the Commerce Ministry statement said. Agra, which accounts for approximately 75 per cent of India’s leather footwear production, holds a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its leather footwear and is a flagship product under the One District One Product scheme.

With the FTA eliminating duties on 100 per cent of Indian exports from Entry into Force, and bringing tariffs on leather and footwear from 5 per cent to zero, Indian exporters are set to gain a decisive competitive advantage. MoS

of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, S.P. Baghel, also participated in the interaction. The interaction brought together leading industry representatives from the leather and footwear, AYUSH, medical devices, light engineering, and sports goods sectors and Laghu Udyog Bharati, Uttar Pradesh. The industry presented its views reflecting the depth and diversity of India’s leather manufacturing prowess, as well as the pharma industry, medical devices industry, and engineering products. In keeping with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of building trade partnerships that are inclusive, forward-looking, and firmly rooted in India’s national priorities, both ministers underscored that the India-New Zealand FTA is far more than a tariff agreement. It is a comprehensive framework encompassing market access, agricultural productivity, investment, talent mobility, collaboration in sports, tourism, and people-to-people ties, designed to benefit manufacturers, farmers, MSMEs, women entrepreneurs, students, and skilled professionals across both nations.

The interaction also covered the pharmaceutical and medical devices sectors. Industry representatives welcomed the FTA’s provisions for faster regulatory access, including acceptance of GMP and GCP inspection reports from comparable international regulators, which will reduce compliance burdens and expedite product approvals for Indian manufacturers. They welcomed the inclusion of a dedicated chapter on Health and Traditional Medicine in the FTA, a first for both countries, recognising AYUSH. Goyal also touched upon the significant opportunities the Agreement creates in education and talent mobility. He urged industry and stakeholders to actively leverage these provisions, encouraging Indian students and professionals to explore the new pathways the FTA opens, and called upon all to view this Agreement as a gateway to a deeper, people-centred partnership between the two nations. The Industry Engagement Programme at Agra is part of a series of high-level interactions accompanying the landmark signing of the India-New Zealand FTA in New Delhi, concluded in a record nine months since its launch on March 16, 2025, marking a new chapter in bilateral economic relations.

Meet the officer behind a five-day drive in Gurgaon to raze 7,500 illegal structures



GNS News Agency, May 2

Amid the rubble of cement and fallen trees, a man in a sun hat, white mask and sunglasses stood beside an earthmover. He ordered the earthmover operator to raze an alleged illegal structure built along a road in DLF Phase 1 — one of Gurgaon’s most upscale neighbourhoods. The man giving the orders is District Town Planner (DTP) (Enforcement) Amit Madholia. He oversaw a five-day anti-encroachment drive from April 18 to 22, spanning eight privately licensed colonies in Gurgaon — the majority along the upscale Golf Course Road area. The operation resulted in the demolition of over 7,500 structures and the recovery of more than 200 km of roads that had allegedly been encroached upon by private occupants, officials said.

The drive carried out by the city’s Town and Country Planning (Enforcement) Department (DTPC) and supervised by Madholia saw the deployment of earthmovers to raze alleged illegal extended lawns, permanent guard rooms, and paved ramps across these colonies, officials said. The drive came in the wake of the Punjab and Haryana High Court’s April 2 interim stay on stilt-plus-4-storey constructions. Additional Chief Secretary Anurag Agarwal had, on April 17, directed all concerned departments to ensure the immediate removal of encroachments from Right of Way (ROW) areas and strict compliance with building norms, seeking a detailed report by April 22. By leading the drive, Madholia, appointed as Gurugram’s DTP in early 2024 saw one of the sharpest enforcement pushes in the city in recent times. “Our teams have worked tirelessly to clear 216 km of road that had been occupied by illegal structures for years,” Madholia said. “This action is part of a time-bound mandate to restore the city’s infrastructure. We gave people the opportunity to remove encroachments voluntarily. Now, strict action will continue without any exemptions.” His remarks come against the backdrop of opposition from several Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), which have decried the drive, alleging that they were not granted suffi-

cient notice. The drive was executed by eight coordinated enforcement teams and targeted the capture of public green areas and utility corridors, officials said.

According to officials, the drive was carried out to reclaim the city’s ROW from private encroachment, clearing up nearly 215 km of road length, originally planned at widths of 9 to 24 metres, which had, over the years, shrunk into cramped passageways due to illegal constructions. As the drive concluded this week, the visual landscape of colonies like DLF Phase 1 and 2, South City 1, Palam Vihar, and Sushant Lok had been visibly altered. With the DTPC having concluded this phase, the Haryana Shahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) on Friday announced a large-scale demolition drive scheduled to run from April 27 to July 1. According to officials, the drive will be backed by a duty magistrate and 100 police personnel. HSVP estate officers have formed multiple teams to clear roads of encroachment and dismantle illegal structures, including kitchen gardens, pushcarts, and elevated house ramps, across 29 HSVP sectors in the city, officials said. While some RWAs have expressed criticism over the loss of community infrastructure built outside plot boundaries, several civic experts and residents have come out in support of the drive.

Sarika Panda Bhatt, co-founder of the Raahgiri Foundation, an NGO, highlighted the severe social cost of over-looking encroachments by the elite while pushing for walkable neighbourhoods. “It is not just carts that encroach, but private property too. Nothing should obstruct pedestrians, and this was long due,” Bhatt said. “It is disheartening to walk through Gurgaon’s residential blocks and see how public land is systematically ‘claimed’ by private villas. We label a street vendor an ‘encroacher’ for trying to earn a living, but we ignore the villa owner who absorbs the public footpath into their garden. In these very colonies, domestic help and children walking to government schools are forced into the path of traffic because their designated walking space has been stolen.” Residents, she stressed, must stop viewing public space as surplus land for private expansion. Bhawani Shankar Tripathy, a resident of Sector 23A and a vocal supporter of the drive, explained the legal framework surrounding the ROW. “The ROW comprises the carriage-way and the utility areas on both sides. Not an inch of space outside a property’s designated boundary wall belongs to the homeowner,” Tripathy noted. “The government maintains total control over the ROW to lay and maintain utility services. Public spaces are strictly for public usage. Ramps connecting the road to a house must be flat, must end before the road edge, and cannot consume road space. Authorities can break private ramps to access utility lines, and residents have no legal standing to object.”

Hired to modernise madrasas, later rendered destitute, 21,000 UP teachers cling to new hope



GNS News Agency, May 2

A postgraduate in English, 56-year-old Mohammad Muslim sells fruits from a handcart to make ends meet. Now, about five years after the Madrasa Modernisation Scheme was discontinued by the Centre, leaving around 21,000 teachers employed as part of it destitute, Muslim hopes “our achche din (good days)” may return. Uttar Pradesh Minority Affairs Minister Danish Azad Ansari has said that the state government is considering accommodating these “modern teachers” following an in-principle decision taken at a meeting with Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. A detailed action plan will be drawn up soon, Ansari said, adding that the teachers who have made “significant contributions” will not be denied their rights.

Teachers like Muslim, who is a resident of Ghazipur, taught subjects such as Hindi, English, Mathematics, Science and Social Sciences to about 10 lakh students at 7,442 madrasas across the state as part of the modernisation scheme, which was envisaged as a bridge between mainstream and religious education in madrasas. Ashraf Ali, who is the president of the body representing these teachers, the Madrasa Adhunikaran Shikshak Ekta Samiti, says a government initiative like this would benefit not only the educators but also students. Ali points out that after the scheme was brought in, students from madrasas could transition more easily into mainstream education. “Earlier, they would find it difficult to secure admission in other schools.” Teachers say that, while not much, the salaries had been a support. Even when they stopped, many continued their work in madrasas, hoping their dues would be cleared soon. Alongside, many took up odd jobs — such as vending, tailoring, driving rickshaws, and farming — to support their families.

Muslim says he used to teach 53 students English, Hindi and Social Sciences from 8 am to 1 pm, at Madrasa Quadria Gulshan in Ghazipur, and sell fruits later in the day. Now, the latter is his only means of making a living. “It has been difficult to provide for my family, my wife and four daughters. My wife took up tailoring work. ... Today, despite holding a postgraduate degree, a Bachelors in Elementary Education, and a Basic Training Certificate, I sell fruits by the roadside.” Ansari told The Indian Express the government is exploring ways to accommodate those who earlier worked as modern teachers and that the Director and Principal Secretary of the Minority Affairs Department have been instructed to formulate a policy for their adjustment. The officials, Ansari said, are currently working on the proposal and efforts are underway to arrive at “a workable solution”. The Madrasa Modernisation Scheme was conceived in 1993-94 by the P V Narasimha Rao-led government at the Centre, and in 2008 renamed as the Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madrasas. Not limited to Muslim teachers alone, it provided for appointment of up to three “modern teachers” in madrasas.

The Centre and states were to pay the salaries of these teachers in the ratio of 60:40 under the scheme, with teachers who were graduates entitled to Rs 6,000 per month and those with postgraduate degrees Rs 12,000. However, salaries under the scheme remained irregular throughout. In 2016, the then Samajwadi Party government in Uttar Pradesh increased the honorarium to the two categories of

teachers by Rs 2,000 and Rs 3,000, respectively. In April 2021, the scheme was shifted from the Union Ministry of Education to the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs. And soon after, it was discontinued. Says Ashraf: “In 2020-21, the government paid modern teachers salaries for 10 months. This reignited hopes, but then the wages stopped.” In 2024, the UP government stopped the payment of honorariums as well. Shakir Ali and his wife are among the “modern teachers” who have continued to turn up to hold classes, with several madrasa committees retaining such educators on a small pay.

Ali, a postgraduate who teaches English and Mathematics at Madrasa Jamia Abul Ghaus in the Mohammadpur locality of Ghazipur, earlier drove a rented e-rickshaw, and now takes private tuitions. His wife, a graduate, is employed at the same madrasa, which has about 300 students. It has three “modern teachers”, besides nine for religious education. Laiqa Fatima, a resident of Meerapur village in Azamgarh, also continues to teach at a madrasa for a modest pay. The management and students requested her to stay on, she says. Madrasa Neyaz Jafari in Dewait village where she works has 138 children, and three “modern teachers”. A postgraduate in sociology, Laiqa says she joined in 2016. Her husband Naseem Haider had lost his job at the time. Haider later found work as a private taxi driver, and for a while the family thought they had turned a corner. “But after our salaries stopped, we slipped back into financial hardship,” Laiqa says. So she began stitching clothes after school hours to support the family. One of her colleagues is Meraj Fatima, a postgraduate in political science. Meraj says: “My husband worked as a chauffeur in Saudi Arabia but could not send money home regularly. A few months after Laiqa joined, I too took up a position at the same madrasa.” That proved invaluable when her husband returned to India around four years ago. When he opened a bag shop, they were “stable” for a while, she says — till the Madrasa Modernisation Scheme was halted. The madrasa’s manager Niyaz Haider says they can pay Laiqa and Meraj very little, given their limited resources. Hoping that the Adityanath government will rehabilitate teachers such as her, Meraj says: “I hope it will not only ease our financial burden but also of many others in similar circumstances.”

Maize farmers sleep at PACS office in Nagarkurnool amid gunny bag shortage

Nagarkurnool: Maize farmers in the district continue to face hardships in selling their stocks due to lethargy of officials in failing to arrange gunny bags and expedite procurement. Farmers at the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society (PACS) in Tadoor in the district literally slept at the society office due to officials’ failure in providing gunny bags. Videos and images of farmers sleeping at the office are being shared on social media platforms.

Generally, farmers arrive at the PACS office and register their names for gunny bags. Depending on the stocks they get to the office, officials provide them gunny bags. However, on Sunday many farmers arrived at the PACS office along with their stocks. To register their names, secure tokens and gunny bags, farmers placed their documents in the serpentine queues and slept at the office, according to reports. Farmers from different villages carried their stocks to the PACS office in auto trolleys and tractors. And, if they fail to get tokens and gunny bags, they would have to return back and this would result in additional transport cost to them. To avoid this, farmers slept at the office premises. On Monday morning also, farmers turned up at the office but had to wait for a long time to get gunny bags.

Homestay owner seeks bail; court says victim need not be party



GNS News Agency, May 2

The owner of a homestay in Karnataka’s Kodagu district has moved a sessions court seeking bail after being arrested for reportedly withholding information about the alleged sexual assault of a US tourist by one of his employees. The court initially directed that the victim be made a party to the bail plea. However, on April 25, it reversed this decision, ruling that her inclusion was not required. The owner, who runs a well-known homestay in South Kodagu, was arrested on April 22 after the worker allegedly spiked a foreign tourist’s drink and sexually assaulted her on April 12. The worker, a resident of Jharkhand, has been charged with rape and criminal intimidation.

The owner has been accused of shielding the accused and failing to report the crime under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) sections 238 and 239 for screening the offender and failing to inform authorities. When the homestay owner’s bail plea was first heard on April 24, the court ordered that the victim be impleaded as respondent No 2.

However, the next day, it was informed that such a requirement applies only in specific cases under Section 483 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) for offences involving the rape or gang rape of a minor under BNS sections 65 and 70(2). According to BNSS Section 483, which is the provision for bail, “The presence of the informant or any person authorised by him shall be obligatory at the time of hearing of the application for bail to the person under section 65 or sub-section (2) of section 70 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.” Accepting this argument, the court ruled that the victim need not be made a party to the proceedings. According to the Karnataka Police, the incident took place in the second week of April but surfaced only later. The survivor, who was travelling alone, alerted officials at the US embassy after leaving the homestay and reaching Mysuru. In her complaint, the woman alleged that a staff member spiked her drink and sexually assaulted her. She also accused the owner of attempting to suppress the incident and failing to assist her in reporting it. The victim later recorded her statement before a magistrate, supporting the FIR and aiding the prosecution. The police said the main accused had been employed at the homestay for several years. The victim had previously visited the property with a friend.

Both the worker and the owner were arrested last week and remanded to judicial custody until May 3. The Karnataka Government said last week the tourism department had cancelled the registration of the homestay after the alleged sexual assault incident came to light. “Homestay owners must strictly adhere to the guidelines. We have provided a standard operating procedure (SOP) covering who can run a homestay, whether they have valid licences, and the procedures to be followed,” Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara said last week.

Prohibitory orders imposed in UP’s Ghazipur over death of a girl



“No political party, group or individual will be allowed to gather, enter the district to stage protests, or organise demonstrations related to the incident,” District Magistrate Anupam Shukla said.

GNS News Agency, May 2

The district court convicted and sentenced Devnarayan 16 years and 10 months after his arrest. The restrictions come amid rising political tensions, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav announcing that he will visit Ghazipur on April 29 following an attack on an SP delegation that had earlier tried to reach the village.

The Ghazipur district administration has imposed prohibitory orders under BNSS Section 163 across the district till April 30, restricting any form of assembly, protest or political mobilisation in view of possible law and order concerns linked to the death of a teenage girl on April 15. The restrictions come amid rising political tensions, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav announcing that he will visit Ghazipur on April 29 following an attack on an SP delegation that had earlier tried to reach the village. “No political party, group or individual will be allowed to gather, enter the district to stage protests, or organise demonstrations related to the incident,” District Magistrate Anupam Shukla said. Officials said the step was taken as certain groups and political actors were allegedly trying to escalate the matter,

raising fears of unrest. Police also flagged the circulation of misleading and unverified information about the incident by “mischievous elements” and some political workers, which could fuel public anger and tension.

The administration also appealed to the public to maintain calm and avoid spreading rumours while the investigation into the case is underway. Earlier on Sunday, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav launched a sharp attack on the Uttar Pradesh government over the death of the teenage girl, alleging attempts to “change statements” of the victim’s family. Sharing a video of the victim’s father on X, Yadav said, “Changing statements does not change the truth. Uttar Pradesh has never seen such a weak chief minister, under whose watch poor and helpless victims are pressured to alter their statements.” In the video, the girl’s father can be purportedly heard accusing a village head of intimidation and alleging that stones were pelted when a Samajwadi Party delegation had gone to meet the family. He also claimed that a police officer was injured while trying to protect him. However, the victim’s father told reporters that he did not want political leaders to visit his home for “political mileage”. He also said that the district officials have assured him of strict action against the accused and expressed satisfaction with the police investigation. Raising a volley of questions, Yadav asked why there was a delay in lodging the FIR in the case, why statements were allegedly altered, and why the victim’s family was being “harassed”.

He also claimed that the Ghazipur incident mirrored the Hathras case, claiming both involved families from marginalised backgrounds and “dominant elements” as perpetrators. In Hathras, a Dalit girl was allegedly gangraped on September 14, 2020. She later died at the Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi on September 29. Varanasi Zone ADGP, Piyush Mordia, said the girl had gone missing on the night of April 14, and her body was found about 3 km from her home in the Ganga early the next morning. Based on a complaint filed by the family, an FIR has been registered, and the main accused has been arrested, the officer said. Senior police and administrative officials have met the victim’s family, Mordia said, noting that the father has sought a speedy trial to ensure strict punishment for the accused.

Netanyahu condemns Jesus statue incident, highlights Christian role in IDF



GNS News Agency, May 2

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday that Israel is fighting for the rights of Christians throughout the Middle East through a video message released by the Prime Minister's Office. Netanyahu made the statement from the Prime Minister's office with a group of soldiers, he called them an exceptional group of young men and women and outstanding soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). He said that it is completely contrary to what is being presented outside, "Not only is Israel fighting for the rights of Christians throughout the Middle East, it

has Christian soldiers who are fighting for the defence of Israel and for our Christian brothers throughout the region and beyond." He also highlighted that he was impressed by the personnel stories, commitment, sacrifice and their achievements. He noted that "Israel is the only country in the Middle East where the Christian community is thriving, growing, and expanding. And it is very successful, with amazing men and women". Earlier on April 20, PM Netanyahu condemned "in the strongest terms" the incident involving an Israeli soldier damaging a Jesus Christ statue in Lebanon, saying that he was left "stunned and saddened" after learning about the episode. The Prime Minister's statement came after a picture went viral on social media showing an Israeli soldier smashing a statue of Jesus Christ with a sledgehammer.

Netanyahu said that military authorities are carrying out a criminal probe into the matter and will take disciplinary action against the offender. He added that Israel cherishes and upholds the Jewish values of tolerance and mutual respect between Jews and people of all faiths. On April 19, the IDF said that the incident is being viewed with great severity and the soldier's conduct is "inconsistent" with the values expected of its armed forces. It mentioned that the IDF's Northern Command is carrying out a probe into the incident and vowed to take appropriate measures against those involved.

Indian envoy reviews Haj 2026 arrangements in Makkah

GNS News Agency, May 2

Riyadh: India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Suhel Khan on Sunday visited Makkah and oversaw the arrangements for Indian Haj pilgrims. Khan also received the first batch of Indian pilgrims arriving in Makkah from Madinah by train. Consul General of India in Jeddah Fahad Suri, and Consul Haj Sadaf Choudhary were also present during the visit, according to a statement by the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia on X. "This year, a large number of Indian pilgrims will be using the Haramain High-Speed Railway for travel between Makkah and Madinah, in addition to its use for journeys between Jeddah and Makkah. This will reduce their travel time significantly and make the journey safer and more comfortable," the Indian Embassy posted.

On April 18, the first batch of Haj 2026 pilgrims departed from Delhi Airport for Saudi Arabia's Makkah. Chairperson of the Delhi Haj Committee, Kausar Jahan, was present at the airport to mark their departure. Among the key initiatives for Haj 2026 are enhanced digital services through the Haj Suvidha App and the introduction of Haj Suvidha smart wristbands to help locate and assist pilgrims. For the first time, a short-duration Haj option of around 20 days has been introduced, offering greater flexibility.

The government has also increased insurance coverage to approximately Rs 6.25 lakh per pilgrim, strengthening financial and health security during the journey. Additionally, around 60,000 pilgrims will benefit from high-speed train connectivity between Makkah and Madinah, enabling faster and more comfortable travel. Authorities have also



put in place improved real-time monitoring and grievance redressal systems, enhanced medical screening and healthcare support, and better coordination for accommodation and transport services in Saudi Arabia. Hotel-style accommodation has been arranged in Makkah to provide improved facilities to pilgrims. Haj operations will be conducted through 17 embarkation points across India, including major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru, and Srinagar, ensuring regional accessibility and efficient logistics. The government said it has accorded the highest priority to the welfare and well-being of Haj pilgrims, maintaining close coordination with Saudi authorities throughout the pilgrimage period. Pilgrims have been advised to follow all guidelines and travel advisories to ensure a safe and spiritually fulfilling journey.

Hindu man's body found hanging from tree, minority group demands strong action

GNS News Agency, May 2

Dhaka: A Hindu temple caretaker was found hanging from a tree three days after he went missing from his home in southeastern Bangladesh, a minority group said and demanded stern action against the perpetrators. Nayan Sadhu, the 40-year-old resident of Dohazari area under Sthanla Upazila of Chhattogram district, was serving as a caretaker-cum-priest at a Shivakali temple in Khurushkul union in Cox's Bazar Sadar Upazila, Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council (BHCUC) said late Tuesday. Two unidentified men took Nayan with them late on the evening of April 19, and three days later, his body was found hanging from a tree in a hilly area on the outskirts of the village, according to the police and residents in the Cox's Bazar neighbourhood. "We recovered the body when it had started getting decomposed," the Kaler Kantha newspaper said, quoting an unnamed police official. The police are yet not sure if it was a case of murder or suicide, he said. In a statement, the council demanded stern punitive action against the perpetrators of his murder. "The Unity Council strongly condemns the incident and demands immediate arrest and exemplary punishment against the perpetrators," the forum said in the statement. "We just cannot understand what could be the motive of killing an ordinary caretaker of a relatively small temple in a remote area," BHCUC senior member



Kajal Debnath said. Bangladesh Puja Celebration Council's Cox's Bazar unit general secretary Jony Dhar said the body was recovered three days after Nayan went missing, indicating that he was murdered. Police said the body has been sent for an autopsy to determine the exact cause of the death. An investigation was launched following the missing person's report filed by the deceased's wife on April 19. Earlier on April 9, the council said there have been 133 incidents of communal violence between January 1 and March 31 this year in Bangladesh.

Iran airspace partially open, more flights coming to India from Gulf



New Delhi: Iran's airspace is partially open for cargo and chartered flights, but Indian nationals are advised to avoid travelling to the country, and those already there are urged to leave via the land border, with the embassy's support, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Sunday. So far, the Indian embassy in Tehran has facilitated the movement of 2,445 Indian nationals out of Iran through land border routes, the statement said. Israel's airspace is open, and limited flight operations have resumed to destinations in the region, which can be used for onward travel to India. In the UAE, airlines continue to operate limited commercial flights to India based on operational and safety considerations, with around 110 flights expected between the UAE and India on Sunday.

Flights continue to operate from various airports in Saudi Arabia and Oman to destinations in India. With Qatar airspace partially open, Qatar Airways is also operating flights to various destinations in India. The Kuwait airspace is open. Jazeera Airways and Kuwait Airways have resumed limited flight operations from Kuwait to India. Bahrain airspace is also open, and Gulf Air is operating flights from Bahrain to various destinations in India. Besides, Iraq's airspace is open with limited flight operations to destinations in the region, which can be used for onward travel to India. Indian missions remain actively engaged with the Indian community, including the various associations, organisations, professional groups, Indian companies and other stakeholders in the region. The government is according high priority to the welfare of Indian seafarers in the region. Indian missions are extending all assistance to the Indian crew members on vessels in the region, including coordination with the local authorities and agencies, extending consular assistance and facilitating requests to return to India. Since 28 February, around 12,96,000 passengers have travelled from the region to India. Indian missions and posts continue to operate round-the-clock helplines and are proactively assisting Indian nationals. They remain in close contact with the local governments. Updated advisories are being issued regularly, including information on local government guidelines, flight and travel situations and consular services and various welfare measures being undertaken to support the Indian community, the statement added.

Malian Defence Minister killed as jihadis, rebels seize towns, military bases



Mali's Defence Minister was killed in a sweeping attack by jihadis and rebels who seized several towns and military bases, authorities said. This was the latest violence in the junta-run country that has long battled militants linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group as well as a separatist rebellion in the north. The Malian government confirmed the death of the defence chief, Gen. Sadio Camara, in a post on the Defence Ministry's Facebook page, and expressed its condolences to his family.

State-run television also broadcast the announcement of his death by spokesman Gen. Issa Ousmane Coulibaly. Mali was struck on Saturday by one of the biggest coordinated attacks on its army in the capital, Bamako, and several other cities and towns in an assault that also challenged Mali's security partner, Russia, which has forces on the ground in the West African country. The government said on Sunday the attacks appear to be over, but several questions remain, including who was in control of a key northern city that the separatists claim to have taken. The government has not provided a death toll from Saturday and previously said only that at least 16 people were wounded in what it denounced as terror attacks. The separatists have been fighting for years to create an independent state in northern Mali, while al-Qaida and IS-aligned militants have been fighting the government for over a decade.

According to the government statement, Camara's residence was targeted by a suicide car bomber and other attackers on Saturday. "He engaged in an exchange of fire with the assailants, some of whom he managed to neutralise," it said. "During intense clashes, he was wounded and then transported to the hospital, where he unfortunately succumbed to his injuries." Separatists claim control of the northern town of Kidal. A spokesperson for the separatist Tuareg-led Azawad Liberation Front, or FLA, said the Russian Africa Corps troops and the Malian military withdrew from the city of Kidal following the attack on Saturday, after an agreement was reached for their peaceful exit. "Kidal is declared free," said FLA spokesperson Mohamed El Maouloud Ramadan.

Iran Foreign Minister Araghchi returns to Pak amid stalled peace talks; Trump says US call away

GNS News Agency, May 2

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi returned to Islamabad on Sunday after a brief but significant diplomatic stop in Oman even as US President Donald Trump said Iran could call it if it wanted to negotiate an end to the war. Araghchi's visit to Muscat included high-level talks with Haitham bin Tariq and Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi, focusing on regional security and ways to de-escalate tensions in the Gulf, particularly around the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

His return to Pakistan — seen as a key intermediary in indirect contacts between Tehran and Washington — comes at a time when fragile diplomatic efforts have stalled. US President Donald Trump has cancelled a planned visit by senior envoys to Islamabad, effectively halting momentum in backchannel negotiations. The Iranian minister is expected to proceed to Russia after his Pakistan stopover, as part of a broader diplomatic push involving regional and global stakeholders to end the conflict that began with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February.

Trump on Sunday reiterated that the US and Iranian officials could talk over phone for a solution to the conflict. In an interview on Fox News, Trump said he made that decision rather than send a delegation on a 17-hour flight. "We have all the cards. If they want to talk, they can come to us, or they can call us," Trump said. Tehran, meanwhile, has hardened its stance, with President Masoud Pezeshkian asserting that Iran will not negotiate under pressure and demanding the lifting of the US naval blockade, which continues to choke its economy and disrupt maritime activity. Government spokesperson Fatemeh Mohajerani said Araghchi's multi-nation tour, covering Pakistan, Oman and Russia, was aimed at promoting "lasting peace" and coordinating diplomatic efforts with key

In a statement on state TV late Sunday night, Gen. Oumar Diarra, head of the armed forces, confirmed that the Malian army had left the city and that its forces were repositioning in Anefis, a city about 100 kilometres south of Kidal. The separatists have been fighting for years to create an independent state in northern Mali. Kidal had long served as a stronghold of the rebellion before being taken by Malian government forces and Russian mercenaries in 2023. Its capture marked a significant symbolic victory for the junta and its Russian allies. Militants unite with separatists to coordinate attacks. Saturday's wave of attacks was the first time the separatists joined forces with the al-Qaida-linked group JNIM, which said it was also part of the attack on Kidal and had also targeted a town outside of the capital of Bamako and three other cities on Saturday. The FLA spokesperson confirmed the coordinated push. "This operation is being carried out in partnership with the JNIM, which is also committed to defending the people against the military regime in Bamako," Ramadan said.

The separatists called on Russia to "reconsider its support for the military junta" in Mali, saying its "actions have contributed to the suffering of the civilian population." Wassim Nasr, a specialist for the region and senior research fellow at the Soufan Center security think tank, said this "coordination, conducting attacks all over the country at the same time," the united push by the two groups and the call for the Russian military to leave was a first. It extended beyond the military, he said, to the political level because both groups "acknowledged that they worked together." Following the attacks, a three-day overnight curfew, from 9 pm to 6 am, was also announced for the Bamako district. Mali's government spokesperson, Coulibaly, said civilian and military personnel were among the 16 wounded and that several militants were killed. He did not provide a death toll. A threat to the wider region. The Economic Community of West African States condemned Saturday's attacks in Mali and called on "all states, security forces, regional mechanisms and populations of West Africa to unite and mobilise in a coordinated effort to combat this scourge." Following military coups, the juntas in Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso turned from Western allies to Russia for help in combating Islamic militants. But the security situation in the region has worsened in recent times, with a record number of attacks by militants. Government forces have also been accused of killing civilians they suspect of collaborating with militants. In 2024, an al-Qaida-linked group claimed an attack on Bamako's airport and a military training camp in the country's capital, killing scores of people. Ulf Laessing, from the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, said that the separatists and JNIM are unlikely to take control of Bamako in the near term due to opposition from the local population. Still, the attacks undermined the Malian junta's Russian partners. "The attacks are a major blow to Russia as the mercenaries had no intelligence about the attacks and were unable to protect major cities," Laessing said.



partners. Despite a ceasefire that has paused large-scale hostilities, the broader conflict remains volatile. Iran has nearly shut down the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global energy corridor, while the US continues to enforce a maritime blockade on Iranian ports.

Regional tensions persist beyond the Gulf, with continued exchanges between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon even after a truce, underscoring the fragile nature of the ceasefire and the risk of renewed escalation. Pakistan, Oman and other regional actors are attempting to revive indirect negotiations, but major sticking points, including sanctions relief, maritime access and security guarantees, remain unresolved. With diplomatic channels under strain, Araghchi's shuttle diplomacy underscores the urgency and the difficulty of securing a durable settlement.

Netanyahus corruption trial testimony postponed indefinitely over security concerns



Tel Aviv [Israel], April 27 (ANI): The scheduled resumption of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's testimony in his ongoing criminal trial has been abandoned, according to a report by the Times of Israel citing Hebrew media. The proceedings were expected to restart today following a two-month break necessitated by the conflict with Iran. The sudden suspension of the legal session reportedly follows the submission of specific security concerns by Netanyahu's legal representative, Amit Hadad. While the court had prepared for the high-profile testimony to proceed, the Times of Israel noted that "no further details are immediately available" regarding the nature of the security risks or the duration of this latest postponement.

This development follows a decision made last week, when the Jerusalem District Court cancelled Netanyahu's scheduled appearances for the current week. According to

reports by the Times of Israel and the Jerusalem Post, the court acceded to a defence request citing "security and diplomatic" considerations. The court subsequently approved Netanyahu's request to postpone his appearance, with another witness set to testify in his place. While a hearing scheduled for Tuesday has also been cancelled, the State Attorney's Office had opposed the move, arguing that the Prime Minister should align his schedule with court proceedings to complete his cross-examination in the public interest. The decision was issued Sunday by a panel of Jerusalem District Court Judges, Rivka Friedman-Feldman, Moshe Bar-Am, and Oded Shaham, who agreed to hear from another defence witness instead. Consequently, the court will now hear testimony from Ilanit Filber, the wife of former Netanyahu aide and state witness Shlomo Filber. The testimony is central to "Case 4000", also known as the Bezeq-Walla affair, which remains the most serious of the cases against Netanyahu. In this instance, he faces bribery charges over allegations that he directed regulatory decisions benefiting businessman Shaul Elovitch's Bezeq telecom company in exchange for favourable coverage on the Walla news website. Netanyahu has consistently denied these allegations, including claims surrounding a key "directive meeting" with Shlomo Filber, who served as Communications Ministry director-general. The Jerusalem Post reported that Filber's own 2022 testimony was marked by inconsistencies, eventually prompting the State Attorney's Office to seek the annulment of his state witness agreement.

Commerce and Industry Ministry data had shown that India's overall goods exports in March slipped by 7.4% to \$38.92 billion compared to \$42.05 billion in March last year, and imports declined 6.9% to \$59.59 compared to \$63.74 billion. Exports to the West Asia region had slipped by 57.95% and imports by 51.64% due to the war. Last Saturday, Iranian gunboats fired at two India-flagged ships as they tried to exit the Strait of Hormuz. The vessels, oil tanker Sanmar Herald and bulk carrier Jag Arnav, turned back into the Persian Gulf after coming under fire. Scores of commercial vessels with thousands of seafarers have been stuck in the Persian Gulf since the West Asia war began on February 28, as vessel movements through the Strait of Hormuz came to a halt. The Strait is among the world's most critical chokepoints for energy supplies, and accounts for a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) flows.

Why Oracle is cutting jobsThe layoffs come as Oracle restructures its business to support large-scale investments in artificial intelligence and cloud infrastructure. Analysts say the company is reallocating resources from traditional enterprise software and internal operations towards building AI-ready data centres and expanding its cloud services. Oracle has been rapidly scaling its cloud infrastructure to compete with industry leaders such as Amazon and Alphabet. These investments include building new data centres and expanding computing capacity needed to train and run large AI modelsOne of the most significant initiatives tied to this push is the “Stargate” AI infrastructure project, a massive effort aimed at developing next-generation data centre capacity for AI workloads. The project is expected to involve investments running into hundreds of billions of dollars over several years. The company has also integrated generative AI capabilities into several of its enterprise products and cloud offerings in recent months as it attempts to reposition itself as a key infrastructure provider for the AI economy.

flights expected between the UAE and India on Sunday. Flights continue to operate from various airports in Saudi Arabia and Oman to destinations in India. With Qatar airspace partially open, Qatar Airways is also operating flights to various destinations in India. The Kuwait airspace is open. Jazeera Airways and Kuwait Airways have resumed limited flight operations from Kuwait to India. Bahrain airspace is also open, and Gulf Air is operating flights from Bahrain to various destinations in India. Besides, Iraq's airspace is open with limited flight operations to destinations in the region,

What exactly is an 'emotional support' drink?

From a psychological perspective, clinical psychologist Dr Rimpia Sarkar explains that the idea of an "emotional support drink" is less about the drink itself and more about what it represents emotionally. "At a basic level, humans are wired to seek comfort, predictability, and small rituals when they feel stressed or overwhelmed. An "emotional support drink" becomes a symbolic coping tool, something familiar, easily accessible, and immediately soothing," she told indianexpress.com. Whether it is coffee, matcha, boba, or even a soft drink, it creates a sense of control in moments where emotions may feel unpredictable. Aditya Sharma swears by Appy Fizz, which has a flavour profile distinct from the usual rotation and lacks caffeine. For him, it's less about the drink and more about having one reliable

According to Malhotra, waiting “90 minutes to 2 hours after waking before your first coffee can help your body use its natural energy hormones (like cortisol) more efficiently.”

This year's event, which marked the culmination of the 77th Republic Day celebrations, centred on the profound

Sharma's statements go in line with a truth most baby boomers and millennials find it hard to digest. Despite being tagged as partyholics who cannot function without turning everything into a "fun scene" — whether that's bhajan clubbing or a coffee rave, Gen Z has embraced the sober, curious movement with open arms. Unlike Millennials, who normalised partying and social drinking, Gen Z chooses personal well-being, effectively dismantling the "drinking = fun" myth. Don't believe us? The numbers speak for themselves. A 2024 UK study found that consumers aged 20 to 24 are nearly half as likely to prioritise spending on alcoholic beverages compared to previous generations. The Conversation has called Gen Z "the soberest generation." And in 2023, only 18-20 per cent of Americans under 28 said they regularly drank alcohol, according to Statista. So, an emotional support (non-alcoholic) drink is just a clean option to turn to whenever life beats you down. And in certain cases, it can also be a convenient excuse to blow your money on pretty-looking cups and saucers. Bhumija Rishi loves her coffee, but more than her caffeine fix, she is a sucker for aesthetic crockery. "I love my gold and white cup. It has an old-world charm," admits the consultant at Network18 Media and Investments Ltd. Micro coping in a high stress environment: Many people today are dealing with constant low level stress. Instead of large coping mechanisms, they rely on small, repeatable habits. A drink becomes a quick emotional reset during the day. Ritual and predictability: Having the same drink at a certain time creates structure. This predictability can calm the nervous system and reduce anxiety because it signals familiarity and routine. Sensory regulation: The act of holding a warm cup, sipping something sweet or flavourful, and slowing down engages the senses. This can have a grounding effect and bring attention back to the present moment.

Identity and self soothing: For many, it becomes part of their identity. Saying “this is my emotional support coffee” is also a way of acknowledging stress while normalising self soothing behaviour in a socially acceptable way. Social and cultural reinforcement: Social media has amplified this trend by turning everyday coping habits into relatable content. It creates a shared language around stress and comfort. Coping mechanism — repackaged and made fun Dr Sarkar reiterated that it is important to understand that while such habits can be helpful, they are surface level coping mechanisms. “They provide temporary relief but do not address deeper emotional concerns. And at the end of the day, the trend reflects something very real where people are looking for accessible, non overwhelming ways to regulate their emotions in daily life,” she concluded.

Many people find that this reduces jitters and afternoon crashes, making their energy more stable. "However, if you're used to a lot of caffeine, your body might not respond as dramatically. People with digestive issues, anxiety, or trouble sleeping often notice the biggest improvements," suggests the expert. Other small morning habits that can meaningfully influence energy levels throughout the day Malhotra states, "Simple habits like drinking water/morning tonics like zeera ajwain water, turmeric lemon water, cucumber mint juice, amla shot, saffron water with ghee, getting some sunlight, and eating a balanced breakfast, moving your body gently, and taking a few mindful breaths can set the tone for your day." These habits help keep your blood sugar and energy steady, and they support your mental clarity and mood. "Many people don't realise that starting your day with a small, balanced snack—like a handful of nuts or a piece of fruit—before coffee can help buffer the caffeine rush and protect your stomach. This little trick can reduce acidity, prevent energy crashes, and make your coffee experience smoother and more sustainable," concludes Malhotra.

with one of the world's largest and most respected aerospace OEMs, placing the company at the heart of critical global engineering programs. The contract is valued at nearly £300 million (i.e., roughly Rs 3800 cr), providing the company with a long-term revenue stream and stronger visibility over future growth. Under the agreement, Sigma Advanced Systems will supply a wide portfolio of high-precision-engineered, safety-critical components and assemblies for Rolls-Royce's aerospace programs. This is a program-level partnership delivered through the company's manufacturing network across India and the UK, reflecting how the company is increasingly operating as an integrated global platform rather than a location-specific supplier. Sunil Kumar Kalidindi, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director at Sigma Advanced Systems, said, "This partnership with Rolls-Royce reflects how our strategy is taking shape. It validates the investments we have made in building a connected India-UK platform and our focus on quality, reliability, and long-term partnerships."

tially open, more India from Gulf

heme of 150 years of Vande Mataram. For the first time, the government has integrated an extensive digital and physical exhibition framework that allows citizens to engage with the ceremony's performances and historical context long after the final note is played. "Friends, after the Beating Retreat, all this hard work and achievement used to gradually fade away. However, now a highly commendable initiative has been undertaken pertaining to it. For the first time, the music of Beating Retreat is also available on WAVES OTT. In the future, it will be available on other platforms as well – you must listen to it. You will be very proud of our Armed Forces and their traditions," PM Modi said. A key highlight of this initiative is the use of immersive technology and digital storytelling at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Museum and through specialised online platforms. These platforms feature high-definition recordings and virtual reality experiences of the 2026 formations, such as the "Matsya Yantra" by the Naval Band and the ancient "Garuda Vyuha" battle formation by the Army Military Band. By moving these performances into a permanent digital archive and interactive museum exhibits, the government is ensuring that the artistry of the Armed Forces remains accessible to students and the general public. Furthermore, the 2026 ceremony saw a decisive shift towards Indianness, replacing colonial-era relics with indigenous compositions and formations inspired by Indian heritage. The initiative also includes pan-India band performances held at historic sites, such as the birthplace of "Rishi Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay", to connect the music of the Beating Retreat with the country's cultural roots.

The year that broke him, and the knock that didn't



Rinku Singh waited. He waited till he struck his weightiest knock of the season; he waited till he took five catches of varying levels of strain; he waited till he thrashed the winning runs himself in the Super Over. And then he uncorked his emotions. He leapt and swiped the air, he kissed the Ekana turf, baring its grainy black soil. He gazed forlornly at the skies. If a drop of tear rolled down his cheek, it blended with the sweat dripping off his temple. It has been a tough year for him. He lost his father during the T20 World Cup; he lost his spot in India's playing eleven; his IPL form wobbled after the bright start, his club tottered at the bottom; he was quietly slipping out of public imagination; critics breathed down his neck. He needed a knock that could put a smile back on his face, and those of his supporters, one of relevance and substance, perhaps not so much to prove the world that he is not a one-knock wonder, as to convince himself of his resounding virtues. "Sometimes the mind just doesn't work when you're struggling," he admitted after his half-century against Rajasthan Royals. It's an indescribably wretched feeling. The batsman knows his failings; he knows the solutions; he is sweating in the nets and trying to be the batsman he once was. Yet, he keeps failing. The 53 against Royals reinstated hope and belief, but something was still pulling him back, something invisible clutching at his throat.

Sometimes the circumstances conspire; being part of a sinking ship doesn't aid comebacks. But when you are neck deep in rough seas and the only urge is to survive, an unstoppable spirit pulls them over the currents. At 34 for four, when he walked out to bat, he finally knew that he had time to trench in, find rhythm, take the game deep and then summon the heavy artillery. His game has always been about incremental shifting of gears rather than a sudden spurt of explosion. Even in his most famous knock, when

he struck five sixes on the spin to nail a thriller, he was eight off 12 balls, before blasting 33 off nine. Rinku's game has always been about incremental shifting of gears rather than a sudden spurt of explosion. (CREIMAS) Rinku's game has always been about incremental shifting of gears rather than a sudden spurt of explosion. (CREIMAS) But he was misconstrued as an on-the-go basher and thrust into the burdensome finisher role. He struggled in his whole-hearted endeavour to transform. Here, the situation was different. He could take time. The ticking time bomb to hit a four or six straightaway didn't hover over his head. After getting off the mark with a pulled four, a hit-me ball, he cussedly rotated strike, not even attempting a boundary for the next 13 balls. It's a long boundary-less spell in this format. "My main aim is always to take the game till the end," he explained his mindset to the broadcasters. "Whenever I go in to bat and the team has already lost 3-4 wickets, my focus is on how to control and take the game forward. I think about how to rotate strike – get singles and doubles – and where I can find boundaries. Later I realised a spinner was bowling, so I adjusted accordingly," he detailed. He ran 21 singles and a brace of doubles, with the alacrity and heaving legs of a late-running train.

He is made more in the MS Dhoni than Tim David mould. It was only when he sized up Digvesh Rathi that he decided to turn on the devil mode. He slammed him for two fours, crunched flat shots. An onslaught did not follow. His team was six down, the surface was holding up at times, Mohammed Shami and Prince Yadav were probing away. "There wasn't any fixed plan like saving shots for the last overs. I just reacted to the situation," he said. His early boundaries off seamers were not thumping drives through cover or brutal sweeps. Most of them were glides and deflections, harnessing the bowlers' pace. Most of the hits came behind the square on both sides. Even the six he struck off Shami was not a savage slash over point, but more of an extended chop.

The treatment meted out to Rathi was different. He biffed him for four successive sixes — two over long-on, one beyond extra cover and another through the cow cordon. The late flurry of sixes wouldn't help with his image-burning exercise as a rampaging finisher rather than a more methodical top-order batsman capable of occasional madness. Those four hits would obscure in its thrills the flexibility of his approach and the deftness of his stroke-play. He is akin to the character actor remembered for that one action sequence. Perhaps, the perceptions and misconceptions would bother him less in a year of personal anguish.

KKR player fined 20% match fee for act committed during LSG match

GNS News Agency, May 2

Kolkata Knight Riders batter Angkrish Raghuvanshi was fined 20% of his match fee and accumulated a demerit point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct for Players and Team officials during his team's match against the Lucknow Super Giants. The incident took place on Sunday when Kolkata were batting first. Raghuvanshi was dismissed in a rare manner in the last ball of the fifth over. When attempting to take a run of a Prince Yadav delivery, Raghuvanshi was sent back by his partner Cameron Green. But the throw towards the wicket hit the Indian batter and when the play went up to the third umpire, it was believed that Raghuvanshi veered from his path to that of the ball and was given out via 'obstructing the field'.

The batter got into a heated argument with the on-field umpires over the decision. It was clear that he and the KKR camp were not happy with the decision made. On his way back to the pavilion, Raghuvanshi took his bat and slammed the boundary rope and then threw his helmet away in frustration. KKR support staff Shane Watson and Abhishek Nayar were also seen protesting the decision, with Nayar getting into a heated discussion with the fourth umpire over the decision as well. "Angkrish Raghuvanshi has been fined 20% of his match fee and has also accumulated one Demerit Point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Con-



duct," the statement read.

"He was found to have breached Article 2.2, which relates to abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a match," it added. Despite how things panned out for Raghuvanshi on the field and off it, KKR picked up a Super Over win on Sunday. With seven runs required off the last ball, Mohammad Shami hit a six to take the game to the Super Over where KKR prevailed after both Aidan Markram and Nicolas Pooran lost their wickets to Sunil Narine and then Rinku Singh hit a boundary of the first ball to deliver the win for his team.

R Ashwin explains when MS Dhoni could play for CSK in IPL 2026: 'Why will they take the risk now?'



GNS News Agency, May 2

Even as the suspense over when MS Dhoni would play in IPL 2026 continues, former India off-spinner and Dhoni's CSK teammate Ravichandran Ashwin has hinted that the 44-year-old would play only if the team is out of the running for the Playoffs. The 39-year-old felt there did not seem to be a clear reason for the five-time IPL champions to bring Dhoni into the side, with their qualification chances still intact. "If CSK gets out of the tournament, then MS Dhoni might play. CSK are still in the tournament, so why will they take the risk now? I still feel that CSK have a chance to qualify for the playoffs. But yeah, it is difficult. The way CSK have played in the last five matches, it has given them a little confidence. CSK's bowling is firing, if their batting fires, they can put together three wins on the bounce," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel. Head coach Stephen Fleming had said that Dhoni had "tweaked" his calf during one of the warm-up matches and was working hard with the physio and doing all the required rehab.

"The calf is a tough one, though. If he takes off and rips it again, then he will be gone. We pushed it early, and in the warm-up game he tweaked it again, it's my understanding. Since then, he has just been working hard to get some movement into it, but there was a setback, so it has taken longer than we thought." "He is the guide on this one, and he's working hard with the physio and doing all the rehab, and we're just waiting for the word. All I can say is stop making light of it, as he is progressing and doing everything he can," Fleming said on Sunday after CSK's loss. CSK lost to Gujarat Titans by eight wickets in Chennai on Sunday

and Ashwin felt that if the five-time champions had to put themselves in contention for the Playoffs, they would need to win four of their next six matches. "If CSK has to stay in the tournament, they have to win the next game. If you can win against MI, you can be back in the mid-table muddle. All of the matches CSK have remaining, they will be playing on good batting wickets, and even Ruturaj is back in form. Winning four of six matches is not that hard," he added.

Dhruv Sitwala impresses with strong win in World Billiards

Hyderabad: Veteran cueist Martin Goodwill of England scored a shock win over reigning champion Sourav Kothari in the final Group 'A' league match of the IBSF World Billiards Championship in Carlow (Ireland) on Sunday. In a match that lacked quality, Goodwill, 63, registered a nail-biting 276-275 victory to finish his league engagements with an all-win record. Despite the defeat, Kothari too made the knockout pre-quarterfinals with two wins from three matches.

The fluency Kothari showed in his previous match, when he defeated Akhilesh Mohan of France 825-40, including a break of 515, was missing. He struggled to get going and made too many errors, allowing the Englishman a free run. Elsewhere, Pankaj Advani, looking to regain the title, topped Group 'B' with three wins, all one-sided victories. In his final match, Advani outplayed South Korea's Baek Minhu 785-161 with notable runs of 162, 88 and 389 in the 90-minute encounter. Other Indians to join Advani and Kothari in the knockout last-16 stage were Dhruv Sitwala, Alok Kumar, Rupesh Shah, Shrikrishna S, Siddharth Parikh and Rafath Habib, all with two wins each. They were scheduled to play their final league matches later in the day. Besides Advani, left-hander Sitwala has been the impressive Indian cueist on view. The Mumbaikar defeated Ireland's Aonghus McAnally 621-169. He opened with a break of 203 and had further runs of 90 and 133.

Kolkata Knight Riders beat Lucknow Super Giants in Super Over thriller



GNS News Agency, May 2

Lucknow: After Lucknow Super Giants walked with them toe-to-toe in regulation time, Kolkata Knight Riders found a familiar saviour in Sunil Narine to register a tight Super Over victory in their IPL match here. Both Super Giants and Knight Riders ended up at 155 when a total of 40 overs were bowled, but Narine made all the difference in the Super Over. Conjuring his years of experience, the spinner dismissed Nicholas Pooran and Aiden Markram to limit LSG to 1 for two, which was also the lowest score in a Super Over.

The Kolkatans did not fumble and notched up the required two runs, with Rinku Singh, who also had a wonderful day on the field taking four catches, fittingly fetching the winning runs. It was Rinku's well-paced 83 not out off 51 balls that worked as the catalyst for KKR's total of 155 for seven earlier. Once the Super Giants restricted KKR to that modest total, courtesy Mohsin Khan's five-for, they had an excellent chance to register a rare home victory. But the hosts slipped against a set of spot-on Kolkata bowlers on a slow black soil pitch.

The result pushed KKR to eighth on the table with five points, while LSG plummeted to the bottom of the pile with four points. The Super Giants have some big names in their roster, skipper Rishabh Pant, Markram, Mitchell Marsh and Pooran. But none of them could give direction and shape to LSG's chase. Pant (42) and Markram (31) looked to be in good touch and they added 57 runs for the second wicket after the early departure of Marsh. But Markram fell to Cameron Green's pace-off delivery, while Pant's attempt to reverse scoop Narine resulted in a catch to stumper Tim Seifert. It left LSG's fate in the hands of a clutch of young

Dhoni's return delayed again due to calf injury in warm-up game: Fleming

Chennai: Chennai Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming on Sunday said MS Dhoni's return to the ongoing IPL will be further delayed as the talisman suffered a fresh calf injury during a warm-up game. CSK have played eight matches this season without their former captain, and Fleming said initially Dhoni was expected to recover within a couple of weeks, but the calf injury aggravation has mandated a more cautious rehabilitation process.

"Yeah, he's pretty keen. The calf is a tough one though. If he takes off and rips the calf again, then he will be gone," said Fleming in the post-match press meet. "So we pushed it early and then in a warm-up game he tweaked it again, it's my understanding. And since then he has been just working hard to get some movement into it. But there was a setback, so it has taken longer than we thought. But look, he's the guide on this one." Fleming said Dhoni is working closely with the team physios. "And he's working hard with the physio and doing all the rehab. And we're just waiting for the word. But all I can keep saying, and it's not making light of it, is he is progressing and doing everything he can." With a five-day break before their next fixture against Mumbai Indians here, CSK will continue to monitor Dhoni's recovery, though Fleming's update suggests his return seems remote.

Dhoni has been regularly attending training sessions but has limited himself largely to throwdowns. He was recently seen doing wicketkeeping drills, and it fuelled talk of a possible return. Earlier, CSK's batting coach Michael Hussey had indicated that Dhoni would resume



wicketkeeping duties once fully fit. Meanwhile, CSK have slumped to their fifth loss in eight matches, as Gujarat Titans outplayed them by eight wickets on a lively surface here in an afternoon match. Put in to bat, CSK were restricted to 158/7, with Kagiso Rabada (3/25) and Mohammed Siraj (1/23) exploiting the early assistance on offer. In reply, GT chased down the target in 16.4 overs. Fleming admitted that CSK struggled to come to terms with the conditions and failed to capitalise on similar assistance later. "Couldn't get a grasp on the wicket, it was very difficult. They bowled straight, got a good bounce... It was just a tough 20 overs. I thought it was a good total, but we just couldn't extract the same type of assistance that they got in the first 10 overs." "I don't want to make an excuse, but the first 10 overs today were tough in terms of conditions. Then we're always behind the game," he added.

'Rishabh Pant mustn't be burdened with captaincy': Ex-IPL coach suggests LSG leadership change after six defeats



With his team surrendering a 156-run chase in a Super Over defeat to the Kolkata Knight Riders at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow on Sunday night, Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant cut a sorry figure as he attempted to review the string of unending losses. The numbers are damning. LSG have dropped all of their last five matches this season, and the records plunge further at home, where they have now lost eight consecutive matches under Pant, who took over as captain last year after being roped in for a record Rs 27.50 crore. Former India batter Wasim Jaffer suggested that LSG replace Pant and appoint South Africa skipper Aiden Markram as captain.

"LSG looks completely out of place right now, it's hard to even know what to expect from them. If I were in that dugout, the first thing I would do is make Aiden Markram the captain. I would open with Markram and Mitchell Marsh. At number three, Nicholas Pooran, then Rishabh Pant at four, and Ayush Badoni at five. At number six, Abdul Samad, and at seven, Mukul Choudhary. That would be my top seven, and I would go with this batting order," Jaffer, a former IPL coach, said on his YouTube channel. Pant's poor returns as captain has also coincided with difficult times as a batter in the IPL. Since last season, Pant has only scored 458 runs in 21 innings with three fifty-plus scores. Despite scoring 42 in a 156-run pursuit against KKR, Pant failed to see out the chase for his side that eventually conceded a Super Over defeat. Jaffer said a free-flowing player like Pant

must not be overburdened with leadership roles. "I feel a player like Rishabh Pant should play purely as a player. You get the best out of him when you free him up and tell him to just go out and play and win matches on his own. Don't burden him with captaincy. I think Aiden Markram is a better captain. He has led South Africa very successfully, he is mentally strong, very composed, and I think he can get the best out of the other players. But this doesn't look like something that will actually happen. This is just my suggestion, but if I were there, that's what I would do," Jaffer added.

Angkrish Raghuvanshi fined 20 pc match fee for IPL Code of Conduct breach during KKR vs LSG clash

GNS News Agency, May 2

Hyderabad: Angkrish Raghuvanshi, batter-wicket-keeper, Kolkata Knight Riders, has been fined 20% of his match fee and has also accumulated one Demerit Point for breaching Level 1 of the IPL's Code of Conduct for Players and Team Officials during the match against Lucknow Super Giants

Raghuvanshi was found to have breached Article 2.2 of the IPL's Code of Conduct, which relates to "abuse of cricket equipment or clothing, ground equipment or fixtures and fittings during a Match."

The incident occurred in the 5th over, when, after being given out for 'obstructing the field', Raghuvanshi struck the boundary cushion with his bat in an aggressive manner and subsequently threw his helmet into the dugout in a similar manner.

Raghuvanshi admitted to the offence and accepted the Match Referee's sanction.

Why Sai Pallavi's entry into Bollywood is actually a takeover a decade in the making



Before Ek Din, before Amaran, before Rowdy Baby crossed a billion views, there was a girl from Kotagiri in the Nilgiris who was going to be a cardiologist. Sai Pallavi was studying medicine in Tbilisi, Georgia, minding her business, when a film director offered her a role. The movie in question is Premam, directed by Alphonse Puthren. The year was 2015. And the actress, Sai Pallavi Senthamarai Kannan, was still a medical student who had agreed to shoot the entire film during her college holidays on the condition that it would not get in the way of her degree. She finished the degree anyway. However she never registered as a practitioner. There were too many films to make. The Nilgiris, Tbilisi, and a dance show nobody remembers Sai Pallavi was born on May 9, 1992, in a Badaga family in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, with her hometown being Kotagiri in the Nilgiris district.

Dance came naturally in that household. Without any formal training, Sai competed in school events and eventually made it onto two television reality shows. In 2008, she appeared on the Vijay TV show Ungalil Yaar Adutha Prabhu Deva. While she was eliminated in the semi-finals, the following year she was a finalist on ETV's Dhee Ultimate Dance Show. Neither appearance made her famous. What they did was put her face on Facebook, which is where Alphonse Puthren eventually found her. She studied at Tbilisi State Medical University in Georgia, a university recognised by the Medical Council of India, graduating in 2016. She has said she was one of those teenagers who felt horrible about having acne. In Georgia, surrounded by people with what she perceived as flawless skin, she used to cover her face with a dupatta when she stepped out. She wanted to be a cardiologist and clearly films were not part of the plan. Alphonse Puthren had first come across Sai Pallavi through clips of her dance reality show appearances that had surfaced on Facebook. He had reached out to her years before Premam with a film offer, which she refused. After she agreed to meet the team, five members of the production flew to Coimbatore to audition her in person. Once she was finalised, she flew back to India and shot all her scenes during her college holidays. She had two conditions. The shoot would not interfere with her studies. And she would be allowed to wear clothes she was actually comfortable in.

Premam released in 2015 without any teasers, trailers, or pre-release interviews, and went on to become a massive commercial success. She spoke later about what making Premam actually did for her, away from the awards and the box office. Alphonse kept pushing her to be as unguarded as possible on screen. He used her nervousness, her hesitation, her genuine blushes opposite Nivin Pauly. A decade of deliberate choices. What followed Premam was not a conventional film career. It was a series of choices that looked, individually, like risks, and collectively like a plan. In 2016, Sai Pallavi appeared in Kali opposite Dulquer Salmaan, playing a newly married woman navigating her husband's extreme anger issues. Her Telugu debut came

in 2017 with Sekhar Kammula's Fidaa opposite Varun Tej. She played Bhanumathi, a sharp, warm village girl from Telangana who speaks her mind and does not apologise for it. The character was written with a specific regional texture and Sai inhabited it fully. In the same year, she appeared in Middle Class Abbayi opposite Nani, a commercially successful action comedy that expanded her Telugu audience even further. When Maari 2 came in 2018, opposite Dhanush, nobody expected the song "Rowdy Baby" to become the first South Indian video song to cross one billion views on YouTube. In 2019, Sai took on Athiran opposite Fahadh Faasil, a psychological thriller in which she played a girl with autism who communicates almost entirely without dialogue. To prepare for the role, she met several people with autism and worked in depth on her physical mannerisms and body language. It is one of the most understated performances in her filmography and one of the most technically demanding. She followed it with NGK opposite Suriya in 2019, a politically charged Tamil film directed by Selvaraghavan that divided opinion sharply. Then came Paava Kadhaigal in 2020, a Netflix anthology in which she appeared in a segment directed by Vetrimaaran, playing Sumathi in a story about caste and family violence.

The year that settled the argument if there was still any debate about where Sai Pallavi sat in the South Indian cinema conversation, 2021 ended it. She had two releases that year and delivered in both. Love Story, directed by Sekhar Kammula opposite Naga Chaitanya, tackled caste discrimination in a contemporary Telangana setting. Shyam Singha Roy, opposite Nani and directed by Rahul Sankrityan, was a period drama set in 1970s Kolkata where she played Maithreyi, a devadasi. Two completely different registers, two completely different worlds, both in the same calendar year. In 2022, she doubled down. Virata Parvam opposite Rana Daggubati placed her inside the Naxalite insurgency in 1990s Telangana, playing Vennela, a young woman drawn into the movement through love. Gargi, a Tamil courtroom drama directed by Gautham Ramachandran, cast her as a school teacher who refuses to accept that her father is guilty of what he has been accused of.

Her 2024 film Amaran was directed by Rajkumar Periyasamy and produced by Kamal Haasan under Raaj Kamal Films International. It was a biographical military drama based on the life of Major Mukund Varadarajan, a Ashoka Chakra recipient from the Indian Army. Sai Pallavi played Indhu Rebecca Varghese, his wife, a real person whose grief and strength are both central to the film's emotional weight. Sai Pallavi became the only actress to feature in Forbes India's 30 Under 30 list in 2020. She was honoured with the Kalaimamani by the Government of Tamil Nadu in 2021. She has won several awards spread across Malayalam, Telugu, and Tamil categories. She has worked with Dulquer Salmaan, Fahadh Faasil, Nani, Naga Chaitanya, Rana Daggubati, Dhanush, Suriya, and Sivakarthikeyan. Her Bollywood debut is Ek Din, opposite Junaid Khan, son of Aamir Khan. It will be her first proper Hindi film. After that comes Nitesh Tiwari's two-part Ramayana adaptation, in which she plays Sita opposite Ranbir Kapoor's Rama, with Yash as Ravana and Sunny Deol as Hanuman. Sai Pallavi did not spend ten years trying to get into Bollywood. She spent ten years making films that were worth making, turning down things that conflicted with her values, finishing a medical degree she never intended to use, and building an audience that crosses three languages. Hindi cinema did not discover her, it caught up with her.

Racism is Bollywood's biggest issue, accepts Nawazuddin Siddiqui: 'Films written for fair-skinned'



Despite his noteworthy versatility in roles, Nawazuddin Siddiqui has often opened up about facing racism in Bollywood. In fact, the actor, who has been a part of the film industry for over 20 years, had even revealed getting rejected from projects because of his complexion. In a recent interview, he got candid about staying confident amid the beauty standards and discrimination in Bollywood. Nawazuddin also mentioned that he has never found anyone more beautiful than the late actress, Smita Patil. The actor's comments reflect how inherent colorism has been in Bollywood, with lighter skin often equated with a higher social status. Despite the parallel cinema movement bringing about a change in the 70s and 80s where actors like Smita Patil and Shabana Azmi emerged as the icons, the leads in mainstream cinema have largely remained fair-skinned with a few exceptions such as Irrfan Khan and Nawazuddin.

During a conversation with Zoom, the actor admitted experiencing racism and elaborated how the industry has still embraced him. He agreed that it's not nepotism but racism that has a bigger impact in the Hindi film industry. "As the saying goes, when you eliminate a cockroach, people commend you for it. But when you eliminate a butterfly, they question your actions. This selectivity exists. Just as there is a lot of selectivity in discrimination. It is present in many areas. I believe that you shouldn't dictate what beauty is; let individuals make that decision," he said.

The 51-year-old further added that a female actress who is considered 'dark-skinned' is considered average here. But, in the West, she may be viewed as exotic. "People have their own perspectives. But that shouldn't influence the system. If she looks a certain way, she may not be

cast as the lead. It's not entirely their fault, as narratives are crafted in this manner. A girl who is fair, stories are written about her. You get a brief. Many people are struggling with this issue." Nawazuddin also pointed out that he personally finds late actress Smita Patil the most beautiful ever. "There are numerous factors to consider. The beauty captured by the camera is unique. Personally, I have never encountered anyone I find more beautiful than Smita Patil. The camera's beauty is distinct, and we need to capture that essence. The camera does not pass judgment," he expressed. On the professional front, Nawazuddin Siddiqui was last seen in Raat Akeli Hai: The Bansal Murders and Aditya Sarpotdar's Thamma. The actor has several projects in the pipeline, including, Main Actor Nahi Hoon, Noorani Chehra, and Tumbbad 2.

F3 actress Mehreen Pirzada ties the knot in intimate ceremony

Mumbai: Actress Mehreen Pirzada is finally married. The 'F3' actress tied the knot on Sunday in the presence of her family and friends. Both she and the groom were seen twinning in matching blush-pink attire as they exchanged wedding vows.

She made for a beautiful bride in a stunning lehenga with intricate sequin work. She completed her bridal look with a layered stone necklace, paired with complementary earrings and mangtika. She kept her makeup on the lighter side with her veil-covered hair left open. Sharing the exciting news on social media, Mehreen posted some love-struck wedding photos with the groom and simply captioned them "26.04.26," followed by infinity, red heart, and evil eye emoticons.

She further added the hashtag, "#ArshDiMehR", an amalgamation of the bride and groom's names. Her Insta Stories further include glimpses from their other wedding festivities. As soon as the news reached social media, wishes started pouring in for the newlyweds. 'KFG' actress Srinidhi Shetty wrote in the comment section, "Congratulationsssss babe...love n only loveee." A lot is not known about the groom as Mehreen had been hush-hush about her relationship status. On the work front, Mehreen was last seen in the 2023 period crime thriller "Sultan of Delhi," written by Suparn Verma and directed by Milan Luthria. Along with Mehreen, the project enjoyed an ensemble cast with Tahir Raj Bhasin, Mouni Roy, Anjum Sharma, Vinay Pathak, Anupriya Goenka, Nishant Dahiya, and Harleen Sethi in prominent roles.

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



For the longest time, I believed Grey's Anatomy had exhausted the medical drama for me. I was not a casual viewer. I stayed with Grey's for 16 years, right up to season 17. I had lived through the era of McDreamy and McSteamy, watched Cristina Yang love Preston Burke and then fall into that deeply complicated orbit with Owen Hunt, kept count of how many marriages, heartbreaks, deaths this hospital could possibly contain, and stayed invested in characters like Miranda Bailey and Richard Webber.

Somewhere along the way, the series became too cluttered, too crowded with new faces and stretched storylines. It simply did not end. I finally lost the trail around season 17, and after that, I lost my appetite for another medical drama altogether. So when The Pitt arrived, I gave it a miss. I was not looking for another hospital, another ER corridor, another round of medical emergencies. But word of mouth around The Pitt became impossible to ignore. It was not just that people liked it. It was that they were talking about it as something unusually intense, unusually precise. By the time it began collecting major recognition, including Emmy wins, curiosity got the better of me. I started watching, got hooked almost instantly, and by January, I had fully entered the world of its second season. I went into The Pitt as a Grey's Anatomy fan, but I did not come out comparing the two. I came out realising they are trying to do two very different things, and that The Pitt understands the cost of being a medical professional in a way Grey's Anatomy rarely did.

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

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

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

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

Season 2 also does something few medical dramas have the confidence to do: it steps entirely away from the doctors. Episode 6, "12:00 P.M.," directed by Noah Wyle himself, belongs entirely to the nurses. It centres on charge nurse Dana Evans (played by Katherine LaNasa) managing trauma, staffing shortages, a tense confrontation with a patient. But the episode's most telling moments are the ones nobody puts in a job description. Dana performing a rape kit, being the first person to reach a victim not just medically, but also humanly, holding that weight so the patient does not have to hold it alone. Dana bathing a dead body, teaching a younger nurse how to do it with dignity. These are not dramatic set pieces. They are the actual work. The show understands that nurses do not just treat people, they absorb them. And it costs something every single time. Even the emotional arc of Dr. Robby (Noah Wyle) carries that weight. The signs are there if you are watching closely, the way he snaps at his staff, the way he keeps sidestepping conversations with Langdon. His conversation with Duke Ekins, his motorcycle engineer, is the most telling of all: outside the hospital, with someone who has no stake in his competence, something in him loosens. And then the final scene with the Jane Doe baby. By that point you are not watching a doctor who is tired. You are watching someone who has been holding the weight too long and has found, in this wordless, uncomplicated presence, something closer to relief than anything his own life is currently offering him. Grey's Anatomy taught us to invest in doctors as personalities. The Pitt asks us to see them as workers. And yet, this is not a criticism of Grey's Anatomy. I still think its early years were some of the most emotionally addictive television of their kind. It gave viewers romance, aspiration, heartbreak and comfort television of a very high order. It was glossy, emotionally fluent and unabashedly sentimental. But The Pitt offers not escape, but confrontation. Not a hospital as fantasy, but a hospital as system. Not medicine as background, but medicine as burden, discipline, duty and damage.

Sonakshi Sinha says hubby Zaheer Iqbal has been teasing her since 2017

Mumbai: Actress Sonakshi Sinha has now shared proof that her husband, Zaheer Iqbal, has been teasing her ever since 2017. On Sunday, the 'Dabangg' actress uploaded a throwback video where Zaheer is capturing her while she runs on the treadmill. While Sonakshi is trying to hide the shorts she has been wearing with her hands, Zaheer starts playfully making fun of her choice of athleisure. "Are they shots? These are called kachchas," joked Zaheer. Posting the clip on the photo-sharing app, Sonakshi wrote, "Proof he's been doing this since 2017."

Sonakshi and Zaheer keep providing peeks into their fun banter on social media, making them one of the most beloved couples on the platform. Recently, Sonakshi shared another post in which Zaheer expressed his regret for not listening to her advice. The clip had the 'Ittefaq' actress playfully teasing Zaheer for not listening to her. In an adorable moment from what seems to be an international holiday, Zaheer admitted on camera that he should have listened to his wife. Zaheer explained that despite Sonakshi's warning, he still chose to sit on a platform that turned out to be wet. As a result, his pants were completely spoiled during the outing. Zaheer even promised that he would never ignore his wife's advice again. Never again in my life, will I not listen to my wife, said Zaheer. For the uninitiated, Sonakshi and Zaheer tied the knot on June 23, 2024, after being in a relationship for 7 long years. The lovebirds got married in an intimate wedding ceremony at Sonakshi's Mumbai home



in the presence of close family members and friends. If the reports are to be believed, Sonakshi and Zaheer fell in love during the shoot of the movie "Double XL", which also stars actress Huma Qureshi.

Shraddha Kapoor praises rumoured partner Rahul Mody in viral instagram post

Mumbai: Actress Shraddha Kapoor has been in the limelight for her alleged relationship with Rahul Mody for some time now. While the two have never openly commented on their relationship status, they are often captured by the shutterbugs together.

On Sunday, Shraddha showered praises on her rumoured beau through her latest post on social media. Taking to the Stories section of her official Instagram handle, Shraddha remarked on the latest advertisement by Rahul Mody featuring 'Saiyaara' actress Aneet Padda. Praising Aneet, the 'Stree' actress wrote, "Cuteness + best acting ka perfect mishran = @aneetpadda (sic)" Calling Rahul Mody "talented", Shraddha went on to write, "Aur cuteness se yaad aya, yeh writer-director kitna talented hain uff @modyrahulmody (sic)"

The speculations of Shraddha and Rahul being in a relationship started doing the rounds back in early 2024 after the alleged lovebirds were spotted leaving a dinner date in Mumbai together. After that, these two have been spotted together on multiple occasions. They even attended the lavish pre-wedding festivities of Anant Ambani and Radhika



Merchant together. In June last year, Shraddha decided to make her relationship with her writer beau Instagram official. She took to her Instagram Stories and dropped a still of herself posing for a selfie with Rahul Mody. Twinning in white, Shraddha lovingly held Rahul's arm in the photo captioned, "Dil rakh le, Neend toh vaapis de de yaar" (Take away my heart, but at least return my sleep.)