

Telangana HC grants more time to defected MLAs

Hyderabad: The Telangana High Court on Wednesday, granted additional time for counters to ten MLAs who were elected from BRS party and allegedly defected to the ruling Congress party.The division bench comprising Chief Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh and Justice GM Mohiuddin was dealing with writ pleas filed by BRS legislators challenging the Assembly Speaker’s decision to dismiss pleas seeking disqualification of the alleged defectors.

Congress in dilemma as Khammam, Warangal civic bodies’ terms end

Khammam/Warangal: With the term of Khammam Municipal Corporation (KMC) and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) coming to an end, the ruling Congress party seems to have been caught up in a dilemma over holding elections to the urban local bodies.

West Bengal’s first BJP govt to take oath on May 9; PM Modi, Shah likely to attend

Kolkata, May 6

The first Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in West Bengal will be sworn in at the Brigade Parade Ground here on May 9, heralding a saffron era in the eastern state that had long eluded the pan-Indian powerhouse.

Although who the next chief minister will be is still a mystery, Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari is being seen as the frontrunner while the names of state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya, Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar and former Rajya Sabha MP Swapan Dasgupta are also in the mix, party insiders said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president Nitin Nabin, several Union ministers and chief ministers of BJP- and NDA-ruled states are expected to attend the oath ceremony, with indications emerging that the Central leadership is inclined towards picking a “bhumiputra” face rooted in Bengal’s linguistic and cultural ethos to head the government.

“The new BJP government will take oath on May 9 at 10 am at Brigade Parade Ground,” the party’s state president Bhattacharya announced on Wednesday.

Adhikari offered payers at a Hanuman statue in Nandigram and paid his respects to the BJP workers who died in political violence during the party’s long struggle to come to power in the state.

“We will work in such a way that the BJP government in Bengal stays for 100 years,” Adhikari said, expressing hope that the BJP’s vote share would rise from the current 46 per cent to 60 per cent in future elections.

Elected from two constituencies, Adhikari said the Central leadership would guide him on which seat to retain.

“I will vacate one seat within 10 days. The party



will decide which one I retain. I will not forget my responsibility towards the people of Bhabanipur and Nandigram,” he said.

Adhikari on Monday defeated Banerjee in Bhabanipur by over 15,000 votes, capturing what was long seen as her safest political refuge, and also won from Nandigram as the BJP bagged 207 of the 293 seats contested in the 294-strong assembly.

During the campaign, Shah repeatedly asserted that the chief minister would be a “son of the soil”, born and educated in the state, in an attempt to blunt

the TMC’s sustained attack that the BJP represented an “outsider” political culture alien to Bengal’s social and intellectual traditions.

Significantly, the swearing-in ceremony will be held on the 25th day of Baisakh in the Bengali calendar -- observed across the state as Rabindra Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore -- lending the event a deeper cultural symbolism.

According to BJP leaders, the choice of date is aimed at embedding the party’s historic rise within Bengal’s cultural imagination and countering the long-standing perception battle over identity and belong-

ing.

Over the last decade, the BJP has steadily attempted to appropriate and reinterpret icons of Bengal’s cultural nationalism - from Tagore and Swami Vivekananda to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and Syama Prasad Mookerjee -- as part of a broader ideological effort to expand its emotional and political footprint in the state.

Party insiders said the leadership was also conscious of the need to balance Bengal’s competing regional aspirations while choosing the chief ministerial face, with discussions also taking place around whether greater representation should be accorded to north Bengal, a region where the BJP has made substantial electoral gains over successive elections.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav raised doubts about the fairness of the Bengal poll process, and demanded that the Supreme Court order that the video recordings of vote counting to be made public.

“Why is CCTV not live? Why are they so afraid of it? We demand the Supreme Court immediately take cognisance of the West Bengal polls and put the video of the counting in front of the people of the country,” he said.

Yadav refused to give a direct reply on the DMK calling the Congress a “backstabber” after the latter announced it would back Vijay’s Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK).

“Why should I tell you whom I will rely on or not?” he said.

Yadav alleged that some elections and bypolls in Uttar Pradesh in recent years had been marred by discrepancies during the counting process.

The former Uttar Pradesh chief minister alleged that what happened during the elections in West Bengal could be replicated on a larger scale in Uttar Pradesh, up for assembly polls next year.

Telangana govt buying record paddy, says Uttam Kumar amid Opposition attacks

Hyderabad: Amid opposition attacks over alleged negligence in paddy procurement, Telangana Civil Supplies Minister N Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday, May 6, said the Congress government is purchasing the highest quantity of paddy since Independence during the current Rabi season.

He said that paddy is being cultivated in about 65 lakh acres, with a total estimated production of 141 lakh metric tonnes (MTs).

The government’s procurement target is 90 lakh MTs, of which 52 lakh MTs would be procured by the Centre. So far, 17.28 lakh MTs have been procured, he said.

He added that Minimum Support Price (MSP) payments amounting to Rs 2,010 crore have been released to farmers so far.

“After the present Congress government took over, the state has recorded the maximum agricultural acreage, maximum paddy production, and maximum procurement in the country. BRS leaders are trying to create confusion among farmers by spreading false propaganda,” he told reporters.

Referring to reports of paddy being damaged due to unseasonal rains, Reddy said 8,575 paddy procurement centres are operational across the state.

He said 2.63 lakh tarpaulins have been arranged at procurement centres to protect produce from rainfall, and 18.50 crore gunny bags are available.

The government has taken steps to tackle unseasonal rains and heatwaves, including the provision of drinking water, ORS sachets, and shaded waiting areas at the centres.

Authorities have advised procurement centres to carry out procurement activities during morning and evening hours. Farmers are urged to avoid standing under trees and near electric poles during thunderstorms, he said.

Reddy also said that during 2023–24, when the BRS was in power, the government paid Rs 10,415 crore for paddy procurement during Kharif, while the Congress government paid Rs 12,512 crore during the 2024–25 Kharif season.

The minister’s response on paddy procurement came in the wake of opposition BRS and BJP allegations of negligence by the Congress government.

Addressing a “Rythu Sangrama Sabha” (farmers’ struggle meeting) at Warangal, BRS Working



Reddy also said that during 2023–24, when the BRS was in power, the government paid Rs 10,415 crore for paddy procurement during Kharif, while the Congress government paid Rs 12,512 crore during the 2024–25 Kharif season.

President K T Rama Rao said the BRS would not relent until “every grain produced by farmers is procured.”

Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar demanded that the government complete paddy procurement on a war footing in view of damage caused by unseasonal rains.

The BJP leader alleged in a statement that the Congress government is not showing urgency, even though farmers are facing difficulties at procurement centres due to severe heat, sudden rains, and hailstorms.

Court orders BRS to delete posts accusing Minister Seethakka of Rs 30 Cr scam

Hyderabad: A city civil court on Tuesday, May 5, ordered Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) to take down social media posts accusing Women and Child Welfare Minister Dansari Anasuya (aka Seethakka) of a Rs 30 crore scam.

The minister, in her petition, stated that BRS had circulated social media posts on April 10, accusing her of carrying out a Rs 30 crore scam under the guise of purchasing 38,130 mobile phones for Anganwadi workers under the Poshan Abhiyan scheme.

On April 12, a legal notice was sent to BRS asking them to delete the posts and issue an apology. However, the party did not comply with the request.

Seethakka rejected the allegations against her and argued that the posts were damaging her reputation.

Her counsel submitted official documents saying that the tender for the phones was awarded to the lowest bidder at Rs 44.42 crore. The price for each mobile phone was fixed at Rs 11,650.



However, the social media posts had claimed that phones which were originally priced at Rs 8,499 were bought by the government at a cost of Rs 14,499.

The court noted that the posts by BRS did not reflect correct tender information and were prima facie incorrect and defamatory. It thus granted an ad interim mandatory injunction asking BRS to take down the posts immediately.

Second Shock: A Possible AIADMK, DMK Tie Up

Chennai: Just as the people of Tamil Nadu were reeling under the shock over the unexpected victory of C. Vijay’s Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) in the elections, a new speculation over traditional enemies DMK and the AIADMK holding talks for an alliance that would help keep the fledgling TVK out of power with a view to maintaining the Dravidian duopoly in State politics sent more shock waves across the state.

The rumours of the secret talks that were blown out of proportion by television news channels gained some credence when AIADMK leadership asked its 47 newly elected MLAs, who had gathered in Chennai on Wednesday for a meeting that ruled out supporting the TVK, to stay put for a few more days as the

party might come up with something new and unprecedented requiring their approval. Even if the traditionally arch enemies decide to hold hands to shoo away the newbie TVK from the halls of power, the new unprecedented tie-up might just throw up the numbers required. Since adding DMK’s 59 seats with AIADMK’s 47 gives us only 106, the DMK allies IUML (2 sets), CPI (2 seats), VCK (2 seats), CPM (2 seats) and DMDK (1 seat) would have to be roped in apart from the AIADMK’s allies PMK (4 seats) and AMMK (one seat) to get a majority of 120 seats. So it would turn out to be a match between the TVK and Congress VS the rest of the political parties, giving an edge to the TVK that has already been raising a hue and cry over everybody else turning against them.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Of Singh, Sangh and soul-searching

Questions over organisational decline in the Congress keep cropping up from time to time, but mum is the answer from the high command. A string of electoral debacles — Bihar and Delhi being the latest additions to its infamous inventory — has failed to wake up the grand old party from its deep slumber. The organisational overhaul — promised in the wake of the 2014 Lok Sabha drubbing — is yet to materialise. In the meantime, the party's downward spiral continues, facing one electoral defeat after another. A virtual SOS from nearly two dozen Congress veterans, including former chief ministers and former union ministers, seeking "effective leadership and organisational overhaul" way back in 2020 went in vain. The latest to raise the red flag is former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijay Singh. He has belled the proverbial cat in the Congress by comparing its lack of organisational strength with that of the RSS-BJP. He created a flutter in the party, ahead of the Congress Working Committee (CWC) meeting recently, when he praised the RSS-BJP for its organisational capabilities and a "decentralised" power structure. He illustrated his argument with an old picture where Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seen sitting on the floor in front of LK Advani, who is sitting on a chair.

Periodic Labour Force Survey underway in Karimnagar

Officials say exercise will provide granular data on employment trends across urban and rural areas.



KARIMNAGAR May 6 (Correspondent): The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) for 2026 is being conducted across the erstwhile Karimnagar district under the supervision of the Statistics Department, with officials aiming to capture detailed data on employment patterns. District Statistics Officer Gurram Srinivas Goud met Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai at the latter's office and briefed him on the significance of the survey, besides handing over informational pamphlets.

According to officials, the survey—part of the National Statistical Office's annual exercise—covers both urban and rural areas, with selected towns and villages included in the sampling framework. The exercise begins with the collection of basic household information, followed by a more detailed survey of selected families using mobile tablets. Enumerators will revisit identified households once every month for a period of three months to record comprehensive data, which will be digitally entered into dedicated tabs.

The first phase involves gathering details such as the name of the head of the household, family composition, educational qualifications, instances of school dropouts, higher education, and vocational training. Information on employment status, including self-employment, is also being collected. For daily wage workers, data on the nature of work undertaken, number of hours worked during the reference week, and wages earned are being documented. In the case of women engaged in self-employment, their income details are also being recorded. Corporator Ganta Srinivas, Municipal Ward Officer Nagarapu Harikrishna, MEPMA section staff including resource persons Ramya and Kalpana, and municipal staff member Tangallapalli Kalyan were among those present.

T.L. Sangeetha takes charge as Additional Collector of Sangareddy

"Sangareddy, May 06: "T.L. Sangeetha took charge as Additional Collector (Revenue) of Sangareddy district on Wednesday." "On this occasion, the Collector office officials and staff welcomed her." "After taking charge, the Revenue Department officials met her politely and presented her with bouquets and wished her well. On this occasion, she got to know the officials closely." "T.L. Sangeetha said that as Additional Collector, she will work to take the development of the district and revenue administration forward more effectively.



MAMATA BANERJEE's REFUSAL TO STEP DOWN AS CM IS AN INSULT TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND CONSTITUTION

NRR: Hyderabad, May 6 : – Telangana State BJP President N Ramchander Rao today launched a scathing attack on the opposition, accusing West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and the Congress party of undermining democratic values and the constitution. While participating in a wall-writing campaign at Lalapet in Secunderabad as part of the preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting on May 10, he asserted that the political tides are shifting in favor of the saffron party across the country. Rao said that Mamata Banerjee's refusal to step down despite an "electoral defeat" is an insult to the Constitution. "BJP state chief stated that BJP's recent performances reflect the pulse of the nation. He remarked that the people of Tamil Nadu have rejected parties practicing divisive politics between the North and South and predicted a similar victory for the BJP in Telangana." Referring to the post-poll scenario in West Bengal and refusal of Mamata Banerjee to step down from CM post, Rao pointed out that "Under Article 172, continuing in power after the five-year term ends and against a clear public mandate is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. As per constitutional principles, she has lost the right to be CM as of May 7," Rao asserted. "The BJP State President mocked Rahul Gandhi stating that while the Congress leader often carries the Constitution, he lacks a basic understanding of its contents. He termed the alliance between Congress and Mamata Banerjee as "shameful." Rao dismissed the Congress party's shifting rhetoric, noting that they have moved from allegations of "vote theft" to "seat theft," calling it a sign of political bankruptcy." He urged people to attend the Prime Minister's rally at Parade Grounds on May 10 number as this event would mark the beginning of a significant political transformation on Telangana soil.

BRS Leaders Visit Chinna Cheruvu Over Mosquito Control and Water Hyacinth Issue



"UPPAL, MAY 06(INDIAN CHRONICAL): "On the instructions of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, BRS leader Gantham Nageshwar Rao, along with Entomology AE Bharati, visited Indiranagar Chinna Cheruvu in Ramanthapur division on Wednesday to inspect issues related to mosquito control and the removal of water hyacinth. "Water hyacinth has completely covered the surface of the lake, preventing sunlight and oxygen from entering the water. As a result, fish and other aquatic life are dying. The plant also creates a breeding ground for mosquitoes and insects, leading to the spread of diseases such as malaria and dengue." As part of mosquito control measures, oil balls were also placed in nearby stagnant water areas. BRS leaders Sooram Shankar, Chand Pasha, Entomology Supervisor Naresh, and others participated in the program.



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Farmers advised to integrate modern practices with market access

Focus on drip irrigation, subsidies and structured marketing channels.

KARIMNAGAR May 6 (Correspondent): Farmers were urged to make optimum use of agricultural marketing facilities, institutional credit and government support schemes at an awareness programme organised at the Agricultural Market Committee here on Wednesday, as part of the State government's 99-day governance initiative and Farmers' Week celebrations. State Observer P. Eshwarayya, who attended as the chief guest, called upon farmers to avail themselves of short-term and long-term crop loans, subsidies and market linkages being extended by the government. He said that membership in cooperative societies and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) would enable farmers to secure better prices for their produce.

District Agriculture Officer J. Bhagyalakshmi emphasised the need for farmers to utilise services provided by the Agricultural Marketing Department, including market yards, warehousing facilities, Rythu Bazaars and e-marketing platforms. She said that selling produce through organised channels would help farmers realise remunerative prices. District Horticulture Officer Kamalakhar Reddy sensitised farmers to modern cultivation practices in horticulture, such as drip irrigation and mulching, and highlighted incentives available under various government schemes.

District Cooperative Officer Ramanujacharyulu urged



farmers to take advantage of services offered by cooperative societies, including credit, seed and fertiliser supply. District Marketing Officer Shabuddin said farmers could secure better returns by routing their produce through market yards, Rythu Bazaars and FPOs, and stressed the importance of awareness about marketing schemes. Assistant Director of Agriculture Ranadheer Reddy advised farmers to integrate improved cultivation practices with better market understanding to enhance their incomes. KDCC Bank AGM Nagaraju, FPO chairman Shankaraya, mandal-level agriculture officials, bank representatives and a large number of farmers participated. Officials also addressed farmers' queries and appealed to them to make full use of the schemes on offer.

No Inconvenience to Farmers at Procurement Centres: DCC Chief Shivasena Reddy



"Wanaparthy, Correspondent, May 6, (Indian Chronicle): "District Congress Committee (DCC) Chief and State Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy stated that farmers should not face any difficulties at paddy procurement centres and directed officials to ensure smooth operations. Responding to complaints from farmers at an IKP procurement centre in Peddagudem village of Wanaparthy mandal on Wednesday, he visited the centre and reviewed its functioning. He interacted with farmers and examined the facilities being provided. Shiva Sena Reddy instructed the organisers of IKP and MEPMA centres to take all necessary steps to prevent inconvenience to farmers and to ensure procurement at remunerative prices. Farmers alleged that middlemen were cheating them in the name of deductions, to which he immediately responded by speaking to District Collector Adarsh Surabhi over the phone and explaining the issues. He said the Congress government is committed to working in the interest of farmers and asked officials to promptly rectify even minor lapses. He stressed that officials must work sincerely and not bring a bad name to the government. Shiva Sena Reddy also directed that procurement centres must provide basic facilities such as drinking water, tents, and moisture-measuring equipment, and to take preventive measures to protect

paddy from rain. Village Sarpanch Pushpalatha Shivakumar, Vice Sarpanch Pollikamma, farmers, and Congress leaders were present during the visit.

Farmers should not trust middlemen and get cheated Tandur MLA Manohar Reddy stated.

"Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (May 6) "MLA Manohar Reddy said farmers should not trust middlemen and get cheated. On Wednesday, along with local leaders, he inaugurated 'paddy' procurement centers set up under IKP in Akkampalli village, Yal mandal, and under PACS in Agganur village.



lished procurement centers.

He advised them not to trust middlemen and be deceived. He said the government is providing a support price of 2,389 per quintal for coarse variety, and 500 bonus for fine variety. "Tandur Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Patilola Narsimlu, local leaders, sarpanches of the respective villages, and officials participated in this program.

CONG GOVT RESPONSIBLE FOR DEATH OF THREE FARMERS

Hyderabad, May 6 : BJP State President N Ramchander Rao today expressed deep grief over the tragic death of three farmers in Luxetipet Mandal, Mancherial district, who lost their lives due to heavy rains and winds at grain collection centers (Kallalu). "In a strongly worded press statement, he held the Congress government's "incompetence" directly responsible for the death of farmers." Rao expressed his heartfelt sympathies to the families of the deceased farmers—Gundarapu Venkatesh, Tanugula Abhiram, and Lachanna while trying to protect their products. "It is heartbreaking to see farmers, who feed the nation, lose their lives while trying to protect their produce. This tragedy is a direct result of the Congress government's failure," Rao alleged and emphasized that "the nation survives only if the farmers survive. The Congress government must wake up to this truth."

BJP state chief wanted to know why farmers were forced to wait for weeks at procurement centers to sell their harvest when central government bears the entire financial burden including MSP per quintal, Mandi Hamali (labor) and Transportation charges. Commissions for IKP centers, Farmers Association, Market yards, Godown charges and costs for gunny bags. "He questioned why the State Government is hesitating to facilitate procurement when the financial backing is provided by the Centre."

Warning that the public would not forgive the government for "playing with the lives of farmers," Rao demanded the government to complete grain collection on a war footing across the state. He demanded substantial financial compensation immediately to the families of the deceased farmers and ensure that such administrative negligence is not repeated during the rainy season.

All should extend support to VH's indefinite hunger strike from May 9 —



Greater Hyderabad BC Welfare Association Secretary Gurram Raghavender "UPPAL, MAY 06 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): "Gurram Raghavender, Secretary of the Greater Hyderabad BC Welfare Association, criticized the BJP-led central government for allegedly doing grave injustice to OBCs. He expressed anger, stating that there are deliberate attempts to avoid revealing the actual population of OBCs in the country. He questioned why an OBC column was not included in the census. "As a mark of protest against the Centre's stance, former PCC President and Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao (VH) will undertake an indefinite hunger strike from May 9 at his residence, Raghavender said. He appealed to BC communities across all political parties and BC organizations to come forward in large numbers and extend their support to the protest. "He further stated that VH has already written a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi demanding the inclusion of an OBC column in the census. Raghavender urged that the Prime Minister should clarify the Centre's stand on BC issues before visiting the state; otherwise, VH will go ahead with the indefinite hunger strike from May 9. "He emphasized that if the OBC population count is not conducted now, it may never happen, and called upon BC organizations and leaders to remain alert and fight for their rights. He also questioned why BC MPs from the BJP are not responding on this issue. "Raghavender also criticized the central government over rising prices, stating that since the BJP came to power, the costs of petrol, diesel, gas, and gold have increased significantly. He pointed out that diesel prices have risen from 61 in 2014 to ₹96 now, petrol from 70 to 107, domestic gas from 600 to 965, and commercial cylinders from 1,200 to ₹3,300. Similarly, gold prices have surged from 28,000 per 10 grams in 2014 to 1.52 lakh now, blaming the government for burdening the public over the past decade.

MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Assures Full Support for Colony Development



"UPPAL, MAY 06(INDIAN CHRONICAL): Uppal constituency MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy inaugurated the underground drainage (UGD) works constructed at an estimated cost of ₹46 lakh in Western Bliss, Kapra. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the UGD project would greatly benefit public health and sanitation. He noted that it would play a key role in reducing pollution issues in the area. He also assured that all possible support would be extended for taking up more development works in the future. "Colony residents, BRS party leaders, activists, and Bairi Naveen Goud were among those who participated in the program.

Shift to High-Demand Commercial Crops for Better Profits: Dr. G. Chinna Reddy



“Apply for Soil Health Cards to Preserve Farmland for Future Generations: Collector Adarsh Surabhi”
“Wanaparthy correspondent, May 6, (Indian Chronicle) :”
Farmers have been urged to shift from paddy cultivation to high-demand commercial crops to earn better profits, said State Planning Commission Vice Chairman Dr. G. Chinna Reddy. A farmers' awareness programme on crop diversification was held on Wednesday at Dacha Lakshmaiah Function Hall under the aegis of the District Horticulture and Sericulture Department as part of the 99-day Praja Palana Action Plan. District Collector Adarsh Surabhi and Dr. Chinna Reddy attended as chief guests. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Chinna Reddy said that despite India's population of 1.4 billion, the country faces a shortage of oilseeds and pulses, leading to heavy imports and loss of foreign exchange. He stated that the government is determined to promote oilseed cultivation domestically. He highlighted that oil palm yields the highest oil content among oilseed crops and is one of the most profitable crops. He advised farmers to shift focus from paddy to oil palm, pulses, and vegetable cultivation. Sharing his experience, he said he is cultivating oil palm on 75 out of



his 90 acres. He added that the government provides subsidies for oil palm cultivation, including support for saplings, fertilizers, drip irrigation, pit digging, and intercropping for up to four years. Farmers can earn substantial profits from oil palm cultivation for nearly 30 years, he noted. District Collector Adarsh Surabhi emphasized the need to maintain soil fertility and encouraged farmers to opt for alternative crops instead of paddy. He urged farmers to apply for Soil Health Cards and to become members of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to avail benefits from central and state government schemes. He also advised farmers to obtain Kisan Credit Cards and join cooperative societies. The Collector said that special buses would be arranged to take interested farmers to fields where oil palm is being cultivated to provide practical exposure. Farmer Commission member Bhavani Reddy, Special Nodal Officer Prasad Rao, former Joint Director of Agriculture Krupakar Reddy, Krishi Vigyan Kendra scientist Rajender Reddy, Veena, District Horticulture Officer Vijay Bhaskar, Marketing Officer Swaran Singh, Tahsildar Ramesh Reddy, Municipal Commissioner Venkateshwarlu, and farmers participated in the programme.

Resolving Public Grievances Is the Primary Goal - MLA K.R. Nagaraju



“Warangal, May 6 (Indian Chronicle) : Wardhannapet
MLA K.R. Nagaraju said that leaders who work tirelessly for the people are always remembered, and emphasized that addressing public grievances must remain the foremost priority of every public representative. “He was speaking at the general body meeting held on Wednesday in the Council Hall of the Greater Warangal Municipal Corpora-

tion office, chaired by Mayor Gundu Sudharani. The meeting was attended by Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya, MLC Baswaraju Saraiah, Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, along with Wardhannapet MLA (Retd. IPS officer) K.R. Nagaraju. On the occasion, he issued directions to officials and corporators regarding the resolution of local civic issues. Keeping the summer season in view, he instructed officials to take advance measures to prevent any drinking water scarcity in the city and suggested the formation of a special team to effectively monitor potable water supply. “He further stressed the need for inter-departmental coordination to ensure that civic works are not disrupted during the transfer of officials. In view of the rising mosquito menace in the city, he directed authorities to intensify fogging operations on a war footing. “The MLA urged corporators to continue acting responsibly and remain accessible to the public even after the completion of their tenure, and to address public complaints promptly. Several issues related to the city's development were discussed at length during the meeting. “Hanamkonda District Collector and In-charge Municipal Commissioner Chahat Bajpai, the Deputy Mayor, corporators, and senior municipal officials also participated in the meeting.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy congratulates new DGP Anand

“UPPAL, MAY 06 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): “Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy met newly appointed Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand, IPS, at the DGP office in Hyderabad and conveyed his congratulations on assuming office. “On this occasion, the MLA requested that the administrative processes be expedited for the proposed stone water drainage works in Cherlapally division, which are to be undertaken with funds of ₹1.20 crore. He urged the DGP to instruct the Director General of Prisons to ensure that the works are initiated at the earliest. “He stated that once these works are completed, the issue of water stagnation in the local areas would be reduced, providing better basic infrastructure to the public. The MLA also emphasized that there should be no compromise on the quality of the work and requested that the prison department officials be directed to cooperate with municipal authorities to complete the project within the stipulated timeframe. “Bandari Lakshma Reddy reiterated that



resolving public issues is their primary objective and affirmed that development works would be accelerated in coordination with the government.

Service Initiatives of PN Charitable Trust Praiseworthy - MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy



“Hanamakonda, May 6 (Indian Chronicle) : Nayini Rajender Reddy lauded the service activities undertaken by the PN Charitable Trust, stating that its programmes reflect a strong sense of social responsibility and commitment to public welfare. “On Wednesday, the MLA inaugurated a free buttermilk distribution centre set up at Jeevanlal Complex in Hanamakonda crossroads under the aegis of the Pulluri Narsaiah Charitable Trust. Speaking on the occasion, he said that P.N. Murthy established the trust in memory of his grandfather and, despite being engaged in business, has dedicated himself to social service—setting an example for fellow entrepreneurs. “He appreciated the Trust's initiatives such as monthly financial assistance to nearly 100 underprivileged persons and distribution of clothes, in addition to the buttermilk distribution drive during the summer. “Dr Anita Reddy, Governing Body Member of Kakatiya University, praised the service-minded approach of the Trust members. She noted that distributing buttermilk during summer not only promotes health but also provides relief from heatstroke, and said the Trust is inspiring others by extending support to the weaker sections of society. “Gattu Mahesh said P.N. Murthy is a man of ideals who treats colleagues with compassion and extends help to workers in distress, reflecting his humane nature. He expressed hope that the Trust's services would expand further in the future. “Among those present were Trust members Dr Pulla Srinivas and Namindla Ajay, businessmen Ramchander and Chander, and retired DSP Narsaiah, among others.

Unidentified dead body in water of Palem Vagu Project..“

“Mulugu/Venkatapuram. Indian Chronicle.may06”
An unidentified dead body of an unidentified person was found floating on the water in the Palem project reservoir of Venkatapuram mandal on Wednesday morning. Farmers and locals of Rachapalli and Mallapuram villages near the project noticed this and informed the project staff and police. Venkatapuram police reached the spot and recovered the body from the reservoir with the help of boats of tribal religious men and local swimmers. Police said that the whereabouts and address of the deceased, who is believed to be middle-aged, is yet to be known. They asked anyone with information about the unidentified body to contact the Venkatapuram police department immediately. The body was shifted to Venkatapuram Government Hospital for post-mortem. The police said that a case has been registered and the investigation is continuing.



Farmers who have lost due to untimely rains should be supported...



“Rice grain should be purchased without cutting.”
“CPM State Secretary Bandaru Ravikumar. “Mulugu/Venkatapuram. Indian Chronicle may06.”
“CPM state secretary group members Bandaru Ravikumar demanded that

the farmers affected by untimely rains should be supported and paddy grain should be purchased without cutting. Ravikumar, who was present at the meeting, said that farmers are suffering badly due to late opening of government procurement centers and rice millers stopping lorries as it is not possible to import grain without cutting. He said that the millers are following the method of importing only if they agree to cutting from 3 to 6 kg and the government should intervene and take action. He said that the grain that was dumped at the center 20 days ago is not going to the mill today. He said that now the grain gets wet due to untimely rains. He said that compensation should be paid to the farmers. He said that a receipt should be given after harvesting the grain and a toll free number should be set up in each center. Similarly, the purchase of corn and sorghum crop should be taken up immediately and additional purchase centers were said. CPM State Committee Members Sudi Krishna Reddy, District Secretary Bireddy Sambasiva, District Secretary Ward Members Tummala Venkat Reddy, Ratnam Rajender, Gyanam Vasu, MD Dawood and Chittibabu participated in this meeting.

Only the Congress government fulfills the dream of owning a house



MLA Buyyani Manohar Reddy inaugurated five Indiramma houses in Yal mandal. “Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (May 6)”
“MLA Buyyani Manohar Reddy inaugu-

rated five Indiramma houses in Yal mandal on Wednesday. In Chennaram village of the mandal, he participated in housewarming ceremonies for the Indiramma houses of Shamalamma Mallayya, Satyamma Satyayya, Rasamma Sailu, and Shivalila Parushuram. He also took part in the housewarming puja for the Indiramma house of Venkatamma and Ramulu in Enke Palli village, and conveyed his best wishes to them. “Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said the Congress government is fulfilling its election promises one by one. He stated that credit for fulfilling the dream of owning a home for the poorest goes only to the Congress government. He said he was happy to share a community meal with beneficiaries in the new Indiramma houses. “Beneficiaries expressed happiness toward the Congress government for fulfilling their dream of owning a house, and said they will always be indebted to CM Revanth Reddy and MLA B Manohar Reddy.

KTR, Speak After Knowing the Facts - MLA Nayini Rajender Reddy



---Do not survive on false allegations
“Hanamakonda, May 6 (Indian Chronicle) : Nayini Rajender Reddy, MLA of Warangal West, asserted that the Congress government is ahead in implementing its promises, unlike the previous regime which, he alleged, misled the public by failing to fulfill its assurances. “Addressing a media conference held at the Arts and Science College grounds in Hanamakonda on Wednesday, he said the Congress government, immediately after assuming office, focused on translating its electoral promises into action. Upholding the assurance given by Rahul Gandhi, the government has taken key decisions such as farm loan waivers, he noted. “Criticising the decade-long rule of the Bharat Rashtira Samithi, he said the previous government failed to fully implement its promises. He termed it “shameful” that criticisms are being levelled against the present government, which, he said, has implemented several assurances within just two years. He warned that the government would not tolerate any attempts to create unrest in the state. “He lashed out at K. T. Rama Rao, urg-

ing him to speak only after verifying facts, and accused him of trying to mislead the public with baseless allegations. He threw an open challenge for a public debate to discuss who has done what for the farmers. “Stating that over 80 percent of the farm loan waiver has been completed, he said the paddy procurement system has been strengthened to ensure justice to farmers. He also alleged that irregularities had taken place earlier in the form of spurious seeds and malpractice at procurement centres. “The MLA said that projects such as the airport and underground drainage are being pushed forward and that development is progressing at a faster pace compared to the previous government. He advised the opposition to act responsibly and with dignity, adding that constructive suggestions are always welcome, but false propaganda and derogatory remarks would be dealt with firmly. “Among those present at the meeting were K. R. Nagaraju, MLA of Vardhannapet; Basavaraju Saraiah, MLC; Inagala Venkataram Reddy, DCC President; along with TPCC and DCC leaders.

Strong security arrangements must be made in the district for the upcoming Bakrid festival..



“ District SP issued directions in a review meeting with district police and animal husbandry department officials. “Indian Chronicle Vikarabad (May 6)“A coordination meeting was held at the district police office with joint coordination of the district police department and animal husbandry department to ensure strong maintenance of law and order in the district for the upcoming Bakrid festival. The meeting was chaired by District SP Smt.Sneha Mehra, IPS. District Animal Husbandry Officer Sri Sadanand and concerned officials, along with senior police officials, participated. “SP reviewed in detail the functioning of cattle markets under each police station limits, checkpoints set up in view of Bakrid, staff deployment, and other aspects. She made it clear that illegal slaughter of cows and calves by unlawfully transporting them anywhere in the district is completely banned, and strict legal action will be taken against those involved. “To prevent illegal transportation of animals from other states and districts, 3 interstate checkpoints have been set up at Kotlapur, Ravulapalli, and Bashirabad railway gate, and 4 inter-district checkpoints at Angadi Chittampalli, Maithab Khan Guda, Antharam, and Lakshminarayanaapur crossroad. A total of 7 checkpoints will have 24x7 surveillance. She said vehicle inspections are being carried out strictly with coordination of police and animal husbandry staff at every checkpoint. “She said relevant laws and rules must be followed during animal transportation. She warned there will be no compromise in tak-



ing strict action against those moving cattle without valid documents. She also cautioned that no one should take the law into their own hands while stopping illegal transport, and personal attacks or mob attacks are also punishable offenses. “She urged the public to remain alert and immediately inform police about illegal cattle transport and suspicious activities. She especially advised youth not to act in haste and to behave responsibly, and requested religious leaders to create awareness among youth about peace and harmony. “She warned that strict action will be taken if morphed photos, false propaganda, or provocative posts related to illegal cattle transport are circulated on social media platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook to incite hatred. The district police media monitoring cell is keeping continuous watch for this, she said. Legal action will also be taken against those spreading rumors that create panic among the public. “She said police officers will always be available in emergencies and asked the public to contact Dial 100 or the nearest police station. She expressed hope that Bakrid will be celebrated peacefully while respecting each other's religions. She appealed to the public to extend full cooperation to police in maintaining law and order in the district. “District Animal Husbandry Officer Sri Sadanand, Additional SP Sri B. Ramulu Naik, DCRB DSP Janayya, DTC DSP Srinivas, Vikarabad DSP Anjayya, Tandur DSP Yadayya, Parigi DSP Srinivas, district CIs, RIs, SIs, RSIs, and other officials and staff participated in the meeting.“

Dream of a Home Realised for the Poor

“--- MLA K.R. Nagaraju Inaugurates Indiramma House in Jayagiri““Hanumakonda, May 6 (Indian Chronicle) : As part of the Praja Palana–Pragati Pranalika programme, a housewarming ceremony under the Indiramma Housing Scheme was held with grandeur on Wednesday in Jayagiri village of Hasanparthy mandal.“Vardhannapet MLA and retired IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju attended the event as the chief guest and inaugurated the newly constructed house by cutting the ribbon. The beneficiary family, Janagani Rama–Chandra of Jayagiri village, completed the construction of their home with financial assistance of ₹5 lakh sanctioned by the government.“On the occasion, the MLA presented clothes to the beneficiary family and conveyed his best wishes, expressing hope that they would lead a healthy, happy, and peaceful life in their new home.“Addressing the gathering, the MLA stated that the Telangana government is effectively implementing the Praja Palana–Pragati Pranalika with the primary objective of ensuring the welfare of the poor. He said that steps are being taken to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligible family directly.“He noted that providing permanent housing to poor and middle-class families through the Indiramma Housing Scheme reflects the government's commitment,



and that the completion of the house by the beneficiary family in Jayagiri stands as a testimony to the success of the scheme. He further added that special focus is being placed on identifying eligible beneficiaries in every village of the constituency to ensure that welfare benefits reach all deserving families.“Villagers, local public representatives, Congress party leaders, activists, and officials participated in the programme.

Additional Collector Pandu inspects the functioning of paddy purchase centers



“Sangareddy, May 06:“Additional Collector Pandu has ordered the officials to take strict steps to ensure smooth and transparent management of the paddy purchase process in the district.““On Wednesday, he made a surprise visit to the paddy purchase centers set up in Pulkal and Gogulur villages of Pulkal mandal and inspected the purchase process firsthand.““On this occasion, the facilities provided to the farmers at the centers, the grain weighing system, record maintenance, moisture content, etc. were inspected in detail.““The officials were advised to make all arrangements so that the farmers can sell their paddy without any difficulties. He said that the paddy purchase should



be conducted transparently without any irregularities and steps should be taken to ensure that payments are made to the farmers on time according to the appropriate support price (MSP). He was advised to increase the number of transport vehicles so that there is no delay in the transportation of paddy.““It was suggested that drinking water, shade and seating facilities should be mandatory at the centers and that farmers should complete the purchase process quickly without waiting for long.““On this occasion, the Additional Collector, who spoke to several farmers, instructed the concerned officials to take immediate steps to resolve the problems at the purchase centers

Sanitation Review Meeting with SFAs — Focus on Cleanliness



““UPPAL, May 6 (INDIAN CHRONICAL):“Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation (MMC) Commissioner Vinay Krishna Reddy stated that top priority is being given to maintaining sanitation in the city. On Wednesday, a special review meeting was held with Sanitation Field Assistants (SFAs) of Uppal Zone at the MMC head office in Tarnaka.“During the meeting, the Commissioner held detailed discussions

on field-level challenges and key implementation areas, issuing clear guidelines to improve sanitation services.“He instructed that SAT (Sanitation Auto Tipper) vehicles must be properly linked to the respective SCTPs (Secondary Collection & Transfer Points), with strict monitoring of daily trips. The number of trips made to each Sctp must be recorded daily to ensure effective supervision.“He emphasized the importance of staff attendance, door-to-door waste collection, and sweeping operations being carried out efficiently. Special focus was placed on increasing the attendance of sweepers and reducing absenteeism through regular monitoring.“The Commissioner clearly directed that sanitation staff should not be assigned to other departmental duties, except in emergency situations and only with prior approval from the Zonal Commissioner.“He also instructed that garbage accumulating on roads must be immediately shifted to GVP (Garbage Vulnerable Points) and cleared daily. Road margins should be kept clean at all times, along with parallel execution of margin leveling works.“Further, SFAs were directed to maintain complete details of SAT auto staff and sweepers under their jurisdiction, including tracking frequently absent and long-term absentees. They should also have thorough knowledge of all GVPs in their respective areas.“The Commissioner announced that another review meeting will be conducted after 20 days with AEs, DEs, DCs, and SFAs zone-wise. Officials were instructed to implement these directions effectively and significantly improve sanitation service performance by then.

We have undertaken to fill 18 thousand jobs in the medical and health departments.



““We will soon release the results of multipurpose ANMs and nursing officers.““The government prioritizes education, medical and women's empowerment.““We will develop children's homes with government and CSR funds.““The government has a huge responsibility to maintain Anganwadis and children's homes.““We will work to construct permanent buildings for Anganwadi centers and fill vacant jobs.““Sangareddy indian Chronicle May 6...“Scooties were distributed to the disabled.““Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha made this statement at the Public Governance - Progress Plan program in Narayankhed.““As part of the Public Governance - Progress Plan program,“State Minister for Medical, Health and Family Welfare Damodar Rajanarsimha participated as the chief guest in the 99-day action implementation program.““As part of the ambitious Public Administration - Progress Plan program being conducted by the Telangana State Government, the Minister attended the program organized by the Sangareddy District Women, Child, Disabled and Elderly Welfare Department at the Children's Center under the Narayankhed Municipality on Wednesday as the chief guest.““The new building of the Children's Center was inaugurated along with local MLA Sanjeeva Reddy and MP Suresh Shetkar.““Speaking on this occasion, Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha said...““After the formation of the public government, about 18 thousand jobs have been filled in the state Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department. The job results of Multipurpose ANM and Nursing Officers will be announced soon.““The Telangana State Government, led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is giving great priority to education, medical, women empowerment and development and welfare programs.““He said that the state government is working for the welfare of women, children, the disabled and the elderly. As part of this, the state government has a major responsibility to protect the children's homes and Anganwadis. He said that the state government will develop them with CSR funds to strengthen the Anganwadis in the state. The state government is providing one complete meal to pregnant and lactating women and children aged 3 to 6, take-home ration to children aged seven months to three years, and pre-primary education to children aged three to six years, along with nutrition, health,“pre-school, immunization, referral services and



health check-ups free of cost through Anganwadis.““He said that ANMs, Anganwadi teachers, supervisors and ASHA workers are providing services in the villages. On this occasion, the minister praised their services.““On this occasion, Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha spoke face to face with the children's homes girls who participated in the program. He asked about their problems. The Minister ordered to immediately set up an RO plant in the children's home. Later, scooties were distributed to the disabled.““As part of the Public Administration Progress Plan program, the officials explained to the Minister that during the Women, Child, Disabled and Elderly Welfare Department's week celebrations in the district, cleanliness of childcare institutions, identification of CCI children above 18 years of age, organization of health camps, organization of special camps for emergency certificates and health cards, evacuation of children from institutions and rehabilitation and follow-up process, admission process in residential schools, etc. were carried out.““Local legislators Dr. Sanjeeva Reddy, MP Suresh Shetkar, Municipal Chairman Nagesh Shetkar, Sub-Collector Uma Harathi, District Welfare Officer Lalitha Kumari, Municipal Commissioner Prashanth, CDO Sujatha, Ashram Administrator Vijaya Kumari and other public representatives participated.

Collector Orders Immediate Clearance of Pending Revenue Issues in Khammam



“District Collector T.S. Diwakar has directed officials to resolve all pending issues promptly and ensure timely delivery of services to the public.““He emphasized that the pendency of Sada Bainama cases must be completely cleared as per guidelines. Special focus should be given to applications related to Bhu Bharati, Mee Seva, and Revenue Conferences.““The Collector instructed officials to submit a comprehensive report on available government lands in every mandal. He made it clear that there should be no



pendency in citizen service applications under any circumstances.““Delays in Bhu Bharati slots will not be tolerated, and registrations must be completed within the stipulated time. All applications should be examined as per guidelines and resolved without delay.““He also directed that all grievances received under the Prajavani program must be resolved within 15 days.““These instructions were issued during a review of the Revenue Department conducted by the District Collector.“

Call to Fight Against Government Bias in Journalists' Housing Plots:

TWJF & GHJ Society““Hyderabad, May 6 (Indian Chronicle):““Leaders of the Greater Hyderabad Journalists Housing Society (GHJHS) and the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) have expressed strong anger over the government's approach toward allotment of housing plots for journalists.“GHJHS President and TWJF State President Mamidi Somaiah, along with Society Secretary Bollam Srinivas, criticized the government for not inviting their society to a recent meeting held at the Secretariat under the leadership of Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy to discuss the issue of journalists' housing plots.“They alleged that their society was deliberately excluded, while only four journalist societies were invited, suggesting a conspiracy behind the move. They accused certain individuals of intentionally denying their rightful benefits through such discrimination.“The leaders pointed out that their society, established in 2008, represents around 1,350 journalists working in the Greater Hyderabad area. Ignoring such a large and long-standing organization is unfair and unacceptable, they said.““Ready for Protest Against Government's Stand““They stated that they are closely observing the outcomes of the recent Secretariat meeting and will decide their future course of action based on the decisions taken there. While clarifying that they are not against the government, they alleged that some journalist leaders are misleading the minister and officials, resulting



in their exclusion.“They warned that if the government continues to show discrimination and neglect toward their society, all members should be prepared to launch a strong protest. They termed the preference given to only four societies as biased and vowed to expose the forces behind their exclusion.“Emphasizing that partiality in matters related to journalists' welfare is unacceptable, they asserted that they would not hesitate to fight for the rights and interests of their members.

Do Not Burn Crop Residues: District Collector T.S. Diwakar

“Protect the Environment and Preserve Soil Fertility““Khammam, May 06 (Indian Chronicle):““District Collector T.S. Diwakar has urged farmers not to burn crop residues, warning that such practices can lead to uncontrolled fires that may damage nearby crops, property, and electricity lines. He also noted that burning residues can pose health risks to livestock.“The Collector stated that burning crop residues causes serious harm to the environment, soil fertility, and farmers' financial stability. He observed that incidents of large-scale burning of maize crop

residues after harvest have been reported in Khammam district.“He explained that burning releases harmful gases such as carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, and sulfur dioxide, which increase air pollution and can lead to respiratory problems among people.“Additionally, burning crop residues destroys essential soil nutrients like organic carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash, reducing soil fertility. As a result, farmers may become more dependent on chemical fertilizers, increasing their costs while reducing crop yields.“

‘Derogatory words for SC community in Census form’: Punjab MLA Kulwant Singh Sidhu sounds alarm, writes to PM Modi



GNS News Agency, May 6

Punjab Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Kulwant Singh Sidhu said on Wednesday that the official Census of India 2027 form, available on the official portal, has listed two derogatory and inappropriate words for the Scheduled Caste (SC) community in the state. Showing the screenshots of the form, the MLA from Ludhiana’s Atam Nagar said that the words were highly “derogatory and inappropriate” and “should be removed immediately”. “The words have been listed in sub-caste reference for Valmiki and Ravidassia

community. Such terminology is not only socially unacceptable but also violates the spirit of dignity, equality and law of our land Punjab where such words cannot be spoken,” Kulwant Singh Sidhu said. “The Census of India 2027 to count country’s population is currently ongoing and one can log-in online to self-enumerate on <http://www.census.gov.in>. But when our brothers from Valmiki community log in here, they can see two very derogatory words. In Punjab, it is a crime to utter these words and an FIR is registered under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act if one insults or demeans our SC community members by using these words,” Sidhu added.

The AAP MLA further said that he has written to both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, demanding the immediate removal of the words. “I have also demanded immediate action against those responsible for this serious lapse,” he added. Meanwhile, an organisation, Eklavya Youth Federation, has also submitted a memorandum to the Ludhiana district administration stating that when the Census enumerators conduct a door-to-door survey, they will utter these words, which could lead to tension and law and order problems. The organisation also sought that the words be removed from the form immediately.

208 dishes identified in Uttar Pradesh’s ‘One District, One Cuisine’ list — not one of them non-veg

GNS News Agency, May 6

Uttar Pradesh’s newly approved ‘One District, One Cuisine Scheme’ has identified 208 signature dishes across the state. Except, one glaring omission has raised eyebrows — there is not a single meat dish on the list. Lucknow, for instance, has been assigned rewari, chaat, malai makkhan and “mango produce”. While the Moradabad division features dai dishes and handi halwa. Well-known specialties such as Galauti Kabab and Moradabadi Biryani from the two regions are absent. The scheme was first launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Lucknow on January 24 during UP Day and the inauguration of Prerna Sthal, and formally approved by the state Cabinet on May 4. Sources said the Cabinet note includes 208 cuisines, mapped across 18 divisions and 75 districts.

Food critics, however, have questioned the exclusion of iconic dishes such as the Galauti Kabab, widely regarded as a signature dish of Awadhi cuisine. Writer Himanshu Bajpai from Lucknow, who performs Dastangoi across the world, said the omission was surprising. “I am a vegetarian, but when a list of popular cuisines is prepared, the non-inclusion of Galauti Kabab, known worldwide for its ‘melt-in-the-mouth’ texture, comes as a surprise.” He also called for clarity on the selection process. “If the aim is to promote lesser-known dishes, that is understandable. But if there is any bias in food selection, it should be explained.” When asked about the selection criteria, Cabinet Minister Rakesh Sachan told that “it is a flexible list which can be upgraded based on public opinion and suggestions”. “The list is flexible. The scheme has been approved by the Cabinet, but the list of cuisines can be changed any time based on local recommendations and public demand, with approval from the Chief Minister. It does not require Cabinet approval,” he said. He added that a district-level committee was formed in all 75 districts, chaired by District Magistrates and including teachers, professors, and local experts, and they made these recommendations. “Surveys were also conducted... It is based on these recommendations that this list was decided, the task was not easy,” Sachan said.



On the absence of non-vegetarian dishes, he said, “It is not intentional. If recommended in the future, they can be added. The idea is not to promote individual popular items but dishes that benefit a larger population through packaging, sales, and promotion.” The government, meanwhile, is preparing incentives to support identified cuisines and their makers. Sources said the government will provide a 25% subsidy for setting up new units (up to Rs 20 lakh) and assistance in packaging, marketing, and branding. For instance, if a halwai wants to participate in a “haat” or an exhibition, then the government would offer support up to Rs 75,000 for national events and up to Rs 4 lakh for international events.

According to sources, the government is also planning a food conclave in Lucknow, where local halwais and culinary experts will be invited to promote these cuisines. However, it is still unclear whether non-vegetarian cooks will be included. As per the list, each of Uttar Pradesh’s 18 divisions has been mapped with signature foods ranging from sweets and snacks to staple dishes. The list also underlines region-specific specialties such as dal bafra in Jhansi; bedami puri in Prayagraj; and kalakand in Aligarh. Unique local products like black rice dishes in Chandauli and amla-based products in Pratapgarg have also been included. Officials said the attempt was “to capture both popular and lesser-known culinary traditions”.

TMC councillor arrested months after being caught with bullets at Kolkata airport



GNS News Agency, May 6

Nearly a year after he was first intercepted with unlicensed ammunition at Kolkata’s Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport, a Trinamool Congress councillor from the Pujali municipality in South 24 Parganas has been arrested by the police. Amirul Sekh Islam, representative for ward 14, was taken into custody on Tuesday un-

der the Arms Act, the police said. On September 21, 2025, Islam was stopped by CISF Sub-Inspector Gopal Shaw while attempting to board flight 6E 5227. Security scanners flagged an empty magazine and six rounds of 7.65 MM live cartridges inside his baggage.

At the time of the discovery, Islam asserted that he held a valid firearms licence but requested time to produce the documents. In light of his status as a public representative within the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha constituency, authorities granted him an initial seven-day grace period to provide proof of legality. “The passenger possessed live ammunition without any licence or valid documents. Although he was initially granted a seven-day grace period to produce the necessary paperwork because he is a public representative, he failed to provide any valid documentation. Consequently, a formal complaint was lodged, a case was initiated under the Arms Act, and the accused was taken into custody,” said a police officer. Police officers confirmed that the councillor was charged under the Arms Act for illegally possessing live ammunition.

‘Now, governor will decide’: Bengal CEO Manoj Agarwal after meeting with R N Ravi

GNS News Agency, May 6

West Bengal Governor R N Ravi is seeking constitutional experts’ advice before calling the BJP’s legislative party leader to form the new government, sources in Lok Bhavan said on Wednesday. After the meeting, Agarwal said, “The Election Commission of India (ECI) has already published the gazette notification of the winning candidates. Now, the governor will take all decisions as per constitutional provisions.” A senior Lok Bhavan official said, “As per Article 172 of the Constitution, the West Bengal Assembly will dissolve on Wednesday midnight. After that, this government and its Cabinet will dissolve. This Cabinet can then work as a caretaker government till a new government is sworn in.”

“If the governor wants, he can replace the existing government with a caretaker government. But then also, new ministers have to be sworn in. He can also impose President’s rule for a few days. However, after the Assembly is dissolved, the governor will call the largest party to form the new government. Meanwhile, the largest party has to elect its legislative party leader,” he added. According to sources, the BJP is yet to decide the swearing-in venue, although three places are under speculation: the Brigade Parade ground, Netaji Indoor Stadium, and RG Kar Medi-

cal College and Hospital. However, BJP sources said all such decisions would be taken after Union Home Minister Amit Shah arrives in Kolkata on Thursday. It was already decided that the new government will be sworn in on May 9, the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

The confusion about government formation began after outgoing Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said she would not resign. She alleged that the elections were stolen by manipulating electronic voting machines (EVM). “We have not been defeated. I have not been defeated. I will not resign. There is no question of my going to Raj Bhavan. In this election, the BJP and the Election Commission played a dirty game... They forcefully grabbed (votes),” she said at a press conference on Tuesday, a day after the votes were counted. Banerjee lost to the BJP’s Suwendu Adhikari by over 15,000 votes in Bhabanipur, as the saffron party swept the Assembly elections. “I was assaulted inside the counting centre. They hit me in my belly and on my back. I was not allowed to enter. My agent was also not allowed to enter. If such atrocities were committed against me, imagine what happened to other candidates,” said Banerjee. Alleging EVM manipulation, the Trinamool Congress chief said, “How can EVMs have 90 per cent and 95 per cent battery (during counting)?

Woman at centre of Chandigarh murder plot? Encrypted app, land deal and nine failed hit attempts



Police sources said the murder, initially suspected to be linked to gang rivalry, has now been traced to an alleged conspiracy arising out of a disputed land transaction. Police sources said the murder, initially suspected to be linked to gang rivalry, has now been traced to an alleged conspiracy arising out of a disputed land transaction. The Chandigarh Police has uncovered what it believes is the use of encrypted messaging application Zangi to facilitate communication between the accused in the murder of property dealer Chamanpreet Singh alias Chinni Kubaheeri, as investigators widened their probe into what is now being treated as an alleged contract killing linked to a property dispute.

On Tuesday, police secured one-day remand of property dealer Harshpreet Singh to confront him with co-accused Amreen Kaur Rai, a resident of Sector 35, who was arrested following what investigators described as a major breakthrough during the interrogation of Harshpreet and the alleged shooter, Rajan alias Piyush. Police sources said the murder, initially suspected to be linked to gang rivalry, has now been traced to an alleged conspiracy arising out of a disputed land transaction. According to the investigation, Amreen allegedly engaged the services of gangster Lucky Patial to eliminate Chinni Kubaheeri. Police said Rajan allegedly acted as a conduit during the planning stage, arranging calls between Amreen and Patial. He would connect the two through conference calls or speaker mode, and in the process overheard their conversations,” a senior police of-

ficer associated with the probe said. Investigators said these disclosures became a crucial lead in identifying the alleged conspirator. Sources said the accused allegedly relied on Zangi, an internet-based calling and messaging platform known for end-to-end encryption and minimal data storage, in an apparent attempt to evade surveillance and detection. “The use of such platforms makes retrieval of evidence more complex, but efforts are on to extract relevant data,” a police official said.

Investigators are now examining Amreen’s mobile phone and other electronic devices to trace chats, call records and any digital footprint that could corroborate statements made by the co-accused. A forensic examination of the devices is also under consideration. Police said Amreen’s arrest was based on disclosure statements made by Harshpreet Singh and Rajan alias Piyush. Harshpreet is alleged to have acted as an intermediary by facilitating the initial contact between the accused parties. He was produced before the court of the Chief Judicial Magistrate on Tuesday, which granted police one-day custody. Officials said Harshpreet’s custodial interrogation is aimed at confronting him with Amreen to establish the sequence of events and verify the role of each accused. Investigators have also revealed that the assailants allegedly made at least eight failed attempts to kill Chinni before succeeding on the ninth.

Police said surveillance was mounted near a gym in Sector 9 on January 23, 24, 25 and 26, but the target escaped each time. Three to four more attempts were allegedly made in March. Reconnaissance was also carried out at his office in New Chandigarh’s Nagra Estate, but the shooters failed to get an opening. According to police, the alleged motive was a dispute over an eight-acre land deal in New Chandigarh. Investigators said Chinni had facilitated the transaction for Amreen at Rs 1.75 crore per acre, against which she paid around Rs 4 crore in advance. Police sources said Amreen later believed she had been overcharged and also did not receive possession of the land, triggering a dispute. Investigators allege that she subsequently entered into a conspiracy to have Chinni eliminated.

UP man who ‘kidnapped, sexually assaulted and killed’ 7-year-old killed in encounter

A man who kidnapped a seven-year-old boy last week, before allegedly sexually assaulting and strangling him to death, was killed in an encounter with the Hardoi Police in Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday. Police said the accused, Menoor alias Shenoor alias Mehnuddin, a history-sheeter from the neighbouring Kannauj district who had a dozen cases registered against him across the state, carried a reward of Rs 50,000 for his arrest. According to the police, the accused frequently visited the victim’s village to meet a relative and planned the boy’s kidnapping to extort money from his family. On May 1, the family told the police that the child had gone to a fair near his house. When he did not return after an hour, they searched for him through the night before lodging a kidnapping complaint at the local police station. The accused, meanwhile, had allegedly killed the boy the same day and later contacted the family to demand a Rs 7 lakh ransom for his ‘safe return’. On May 5, police said the child’s body was found in a field. Police said prima facie, there were signs of sexual assault but a final report is awaited for confirmation. “During investigation, police found that the boy was last seen with the accused... We gathered electronic evidence indicating his involvement in the crime,” said the Station House Officer of the police station concerned.

According to police, the accused was cornered on Wednesday morning while he was on a motorcycle. On spotting the police team, he allegedly opened fire in an attempt to escape. Police said during the exchange, Hardoi



Special Operations Group (SOG) in-charge Sub-Inspector Rajesh Kumar sustained a bullet injury to his hand. Police fired back, and the accused was shot. He was taken to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Kumar was also admitted for treatment, and doctors said his condition is stable. Hardoi Superintendent of Police,

Ashok Kumar Meena, said the accused’s involvement surfaced during the investigation, and after he remained absconding, a reward was announced for his arrest. The child’s father said the family did not know the accused and had never seen him before the incident. “I have lost my son... we had so many dreams for him. This year, we were planning to enrol him in a private school...,” said the grieving father, a businessman.

10-second encounter, big discovery: Rusty-spotted cat and kitten found in Delhi-NCR

It was a fleeting 10-second glimpse. But it was enough to get a Rusty-spotted cat with her kitten on camera, leading to the first confirmed photographic evidence of the species breeding in Delhi-NCR. The finding, published last week in the peer-reviewed journal Zoo’s Print, is based on field surveys conducted across the Aravalli landscape in Faridabad and Gurgaon by a team of independent researchers, including Amit Kumar, Tejveer Mavi, Yatin Verma, Ram Kumar Rawat and Sohail Madan. The researchers are affiliated with the Department of Zoology at Indira Gandhi University, Meerpur, Haryana. Researchers recorded an adult cat with a dependent kitten in Kot village in July 2025, establishing for the first time that the elusive species is reproducing in the region. The observation is also significant, as it is an indicator of the resident population in the region.

Classified as ‘Near Threatened’ on the IUCN Red List and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, the Rusty-spotted cat (*Prionailurus rubiginosus*) is the world’s smallest wild cat and is rarely documented due to its secretive nature and low density. Nearly 75% of its habitat is believed to be under threat from land-use change, including agriculture and urban expansion. “Rusty-spotted cat is one of the world’s smallest cat species. It is found in virgin forest, where there is no disturbance. But here we have recorded it very close to the city in Aravallis. This is the first time anybody has recorded the breeding. It is proof that Aravallis is still home to very sensitive wildlife,” said Yatin Verma, one of the researchers. Until now, the species had only been recorded sporadically in Delhi-NCR. “In September 2023, from Manger Bani... before that from Haryana, only three-four instances were recorded in the past few years. It was all through a camera trap and there was no live sighting. But we were able to recently get live sightings as well,” Verma said, adding that he has recorded three live sightings so far, including one as recent as this week. The first live sighting was reported in Bansli in 2023, followed by the mother-and-kitten sighting in Kot village in 2025, and a third in Tikri just days ago, said Verma. Researchers said the presence of the species across around 20-30 locations in the Aravallis suggests a potentially stable population, although no systematic population studies have been conducted so far. The team, comprising four independent researchers, is now undertaking a larger study to assess feeding behaviour, population estimates, and interaction with humans.

The study area, located within the northern Aravalli range, is a scrub-agriculture-settlement mosaic that continues to support biodiversity despite pressures such as quarrying, grazing, and urbanisation, the paper noted. Vegetation in the region includes dry deciduous and thorn scrub species such as *Vachellia*, *Prosopis*, and *Ziziphus*, which



Researchers confirm first photographic evidence of the world’s smallest feline, a ‘Near Threatened’ species on the IUCN Red List, reproducing in Aravalli landscape

provide both cover and prey base for small carnivores. Interestingly, the observations also challenge the long-held belief that the species avoids human presence. “The cat is not shy. Generally, it is believed to be but here clearly we found it aware of human presence. Two times in live sighting, it stayed for three to four hours with us since it was hunting... when it was with the kitten, the sighting was only for 10 to 15 seconds,” Verma said.

On the movement of the feline, it was found to be most active during dusk and dawn — after around 7.30 pm in summer evenings and around 4 am in the mornings — consistent with the behaviour of many small wild cats. Among one of the earlier documented instances, September 16, 2023, showed the animal using a False Ashoka tree, an ornamental species commonly planted near human settlements, suggesting a degree of adaptation to modified urban habitats.

According to the researchers, the findings add to growing evidence that fragmented green spaces within highly urbanised landscapes can support rare and threatened species. This also underlines the ecological importance of the Aravallis, often described as the last remaining natural barrier against desertification in the region. “Previously, none of the sightings established breeding,” the paper noted, adding, “This record, therefore, marks a significant extension of the species’ documented breeding range and highlights the conservation importance of fragmented green spaces within the highly urbanised NCR landscape.” “There is a need to formulate management plans that encompass both protected and non-protected landscapes, as viable populations of Rusty-spotted cats may be persisting beyond reserve boundaries,” it said.

Bulandshahr man who killed 3 friends over cake smearing killed in encounter with UP Police



GNS News Agency, May 6

Bulandshahr, Bulandshahr encounterSo far, the Bulandshahr police have arrested five accused in the case, including three who were apprehended during earlier encounters. Express PhotoThe police in Uttar Pradesh’s Bulandshahr shot dead a 32-year-old gym trainer, the main accused in the triple murder of three men that took place on the night between Saturday and Sunday, early The killings had taken place during Saini’s birthday celebration after an argument broke out between two groups, which escalated into firing by Saini and his associates, said the police. He had been absconding since then.The Bulandshahr police had announced a reward of Rs 50,000 for information leading to his arrest.

Dinesh Kumar Singh, Superintendent of Police, Bulandshahr, confirmed that Saini was a key accused in the murder case. He said the police are continuing raids to find and arrest the remaining suspects.So far, the police have arrested and jailed five accused in the case, including three who were apprehended during earlier encounters.The

police said Saini was also named in two earlier cases from 2018 and 2023, which included charges of causing death by negligence and violations under the SC/ST Act.A resident of the Punjabbiyan locality, Saini came from a well-off family that owns sweet and garment shops in the Khurja Nagar area. Widely known locally as a regular gym-goer, he also worked part-time as a trainer and was involved in property dealing. His younger brother, Ravi, is also wanted in the same case.

During the encounter, Inspector Mohammad Aslam and Head Constable Mohit Kumar sustained bullet injuries and were immediately taken to a Community Health Centre along with Saini. The accused was later referred to the district hospital, where doctors declared him dead during treatment.The police said the condition of the injured policemen is stable. Bullets also hit the bulletproof jackets of Inspector Ramphal Singh and Head Constable Kapil Nain during the exchange of fire.According to the Bulandshahr police, teams were conducting search operations early Thursday morning to track down absconding suspects when they spotted two men on a two-wheeler on Jhanjhar Road in the Khurja police station area. When asked to stop, the suspects allegedly ignored the signal, opened fire, and tried to escape along an unpaved route.After a chase, police surrounded the men, who allegedly fired again after being cornered. In retaliatory firing carried out in self-defence, one of the accused was critically injured, while the other escaped under cover of darkness.The police returned fire in self-defence, critically injuring one suspect while the other escaped in the dark.They said a combing operation is ongoing to catch the remaining suspect.They said they recovered an illegal .32 bore pistol, live and used cartridges, and a two-wheeler from the encounter site.

Convert 4 defunct underground parking sites in UT into commercial hubs: Mayor to administration

GNS News Agency, May 6

Mayor Saurabh Joshi has written to the Chief Secretary of the UT Chandigarh Administration, proposing to convert Chandigarh’s “defunct and underutilised” underground parking lots into vibrant commercial hubs integrated with modern parking facilities under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.Highlighting the untapped potential of these assets, Joshi said, “Several underground parking lots of the Municipal Corporation, currently lying defunct and underutilised, have effectively become white elephants.” He emphasised that with strategic planning and private participation, these parking spaces can be turned into “gold mines” for revenue generation, while simultaneously creating employment opportunities for the youth of the city.

The mayor pointed out that Chandigarh has four major defunct underground parking sites — three located in Sector 17 and one in Sector 8 — which hold immense potential for redevelopment. Additionally, he proposed the inclusion of Elante Mall parking under the same model, where integrated commercial activities alongside parking infrastructure could significantly enhance revenue streams for the Municipal Corporation.Drawing parallels with successful models, the mayor cited examples from Old Delhi, where similar projects have been implemented through private players such as Omaxe Limited, resulting in substantial public revenue generation and improved urban infrastructure.

Joshi said, “The dream of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for Viksit Bharat 2047 must be complemented by a



‘Viksit Chandigarh’, driven by innovation, smart governance and financially self-reliant municipal systems. Adopting the PPP model will not only save crores of rupees from the public exchequer, but also ensure sustainable revenue growth for the Municipal Corporation.”Appealing for swift action, the mayor urged the Chandigarh Administration to extend full support to this forward-looking proposal. He expressed confidence that such transformative initiatives would instil pride among residents and position Chandigarh as a national benchmark for urban innovation, efficient resource utilisation, and progressive governance.“Why should public assets remain locked and lifeless? The time has come to transform every unused space into an engine of growth for Chandigarh,” the mayor added.

Assault at KEM Hospital after patient’s death sparks concern over safety of healthcare workers



GNS News Agency, May 6

After nursing and security staff was attacked by the relatives of a deceased patient at King Edward Memorial Hospital (KEM) in Parel on early Monday morning, it has raised concerns over the safety of medical staff in the hospital. On Wednesday when visited all the wards in old and new building of the hospital, it found that only neonatal and casualty ward had security personnels in uniform. There are no checks and enquiry on people entering the wards of the hospitals.Multiple on duty doctors said they are concerned about their safety. One woman doctor said, “Anyone can enter any department. Even late in the night, this is the same situation. It is scary but we have to be on duty. We are scared of our safety, but what can we do, this is the same situation with doctors everywhere in India. It’s been three days, still we don’t have security personnels.”

The incident occurred on April 28 in Ward No. 41 on the ninth floor of the new building, where a group of 14 to 15 relatives of a patient who had passed away allegedly resorted to verbal abuse, issued death threats, and physically assaulted two nursing staff and four security personnel, one of the nursing staff is still admitted.In the FIR registered at Bhoiwada Police Station, complainant, nurse Tejashwini Atul Patil, stated that a 19-year-old patient admitted with liver disease died during treatment in the early hours of the day despite medical intervention, including CPR and ventilator support.Around 5 am, relatives of the deceased arrived at the ward and began questioning her about the cause of death. When she informed them that the doctor would provide details, they allegedly became aggressive and assaulted her. When on-duty security guards intervened, they were also assaulted.Dr Ravi Sapkal, Vice President of BMC MARD (Maharashtra Association of Resident Doctors) said, “The incident is extremely serious and condemnable. Although the resident doctor was not physically assaulted, the verbal abuse inflicted significant mental stress. Had the doctor been physically present at that moment, the situation could have escalated into a much more serious attack. If doctors, nursing staff, and security personnel are being assaulted in government hospitals, then who is truly safe? This is not an isolated incident but raises serious concerns about the safety of the entire healthcare system.”MARD has urged the government to take urgent

steps, including strengthening hospital security, ensuring immediate police intervention, and putting in place robust mechanisms to safeguard healthcare workers. “Healthcare workers can serve patients effectively only when they are provided with a safe and dignified working environment,” he said.On Wednesday, Deputy Mayor Sanjay Ghadi visited KEM Hospital to review the situation and met hospital authorities, including Dean Dr. Sangeeta Rawat. He assured to take up the matter with the BMC commissioner, mayor and the Chairperson of the Health Committee to address safety concerns of doctors and nurses.Dr. Rawat has urged authorities to strengthen security arrangements, provide trained and efficient personnel. “I have asked for trained guards who are equipped with at least sticks to handle such situations and prevent escalation of violence.”

Securing convictions in serious cases: 136 Chandigarh police personnel awarded DGP commendation

The Chandigarh Police on Wednesday awarded 136 personnel with the Commendation Certificate First Class (CC-1st) for their role in securing convictions across a range of serious offences, including murder, rape and cases under the NDPS and POCOSO Acts.According to the UT Police, the awards were conferred by Director General of Police (DGP) Dr Sagar Preet Hooda in acknowledgement of their consistent efforts in investigation, detection and prevention of crime. The commendations particularly highlight successful prosecution in sensitive cases, reflecting improved conviction rates and investigative standards.

Among the cases cited, a murder case registered at the Mani Majra police station (FIR No. 91/2023 under Section 302 IPC) resulted in life imprisonment for the accused. In another case from Mauli Jagran (FIR No. 05/2023), involving charges under multiple IPC sections, along with the POCOSO Act, the court awarded 30 years of rigorous imprisonment.

Several other cases, largely related to sexual offences, involving minors under the POCOSO Act, led to sentences of 20 years of rigorous imprisonment. These include FIRs registered at Sector 39, Mauli Jagran, Sarangpur and Maloya police stations between 2024 and 2025. Additionally, two NDPS Act cases dating back to 2019 (PS-11) culminated in 10 years of rigorous imprisonment each.UT Police said apart from convictions, personnel were also recognised for substantial recoveries under local and special laws, and for solving cases involving snatching, robbery, and violations under the Arms Act. “These efforts have significantly contributed to maintaining law and order and have acted as a deterrent against criminal activities,” a police officer said.

Protest turns violent at Kuvempu University as students vandalise campus; V-C alleges vested interests



GNS News Agency, May 6

The police in Shivamogga in Karnataka’s district booked more than 15 students after a protest by NSUI members turned violent at Kuvempu University on Wednesday, with demonstrators vandalising campus property and storming the Vice-Chancellor’s office, even as he alleged the involvement of “vested interests.”According to students at Kuvempu University in Shankaraghatta, 57 km from Shivamogga town, the digital evaluation introduced at the university was unscientific and has led many to fail examinations. They also alleged that the results of graduation courses and the distribution of the certificates were being delayed.

The protesters, belonging to the National Students’ Union of India (NSUI), said the results of the first, third, and fifth semesters, which were held five months ago, have yet to be released, and that mark sheets have not been distributed properly for the past three years.The protest by the students’ wing of the Congress party, which began with the

slogan ‘Down, Down VC’, turned violent by afternoon as protesters ran into the main building, vandalised furniture, and threw flower pots.Professor Sharath Ananthamurthy, Vice-Chancellor of Kuvempu University, was in his chamber when the attack happened. He was heckled by the protesters, who also smeared ink at his office, and was whisked away by staff.Following the incident, the police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.Ananthamurthy said students approached him four days ago, and the issues were discussed. “I had promised them to solve the issue, but it would take some time. Some of the issues they raised were already rectified. It looks like there is some vested interest behind the attack,” he added.

“I admit that there are issues. There are many problems that have been prevailing even before I took charge. But it is impossible to solve them overnight. But we will definitely address it. There are also rumours that some of the officers who worked here previously are also behind this violent attack. Some of the problems may have happened during their tenure. I don’t want to take any names.In a letter to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Thursday, Basavaraj A P, general secretary of KPCC and in-charge of Karnataka state NSUI, said the students were holding a peaceful protest over the prolonged delay in announcement of results, the non-issuance of marks cards, and the absence of academic and extracurricular activities over the past three years.“It is deeply troubling that, instead of addressing these genuine grievances, the authorities have chosen to have the students arrested and sought to book them under stringent provisions of the BNS,” Basavaraj added.He urged Siddaramaiah to withdraw all cases filed against NSUI students and to ensure that no further arrests or punitive actions are taken against them.

How a farmer from Assam moved to Mohammed Ali Road in Mumbai and built one of the world’s biggest perfume brands

GNS News Agency, May 6

Pass by Colaba and there are perfume shops lining the street. Among them is 75-year-old Ajmal Perfumes — one of the oldest in the city, today with 400 stores across 70 countries and 70 in India alone. The journey, however, began with a young man from Hojai, a small village about 165 kilometres from Guwahati, Assam, in 1950.“Our founder, my grandfather Ajmal Ali, was a farmer. He discovered oud because it was essentially in the backyard. Oud to us is what jasmine is to people in Madurai. Someone introduced him to the fact that Arabs buy the wood, burn it and extract an oil they use as perfume. Initially he sourced it from the jungles and gave it to traders who brought it to Bombay. Then, like an entrepreneur, he asked himself the obvious question — why give it to someone else?” said his grandson and CEO, Abdulla Ajmal, 53.Ajmal Ali moved his entire family to Bombay in the 1960s, believing the city could offer his children better education and opportunities. The first shop was a part of their first-floor apartment on Nagdevi Street, parallel to Mohammed Ali Road. “One side the family home, the other side the shop. We still have customers who call there and order by phone, it was always a relationship-based model,” said Abdulla, who grew up on the same street. He currently resides in Dubai with his family. “India gave birth to us and UAE adopted us, both are critical. But Dubai has been the ground on which we became global,” he noted.From Nagdevi Street, the business expanded to Mohammed Ali Road and then Colaba. “Nagdevi Street was the wholesale and trading hub. Retail came to Mohammed Ali Road because it is the main artery. It became the OG (original) centre for perfumery retail in Bombay,” he shared, adding that Colaba came later. “Arab travellers, who used to stay in hotels on Marine Drive, began moving to Nariman Point, the Taj and similar places as their wealth grew. We were among the first to open in Colaba.”The most-selling products at that time were oud oil and Indian attars — saffron oil, amber oil, sandalwood oil, and shamama from Kannauj, which is famous for its attars.

As the business grew, Ajmal Ali began travelling to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and eventually UAE, selling his mixes to royals there. This was the late 1960s and early 1970s. During his travels he attended the open majlis of the late Sheikh Rashid of Dubai. “He was particularly drawn to Sheikh Rashid’s vision — tall buildings, a trade centre, a port that would surpass Aden in Yemen. That became Jebel Ali. My grandfather believed in that vision.” In 1976, he asked one of his five sons to open the first Ajmal Perfumes’ retail store in Murshid Bazaar in Dubai. From there, the business never looked back.

“A factory was set up in Dubai — first in 1987, a second in 2004. Today we have over 400 stores around the



world, we are available in 65 duty-free outlets and on 14 airlines,” he shared. Today, they have over 300 exclusive fragrances, and more recently the brand also brought on board actor Ranveer Singh to promote its fragrances. On Ajmal Perfumes’ website and social media, Singh can be seen holding a bottle of Aristocrat (Rs 4,000) — an EDP (Eau de Parfum) with top notes of watermelon, lime and bergamot, which Abdulla says is his personal favourite.More recently, there seems to be a growing interest in the attars (also called ittars). When asked about them, Abdulla shared that the word has Persian roots — Itar in Persian, Attar in Indian usage, Atoor in Arabic — and all mean the same thing: essential oil.“Technically, every perfume begins its life as an attar. Only when alcohol and water are added does it become an EDT (Eau de Toilette) or EDP,” he explained, adding that he predicted a resurgence in attars five years ago. “Major international brands like Dior and Amouage have begun releasing oil-format perfumes. But oil is not their specialty. It is ours.” Gen Z and young millennials, he says, are increasingly drawn to attar because they equate it with purity, and the interest is now year-round, not just seasonal. “They are far more conscious about what they put on their bodies than previous generations,” he said, adding that one of their most selling attars is a very soft musky, Misk-Rijali (Rs 999 for 10 ml).The vision going forward, he says, is to position Ajmal Perfumes as a premium to entry-luxury global brand. “We are opening a store in Jakarta, a store in London in June, and Paris and New York are next. Distribution will be through retail, partnership with agents and distributors, and online,” said Abdulla. His benchmark for where he wants Ajmal Perfumes to sit? Amouage. “In terms of positioning and ambition, that is where I want Ajmal to be.”

Breaking the language barrier: Bengaluru police launch India’s first AI-powered multilingual 112 helpline

In a city as linguistically diverse as Bengaluru, a distress call doesn’t always come in a language the listener understands. For the Bengaluru police, that gap has long posed a challenge — one that can mean the difference between a swift response and a critical delay. Now, the force is turning to artificial intelligence to bridge it.On Wednesday, the Bengaluru police rolled out a first-of-its-kind multilingual upgrade to the Namma 112 emergency response system, designed to ensure that cries for help are no longer lost in translation.The AI-powered module is designed to handle calls in multiple languages, especially when callers speak tongues unfamiliar to control room staff. “Language should never become a barrier when someone is seeking help. With this initiative, we are making our emergency response system more inclusive and efficient. We are also exploring the addition of more languages, including Japanese, which is currently under discussion,” said Kuldeep Kumar Jain, Joint Commissioner of Police (Admin).From call to response: how Namma 112 worksBengaluru’s emergency response system, Namma 112, is currently staffed by around 200 personnel, including call operators, supervisors and police staff, working across three shifts. Each shift has approximately 50 staff members, while the night shift operates with a reduced strength of around 35 to 40 personnel, including supervisors.Speaking to The Indian Express, Jain said the control room receives between 9,000 and 10,000 calls a day, of which nearly 2,000 are actionable.

Until now, operators primarily handled calls in English, Kannada, Hindi, Tamil, and Telugu. But Bengaluru’s cosmopolitan mix — shaped by migrants, professionals and tourists — means emergency calls often come in a far wider range of languages. In such cases, operators would switch to English or Hindi to gather basic details, a workaround that sometimes slowed response times.The new system, developed under the Multilingual Voice AI for Nationwide Key Interventions (VANKI) initiative in collaboration with Monday Ventures and Aeos, aims to make these interactions quicker and more precise.Highlighting the recent upgrade, Home Minister G Parameshwara said the city’s emergency response system now supports communication in more than 10 languages.“Bengaluru is an internationally renowned city, and people from across the globe visit us. Language was a major barrier for those seeking help from the police, especially through the control room. Now, we are the first police force in the country to interact in more than 10 languages,” he said at a press conference Wednesday.“This will greatly assist those who are not familiar with the local language and require help during emergencies. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative in India, and we hope other states will follow,” he added.When a call comes in, a human operator answers it first. If there is a language mismatch, the call is transferred to the AI system. The AI identifies the language, interacts with the caller, and asks key questions to gather details such as location and the nature of the emergency. It then generates a Call for Service (CFS) request in real time.

Two Indian-origin men arrested after helicopter chase in Calgary



GNS News Agency, May 6

arrestThe accused, Kulwinder Singh, 35, of Chestermere, and Jagroop Singh, 27, of Calgary, were arrested after Calgary Police received reports around 2.30 am on April 21 of two men allegedly breaking into community mailboxes in the Skyview Ranch area. (Source: File/Representational)A dramatic late-night helicopter chase over northeast Calgary led to the arrest of two Indian-origin men accused of carrying out a mailbox theft spree that hit more than 35 residents and resulted in 98 criminal charges.

The accused, Kulwinder Singh, 35, of Chestermere, and Jagroop Singh, 27, of Calgary, were arrested after Calgary Police received reports around 2.30 am on April 21 of two men allegedly breaking into community mailboxes in the Skyview Ranch area.What followed was a swift aerial pursuit. Calgary Police's HAWCS helicopter unit was deployed overhead and quickly locked on to the suspects' vehicle as it moved through the neighbourhood's streets in the early hours. Guided by live aerial surveillance, officers on the ground intercepted the vehicle and carried out a traf-

fic stop, bringing the chase to an end.Police said officers recovered a large quantity of stolen mail along with break-in tools from the vehicle.

Investigators believe the thefts affected more than 35 victims in northeast Calgary. The recovered mail included cheques, credit cards and identification documents, items that police said could be used for identity theft, unauthorised bank withdrawals and other fraudulent activity.Kulwinder Singh has been charged with 44 offences, including 38 counts of theft of mail, three counts of possession of stolen property under \$5,000, one count of mischief under \$5,000, one count of possession of break-in instruments and one count of possession of a stolen credit card. He is scheduled to appear in court on May 1.Jagroop Singh faces 54 charges, including 38 counts of theft of mail, six counts of possession of a stolen credit card, two counts of possession of identity documents, two counts of possession of a controlled substance, two counts of possession of stolen property under \$5,000, one count of mischief under \$5,000, one count of disguise with intent, one count of possession of break-in instruments and one count of possession of stolen property over \$5,000. He was due to appear in court on April 30.The arrests come amid growing concern over mailbox thefts in Calgary's northeast, where at least 35 such incidents have been reported in District 5 since January this year.The case also echoes a major Canadian mail theft investigation in October 2025, when police in Peel and Hamilton charged eight Punjabi-origin men with 344 offences after recovering more than \$400,000 worth of stolen mail, credit cards and gift cards.Police have not said whether the Calgary accused are linked to a wider organised network, but the volume of charges and the material seized suggest a targeted operation.

3 children drown while bathing in Golf Course pond in Delhi's Dwarka

GNS News Agency, May 6

Three children aged between eight and ten years drowned while taking a bath in a pond in the Golf Course area in Dwarka's Sector 24 Thursday morning, the Delhi Police said.According to the Delhi Police, they received a PCR call at the Sector 23 Police Station, Dwarka, at around 7.07 am regarding the drowning of three children. Three fire tenders and the local police station's SHO, along with police staff, rushed to the spot and alerted other emergency agencies.

On reaching the location, the police found that three children were submerged in a pond situated within the Golf Course premises."With the assistance of fire brigade personnel, all three children were retrieved from the water," Kushal Pal Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Dwarka), said.The police said they found some of the children's clothes lying outside the pond, indicating they had likely entered the water to bathe. Preliminary inquiry suggests that the children may have been playing and accidentally drowned due to the flow of the water, an officer said.The identities of the deceased children are yet to be



ascertained, and efforts are underway to identify them. The police said no missing-persons complaints matching the victims had been received as of the filing of this report.The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination to determine the exact cause of death.A case under relevant sections of law is being registered, and further investigation is underway to establish the circumstances leading to the incident, the police added.

PMLA case against suspended DIG Bhullar: ED freezes Rs 1.4 cr after recovering incriminating docs during searches at 11 locations



GNS News Agency, May 6

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) has seized or frozen Rs 1.4 crore and recovered incriminating documents during searches at 11 locations across Punjab and Chandigarh as part of their money laundering probe linked to suspended Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Punjab Police Harcharan Singh Bhullar and his associates, agency officials said.The searches, carried out on April 27 under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, covered premises in Chandigarh, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Patiala linked to Bhullar, property dealers and suspected "benamidars". During the searches, evidence relating to residential and agricultural properties located across Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Kapurthala, Mohali and Zirakpur was recovered and seized, said an ED official.

The agency added that earlier searches conducted by the CBI had led to the recovery of original property documents from Bhullar's residence, indicating his beneficial ownership of assets held in others names.According to agency officials, the ED is now examining these transactions to establish the full extent of the alleged laundering operation and identify the network of intermediaries involved.

ED officials said the probe stems from an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Anti-Corruption Branch, Chandigarh, on the complaint of a Fatehgarh Sahib-based scrap dealer, who alleged that Bhullar, then posted as DIG, demanded illegal gratification through an intermediary to "settle" a 2023 FIR registered at Sirhind police station and to prevent coercive action against his business. Bhullam was arrested by the CBI in October 2025.According to the ED, its investigation has revealed a pattern of substantial cash deposits and fund transfers routed through multiple bank accounts linked to property dealers and associated persons who allegedly had no legitimate income matching the scale of their investments. These individuals are suspected to be benamidars, used to layer unaccounted cash and channel it into the acquisition of properties."Funds were routed through multiple accounts and subsequently utilised for purchasing immovable assets in the names of suspected benamidars," officials said.

As per the CBI FIR and investigation records, Bhullar's associate, Krishanu Sharda, initially sought illegal gratification to close the case and later demanded Rs 8 lakh to ensure no further police action against the complainant's business. A trap laid by the CBI on October 16, 2025, led to

Sharda being caught red-handed while accepting Rs 5 lakh on Bhullar's behalf.Subsequent searches by the CBI in the corruption case led to the recovery of substantial assets, including unexplained cash worth Rs 7.36 crore, gold and silver jewellery valued at around Rs 2.32 crore, 26 luxury watches, documents of multiple immovable properties, and high-end vehicles such as Mercedes, Audi, Innova and Fortuner. This resulted in the registration of a disproportionate assets case against Bhullar and others.

Infosys to set up 20-acre permanent campus in Vizag

Amaravati: IT services major Infosys has announced plans to set up a permanent, 20-acre campus in Visakhapatnam, signalling confidence in the region's economic and technological potential.The facility is designed to accommodate 7,000 professionals.

Over the last two years, Infosys' growth in the city has scaled in the port city from 250 employees to 1,900, with an additional 750 seats set to become operational in the near-term, said an official press release on Thursday."The company has outlined plans for a permanent 20-acre campus with a long-term seating capacity of 7,000 professionals – demonstrating strong confidence in the region's long-term potential," said the release.

A defining feature of the IT services company's growth is its deep integration with the local talent ecosystem, it said.The Visakhapatnam campus has recruited over 1,000 freshers and 500 lateral hires from the region, reflecting the availability of industry-ready talent and the success of Andhra Pradesh's focused skilling and industry-aligned education initiatives.

Through progressive policies in IT, Global Capability Centres and others, the southern state has played a proactive role in enabling this transformation."This ecosystem-led approach is helping reverse the long-standing trend of talent migration, positioning Visakhapatnam not just as a source of skilled professionals, but as a destination where global companies can build and retain high-quality teams," the release added.

Meanwhile, IT Minister Nara Lokesh said the growth of Visakhapatnam as an IT hub is a direct reflection of the strength of the local talent and the ecosystem being built around it."Our vision is to create a vibrant, talent-first ecosystem where industry, academia, and government work in synergy. The expansion of Infosys in Visakhapatnam is a strong validation of this approach and reinforces our commitment to transforming Andhra Pradesh into a global hub for technology and innovation," said Lokesh.

ChatGPT, chits, and cash bribes: Why a Gujarat university is refusing to punish 400 medical students caught cheating



GNS News Agency, May 6

Gujarat university cheatingOf the hundreds of students caught cheating in the Veer Narmad South Gujarat University's medical exams, 11 were caught using calculators and electronic devices, and six used ChatGPT to generate answers. In a break from convention, a Gujarat university has decided not to punish the 400-odd students caught cheating in its March medical exams. Instead, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University (VNSGU) will present the students before a malpractices inquiry committee, and send them for counselling after understanding why they cheated, in-charge registrar and exam controller A V Dhaduk The exams witnessed several instances of cheating, including slipping currency notes into answer sheets requesting to be "passed", sneaking in mobile phones to use ChatGPT and solve the paper, scribbling notes on the body, handkerchiefs, benches, etc.

The 400 students caught cheating this year are from the postgraduate, undergraduate, and medical and paramedical courses. Of these, 226 were asked to remain

present before the committee, and among these, 14 students were identified to be sent for counselling. The Surat-based VNSGU termed this process 'Education With Understanding'.The five-member committee—it comprises a member of the board management committee, executive council member, dean, a senior advocate of the Gujarat High Court, and the examination controller of VNSGU—held hearings on Monday and Tuesday and 153 students appeared before it.Sources told The Indian Express that 94 students were caught using chits to cheat, while 45 were found in possession of chits. While 21 students were caught copying from notes on rulers, erasers, and hall tickets, 17 had answers written on their arms and legs, and 15 used handkerchiefs, clothes, and benches to scribble answers. Eleven students were caught using calculators and electronic devices, six students used ChatGPT to generate answers, and three slipped currency notes into their answer sheets, requesting that examiners "pass" them.

In 2024, at least 130 students had been caught cheating at the same university. A student who had slipped in a Rs 500 note was slapped with a Rs 2,500 penalty and barred from taking exams for six months."We called students to listen to them and ask why they did such a thing. Students confessed before us. We have also advised 14 students caught cheating to undergo psychiatric counselling. Last year, over 600 students were caught cheating, and this year the number has gone down to around 400," Dhaduk said."The next session of hearings will be conducted next week, when the remaining students will be called and heard. The colleges give us lists of students caught cheating in the university exams, and on that basis, we call them. We listen to each student personally, so that their identity remains hidden," he added.

Mohali woman 'dies by suicide', kin: 'false theft case, harassed by police'

GNS News Agency, May 6

Mohali suicide case has raised serious concerns after a woman's family alleged police harassment over a theft complaint, prompting an FIR for abetment. (Image via Unsplash)Mohali suicide case has raised serious concerns after a woman's family alleged police harassment over a theft complaint, prompting an FIR for abetment. A 45-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide after consuming sulphas in Mataur's Sector 70, Mohali, Tuesday, while the family has accused a woman acquaintance and police of harassment and coercion over an alleged false theft complaint. Police have identified the deceased as Bhavna Rani. She was rushed to a hospital in Phase 6, where she died during the treatment around 11 am.



According to Bhavna's family, she had a prior acquaintance with one Sarabjit Kaur — also a resident of Sector 70 (Mataur). A few days ago, Sarabjit had lodged a complaint at Mataur police station accusing Bhavna of stealing Rs 50,000 in cash, two expensive suits, a five-tola anklet and a three-gram gold ring. The total value of the alleged stolen items was stated to be around Rs 2 lakh.However, Bhavna's husband, Mahinder Pal, alleged that after the complaint was filed, police repeatedly summoned his wife to the police station and pressured her to confess.

"A woman constable assaulted my wife and forced her to sign a confession. She was (once) called to the police station at around 9 am and made to sit there till evening. She was repeatedly humiliated," he alleged.The family also claimed that Bhavna was forced to admit to the theft and sign a written settlement stating that her husband and their

son, Gaurav, would return the alleged amount by May 12. "The agreement was made under pressure. She was mentally shattered because of the humiliation and stress," a family member alleged.Her husband and son alleged that she was compelled to take the step due to police pressure and false allegations by Sarabjit.As she was unable to cope with the harassment, Bhavna consumed sulphas, the family claimed. "This is not suicide, but a death caused by harassment. Action should be taken against those responsible."Following the incident, Mataur police registered an FIR under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) against Sarabjit Kaur for abetment to suicide.Confirming the development, DSP City-1 Gurcharan Singh said, "A case of abetment to suicide has been registered against Sarabjit Kaur. She will be arrested soon." Police said further investigation is underway.

No watermelon found in Mumbai's Pydhonie markets, leaving FDA unable to check if others were affected

GNS News Agency, May 6

Pydhonie deaths, No watermelon found in Pydhonie markets, Pydhonie markets, Food and Drug Administration, Indian express news, current affairsA senior FDA official said, "We had collected the samples of leftover food items that we found during our investigation at the residence... We have sent it to our laboratory in Bandra for testing and have requested them to share the findings on priority basis."Even as laboratory results of food samples in the Pydhonie deaths in Mumbai are awaited, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been unable to find any watermelon in the locality, complicating efforts to trace the source of the suspected food item.Officials said teams have been surveying the area since Sunday but have not found a single vendor selling watermelon. "This is quite a bizarre case, we have never seen anything like this before. To understand it, we reviewed past FDA records to check for any instances of food poisoning linked to watermelon, or even a combination of biryani and watermelon, but found none," an FDA official said.



On April 27, four members of a family in south Mumbai's Pydhonie area died after reportedly consuming a meal that included watermelon and biryani. Abdullah Dokadia (40), his wife Naseem (35) and their daughters Ayesha (16) and Zainab (13) died on Sunday hours after the four were hospitalised in a semi-conscious state after they started vomiting and died within hours of each other.According to the official, teams first visited the locality around 7 pm on Sunday to collect samples of watermelon from local vendors but found that the fruit had "completely disappeared" from local markets. "We also spoke to the relatives of the deceased to trace the source of the fruit, but they were unaware. We continued visiting the area on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but have still not found any vendor selling watermelons, which has prevented us from collecting samples. This is a basic step in our investigation — if the fruit was purchased locally, others may have bought it too —yet no similar food poisoning cases have been reported so far," the official said.The FDA has collected material from the family's residence to investigate the reasons for the deaths. In total, 11 samples have been sent for testing, including leftover watermelon and biryani stored in the refrigerator, pulao from utensils, raw chicken from the freezer, kitchen ingredients such as spices and rice, partially consumed dates, and water stored in glasses and a clay pot.Officials said the laboratory analysis, expected on Wednesday, has been delayed due to administrative

reasons and is now likely by Thursday.A senior FDA official said, "We had collected the samples of leftover food items that we found during our investigation at the residence... We have sent it to our laboratory in Bandra for testing and have requested them to share the findings on priority basis."The official added that the lab results will form only one part of the investigation. "The forensic reports and postmortem reports are crucial in the case and all these combined assessments... will determine the exact cause of the death," the official said.FDA is working alongside the police, forensic laboratory at Kalina, and the pathology department of JJ Hospital as part of a multi-agency probe into the deaths.

Telangana R&B Dept races to complete delayed IDOC projects by June

Hyderabad: After having delayed the construction of Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) works at Karimnagar, Warangal, Adilabad, Narayanpet and Mulugu districts, the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department is now racing against time to complete the works by June.The Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) government came up with the idea of constructing IDOC in all the districts. All the department offices were housed at the IDOCs. They were conceptualized to facilitate people meeting officials comfortably and make things convenient for officials to expedite work and clear files fast.

Brent crude tops US\$ 125 a barrel on Iran war worries, while world stocks retreat



GNS News Agency, May 6Hong Kong: The price of Brent crude oil surged past US\$ 125 a barrel early Thursday as stalled US-Iran talks raised doubts over the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a permanent end to the Iran war.Brent crude to be delivered in June jumped 6.2 per cent to US\$ 125.36 and Brent to be delivered in July rose 3.1 per cent to USD 113.85.Benchmark US crude climbed 2.3 per cent to US\$ 109.38 per barrel.Before the start of the war in late February, Brent crude was trading around US\$ 70 per

barrel.The Iran war, which is in its ninth week, still sees no clear path to an end. The US has continued its blockade of Iranian ports while the Strait of Hormuz, is closed, pushing oil prices higher. Reports Thursday suggesting an possible escalation by US President Donald Trump doused hopes for a quick end to the conflict.“The breakdown of talks between the US and Iran, along with President Trump reportedly rejecting Iran’s proposal for a reopening of the Strait of Hormuz, has the market losing hope for any quick resumption in oil flows,” ING Bank strategists Warren Patterson and Ewa Manthey wrote in a research note.US futures and share prices in Asia retreated following a muted performance on Wall Street on Wednesday.

shed 1.6 per cent to 58,967.07 and the Kospi in South Korea fell 1.1 per cent to 6,615.51.Hong Kong’s Hang Seng lost 1.3 per cent to 25,772.50, and the Shanghai Composite index traded 0.1 per cent higher at 4,109.99. China’s factory activity for April slowed slightly but remained in expansion territory for the second month, despite the global energy shock prompted by the Iran war, an official survey showed.Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 was down 0.3 per cent to 8,665.50.

Nepal Airlines apologises for showing J&K as part of Pakistan in its network map

GNS News Agency, May 6
Kathmandu: Nepal’s state-owned national flag carrier on Thursday apologised for showing India’s Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan in its network map shared on social media a day before, terming it an error.Nepal Airlines said the map contained significant cartographic inaccuracies regarding international boundaries that do not reflect Nepal’s official stance or that of the airlines. “We sincerely apologise for the error in the network map recently shared on our social media channels. We have immediately removed the post and are conducting an internal review to ensure our materials meet the highest standards of accuracy,” the airline said on social media.

“We deeply value our strong relationships with our neighbours and friends in the region and regret any offence the post has caused,” it added.Archana Khadka, spokesperson for the Nepal Airlines Corporation (NAC), told IANS that the error occurred while selecting a Google map, and the same inaccurate map was used in the network map. “It was not intentional, and we removed it within 2–3 hours after it was posted when we noticed the error,” she said.

The image shared by the airline quickly went viral on social media, with Indian users calling for a boycott of the airline. Some accused the airline of “cartographic aggression.”Nepal Airlines operates flights to New Delhi, West Asia, Southeast Asia, and China. India-Nepal relations are characterised by a deep, multifaceted partnership rooted in the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship, featuring open borders, significant economic interdependence, and close cultural ties.

India is also one of Nepal’s leading development partners. In the fiscal year 2024–25, India emerged as the larg-



est bilateral donor to Nepal, disbursing US\$107.8 million, according to Nepal’s finance ministry. Dozens of projects and programmes are currently being implemented in Nepal with Indian economic and technical assistance, at different stages of completion.According to a recent report in The Kathmandu Post, India has proposed a visit by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri to Nepal on May 11–12 as part of wider consultations ahead of newly-elected Nepali Prime Minister Balendra Shah’s visit to its southern neighbour.

Citing diplomatic sources in the Foreign Ministry of Nepal and the Nepali Embassy in India, the report stated that the Indian side has proposed the dates and is awaiting Kathmandu’s official response.Nepali Prime Minister Shah has already received an invitation from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit India, and he has accepted it, Nepal’s Foreign Minister Sishir Khanal had confirmed earlier, though the visit may take some time, as the government will first set its priorities.

Trump holds talks on prolonged Iran blockade, urges Tehran to reach a deal

GNS News Agency, May 6WASHINGTON/DUBAI/ISLAMABAD.- Donald Trump discussed how to mitigate the impact of a possible months-long U.S. blockade of Iran’s ports with oil companies, a White House official said on Wednesday, as the U.S. renewed its calls for other ?nations to help open the Strait of Hormuz.Tuesday’s talks with oil executives followed a deadline in efforts to resolve the conflict, which has led the United States to try to squeeze Iran’s oil ?exports with a naval blockade aimed at forcing it to reopen the Strait to shipping.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.As Washington and Tehran traded public threats, mediator Pakistan was trying to avoid escalation while the two sides exchange messages on a potential deal, a Pakistani source told Reuters on Wednesday.

Trump has said Iran can call if it wants to talk and, in a post on Truth Social earlier on Wednesday, said Tehran “couldn’t get its act together.”He and the oil executives “discussed the steps President Trump has taken to alleviate global oil markets and steps we could take ?to continue the current blockade for months if needed and minimize impact on American consumers,” the White House official said.

Oil prices rose more than 6% on Wednesday, with the Brent contract hitting a one-month high on prospects ?of a lengthy blockade.The war has cost the U.S. military \$25 billion so far, a senior Pentagon official said, providing the first official estimate of the price tag for ?the conflict.

Iran has pledged to continue disrupting traffic through the Strait as long as it is threatened, which may mean more Middle East oil supply disruptions from a conflict that has killed thousands and brought global economic upheaval.With talks ?stalled, Trump is set to receive a briefing on Thursday on new plans for potential military action from the leader of the U.S. Central Command, Axios said.

Tehran warned on Wednesday of “unprecedented military action” against continued U.S. blockading of Iran-linked vessels. ?Trump has said Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, while Tehran says its nuclear ambitions are peaceful.“They don’t know how to sign a non-nuclear deal. They’d better get smart soon!” Trump said in the social media post, without explaining what such a deal would entail.The post featured a mock-up image of him wearing dark glasses and wielding a machinegun, captioned, “No more Mr. Nice Guy.”The United States is asking other countries to join a new international coalition that would enable ships to navigate the Strait of Hormuz after traffic through the ?waterway stalled, according to an internal State Dept cable seen by Reuters.The proposed coalition, dubbed the “Maritime Freedom Construct”, would share information, coordinate diplomatically and help enforce sanctions, the cable showed.

France, Britain and other countries have held talks on contributing ?to such a coalition but said they are only willing to help open the Strait, a chokepoint for global energy supplies, after hostilities cease.Iran wants U.S. acknowledgment of its right to enrich uranium for what it says are peaceful, ?civilian purposes. It ?has a stockpile of about 440 kg (970 lbs) of uranium enriched to 60%, which could be used for several nuclear weapons if further enriched.Iran’s parliament speaker and top negotiator, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, said Trump was trying to divide Iranians and force Iran to surrender through the blockade.



“The solution for confronting the enemy’s new conspiracy is only one thing: maintaining unity, which has been the bane of all the enemy’s conspiracies,” Qalibaf said in an audio message on messaging app Telegram.Iran has executed at least 21 people since the start of the war with the United States and Israel two months ago, and arrested more than 4,000 on charges related to national security, U.N. human rights chief Volker Turk said on ?Wednesday.

In a sign of the toll the war is taking ?on Iran’s economy, its currency fell to a record ?low on Wednesday, the Iranian Students’ News Agency said. Inflation stood at 65.8% for the month to April 20, the central bank said.Iran’s latest offer for resolving the war, suspended since April 8 under a ceasefire deal, would set aside discussion of its nuclear program until the conflict is formally ended and shipping issues ?resolved.That did not meet Trump’s demand to tackle the nuclear issue at the outset.The Pakistani source said the United States had shared “observations” on the Iranian proposal and ?it was now up to Iran ?to respond.“(The) Iranians asked for time till the end of the week,” the source told Reuters.U.S. intelligence agencies, tasked by senior administration officials, are studying how Iran would respond if Trump were to declare a unilateral victory, two U.S. officials and a person familiar with the matter told Reuters.Tehran has largely blocked all shipping apart from its own from the Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz, since the U.S. and Israel began airstrikes on Iran on February 28. This month, the U.S. began blockading ?Iranian ships.

Iran no ?longer has a single, undisputed clerical arbiter at the pinnacle of power since the strikes killed several senior political and military figures, including Supreme ?Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.The elevation of Khamenei’s wounded son, Mojtaba, to replace him has handed more power to hardline commanders of the elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, Iranian officials and analysts say.Meanwhile, Trump faces domestic pressure to end a war for which he has given shifting rationales to a U.S. ?public struggling with surging gasoline prices.His approval rating fell to the lowest of his current term, a Reuters/Ipsos poll showed.Reporting by Reuters bureaus; Writing by Keith Weir, Simon Lewis and Stephen Coates; Editing by Philippa Fletcher, Bill Berkrot and Clarence FernandezTimothy reports on energy and environment policy and is based in Washington, D.C. His coverage ranges from the latest in nuclear power, to environment regulations, to U.S. sanctions and geopolitics.

White House quiet as China ramps up trade leverage before Trump-Xi summit



WASHINGTON, Beijing rolled out new trade rules this month that have alarmed U.S. businesses and which analysts say could seriously undercut American efforts to reduce supply chain dependence on China.But the Trump administration’s reaction has been uncharacteristically muted - U.S. officials have so far not spoken publicly about Beijing’s move.The rules, announced just weeks ahead of President Donald Trump’s May ?14-15 summit with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, lay the legal groundwork for punishing foreign companies that seek to shift their sourcing away from China.

The Trump administration has ?urged businesses to “derisk” - to be less dependent on goods from China - and retake “sovereignty” in strategic industries, including critical minerals and medicines. Beijing’s new rules effectively push U.S. and other foreign businesses in the other direction.One U.S. official told Reuters on condition of anonymity that the timing of Beijing’s announcement, ahead of Trump’s China trip, suggested Beijing was testing how eager the White House is to maintain the pause in the trade war, which started early ?last year with a U.S. tariff broadside and Chinese retaliatory levies.“It’s a clear attempt to stop derisking,” the official said.Business groups have sounded the alarm about the Chinese regulations. ?The American Chamber of Commerce in China told Reuters China could cut purchases from foreign firms with little consequence, while foreign companies could face investigation ?by Chinese authorities for reducing their dependence.“Washington’s response so far has been silence. That risks signaling weakness,” said Craig Singleton, a China expert at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD) think tank. With ?the summit approaching, the administration appeared to want to avoid escalating publicly, he added.

White House spokesman Kush Desai did not respond directly to Reuters’ questions on the measures, stating only that the Trump ?administration “will continue to leverage every bit of America’s economic might to safeguard our national and economic security.”The Treasury Department and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative did not re-

US court ruling clears Republican path to redraw House districts

The U.S. Supreme Court’s decision weakening a landmark voting rights law opens the door for Republican lawmakers to dismantle Democratic-held U.S. House districts with majority ?Black or Latino populations across the South, potentially giving Republicans an electoral advantage for years to come.Wednesday’s ruling escalates a national battle over congressional maps ?that has raged since last year, when President Donald Trump launched an unprecedented mid-decade redistricting campaign to protect his Republicans’ narrow House majority in this November’s midterm elections. Typically, states only draw maps at the start of each decade to account for the U.S. Census count.Jumpstart your morning with the latest legal news delivered straight to your inbox from The Daily Docket newsletter. Sign up here.

The decision severely weakens legal constraints that have historically forced state legislators to ensure voters of color are not marginalized when drawing maps. It is likely to result ?in a fresh round of tit-for-tat redistricting that extends into the 2028 election.It remains to be seen whether statehouses will use the court’s ruling to try to install ?new electoral maps before November. Lawmakers have little time to do so. Most states are well into their 2026 election calendar, with filing ?deadlines for candidates already past and primary votes looming.

In Georgia and Alabama, for instance, two states where Republican legislators might be expected to take advantage of Wednesday’s ruling by eliminating ?majority-Black districts, voters have begun casting early ballots ahead of their May 19 primary elections.Even in Louisiana, whose congressional map was struck down in the Supreme Court case, lawmakers face hurdles in ?passing new district lines. Candidates have been raising money and campaigning for months. The state has mailed absentee ballots and early voting begins on Saturday for the May 16 primary.In court filings, Louisiana’s top election official had asked the court to rule no later than early January to ensure enough time to administer the election.“It is very late in the cycle to make changes to maps,” said Danielle Lang, vice president for ?voting rights at the nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center. “It would be enormously disruptive and chaotic.”House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, told reporters it wasn’t clear whether lawmakers would try to ?draw a new map immediately.“We have, as you know, a primary coming up in about two weeks,” he said. “So we’ll see if the state legislature deems it appropriate to go in and draw new maps.”

Even if states hold their fire until after the November election, Republicans appear poised to target as many as a dozen Democratic-held districts with a majority of Black or Latino voters ahead of the 2028 presidential election.Democrats could even respond by taking apart majority-minority districts in states they control, with the aim of spreading Black and Latino voters, who traditionally vote Democratic, across more districts.The result would be to dilute the voting power of racial minorities across the country by denying them the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice, advocates said.Janai Nelson, president of ?the Legal Defense Fund, who argued the case ?before the Supreme Court on behalf of ?Black voters in Louisiana, said it was too soon to tell whether states would try to redistrict immediately, but she noted that state lawmakers have “wide latitude” to change elections even in unprecedented ways.Either way, she said, the decision would upend decades of protections for voters of color.“This ?is a day of infamy for the court,” she told reporters. “It is a day of devastation for our democracy.”

The ruling adds fuel ?to a national redistricting war, ?which started last summer when Trump convinced Texas

spond to Reuters’ request for comment.The Trump administration’s reticence on the new rules, which many in U.S. industry see as a shot across the bow, is a departure from the bilateral trade brinkmanship that characterized the lead-up to Trump’s October meeting with ?Xi in South Korea.In Busan, the two sides ultimately reached an uneasy trade truce, but Trump had threatened to cut off all U.S. software exports to China and levy 100% tariffs on ?Chinese goods in response to Chinese controls on critical minerals exports.

China’s new measures state that foreign entities that take actions “such as suspending normal transactions with our nation’s citizens or organizations,” are subject to investigation and ?punishment.The rules do ?not highlight specific industries for enforcement but say Chinese agencies will develop a “key sectors list” to safeguard “circulation of raw materials, technology, equipment” and other products.The measures could affect a wide range of companies.

U.S. pharmaceutical companies, for example, have increasingly looked to move some production and sourcing to India and other countries that have less geopolitical rivalry with Washington.Under China’s new rules, such actions could be seen as a threat to China’s security, resulting in companies facing investment and import or export bans, and seeing staff prevented from entering the country.A second set of Chinese regulations published days later lays out ?punishments for foreign firms that comply with “unjustified extraterritorial ?jurisdiction,” Beijing’s term for U.S. sanctions and ?export controls.Analysts and some U.S. officials worry about the precedent set by Beijing’s measures.“Left unaddressed, these new rules will normalize supply chain coercion and accelerate China’s development of other economic weapons to lock in corporate dependence and prevent supply chain shifts out of China,” FDD’s Singleton said.Two U.S. ?industry sources told Reuters the Trump administration had been briefed by industry groups on the rules and the new leverage they gave China.The ?U.S. officials had been ?in “listening mode,” but offered no concrete stance or objection, said the sources, who spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity in order to speak candidly about their discussions with the administration.“It’s almost like loading the gun without actually firing it,” one of the industry sources said of the Chinese rules, adding that they believed it was unlikely that the U.S. would respond ahead of the summit given the administration’s ?interest in “preserving strategic ?stability.”Another U.S. business source said acknowledging China’s new supply chain rules would require the Trump administration to fight back ?despite limited appetite for escalation.Reva Goujon, geopolitical strategist and a director at Rhodium Group, said the measures are so broad that U.S. negotiators could accuse Beijing of “violating the spirit of Busan and basically the whole idea of trade and investment ?reciprocity.”



Republicans to draw a new map taking aim at five Democratic incumbents. Other states, both Republican- and Democratic-led, have followed suit.As it happens, Wednesday’s ruling arrived as Florida Republicans were debating a new partisan map, drawn by Governor Ron DeSantis, intended to flip four Democratic seats in November. The legislature approved the plan shortly thereafter.States are already permitted to draw ?maps for ?partisan advantage, a practice known as gerrymandering, thanks to a 2019 Supreme Court decision.“The court has just added more chaos ?to a system that’s already chaotic,” said Kareem Crayton, a redistricting expert at the Brennan Center for Justice.With Trump’s mid-cycle push and the Supreme Court’s latest ruling, the legal and institutional guardrails that once constrained redistricting may be ?giving way to a free-for-all, turning voters into “pawns in a set of political games instead of being the decision-makers themselves,” Lang said.

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Kathmandu: Nepal’s state-owned national flag carrier on Thursday apologised for showing India’s Jammu and Kashmir as part of Pakistan in its network map shared on social media a day before, terming it an error.

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Your summer skin survival guide



Summer brings sunshine, vacations and outdoor fun — but it can also be tough on your skin. Heat, humidity and strong UV rays often lead to tanning, acne, sunburn and dehydration. The good news? With a few smart habits, you can keep your skin healthy, glowing, and protected all season long.Hydration is your skin's best friend

Your skin loses moisture quickly in hot weather due to sweating. Drinking plenty of water helps maintain elasticity and keeps your skin looking fresh. Add water-rich foods like watermelon, cucumber and oranges to your diet for an extra boost.Proper hydration and antioxidant intake can

improve skin resilience and reduce damage from UV exposure.

Sunscreen is your ultimate summer essential. Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with SPF 30 or higher and re-apply every 2–3 hours when outdoors. Even on cloudy days, UV rays can harm your skin. Pair this with sunglasses, hats or umbrellas for extra protection.Heavy creams can clog pores in summer. Instead, go for gel-based or water-based moisturisers that hydrate without making your skin greasy. Your skin still needs moisture — even in hot weather!Sweat and oil build-up can cause breakouts, but over-washing can strip natural oils. Cleanse your face twice daily with a gentle face wash and exfoliate once a week to remove dead skin cells and keep pores clear.Natural ingredients like aloe vera, rose water and cucumber can soothe irritated skin and reduce redness. A quick splash of cold water or a refreshing face mist can instantly revive tired skin.Choose loose, breathable fabrics like cotton. Light-coloured clothes reflect heat and help prevent rashes or irritation caused by sweat and frictionChange pillowcases regularly, avoid touching your face and cut down on sugary drinks. These simple habits reduce bacteria build-up and help prevent acne.Healthy summer skin isn't about expensive products — it's about consistent care and smart choices. Stay hydrated, protect yourself from the sun and keep your routine simple. Follow these tips, and your skin will stay fresh, radiant and ready to glow all summer long!

Between sky and earth with Subodh Gupta

In his first major solo show in India in a decade, Subodh Gupta brings together large-scale installations, new commissions and significant works from across his three-decade career. The exhibition, 'A Fistful of Sky', explores how everyday domestic objects like utensils, tiffins, vessels, and beds can be transformed into powerful reflections on migration, labour, faith, memory, and aspiration.

Curated by Clare Lilley, several works at the exhibition will be presented in India for the first time, including 'Proust Mapping' (2024-26), a monumental nine-metre work composed of flattened cooking vessels marked by years of use, and 'Stupa' (2024), a sculptural ensemble that reimagines devotional architecture through kitchen utensils.At the centre of the exhibition is a newly conceived immersive installation, 'Ek Mutthi Aasman' or 'A Fistful of Sky' (2025–26). Constructed from polyester fabric-netted beds, the installation draws on themes of rest, migration, and memory, echoing the rhythms of everyday life in Mumbai.It is my first large-scale exhibition in India after 10 years and most of the works in the show are completely new. As an artist, I always look at the space first before exhibiting my works. Each level in the Art House has a kind of rhythm to work with. There are lots of ongoing narratives. When you see the show, every single work has a short story behind it and the viewers have a lot to experience.

What does the title 'Ek Mutthi Aasmaan' mean to you personally?

For me, 'A Fistful of Sky' comes from a very simple and human space. The bed is something we all share — it is a place of rest, protection, and dreaming. It is where a person feels most safe, but also where memory and uncertainty exist together. When I think about migration and labour, I think of everyday objects. A bed, or a protected space, becomes very important, because wherever a person goes, they carry this need for shelter and a sense of belonging. The idea of the “sky” is also important for me. It suggests something open, vast, and peaceful, something that belongs to everyone. But at the same time, not everyone can access that feeling of peace equally. There is always a tension between this openness and the reality people live in. So the work connects these two things, the intimacy of a bed and the vastness of the sky. Through that, I try to speak about migration, memory, labour, and dreams in a quiet and human way. It becomes a reflection of how people carry their lives, their memories, and their need for safety across different places and situations.You continue to use utensils and found objects — what draws you back to them, and what new meanings do they carry today?I often begin with familiar, everyday objects but a simple object can carry a much larger world within it. These objects already hold traces of labour and memory through their use and a shift in scale allows the viewer to engage more directly with the object and the meaning it carries. In this show, with the shift in scale, I try to open this space,

Why early detection can save stroke patients

Morinda-based Devinder (35) had a typically 'Punjabi' lifestyle — a diet high in oily and spicy foods; he smoked and also liked his Patiala peg. Consequently, he had high BP, diabetes and hypercholesterolemia (high levels of cholesterol, specifically LDL or 'bad' cholesterol). He was also not regular in taking his medications.One day he experienced sudden weakness on the left side of his body, slurred speech, and fell down. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where a CT scan suggested a stroke, following which he was referred for advanced treatment and care.

Devinder had been experiencing fatigue or dizziness for days preceding this incident but he dismissed these, as do many such patients, which often results in a serious episode sooner or later.Often called a 'silent killer', a stroke usually begins quietly — a slight slurring of speech, sudden weakness in the arm, or a brief moment of confusion. Because these early warning signs can appear mild, many people dismiss them as fatigue or dizziness. Unfortunately, even a short delay in treatment can have life-altering consequences for stroke patients.

A stroke occurs when the blood supply to a part of the brain is suddenly interrupted, either due to a blockage in an artery or bleeding within the brain. Without oxygen and nutrients, brain cells begin to die rapidly, which is why a stroke is considered one of the most time-sensitive medical emergencies.India records nearly 1.8 million new stroke cases every year, and doctors are increasingly seeing patients getting a stroke at much younger age than before. In Punjab, the concern is particularly significant because several major stroke risk factors are widely prevalent. Not just in Punjab, but in rest of India too, the incidence of hypertension, diabetes, obesity and high cholesterol is rising rapidly. People affected with these medical problems have a high risk of their blood vessels being damaged over time, increasing their likelihood of having a stroke.Diets high in salt and saturated fats, along with tobacco use and alcohol consumption, further increase the risk. A sedentary lifestyle and rising stress levels have also contributed to the rise in many lifestyle diseases. Consequently, doctors are now

seeing strokes among younger people in their 30s and 40s.It highlights an urgent need for lifestyle modification, regular health check-ups, and adherence to prescribed treatment, especially among the young, who may otherwise underestimate their stroke risk. However, the encouraging news is that the treatment for stroke has advanced significantly. Clot-dissolving medications can restore blood flow if administered early. Many modern procedures like mechanical thrombectomy, recommended by the American Stroke Association, allow doctors to remove the clot from the blocked brain artery, without opening the brain. But this is a time-sensitive procedure, meant only for eligible patients, and can be performed up to 24 hours after the stroke.

This makes awareness crucial — recognising symptoms early and getting the right treatment can dramatically change a patient's chances of recovery.

Advancements in neurosurgical technology have further strengthened stroke management. Various sophisticated, image-guided technologies allow neurosurgeons to precisely locate and target affected areas of the brain in real time. In complex stroke cases, especially those involving bleeding or requiring surgical intervention, these can enhance accuracy, minimise damage to surrounding healthy brain tissue, and improve overall surgical outcomes.Post-stroke rehabilitation is equally important, as it plays a crucial role in helping patients regain independence and quality of life. Recovery often requires a structured, multi-disciplinary approach involving physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and psychological support. Early rehabilitation, sometimes initiated within 24-48 hours after stabilisation, can significantly improve mobility, speech, and cognitive functions.Family support and consistent follow-up are vital, as recovery timelines vary for each patient. With the right rehabilitation plan and medical guidance, many stroke survivors can achieve total recovery and return to their routine lives.Other warning signs may include sudden severe headache, dizziness, vision problems, confusion, or difficulty in walking.

Natural powerhouse of health and beauty benefits



Papaya is one of those tropical fruits that quietly delivers powerful health and beauty benefits. Often called a 'superfruit', papaya is rich in vitamins A, C and E, along with antioxidants and an enzyme called papain that makes it truly special.From a health perspective, papaya is excellent for digestion. The enzyme papain helps break down proteins, making it especially useful after heavy meals. It can relieve bloating, constipation and support overall gut health. Its high vitamin C content strengthens immunity,

helping your body fight infections and recover faster. Papaya is also heart-friendly, as it contains fibre, potassium and antioxidants that may help reduce cholesterol levels and support healthy blood pressure.When it comes to beauty, papaya works from the inside out. Regular consumption can give your skin a natural glow — thanks to its rich antioxidant profile, which helps fight free radicals and slow signs of aging. It is also commonly used in DIY face masks, as papaya can gently exfoliate dead skin cells, brighten complexion and even help reduce acne. Its hydrating properties contribute to healthier, shinier hair as well.Its seeds are also sometimes consumed in small amounts for their potential antibacterial properties, and papaya extracts are used in skincare and digestive supplements. The best way to consume papaya is fresh and ripe. You can eat it on an empty stomach in the morning to maximise its digestive benefits, or include it as a mid-day snack. It blends well into smoothies, fruit salads or even savoury dishes like salads with lime and a pinch of salt. For maximum nutrition, avoid over-processing or adding too much sugarHowever, it should be consumed carefully. Unripe or semi-ripe papaya contains latex, which may cause allergic reactions in some people and is generally not recommended during pregnancy. People with latex allergies should also avoid it. Additionally, excessive consumption may lead to digestive discomfort due to its strong enzyme activity.

Belonging to the mountains

Sixty-one years ago, almost to the month, I made the highland of Mussoorie in the Garhwal foothills my home. It was a sunny afternoon, and by my side was a gentle-faced elderly lady — a bit of a loner by circumstance, like me. I had mentioned in passing that I wanted to shift from Delhi, where I had been living somewhat unhappily for a couple of years, and she was showing me the vacant upper floor of her home — an old, isolated cottage at the edge of a forest of oak and maple, green, red and gold.

You couldn't see the Himalayas, or the Doon Valley below, for the cottage was tucked away in the shadow of a hill. But it was spring and when I opened the window of the small living room, the forest seemed to rush upon me, as if in welcome. And from the deep ravine rose the sweet, haunting call of the Himalayan whistling thrush. That decided it for me — the forest, which seemed full of possibilities, and the birdsong. I moved into the cottage — it was called Maplewood Lodge — and settled for good in these hills.

I was still young, and in my romantic frame of mind, I was susceptible to magic casements opening wide. I decided I would make a window-seat and lie there on a summer's day, writing lyric poetry... But long before that could happen I was opening tins of sardines and sharing them with Miss Bean, the elderly lady who continued to live in the rooms below me. It was a solidarity of the indigent! I went away from the hills at times, but returned as soon as possible, and when I had to leave Maplewood, I rented other homes, each one old and modest, but always with a view.

Once you have lived with the mountains, you can never leave. You belong to them.

Sometimes it is hard to believe that I have been up here all these years — sixty summers and monsoons and



winters, and the short autumns and even shorter Himalayan springs (there is no real spring in the plains). When I look back, it seems like yesterday when I first came up with my meagre belongings and a head full of dreams. I like to think that I have become a part of this Magic Mountain; that by living here for so long, I can claim a relationship with the trees, wild flowers, even the rocks that are an integral part of this landscape.

I am too old now to walk among the noble oaks and deodars and the ancient pines, but I feel their presence at all times. The wind brings me their words of wisdom and encouragement when my spirits are low, and their benediction when I give of myself freely in love and friendship. They have seen these hills change and yet remain the same through countless seasons — renewing and healing themselves and all the life that lives upon and within them.

Indian scientists find data ‘fully consistent’ for dwarf galaxies to host black holes

New Delhi: A new study from Indian scientists probed the possibility of some of the smallest galaxies- dwarf spheroidal galaxies orbiting the Milky Way, hosting black holes and found data “fully consistent with the presence of intermediate-mass black holes,” an official statement said on Friday.The study by K. Aditya and Arun Mangalam of the Indian Institute of Astrophysics built self-consistent dynamical models that include three gravitational components — stars, a dark matter halo and a possible central black hole.Using high-quality stellar kinematic data, they modelled how stars move in these galaxies and used this information to constrain the mass of any central black hole, if one were to exist.“We find that our models, combined with the data, place strong upper limits on central black hole masses of these dwarf spheroidal galaxies, typically below one million solar masses, with several galaxies allowing only much smaller values”, Arun Mangalam explained.“The data do not require that massive black holes must exist but are fully consistent with the presence of intermediate-mass black holes instead,” he added. The statement from the Ministry of

Science & Technology said the work has important implications for both theory and future observations.“By establishing a unified relation down to the smallest galaxies, it provides a critical benchmark for simulations of galaxy and black hole evolution,” said Arun Mangalam.This work is particularly timely in the context of upcoming next-generation observing facilities, including the proposed Na-



tional Large Optical Telescope (NLOT) by IIA and the Extremely Large Telescope (ELT). These facilities will deliver unprecedented spatial and spectral resolution, enabling precise measurements of stellar kinematics in faint, low-mass galaxies.The unified relation presented in this study provides a robust theoretical and observational framework for interpreting such data, especially in the regime of dwarf galaxies, where black hole signatures are subtle.Supermassive black holes are routinely observed at the centres of large galaxies, but the smaller ones like the dwarf spheroidal galaxies orbiting the Milky Way are extremely faint, gas-poor, and dominated by dark matter, making direct detection of black holes exceptionally challenging.

Iran war energy shock drives nuclear power plans in hard-hit Asia, Africa

Nairobi: The Iran war's global energy shock is causing some nations in Africa and Asia to boost nuclear power generation and spurring atomic energy plans in non-nuclear countries on both continents.Asia, where most of the Middle Eastern oil and natural gas was headed, was hit first and hardest by disruptions to shipping routes carrying those fuels – swiftly followed by Africa. The US and Europe are also feeling the pinch as the conflict drives up energy costs.African and Asian nations with nuclear plants are increasing their output as they scramble for short-term energy supplies, while non-nuclear countries are accelerating long-term nuclear plans to safeguard against future fossil fuel shocks.Nuclear power isn't a quick fix for the current energy crisis. Developing atomic energy can take decades, especially for nuclear newcomers. But long-term commitments to nuclear power made now will likely lock it in to countries' future energy mixes, said Joshua Kurlantzick of the Council on Foreign Relations.In Asia, the Iran war is pushing South Korea to increase nuclear power generation, while Taiwan is debating restarting mothballed reactors. In Africa, future plans to build reactors have taken on urgency, with Kenya, Rwanda and South Africa affirming their support.

Nuclear power takes advantage of the energy released

when the nucleus of an atom, such as uranium, splits in a process called fission. Unlike fossil fuels, this doesn't release climate change-causing carbon dioxide. But it creates potentially dangerous radioactive waste, which is one reason many countries are cautious about nuclear power.The war has accelerated a global “nuclear renaissance,” said Rachel Bronson of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, as countries seek an out from the risks of fossil fuel markets.There are 31 countries that use nuclear power, which provides about 10 per cent of global electricity, according to the International Atomic Energy Agency, which says another 40 nations are either considering the technology or preparing to build a plant.In Asia, where energy triage efforts range from increased coal use to purchases of Russian crude oil, countries with nuclear plants are seeking to get more out of their existing reactors.South Korea is increasing generation at its nuclear plants and speeding up maintenance at five offline reactors, with restarts planned in May. Taiwan and Japan are reversing policies that shuttered nuclear sites following the 2011 Fukushima nuclear meltdown, triggered when an earthquake and tsunami disabled the power supply that cooled the reactors.Taiwan is considering the years-long process of restarting two reactors because of the current crisis

‘Help me find decent work’: Rahul Roy hits back at trolls, opens up about financial struggles

Earlier this week, the internet was taken by surprise after videos of Rahul Roy began circulating widely. Once celebrated as a national sensation following his debut in the 1990 film Aashiqui, the actor was seen appearing in Instagram reels alongside a content creator. The videos, shared on Instagram, featured Rahul romancing to some of his most iconic songs, including tracks from Aashiqui and Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayee. The clips quickly drew mixed reactions online. While some users expressed concern about Roy’s circumstances, others mocked the videos, dismissing them as “cringe.”“Help me find some decent work”

Responding to the chatter, Rahul took to Instagram on Wednesday with a note that appeared to address the ongoing discussion. Pushing back against the ridicule, he wrote that those who laugh at his “simplicity” or struggles reveal more about themselves than about him. He said in the post, “I do my work with honesty and modesty. I have some legal matters to pay for, and these are not from today, they are from before the brain stroke happened. If you mock my simplicity or make fun of my struggles, it says less about me and more about you. If you are truly so concerned, then help me find some genuine and decent work so I can pay for these cases. At least I am earning through hard work, not by mocking others”

He further added, “And after the brain stroke, it is important for me to stay active. I want to work for as long as I am alive. It keeps my mind active and gives me the sense of purpose and responsibility that I am still working today. Yes, it may hurt a little sometimes, but you cannot break me.” His message drew a wave of support in the comments section. Among those who responded were choreographer and filmmaker Farah Khan, who wrote, “Good luck to you Rahul”, and actor-host Maniesh Paul, who commented, “Love and respect, more power to you sir.”However, when the reels first surfaced earlier in the week, they were met with trolling and speculation. “He has been drugged for this reel,” one user wrote, while another commented, “Sometimes you just hope it’s AI, and then you come to the comments and realise it’s not.” One remark read, “Rahul Roy, blink if you are in danger.” Others questioned his situation, with comments such as “How much does he owe her?” and “Not sure what pressure he’s under to be making these reels.”

Rs 1500 cr on 3 films: With Toxic, Jana Nayagan, has KVN Productions bitten off more than it can chew?

Venkat K Narayana founded KVN Productions in 2020 with a straightforward ambition: to make world-class films rooted in Karnataka and take Indian cinema to a global audience. Six years on, the Bengaluru-based production house is trying to do that as it is now behind two of the most anticipated films of 2026, but both these star-studded vehicles are still awaiting a release date. Vijay’s Jana Nayagan and Yash’s Toxic are famously known, but film lovers are still waiting for an opportunity to catch these films. Another film by KVN Productions, KD: The Devil, is finally releasing on Thursday, April 30, but it has seen its share of controversies in the past few weeks.

Jana Nayagan, KVN’s first Tamil-language production and Vijay’s farewell to cinema, went into trouble days before its scheduled release in January 2026. After failing to secure a censor certificate, the film has been fighting a CBFC battle that reached the Supreme Court, absorbed a devastating pre-release piracy leak, and is now facing a protest from villagers in Madurai who say the film misrepresents their community. The makers are yet to announce a new release date. In an earlier court appearance, the producers told Madras High Court that they had Rs 500 crore riding on this film. The film also could not find a release window because of its lead star, Vijay, contesting in the Tamil Nadu elections.Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups, co-produced with Yash’s Monster Mind Creations and reported to be budgeted at between Rs 700 crore and Rs 800 crore, was postponed for a third time on Wednesday, April 29. The makers did not announce a new release date this time. Between them, and alongside KD: The Devil which releases on April 30, the three films represent a financial commitment that would test any production house.

At the “Sarke Chunar” song launch event for KD: The Devil, Suprith, the business head of KVN Productions, confirmed that the combined investment across the company’s three-film slate had crossed Rs 1,000 crore. Although, senior film trade analyst Ramesh Bala, in a chat with SCREEN, estimated that the figure is between Rs 1,300 crore and Rs 1,500 crore. Ramesh Bala, who has been watching KVN’s trajectory closely, explained, “KVN Productions, three films, three different problems.” He added, “And the problems faced by them are new and unique with each film.”

When the pre-release business for Jana Nayagan was being negotiated, it looked like one of the strongest commercial platforms ever assembled for a Tamil film. Tamil Nadu theatrical rights were sold for Rs 105 crore to Rs 136.5 crore, which were said to be the highest for any Tamil film. The overseas theatrical rights fetched around Rs 80 crore. Amazon Prime Video reportedly paid Rs 200 crore for the digital streaming rights. According to KVN productions, Zee Tamil acquired the satellite rights for Rs 64 crore, also reported as the highest satellite deal for a Tamil film. During the Madras High Court hearings in January 2026, KVN Productions’ own legal counsel cited Rs 500 crore as the production investment at risk due to the CBFC delay.

Yet some of what followed was, according to Ramesh Bala, not entirely without warning. “With Jana Nayagan, Vijay was warned,” he said, pointing to the signals around the film’s CBFC submission and the political climate surrounding it. “But everything else that happened after, was unexpected.” He estimates the losses to the film’s overall business at around Rs 300 crore, accounting for the OTT deal withdrawal, the piracy leak’s impact on theatrical revenue, and the erosion of distributor confidence caused by prolonged uncertainty. One of distributors of Jana Nayagan, who wished to be anonymous, told SCREEN, “I backed off from the deal, as it became very difficult to track the updates.”Anupam Reddy, an industry analyst, said, “There is a strong window for Jana Nayagan to release after the elections, we can expect it to release in May, but there is no guarantee that they will not incur losses despite being Vijay’s last



This is not the first time Rahul has recently drawn public attention. Earlier this month, he was seen walking through the streets of Versova in Mumbai, carrying a suitcase along a damaged road. In a video that went viral, he acknowledged photographers with a smile before continuing on his way. In another instance last year, Rahul appeared at a wedding in Bikramganj, Bihar, where he performed on stage, playing the guitar and lip-syncing to the title track of Aashiqui.About Rahul RoyRahul Roy rose to fame with his debut in Aashiqui by Mahesh Bhatt. He went on to star in films such as Phir Teri Kahani Yaad Aayee, Junoon, Gumrah, and Pyaar Ka Saaya, though he was unable to recreate the success of his debut. Years later, he returned to the public eye after winning the first season of Bigg Boss in 2007. In 2020, Roy suffered a brain stroke while filming in Ladakh and was airlifted to Mumbai, where he received treatment at Nanavati Hospital. He was most recently seen in the film Agra, which is currently streaming on Prime Video.



film.”Amazon Prime Video reportedly withdrew from the post-theatrical streaming deal in March, citing the ongoing CBFC delays. The piracy leak in mid-April 2026, which saw an HD print of the film circulate online before a censor certificate had been officially confirmed, compounded the damage further. The Tamil Nadu Cyber Crime Department arrested six individuals initially, eventually naming 21 in the investigation and blocking over 300 infringing links. The Madras High Court issued a temporary order restricting the circulation of the pirated version.On Monday, residents of three villages near Usilampatti in Madurai district staged black-flag protests against the film, alleging that scenes distort events connected to a local by-election in Papapatti. They have demanded a public apology from Vijay and director H. Vinoth and that the contested scenes be removed before release. As of today, no confirmed release date has been announced.

Toxic: Three postponements; but losses will be ‘nomina;’ compared to Jana NayaganToxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups was officially announced in December 2023. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film is a period gangster film set in Goa between the 1940s and the 1970s. Here, Yash plays a dual role, supported by Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Tara Sutaria and Rukmini Vasanth. Shot simultaneously in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions planned in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam, the trade estimates put film’s budget at between Rs 700 crore and Rs 800 crore, which would place it among the most expensive Indian films ever made.Its pre-release theatrical business has been equally ambitious. Sri Venkateswara Creations acquired the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana distribution rights for Rs 120 crore, and according to the distributors, it is the first time a non-Telugu film had secured a deal of that size in that market. Phars Films acquired the overseas rights for the Indian-language versions for Rs 105 crore, covering Kannada, Telugu, Tamil, Hindi and Malayalam but not the English edition.Here is where Toxic’s financial situation differs meaningfully from Jana Nayagan’s. According to Ramesh Bala, the satellite and OTT deals for Toxic have not yet been finalised. “That could be the reason the losses are more nominal compared to Jana Nayagan,” he said. Because those rights remain unlocked, the financial damage from the repeated delays is more contained than it would otherwise be. The theatrical distribution deals that have been done are in place so far.The film was originally scheduled for April 10. However, according to sources of SCREEN, delayed shooting and production demands pushed that to March 19, where it would be clashing with Bollywood film Dhurandhar 2. Around two weeks before that date, the release was postponed again to June 4, with the decision attributed to regional instability in the Middle East. On April 29, Yash and KVN Productions announced that Toxic would not release on June 4 either. In a statement, Yash said the film had been presented at CinemaCon and received a strong response from global distributors and industry stakeholders, and that the team was realigning its strategy to support a broader worldwide rollout. The film was confirmed complete, but with no new date has been announcedKD

‘Embarrassed’ Priyanka Chopra was yelled at by the choreographer on set; he said she ‘drove me nuts’

Priyanka Chopra may be known as an ace dancer today, but in a recent interview, the actor has confessed that she struggled with two left feet in her early days in the Hindi film industry, back in the early 2000s. Priyanka recalled an incident from a shoot in South Africa where a choreographer yelled at her in front of the crew and left her “embarrassed.”“I was a dreadful dancer when I first started. I was not able to act and nail the choreography at the same time, plus coordinate with my co-star. It was just too many things for my 19- or 20-year-old brain,” admitted Priyanka in a chat with Vogue Arabia. In Indian films, dancing is seen as a prerequisite for actors as most Indian films have a song and dance routine. Priyanka made her Hindi film debut at 20 when she starred in Andaaz alongside Akshay Kumar.“I was filming with Raju Khan (son of legendary choreographer Saroj Khan) in South Africa and missing my marks. He got so upset with me that he threw the mic down, saying, ‘You might come from a pageant, but learn how to dance before you become an actress.’ He just walked away and I was so embarrassed,” she recalled.However, she added that despite the early friction, she’s “great friends” with Raju now. The song in question was a romantic track “Aayega Maza Ab Barsaat Ka” alongside the lead actor, Akshay Kumar, from Andaaz. Priyanka couldn’t get the steps right even in the 40th take, which is when Raju asked her to learn dancing. Thankfully, since Akshay’s wife Twinkle Khanna was pregnant at the time, the shoot was halted.

Priyanka Chopra took Kathak classes after this incidentThat allowed Priyanka to return to India and join Pandit Veeru Krishnan’s Kathak classes. Besides her pageant friend Lara Dutta, the classes were also attended by Katrina Kaif, who was also preparing for a career in Bollywood. “Priyanka was like the star in our Kathak class. This was the same time when I was investing myself into learning Hindi that I put myself into Kathak training,” Katrina told Mid-Day in a 2024 interview.Even before making her Hindi film debut, Priyanka struggled with matching steps with Thalapathy Vijay in her debut movie, Abdul Majith’s 2002 Tamil action thriller Thamizhan. “In dance, Priyanka was okay, but she couldn’t initially match steps with Vijay. She would practice with the choreographer from morning to evening. Then she started enjoying it,” Priyanka’s mother Madhu Chopra told Filmguy in a 2024 interview.In her defense, Priyanka didn’t want to enter films, but once she got the offer, her mother convinced her to say yes because she was an “obedient child”. However, after learning Kathak, Priyanka felt more at ease while shooting songs, much to the surprise of Raju, who choreographed her again for the song “Aaja Aaja” in Suneel Darshan’s 2005 romantic drama Barsaat.When Raju Khan said Priyanka Chopra ‘drove me nuts’“Priyanka did have a set of limitations prior to this film, I’d say. Not in this film (Barsaat). There was a lot of difference in her performance between Andaaz and Barsaat. She



was also new then. That was her first film. She was more into walking down the ramp. That’s the maximum they’d seen in life. But to bring them to commercial cinema, and do the latkas and jhatkas, she was taken aback a bit. She tried her best,” Raju Khan told Wild Films India in an old interview.

“She drove me nuts in that film. But four years later, I did other Indian ethnic songs with her, and she’s so good. She took me by surprise. She’s much more confident. That’s because she’s spent so much more time here. I don’t think anyone takes classes before entering the industry. This is where they learn and mature, and their performances get better. And that’s how they grow,” he added. Raju went on to choreograph Priyanka in songs like “Chori Chori Chupke Chupke” alongside Hrithik Roshan in Rakesh Roshan’s 2006 superhero movie Krishh and several songs in Ashutosh Gowariker’s 2009 romantic comedy What’s Your Raashee?. After Priyanka moved to Hollywood in 2016, she didn’t get the chance to do any major dance songs for the next 10 years, which is when she put up her condition of including a high-octane dance number in her next Indian film, SS Rajamouli’s fantasy epic Varanasi. “I haven’t done an Indian film in like six years (her last one was Shonali Bose’s 2019 family drama The Sky Is Pink). So when SS Rajamouli called me and he was like, ‘You know this female character is really cool and you have to do it,’ I was like, ‘I have one request. Can you make me dance? Please? Because I haven’t danced for so long,’” Priyanka told Screen Rant recently.“I didn’t think the steps would turn out to be what they turned out to be,” said Priyanka, admitting she wasn’t expecting the choreography to be at the level of the Oscar-winning dance song “Naatu Naatu” from Rajamouli’s previous film RRR (2022), which featured Ram Charan and Jr NTR. Her Varanasi co-star Mahesh Babu, who wasn’t entirely pleased with her request, told her during the rehearsals, “Don’t complain now — you asked for this.”

Akele Hum Akele Tum had ‘verbatim’ scenes from Kramer vs Kramer; Aamir Khan, Mansoor Khan defend remakes

Aamir Khan’s son Junaid Khan has had two releases so far, but he is still waiting for his big Bollywood break, and Aamir is pinning all his hopes on his production Ek Din, which also marks the Hindi film debut of Sai Pallavi. But, Ek Din is another remake from Aamir’s production house after Laal Singh Chaddha, Sitaare Zameen Par, and many other remakes that Aamir has done in the past.

Even after the failure of Laal Singh Chaddha, Aamir has gone on to produce two more remakes — RS Prasanna’s coming-of-age sports dramedy Sitaare Zameen Par (remake of Javier Fesser’s 2018 Spanish film Champeones) and the upcoming Ek Din (remake of Banjong Pisanthanakun 2016 Thai film One Day). But Aamir isn’t concerned about making another one with his son.“You must understand Ghajini was also a remake. So, I have nothing against remakes. I’d do it again,” argued Aamir, referring to AR Murugadoss’ 2008 Hindi blockbuster, a remake of the director’s 2005 Tamil film, which turned out to be the first member of the Rs 100 crore club.

“I personally feel when you come across material that really excites you and moves you, and it’s from another part of the world or another language, I’d like our audience to also experience the same feeling in a language we understand. That essentially is a remake. So, I haven’t had any problem doing remakes in the last 38 years, and I don’t think I’ll have any going ahead as well,” added Aamir.“As creative people, when you get excited by a work you’ve seen, you want to give it your own energy. I don’t subscribe to this view that once something is made, you can’t touch it. Whether it succeeds or fails is different,” Aamir argued further, citing the example of countless William Shakespeare plays which continue to be adapted across the world even today.

Mansoor defends Akele Hum Akele TumOf all the films Aamir and Mansoor have collaborated on before Ek Din, the only unsuccessful film has been the 1995 family drama, Akele Hum Akele Tum, which was an unofficial adaptation of Robert Benton’s 1979 Hollywood classic Kramer Vs Kramer. “I never said Akele Hum Akele Tum isn’t a remake. But it’s more than a remake,” argued Mansoor.The original Hollywood film revolves around Meryl Streep’s character Joanna Kramer walking out of her marriage with Dustin Hoffman’s Ted Kramer and abandoning her son. “Kramer Vs Kramer is made for a Western audience, so it’s very different. But for an Indian audience, if you leave it at that, a woman leaves her husband and child, it’s kind of incomplete. Kramer Vs Kramer is a brilliant film. But if I make it literally, I’m not doing justice to my audience. I’m being lazy. If I don’t have any ideas about it, then don’t make it,” added Mansoor.

He pointed out that Akele Hum Akele Tum is, in fact, an amalgamation of two premises — Kramer Vs Kramer and Frank Pierson’s 1976 cult musical romance A Star Is Born. Mansoor admitted he hasn’t even watched the latter yet, but has no qualms in admitting he lifted its premise and merged it with that of Kramver Vs Kramer. “I don’t want to justify myself. I love the film, and I won’t hide. There are literal scenes, verbatim,” admitted Mansoor.Even though Akele Hum Akele Tum was an unofficial adaptation, Aamir now maintains that he likes to buy the remake rights officially. Several of his past films were unofficial remakes of popular Hollywood movies – Mahesh Bhatt’s Dil Hai Ki Manta Nahin (1991) of It Happened One Night (1934); Mansoor’s Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar (1992) of Breaking Away (1979); Vikram Bhatt’s Ghulam (1998) of On The Waterfront (1954); and Indra Kumar’s Mann (1999) of An Affair



To Remember (1957). “At that time, we didn’t even know how to buy the rights,” claimed Aamir.‘Ek Din would’ve been a nice debut for Junaid Khan’

“I don’t know whether I’d heard the script before Maharaj (2024). I do remember feeling this would’ve been a nice first film for him,” said Aamir. Junaid made his film debut with Siddharth P Malhotra’s Netflix India period drama Maharaj, backed by Aditya Chopra’s Yash Raj Films. Earlier, Aamir had claimed that there was no nepotism involved despite his equation with YRF since he didn’t even know Junaid had auditioned for the film.

“The character in Ek Din is a very diffident, shy, and unsure of himself. I thought that suited Junaid. The word in the film is punctilious. Junaid is actually quite punctilious. He loves getting into details. It’s things we don’t even know. When you ask him, ‘Why do you know this?’, he just says, ‘I read it somewhere.’ So, his character has a lot of general knowledge. It’s not even general knowledge, it’s very specific knowledge. So, on the whole, I felt he’s bring it out well. And he has, he’s done a great job,” Aamir told The Hollywood Reporter India.Aamir’s cousin, Mansoor Khan, who’s also co-producing the film with him, echoed the opinion. Mansoor is known for directing films like Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak, Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikandar, Akele Hum Akele Tum, among others. Both claimed that Junaid managed to hold his own in front of co-star Sai Pallavi, who despite making her Bollywood debut with Ek Din, has far more experience since she’s been working in South films since 2016. Aamir even recently hailed her as “the best actor in the country”Junaid Khan auditioned for father Aamir Khan’s role in Laal Singh Chaddha. Junaid Khan auditioned for father Aamir Khan’s role in Laal Singh Chaddha.

Junaid isn’t playing a ‘hero’Aamir also pointed out that unlike his breakthrough role of Raj in Mansoor’s 1988 directorial debut and cult romantic drama Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak, Junaid’s role in Ek Din isn’t very “heroic”. “He’s not a guy who bashes up 20 people. He isn’t very confident or suave. He doesn’t have quick answers. He’s a guy who doesn’t believe in himself. There’s a line in the film, ‘Mera ek superpower hai — jo bhi mujhe dekhta hai, jhath se bhoof jata hai.’ Nobody even registers him. So, I don’t think it’d be the ideal first film, but it’d be a good film to start with,” added Aamir.Interestingly, Junaid’s debut film could have been Advait Chandan’s 2022 film Laal Singh Chaddha, the official Hindi remake of Robert Zemeckis’ 1994 cult Hollywood film Forrest Gump. He auditioned for the titular role, and his performance was lapped up by both Aamir and Mansoor, but owing to the studio’s reservations, Aamir had to stick to playing the lead character. The film subsequently flopped at the box office.