

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Let Tamil Nadu Assembly floor decide

TAMIL Nadu's unfolding post-election uncertainty has once again brought the constitutional role of the Governor under scrutiny. With Vijay's Tamilaga Vetti Kazhagam emerging as the single largest party but falling short of the halfway mark, the question before Raj Bhavan is politically explosive yet constitutionally settled: who should be invited to form the government? The Constitution does not automatically grant the single largest party the right to govern. The Governor is expected to determine which formation is most likely to command the confidence of the Assembly. However, decades of political controversies have shown how this discretionary power can become a source of suspicion, allegations of bias and charges of partisan intervention.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly clarified the constitutional position, emphasising that majority must be tested on the floor of the House, not in the Governor's subjective satisfaction. The Karnataka 2018 episode is the clearest precedent, when the BJP emerged as the single largest party but lacked a majority. The Governor invited it to form the government and granted 15 days to prove numbers. The SC intervened, ordered an immediate floor test to prevent prolonged political manoeuvring and possible defections. Unable to gather support, BJP's Yediyurappa resigned before the trust vote, after which HD Kumaraswamy formed the government with Congress support. In 2017, in Goa, the Governor invited a post-poll coalition because it demonstrated majority support earlier than the Congress, despite the latter being the largest party. These cases establish a crucial principle: numbers on the Assembly floor matter more than claims outside it.

Make Narendra Modi's Public Meeting a Grand Success



"Khammam Nelakondapalli May 08 (Indian Chronicle): "BJP Minority Morcha district leader Syed Mohiuddin appealed to party workers and supporters to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming public meeting a grand success." Speaking at a press conference organized in Nelakondapalli mandal headquarters on Friday, he said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been leading the country on the path of progress with the vision of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India). "He stated that the Prime Minister would visit Hyderabad on May 10 to launch several development projects worth ₹8,000 crore aimed at Telangana's growth and development. As part of the visit, Narendra Modi is scheduled to address a public meeting at Parade Grounds on May 10 at 3 PM. "Syed Mohiuddin called upon BJP workers, supporters, and sympathizers from Nelakondapalli mandal in Khammam district's Paleru constituency to participate in large numbers and ensure the success of the event. He urged BJP activists from every village to attend the public meeting in Hyderabad. "Minority Morcha Nelakondapalli mandal leader Sharfuddin was also present at the press conference.

Batthi Vikramarka Keeps His Promise, Says CPI Mandal Secretary Dusari Gopal Rao



"Khammam, Chinthakani May 08 (Indian Chronicle): "CPI Mandal Secretary Dusari Gopal Rao inspected the ongoing road jungle-clearing and development works on the road connecting Nerada to Podduturu in Chinthakani mandal. "Speaking on the occasion, he said the long-pending road project was finally sanctioned due to the efforts of Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka. He stated that the people of both villages would remain grateful to him for resolving an issue that had been pending for many years. "Gopal Rao criticized previous rulers, saying that despite making several promises and conducting symbolic foundation activities, they failed to begin the actual road works. He explained that once leaders from the two villages brought the matter to Bhatti Vikramarka's attention, the Deputy Chief Minister assured them that the road would be sanctioned, and he fulfilled that promise. "He expressed happiness that the road works are now progressing as promised and conveyed gratitude to Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on behalf of the people of both villages. "Village Congress Party President Mankena Nageswara Rao, road works supervisor Nagendra Babu, and others participated in the inspection program.

Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Participates in Medchal-Malkajgiri District

"DISHA" Meeting "Meeting Chaired by Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender"



"MEDCHAL, MALKAJGIRI, Staff Reporter Kishore, May 8 (Indian Chronicle): "Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy participated in the "DISHA" meeting held at the Medchal-Malkajgiri District Collectorate under the chairmanship of Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender. "During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on district development, implementation of Central and State Government welfare schemes, and the services being provided to the public. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA instructed officials to speed up development works across the district. He particularly urged authorities to resolve issues related to roads, drinking water, drainage, education, and healthcare at the earliest. "He also emphasized that the benefits of government welfare schemes should reach every eligible beneficiary. In addition, he directed concerned department officials to complete all pending works quickly and ensure better civic amenities for the people. The MLA stated that effective coordination among departments and public representatives would help achieve better results for the overall development of the district. Former Minister and Medchal MLA Malla Reddy, Malkajgiri MLA Marri Rajasekhara Reddy, public representatives, and officials from various departments also participated in the meeting.

Grand Tribute Paid to Late MLA Bandari Rajireddy by Chilkanagar and Beerappa Gadda Leaders

"Johar Rajanna... Johar Johar," says State Leader Bannala



"UPPAL, MAY 09 (INDIAN CHRONICAL): "Under the leadership of BRS State leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, party leaders and local activists paid rich tributes to the late former Uppal MLA Bandari Rajireddy at the BRS party office in Bank Colony on the occasion of his death anniversary. Floral tributes were offered to his portrait during the

commemorative program. "Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said that late MLA Bandari Rajireddy earned the trust of the people and always stood by the oppressed sections of society. He stated that Rajireddy remained accessible to the public and emerged as a true people's leader. He further praised the late leader for dedicating himself to the development of the Uppal constituency and securing a permanent place in the hearts of the people as a public representative. "He noted that leaders across party lines were paying homage to the great leader today in recognition of his services to the constituency. Senior BRS leaders including Eddula Kondal Reddy, Kokkonda Jagan, Masa Shekhar, Ashok Chary, Balakrishna Goud, Sadanand Chary, Yadagiri, Pochayya, Ramesh, Marka Srinu, Azad, Shyam Rajak, Banti Goud, Beerappa Gadda Balu, Narasimha Chary and others participated in the program.

Call to Join Hyderabad Rally on May 10 Special Train from Khammam to Secunderabad

Massive Arrangements in Place "Congress and BRS Accused of Supporting Illegal Migrants" Modi Government Committed to Ambedkar's Ideals "Opposition Leaders Accused of Endangering National Security" "Warning Against Insulting Dalit Community Leaders" "Khammam, May 8 (Indian Chronicle): "BJP District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao and SC Morcha State Vice President Boyila Venkat called upon people to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Telangana visit on May 10 a historic success and strongly oppose what they described as the "appeasement politics" of opposition parties supporting illegal migrants. "Addressing a media conference held at the BJP district office in Khammam on Friday, the leaders said Prime Minister Narendra Modi would be visiting Telangana for the first time after assuming office for a third term. They stated that the public meeting scheduled to be held at Secunderabad Parade Grounds on Sunday at 4 PM would provide a new direction for the state's development. "They appealed to Dalit communities, nationalists, farmers, women, and youth from Khammam district to participate in large numbers in the public meeting and extend a grand welcome to the Prime Minister. The leaders said the Modi government has been driving the country forward in all sectors and implementing several welfare schemes for Dalits. "During the press meet, the BJP leaders also sharply criticized the prevailing political situation in Khammam district. They alleged that the district was becoming a hub for illegal migrants and accused former ministers of facilitating Aadhaar and ration cards for Rohingyas for vote-bank politics, thereby compromising national security. "Referring to former minister Ajay Kumar as "Ajay Khan," they alleged that he was extending full support to illegal migrants. They further accused Congress and BRS of supporting anti-national forces for political gains, claiming such actions were encouraging sleeper cell activities in the district. "The leaders also criticized Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, alleging that the Congress party



was functioning like a "Muslim-oriented party." They asserted that just as Rohingyas were driven out in West Bengal, the BJP would also prevent illegal migration in Telangana. "Highlighting the Modi government's commitment to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision, the leaders said several initiatives had been introduced to empower Dalits and traditional workers. They cited the Ambedkar Incubation Centre and the Vishwakarma Yojana scheme as examples of the Prime Minister's efforts to create employment and support skilled communities. "SC Morcha leaders also condemned alleged "slave politics" by BRS leader Kaushik Reddy and warned against making inappropriate remarks against BJP leaders like Bandi Sanjay. Boyila Venkat stated that the Dalit community would not tolerate disrespectful comments against leaders with a clean image and urged political leaders to maintain values and avoid emotional blackmail in politics. "The BJP leaders announced special arrangements for people traveling to the Secunderabad meeting. A special train from Errupalem to Secunderabad would be available, and it is expected to reach Khammam Railway Station at 8:30 AM on Sunday. They urged all citizens concerned about national security and development to participate in the rally and support Prime Minister Modi. "Several BJP and SC Morcha leaders, including Sunny Uday Pratap, Kotamarthi Sudarshan, Prabhakar, Mandadapu Subbarao, Mekala Nagender, Rajani Reddy, Manda Saraswathi, Nakkala Ravi Goud, and Sriramaneni Mani, attended the meeting.

AIYF Stages Protest at Khammam Railway Station Against Railway Job Cuts



"AIYF District Assistant Secretary Chinthala Ramesh Leads Dharna" "Khammam May 08 (Indian Chronicle): "The All India Youth Federation (AIYF) Khammam district committee staged a protest at Khammam Railway Station against the Railway Board's proposed 2% reduction in jobs under the "Manpower Rationalization 2026-27" policy, which could reportedly affect around 29,608 posts. "Addressing the protest, AIYF District Assistant Secretary Chinthala Ramesh strongly criticized the move, stating that while nearly 3 to 4 lakh railway posts are already lying vacant, the decision to further reduce jobs would destroy the future of unemployed youth. "He alleged that under the guise of reforms, the Central Government was reducing public sector jobs as part of a larger conspiracy to privatize the Railways and hand them over to corporate companies. "The leaders also expressed concern that staff shortages were increasing the workload on loco pilots and technical workers, thereby affecting railway safety and putting passengers at risk. "Key Demands

Raised by AIYF: "Immediate withdrawal of the 2% job cut decision. "Immediate release of pending RRB results for NTPC, Group-D, and JE posts. "Filling all vacant railway posts on a permanent basis. "AIYF leaders Mamidala Kiran, Red Star Madhu, Maloth Shiva, Ravi, and others participated in the protest. The organization warned that it would intensify the agitation if the demands were not fulfilled.

Illegal Transportation of Cattle is a Punishable Offence

-- CI, D. Vishweshwar "Geesugonda, May 8 (Indian Chronicle): "Illegal transportation of cattle is a punishable offence under the law, said CI D. Vishweshwar of Geesugonda Police Station. "Acting on the directions of higher authorities, an awareness flex banner was installed on Friday at the Kommalla cattle market within the station limits to educate the public on preventing illegal cattle transportation. "He informed the public that transporting cattle illegally, overloading animals in vehicles, moving them without valid documentation, and subjecting them to cruelty are all offences under the law. He urged citizens and vehicle operators to strictly adhere to police rules and regulations. "CI Vishweshwar emphasized that valid permits and documents must be carried while transporting cattle, animals must not be overloaded in vehicles, and adequate space, food, and water must be provided during transit. He warned that strict action would be taken against anyone found guilty of cruelty towards animals.

TG GOVT APPOINTS CHAIRMAN & VC FOR MERU CORPORATION



"Gandhi Bhavan -reporter - P. Suchandra Rao "Hyderabad, 7 May: Telangana's Revanth Reddy government established welfare corporation for Darji (meru) community development. On this occasion, the members met TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud at Gandhi Bhavan here on Thursday. "Members of Meru corporation - chairman - Sri Sangha Venkat Rajam, Vice-chairman - M. Laxminarayan, Mr. Pendyala Giridhar of Bazarghat, Mr. Vinay (INC) of Saidabad, Mr. R. Sudhakar of Hanamkonda expressed thanks to CM - Revanth Reddy before media.

Youth Killed in Road Accident in Khammam Rural



"Khammam, May 08 (Indian Chronicle): "A 26-year-old youth died in a tragic road accident near Edulapuram Stage in Edulapuram Municipality of Khammam district after being hit by an unidentified vehicle. "According to local sources, the deceased was identified as Konda Ajith, son of Konda Uppalaya and a resident of Ward No. 31 in Edulapuram Municipality. "The accident reportedly occurred late at night while Ajith was attempting to cross the road. Locals said an unidentified vehicle hit him and fled the scene. The impact was severe, and the youth died on the spot. "Residents immediately identified the victim and informed the police. The police later alerted the Annam Seva Foundation, whose members arrived at the scene and shifted Ajith's body to the government hospital mortuary. "After learning about the incident, the victim's parents broke down in grief, mourning the untimely death of their son.

"Prime Minister Modi's public meeting at Parade Grounds on May 10 should be made a grand success": NVSS Prabhakar



"Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, May 8: "Former Uppal MLA NVSS Prabhakar called upon party leaders and workers to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting, scheduled to be held on May 10 at Hyderabad Parade Grounds, a grand success. He participated as the chief guest in a preparatory meeting of key BJP workers from the Uppal constituency held under the Mallapur division limits. "Speaking on the occasion, NVSS Prabhakar said that it is a matter of pride that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is visiting Telangana after assuming office for the third time and achieving remarkable victories in several states. He stated that the development of Telangana has been possible with the support of the Central Government and added that the BJP-led Union Government has already sanctioned lakhs of crores of rupees for the state's development. "He further urged party workers to accord a grand welcome to the Prime Minister, who is visiting Telangana with development projects worth thousands of crores of rupees. He appealed to every worker to mobilize people in large numbers to attend the Parade Grounds meeting. He also said that this gathering should become the beginning of hoisting the BJP flag across Telangana in the coming days. "Former Uppal MLA Bethi Subhash Reddy, former MLC Katepalli Janardhan Reddy, State Tribal Morcha President Ravi Nayak, State Executive Members Gorige Krishna and Poojala Brahmachari, State Official Spokesperson Taduri Srinivas, Medchal Urban District Spokesperson Pothagani Gopal Goud, Mallela Narsing Rao, Devasani Balachander, District Council Member Sangishetty Ravindra Sagar.

International Red Cross Day celebrated in Bhuvanagiri



Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Additional Collector Venka Reddy "International Red Cross is an organization that provides services when natural disasters occur... Additional Collector Venka Reddy "Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle...May 8):- International Red Cross Day celebrated in a grand manner - Additional Collector Venka Reddy attended as the chief guest. International Red Cross Day program was celebrated in Bhuvanagiri town on Friday. The Additional Collector of the district attended the program as the chief guest and paid tributes to the portrait of Henry Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross, by garlanding him. Later, the Red Cross flag was hoisted along with the national flag. Speaking on the occasion, the Additional Collector said, "The Red Cross organization is a symbol of humanity. Founded by Henry Dunant in 1863, this organization serves victims regardless of caste, religion, and region during wars, natural disasters, and epidemics. The services rendered by the Red Cross volunteers with the 7 basic principles of 'humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity, and universality' are commendable." He praised the Red Cross volunteers for their services during the Covid period and also during the floods. They provided blood donation camps, free medical camps, first aid training, and

education for students and youth. He said that they are doing a lot of good for the society by conducting awareness programs on CPR. He also called on the youth to adopt the spirit of the Red Cross and participate in voluntary service. Everyone should consider 'service as the way' and stand by those in danger. Red Cross District Committee Chairman Gurram Lakshmi Narasimha Reddy and Division Committee Chairman Saddi Venkat Reddy said that they are currently conducting a membership drive program in the district and therefore those with a service mindset are requested to take up membership in the Red Cross. He said that a land will be sanctioned soon for the blood bank and the district office for the district and the construction of the building will be undertaken with the cooperation of local MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy. He asked everyone to take inspiration from the theme of the year 2026 "Keeping Humanity Alive" and protect the values ??of humanity." District Committee Vice Chairman Diddi Balaji, District Committee Directors Sheikh Hamid Pasha, Prabhakar Reddy, Srinivas Reddy, Jampala Anjaiah, Rambai, Secretary Christopher, Division Committee Director Aileni Ram Reddy, Lavanya, Red Cross members Karipe Narsing Rao, Bandaru Srinivas, Bijjala Srinivas and others participated in this program.

A mega job fair program is being organized on a large scale under the auspices of Kumbham Foundation Chairperson Kumbham Kirti Reddy



- Bhuvanagiri MLAs Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy"Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau...Indian Chronicle...May 8):- Keeping the future of the youth of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district in mind, Bhuvanagiri MLAs"Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy A mega job fair program is being organized on a large scale under the auspices of Kumbham Foundation Chairperson Kumbham Kirti Reddy. This job fair will be held on May 8, 9, and 10 at the New Dimension School premises in Bhuvanagiri town. About 25 leading companies are participating in this mega job fair, which is being organized in collaboration with the leading 1M1B organization, which provides employment op-

portunities to the youth across the country. Already, Kuppam in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka 1M1B, which has successfully provided job opportunities in Raichur areas of the state, has now chosen Yadadri Bhuvanagiri as the venue for the youth of Telangana for the first time in the state. Youth with intermediate, degree, B.Tech, ITI, diploma and other qualifications will get job opportunities in various fields through this job fair. Leading companies in the private sector will conduct live interviews and select eligible candidates. The screening of candidates, verification of certificates and token allocation process will be conducted on the first two days of the job fair, May 8 and 9. Later, the main interviews will be conducted on May 10 and the candidates will be selected for jobs. Also, awareness programs on guidance, communication skills and interview preparation will be organized specifically for the youth attending the interviews. Speaking on the occasion, Bhuvanagiri MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that it is a good development that when the youth have to go to other places for job opportunities, leading companies have come to the district center and provided job opportunities. "He said that this mega job fair, which is being organized keeping in mind the future of the youth, will show the path to employment to thousands of people. He specially congratulated the volunteers who have been working tirelessly for the success of this program for the past few days. "He also asked the youth, the people and the organizers to come forward in coordination to make the main program to be organized on May 10th a success. MLA Sri Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that this program is being organized with the aim of providing employment opportunities to the unemployed youth of rural and urban areas. He called on the youth to take advantage of this golden opportunity to build their future. The organizers of the Kumbham Foundation have urged the youth to attend this mega job fair in large numbers and take advantage of this opportunity. The District Library Chairman, Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairman, Thangallapalli Srivani Ravikumar Vice Chairman, Pothamsetty Manjula Venkateswarlu, Pochampalli Municipal Chairman, Ward Councillor, Bhuvanagiri town, mandal and village public representatives, senior leaders, Youth Congress leaders, Mahila Congress leaders and others participated in this program.

Employment opportunities for Youth Government's main goal - MLA K.R. Nagaraju



"Hanumakonda, May 8 (Indian Chronicle) : The primary goal of the state government is to provide wide employment opportunities to the youth as part of the 'Public Administration-Progress Plan', said Wardannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju. "He attended the mega job fair organized for the unemployed youth of the Warangal joint district at Kaloji Kala Kshetram in Hanumakonda on Friday as the chief guest. Forest, Environment and Endowments Minister Konda Surekha, Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya and District Collector Satyasharadha Devi participated in the event. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the government is taking special steps to ensure that educated youth do not face difficulties in getting jobs. He appreciated the initiative of bringing private sector companies on one platform through mega job fairs to provide job opportunities to the youth. "He advised the youth to utilize the opportunities available to them to showcase their talents and reach higher heights in life. He explained that the state government is giving priority to skill development and is organizing various training programs to improve employment opportunities. "Emphasizing that success can be achieved



through hard work, whether the tasks are small or big, the MLA encouraged the unemployed youth to move forward with confidence. "Public representatives, officials, representatives of various companies and a large number of unemployed youth participated in the program.

OSMANIA GRADUATE - NEW MEMBERS ELECTED AT NAMPALLY

"Hyderabad, 7 May: After 4 years, the Osmania Graduate Association got its new members elected here at Nampally exhibition society office. " The EVM vote counting was arranged here on Thursday, where new members of the society were declared before media. The elected new President - Mr. Narotham Reddy, Vice President - Prof. Gopal Reddy, Secretary - B. Prabha Shankar, J. Secy - Ashwin Margam, Treasurer - Dr. Vamsha Tilak, 12 managing committee members, 2 other staff representatives.

Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) from Ramanthapur have called upon the public to make Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting, scheduled to be held on May 10, 2026, at Secunderabad Parade Grounds, a grand success.



"UPPAL , MAY 08(INDIAN CHRONICAL): "As part of preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting on May 10, BJP leaders on Friday conducted an extensive public awareness campaign under the leadership of Ramanthapur Division President Vangala Santosh Gupta. Raising the slogan "Modi for the Nation - We for Modi," the leaders distributed pamphlets and invited people to attend the meeting at various locations including Ramanthapur Chinna Cheruvu, parks, and major roads. "Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said this would be Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first visit to Telangana after assuming office for the third time and urged people to make the meeting historic. They stated that the Central Government is committed to the development of Telangana and that Prime Min-

ister Modi would lay foundation stones for several development works and projects worth around ₹8,000 crore. "They appealed to the public, youth, farmers, and women to participate in large numbers in the massive public meeting. The leaders also said that strengthening a leader like Modi is important for democracy and expressed confidence that the BJP would come to power in Telangana, adding that people are increasingly turning towards the party and that the saffron flag would soon fly high in Telangana. "Senior BJP leaders Thalla Balakrishna Goud, Vempati Srinivas, Kompalli Upender, Mamilla Nandakishore Yadav, Shaga Ravi, Darshanala Sudhakar, Upender Yadav, Vemula Venkat Reddy, and Boddupalli Lingam, among others, participated in the programme.

Grand Tributes Paid to Late Former MLA Bandari Rajireddy by Venkat Reddy Nagar BRS Leaders"Former Division President Dr. B.V. Chary Leads Death Anniversary Observance of Former MLA Bandari Rajireddy



"UPPAL , MAY 08(INDIAN CHRONICAL): "As per the directions of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, the first death anniversary of former Uppal MLA Bandari Rajireddy, remembered as a leader of great values and personality,

was observed grandly on Friday under the leadership of former Venkat Reddy Nagar Division President Dr. B.V. Chary. "BRS State leader Pasula Prabhakar Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and paid floral tributes to the portrait of Bandari Rajireddy. Division leaders, women leaders, party workers, supporters, and admirers participated in large numbers and offered heartfelt tributes. "Speaking on the occasion, the leaders fondly recalled the developmental works undertaken by late Bandari Rajireddy in the Uppal constituency and remembered him as a leader who won the hearts of the people. "Among those who participated in the program were Rama Sahayam Srinivas Reddy, Jahangir, Madduri Srinivas, Addanki Ekantha Rao, Lavang Naveen, Dussa Ganesh, Panduranga Reddy, Kishore, Dr. Raju, Istari, Akbar, Ravinder Singh, Lakshman, Sagar, Narasimha, women leaders Radhamma, Rekha, Aishwarya, Meghamala, Mrs. Dasarath, Rajyalakshmi, Manjula, along with several admirers and party supporters.

Former Uppal MLA Bandari Rajireddy's Ideals Will Be Carried Forward: Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy



"UPPAL, MAY 08(INDIAN CHRONICAL): "A grand tribute program was organized at ECIL Radhika Crossroads on the occasion of the first death anniversary of former Uppal MLA Bandari Rajireddy. Uppal MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy attended the event as the chief guest and paid rich floral tributes to the portrait of Rajireddy. "Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bandari Laxma Reddy described Rajireddy as a great leader who worked selflessly for the people. He said Rajireddy dedicated his political life to resolving public issues and was always among the people, sharing in their joys and hardships. He noted that Rajireddy earned recognition as a true people's leader who was accessible to



everyone. "The MLA recalled Rajireddy's immense contribution towards the development of the Uppal constituency and said he had brought a good name to the region through several development initiatives. He added that it is everyone's responsibility to move forward on the path shown by Rajireddy and continue serving the people with dedication. "Former corporators Shireesha Soma Shekhar Reddy and Kotha Rama Rao, BRS state leaders Soma Shekhar Reddy and Bandari Neelam Reddy, along with party leaders Mahipal Reddy, Lakshmi Narayana Patel, Manemma, Kumar Swamy, Rahim, Shireesha Reddy and several other BRS leaders participated in the program.

Former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar and former corporator Bandaru Sravani Venkata Rao called upon people to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting in large numbers

"UPPAL , MAY 08(INDIAN CHRONICAL): "A massive public meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be held on May 10 at the Secunderabad Parade Grounds. As part of the mobilization efforts for the meeting, a wall painting program was organized on Friday in the Ramanthapur division. "The program was attended by former Uppal MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, former Ramanthapur corporator Bandaru Sravani Venkata Rao, division president Vangala Santosh Gupta, Mutthineni Jagadish, Vallapu Jagan Yadav, Sankuri Kumaraswamy, Ulugonda Narayanadasu, Vemula Tirupatayya, Boddupalli Srinivas, Kameswara Rao, Tammali Ravi, Prabhu Lingam, Deva, Suresh, and others. "The leaders actively participated in the wall painting campaign and appealed to the public to attend the May 10 meeting in huge numbers. They urged party workers and supporters to make Prime Minister Modi's



meeting a grand success for the development of the nation and the building of a strong India. The leaders expressed confidence that thousands of people from the Ramanthapur division would participate in the meeting.

HYDRAA Commissioner Questions Uppal MLA Over Proposed Bhoomi Pooja at Kapra Lake



— Commissioner reacts to complaint lodged by Kapra Congress leaders““UPPAL, MAY 08(INDIAN CHRONICAL):“HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath reportedly expressed serious displeasure over the proposed bhoomi pooja planned by Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy at Kapra Lake development works, questioning under what authority the MLA intended to conduct the ceremony.“According to sources, the Commissioner asked the MLA whether he was aware of official protocol, stating that inauguration and foundation ceremonies for development works are generally conducted in the presence of ministers and district in-charge ministers. He reportedly

questioned how the MLA could independently plan the bhoomi pooja without involving the concerned ministers.“The issue arose after Congress leaders from Kapra met HYDRAA Commissioner Ranganath on Friday and brought the matter to his notice. Congress leaders stated that Uppal Constituency Congress in-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy had secured Rs.35 crore funds for the development of Kapra Lake and that arrangements were already being made to formally launch the works through District In-charge Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu.“However, after learning about the proposed arrangements by the MLA to conduct the bhoomi pooja himself, Kapra Congress leaders approached the Commissioner seeking intervention.“Taking the matter seriously, Commissioner Ranganath reportedly spoke to Uppal MLA Lakshma Reddy over the phone and expressed his objections. He assured the Congress leaders that the bhoomi pooja would be conducted strictly according to official protocol.“Among those present during the meeting were Kapra Division Congress President Kobbanuri Naga Seshu, Medchal-Malkajgiri District Agricultural Market Committee Vice Chairman Vitthal Naik, former councillor Rajender, former AMC member Kobbanuri Nagaraju, senior Congress leaders Padamati Malla Reddy, Pottu Baburao, G. Satyanarayana, Tanneeru Srihari, Thotakura Srikanth, Gunasekhar, Rajaseelan and others.“

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bers of the society were declared before media. The elected new President - Mr. Narotham Reddy, Vice President - Prof. Gopal Reddy, Secretary - B. Prabha Shankar, J. Secy - Ashwin Margam, Treasurer - Dr. Vamsha Tilak, 12 managing committee members, 2 other staff representatives.

Census is a Strong Foundation for National Development-MLA K.R.Nagaraju

““Warangal (GWMC), May 8 (Indian Chronicle) : As part of the Government of India’s prestigious Census of India 2027, an awareness rally titled “Census Our Names Awareness Walk” was held on Friday. The event was attended by District Collector and Municipal Commissioner Chahat Bajpai along with Vardhannapet MLA and retired IPS officer K. R. Nagaraju, who participated as the chief guest.“The awareness rally was conducted from the Hanamkonda Municipal Office at MGM Circle to the historic Thousand Pillar Temple in Hanamkonda with great enthusiasm.“Speaking on the occasion, the MLA stated that the Census serves as a vital instrument for planning the nation’s development. He explained that accurate data from every family and individual helps the government design comprehensive plans for the effective implementation of welfare schemes, equitable distribution of resources, and development in sectors such as infrastructure, education, healthcare, and employment.“He emphasized that when citizens provide correct information during the Census, it enables the government to understand ground realities and undertake development initiatives tailored to public needs. He noted that Census data plays a crucial role in both rural and urban development.“Calling upon citizens to actively participate in nation-building, he urged everyone to extend full cooperation for the 2027 Census. He added that aware-



ness initiatives like this walk inspire social responsibility and public participation.“Later, he joined the rally and conveyed messages to the public about the importance of the Census. He appreciated the participation of women, youth, officials, and the general public.“The programme witnessed the participation of the District Collector, Municipal Commissioner, municipal officials, staff from various departments, representatives of women’s groups, students, public representatives, artists, and a large number of citizens.

Opposition’s Misinformation Campaign on Development Works-'Pambi Vamshi Krishna'



““Narsampet/Warangal, May 8 (Indian Chronicle) : Pambi Vamshi Krishna, Town Congress Party President, urged opposition parties to immediately stop misleading the public by giving a political colour to ongoing development works. He was addressing a media conference held at the Congress Party office in the town on Friday.“Referring to recent news reports claiming that an ancient temple in a dilapidated condition at Ashok Nagar village in Khanapur mandal had been demolished, he clarified that MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy and District Collector Satya Sharada visited the site and conducted an inspection.“He explained that during the construction works of the Integrated School, the contractor was carrying out land levelling and tree-clearing activities when the already partially collapsed walls of an old Shiva temple, hidden amid bushes, were slightly displaced due to JCB operations.“Officials observed that the structure was located on government land and was not recorded in the Archaeology Department’s registers. The MLA immediately initiated steps to bring the temple under the purview of the Archaeology Department by involving its officials.“He further stated that the MLA had assured reconstruction of the Shiva temple at the same location, along with the construction of a Saraswati temple nearby and the

Integrated School.“However, Vamshi Krishna alleged that certain BJP leaders were politicising the development works and spreading false propaganda by invoking religious sentiments. He also accused leaders of the BRS and BJP of attempting to provoke the public through “corpse politics” in recent times.“Town Congress Secretary Chippa Naga, Publicity Secretary Bitla Manohar, Youth Congress leaders Mulakala Manishwar, Mergu Kiran, Nadem Kanna, Goka Veda Prakash, Bhukya Ganesh, Devoju Hemanth, and others were present at the event.“

BRS staged protests in protest against BJP's attack on MLA, camp office

Karimnagar: BRS activists on Friday staged protest demonstrations in different parts of the erstwhile Karimnagar district against the alleged attack by BJP workers on the Karimnagar MLA camp office.

Dharnas and rasta rokos were held in Vemulawada, Medipalli, Gangadhara and other places. Participating in the protests, BRS activists raised slogans against Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. They found fault with the Union Minister, accusing him of provoking party workers to attack the MLA’s camp office as well as Huzurabad MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy.

Stating that law and order had been disturbed in the state, they alleged that the Congress and BJP were creating trouble for BRS leaders by colluding with each other. With Thursday’s incident, it was exposed that there was no safety even for MLAs, they said, and faulted the Union Minister for encouraging rowdy

Ministers Target Kaleshwaram Spending, Push Pranahita Revival



“Indian Chronicle, K.B. Asifabad Dist, Kagaznagar, May 8: Tourism and Culture Minister and Adilabad District In-charge Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said the Telangana government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is taking steps to restore the past glory of the irrigation sector in the state.“On Friday, Ministers Jupally Krishna Rao and Vivek Venkataswamy visited Tummidihetty, where they performed special prayers and offered Jalaharathi to the Pranahita River. The ministers also conducted a field-level inspection of the proposed barrage site.“They reviewed various aspects of the project with irrigation officials, including the proposed barrage height and capacity, works undertaken during the previous Congress government in united Andhra Pradesh, the submergence area in Shivini village of Maharashtra, and forest and environmental clearances.“Later, addressing the media, Minister Jupally Krishna Rao said the government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has decided to revive the Pranahita-Chevella Project, also known as the Tummidihetty Barrage, which was allegedly neglected by the previous BRS government.“He recalled that former Chief Minister Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy had laid the foundation stone for the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pranahita-Chevella Sujala Sravanthi Project in 2008 with an estimated cost of ₹38,500 crore to provide irrigation facilities to 1.6 million acres.“The minister stated that proposals had already been prepared for the construction of a 106-km canal, land acquisition for 71.5 km had been completed, and works covering 46 km were also finished during the earlier phase. However, he alleged that the previous BRS government sidelined the project and spent massive public funds on the Kaleshwaram project, causing a huge burden on the state treasury.“He further criticized the earlier government for opting to lift water through pumps instead of utilizing gravity flow, resulting in increased financial burden and heavy electricity costs. Referring to the Medigadda barrage issue, he said the sinking of pillars had rendered the project ineffective for proper water

utilization.“Jupally Krishna Rao said the construction of the Tummidihetty Barrage would enable water to be diverted to the Sripada Yellampalli Project through gravity without any electricity expenditure. He added that the project would greatly benefit farmers in Sirpur, Asifabad, Bellampalli, and Chennur regions.“The minister said the Telangana government would request the Maharashtra government to permit the construction of a 150-metre barrage at Tummidihetty. He clarified that Shivini village in Maharashtra would not face any submergence threat and assured better compensation and rehabilitation facilities for affected landowners. He also stated that the project would help improve ground-water levels in both states.“BJP Leaders Asked to Support Project“With Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to visit Telangana on May 10, Minister Jupally urged Union Ministers and BJP MPs from Telangana to bring the issue to the Prime Minister’s attention. He appealed to the Centre to support Telangana farmers and persuade the Maharashtra government to cooperate with the project.““No Room for Politics““The minister said opposition parties should avoid politicizing the project, which is being undertaken in the larger interests of the people of Telangana. He added that the government is committed to strengthening the irrigation sector and called for collective support.““Pranahita Project Shifted for Commissions“: Minister Vivek“State Labour, Employment and Mines Minister Vivek Venkataswamy alleged that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao shifted the Pranahita Project from Tummidihetty to Kaleshwaram for commissions, causing severe injustice to the united Adilabad district.“Describing KCR as a “Tughlaq Chief Minister,” Vivek accused the previous BRS government of pushing the state into heavy debt. He also alleged that contractor Megha Krishna Reddy rose to global prominence during the KCR regime.“

The minister claimed that while the Kaleshwaram project cost nearly ₹1 lakh crore, not even one TMC of water was effectively utilized. He said the Pranahita Project has the potential to provide irrigation to 1.6 million acres, including nearly 200,000 acres in the united Adilabad district.“Vivek Venkataswamy asserted that the Tummidihetty project would not cause any loss to Maharashtra and expressed hope that Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis would support the proposal. He added that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would soon lay the foundation stone for the Pranahita Project.“He also urged BJP MPs and MLAs from Telangana to work towards securing Maharashtra’s approval for the project, stating that ensuring justice to farmers remains the primary goal of the government.“MLC Dande Vittal, MLAs Gaddam Vinod and Palvai Harish Babu, Collector Haritha, SP Nikhita Panth, and others participated in the programme.

BRS Leaders of Chilukanagar Pay Rich Tributes to Former MLA Bandari Rajireddy



UPPAL, MAY 08(INDIAN CHRONICAL):“Following the directions of Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, BRS Party Chilukanagar Division former president Palle Nursing Rao led party leaders in paying rich tributes to former Uppal MLA Bandari Rajireddy on the occasion of his first death anniversary on Friday.“At Chilukanagar crossroads, BRS leaders garlanded the portrait of the late leader and offered floral tributes. Speaking on the occasion, party leaders said that Bandari Rajireddy had earned the trust of the people and always stood by the oppressed and underprivileged sections of society. They described him as a true people’s leader who remained accessible to the public at all



times.“The leaders stated that Rajireddy would remain forever in the hearts of the people as a dedicated public representative who worked tirelessly for the development of the Uppal constituency.

They also noted that leaders across party lines were paying homage to the late leader in recognition of his services.“Among those who participated in the tribute program were BRS leaders Kompelli Ravinder Mudiraj, Jalli Mohan, Gudi Madhusudan Reddy, Erelli Ravinder Reddy, Kompelli Rajkumar, Pottella Raju, Papireddy, Yadagiri, Santosh Reddy, Sadanam Chari, and members of the TRS party family.

Minister Jupally Visits Kagaznagar Paper Mill

Indian Chronicle, Kagaznagar, May 8: Tourism and Culture Minister Jupally Krishna Rao visited the paper mill in Kagaznagar on Friday. The mill staff welcomed the minister on his arrival.“During the visit, the minister conducted a detailed inspection of various departments within the mill. He interacted with officials and closely observed the paper manufacturing process.“The minister showed keen interest in understanding the different stages involved in converting wood into paper. Technical experts at the mill explained the entire process, including wood chipping, conversion into pulp, the use of chemicals, and the final preparation of paper rolls. They also briefed him on the functioning of machinery used in the production process.“Jupally Krishna Rao also held discussions on production activities, operational efficiency, and workers’ welfare measures.“MLC Dande Vittal, District Collector K. Haritha, MLA Palvai Harish



Babu, and others participated in the programme. District Public Relations Officer, Chejari

Bike Rally Held to Mobilize Support for Prime Minister Modi’s Public Meeting

“Nacharam, Indian Chronicle, May 8:“A massive bike rally was organized on Friday at Tarnaka under the leadership of BJP youth leader Sriram Venkatesh to mobilize support and ensure the grand success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s upcoming public meeting scheduled to be held on May 10.“The rally was conducted following the call given by BJP district president Bharat Goud. A large number of BJP youth leaders, party workers, and supporters enthusiastically participated in the event. The rally commenced from Tarnaka and proceeded towards RTC Cross Roads with participants raising slogans in support of Prime Minister Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party.“The atmosphere during the rally was highly energetic, with supporters chanting slogans such as “Long Live Prime Minister Modi’s Leadership” and calling upon the public to make the upcoming public meeting a historic success. The rally witnessed active participation from several senior BJP leaders including Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao, MP K. Laxman, along with other prominent party leaders.“Speaking on the occasion, Sriram Venkatesh stated that the BJP’s recent electoral victories across various regions have significantly strengthened the party’s morale and public confidence. He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi visiting Hyderabad has generated tremendous enthusiasm among party cadres and



the public alike.“He further urged BJP leaders, activists, sympathizers, youth, and members of every household to participate in large numbers and accord a grand welcome to the Prime Minister during the public meeting at Parade Grounds. He emphasized that the gathering should reflect the growing support for the BJP and the leadership of Prime Minister Modi in Telangana.“The bike rally concluded successfully amid tight coordination by party workers and enthusiastic participation from supporters across different localities.

From 50% payment before challenge to penalties on delay: Delhi enforces new traffic challan system



GNS News Agency, May 8

Traffic violators in Delhi will now have to deposit 50% of the fine before approaching a court to contest it under a new framework, which introduces a structured and time-bound process for settling challans with an emphasis on digital monitoring and stricter enforcement, a statement from Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's Office said on Sunday.Delaying traffic challans will cost dear, and payments must be made within deadlines," the CM was quoted as saying in the statement. It will trigger daily electronic notices.Continued non-payment will lead to restrictions on vehicle-related services, including tax payments and licence or registration processes. Vehicles may also be flagged as "not to be transacted" on the portal, blocking further trans-actions until dues are cleared. In certain cases, and sub-

ject to court orders, vehicles may even be impounded.Calling the system "fully digital, transparent and accountable," the CM said it is aimed at improving compli-ance with traffic rules and reducing road accidents.

The Delhi government, as per the statement, will also implement amendments to the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. As part of this, individuals committing five or more violations within a year will be classified as "serious offenders" and may face suspension or disqualification of their driving licence.Under the revised system, officials said, violators will have 45 days from the issuance of a challan to either pay the fine or challenge it before a grievance redressal officer through an online portal.If no action is taken within this period, the challan will be deemed accepted, and the individual will have 30 additional days to make the pay-ment. If a challenge is rejected, the violator can either pay within 30 days or move court after depositing half the challan amount.Failure to act within these timelines will result in the challan being treated as accepted, with payment required within a further 15 days.Meanwhile, the issuance of challans will be fully digitised. Authorities will generate e-challans through cameras and surveillance systems, in addition to physical issuance by traffic personnel. E-challans will be sent within three days if a mobile number is available, while physical notices will be delivered within 15 daysAll challans will be recorded sequentially on an online portal. Motorists have been advised to update their contact details on driving licences and vehicle registration certificates.

BJP eyes upset amid ‘anti-party’ activity allegations in Congress

GNS News Agency, May 8

As votes polled in the two Assembly bypolls in Karnataka will be counted on Monday, the results will come under scrutiny in light of allegations of "anti-party" activities in the Congress, though the contests will have no impact on its Government.Bypolls were held for the Davanagere South and Bagalkot seats on April 9, following the demise of Congress legislators Shamanur Shivashankarappa and H Y Meti.Congress fielded relatives of the deceased MLAs in both segments: Shivashankarappa's grandson Samarth Mallikarjun in Davanagere South and Meti's son Umesh Meti in Bagalkot.

The BJP fielded first-time candidate Srinivas T Dasakariyappa in Davanagere South and three-time MLA Veeranna Charantimath in Bagalkot.The BJP is looking for an upset in the bypolls as the Congress was plagued by disgruntlement, especially in Davanagere South, during the elections.The grouse in Davanagere South concerned the choice of Samarth as the candidate—Muslim legislators from the Congress had lobbied for a ticket for a leader of their community, highlighting that almost a third of the segment's electorate were Muslims.Samarth filing his nomination even before the Congress officially announced its candidate list had also not sat well with several leaders.A day after the polls, a section of Muslim legislators, led by MLC Saleem Ahmed, accused some Muslim leaders of



indulging in anti-party activities. Soon after, MLC Abdul Jabbar resigned as head of the state Congress's minority wing before being suspended from the party.The cabinet position of political advisor to the chief minister was with-drawn from another MLC, Naseer Ahmed, over the issue.Although the party considered action against Hous-ing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, it stopped short, fearing reprisal from the minority community.In Bagalkot too, the Congress suspended three members for "anti-party activi-ties" in the constituency: Murugesh, vice-president of the Bagalkot District Central Co-operative Bank and Kamatagi town panchayat members Gurulinga Patil and Ramesh Jamakhandi.

Property dispute Bhavnagar man, wife kill his parents, burn bodies to stage fire accident

GNS News Agency, May 8

THE BHAVNAGAR police in Gujarat arrested a man, his wife and two accomplices for the murder of his parents. Police said the victims – both senior citizens – were strangled and their bodies set on fire to stage a "short circuit" acci-dent, driven by the "son's desperation to settle a Rs 20 lakh debt".The police identified the arrested accused as Vimal Kishor Vaitha, his wife Hetal and two of their associates from Rajkot, Aamir Khan and Munir Khan. They are ac-cused of killing Vimal's parents, Kishor and Rekha Vaitha, who were both in their 60s.

The incident first came to light on April 19, when Vimal contacted his maternal uncles, claiming his mother was critically ill. By the time the relatives arrived in Talaja, the final rites were already underway.Vimal claimed to his fam-ily as well as the police that a short circuit in the house has sparked a fire, killing his parents while they were asleep. However, the complainant, Rajesh Damji Ranninga, the brother of Rekha, noted that the faces of the deceased ap-peared severely burned while the rest of the house looked untouched by fire.Vimal gave the police the same explana-tion when an accidental death report was filed immediately after their death on April 19. The police sent the bodies for autopsy and later handed them over to the family for final rites.Inspector Chavda mentioned that they had concerns about the couple's cause of death, as only the bed on which they had been sleeping had apparently caught fire.When the forensic report reached the police, it stated that Kishor Velji Vaitha died by strangulation. At the same time, Ranninga also suspected something was amiss, and when he learned about the cause of death of his brother-in-law, he told the police about the conversations he used to have with Kishor Vaitha.



The FIR stated that Vimal would frequently ask his parents for money. Over time, these demands increased, and he allegedly began putting pressure on his parents to sell their house, shop and jewellery to give him money. But Kishor Vaitha had turned down these demands. Vimal and his wife Hetal had moved out of the house and moved to Rajkot, police said.Police Inspector V R Chavda told The Indian Express that on the basis of the forensic report of Kishor Vaitha, they detained and subsequently arrested Vimal and Hetal on May 1 after booking them for murder. Vimal allegedly admitted to the killing and gave the police the names of two more persons involved in the crime. On that basis, the police arrested Aamir Khan and Munir Khan from Rajkot on May 2.On the motive for the alleged killings, Inspector Chavda said, "Vimal is in the imitation jewellery business but he suffered massive losses and incurred a debt of Rs 20 lakh, which is why he urgently needed money to repay loans. He sought the help of Aamir Khan and Munir Khan to kill his parents."

Ahmedabad transgender woman booked after video atop police vehicle goes viral

GNS News Agency, May 8

The Sabarmati East police Sunday booked a transgender woman for creating a public nuisance and ob-structing traffic after a viral social media video showed her posing atop a police patrol vehicle. The video, which cir-culated widely over the weekend, shows the accused dressed in a black sari and sitting on the bonnet of a police car. The vehicle's "112" emergency branding and overhead lightbar were clearly visible, sparking an online debate over the lack of police oversight over official property.

The police believe the video was shot at night along the Sabarmati Riverfront. The Ahmedabad city police launched an inquiry Saturday and identified the specific patrol vehicle and the individual in the footage by Sunday morning."We have registered a case," said B P Rajya, Po-lice Inspector of Sabarmati East. "A notice has been served to the accused to appear at the police station for further questioning."



The police booked the accused under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 285 (obstruction of traffic) and 290 (negli-gent conduct), and Gujarat Police Act sections 110 (nuis-ance in a public place) and 117 (punishment for sections related to traffic, public places, and nuisance).

Focus is on ensuring drivers can communicate in Marathi: Pratap Sarnaik



GNS News Agency, May 8

The Maharashtra Transport Department has launched a 100-day statewide verification drive targeting autorickshaws, taxis and other public service vehicles. The exercise combines checks on permits and licences with an assessment of drivers' working knowledge of Marathi. Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik explains the objectives, implementation strategy and legal framework of the drive.

What are its key objectives behind you initiating this drive?

The 100-day drive, running from May 1 to August 15, is a statewide enforcement and compliance initiative de-signed to address two interconnected issues in the trans-port sector.First, it focuses on ensuring that commercial drivers are able to communicate effectively with passen-gers in Marathi. On the other, it targets illegal and unauthorised transport operations, which continue to func-tion in several parts of the state despite earlier enforcement action.At the ground level, the drive will be implemented through all Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) in Maharashtra. Dedicated officers will carry out field inspec-tions and direct roadside interactions with drivers, rather than relying only on paperwork or desk-based verification.Senior officials at the state level will monitor the progress through weekly reviews, ensuring enforcement is consistent across all regions and not limited to isolated checks. The emphasis is on continuous field presence and real-time action during the entire 100-day period.

The Marathi requirement is being enforced only through spoken interaction, supported by officers and a new guide-book. How will this model actually work on the ground across 59 RTOs, especially given the scale of drivers involved?The Marathi communication requirement under this drive is de-signed as a field-based, interaction-driven system rather than a formal examination model.Across all 59 RTOs in Maharashtra, designated officers will directly engage with drivers during routine inspections and check their ability to communicate in basic spoken Marathi used in passenger interactions. The focus is on functional communication in real transport situations, not classroom-style

assessment.To support this, the Transport Department has introduced a "Practical Marathi" guidebook, which standardises commonly used phrases that drivers can rely on during daily operations. This is intended to ensure that communication is consistent, practical, and easy to adopt even for non-Marathi speakers.What is significant in this model is that implementation is being combined with struc-tured weekly programmes at the RTO level, where senior officers monitor progress and coordinate training efforts.In addition, early pilot-level enforcement in places like Mira-Bhayandar has shown that a large number of drivers are willing to adapt to basic Marathi communication, and trans-port unions have also indicated support for the initiative. The idea is not to introduce a one-time compliance test, but to build a gradual system of spoken language adaptation sup-ported by field officers, unions, and certification over time.

Illegal share-autos remain a persistent issue across Maharashtra, including high-demand areas like BKC. How will this drive address that?The concern is not limited to individual pockets like BKC or Mira-Bhayandar, but extends to multiple urban and semi-urban corridors where passen-ger demand is consistently high. In such areas, informal shared transport systems tend to develop and operate out-side the formal licensing framework.Under the 100-day drive, RTO teams will carry out widespread field inspections across Maharashtra, covering transport hubs, busy junc-tions, and high-traffic commuter routes. The focus will be on identifying vehicles that are operating without valid per-mits or authorisation under transport rules.The enforcement approach will be active throughout the duration of the drive, rather than limited to occasional checks. The intention is to ensure continuous monitoring over the 100-day period, so that illegal operations do not re-establish themselves after enforcement action.When violations are detected, specifi-cally cases involving operation without valid licensing or unauthorised passenger carriage, legal action will be initi-ated, including FIRs where required.

Despite repeated enforcement, illegal services con-tinue to operate. Why is it difficult to control them, and what will be different this time?The persistence of illegal trans-port operations is primarily linked to high passenger demand in dense urban areas, combined with gaps in formally regu-lated transport availability.Over time, informal systems have developed to respond to this demand, making enforcement a recurring challenge. Despite periodic action, these ser-vices often re-emerge due to structural pressures in the transport ecosystem.What is different in the current drive is its scale and continuity. Instead of isolated or district-specific enforcement, this is a coordinated 100-day state-wide programme involving all RTOs, with structured moni-toring and regular reporting mechanisms.The objective is to move away from reactive enforcement and create a con-tinuous compliance framework during the entire drive pe-riod.

As BJP candidate leads by 52 votes, Congress alleges tampering, to explore legal options

GNS News Agency, May 8

A dispute over alleged irregularities in a court-ordered recount of postal ballots in Karnataka's Sringeri constitu-ency—which flipped the 2023 Assembly results in favour of the BJP by a margin of 52 votes on Sunday—sparked a war of words between the ruling Congress and the BJP.While the Congress alleged a "conspiracy" and "crimi-nal activity" behind the invalidation of votes polled for its candidate, T D Rajegowda, the BJP demanded that the re-count results be declared immediately.Speaking to report-ers, Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president D K Shivakumar said that BJP candidate and former MLA N Jeevaraj had conspired with some officers and tampered with the postal votes."More than 200 postal votes were marked using pens," he said, noting that the same votes without the marks were validated by election agents from both parties during counting after the 2023 Assembly polls."A conspiracy was hatched to deny votes to our MLA. There was criminal activity to make the votes invalid," he said, adding that the Congress would explore legal options apart from seeking an investigation into the incident.Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka contended that the Con-gress Government was piling pressure on election officials not to declare the results.Noting that the recounting was carried out based on a Karnataka High Court order, he said the court clearly stated that whoever received more votes



would be declared the winner."Where is Rahul Gandhi, who keeps shouting about 'vote chori'?" the BJP MLA asked.The postal ballot recount concluded early Sunday morning. Dur-ing the re-verification process, BJP candidate Jeevaraj nar-rowly edged past Congress MLA Rajegowda by 52 votes.

The recount, ordered by the high court in April 2026, aimed to resolve the Congress MLA's narrow 201-vote margin in the 2023 elections. However, it has led to allega-tions of ballot tampering from the Congress camp.The con-troversy revolves around 255 postal ballots that were origi-nally marked for Rajegowda in 2023 but were declared in-valid during the recounting process.

How a donor heart travelled from Chandigarh to Delhi to save a 14-year-old Sudanese boy

GNS News Agency, May 8

In a race against time, a 14-year-old Sudanese boy was saved on Saturday evening after a donor heart was retrieved from Command Hospital, Chandimandir, and flown to New Delhi in just 29 minutes.The coordination between the Indian Army, private medical teams, and aviation au-thorities marked the first-ever airborne organ mission of its kind in the northern sector, spanning from a military hospi-tal to a private healthcare facility.The young patient, battling a terminal heart ailment at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in New Delhi, reportedly had less than 24 hours to live. In a ray of hope, a compatible donor heart was identified at the Command Hospital in Chandigarh.

Despite the heavy air traffic typical of peak evening hours, the chartered flight carrying the organ was airborne from Chandigarh at 6.51 pm, and touched down at the Delhi airport by 7.20 pm. Within an hour of landing, the heart was successfully transplanted into the recipient.Group Captain P S Lamba, VSM (Retd), Vice President of Air Charter Ser-vice Private Limited, described the mission as a "historic achievement.""This was a complex operation involving medical-legal documentation, OT briefings, CISF coordina-tion under DGCA protocols, and the establishment of green corridors by civil traffic police in both cities," Lamba said. "We are honoured to have played a role in saving this child's life."The mission was authorised by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO). To maintain the organ's viability, it was packed under strict sterile condi-tions with perfusion solutions and ice packs. Because of the risk of infection, the box could not be X-rayed or placed with general baggage, necessitating specialised handling by the aviation crew.Senior officials associated with the mission noted that this successful transfer marks a mile-stone for India's medical aviation sector."This mission proves that India can successfully transfer critical organs like the heart within the precious 4-to-6-hour viability win-dow," a senior officer said. "It is an inspiring achievement



for thousands of patients waiting for such rapid connectiv-ity to become more frequent."The joint operation involved Command Hospital (Chandimandir), Indraprastha Apollo Hospital (New Delhi), and Air Charter Services Private Lim-ited

Late coming, early logout to cost leave

Hyderabad: Arriving late to the office or early logging out will now cost the Directorate of School Education (DSE) employees their leave. Taking a serious stance regarding attendance and punctuality, the Directorate announced that employees arriving late or leaving early from the office will face a cut in their leave entitlements.Permitting employees to mark facial recognition system (FRS) attendance up to 10.40 am, in a recently issued circular, the DSE said mark-ing attendance between 10.41 and 11.30 am will be consid-ered late and a casual leave will be deducted if an employee arrives late three times.Further, logging out between 4 pm and 5 pm will be considered early and three such logouts will result in one casual leave deduction.

Against all odds | ‘I felt like the universe was doing its duty’: 75-year-old Pune gynaecologist on reaching Everest Base Camp

GNS News Agency, May 8

Battling biting cold, snowfall, and thinning oxygen levels in the Himalayas, Dr Sharayu Ghole, 75, Pune-based gynaecologist and educator, reached Everest Base Camp at 5,364 metres on April 6, along with her daughter-in-law, Pallavi Ghole. The climb was as much about adventure as it was a vindication of what Sharayu Ghole told herself every day as she undertook the gargantuan task: “that one can do anything one wants.”“Everybody asks me why at this age, but for me, I am not old! I feel very active and can do what I want to,” she said. Dr Sharayu Ghole is currently associated with Sumati Balwan School and works with underprivileged children in the Gujar-Nimbalkarwadi area.

The idea of attempting the trek came unexpectedly during a walk on Taljai Hill, where she met a trekker who had recently completed the Everest Base Camp journey. He noticed her trekking poles and asked if she was preparing for something, something that had not even crossed her mind at the time.Soon after, Shreekanth Dhumale, founder of Sagarmatha Explorers and one of the key organisers of the trek, introduced her to the expedition team and encouraged her to take up the challenge. “When someone says you can go to the highest peak in the world, I just jumped at the idea,” she said.

While the initial days of the trek were manageable, the realities of the Himalayan terrain soon set in. She said the impact of low oxygen levels was far more intense than expected. Guided by Sherpa Phurba, the group navigated harsh weather conditions, including rain, snowfall, and strong winds, making each stage of the ascent physically demanding.In the final stretch, however, she described experiencing a different kind of strength. Over the last three to four days, her energy levels remained unexpectedly high despite the altitude. “I didn’t really worry. I felt like the uni-



verse was doing its duty, and I was destined to complete this journey,” she said, attributing her resilience to a sense of spiritual power.

Despite her age and physical limitations, she said she did not experience the kind of strain many would expect. She added that while walking felt manageable, the real challenge was enduring the cold during rest. “When you’re moving, it’s fine. The difficulty is when you’re stationary, but you come to terms with the cold,” she said.Despite the conditions, her mindset remained steady. She said her work as an educator shaped her belief. “I run a school for underprivileged children and an ashram, and I tell them every day that they can do anything. I was telling that to myself too.”She described reaching the base camp as an experience beyond words, calling it a mix of accomplishment, pride, peace, and transformation. “It was an amazing feeling. You cannot put it into words... It was bliss,” she said.She also credited her daughter-in-law as a constant source of support during the trek, describing her as more than a daughter and noting that they both enjoyed the journey together.

How grills and nets put up by victims of Vivek Vihar fire came to haunt them

GNS News Agency, May 8

In the narrow lanes of Vivek Vihar in East Delhi, where buildings are packed tightly enough to share both light and shadows, the early hours of Sunday were broken by screams.From the first-floor balcony of the home where he has lived since 1984, Gurdeep Singh Gill watched the fire begin around 3.30 am. It was a flicker on the second floor of a neighbouring building which, within minutes, turned into something else entirely.“There was no space for people to get out,” Gill said hours later, standing outside the four-storey, seven-year-old building where the tragedy had struck.

Most of the eight flats in the building are owned rather than rented. At the back, where the fire broke out, the balconies had been sealed with metal grills, and some were covered by plastic netting. The stairwells were narrow and enclosed.When the fire brought flames, smoke and panic, the incremental additions to the structure, to grab space to dry clothes or keep potted plants, became life-and-death barriers.

From his balcony, Gill watched the second floor disappear behind smoke. Within half an hour, he said, the fire had cut off the only escape route for those on the higher floors – the stairs that lead up to the terrace.The neighbourhood was ringing with voices — the screams of terrified children, wails of traumatised victims, shouted instructions from those who had gathered. Gill said he ran to fetch a pipe and aimed a jet of water upwards from his balcony at the flames.Inside the burning building, the panic was rising quickly. Two teenage girls were trapped on the second floor. Gill said he joined others below to drag mattresses into position, laying them out in the hope of cushioning the fall, should they choose to jump. Rescuers worked to cut through the grills so that people could slip through.“We managed to cut a part of the metal to make space for people to come out. Three people could be taken out through the opening; two others jumped,” Gill said.The family of Arvind Jain lived on the second floor. His wife and daughter were caught inside. The wife would not come out; she seemed either too terrified or was incapable, Gill said.By then, the smoke was so thick that nothing could be seen. The building had effectively vanished behind a dark, acrid, choking, swirling screen. “No one on the third floor was visible,” Gill said.The Fire Brigade had arrived, but the firemen found their task had been made difficult by the additions that had been made to the building over the years.



“The residents were stuck in the back of the building,” Gill said. Firemen had access from the front, but the rear, where the fire was raging, had been blocked by the very features that residents had added over time. “If they weren’t there, maybe some lives could have been saved,” Gill said.Manik Malhotra, an IT professional who lives in the neighbourhood, said he reached the building around 4 am. By then the fire, which had begun on the second floor, had engulfed the third floor and was licking at the fourth. The first floor, Malhotra said, was largely intact.It was evident that the dense layers of grills and plastic netting at the back of the building were making the crisis worse.“There was a 4-inch gap,” Malhotra said. “Even getting a pipe through was difficult.”At one point, three people — including two elderly women — managed to edge out onto a narrow ledge behind the netting, gasping for air as smoke filled their home, witnesses said.From a neighbouring house, residents brought an angle grinder, a handheld machine meant for cutting metal. The power supply had been cut, so someone started a generator, witnesses said. Firefighters took the tool and began slicing through the grill.“That helped, the firefighters cut through it completely,” Malhotra said.Through the opening, three people were pulled out using ladders. But the higher floors remained sealed behind thicker, denser layers of netting. Ladders had to be carried in by hand; hoses repositioned repeatedly. The rear lane was too narrow for the fire trucks to enter.“If it wasn’t for this net, the casualties would have been reduced,” Malhotra said. In his assessment, “All of them on the third and fourth floors could have been saved.”Once the fire was put out, residents of the neighbourhood stood around the blackened building with its hollowed out windows. They spoke about what happened, why, and what could have been.

‘Nari Vandana mask off’: Rahul targets Gujarat BJP chief over ‘indecent’ remarks on Geniben

GNS News Agency, May 8

A remark made by BJP’s Gujarat unit president Jagdish Vishwakarma at a party victory celebration in Banaskantha district on Thursday regarding Congress’s lone MP from the district Geniben Thakor has evoked strong reactions from opposition leaders, who have called it “indecent” and demanded action against him.

Addressing party workers at ‘Banas Vijayotsav’ on April 30, two days after the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) won most of the local self-government bodies in the elections held on April 26, Vishwakarma commented on how “mothers and sisters” and BJP workers had “snatched the seats from your (Geniben’s) saree pallu (tamari saadi na pallav mathi bandheli seato aanchki lidhu chhe)”.“We respect you ben, you are sister to all of us, but the way you insulted the sisters of Gujarat, of Banaskantha, and the 70 crore women of the country [by not supporting] the Nari Vandan Adhiniyam (the 106th Constitutional amendment to bring 33% reservation for women in the higher elected bodies), the sisters of Banaskantha will never forget... a fitting reply was given by our mothers and sisters by taking away the seats from the pallu of your saree,” Vishwakarma had said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi took to X on Saturday and responded in Hindi: “The mask of ‘Nari Vandana’ has come off. This is not just shameful—it’s the true face of the BJP’s Manuvadi, anti-woman ideology.”Women who challenge power are intolerable to them—their distorted mindset surfaces instantly. And as for the Prime Minister, he’s already fed parliament in a panic from the questions by Congress’s women MPs. Modi ji himself has said, “A woman forgets everything, but never her insult”, yet the BJP has forgotten this. The anti-woman BJP



should remember: the women of Gujarat and across India will give a fitting slap in response to every insult.”Congress working president Jignesh Mevani, the MLA from Vadgam in Banaskantha district, demanded police action against Vishwakarma.“Such indecent words... do not sound good coming from any political leader’s mouth. This is not just an insult to all the mothers, sisters and daughters... I want to tell the entire Thakor samaj that you should give a fitting reply to this dirty remark made about our sister, Banas’s sister. I demand that the state government and police set an example by lodging a case against Jagdish Vishwakarma.”Thakor, in a social media post, demanded an apology from Vishwakarma and challenged him to “contest and win from Banaskantha in the 2027 assembly elections”. “I will request my party high command to give me a ticket to contest from wherever Vishwakarma contests from...” said Thakor.The Congress MP could not be reached for a comment. Also, Gujarat BJP leaders didn’t immediately respond to queries.

Jamun prices start to dip as supply improves

GNS News Agency, May 8

Jamun (black plum) is becoming more accessible in Pune’s Gultekdi market after weeks of tight supply and high prices. Wholesale rates, which had surged due to poor harvests in the Konkan region, are now stabilising at Rs 180 to Rs 230 per kg, while retail prices ranging between Rs 300 and Rs 500 per kg are also expected to come down as arrivals pick up.

Why was Jamun so expensive?

The primary reason for the supply crunch was a sharp drop in yield from the Konkan region, a key jamun-growing area. Farmers attribute the poor harvest to erratic weather patterns and shifting seasonal timings, a problem that also hit Alphonso mango growers in the same belt this year.

Ajit Ghule, a fruit trader at Pune’s Gultekdi market, explained that arrivals had been limited to 70-80 crates per day over the past few weeks, with each crate holding 20 to 22 kg. “After the two-day holiday, supply has increased, and rates have started stabilising to around Rs 180 to Rs 230 per kg,” he said.The market is now receiving around 150 crates daily, effectively doubling arrivals. Ghule, however, cautioned that high quality, size, and volume of the fruit will depend on whether the Konkan region receives timely showers.

While the area remains a key source, supply chains have diversified. Fresh stock is arriving primarily from Sawantwadi, Banda, and Kankavli in the Konkan, with areas around Pune also beginning to contribute, said Sudhir Atik, a retailer at Mahatma Phule Mandai.Fruit trader Mauli Ambekar from Gultekdi offered a broader picture of how jamun reaches Pune through the season. Supply typically



begins with arrivals from Gujarat, followed by the Konkan region, and then Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and other parts of Maharashtra.

“Andhra Pradesh accounts for over 60 per cent of the total supply to Pune’s markets. There is a trend that jamun supply usually increases after the Alphonso season ends,” Ambekar added, suggesting that the market should see more comfortable availability in the coming weeks.

Why Jamun is in high demand?

Jamun is particularly sought after by people managing diabetes, given its low glycemic index, which helps regulate blood sugar levels. The fruit is rich in antioxidants, including anthocyanins, and is a good source of iron. Regular consumption is associated with benefits for liver health, improved digestion, and better haemoglobin levels – making it one of the most valued summer superfoods in India.

Why a ‘spirited’ Punjab Assembly session ended in a confidence vote and a tactical return to Mahatma Gandhi

GNS News Agency, May 8

Punjab’s Vidhan Sabha briefly turned into a political theatre when Bhagwant Mann faced Opposition claims, led by Congress MLA Sukhpal Khaira that he arrived “spirited” in more ways than one. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) quickly slipped into damage-control mode. Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan made a timely exit, leaving Deputy Speaker Jai Krishan Rodi soon after the Congress staged a walkout.Meanwhile, the hunt was on for Harpal Singh Cheema, busy receiving President Droupadi Murmu, as he is a known baiter for Khaira. Cheema rushed in, words flew, and the House resembled a debate show. The Speaker reappeared, adjourned proceedings, and by afternoon, Mann returned with a confidence motion because nothing says control like raising the stakes. The Congress? Absent. The sitting was about ‘plenty of noise, quick exits, dramatic entries and a confidence vote that faced no confidence test at all.

Convenient amnesiaWhen the AAP government, shaken by desertions of its Rajya Sabha MPs, tabled its confidence motion in the Vidhan Sabha, it needed numbers. And loyalty. Preferably, both in the same seat. Jalandhar MLA Raman Arora, once pushed to the fringes, carrying the weight of vigilance cases, arrests, and a political silence that followed his release from jail last September, was the man of quiet importance. Arora’s reappearance in the Assembly during the crucial session did not go unnoticed.

Nor, evidently, did it go unrewarded. Even before he could fully settle back into the rhythms of legislative business, his withdrawn security detail was quietly restored, almost as if the system had been waiting for his attendance register to be marked. In a state where allegations of corruption can often be as persistent as they are inconvenient, the episode suggests a certain administrative elasticity.Cases may linger, but priorities shift. And when governments face arithmetic anxieties, memory can be remarkably short. For Arora, the confidence motion delivered more than political signalling. It brought back the com-



forts of state protection.

During the latest Vidhan Sabha sitting, Mann didn’t just acknowledge Congress MLA Rana Gurjit Singh’s presence; he spotlighted it by saying Rana ji is also sitting. This was not without a knowing smile that suggested there was more to the acknowledgement than what met the eye. And then came the real news. Mann went a step further, casually projecting into 2027, suggesting that Rana Gurjit’s son, an Independent MLA, Rana Inder Partap, might well find himself seated in the AAP camp. It wasn’t quite an invitation, but a prediction.In Punjab’s Assembly politics, such off-the-cuff remarks rarely come without a reason. Whether it was friendly banter, strategic bait, or an early casting call for future alignments is open to interpretation. But in a House where numbers matter and loyalties are increasingly fluid, even a passing comment can double up as a signal. After all, in this season of shifting sands, today’s aside can easily become tomorrow’s headline.The AAP first removed portraits of Mahatma Gandhi from Punjab government offices, replacing them with those of B R Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh. It was a symbolic shift to convey a subtle message that the party swore by Bhagat Singh’s spirit of sacrifice and Ambedkar’s constitutional vision. The move was widely seen as a shift in the set of icons representing official state spaces.

‘Bhagwant Mann was clearly drunk in Assembly’: BJP delegation meets governor, seeks CM’s removal

GNS News Agency, May 8

A delegation from the Punjab BJP led by the party’s state president, Sunil Jakhar, met Governor Gulab Chand Kataria in Chandigarh Sunday, seeking the removal of Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, alleging that he attended the Vidhan Sabha session on Friday in a “drunken state”.Submitting a memorandum to the governor, the BJP said that Mann committed “grave constitutional misconduct” by addressing the House in an “inebriated state.”

The party, in its memorandum to the governor, further alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party Government was “mis-using the state machinery and agencies to target political opponents”.The BJP wrote that the “registration of two FIRs against Rajya Sabha MP Sandeep Pathak is an act of political vendetta following his exit from the ruling AAP.”The BJP has informed the governor about raids conducted by the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) at the factory of Rajya Sabha MP Rajinder Gupta, owner of Trident Group, who also left the AAP for the BJP recently, along with Pathak Seeking Mann’s removal, the BJP wrote, “It has been widely reported and publicly discussed that the Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann, attended the May 1 session of the Punjab Legislative Assembly in an inebriated condition. The way he addressed the Assembly and reporters outside the House, it clearly shows he was drunk. Such conduct represents a grave affront to the dignity of the House and undermines the sanctity of democratic institutions,” reads the memorandum.The BJP wrote that the leadership of a sensitive border state like Punjab, facing both internal and external security challenges, demands utmost responsibility, alertness, and discipline.

“There is a growing public perception that the Chief Minister is habitually under the influence of alcohol during crucial hours of governance, which raises serious concerns about his ability to discharge constitutional duties effectively. In view of the above, we urge Your Excellency to seek an appropriate explanation and recommend necessary action, including consideration of his removal, in the interest of preserving constitutional integrity and public trust,” it further reads.In a statement issued by the BJP, Jakhar said, “If the law does not allow a person under the influence of alcohol to drive, then how can such a person be allowed to run a state? We have urged the governor to ask the ruling party



The BJP tells Governor Gulab Chand Kataria that there is a growing public perception in Punjab that the CM is habitually under the influence of alcohol during crucial hours of governance.

leadership to select a new leader, as Bhagwant Mann has lost the moral right to remain the chief minister.”

Jakhar said the BJP requested the governor to summon the chief secretary and ascertain whether he was working under any pressure. “According to reliable sources, during the May 1 Cabinet meeting, held prior to the Assembly session, apart from two ministers, the chief secretary was also allegedly threatened and humiliated. It is necessary to call officials and ensure they can work freely in accordance with the law, without fear,” he said.Jakhar said the Assembly session held on Labour Day was merely a pretext, claiming Mann convened it “to save his position”.“After the session, AAP MLA Raman Arora—who has been jailed in a corruption case—was provided police protection, which shows that the Government is shielding corrupt individuals,” he said.On the reported registration of FIRs against Pathak, Jakhar said, “The BJP is not afraid of such cases. The FIR was filed to intimidate members within the ruling party and prevent them from leaving.”The BJP delegation included the party’s state working president, Ashwani Sharma, and other senior leaders such as Vijay Sampla, Shwait Malik, Som Prakash, Fateh Jang Bajwa, Manpreet Singh Badal, Preneet Kaur, Parminder Singh Brar, Kewal Singh Dhillon, Tikshan Sood, and Vineet Joshi

How the weaker US dollar is affecting everyday expenses



GNS News Agency, May 8

New York: A hidden force is quietly pushing up costs for everything from your summer vacation to your weekly grocery bills: a weaker US dollar. The dollar has fallen about 10 per cent against other major currencies since President Donald Trump returned to the White House, a pullback that is potentially playing a role in Americans' concerns about affordability. "It's kind of a hidden tax," says economist Thomas Savidge of the conservative-leaning American Institute for Economic Research. "What your dollar is going to be able to buy is going to shrink."

A look at where the dollar stands and what it means for you: The US Dollar Index, which measures the greenback against other major currencies, logged its steepest six-month drop in more than 50 years in the first half of 2025. Though the decline hasn't deepened, the dollar index is still about 10 per cent lower than at the start of Trump's term. A strong dollar makes imports cheaper and can help keep inflation in check. A weak one can increase prices of foreign goods but boost American exports. US presidents have long voiced support for a strong dollar even as they pursued policies that, at times, pushed the currency lower. Trump has suggested a strong dollar puts the US at a disadvantage and that a weak dollar helps American industry. And as with most things involving Trump, he has been blunter in his messaging.

"You make a hell of a lot more money with a weaker dollar," he said last year, one of a number of public statements showing his preference for seeing the dollar decline. Trump isn't alone in seeing the benefits of a weaker buck. In recent months, corporate earnings calls have been peppered with talk of how a weaker dollar has helped companies from Philip Morris to Coca-Cola, with executives using C-suite phrases like "favourable currency impact" to note how the dip brought tailwinds outside the US that added to bottom lines. "In many cases, we've got a weaker dollar, which is not unhelpful," Elie Maalouf, the CEO of InterContinental Hotels, said on a February call as the company announced higher profits and revenues.

For big multinational companies that do business overseas, a weaker dollar can spur sales for products that suddenly become cheaper. But the vast majority of US businesses are not operating beyond the border. For those catering to domestic customers, it is a different story, particu-

larly if they are reliant on imported goods.

Travis Madeira, a fourth-generation lobsterman who founded the lobster-shipping business LobsterBoys with his brother, makes about 80 per cent of his sales to Americans, unlike some competitors who primarily export. "The exporters are gonna have the advantage when it comes to the dollar weakening," says Madeira, who is paying more to import bait and buy Canadian lobsters. "These guys are gonna have a little bit of a lever on us."

Even among companies that do have a presence outside the US, the dollar's fall can have an impact. While many big companies hedge currency to try to insulate themselves or push more sales overseas, smaller businesses are often more susceptible to the turbulence. David Navazio, CEO of Pennsylvania-based Gentell, which makes bandages and other medical supplies, operates plants in Brazil, Paraguay, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. In each location, the dollar has fallen, increasing Gentell's costs. Gentell has had to raise some prices to reflect the currency fluctuation, which adds to other challenges, including tariffs and war-related spikes in fuel costs. For the American consumer, the reality of a declining dollar is most obvious during foreign travel or when making a purchase directly from an international seller.

Cross the border into Mexico, the top foreign destination for Americans, and your dollar is about 16 per cent weaker against the peso compared with early 2025. Declines of about 10 per cent to 17 per cent have been recorded elsewhere, including against the Swiss franc, South African rand, Danish krone, Swedish krona and the euro.

As for goods imported into the US, there is an impact, but it is harder to gauge. Many economists estimate that, in advanced countries like the US, only about 5 per cent to 10 per cent of a currency dip is passed on to consumers. But they are an added stress when prices are already affected by other factors. Take coffee, one of the grocery items that has seen the biggest price hike in the past year. Brazil is the biggest source of coffee for the US, and the dollar has fallen around 13 per cent against the real. Currency fluctuations can hit harder in developing economies and, while only a fraction of the change may feed into coffee's ballooning price, every bit can add up. Coffee prices are up nearly 19 per cent in the US in the past year, according to government data.

Currency values are constantly moving and, while the dollar's recent fall is notable, it has reached lower levels at points during the presidencies of each of Trump's predecessors, dating back to the creation of the Dollar Index in 1973, when Richard Nixon was president. Kenneth Rogoff, a Harvard University economist and former chief economist at the International Monetary Fund, says while "a lot of policies that Trump is pursuing are something of a cancer for the dollar," he believes it was destined to fall no matter who was in charge. "The dollar had been on a 15-year bull run," he said. "I would argue the dollar is still wildly overvalued, and over the next maybe five or six years, it might fall 15 per cent."

After Nepal PM Balendra Shah's ordinance, 1,594 political appointees removed

GNS News Agency, May 8

Kathmandu: In a decisive step that shocked many, Nepal's President Ram Chandra Poudel on Saturday issued an ordinance for the removal of 1,594 political appointees from previous years in a single stroke. The move has triggered widespread disruption across Nepal's administrative sector. Officials across universities, state-owned enterprises, regulatory bodies, councils, boards, research institutes, and media organisations have been dismissed, leaving many institutions without leadership. Described as one of the most sweeping administrative overhauls in recent years, the provision in the "Ordinance on Special Provisions Relating to the Removal of Public Officials from Office, 2026" mandates that all appointments made prior to March 26 are automatically terminated, regardless of tenure, benefits, or terms of appointment. "Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in prevailing laws, public officials appointed and currently holding office in public entities as per the schedule prior to March 26 shall be automatically removed from their respective positions upon the commencement of this ordinance," the document states. The sweeping move to dismiss so many officials has, however, raised concerns over the functioning of these institutions in the absence of the prompt appointment of new leadership. The ordinance was issued as per the recommendation of the Cabinet led by Prime Minister Balendra Shah. The move follows the March 5 elections that brought the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP) to power with a near two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives, the lower house.

Ever since its senior leader, Shah, was appointed Prime Minister on March 26, the new government has taken several steps to make changes across various sectors. President Poudel had earlier suspended a parliamentary session called for April 30 as per the recommendation of the government, which paved the way for the issuance of an ordinance. Some of the actions of the new government have been controversial, particularly the forceful removal of squatters from Kathmandu's riverbeds by destroying the huts and buildings they had



constructed. Supporters of the new government argue that it was necessary to remove many fake landless people who had occupied the riverbeds. The government promised to resettle genuine landless people. However, many have argued that the Balendra Shah government mercilessly evicted settlements without alternative arrangements, leaving many families homeless and rendering women, children, and the elderly vulnerable.

Several influential and controversial businessmen have been arrested for investigation on money laundering charges. Another ordinance to amend the Money Laundering Act has also been issued, aiming to prosecute those in power more easily than before. Former Prime Ministers KP Sharma Oli, Sher Bahadur Deuba, and Pushpa Kamal Dahal are also facing money laundering investigations. Notably, the push for digital governance and the early completion of service delivery by government agencies have invited widespread applause.

MLA Rohit Pawar, Shiv Sena leader and Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Neelam Gorhe, and BJP Rajya Sabha member Medha Kulkarni, visited the victim's residence to offer condolences. The girl's father, meanwhile, appealed to political leaders not to visit him until the accused is "hanged till death". "By the time I came to immerse the ashes of my daughter in Dehu village, I received calls from my family members that multiple politicians were coming to our residence to offer condolences. I appeal to all politicians that until my daughter receives true justice, until that accused is hanged, please do not visit my house. It's a humble request," he said in a video message. "We will meet politicians, or anyone else who wishes to meet us, only after the accused is hanged," he added. Earlier in the day, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis assured that the government would push for the death penalty for the accused in the Pune child rape-murder case, asserting that the state would fast-track the trial to ensure justice in "record time".

SIT formed in Pune child rape-murder case amid public outrage

Pune: A Special Investigation Team (SIT) has been formed to probe the rape and murder of a four-year-old girl in Pune district of Maharashtra amid massive outrage over the brutal crime. "An SIT comprising six police officers, including two women, has been set up. We will add more officers and personnel depending on the course of the investigation. The team will thoroughly probe the case," a police officer said on Sunday. A 65-year-old man with a criminal record has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting and murdering a four-year-old girl in a village in Bhor tehsil of Pune district. He allegedly lured the girl with the promise of food on Friday and took her to a cattle enclosure, where he allegedly sexually assaulted her and later killed her by hitting her with a stone, according to police. The accused was remanded to police custody till May 7. The crime has sparked massive outrage and protests, with demands for capital punishment for the accused. Several political leaders cutting across party lines, including NCP (SP)

OPEC+ agrees to oil output quota hike amid Hormuz blockade, Kuwait oil exports zero



GNS News Agency, May 8

New Delhi: Amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, OPEC+ countries have agreed in principle to raise oil output targets in June. Multiple reports say that seven OPEC+ countries have agreed to raise oil output targets by about 188,000 barrels per day next month. The output hike would rather be largely symbolic until Strait of Hormuz reopens. This will be the third consecutive monthly increase amid the geopolitical crisis and the departure of the UAE from the group.

With the UAE leaving, OPEC+ includes 21 members, including Iran. However, only the seven nations (and the

UAE) have been involved in monthly production decisions. Iran, also an OPEC+ member, has seen its own exports dwindle amid the blockade. Crude oil output from all OPEC+ members averaged 35.06 million bpd in March, down 7.70 million bpd from February. Last week, the UAE announced it was leaving the OPEC and OPEC+ cartels in what is seen as a major setback to the group of oil-exporting countries led by Saudi Arabia.

The UAE said the decision reflected its "long-term strategic and economic vision and evolving energy profile". The exit of the UAE is expected to weaken the oil cartel at a time when the Persian Gulf countries have taken a huge hit to their exports due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz by an embattled Iran. The UAE accounts for around 15 per cent of the OPEC oil exports. Reports also surfaced that Kuwait exported zero barrels of crude oil in April, a situation not seen since the 1991 Iraqi occupation, due to blockade of the Strait of Hormuz. Kuwait Petroleum Corp declared force majeure, impacting around 2 million barrels per day. The blockade has led to a complete disruption in Kuwaiti exports. Meanwhile, oil prices dropped after reports said Iran proposed fresh talks with the United States using Pakistan as a mediator. West Texas Intermediate fell more than five per cent and dropped below \$100 per barrel. It later recovered to \$101.7. Brent crude also fell more than three per cent to \$106.98 before rising again to \$108.4.

How redistricting and the Supreme Court have cut voters out of US House races

- The number of competitive U.S. House of Representatives districts in this fall's midterm elections was already near historic lows before the U.S. Supreme Court's decision on Wednesday opened the door to even more aggressive efforts to draw district lines for political gain. The court's ruling, which arrived amid what was already an unprecedented national fight over congressional redistricting, may usher in a new era of nakedly partisan gerrymandering ?that results in still fewer competitive elections, leaving voters with less power than ever, experts said.

Jumpstart your morning with the latest legal news delivered straight to your inbox from The Daily Docket newsletter. Sign up here. The lack of competitive races means that control of the U.S. House of Representatives will likely be determined in November's midterm election by fewer than 10% of Americans, with the winners in the vast majority of districts all but assured before a single ballot is cast, a Reuters analysis found.

Only 32 of the House's 435 seats are currently considered competitive, according to the analysis. Those districts were rated either toss-ups or leaning toward Democrats or Republicans by three leading independent forecasters: Cook Political Report, the University of Virginia's Crystal Ball and Inside Elections.

Most other districts ?are simply out of play. Cook, for instance, rates 375 seats, more than 85% of the House, as either "Solid Republican" or "Solid Democrat," which means its analysts do not expect them to be ?seriously contested. Another 28 races are "likely" Republican or Democratic, according to Cook, meaning they are not competitive at present but might become so under new conditions. This ?year boasts the fewest competitive House races at this stage of the election cycle since at least 2008, according to an archive of prior Cook ratings. Democrats need to gain just three seats to win ?a House majority, giving them the power to block President Donald Trump's legislative agenda and initiate investigations into his administration. The shrinking House battlefield is the result of several factors, including increased political polarization. But the weaponization ?of congressional redistricting, or gerrymandering ?which has gone into overdrive since last year, when Trump began pushing Republicans to draw new maps ?is a critical element that is only going to accelerate after the Supreme Court's ruling, according to experts. "We are now in a cycle of gerrymandering wars," said Justin Levitt, a professor at Loyola Law School who maintains the website All About Redistricting. "What used to be a cold war has gotten very hot." The court hollowed out a provision of the federal ?Voting Rights Act that had blocked state legislatures from dismantling districts with mostly racial minority voters. Political observers expect Republican-led states to target a dozen or more Democratic-held majority-Black and majority-Latino seats that previously enjoyed stancher ?protections. "I think it gets worse before it gets better," Levitt said. "And I think there's plenty of room for it to get worse."

'NO GUARDRAILS' The lack of competitive districts can have consequences for Congress, said Matthew Klein, a House analyst ?with Cook. If ?House candidates only



need to appeal to their base voters to win elections, rather than moderates or members of the opposing party, they are more likely to move toward the extremes instead of the political middle. "If you look at Congress and how it acted 20 years ago, 30 years ago, even farther back, you see a Congress that is both less acrimonious and also more productive," he said. "There used to be bills that passed with huge majorities on major issues. We just don't really see that anymore."

Gerrymandering has long been a feature of American democracy, but the practice has been supercharged in recent years as guardrails, both legal ?and institutional, have been torn down. In 2019, ?the Supreme Court found that while partisan gerrymandering ?may be undemocratic, federal courts had no role in regulating it. Last year, Trump successfully pressured Texas Republicans to rip up their map and draw a new one targeting five Democratic incumbents, triggering a nationwide arms race that spread to nearly a dozen other states. That move eviscerated what had been a traditional norm ?limiting most redistricting to the start of each decade, after the U.S. Census population count is completed. The Supreme Court's ruling on Wednesday, meanwhile, has given ?even more leeway to lawmakers ?to draw districts for their party's benefit. And all of those developments have come against a backdrop of technological advances, with mapmakers able to identify Democratic and Republican voters down to the census block. "If there are no guardrails, there are no guardrails," Levitt said. "I think the constraint is now realpolitik and imagination, not, 'We just don't do that.'" Gerrymandering is not the only culprit to blame for the lack of competitive districts. Voters have become more geographically ?sorted, as rural ?areas have trended conservative while suburban regions moved left. And just as House members have become more polarized, so too have voters. ?Split-ticket voting, in which voters choose a candidate of one party for a higher office and another for a lower office, was once fairly common, but no longer. In 2000, there were 86 House members elected whose districts voted for the opposing party's presidential ?candidate, according to research by Kyle Kondik, the managing editor of Crystal Ball. In 2024, that number was down to 16.

How Trump is moving to control U.S. elections, one state at a time

The man on the line said he was an agent at the Department of Homeland Security ?and he needed immediate access to voter records. Franklin County has a large population of Democrats and has long been a focal point of Republican skepticism about urban voting centers in Ohio. In the weeks that followed, the requests multiplied. According to emails reviewed by Reuters, the agent asked for voter registration forms and voting histories for dozens of voters ?records that include driver's license numbers and other confidential data. He pressed for information about local voter-registration groups, describing the request as an "investigation" and "very time sensitive." But he offered no explanation for what prompted his probe or where it was headed.

The requests were a bolt from the blue for Franklin County election officials. Under the U.S. Constitution, elections ?even for national offices such as the presidency ?are run by states, not the federal government. Adding to the confusion, DHS's mission has traditionally focused largely on counterterrorism, border security and immigration enforcement.

"We'd never received a call from Homeland Security before, so that was unusual," said Antone White, the county's elections director. He said he complied, but still does not know the purpose of the inquiry. DHS declined to comment on the Ohio operation, but said its agents are "actively rooting out and investigating election fraud wherever it can be found." The U.S. attorney's office for southern Ohio declined to comment on whether any federal investigation was underway. The Ohio episode is part of a larger pattern Reuters found in at least eight states: a wider-than-known federal push into the machinery and conduct of U.S. elec-

tions, which since the founding of the republic in 1789 have been run by states and local governments. Trump administration officials and investigators have fanned out across the country, seeking confidential records, pressing for access to voting equipment and re-examining voter-fraud cases that courts and bipartisan reviews have already rejected.

Email from DHS agent to the Franklin County Board of Elections requesting voter information, reviewed by Reuters under a public records request.

In Ohio, federal investigators have collected voter records in at least six counties, two of them solidly Democratic and the others politically competitive, citing unspecified investigations. The scope of those probes hasn't been previously reported. In Nevada, the FBI sought voter information from the secretary of state's office, a request not previously disclosed, as part of a Justice Department probe into the 2020 election.

In Colorado, a senior Trump administration cybersecurity official approached a county clerk to seek access to voting machines, the clerk said, in another previously unreported incident. The episodes are prompting local election officials in some states to reassess a federal government long viewed as a partner in election security. In Colorado, at least 63 county clerks are consulting with their statewide association on how to respond to possible federal subpoenas or the arrival of federal agents at polling places, while in South Carolina, officials from more than 40 counties plan to attend an all-day July workshop focused on similar scenarios, including the presence of armed federal officers at voting sites, officials in those states told Reuters. The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

India closer to expanding its nuclear fuel base



New Delhi: India may be closer than ever to achieving long-term nuclear self-reliance, following a key milestone in its ambitious three-stage nuclear programme, according to an article. The report in the Vietnam Times described the development as a potential turning point in India's decades-old strategy to overcome fuel constraints and build a sustainable nuclear energy base.

According to the article, India has long faced a fundamental challenge — “India didn’t have much uranium, the fuel most nuclear reactors run on.” Even today, it is noted, the country remains dependent on imports, including major agreements with countries like Canada. However, India possesses “vast reserves of thorium or 25 per cent of the global total, buried in its sands,” offering a unique long-term opportunity. The report says that thorium cannot be directly used as fuel and requires conversion, prompting India to adopt a long-term approach rather than quick fixes. “Instead of chasing speed, (Indian nuclear scientist Dr Homi J.) Bhabha chose something far more ambitious: a system that could turn this resource scarcity into self-reliance, even if it

took decades to get there.” This vision led to India’s three-stage nuclear programme—beginning with uranium, transitioning to plutonium, and eventually unlocking thorium. For years, the second stage remained incomplete. But that changed recently. “On April 6th, India’s Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam... achieved criticality for the first time.” The report underscores the importance of this moment, noting that “criticality is the point where a nuclear reactor becomes self-sustaining,” the article said. While fast breeder reactors exist elsewhere, the Vietnam Times points out that “in most other countries, the efforts behind these reactors haven’t exactly gone as planned”. India’s persistence, therefore, stands out, it said. “And yet, India didn’t back down from this pursuit. It stayed committed to breeder reactors because they were essential.” The significance of the milestone lies in its long-term implications. As per the Vietnam Times, “by achieving criticality, India has shown that it can run a reactor using plutonium-based fuel... bringing the country closer to... expanding its nuclear fuel base”. These reactors can “produce more usable material than they consume”, effectively transforming limited resources into sustainable fuel. The report also highlights the technological complexity involved, including the use of mixed oxide fuel and liquid sodium cooling, which “has to be sealed, monitored, and engineered with extreme precision”. Despite the breakthrough, the report cautions that challenges remain. Nuclear energy currently accounts for just over 3 per cent of India’s electricity generation, and “there’s still a long way to go”. However, if successful, the programme could significantly reduce dependence on imported uranium. Summing up the achievement, the report notes that India may finally be realising Dr Bhabha’s long-held vision: “Running on fuel it already has instead of relying on the world for it.”

India targets 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047

New Delhi: India is aiming to scale up its nuclear power capacity more than tenfold — from the current 8.8 gigawatts (GW) to 100 GW by 2047 — as part of its long-term energy transition strategy. Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), has said. Speaking on the sidelines of a session focused on India’s nuclear roadmap in the national capital, Prasad said the ambitious expansion would require a sustained and accelerated pace of development. “A detailed roadmap has already been prepared, outlining the steps needed to achieve the 100 GW target, with legislative reforms forming a key part of the plan,” he noted. “One of the major milestones — the enactment of the Shanti Act — has already been completed,” he said.

However, he added that significant work remains in framing rules, procedures and guidelines to operationalise the framework. “These efforts are currently underway, with a focus on incorporating stakeholder feedback and ensuring smoother implementation,” Prasad mentioned. Prasad said ongoing deliberations are aimed at fast-tracking financial flows and policy execution, while also simplifying and standardising processes to make nuclear energy more cost-effective. He highlighted the need to address multiple aspects such as fuel security, site selection and development of skilled human resources to support the expansion. He also indicated that the sector is likely to open up to wider participation in the coming years. At present, nuclear power



generation is dominated by a single player, but Prasad said that 10 to 12 companies could enter the space in the future, significantly accelerating capacity addition. On the operational side, he underscored the reliability and stability of nuclear energy, describing it as a dependable source of baseload power that can run continuously for years. He added that nuclear energy remains one of the safest and most stable forms of power generation when managed properly. At the same time, Prasad pointed to emerging technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as both an opportunity and a challenge, noting that these are still under development globally but could play a crucial role in cleaner energy solutions.

To make hosting less stressful, strive for connection and not perfection



Inviting friends and family members over for a celebration, holiday or routine dinner provides an opportunity for connection, but pressure to serve good-tasting food in a clean and welcoming environment can deter many people from hosting or prevent them from being fully present with their guests when they do.

But there are not only ways to reduce the stress of entertaining at home, but strong arguments for throwing a party, planning a game night or bringing guests together over a shared meal, according to mental health experts and experienced hosts. Without in-person social gatherings, adults can become increasingly lonely and isolated, especially as more work is done remotely and conversations take place via text messages. “Oftentimes, we expect someone else to reach out to us. But if the vast majority of people are expecting someone else to do it, then it’s going to become a rare thing,” said Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a psychology professor at Brigham Young University and the lead author of a 2023 U.S. surgeon general’s report on the widespread health risks of loneliness. Seasoned party-planners say that striving to create meaningful interactions instead of for perfection alleviates some of the stress of hosting. Organizing activities that give guests a way to settle in or mingle, planning a simple menu and asking for help are some of the strategies they use to create an event that everyone, even the host, can participate in and enjoy, they say. “When we are more socially connected, we are not only happier, but we’re healthier and live longer,” Holt-Lunstad said. Madeline Johnson, 24, posts recipes, decoration tips and ideas for backyard parties on social media under the name Madeline May. She said she got into hosting because she was seeking social connection. “As an only child, I always wanted community,” said Johnson, who hosted about a dozen large events with friends and at least five smaller gatherings with family members last year. “I started to realize if I wanted that village around me that I would have to build it on my own.” Now, she wants to help other people build the courage to invite guests over and facilitate bonds between them. “There’s just way too much unnecessary pressure that makes people feel like the bar to host is up here when it’s much lower,” Johnson said. As someone who is more naturally reserved, she likes planning an activity

for her gatherings, such as painting a flower vase or answering trivia questions, to reduce the initial anxiety of socializing, especially when the group includes people who don’t know each other.

Asking guests to bring different foods or assigning them shared tasks like setting the table also can spark conversations and reduce work for the host, Holt-Lunstad said. “In the U.S., we are so time deprived and have over-scheduled everything that it is difficult to sit down and be present, but a meal allows us to do that. We should not underestimate the power of what food can do,” she said. Shared appetizers like charcuterie and grazing boards, and meals that can be prepared in advance such as casseroles, soups and other dishes, are simplifying how people host, reducing time in the kitchen on the day of and making serving and cleanup easier. Oregon-based chef and cookbook author Josh McFadden, who is known for turning seasonal ingredients into approachable, shareable dishes, talks in one of his books about grazing-style eating having roots in communal farm tables. Butter boards, which involve spreading soft or whipped butter on a platter topped with honey, herbs or spices and dipped into with bread and crackers, are a modern interpretation that have gained popularity. “You can put a lot of variety and textures and different flavors into things in an easier way, showing off the seasonality of the food. It becomes a mobile meal,” McFadden said in an interview with The Associated Press. “It also creates conversation, and it’s just a fun way to eat.” Serving food arranged for picking from a platter is a quick way to serve guests, he said. McFadden also suggests incorporating store-bought foods and asking guests to bring specific dishes or beverages as other ways hosts can lighten their loads. Katie Eu, 26, who lives in New Hampshire, says she loves a “bring your own” type of gathering, especially since hosting can get expensive if it’s not a potluck or friends don’t take turns playing host, like she and hers do. “It is pretty low pressure because what you are providing is not the food, but the space for people to gather,” Eu said. Providing a setting for social connection matters more than how great the food is, what the decor looks like or how spacious a home is, said Richard Slatcher, a social psychology professor at the University of Georgia. “The other stuff is a bonus,” Slatcher said. “It’s really about the people.” Inviting people into your home for the first time nevertheless creates a feeling of vulnerability since guests can learn a lot about the host’s taste, interests and beliefs through the color scheme, the books on the shelves, and the art work and mementos on display. Try to remember that vulnerability also is an essential element in fostering authentic human connections, said Slatcher, who co-led research with Holt-Lunstad on how attending live events can combat loneliness. Guests also have a responsibility when it comes to making a social event fulfilling for themselves and their host, Holt-Lunstad said. “If you’re passively being an attendee, you are not going to feel connected,” she said.

Pune dermatologist explains how to decide what hair loss treatment is right for you: Hair transplant, PRP or GFC



For many, the first sign of a receding hairline or a widening part triggers a frantic digital search. In an era of viral before-and-after photos, patients often arrive at clinical consultations with a self-diagnosis but a deep sense of therapeutic confusion. Also read | What is hair transplant? Who is suitable candidate and how to find best hair transplant doctor: Here’s a complete guideline An interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Dhanraj Chavan, dermatologist, Clear Skin Clinics and HairMD, Pune, broke down the clinical logic used to navigate three prominent hair restoration paths: platelet-rich plasma (PRP), growth factor concentrate (GFC), and hair transplantation. “Most patients who come to me have already been through a cycle of confusion,” Dr Chavan observed. “They have read about PRP on Instagram, seen a friend get a hair transplant, and heard GFC mentioned at a consultation somewhere. By the time they sit down with me, the question is not whether to treat their hair loss. It is about which treatment to choose, and whether they have waited too long,” he added. How hair loss treatments differ

Understanding what happens beneath the scalp is the first step in managing expectations. Dr Chavan highlighted that while PRP and GFC are often grouped together, they serve a fundamentally different purpose than surgery. “PRP uses your own blood,” Dr Chavan said. He explained, “We take a small amount of blood, then spin it to get the growth factors. After this, we put it into the scalp. This helps the hair roots you already have, even if they are weak or not growing. It will not make new hair roots.” GFC is often viewed as a more refined version of PRP, designed for higher potency and stability. Dr Chavan shared, “GFC works in the same way. There are more activated growth factors in it. The way it is made reduces the risk of a reaction. For patients where PRP has plateaued or caused irritation, GFC is often the next step.” When biology can no longer be stimulated, mechanics take over. “A hair transplant is a type of

surgery,” said Dr Chavan. “In this, healthy hair roots from the back of the head are taken out. Then they are placed in areas with less hair or where hair no longer grows. Unlike PRP and GFC, the results in the treated areas are permanent,” he explained. Also read | Stand-up comedian reveals what a year after a hair transplant really looks like; says it cost him ‘ ₹1 lakh’ The choice isn’t just about preference; it’s about the current health of the hair follicle. Dr Chavan warned that injection-based therapies have an expiration date based on the patient’s stage of loss: “The critical thing to understand is that injection-based therapies work on existing follicles. Once a follicle has completely stopped producing hair, no concentration of growth factors will revive it. The treatment window for PRP and GFC is real, and it closes.”

“If you are in the early stages of thinning, where follicles are weakening but still present, PRP or GFC is where I start,” Dr Chavan said. “The main idea at this stage is to slow hair loss and strengthen your hair. These treatments do not need surgery. You will not have a long recovery time,” he added. When surgery becomes necessary For patients who have moved past the thinning stage into visible baldness, the conversation shifts toward reconstruction. “For patients in the moderate-to-advanced stages, where there is visible recession or bald patches, and some follicles are no longer active, a transplant becomes the relevant option,” Dr Chavan explained. “It addresses what cannot be recovered through injections. But where the new hair is put is very important. This choice will affect you for years. So, you should not pick based on how much it costs or if you can get it right away. Think about it carefully,” he added. Often, the best approach is a hybrid one. “In many patients, both phases are needed at different points,” he noted, adding, “A transplant addresses the gaps; GFC or PRP maintains the surrounding native hair afterwards.” The doctor’s final advice

Before committing to any procedure, Dr Chavan insists on a diagnostic baseline to ensure the patient isn’t wasting time or money on a treatment their scalp can no longer support. “Get a trichoscopy done before making any decision,” he urged. “This scalp scan shows the condition of individual follicles and tells you how much active hair you have left. That single investigation shifts the conversation from guesswork to a proper treatment plan,” he said. Dr Chavan’s parting advice to those currently struggling with hair loss is rooted in timing: “Hair loss is progressive. The right treatment at the wrong stage either underdelivers or solves the wrong problem. Starting early, with accurate diagnosis, gives you the most options.”

Longevity doctor shares 5 foods that directly target visceral fat: fatty fish, walnuts, berries, and more

All body fat is not the same. They are primarily differentiated into subcutaneous fat, which is present below the skin, and visceral fat, which is found around the internal organs. The latter is more difficult to lose and causes greater harm to our health. According to Dr Vassily Eliopoulos, a longevity expert trained at Cornell University and co-founder and chief medical officer of Longevity Health, when we think of fat loss, we often forget to take visceral fat into consideration, since it is not the fat that we can “pinch.” In his words, “Visceral fat doesn’t show up on a scale. It doesn’t look a certain way. It sits deep inside your abdominal cavity, wrapped around your organs, producing inflammatory signals and disrupting insulin function every hour of every day. You can be a normal weight and carry dangerous levels of it. Most people have no idea.” However, visceral fat responds to specific nutritional inputs faster than almost any other type of fat, shared Dr Vass. The foods that move it work through three pathways:

Taking to Instagram on April 18, he shared five such foods that help us target visceral fat in our bodies. They are as follows.

1. Fatty fish Fatty fish is rich in healthy omega-3 fatty acids, particularly EPA and DHA. It works in the following way: Suppresses inflammatory pathways Improves insulin sensitivity so glucose fuels muscle, not fat storage. One should ideally include fish like salmon, sardines, or mackerel two to three times every week. It can also be supplemented with two to three grams of EPA/DHA daily supplement, shared Dr Vass.

2. Walnuts Walnuts contain polyphenols and alpha-linolenic acid, noted Dr Vass, stating, “Gut metabolism of walnut polyphenols produces compounds that directly suppress fat cell formation.” One should aim to have 28g every day for breakfast, snack, or on salads. According to the physician, swapping walnuts with other nuts will not work as the specific polyphenol profile of the nut matters. 3. Berries Berries are rich in anthocyanins. They work in the



following ways: Activate genes that enhance fat burning. Suppress genes involved in fat production and inflammation. Slow glucose absorption to reduce insulin spikes. Consuming 100 to 150 grams of berries every day suffices. It can be blueberries, strawberries, or blackberries, and frozen works just as well, shared Dr Vass. 4. Extra virgin olive oil Extra virgin olive oil is rich in compounds oleocanthal and oleic acid. “Oleocanthal inhibits inflammatory enzymes at therapeutic levels with daily use,” stated Dr Vass. “Oleic acid improves cellular insulin sensitivity directly.” The recommended quantity for daily consumption is two to four tablespoons. Dr Vass suggested replacing seed oils like canola and vegetable oils entirely, which he claimed negates the benefits of olive oil.

5. Green tea Green tea is loaded with EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate), a compound that activates fat oxidation pathways and improves insulin sensitivity. It works best when consumed daily and paired with regular strength training, shared Dr Vass. Green tea can be consumed three to four cups a day, brewed at home, he added. Foods to avoid to lose visceral fat Dr Vass further shared four food groups to avoid to better lose visceral fat. These undo the benefits received from the foods listed above. They include:

Kajal Aggarwal says ‘love you more than all the stars in the sky’ as son Neil turns 4

Mumbai: Actress Kajal Aggarwal compiled a sweet birthday wish for her son Neil as he celebrated his 4th birthday on Sunday. The ‘Singham’ actress took to her official Instagram account and published a couple of photos from Neil’s astronomical-themed birthday celebration.

Hoping that the little one’s love and curiosity for the universe never fades, Kajal wrote on the photo-sharing app, “Happiest 4th birthday, my darling sunshine Neil.... May your love for adventure, space, planets, and this beautiful universe always shine bright. May your curiosity and magical imagination never fade. (sic)“ “May you always feel the blessings of Lord Ram and Krishna, and continue to joyfully lose yourself in their beautiful stories. May you always remain their most favourite child We love you more than all the stars in the sky,” she went on to add.

Referring to her little one’s love for astronomy, Kajal concluded the post saying, “P.S. You truly do justice to your name, my little astronaut.... Reaching for the stars already and stealing our hearts along the way.” For those who do not know, Kajal tied the knot with businessman Gautam Kitchlu on October 30, 2020. The lovebirds welcomed their first child, a baby boy, on 19 April 2022. On the professional front, Kajal is believed to play Mandodari in Nitesh Tiwari’s highly ambitious “Ramayana”.



Phule’s legacy comes full circle: Why his native village traded a memorial for a high-tech CBSE school



GNS News Agency, May 8

When a group of villagers approached architect Rishikesh Huli in 2020 for renovation of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule’s memorial at Khanavdi, Phule’s native village, the discussions led to an unusual idea—to build a top-class school instead. With support and approval from the state government and Pune Zilla Parishad, the plan was presented to the entire village. Residents readily agreed to provide land for the school. Their only condition was that they would not accept a state board or a Marathi-medium school. “Children of the poor cannot go to English medium schools. The fee is too high. That is why we demanded that a CBSE English school be constructed. Only if children of the poor learn in English will they become something in the future,” said Kiran Hole, a resident of Khanavdi. Authorities agreed to pilot a new model and approved the state’s first Zilla Parishad CBSE school.

After efforts by villagers Navnath Hole, Ramesh Newase, Jayvant Hole, and Bharti Raut, 12 acres of pastureland in the gram panchayat’s possession were provided for construction. Fiat India contributed Rs 21 crore as CSR funds for the construction, while the Zilla Parishad provided Rs 15 crore. As the Zilla Parishad lacked the capacity and experience to run a CBSE school, a search for credible organisations was launched, and non-profit Christel House India emerged as the final choice. Huli and other contractors worked pro bono on the project. Finally, the Jyoti-Savitri Zilla Parishad School was inaugurated by the Chief Minister in April 2026. A total of 260 students were admitted from kindergarten and classes 1 and 2 in the initial year. All children from Khanavdi were admitted, and Christel House India conducted household surveys in more than 400 houses in neighbouring villages to select eligible underprivi-

leged students. Parents overjoyed Khanavdi resident Sumit Jathar and his wife base themselves in Pune for five days a week due to work. Their son was previously admitted to a private school in the city under the RTE 25 per cent quota. But starting this year, he will attend the new Jyoti-Savitri school. Jathar said, “My son moving back from Pune to the village to get a good education is a big deal. He is staying with my parents. I am also thinking about moving back so that I can spend more time with him. This has only been possible because we live in Mahatma Phule’s village.”

Akshay Hole, another resident working as a gym instructor in Pune, had admitted his son to a private school in Keshav Nagar in kindergarten for Rs 10,000-15,000 per year. Now his son has been admitted to the Jyoti-Savitri school in class 1. “Every parent wishes that their child gets a good education in English. If it happens through a Zilla Parishad school, it is always welcome. Education through boards like CBSE is the best and we wanted that,” Hole remarked.

Contrasts exposed Equipped with modern labs and infrastructure, like a robotics lab with 3D printers and drones, the new Jyoti-Savitri school exposes the dismal state of education in regular Zilla Parishad schools. Khanavdi’s original Zilla Parishad school, located hardly 50 metres away from the new one, has only 22 students enrolled. No one is moving back from Pune city to enrol their children in this school. It offers Marathi education only up to class 4 and is now slated to be shut down as students will be admitted to the Jyoti-Savitri Zilla Parishad school instead. Last year, The Indian Express reported how Aditi Parthe, a class 7 student selected for Pune Zilla Parishad’s NASA educational tour after three rounds of tests, came from the Nigudaghar Zilla Parishad school, which did not even have a single computer. The new school has commenced only for the initial three grades and will accept admissions only in kindergarten from next year onwards. This structure also deprives students from the old Zilla Parishad school who are currently in class 3 or 4 from ever getting admission to the new school. When pointed out, Zilla Parishad CEO Gajanan Patil told The Indian Express, “You are right. We will have to think about this, on how to accommodate them in the coming years. It’s a good suggestion.” The Zilla Parishad has also announced that the Jyoti-Savitri Zilla Parishad School pilot project will be replicated across the district. However, the feasibility of replicating a model in which a government school is built through CSR funds and is run by an NGO remains to be seen.

Pakistan denies visas to 92 Indian devotees



GNS News Agency, May 8

Islamabad: The Pakistan government has denied granting visas to 92 Indian devotees, according to an article published in the Khalsa Vox news portal. The article said that initially, the nation had issued visas to the devotees for the period from April 10 to 19, during which pilgrims celebrated Khalsa Sajna Diwas at Gurdwara Panja Sahib. Though these 92 devotees do not use “Singh” or “Kaur” in their names, all of them have firm faith in all the ten Sikh gurus, Sudeep Singh writes in Khalsa Vox. In his article, Singh blamed the “flawed policies” of the Pakistan government for hurting the religious sentiments of the Indian families by depriving them of the opportunity.

He said that the incident should be a lesson for those who still aspire for friendship with Pakistan. “It appears that Pakistan’s intention is to distance people of the Hindu community from Gurdwaras. Under what seems like a calculated move, Sehajdhari devotees have been denied visas,”

Singh wrote for Khalsa Vox .

The article noted that a large number of non-Sikh families exist not only in India but also in Pakistan’s Sindh province and across the world, who bow before the Guru Granth Sahib and conduct all their family ceremonies in accordance with Sikh traditions. Singh, in his editorial, cautioned that Pakistan would make a “grave mistake” for harbouring such intentions. He called the relationship between Hindu and Sikh families as “deeply intertwined, like flesh and nails”, which cannot be separated. Pakistan’s previous approval of visas from April 10 to 19, was against India’s schedule. The Indian government, based on recommendations from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee and the Punjab government, had announced sending the ‘Jatha’ from April 12 to 21, Singh wrote in Khalsa Vox. He highlighted Pakistan’s pretense to be “sympathetic” towards the Sikh community, even as its Intelligence agency ISI is allegedly involved in sending drugs and weapons into India and also providing financial support to pro-Khalistan elements based abroad.

Earlier, investigators in India’s Punjab had busted a drug smuggling module, with alleged links to Pakistan. The police had reportedly recovered 64.62 kg of heroin from the accused. Meanwhile, Sudeep Singh mentioned in the article that according to Parmjit Singh Chandok, Advisor on Foreign Affairs to the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee, the issue has been raised with the Pakistan government. Singh underlined the faith that the Sindhi community, in particular, has on Sikh institutions. He also mentioned about a “growing concern” that in accordance with such policies, the Pakistan government might, in the future, even restrict their entry into gurdwaras.

Bangladesh adviser warns IMF conditions may hurt growth



Bangladesh PM adviser Rashed Al Mahmud Titumir warned IMF loan conditions may slow growth and worsen inflation. Experts at a Dhaka seminar cautioned that rigid reforms, rising debt, and weak institutions could push Bangladesh toward economic and middle-income traps

GNS News Agency, May 8

New Delhi: Adviser to Bangladesh’s Prime Minister warned that Bangladesh has become “hostage” to International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) loan conditions, which could weaken the country’s growth, a new report has said. Rashed

Al Mahmud Titumir, the advisor, warned that if textbook reform formulas are implemented ignoring local context, high inflation will follow, hurting farmers and low-income groups, a report from Bangladeshi media house New Age said.

Speaking at a seminar organised by the Economic Reporters’ Forum in Dhaka, Titumir cautioned that IMF targets such as raising the tax-to-GDP ratio under weak economic conditions could dip growth below 3 per cent and intensify stress on businesses as well as households. The country accepted tough bailout terms earlier to sustain a patronage-driven system without considering public interest, and is now compelled to continue with the IMF, Titumir was quoted as saying. Titumir criticised “inconsistent positions of global institutions,” which acknowledge rising poverty but advise cuts in subsidies and direct support. He said that the recently enacted Bank Resolution Act allowing former owners of distressed banks to apply for regaining ownership is still operational, adding that any contradiction of the provision with the constitution or existing laws could be addressed through the Supreme Court. The law allows previous shareholders or eligible applicants to reclaim control of banks under resolution, overriding other provisions, which has already drawn criticism from economists. He said the previous government has left behind a fragile economy, weak institutions leading to a stagnant investment landscape. Titumir added that remittance inflows sustained the economy in previous crises. Addressing current challenges requires creative and context-specific solutions rather than rigid policy formulas, he said, calling for private sector investment, and better use of investible funds within the country. He also stressed coordination between fiscal and monetary policies and reaffirmed the government’s support for an independent central bank, the report noted. CPD distinguished fellow Mustafizur Rahman warned that Bangladesh could fall into a middle-income trap and a debt trap, as interest payments now exceed spending on education.

Donald Trump's ‘pretty serious’ UFO talk returns as US struggles with Iran war



Holding on to a fragile ceasefire amid an increasingly unpredictable war with Iran, US President Donald Trump has opened another front far removed from the Hormuz Strait and talks in Pakistan. The subject is familiar, though, as he announced over the past three days that his government has uncovered “very interesting documents” on UFOs, with their release coming “very, very soon”. US President Donald Trump listens to speeches at the White House on April 18, 2026. Trump’s announcement

He also ordered a probe by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) into deaths and disappearances that social media chatter has long interlinked and related to unidentified flying objects (UFOs) and “unexplained phenomena”. Trump’s announcement on UFOs — a favourite subject of alien-conspiracy theorists — came in Phoenix on Friday, at an event by far-right group Turning Point USA of the late Charlie Kirk. In fact, the announcement was a reminder that he’d already said UFO files would be released, back in February, when files related to the late sex offender Jeffrey Epstein were coming out and carried Trump’s name scores of times. Iran has gone on to even say the war itself was Trump’s distraction from the Epstein files. “As you remember, I recently directed the Secretary of War to begin releasing government files relating to UFOs and unexplained aerial phenomena,” Trump told his far-right supporters at the event. “This process is well underway, and we found many very interesting documents, I must say, and the first releases will begin very, very soon,” he promised to them. Week of chaos on two fronts The Iran war is now nearing the end of its second month, and has produced what analysts are calling the largest oil supply disruption in history.

This has driven oil prices up in the US too. Iran has repeatedly opened and closed the Strait of Hormuz — the chokepoint carrying roughly a fifth of the world’s oil — as peace talks between Washington and Tehran collapsed in Islamabad last weekend. The next round may be held as soon as Monday, according to Trump. Iran has, meanwhile, fired on oil tankers attempting to transit the waterway, with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) warning that “no vessel should make any movement from its anchorage in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman”. Trump responded by threatening to resume bombing. And that’s been the trend the past 10 days or more. It was against this

backdrop that businessman-politician Trump took to the Phoenix stage to discuss flying saucers. “You’ll figure it out,” he told the crowd about what’s in the UFO files. ‘I too would be talking about UFOs if...’

Analysts see a pattern. “I think if I had had the kind of week that this president had had with Iran, with inflation, with the Pope, I too would be talking about UFOs,” journalist-columnist Dana Milbank said. On the UFO files, he added, “Clearly a distraction!” Milbank’s reference to the Pope was about Trump’s extraordinary public feud with Pope Leo XIV. The first American head of the worldwide Catholic Church, Pope Leo has condemned the Iran war as a “spiral of violence” and urged citizens to contact their political leaders to demand peace. This triggered Trump social media broadside calling Leo “WEAK on Crime, and terrible for Foreign Policy”. The row deepened when Trump posted, and then deleted, an AI-generated image depicting himself in the likeness of Jesus, even as Pope Leo, on an Africa tour, was denouncing leaders who “ravage the world” by spending billions on war. Amid this, multiple news outlets underlined the Reuters/Ipsos survey that showed only about 27% of Americans approved of the Iran strikes, while 43% opposed them. Within Trump’s own party, critics such as Republican Congressman Thomas Massie had earlier called UFO talk “the ultimate weapon of mass distraction”, though his comment was aimed primarily at deflection from the Epstein files. Scientists remain sceptical about the UFO talk anyway. A former head of the Pentagon’s own UAP investigation office, physicist Sean Kirkpatrick, told CBS News that he views Trump’s UFO order as “a distraction for the administration”. UAP or Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena is the official term that has long replaced UFO, to describe objects in the air, sea, or space that cannot be immediately identified or explained. “I don’t expect to see anything new,” said Sean Kirkpatrick. Missing scientists, and the FBI Trump, undeterred, directed the FBI also this week to investigate a cluster of deaths and disappearances involving roughly 10 individuals linked to NASA, Los Alamos National Laboratory, and other sensitive defence facilities. “I just left a meeting on that subject, so pretty serious stuff. Hopefully, coincidence... but some of them were very important people, and we are going to look at it,” he said. The most prominent case is that of retired Air Force Major General William Neil McCasland, 68, who vanished from Albuquerque in late February without his phone, watch, or prescription glasses. White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said the administration was “actively working with all relevant agencies and the FBI to holistically review all of the cases together and identify any potential commonalities that may exist”. However, experts told CBS News they see no credible link between the cases. Joseph Rodgers of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said the deaths and disappearances were “scattered across several years at different and only loosely affiliated organisations”. A former US Department of Energy official was blunter: “People do just die. Strokes, heart disease, suicide, mugging, it happens.”

Are Chinese ships allowed to pass through Strait of Hormuz? Iran clarifies as vessel forced to return



The Iranian consulate in Mumbai said in a post on X that the Islamic Republic didn’t grant a Chinese bulk carrier passage through the Strait of Hormuz. “Iran didn’t grant passage to a Chinese vessel. The bulk carrier SUN PROFIT, owned and crewed by Chinese nationals, was forced to abruptly change course and turn back. Contrary to popular belief, #Iran doesn’t give blanket approval to Chinese ships,” the consulate’s post read. The post also carried a screenshot of the vessel’s navigation, showing that it had to turn back before entering the strait.

This comes as Iran closed the key waterway, which is used to transit about 20 per cent of the world’s oil and natural gas, amid the Islamic Republic’s war with the US and Israel. While Iran had opened up the strait on Friday, it slammed it shut again on Saturday due to the continued US blockade of the Iranian ports amid the 14-day ceasefire. According to the tracking website Marine Traffic, the Hong Kong-flagged bulk carrier Sun Profit is currently anchored in the Persian Gulf. It was travelling back to China from Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Two Indian ships shot at near the Strait of Hormuz Iran’s clarification about Chinese ves-

sels comes a day after two Indian-flagged vessels were shot at by Iranian gunboats near the Strait of Hormuz. The shipping ministry has identified the two vessels as the Sanmar Herald, a crude oil tanker, and the Jag Arnav, a bulk carrier. This marks the first time that Iranian forces have fired upon Indian-flagged or owned merchant vessels in the war-torn waterway. The episode comes even as multiple Indian-flagged ships have continued to pass through the strait in recent weeks without incident – the MT Dsh Garima, one such vessel, transited the strait at 1 PM IST? on Saturday and is bound for Mumbai. As reported by HT earlier, at least nine vessels had safely crossed the route recently, while 13 more remain in the Persian Gulf. Both ships were transiting the Strait of Hormuz when they were reportedly fired upon by boats of Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The vessels turned back following the incident. Importantly, no injuries were reported.

According to Marine Traffic, Sanmar Herald was en route to India carrying crude oil from Iraq, while Jag Arnav had departed from Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, and was also headed towards India. In response, the external affairs ministry moved quickly. Iranian ambassador Mohammed Fathali was “called in” for a meeting with foreign secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday evening. “During the meeting, the foreign secretary conveyed India’s deep concern at the shooting incident earlier today involving two Indian-flagged ships in the Strait of Hormuz,” ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said. Misri underlined India’s importance to maritime safety and reminded the Iranian side of its earlier role in facilitating the safe passage of India-bound ships. “Reiterating his concern at this serious incident of firing on merchant ships, the foreign secretary urged the ambassador to convey India’s views to the authorities in Iran and resume at the earliest the process of facilitating India-bound ships across the strait,” Jaiswal added.

Who was Liv Perrotto? Elon Musk fulfils cancer-struck teen's last wish in heartfelt gesture

A 15-year-old cancer patient, who had a dream of meeting Elon Musk, left a handwritten list of questions for the tech billionaire before her passing . Few days later, the Tesla CEO responded to each one, fulfilling her last wish in a moment that is now resonating with millions online. On Thursday, conservative commentator Glenn Beck took to X to share the poignant story of Liv Perrotto, who sadly passed away before she could realize her greatest aspiration of meeting Musk. Perrotto leaves behind list of eight questions According to Beck, Perrotto had the chance to speak with the CEO of Tesla just days before her passing, but she was too fatigued and requested that he call back at a later time.

Despite her passing before their meeting, she left a handwritten list of eight inquiries on her nightstand, which her mother, Rebecca, provided to Beck in the hope that Musk would ultimately respond to them. Beck shared images of the young woman and her notepad, which contained a whimsical combination of business-related and pop-culture inquiries. Perrotto asked whether Musk intended to create his own phone, expand the Tesla Diner, or introduce new games in Tesla updates. She was also interested in his favorite anime, his travels to Japan, whether he was familiar with the virtual pop star Hatsune Miku, and if the Grok AI virtual companion “Ani” was influenced by the fic-

tional character “Misa” from the manga series “Death Note.” In her concluding inquiry, Perrotto posed the question of whether “Asteroid,” a Shiba Inu zero-gravity indicator — a plush toy designed to indicate the onset of microgravity — which she created for the Polaris Dawn space mission, could serve as the official mascot for SpaceX. The post attracted nearly two million views on the social media platform, receiving tens of thousands of likes. On Thursday afternoon, Musk granted the late teen’s request by responding directly to the post, addressing all eight questions sequentially. Musk disclosed that he is not developing his own phone, but he did confirm his intentions to expand the Tesla Diner and introduce new games. He mentioned that his favorite anime is “

Your Name,” a Japanese romantic fantasy film, and remarked that he has visited Japan “several times” — emphasizing Kyoto and the teamLab art collective as his preferred destinations. With a simple “OK” and a smiley face, Musk consented to designate her plush toy as the official mascot of the space company, transforming her final question into a lasting homage that celebrated her creativity. Rebecca replied to Musk’s responses with an emotional, “I wish she was here to see this.” Shweta Kukreti has over 8 years of experience in covering Indian and world politics.

India needs supply chain security framework like China, US: Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran



India needs its own “answer” to Chinese and American laws that secure their supply chains and inward investments, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V Anantha Nageswaran said on Saturday, warning that companies are going to find it “more and more difficult” to leave the world’s second-largest economy and India will have to “accept and be willing to work alongside” a more restrictive external environment. Speaking on the second day of Ashoka University’s Second Annual Isaac Centre for Public Policy Growth Conference, the government’s top economist also criticised the Indian private sector, saying it must reflect on why it has been reluctant to invest and that it may have contributed to its own demand uncertainty.

“In Hotel California, you said you can check out but not leave. But China is saying you can neither check out nor leave,” Nageswaran said on Saturday, referring to two directives issued in 2019: Regulations on the Security of Industrial and Supply Chains (Decree No. 834) and Regulations on Countering Foreign Improper Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (Decree No. 835). The two decrees allow foreign companies and executives to be penalised for trying to relocate their supply chains away from China in compliance with directives and measures. Further, the decrees also try to counter what it called “improper extraterritorial jurisdiction measures” by a foreign country that endangers China’s national sovereignty, security, and development interests and harms the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and organisations.

According to the CEA, the decrees look to thwart “any country from trying to facilitate diversification away from China”. “In fact, surprisingly the day this came out, there was a G7+ meeting, I was there. It was about discussing global imbalances and this (Decrees 834 and 835) was not discussed at all,” Nageswaran said on Saturday. Given the increasingly restrictive external environment, Nageswaran said India has to come up with its own institutional or counteracting mechanisms as it didn’t have a “blocking statute” of its own. “And then we have to have a supply chain security framework which should be our answer to Order 834

and we have to have the equivalent of the American CFIUS. And we have to use our market access as an important lever to attract companies,” Nageswaran said. CFIUS, or the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, can review foreign investment transactions and block them if it determines that these deals can compromise US national security. According to analysts, China’s decision earlier this week ordering the unwinding of Facebook parent Meta’s purchase of AI firm Manus for \$2 billion is a “mirror image” of CFIUS.

Nageswaran also criticised Indian corporates, saying they must reflect on their “disappointing” capital formation rates despite profits rising 30.8% every year post-Covid and the regulatory environment improving, even if on the margin, at the Central and state levels. “...corporates and the second or third generation entrepreneurs chose to accumulate those cash profits and probably set up family offices elsewhere rather than investing in real assets on the ground,” Nageswaran said. “...much of the nation building in developed countries happened not because of public policy alone, but also because the industry acted in national interest and found a fusion between their private interest and national interest. So, it’s always easier to point a finger at the government but sometimes the gaze also has to be reversed on the part of the industry,” he added.

The current juncture, according to the CEA, presented the private sector “a good reason to invest”, with the gap between the Indian rupee and Chinese yuan’s real effective exchange rates (REER) closing. This should make it relatively expensive to import from China and relatively inexpensive to export, everything else being equal, allowing the diversification of supply sources away from China. The Indian rupee hit a new all-time low of 95.34-per-dollar on Thursday after fresh concerns about the war in West Asia propelled global crude oil prices to a four-year high. The rupee is now down more than 4% since the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. According to Nageswaran, the Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) signed by India also give Indian companies access to foreign markets while also exposing them to more competition. However, it is important Indian companies make use of these FTAs. “One of the problems is the free trade agreement utilisation by India is very poor compared to other countries. So, the industry association and bodies have to do a much better job of talking about them,” Nageswaran said. Commenting more broadly on the manufacturing sector, the CEA argued it has been able to maintain its share in the country’s Gross Value Added at 17-18% in real terms “in the face of unprecedented competition from China”. “So, it is not therefore a story of failure. It’s probably a story of stability or stagnation, depending on the eye of the beholder.”

For 3rd year in a row, RBI brought more than 100 MT of gold to India in FY26



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) brought more than 100 metric tonne (MT) of its gold to India in 2025-26 – the third year in a row it has done so. According to data released late Thursday, the second half of 2025-26 saw the Indian central bank bring 104.23 MT of its gold from abroad – held with the Bank of England and the Bank for International Settlements – to Indian shores, adding to the 63.83 MT it had brought home in the first half of the year. In total, the RBI brought 168.06 MT of gold to India in 2025-26, up from 107.21 MT in 2023-24 and 103.68 MT in 2024-25. As a result of the latest transfer, the RBI now holds 77% of its 880.52 MT of gold holdings – which were worth \$122 billion as on April 17 – domestically. This is sharply higher than 38% as recently as March 2023. The RBI’s ongoing move to hold increasingly more gold domestically is part of a new trend that took shape in the aftermath of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The attacks led to the US freezing Russia’s dollar-denominated foreign exchange reserves, which sparked a shift by central banks around the world towards holding more non-dollar denominated foreign currency assets. According to the World Gold Council’s Central Bank Gold Reserves Survey 2025, released in June

last year, 59% of central bankers picked ‘domestic storage’ for where they currently vault at least part of their gold reserves, up from 35% in 2023 and 28% in 2019.

“Looking forward to the next 12 months... 7% (of respondents) indicated they would increase their domestic storage; slightly more than the previous year (2%),” the World Gold Council said. While the RBI has been increasing how much gold it stores domestically, it did not add meaningfully to its overall gold reserves in 2025-26, with the central bank’s gold holdings in volume terms having increased by only about 10% – or 86 MT – in the last three years. This is in stark contrast to some other central banks around the world, who have purchased gold heavily in the last couple of years as geopolitical conflicts force diversification of foreign exchange reserves.

According to World Gold Council data, the National Bank of Poland was the biggest buyer of gold in the first three months of 2026, followed by the likes of the Central Bank of Uzbekistan and People’s Bank of China. In fact, the National Bank of Poland has been the biggest buyer of gold among central banks for some time now, purchasing almost 200 tonne in 2024 and 2025 combined. Earlier this year in January, the Polish central bank approved plans to buy 150 tonnes of gold, which would “place Poland among the elite 10 countries with the largest gold reserves in the world,” it had said. “Based on the strong start to the year, we expect central banks to contribute meaningfully to global gold demand going forward, as geoeconomic uncertainty stays elevated and reserve-diversification incentives remain intact,” the World Gold Council said in a report on Wednesday. Despite little change in how much gold it held in 2025-26, the share of gold in the RBI’s foreign exchange reserves jumped from 11.7% as at the end of 2024-25 to 16.7% thanks to global gold prices rising sharply on account of heightened trade and geopolitical uncertainty.



An India-linked LPG tanker Sarv Shakti safely crossed the Strait of Hormuz amid regional tensions, en route to India with 45,000 tonnes of fuel. The rare transit signals limited reopening of a key global energy route under geopolitical disruption

a key global energy chokepoint. The LNG tanker Mubarak — which loaded cargo from Abu Dhabi National Oil Co’s Das Island facility in early March — was passing the southern tip of India, according to the ship-tracking data. The vessel had remained idle inside the Persian Gulf for weeks and had stopped transmitting signals around March 31, before reappearing west of India on Monday.

Akshay Kumar admits he hasn’t touched samosas in 15 years: ‘Maine kuch galat kiya hai kya...’



Akshay Kumar has not eaten samosas in 15 years! Sounds extreme, but there’s a reason behind it. During a recent episode of the game show Wheel of Fortune, the Khiladi actor opened up about avoiding this street snack for so many years. “Aisa kaha likha hai ki samosa jo aadmi nahi khayega woh kharab ho jayega. Nahi, maine kuch galat kiya hai kya agar samosa nahi khaya toh?,” he said, clarifying that it is not about dieting or weight gain, just how his body reacts, causing acidity and discomfort. He even added that when he filmed the iconic scene “Jab Tak Rahega Samose Mein Aaloo” he had not eaten a single samosa.

Samosas typically consist of a crispy outer layer made from all-purpose flour and a savory filling of boiled potatoes and Indian spices. Deep-fried in cooking oil, these snacks are traditionally served hot with chutney and tomato ketchup. A favourite snack in northern and eastern India, samosas have gained popularity across the country, inspiring fusion variations to cater to diverse tastes and globalise this beloved treat. Why Akshay Kumar hasn’t touched samosas in 15 years Samosas typically consist of a crispy outer layer

‘Mere friends bohot chale gaye’: Neha Dhupia reflects on life after motherhood, expert explains emotional impact of changing relationships

Actor Neha Dhupia got married to Angad Bedi, the son of former Indian cricket captain Bishan Singh Bedi, in a private ceremony in 2018. The couple welcomed their first child, Mehr, the same year and later a son, Guriq, in 2021. Neha, who was 8-months pregnant with her second child while filming the 2022 thriller A Thursday, recently opened up about how her life changed after having a family, highlighting that she lost touch with her friends after motherhood. Speaking in a podcast hosted by comedian couple Bharti Singh and Harsh Limbachiya, Neha shared her top three priorities in her life. During the conversation, Angad joked, “I’m in the top five of her priority list—first the kids, then work, then parents, then home, then me.”

“Priority one is family, priority two is work—and me,” Neha clarified. She went on to share that she drifted apart from her friends after having kids. “I must confess that after having a family and kids and all, mere bhot friends chale gaye (I lost touch with so many friends). Because there is no time,” she said, adding that stepping out with friends for a casual coffee gets difficult while taking care of kids. Dr Rimpa Sarkar, PhD, Sentier Wellness, Mumbai, explained that friendships often shift after major life transitions because “marriage or parenthood can significantly change a person’s priorities, routines, and emotional availability.”

She emphasised that when someone enters a new phase of life, their time, energy and focus naturally move toward their family, which can alter older social bonds. “Friendships that were built around shared lifestyles or constant availability may not sustain in the same way. It is not always about conflict or distance, but about a difference in life stages and daily realities,” she said. Dr Sarkar noted that many people also experience loneliness after starting a family, even when they are surrounded by loved ones. “Isolation is not just about physical presence, it is about feeling emotionally understood,” she said. She added that parenthood can bring overwhelming responsibilities, identity changes and emotional strain, making some individuals feel disconnected. “Even when there are people around, individ-

made from all-purpose flour and a savory filling of boiled potatoes and Indian spices. (Source: Instagram/@akshaykumar)

Should you too avoid them like Kumar?

Dr Parin Sangoi, consultant interventional cardiologist at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mumbai Central, explained that when fried and processed foods like samosas become a staple in your diet, they quietly begin to have a cumulative effect on your arteries. “Every serving contributes to cholesterol deposition, inflammation, and oxidative stress in the vascular system. Over a period of time, this leads to the development of plaque, narrowing of arteries, and a decrease in blood supply to the heart. What seems like a harmless snack today can pave the way for heart disease a few years down the line,” he said. “Trans fat-loaded, high-carb, salt-rich foods harden the walls of vessels, increase blood pressure, and disturb the ratio of bad cholesterol to good cholesterol,” said Dr Sangoi.

Vedika Premani, clinical dietician at sir HN Reliance Foundation Hospital, Mumbai added that although this snack is extremely unhealthy for your body, there are alternative and healthier preparation methods. “The addition of functional foods like ginger, cinnamon, and cardamom will not only enhance the taste of the dish but also provide health benefits like boosting immunity and acting as anti-inflammatory, and samosa can still be enjoyed if made in healthier oils and using other cooking techniques like baking or air frying.” She said. “And if you wish to avoid samosas altogether, healthy snack alternatives include baked ragi chips with hummus, dhokla, makhana, chana chaat, and khakara with hung curd dip. Air-fried vegetables can also be a healthier alternative to regular pakoras,” said Premani.



als may feel that others do not fully understand what they are experiencing. This gap between support and emotional connection can create a sense of loneliness,” she said. Speaking about the emotional impact of changing relationships, Dr Sarkar said the loss of friendships during parenthood can feel deeply personal. “It is important to acknowledge that losing or changing friendships can feel like a form of grief,” she said. She advised people to give themselves space to process that change instead of dismissing it. “At the same time, focusing on building new connections that align with the current phase of life can bring a sense of belonging. Staying open to evolving friendships rather than expecting them to remain the same can ease the transition,” she added. Intentional effort

On maintaining friendships while adjusting to family life, Dr Sarkar stressed the importance of intentional effort. “Small, consistent check-ins can be more valuable than waiting for long conversations,” she said. She encouraged people to be honest about their availability, communicate changing needs clearly and accept that friendships may become less frequent without losing their meaning. “Sometimes a short call, a voice note, or even meeting briefly during daily errands can help preserve a meaningful connection,” she said, adding that flexibility and understanding from both sides can help friendships survive changing life stages.

Why scientists were fooled by this chameleon

When you think of Pinocchio, you probably picture that famous growing nose. But what if there’s a real-life animal with a similar feature, one that kept scientists guessing for years? Meet the “Pinocchio” chameleon, a reptile with a nose that’s as intriguing as its story.

Deep in Madagascar, a place known for its incredible wildlife, lives a group of chameleons with long, horn-like noses. These colourful forest-dwelling lizards often come up with vibrant hues. For a long time, scientists identified these reptiles mainly by their appearance, especially the shape and size of their noses. But looks can be deceiving. Recent research has shown that these long-nosed chameleons are more complex than once thought. What was previously grouped as a single species actually comprises multiple distinct species, such as Calumma pinocchio and Calumma hofreiteri. In other words, the famous “Pinocchio chameleon” isn’t just a quirky-looking reptile—it’s part of a much bigger evolutionary story. For decades, scientists relied on visible features like nose length, shape, and curve to classify these chameleons. Some had long noses, others short; some straight, others curved. It seemed simple, but it wasn’t.

With the help of modern genetic studies, researchers discovered that these physical traits didn’t tell the full story. What was thought to be one species turned out to be several, misidentified for years. To solve this mystery, scientists used a method called museomics—studying DNA from preserved museum specimens. This allowed them to compare old samples with living chameleons and spot differences that weren’t visible to the eye. Some of these specimens dated all the way back to 1836, helping researchers connect past records with present-day findings.

Why all the confusion?

One surprising reason is how quickly these chameleons can evolve. Scientists believe female mate choice plays a role, meaning males may develop different nose shapes and sizes to attract partners. This discovery shows how much we still have to learn about the natural world. Madagascar alone is home to over 40% of the world’s chameleon species. Depending on how species are classified, the island has around 97 to 100 types of chameleons, while the global total is about 236. It’s a reminder that nature still holds many surprises. What looks simple at first glance can turn out to be far more complex. And unlike Pinocchio,



this long nose has nothing to do with lies—it’s all about survival, attraction, and evolution.

Manipur marks third anniversary of ethnic conflict with rallies and shutdown

Imphal/Churachandpur: Rallies, meetings and a shutdown marked the third anniversary of the ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur, which witnessed the deaths of at least 260 people, displacement of thousands of residents and imposition of President’s Rule for a year. The violence between the Meitei and Kuki communities started on May 3, 2023, after a ‘Tribal Solidarity March’ was organised in the hill districts to protest the Meitei community’s demand for Scheduled Tribe status. Meitei groups organised processions in several Imphal Valley districts seeking implementation of the NRC before the census and protection of Manipur’s administrative and territorial integrity on Sunday, while Kuki Zo organisations observed a shutdown in Kangpokpi district and held meetings in Churachandpur district to commemorate the victims of the violence. Hundreds of people took part in a rally at Nambol in Bishnupur district, organised by the United Protection Committee. “The rally was organised to highlight the ongoing suffering of the people and to demand accountability and justice for the victims of the conflict.

Can Suryakumar Yadav and fellow strugglers cope with heat of Mohammed Shami and accomplices?

for LSG. "There is light at the end of the tunnel. For us, we have no other way to go. Every game is a knockout for us right from here," Arun said. "I don't think reading too much into data would really help. It's just that how we perform and how we focus on the things that we are confident about matters the most," he added. LSG's next match will be against fellow laggards Mumbai Indians, who are themselves 9th in the table, at the Wankhede on Monday.

the ball in the 14th over. One came in, one went away. Aniket did not know what to expect from the third ball he bowled: a wild slog that ran for a boundary after taking the edge. Aniket tried the same again on the following delivery, but it failed this time because Chakaravathy further slowed down his pace. Aniket could only hit the ball as far as a fielder within the 30-yard circle. Chasing 166 runs, Kolkata knew exactly the template. When the ball comes nicely onto the bat in the powerplay, make the most of it, and after that, play some sensible cricket to get over the line. That is exactly what the visitors did. Finn Allen made his comeback into the side and slapped 29 runs from just 13 deliveries. He delivered the killer blow by attacking SRH's bowling leader, Cummins, for 27 runs in the fourth over. Although Cummins had redemption by picking Allen, the tone was set for the rest of the essay. Knight Riders got 71 from the power play.

Rahane partnered with Angkrish Raghuvanshi and sensibly scored 84 runs off 66 balls. This duo has been questioned this tournament regarding their tempo, but on Sunday, there were no such worries. All they had to do was stick to their styles and wait for the errors made by SRH bowlers trying too hard to push for a wicket. The way Allen attacked strike bowler Cummins, Raghuvanshi took a liking to SRH's weapon, Eshan Malinga. The youngster did not allow Malinga to settle in his spell, smashing 23 runs from just 11 deliveries; completely nullifying the wicket-taking threat. Rahane at the other end played his part by chipping in with a 36-ball 43, supporting Raghuvanshi. Although Sakib Hussain and Shivang Kumar picked the wickets of Rahane and Raghuvanshi, respectively, the game was already decided by then, with the scoring rate already dipping under six. **Brief Scores:** Sunrisers Hyderabad 165 all out in 19 overs (Head 61, Kishan 42; Varun 3-36) lost to Kolkata Knight Riders 169 for 3 in 18.2 overs (Raghuvanshi 59, Rahane 43) by seven wickets.

ety has helped LSG compete even when totals have looked below par, as was the case against the Delhi Capitals, where they reduced the visitors to 26/4 in their 141-run defence. That has mattered because LSG's batting has often given the bowlers little margin for error. When totals are below par or starts are slow, bowling attacks can quickly come under pressure. Instead, LSG's pacers have repeatedly dragged the side back into contests. Despite sitting at the bottom of the table, their pace attack has given them reason to believe that they can put together a string of victories, if the batting complements them more often. What has also helped the pace trio is working with former India bowling coach Bharat Arun, who said that his role was to empower the bowlers and keep challenging them to focus on their execution during the match.

“Shami is very well experienced, and also it is about the bowlers understanding their strengths, and where my role comes in is to keep reminding them about their strengths, the feedback, and constantly challenging them to execute what they are supposed to do again,” Arun said in the pre-match press conference on Sunday. With Mumbai Indians (MI) next, LSG will once again look towards their seamers for early momentum. MI's batting has enough power to punish loose spells, which means Prince, Mohsin and Shami will again carry a major responsibility. But if they can strike early and keep the scoring in check, LSG will believe they can stay in the contest. For now, that remains the clearest route back into the season. If the batters can post competitive totals more often, this attack has shown enough bite to convert pressure into points and revive a campaign that still flickers with hope.

Manish Pandey was on Sunday selected by the Kolkata Knight Riders for their 2026 IPL match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, making it the first game of the season for the veteran batter. In the process, he has become just the third player to have made an appearance in each of the 19 seasons of the tournament. The only other players to have done this before him are India greats Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Interestingly, MS Dhoni, who has captained all three players in international cricket, is still sitting on 18 seasons as he is yet to play game in the 2026 edition. Pandey has played for six different sides in the IPL but has mostly been associated with KKR. He played for Mumbai Indians in the inaugural season and this was followed by two sea-

Vinesh Phogat claimed on Sunday that she was among the victims of sexual harassment by former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, and is one of six wrestlers who have filed complaints against him. The wrestler, who is set to return to the mat after nearly 20 months, said she was 'forced' to make this admission in the middle of a court case because the WFI decided to conduct a crucial ranking tournament in Brij Bhushan's backyard, Gonda. Vinesh said there will be a 'lot of mental pressure' to compete there, and accused the government of being mere 'spectators'. She went on to warn that if anything happened to her during the competition, they (the government) would be held responsible.

Speaking in a video she posted on her social media platforms, Vinesh said: "No one is coming forward to help the players. It's like they (the government) have given a free hand to Brij Bhushan; that you do whatever you want, whether you do something with women wrestlers, whether you do anything with the wrestling world. We are standing with you." Responding to her statement, WFI president Sanjay Singh said he will 'personally guarantee' her safety but added Vinesh, who is also a Congress MLA, shouldn't politicise the issue. "I am giving Vinesh my personal guarantee about her protection. As WFI president, I promise her and her team that they will be completely safe in Gonda. I will ensure her safety. Please do come and give your best on the mat," he told. "On the other hand, if she wants to play politics, it is her choice. Also, the case is in court, so I won't comment on that. Let the truth come out." Vinesh, who walked away from the sport after the Paris Olympics heart-break, said she was preparing to return at the National Open Ranking tournament. It is the final chance for wrestlers to qualify for the Asian Games selection trials.

The Ranking tournament is scheduled to take place from May 10 to 12 at the Nandinagar Mahavidyalaya in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. Brij Bhushan is the founder of the Nandinagar Mahavidyalaya and is a former MP from Gonda. He is facing trial in a Delhi court after some of the country's top women wrestlers accused him of sexual harassment in 2023. Vinesh was at the forefront of those protests along with Olympic medalists Bajrang Punia and Sakshi Malik. Vinesh said it was 'impossible' that the competition would be held fairly and expressed concerns over whether the weigh-in process and the bouts would be compromised. "A month ago, a competition was announced by the Wrestling Federation of India. A ranking tournament.

This tournament is being organised at Gonda, UP, where Brij Bhushan's home is, and he has his own private college," she said. "It is impossible that a hardworking player will get her due there. Which referee will officiate which match, who will give how many points, where will the match chairman sit, who has to win and who has to lose... all that will be controlled by Brij Bhushan and his people."

Responding to this accusation, Sanjay Singh said: "There are approximately 1200 entries for the National Open Ranking tournament in Gonda, of which about 800 are from Haryana wrestlers. None of the other wrestler an objection. If Vinesh is worried about biased refereeing, I can assure her that all the referees chosen will be from the Wrestling Federation of India and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) panel. This is a fair selection, and neither Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh nor I have a say in who will be the referee." Brij Bhushan has been found liable for prosecution for sexual harassment, molestation and stalking of women wrestlers in a Delhi Police chargesheet. Six women wrestlers had filed a complaint of sexual harassment in April 2023, and the country's top wrestlers had protested for two months at Jantar Mantar, demanding his arrest. Vinesh said: "Three years ago, we also raised our voices against sexual harassment (by Brij Bhushan). There is a case pending in the court related to that. Six women players had complained, and based on that, the hearing is going on. The Supreme Court's guideline is that no victim's identity should be revealed because it is a matter of their dignity and honour." Today, there are certain things I feel compelled to share. I had stayed silent because the case is still pending in court, and the truth will soon come out before the country. But I want to say this – I am one of the six victims who filed complaints, and our testimonies are ongoing. "You can imagine what it's like for me to go to his hometown, to compete in his own college, where almost everyone is connected to him and represents him. To step into that environment and compete under such circumstances is incredibly difficult. As athletes, we already carry immense mental pressure—our team has expectations, and the entire country is watching, expecting us to perform," Vinesh said. In this backdrop, Vinesh added it would be 'very difficult for a girl to compete in such a situation'. "I am doing my best, with a lot of hard work and honesty. Just like I won medals for the first time for the country, with the blessings of God, with the help of all of you, I want to step on the wrestling mat and win many medals for the country once again.

Hyderabad: A complete all-round performance by Kolkata Knight Riders ended the five-match winning streak of Sunrisers Hyderabad as the former notched up a convincing seven-wicket win to keep its hopes alive in the IPL at the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium here on Sunday. Chasing 166, KKR was never really in trouble as it was off to a flier, with Ajinkya Rahane and Impact Sub Finn Allen batting with great freedom. SRH captain and fast bowler Pat Cummins was hit for 27 runs in the fourth over, with Allen picking two fours and two sixes, but he was relieved to see Allen hit a harmless ball on the leg stump straight to the fielder in the deep in the same over. Then, the gifted Angkrish Raghuvanshi showed his class in the company of his captain Rahane and the two strung together a match-winning second wicket partnership of 84 runs off 66 balls to the dismay of the near-capacity crowd. And this was the third consecutive win for KKR.

UK-based Indian billionaire Lakshmi Mittal, along with Adar Poonawala of the Serum Institute of India, has acquired a stake in the IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals in a deal worth \$1.65 billion, approximately Rs 15,660 crore. The Mittal family, Poonawala and Manoj Badale, the current principal owner of RR, have formed a new consortium that will own Paarl Royals and Barbados Royals, two other franchises that are part of the SA20 and the Caribbean Premier League respectively. RR, one of the eight franchises that has been part of the IPL since 2008, was bought by Badale for \$67 million. The Mittals have presence in other sporting ventures like the NBA's Bolton Celtics as well as English football club Queens Park Rangers. The deal, announced on Sunday, comes after months of uncertainty over RR's ownership. In March, reports suggested that the franchise had a new owner – a consortium led by Arizona-based tech entrepreneur Kal Somani. But that was not to be, and now the new Mittal-Poonawala deal awaits the approval of the BCCI and the Competition Commission of India.

The statement released by the three parties gave the specifics about RR's new ownership. "Following completion, the Mittal Family will own approximately 75% Rajasthan Royals, with Adar Poonawalla holding approximately 18%. The remaining approximately 7% will be held by approved existing investors, including Manoj Badale. Mr. Badale will continue to support Rajasthan Royals, acting as a bridge between the past and the present, and bringing his deep knowledge and experience of cricket to the franchise," the press release said. It is understood that Lakshmi Mittal's son Aditya is likely to be the new face of the franchise. The 50-year-old, who is the CEO of Arcelor Mittal, made his entry into the NBA in 2025 by investing \$1 billion into the Bolton Celtics. Mittal Sr, in 2007, had bought a 33%

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



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

Samay. I called and told him, 'How is there not a single case against you?'" Samay added, "And I swear, the day my show shut down, sir called me a day before that, he told me something bad is going to happen to you."

"I told him that you're in the limelight now, be careful. I was telling that from experience, I'm not a clairvoyant. You can be famous by saying anything, but once you're famous, you can't just say anything," the host said, pointing out how he has also faced legal cases because of the content of his jokes and his late night tweets. Both Samay Raina and Ranveer Allahbadia's lives changed dramatically overnight in February last year. The controversy led to many personal, professional, legal and financial issues for them. Recalling the difficult moment, Samay shared, "Genuinely, Kapil sir was the first person to call me at that time. I still don't know whether it was concern or an insult. He said, 'Samay, just like your good days got over, your bad days will be over soon too'." The YouTuber continued, "We were waiting for something to happen. Kapil sir also stopped tweeting around then."

The first couple of weeks were so quiet. Udit Narayan also stopped kissing people," leaving everyone laughing uncontrollably. During the episode, Ranveer Allahbadia sparked a controversy on Samay Raina's show by asking a contestant if they would rather watch their parents have sex every day or join in once to make it stop. The vulgar and obscene remark led to intense backlash and legal disputes for everyone involved in that episode. After multiple FIRs, Samay was forced to take down all the videos of his famous show, India's Got Latent, from his YouTube channel. Despite the huge fallout, Samay and Ranveer reunited on The Great Indian Kapil Show. The episode is now streaming on Netflix.

Raja Shivaji movie review: Riteish Deshmukh's Amar Chitra Katha-style spectacle nearly stolen by Salman Khan



Raja Shivaji Movie Review: These days, the disclaimer becomes more telling than the movie itself. Raja Shivaji, directed by Riteish Deshmukh who also plays the titular character, is neither a documentary nor a history lesson, we are told; it is basically a warning that what is about to unfold will be lore, myth and current beliefs, all rolled into one. Despite this, Deshmukh creates a big screen experience firmly rooted in the ultra-colourful Amar Chitra Katha aesthetic. Those with long memories may be swiftly taken back to the impressive figure of the Maratha warrior astride his horse, brandishing a sword while fighting off hordes of Mughal invaders.

The film makes no attempt to sully its black-and-white universe with any moral complexities: Marathas good, Mughals, and others of their ilk — Nizamshahi and Adilshahi — terrible, and there endeth the story. The child marriage, shown between a young Shivaji and a younger Sai, is turned into a cutesy strand; the constant switching of loyalties between the Hindu rulers of the time is glossed over, and the idea of 'swaraj', which came much later, becomes Shivaji's rallying cry, as it did in the 2025 'Chhava'.

But once you know what the film is going for, all you are interested in is whether it will hold your attention for its duration. To that end, Deshmukh spends 3.15 hours filling his canvas with the undulating landscapes of Ahmednagar, Bijapur, Pune and other Deccan areas, overrun by the several warring principalities. An unending stream of bristling battles, flayed limbs, bloody bodies ensues, to the point where you are left numb: how many arms, legs, and heads

can you watch being severed or cleaved off torsos? About the only thing that breaks the array is a smartly choreographed battle scene inside a fort. The first half, complete with a childhood backstory, stays fairly fast-paced, keeping in mind short audience attention spans. Shahjehan has dispatched Aurangzeb (Fardeen Khan) to manage the internecine Dakhani warfare, himself staying put in faraway North: Mughal armies are rampaging through the countryside, ravaging homes and desecrating temples. Elephants fight each other, allowing for lots of CGI, not very cleverly hidden, adding to the comic-book effect.

Perfect time for our hero to rise to the occasion, and set about consolidating the scattered Maratha rulers, under the 'bhagwa dhvaj', with the rousing cry of Har Har Mahadev. Deshmukh plays the role with sincerity, carrying the weight of a figure deeply revered throughout Maharashtra, all the while depending upon his ensemble to carry the story forward in the infrequent sequences when he's not striding across the screen. Or putting his 'wagh nakh' to good use, which is the only time the too-stretched, repetitive second half, springs to life.

As to that, let me put the record straight: the reveal of the storied Shivaji weapon during the climactic tussle between him and the treacherous Afzal Khan (Sanjay Dutt) is perfectly timed, and the controversy — did he or did not show his hand before he had to — is needless. It has to be said that some of the most enjoyable bits of the film belong to Dutt in full Khalnayak mode, who chews the scenery, ratcheting his smirking villainy with every scene. Amole Gupte, playing an indolent Mughal ruler, more in love with his pigeons than his scheming, heavily-kohl-eyed begum (Vidya Balan, terrific) is quite a lot of fun, too.

Abhishek Bachchan leaves a mark as Sambhaji Raje, Shivaji's older brother, as does Sachin Khedekar as Shahaji Bhonsle, the boys' father, who is shown initially as someone who accepts Mughal rule, but then breaks free. Bhagyashree as the boys' mother adds to the softer portions of the film, showing a steeliness only when she commands her son to get her the 'head' of her elder son's killer. And the entire movie is nearly stolen by Salman Khan in a tiny cameo: quite appropriately, Bhai becomes Bhau in the credits. Raja Shivaji movie cast: Riteish Deshmukh, Sanjay Dutt, Abhishek Bachchan, Salman Khan, Amol Gupte, Vidya Balan, Genelia Deshmukh, Bhagyashree, Sachin Khedekar, Fardeen Khan, Jeetendra Joshi. Raja Shivaji movie director: Riteish Deshmukh. Raja Shivaji movie rating: 2.5 stars

Sreenivasan once tricked Innocent into transferring all his real-life property to him during film shoot

Malayalam cinema legends Sreenivasan and Innocent weren't just colleagues; they also shared a close bond in real life. Ever since their early days in the industry, the two have often joined forces on screen, offering fans memorable moments, and off-screen, forging an inseparable camaraderie.

Innocent, renowned for his performances in comedic and character roles, was one of the few actors who consistently appeared in the movies Sreenivasan penned and directed. From Akkare Ninnoru Maran, Aram + Aram = Kinnaram, Gandhinagar 2nd Street, Doore Doore Oru Koodu Kootam, and Sreedharante Onnam Thirumuviru, to Nadodikattu, Mukunthetta Sumitra Vilikkunnu, Oru Muthassi Katha, Pattanapravesham, Vadakkunokkiyantram, Varavelpu, Thalayana Manthram, Midhunam, Azhakiya Ravanam, Ayal Kadha Ezhuthukayanu, Chinthavishtayaya Shyamala, Narendran Makan Jayakanthan Vaka, Yathrakarude Sradhakku, and Kadha Parayumbol, Innocent always had notable and impactful roles in Sreenivasan's scripts.

Renowned for their sense of humour both in cinema and in real life, the two easily took over a(ny) crowd with their words and actions. And, sometimes they went one step further and even pulled each other's legs. In fact, the legendary screenwriter-actor once tricked Innocent into transferring all his properties to him by making him sign actual legal stamp paper during a film shoot. Upon learning about it, the comedic legend rushed to Sreenivasan, cursing him for trying to make his wife and children homeless. "In



the movie Sanmanassullavarkku Samadhanam (1986), there is a scene in which Kunjikannan Nair (Innocent) gives a written agreement on stamp paper to Gopalakrishna Panikkar (Mohanlal). For the shoot, we prepared the note on actual legal stamp paper," Sreenivasan reportedly wrote in Vanitha. However, instead of random lines or what the scene demanded, the screenwriter-actor had something else written on the stamp paper. He wrote, "I, Innocent, son of Vared of Thekkethala House, Irinjalakuda, am transferring all my movable and immovable properties to Pattiom Sreenivasan." During the shoot, Innocent signed the document and finished the scene without checking what was written. Sreenivasan added, "After the scene was over, I believe it was director Sathyan Anthikad who teased him, asking, 'Innocent, was there any need for this? You've just lost all the wealth you worked so hard for these years.'

Salman Khan's co-star Anna Jaisinghani quit showbiz for spirituality, lives in Vrindavan



Actress Anna Jaisinghani began her journey in showbiz in 2011 as a freelance choreographer. After working with Salman Khan and choreographer Thomas Paulson, Anna joined an acting course in Balaji Productions. Soon, she ventured into acting and bagged roles in shows like Crime Patrol and Savdhaan India. What became a turning point in her career was starring in Ekta Kapoor's show Dekha Ek Khwaab, where she played the lead actress's best friend. Soon after this, Anna took to a spiritual lifestyle. Recently,

the actress revealed in a video on Mero Vrindavan how she became a devotee of Lord Krishna and shifted to Vrindavan. Talking about her journey in the acting world, Anna Jaisinghani shared that she originally hails from Gwalior. She shared, "I have a degree in BA English Honours. I loved to dance and act. I always wanted to be famous, and it all started with dancing. While I was in college, I used to teach dance to kids. I came to Mumbai and did an acting course at Balaji Telefilms. After that, I got small roles in Savdhaan India, Fear Files, etc. Sony TV's show Dekha Ek Khwaab, which also starred Aruna Irani ji, became my big break."

"I kept auditioning in Mumbai. During that time, I made some friends at the ISKCON Temple. I started taking a spiritual path and leaned towards it more. Soon, I realized that the materialistic world is an illusion. I lived in Pune also for some time, where I worked at the ISKCON temple," Anna said. While her stint on the acting front was quite short-lived, Anna always wanted to come to Vrindavan. "While I was at ISKCON, I wanted a Guru and cried to find the right one. I came to Vrindavan, and that night, Premanand Maharaj came in my dreams. In January 2026, I became his disciple," she said. Comparing the two lives, Anna also says, "There is a huge difference. In my old life, you could show off; it all looked glamorous. You spend money, shop, and live in big flats, but here, there is devotion. Sometimes I think about the older days and laugh."

Chiranjeevi's Thriller tribute song Golimaar finds a place in Michael Jackson's YouTube favourites

Michael Jackson's Thriller is the most imitated music video in the history of popular culture. Zombie choreography, red leather jackets and horror-tinged dance sequences have been recreated on every continent, in every language, across every era since the original dropped in 1983. At some point, someone put together a playlist of those recreations and tributes, which was saved to Jackson's YouTube account under the playlist called 'Favourites'. Somewhere in that compilation, between tributes from across the globe, was Chiranjeevi.

Golimaar, the song from the 1985 Telugu film Donga, was among the montages stitched together in that playlist. Of all the Thriller recreations the world has produced, Chiranjeevi's version was considered worthy of inclusion in a collection associated with Jackson's own channel.

Golimaar appeared in Donga, a Telugu action drama directed by A. Kodandarami Reddy, released in 1985. The film starred Chiranjeevi in the lead role of Phani alongside Radha, with music composed by Chakravarthy. The song borrowed Thriller's zombie aesthetic, its choreography structure, its red costuming and its general visual energy with considerable confidence. Chiranjeevi performed it with the kind of physical commitment that Telugu audiences had come to expect from him, and the song became one of the most talked-about sequences of that era in Telugu cinema.

For nearly two decades Golimaar remained beloved within Telugu cinema circles. Then the internet changed everything. The clip was posted to eBaum's World on October 1, 2006, and within days had been reuploaded to YouTube. A phonetically subtitled parody version, colloquially known as the Buffalaxed version, turned the sequence into a global viral moment. International audiences who had never encountered Telugu cinema were suddenly watching Chiranjeevi dance in a red suit, completely absorbed. The song was nicknamed Girly Man by viewers who could not read the Telugu title, and that label followed it across the



internet for years. The clip accumulated millions of views across multiple uploads. It was referenced in the Hindi film Go Goa Gone. It became one of the most recognisable pieces of Indian cinema on the global internet, entirely through organic sharing. Chiranjeevi is one of the defining figures of Telugu cinema, with a filmography spanning more than 150 films across four decades. His dancing has always been the aspect of his craft that sets him apart from his contemporaries. Donga, released at the peak of his commercial popularity in the mid-1980s, remains one of the touchstone films of that era in Telugu cinema.

'Ye kya bol raha hai?': Shocked Sara Ali Khan reacts at host's inappropriate joke about knowing celebs 'from behind'



In the past, many actresses have opened up about discomfort with paparazzi taking their videos and photos inappropriately, including Janhvi Kapoor and Malaika Arora. In fact, some have even confronted the paps about highlighting certain camera angles, and requested them to avoid recording from the back. The latest celebrity getting added to that the list is Sara Ali Khan. The actor, who is currently promoting her upcoming film Pati Patni Aur Woh Do, recently attended the trailer launch of the film in Mumbai. At the event, there was an awkward moment when the host began cracking jokes about recognising every actor "from behind". He even admitted watching such pap videos and having them in his archives. After listening to the host's remark, Sara looked visibly shocked and uncomfortable, asking her co-star Ayushmaan Khurana, "Yeh kya bol raha hai? (What is he saying?)" The clip from the event instantly went viral on social media, with several users calling out the joke. A person wrote, "Wow and they are sitting and laughing. Instead of asking him to stop this." Another user commented, "The guts!!" "And they are sitting and laughing" a third comment read. "These so call standup comedians normalize all these things," a user remarked. While talking to Film Companion about paparazzi photographing female actors in a particular way, Janhvi Kapoor had said, "For some reason, the gym is where people see me the most. Some days I just want to look comfortable and not care about if 'this is going to look vulgar' if the photo is taken at a certain angle. This irritates me. I don't care if someone thinks if it is pretty or hot, I care if someone thinks that I am looking vulgar. I don't think that any girl steps out with the intention of looking vulgar. Sometimes you get photographed in

a certain way or people perceive you in a certain way and they character assassinate you, even though you make choices based on your comfort. That bothers me." Earlier, Nota Fatehi, Mrunal Thakur, Zareen Khan, and many other actresses have also addressed the same issue.

Sara Ali Khan has been promoting her upcoming release Pati Patni Aur Woh Do, alongside co-stars Ayushmann Khurrana, Rakul Preet Singh, Wamiqa Gabbi, and Vijay Raaz. The movie's trailer was revealed on Saturday. Pati Patni Aur Woh Do is a spiritual sequel to the 2019 hit Pati Patni Aur Woh featuring Kartik Aaryan, Ananya Panday and Bhumi Pednekar. The film has been directed by Mudassar Aziz, and produced by Bhushan Kumar, Renu Ravi Chopra, and Krishan Kumar and creatively produced by Juno Chopra. The rom-com is set to hit the theatres on May 15, 2026.

Rajnesh Duggal recalls how he was almost about to work with Priyanka Chopra

Mumbai: Actor Rajnesh Duggal recalled how he missed the opportunity to work with Bollywood diva Priyanka Chopra. During an exclusive conversation with IANS, Rajnesh recalled that he was almost signed to do Priyanka Chopra starrer "Yakeen". However, for some reason, he was later removed from the project. He shared that he was told Priyanka does not wish to work with a newcomer. He was asked, "There are times when actors are hesitant to work with newcomers. Has anything like this happened to you?" Sharing the incident in his own words, Rajnesh recalled, "There was one instance in the beginning of my career, which was for a film called 'Yakeen and at that time I was signed to do the film with Priyanka Chopra. I was brand new in the industry at the time. I was doing an acting course. She was already a big name in the sense that she was doing a film with Salman Sir (Salman Khan), with Akshay Kumar. See, so with all due respect, I don't even know whether it was her call, or her manager's call, or the overall people involved in the project, but, I was called at 2 o'clock in the night, and I was told that there is a problem in the film and the problem is that, she (Priyanka Chopra) doesn't want to work with a newcomer." "So, that was one instance.