

# INDIAN CHRONICLE

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## TGBIE declares summer holidays for intermediate colleges across Telangana till June 1

Hyderabad: The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) declared summer holidays for all intermediate colleges across the state till June 1. The fresh academic year will commence on June 2.

All intermediate colleges, including government, private, and aided institutions, have been instructed to strictly adhere to the vacation schedule. The Board urged students to utilize holidays time productively for self-study and skill development. Any institution found conducting unauthorised classes during the holiday period would face strict action as per the guidelines of the Board, said S Krishna Aditya, Secretary TGBIE.

## S C rebukes Revanth Reddy over statement made in Assembly



GNS News Agency, April 2

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday rebuked Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his statement made in the state Assembly, saying he was making mockery of the anti-defection law. The Chief Minister had stated that there would be no by-elections even if the MLAs of the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) defect to the ruling Congress. "If this is said on the floor of the house, your Hon'ble CM is making a mockery of the 10th Schedule," the bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih, slamming the Chief Minister while hearing petitions filed by BRS leaders, seeking disqualification of BRS MLAs who defected to Congress last year. BRS MLA P. Kaushik Reddy had filed the petition seeking the disqualification of MLAs T. Venkata Rao, Danam Nagender, and Kadiyam Srihari for defecting to the Congress after winning the election on BRS tickets. The Telangana High Court, in November last year, directed the Speaker of the Telangana Assembly to decide on the disqualification petitions within a "reasonable time." Later, Kaushik Reddy and another BRS MLA K. Pandu Vivekananda and BJP MLA A. Maheshwar Reddy filed separate petitions in the Supreme Court, seeking direction to the Speaker to decide on the disqualification petitions in a time-bound manner.

The Supreme Court is also hearing the petition of BRS Working President K T Rama Rao, seeking the disqualifi-

cation of seven other BRS MLAs who switched loyalties to Congress. During the hearing on the petitions on Wednesday, counsel for the petitioners C. Aryaman Sundaram brought to the court's notice the statement made by the Chief Minister in the Assembly on March 26. Appearing for the respondents, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi argued that Assembly proceedings were not in question in the present case. Justice Gavai suggested that the senior lawyer warn the Chief Minister against making such controversial statements in the legislature. "We know we are slow in issuing contempt notices, but we are also not powerless," he said. The bench observed that statements made in legislatures have sanctity. "When politicians say something in the Assembly, it has got sanctity. In fact, the judgments say that when we interpret laws, the speech given on the floor of the House can be used for interpreting," it said. Justice Gavai told Rohatgi to warn the Chief Minister against repeating the mistake. The judge was apparently referring to the CM's remark made in August last year about the bail granted to BRS MLC K Kavitha in Delhi liquor policy case. Revanth Reddy had reportedly stated that Kavitha could secure bail within five months as the vote bank of the BRS was transferred to the BJP. "Do we pass our orders in consultation with political parties? We are not bothered about which party politicians belong to; We are not bothered by politicians' criticism of our orders. We do our duty as per the Constitution and our oath," Justice Gavai had said while addressing Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Revanth Reddy. After the Supreme Court faulted the Chief Minister for his remarks, he unconditionally expressed his regret. Speaking in the Assembly last month, the Chief Minister told BRS MLAs who switched loyalties to the Congress that they need not worry as by-elections will not be held. The Chief Minister stated that during the BRS rule, turncoats took oath as ministers and no by-elections were held in the previous government. "How will by-elections be held now?" he asked. The Chief Minister's statement drew a strong reaction from the BRS leader Rama Rao, who had said that they would bring this to the court's notice.

## Rescue operations at SLBC tunnel are progressing swiftly: Ponguleti



Nagarkurnool, April 2 (NSS): Minister for Revenue and Housing Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has announced that the rescue efforts at the SLBC Tunnel are progressing swiftly, following the directives of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He stated that these operations are expected to be completed within the next 10 to 15 days. Minister Ponguleti on Wednesday inspected the site of the SLBC tunnel accident near Domalapenta village in the Nagarkurnool district. He later addressed the media in Srisailem. Ponguleti noted that nearly 800 specialists

from various organisations have been involved in the rescue operations over the past 40 days. He emphasized, "We are utilising advanced equipment for the rescue efforts. However, extracting mud from the tunnel has become challenging and hazardous due to the presence of iron and other materials entangled with the heavy drilling machinery." The Minister announced that the State government has made all necessary arrangements to prevent any disruptions in the relief efforts. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has instructed that the Collector, Special Monitoring Officer, Disaster Management Officer, and SP, among others, must always be available. Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accompanied by his wife, visited the Srisailem Mallikarjuna Swamy temple. Upon their arrival at the temple's Rajagopuram, the couple received a warm welcome from the temple's executive officer, Srinivasa Rao, who adorned them with garlands and facilitated their darshan. The priests chanted Vedic hymns and bestowed blessings upon them within the temple grounds. During this visit, Minister Ponguleti made a contribution towards the development of the Srisailem Devasthanam by donating a cheque for Rs. 10,11,116 to the temple's executive officer. (NSS)

## KTR, BRS leaders condemn lathi-charge on UoH students, question Congress Govt policies



GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) condemned the police brutality against students of the University of Hyderabad (UoH), who were protesting against razing of trees in 400 acres inside the university campus for development. They charged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with encroaching on green spaces to promote real estate development while ignoring student concerns and environmental damage. BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned the government's decision to encroach on green spaces when large tracts of land were available elsewhere. "When 14,000 acres of land in 'Future City' are readily available for IT parks and economic activity, why target Hyderabad's environment and destroy the present city for future generations?" he asked.

Former Minister and MLA G Jagadish Reddy condemned the assault on the students who had fought for Telangana's statehood. "Congress came to power with the

support of students and youth, but today, it is repaying them with cases and police batons," he said. He stated that Revanth Reddy was trying to finish the incomplete work left by his mentor and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu who gave away the lands to private entities. He said there was a secret Congress-BJP nexus, as the Centre remains silent on the issue. "If union Minister G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay are sincere, why don't they stop the police from entering UoH?" he asked. Former Minister and MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy criticised the Congress for "selling government lands to corporate giants," under the guise of development.

## CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Sardar Sarvai Papanna

GNS News Agency, April 2

New Delhi : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy today paid tribute to Bahujan warrior Sardar Sarvai Papanna, hailing him as a leader who opposed autocratic rule and fought for social and political equality. On the occasion of Papanna's death anniversary, CM Revanth Reddy garlanded his portrait at his residence in Delhi on Wednesday, honoring his legacy. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted Papanna's contributions, stating, "Centuries ago, he united different sections of society and fought for justice and equality."

## 'Uber for Teens' rolls out in Hyderabad, other major cities

New Delhi: Ride-hailing major Uber on Wednesday announced the launch of a new service called 'Uber for Teens' in India, which, the company claimed, is designed to offer safe and reliable transportation options for teenagers aged 13 to 17 years in the country. This service has been rolled out across 37 cities in the country, including Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata, among others. The service comes with a set of strict safety protocols, including GPS tracking, real-time ride tracking, and an in-app emergency button. "This is to ensure that both teens and their parents feel secure while using the service," claimed the company. A key feature of 'Uber for Teens' is that it allows parents to have oversight on the rides their children book.

## Telangana High Court stays all work on Kancha Gachibowli land

GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad: The PIL bench of the Telangana High Court comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara on Wednesday issued directives staying all work, including felling of trees or any other action, on the disputed 400 acres of land at Kancha Gachibowli, over which the University of Hyderabad and the State government have been trading arguments for almost a week now. The stay is till the hearing, which will continue on Thursday, is completed. The bench had taken up hearing of the case pertaining to the proposed act of the State government in putting up 400 acres at Kancha Gachibowli in Serilingampally mandal for auction through the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGILC). Kalapala Babu Rao, a retired scientist from the twin cities had filed the writ plea seeking a court direction to declare the State's action in razing 400 acres of forest land, in pursuance of GO Ms No 54 dated June 26, 2024 issued by the Revenue department, as unlawful and in violation of the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The petitioner had also complained about the inaction of authorities in not constituting an Expert Committee under Rule 16(1) of the Forest Conservation Rules 2023 for the preparation of a consolidated record of for-



est lands, including forest-like areas, as unlawful, arbitrary and unconstitutional. Further contentions were raised, stating that the State was acting in violation of the directions issued by the Supreme Court in the case of Ashok Kumar Sharma versus union of India. He had also alleged that the State's actions were disastrous and sought court directions to declare the forest land admeasuring Ac 400-gts in Sy No 25, Kanche Gachibowli village, as a National Park under Section 35 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

## Congress bulldozes HCU's legacy: MLC Kavitha



Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): BRS leader MLC Kavitha today slammed Congress party's selective bulldozing. It shields the rich, targets the poor and weakens amidst HCU land debate. While the party falsely accuses the BRS of favouring influential figures like MyHome Rameshwar Rao, it lacks the courage to investigate or act against them. Instead, Congress focuses on disrupting HCU, punishing the poor and vulnerable while shielding the powerful, she said.

She said the Congress government in Telangana is making a brazen attempt to seize the University of Hyderabad (HCU) land, despite a clear court verdict affirming that the land rightfully belongs to the university. This land, originally given by Indira Gandhi and protected by the BRS, has been the centre of a prolonged legal battle for 25 years. The court has now ruled in favour of HCU, yet the Congress government is manipulating the outcome to claim that the land belongs to the government, not the university. The BRS leader said if the Congress administration truly seeks land for infrastructure development, it should utilize the 397 acres previously allocated to Hyderabad Central University, compensating the 400 acres. Instead, it is targeting HCU's 2,500-acre campus, threatening its rich biodiversity and peaceful academic environment. Hyderabad already has ample land for development, and bulldozing HCU land only reveals Congress's disregard for environmental preservation and academic sanctity, she added. Kavitha said the government must respect the court's decision and preserve HCU's land and environment. Twisting facts and bulldozing educational institutions only reveal Congress's true priorities—favouring the elite at the expense of the common people and nature. (NSS)

## Bhopal's Muslims burst firecrackers in support of Waqf (Amendment) Bill

GNS News Agency, April 2

Bhopal: A large number of Muslims in Madhya Pradesh's capital, Bhopal, burst firecrackers on Wednesday to express their support for the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which was presented in the Lok Sabha earlier in the day. People from various organizations and groups, including women and children, gathered at a central location in the city to welcome the central government's decision to introduce the Bill. Many were seen holding posters, placards, and banners supporting the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The celebration came as a surprise to many, as the Muslim community has been vocal in its opposition to the Bill. Even during the holy month of Ramadan, protesters were seen wearing black armbands during namaz as a mark of protest. The Bill is currently being discussed in the Lok Sabha as the central government pushes for its passage amid strong resistance from opposition parties and Muslim

organizations, including the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. If cleared in the lower house, the Bill will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday (April 3). On Tuesday, opposition parties staged a walkout from the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, protesting against what they called inadequate time for discussion.

While they had demanded 12 hours for debate, only eight were granted. Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju presented the government's stance while tabling the Bill and addressed concerns during the discussion.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently said in an interview that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill aligns with constitutional provisions and that "no one should be afraid of the proposed legislation." The opposition, however, has claimed that the government is bulldozing the legislation. The Bill aims to streamline the Waqf Board's functions, ensuring the efficient administration of these properties.

## MLC Nagababu pays courtesy visit to CM Chandrababu after oath

GNS News Agency, April 2

In a significant political development, newly-elected Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) Nagababu officially took his oath of office at the office of the Chairman of the Legislative Council. Following the ceremonial oath-taking, he paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat.

During the meeting, Nagababu and Naidu discussed various pressing issues facing the state and explored potential avenues for collaboration to enhance governance and public welfare. The courtesy call signifies the new MLC's commitment to working closely with the Chief Minister to address the needs and aspirations of the constituents.

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# Indian Chronicle

English Daily

## Balancing trade

With the April 2 deadline ending today, the US is set to impose reciprocal tariffs, arguing that India's 100 per cent duty on American agricultural goods is among the many unfair trade practices harming its economy. While New Delhi is expected to take a trade hit, its diplomatic manoeuvring signals a broader strategy. By proposing amendments to its nuclear liability law, India is looking beyond immediate trade friction to secure long-term economic and strategic gains.

President Trump's aggressive tariff policy aims at enforcing reciprocity, a doctrine he has long championed. His latest move is being framed as a correction to perceived economic imbalances. However, India's tariff structure is rooted in the need to protect its domestic industries and rural livelihoods. A sudden rollback without corresponding US market access could hurt Indian farmers and manufacturers. India exported goods worth \$77 billion to the US in 2024, making it its largest export destination, while importing \$55 billion worth of American goods, resulting in a trade surplus of \$22 billion. The latest tariff retaliation, which could impact over \$10 billion worth of Indian exports, is a sharp escalation in trade tensions.

Yet, while India resists trade concessions, it appears more willing to accommodate US interests in another critical domain — nuclear energy. The Modi government's plans to amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act mark a significant shift from its earlier stance. If the changes align with US expectations, they could revive stalled nuclear deals with US energy group Westinghouse, unlocking \$20 billion in investments. France's EDF, too, stands to benefit, making this a move of geopolitical and economic significance. India's strategy is clear: absorb the trade shock in the short term but widen the field by offering nuclear incentives.



Under the supervision of Kolan Hanumanth Reddy, the Qutbullapur in-charge of the Congress Party, a photo of A. Revanth Reddy was washed with milk at the Kaiser Nagar ration shop. The event was attended by senior leader Sanjeev Reddy, 125 Division President MD Layak, Minority President of 125 Division Syed Shafi, State Joint Convener of the Minority Department Sameer Khan, along with MD Gaffar, Ajay, MD Asif, MD Azeem, and others.

## Activists demand allotment of Kancha Gachibowli lands to HCU



Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Several environmental activists today demanded that the State government hand over the controversial 400-acres of land to Hyderabad Central University without making any changes to its topography. Addressing media persons at city based NSS Arunodaya Cultural Federation president Vimalakka, along with the president of World Environmental Organisation Bhadra and PDSU leader Vijay expressed her angst that the protest programs of the students of the university for the last 15 days had damaged the educational eco system in the University. She alleged that the Congress government had turned its eyes on the lands of all the universities of the State and added that there was a need for the people of the State to oppose the plans of the auction of the 400 acres of land by the State government to protect the environment. She said there was also a need to protect the biodiversity of the HCU. She demanded that the State government stop lathi-charge and withdraw cases filed against the students. She also demanded that the State government remove all the police force from the university campus. (NSS)

## Dhanvantari Victims Forum demands govt to take action against Kamalakar Sharma

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Dhanvantari Victims Forum convener Giriprasad Sharma has demanded legal action against Kamalakar Sharma, who is committing fraud by setting up a trust in the name of Dhanvantari Foundation International. Speaking to media persons at the Hyderguda based NSS on Wednesday, Giriprasad Sharma alleged that Kamalakar Sharma, who has been defrauding 3,000 people of crores of rupees at high interest rates for two decades, had been in jail and was still committing financial crimes even after being released on bail. He alleged that investors were being mentally disturbed as he was warning them of dragging them to court. He said the CCS had seized Kamalakar Sharma's accounts due to his involvement in financial crimes but added that he was withdrawing money from banks even after coming out of jail. He alleged that Kamalakar Sharma, who was involved in a corruption case of Rs 1400 crore last year, and his wife Jayashree were released from jail on bail and were currently trying to free themselves from this case by paying Rs 100 crore to the Telangana government. He demanded that CM Revanth Reddy, the State DGP and top police officials take strict action against Kamalakar Sharma, who committed financial crimes and cheated, even though he went to jail and came out on a clean chit. (NSS)

## Take measures to ensure that the city is free from construction waste: Commissioner N. Maurya



"April 2, (Indian Chronicle)" Rayalaseema co-ordinator "Municipal Commissioner N Maurya has directed the officials to ensure that there is no construction waste or garbage piles anywhere in the city from time to time. On Wednesday morning, the commissioner along with officials inspected green park apartment, D.R. Mahal Road, Hare Rama Hare Krishna Marg, transfer station in New Balaji Colony and Anna Canteen in the city." Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said that there is construction waste in many places in the city and directed the town planning officials to clean them up immediately. Sweeping at night and removal of garbage heaps should be done every day. She also directed the officials to ensure that the garbage management point set up at the Green Park apartment is done at the same level as at the apartments and create awareness that the hotels should do the same as they are producing gas with wet garbage at iskon kitchen." The staff was instructed to keep the Anna Canteen clean and serve food items at the right times. On this occasion, the quality of the food items was inspected. The Commissioner was accompanied by Superintendent Engineer Shyamsunder, Municipal Engineers Tulasi Kumar, Gomathi, Health Officer Dr. Yuva Anvesh, DEs Mahesh, Ramana, Madhubabu, ACP Balaji, Sanitary Supervisors, and others

## The Supreme Court stays proud of the judgment of the rape case..



Just Rights for Children Alliance to argue on behalf of the victim. "Warangal, April 2, Indian Chronicle: "Share NGO Director G Gopalareddy said that.. the Supreme Court is proud to stay on behalf of the victim. He revealed the details of the Supreme Court's stay challenging the verdict of the Allahabad High Court. The Indian Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed on the controversial verdict of the Allahabad High Court not attempting to rape her under her culvert and pulling her under the culvert. Gopal Reddy, director of the Society for Health Awareness Rural

Enlightment), said the decision was an important share for the protection of children's rights. Speaking on Wednesday .The Supreme Court has agreed to file a special 05 petition filed by the Just Rights for Children's Alaits challenging the verdict of the Allahabad High Court and has been allowed to represent the victim. Just Rights for Children Alliance is fighting with a network of over 250 NGOs in 416 districts for children's protection and rights, Share NGO Director Warangal, Hanumakonda and Mahabubabad district are working for the protection of children's rights in the district and that the country should not be unfair in the country. How sensitive the Supreme Court is dealing with the rights of children. We are understandable by interfering with this case. The Supreme Court has said that the verdict was shocking and ineffective by the Allahabad High Court's decision. He conveyed the main matters in this case. The verdict, especially in the verdict, said that the verdict in the paragraph 21, 24 and 26 was not fully sensitive, and the verdict after nearly four months of negotiations was illegal. He said that no FIR has been registered for more than three and a half years and has been in place for more than three years without an official investigation. The court has recognized that this long passive and severe injustice was done to the poor and vulnerable child victim. Share NGO representatives and Sirisha were present at the event.

## Govt protected 400 acres of land from being acquired by private individuals: Jupally

GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Minister for Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao has reiterated that the State government has not taken any land from Hyderabad Central University (HCU) and in fact, he stated that the government has successfully preserved 400 acres of land that could have been lost to private individuals. During a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, the Minister clarified that the 400 acres located in Survey Number 25 at Kanche Gachibowli does not belong to HCU. He noted that the land had been legally reclaimed by a private entity that was involved in ongoing litigation. Nevertheless, the State government demonstrated its legal ownership of the land in court and ultimately secured it through a legal process. "The presence of trees in an area that has been empty for two decades does not constitute a forest," he remarked. The Minister noted that there are several misunderstandings concerning the land of Hyderabad Central University (HCU), and some forces are actively working to sow discord and confuse both students and the people for their own political interests. Jupally



Krishna Rao explained that the State government is focused on reclaiming lakes in Hyderabad that have been encroached upon for many years, and there will be no necessity for the government to acquire land from Hyderabad Central University. He further commented, "Opposition parties are engaging in misleading propaganda simply to provoke students." (NSS)

## UHTA organizes protest against auction of UoH land & detention of students



Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): University of Hyderabad Teachers' Association (UHTA) president Dr Bhangya Bhukya today called protest against the auction of 400 acres of land and detention of students. More than 200 faculties, non-teaching staff and around 700 students participated. A protest rally was organized from Dr BR Ambedkar Auditorium to East campus (The site of 400 acres of disputed land). However, procession was stopped by the police and some of the protesting students were brutally caned by the police. Then the procession moved towards University main gate where teachers and students' representatives addressed the media and marched towards Administration to make a representation to the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the University. The UHTA demanded that the State Government immediately withdraw police force from the campus and stop the mindless destruction of green cover using earthmovers immediately. It also demanded release of the arrested students unconditionally and no charges be filed against any student. The UHTA demanded an assessment of destruction of the forest cover of the disputed 400 acres land in the University by the State Government and it should be done by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India immediately. The University should submit a representation to the Forest

Department to declare the forested areas as a Bio-heritage reserve, it said, adding the University should go to the court and demand that the State Government compensate 137 acres of land taken (given to housing societies) and 18 acres taken for road development according to the MoU signed between the University and the State Government.

Even though the State Government claims that it owns 400 acres of land, ownership doesn't give rights to violate laws by cutting down green cover, and by destroying habitat of animals. University has been custodian of this land for the past 50 years and preserved the biodiversity intact. The rights of the University as the custodian cannot be overridden by the State Government, he said and added that the original 2324 acres of land allotted to the University clearly mentions that this land should be utilized only for educational purposes. However, the State Government's plan was to auction it for commercial, a multi-utility purpose which violates the original order, Dr Bhangya Bhukya added. (NSS)

## India Art Festival on April 4 at Kings Crown Convention

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): India Art Festival is set to commence in Hyderabad with a grand inauguration on April 4 at 11 am at Kings Crown Convention, Pillar 68, PVNR Expressway, Rethi Bowli, Attapur, Hyderabad.

The opening ceremony will be graced by Patel Ramesh Reddy, Chairman, Tourism Corporation, as the chief guest. The event will also witness the esteemed presence of guests of honour Laxman Aelay, eminent artist, Jagadish Chinthala, eminent sculptor and artist, Tudi Devender Reddy, former president, Jubilee Hills International Club (JHIC) and Prayag Shukla, senior writer & curator. (NSS)

## Surya Prabha Vahanam held



"April 2, (Indian Chronicle) Rayalaseema co-ordinator "The annual Brahmotsavam at Sri Kodandarama temple in Tirupati witnessed Sri Ramachandra Murty taking a divine ride on Surya Prabha Vahanam to bless His devotees. "Both the Pontiffs of Tirumala, DyEO Nagaratra and other temple staff were also present." On April 03, the famous Rathotsavam will take place from 9:15am onwards.

## Sheikh Chand Pasha meets PAC Chairman Gandhi



"Serilingampalli April 2 Senior Congress party leader from Serilingampalli constituency Sheikh Chand Pasha met PAC Chairman Arkeepudi Gandhi on the occasion of Ramzan and extended their greetings. Congress party leaders Baling Gautam Goud, Dhatri Goud, Katakam Ramu and Zaheer participated.



As per the invitation of the temple committee, Kolan Hanumanth Reddy, the Congress Party in-charge of the Qutbullapur constituency, attended the Parvati Parameshwara Kalyanam as the chief guest at the Brahmotsavam celebrations of Sri Sri Venkateswara, Shiva, and Veeranjanya Swamy Temple in Gajularamaram, 132 Division, Qutbullapur constituency. "He performed special prayers for the deities, seeking the well-being and happiness of the people of the constituency. Later, he participated in the Annadanam (food donation) program." The event was attended by DCC Vice President Dhammani Shraavan Kumar, Division President Beku Srinivas, Balappa, Praveen, Mahila President Sujatha Yadav, Ashwini, Shobha Reddy, Jayamma, and members of the temple committee.

## Viatris Certified as a Great Place to Work in India for the Fourth Consecutive Year

Hyderabad: Mylan Laboratories Limited (a Viatris Company) has been recognized with the Great Place to Work® Certification™ in India for the fourth consecutive year. This recognition highlights Viatris' unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity, engagement, and employee wellbeing. Great Place to Work® is the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience, and the leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation. As part of the assessment, Great Place to Work® Institute measured the perceptions of Viatris India colleagues using the Great Place to Work® Trust Index® Employee Survey. The results speak for themselves – 85% of Viatris India colleagues who were part of the survey shared that they think Viatris India is a great place to work! Great Place to Work Certification is a highly coveted achievement that requires consistent and intentional dedication to the overall employee experience," says Sarah Lewis-Kulin, the Vice President of Global Recognition at Great Place to Work. She emphasizes that Certification is the sole official recognition earned by the real-time feedback of employees regarding their company culture. "By successfully earning this recognition, it is evident that Viatris stands out as one of the top companies to work for, providing a great workplace environment for its employees." Anupam Bhatt, Head of Human Relations, Viatris India, says, "Receiving the Great Place to Work Certification for the fourth consecutive year is a proud moment for us. This milestone is a direct reflection of our people-first philosophy and our efforts to create an environment where employees feel valued, empowered, and supported in their career growth. At Viatris, we continuously invest in wellbeing, inclusivity, and development to help our employees thrive. This recognition is a testament to our dedicated team and strengthens our commitment to enhancing the employee workplace experience." Viatris Inc. (NASDAQ: VTRS) is a global healthcare company uniquely positioned to bridge the traditional divide between generics and brands, combining the best of both to more holistically address healthcare needs globally. With a mission to empower people worldwide to live healthier at every stage of life, we provide access at scale, currently supplying high-quality medicines to approximately 1 billion patients around the world annually and touching all of life's moments, from birth to the end of life, acute conditions to chronic diseases. With our exceptionally extensive and diverse portfolio of medicines, a one-of-a-kind global supply chain designed to reach more people when and where they need them, and the scientific expertise to address some of the world's most enduring health challenges, access takes on deep meaning at Viatris.





From losses to triumph: A Marginal Farmer's humble journey in goat breeding to becoming Punjab's goat-farming tycoon



a year the money he had invested in setting up his first small goat farm.

He also took training from the Animal Husbandry Department and visited various farms in Punjab and beyond to learn the intricacies of goat breeding. Mann focused on the Beetal variety of goats, known for their impressive size, beauty, and high-quality milk. Beetal goats can fetch between Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000 each, a lucrative price that encouraged Mann to expand his operation.

GNS News Agency, April 2

Balwinder Singh Mann, a marginal farmer with just 10 kanal (1.25 acres), lost Rs 1.15 crore in the past two decades but didn't lose his heart, nor did he ever consider taking extreme measures. Instead, the 48-year-old farmer from Tungwali village in Bathinda district defied all odds to become one of the region's most successful goat breeders, turning his farm into a thriving business worth several crores of rupees and doubling his holding from 1.25 acres to 2.50 acres.

"I started with an investment of not more than Rs 2 lakh and just nine goats purchased from local villages in late 2016," Mann told. In the past eight years, however, he not only sold goats worth several lakhs of rupees, selling nearly 150 goats a year but also maintains a herd of around 300 goats at his farm at any given time.

'Delay sowing of sugarcane crop by one month to increase production': Gujarat Sugar Federation



GNS News Agency, April 2

Aiming to increase the production, the Gujarat State Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories (GSFCSF) has directed 15 sugar cooperative factories in the state to delay the sowing of the sugarcane crops by a month, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday.

said, "As per our findings, the farmers generally sow (plant) sugarcane in the fields on September 1. For the last five years, September has witnessed heavy rainfall which affects the production, so sugarcane crops should be sowed from October 1 onwards."

"The farmers also skipped doing green manure in their fields in June and July to increase land fertility. We have also suggested that sowing should be done per month, with 25 per cent sowing to be done in September, followed by the same percentage in the remaining months.

There are 15 sugar co-operative factories in Gujarat, including Bardoli (Surat), Madhi (Surat), Chalthan (Surat), Pandvai (Surat), Kamrej (Surat), Sayan (Surat), Mahuva (Surat), Kantha Vibhag (Surat), Vatariya (Bharuch), Gandevi (Navsari), Valsad, Coper (Tapi), Ukai (Tapi), Dharikheda (Narmada) and Gandhar (Vadodara).

According to the figures received from GSFCSF, in 2021-22, sugarcane was grown on 1,41,486 hectares of land, and production was 79.11 metric tons per hectare. Similarly, in 2022-23, sugarcane was grown on 1,34,601 hectares of land, and production was 74.19 metric tons per hectare.

IIM-Ahmedabad will launch its first international campus in Dubai in September': Director

GNS News Agency, April 2

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad is all set to launch its first international campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in September this year, said IIMA director, Professor Bharat Bhasker



He made these remarks during the 60th convocation ceremony of the institute, held at Louis Kahn Plaza in Ahmedabad. The chief guest for the event was former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Dr S Somanath.

PGPX. The students received their degrees from the chairman of the Board of Governors of IIMA and Chairman of Zydus Lifesciences, Rankaj Patel. Addressing the gathering, Patel said, "With rapid technological advancements and data-driven decision-making, businesses are constantly evolving.

'File pe file': At Delhi's digital courts, why massive pendency of cases gives staff sleepless nights



GNS News Agency, April 2

In a cramped room at one of Delhi's courtrooms, the first thing one notices is the sheer number of files stacked from floor to ceiling — some in iron cabinets, some bundled into cloth, and others just piled on the floor.

even got stuck once," an ahlmad says wryly. Various court staff tell The Indian Express they wrote letters to the Principal District and Sessions Judge requesting an almirah to store files.

The Indian Express also visits a physical court made solely to deal with NI Act cases. A separate Ahlmad room doesn't exist here. There is just a makeshift arrangement inside the courtroom dividing it into two — one where the judge sits and lawyers argue and the other where the court staff sits sifting through files.

"Hum Sunday wale papa ban ke reh gaye hain (We have become the father who only gets to see their children on Sundays)," the man laments as his eyes glance at the clock. It is way past 5 pm, beyond their official duty hours.

Take Patiala House Court, for instance, where there are five physical NI Act courtrooms and three such digital courtrooms. "Cases keep pouring in. We dispose of 50 and 100 new files come. Late dates will obviously have to be given," says a court staff working in an NI Act Court in Patiala House Court.

"This is to bring to the notice of all that currently, Rouse Avenue District Court, New Delhi, is experiencing an acute shortage of Senior PAs/PAs (Stenographers). The requisitions for substitute Stenographers being received on almost daily basis from different courts, however, are more than the number of stenographers available in the Office Pool," read one such circular issued in December 2024 by Principal District and Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of Rouse Avenue Court.

Rajasthan man booked for killing infant daughters; 'wanted a son'

GNS News Agency, April 2

Rajasthan murder, Rajasthan man kills infant daughters, Rajasthan man murders infant daughters, Rajasthan man kills daughters, Rajasthan man kills infants, Indian express news, current affairsA case of murder has been registered against the father, and further investigation is ongoing and the role of others in his family is still being investigated.

A man in Neem ka Thana in Rajasthan's Sikar district has been booked for allegedly killing his five-month-old twin daughters after being driven by the desire to have a male heir, police said Saturday.

Gurminder Singh resigns as Punjab Advocate General; 4th to quit post in AAP's 3 years

Advocate General of Punjab Gurminder Singh was appointed as AG on October 6, 2023 after Vinod Ghai had stepped down citing "personal reasons". Senior Advocate Gurminder Singh 'Gerry' Saturday resigned as Advocate General of Punjab, 18 months after he was appointed to the post.

The Indian Express the contract of the AG and the law officers is for one year. However, the governments prefer not to replace them during their five-year tenure and the contract is renewed every year.

Last month, the government removed 1993-batch IPS officer Varinder Kumar as the chief director of the state Vigilance Bureau, and attached him to the office of the director general of police.

When the AAP took over the reins of the state in March 2022, DS Patwalia was the AG. Within two days of new government taking charge, Patwalia resigned as AG.

An official in the Punjab AG's office had earlier told











## Singapore-based Temasek to acquire stake from Haldiram's existing shareholders



and decision making. This transaction is not only the largest private equity consumer deal in India, but also a reflection of domestic businesses that continue to elevate India's positioning on the global stage. We thank the Haldiram's family for trusting us and giving this opportunity. The transaction, which is subject to customary regulatory approvals, is expected to close soon.

Haldiram's, founded in Bikaner in 1937, has a massive product portfolio of over 400 items, including traditional namkeens, western snacks, Indian sweets, cookies, sherbets, pickles and more. Haldiram's has its headquarters in Noida and boasts manufacturing plants across several locations, including Nagpur, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Hooghly district, Rudrapur and Noida. The company's retail presence is significant, with its own chain stores and restaurants in major cities like Pune, Nagpur, Raipur, Kolkata, Noida, Mumbai and Delhi.

Temasek, Blackstone, Haldiram Snacks Foods, Indian sweets, snacks, initial public offering, Haldiram stake, Indian express business, business news, business articles, current affairs—Haldiram's has its headquarters in Noida and boasts manufacturing plants across several locations, including Nagpur, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Hooghly district, Rudrapur and Noida. Haldiram Snacks Food Pvt Ltd has entered into an agreement with a Singapore-based global investment firm Temasek, leveraging its power to acquire an equity stake from the existing shareholders of the Indian snacks and sweets company. With the agreement, Haldiram's aims to continue its expansion plans both in India and across the world and bolster its presence in an increasingly competitive market.

Commenting on the new agreement, Haldiram group spokesperson said in a statement, "We are thrilled to welcome Temasek as an investor and partner in Haldiram's. We look forward to working with them to harness the value they bring from their experience in the consumer space to accelerate our growth and strengthen our ability to meet evolving consumer demands. We also extend our gratitude to PwC and Khaitan & Co for their dedicated support during this transaction." PwC Investment Banking team acted as the exclusive financial advisor to the transaction and Khaitan and co-served as the legal advisor. Sanjeev Krishan, chairperson, PwC in India, said "At PwC, we take pride in being catalysts of entrepreneurial success—helping businesses transform into global giants. Our decade-long collaboration with the Haldiram's exemplifies this commitment. Over the years, we have advised them on various strategic planning

## 'Must explore fuel cycle options instead of reactor options to step up nuclear capacity, bring thorium into the mix early': Anil Kakodkar



Kakodkar said. Recycled nuclear fuel would then be necessary to sustain the capacity addition growth rate. For that the FBR was seen as crucial, but delays had dogged the large-scale deployment of these reactors. As an improvisation, by using thorium irradiated along with HALEU in the PHWRs at scale, the spent fuel produced can then be recycled to set up additional power generation capacity, including through the molten salt reactors. Kakodkar said that while recycling spent uranium fuel along with plutonium in fast reactors remains a superior option, given the delays in India's FBR project, recycling the HALEU-thorium fuel is perhaps the next best alternative. This would enable India's civil atomic power programme to grow as long as the irradiated fuel feed is available, he said. Kakodkar said that while the government's plans to establish a number of Bharat Small Reactors in a public-private partnership mode make sense, there is no harm in India being open to all available nuclear technologies, including imported light water reactors. While the 700 MWe PHWRs, currently being deployed in fleet mode, can be the main basis for capacity addition, small reactors could "play a supporting role".

HALEU-thorium fuel can be leveraged in both to enable the continuation of capacity addition beyond the time uranium supply constraints, and the continuing delays in the FBR programme. Can the private sector lead India's nuclear power journey? According to Kakodkar, the private sector, while it needs to be mobilised to scale up the programme has, at best, "a secondary role". That is an argument which is countered by other experts, given the inability of the public sector to expedite nuclear capacity addition.

"The inability to scale up is a management issue, and not a technology issue," Kakodkar said. He also said that nuclear power today is competitive without any subsidy, and so be given must-run status, and should be backed up by a clean energy fund, just like for renewables. The Department of Atomic Energy's three-stage power programme envisages a pathway to utilising India's abundant thorium reserves — found in coastal sands on the beaches of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, and in the inland riverine sands of Jharkhand and West Bengal — to generate electricity.

Amid delays in plans for large-scale deployment of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) — the vital second stage of India's three-stage atomic energy programme — one of the country's top nuclear scientists has said that a solution could lie in the country's policy makers looking at fuel cycle options instead of reactor options. The delays in FBR deployment is bad news for India's nuclear programme, given that these reactors envisaged the use of recycled fuel while breeding much more fissile fuel. A quick solution to tide over this problem could lie in irradiating thorium — the radioactive metallic element named after the Norse god that has been a long standing hope for India's true energy security — along with a fuel variant called high assay, low enriched uranium (HALEU) in the country's pressurised heavy-water reactors (PHWRs) at scale, Anil Kakodkar, former director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, told The Indian Express.

The used fuel from these PHWRs — the mainstay of India's nuclear power programme — can then be recycled to set up additional power generation capacity, including through the new-age molten salt reactors (MSRs) as part of the third stage of India's three-stage nuclear power development programme. HALEU is defined as uranium enriched to greater than 5 per cent and less than 20 per cent of the uranium-235 (U-235) isotope, which is different from the uranium fuel enriched up to 5 per cent U-235 that is typically used in the current fleet of light water reactors deployed by most western countries.

Applications for HALEU are currently limited to research reactors and it is not yet widely available commercially. This also comes at a time when China is planning to build a nuclear power plant on the edge of the Gobi Desert that would be the first in the world to use molten salt as the fuel carrier and coolant, and the first to use thorium as a fuel source instead of the uranium traditionally used in nuclear reactors. Kakodkar's comments are timely, given the need for baseload nuclear capacity and thermal capacity that is clearly being felt currently in India after a phase of rapid expansion of renewables power generation capacity over the last decade. The absence of energy storage systems to counterbalance the renewable capacity is now resulting in increasing instability in the country's electricity grid. Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind rely on specific atmospheric conditions to generate power, producing electricity only when the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. While nuclear, alongside thermal, is being seen as a solution to ramping up base load capacity, the slow pace of atomic power capacity addition is a big constraint.

According to Kakodkar, while the government's move to acknowledge the inevitable role of nuclear energy in the realisation of its 'Viksit Bharat' goals is positive, the setting up of 100 GWe of nuclear capacity by 2047 would be a challenge. "The only way to exponentially increase the rate of nuclear power output, given the supply constraints on uranium, is to start recycling uranium and bringing in thorium into the (generation) mix as early as possible,"

## "Can y'all chill, our team needs sleep," says OpenAI CEO Sam Altman after Ghibli images take over internet



in the style of certain living artists and studios like Studio Ghibli. To manage the high demand, OpenAI plans to introduce temporary rate limits. The free version of ChatGPT will soon have a cap of three image generations per day. Altman assured users that these restrictions are temporary and that the company is working to improve efficiency. Unlike earlier AI-generated art that relied on external tools like OpenAI's DALL-E, the new image generation feature is built directly into ChatGPT-4o. Users can create visuals seamlessly using text prompts and even specify details like aspect ratio, colour schemes, and transparent backgrounds.

New Delhi: OpenAI CEO Sam Altman on Sunday urged users to reduce their usage of ChatGPT's latest image generation feature, citing overwhelming demand. In a post on social media platform X, he said: "Can y'all please chill on generating images this is insane our team needs sleep (sic)". Despite his appeal, many users were not convinced, with some even suggesting that he should fire his team. Responding to one such post, Altman defended his team, saying they had built one of the biggest websites in the world in just 2.33 years. "No thanks. In addition to building AGI, this team is on trajectory to build the biggest website in the world from a cold start 2.33 years ago," Altman replied to the post. On March 25, OpenAI introduced its newest AI-powered image generator, integrated with ChatGPT's GPT-4o model. This feature allows users to refine images iteratively and maintain consistency across multiple edits.

Since its launch, there has been a surge in user engagement, with many experimenting by transforming images into various artistic styles, including Studio Ghibli. However, the rapid adoption has put a strain on OpenAI's infrastructure. Altman acknowledged the situation, stating: "It's super fun seeing people love images in ChatGPT, but our GPUs are melting." Due to copyright concerns, OpenAI has also restricted the generation of images

## India-US trade deal: First tranche by Fall, but no relief yet on reciprocal tariffs



THE FOUR-DAY India-US trade talks concluded Saturday with substantial convergence on the contours of a trade deal but without finalising the Terms of Reference (ToR), a document that kickstarts negotiations by defining the scope and objectives of a bilateral trade agreement (BTA), a government official told The Indian Express. In a statement after the talks, India's Commerce and Industry Ministry said the talks ended with a "broad understanding" of the next steps towards a bilateral trade agreement both countries aim to sign by Fall. It, however, did not indicate whether there would be any relaxation on President Donald Trump's decision to impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2 as was expected by the Indian industry.

"Both sides, through four days of discussions in New Delhi, have broadly agreed on the next steps towards a mutually beneficial, multi-sector BTA, aiming to finalise its first tranche by fall 2025. Sectoral expert-level engagements under the BTA will begin virtually in the coming weeks, paving the way for an early in-person negotiating round," the ministry said. Trade experts said the Terms of Reference are usually set before negotiations begin and are often decided at a political level, as seen in the ongoing India-European Union trade talks. Previously, contentious issues such as market access in agriculture and data localisation had stalled efforts for an India-US trade agreement. Without sharing specifics, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said both sides had a "productive exchange" on strengthening bilateral cooperation in "priority areas, including increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepening supply chain integration in a mutually beneficial manner."

Uncertainty over reciprocal tariffs remains, despite industry optimism following the announcement of trade talks. On Saturday, Trump said discussions between India and the US were progressing well. Last week, he hinted at a softer stance, stating that "a lot of countries" would receive exemptions on April 2. At a White House press briefing today, Trump said, "India is one of the highest tariffing nations in the world... It's brutal. They're very smart. He (Modi) is a very smart man and a great friend of mine. We had very good talks. I think it's going to work out very well between India and our country." The four-day meeting followed Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to Washington DC in early March, where he met US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. "This week's talks served as an icebreaker, with substantive negotiations expected to begin later. Despite the discussions, the US continues to impose additional tariffs on Indian exports such as steel, aluminium,

automobiles, and auto parts. Also, it is not clear if the talks are only about India making unilateral tariff concessions or if the US will also cut its tariffs. While both sides engage in dialogue, Washington's hardline trade stance suggests a disparity in bargaining power," former trade officer and head of think tank GTRI, Ajay Srivastava, said.

The Indian Express reported on Friday that US negotiators focused on market access—an area of US interest—but did not disclose plans for reciprocal tariffs when questioned by Indian negotiators. This has raised concerns among Indian officials that the US could use reciprocal tariffs as leverage to push for an early goods deal. During the talks, US demands centred on greater market access, particularly for automobiles, whisky, and certain agricultural products. Indian negotiators, meanwhile, sought improved access for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather. On digital trade, the US is pressing for greater data access, challenging India's strict data localisation rules, which require Indian data to be stored domestically. During Trump's first term, disputes over data localisation were a major source of friction between the two nations. Trump has already imposed 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium and is set to impose tariffs on automobiles and auto parts from April 3. Indian steel exporters have told the government that US tariffs have affected nearly \$5 billion worth of exports, while auto-component exporters fear selective concessions could threaten India's \$7 billion exports to the US. But the government was hopeful. "The successful conclusion of the discussions reflects progress in efforts to expand India-US bilateral trade and investment relations to promote prosperity, security, and innovation in both countries. These steps aim to unlock new opportunities for businesses, drive bilateral economic integration, and reinforce the economic partnership between India and the United States," the Commerce and Industry Ministry's statement said.

## Key nuclear deal breakthrough: US clears firm to build and design n-reactors in India



TWO decades after it was inked, decks have been cleared to tap the commercial potential of the India-US civil nuclear deal with an unprecedented regulatory clearance from the US Department of Energy (DoE) that will allow a US company to build and design nuclear reactors in India. The March 26 approval from DoE cleared Holtec International's application for specific authorisation with respect to the restrictive regulation that is referred to as "10CFR810". (Part 810 of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations of the US Atomic Energy Act of 1954).

This authorisation permits Holtec, with conditions, to transfer "unclassified small modular reactor (SMR) technology" to three firms in India: its regional subsidiary Holtec Asia; Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd; and Larsen & Toubro Ltd. Holtec International is promoted by Indian-American Kris P Singh, and has its wholly-owned subsidiary Holtec Asia operating an engineering unit in Pune since 2010 and has a manufacturing unit in Dahej, Gujarat. Holtec's original request included three additional proposed Indian end-users: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), thermal utility NTPC Ltd., and the Atomic Energy Review Board (AERB). But the Government of India did not provide the requisite non-proliferation assurances for these three state-owned entities. As per the approval, Holtec may, in the due course, request to amend this authorisation to add NPCIL, NTPC, and AERB as authorised end users. The latest authorisation has been granted for 10 years from the date of issuance, subject to a review at 5-year intervals. The authorisation is also subject to assurances from the Government of India extended on March 3, 2025 that the three selected private entities — L&T, TCE, and Holtec Asia — will use the technology and information transferred from Holtec only for "peaceful nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and not for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or for any military purpose".

So far, the regulation, while giving US companies, such as Holtec, the ability to export equipment to countries such as India under strict safeguards, explicitly barred them from manufacturing any nuclear equipment or performing any nuclear design work in India. This provision was a non-starter from New Delhi's perspective, which wanted to participate in manufacturing SMRs and co-produce the nuclear components for its domestic needs. The March 26 authorisation lists key conditions: that the technology and information or items "derived therefrom" will not be "retransferred to any other entity or end user in India or to other countries except the United States without the prior written consent of the Government of the United States"; and that the "Indian End Users" are authorised by the Government of India to receive the subject Part 810-controlled nuclear technology. Holtec International will also have to file quarterly reports to DoE on the technology and assistance provided to the end users under this authorisation. Importantly, it also requires that Holtec "Part 810-controlled technology" is only used for peaceful nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards and not for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and "not for marine or for naval propulsion activities, or any military purpose"; and that it will not provide the Indian partners with access to "enrichment technology or Sensitive Nuclear Technology". This comes weeks after an announcement on renewed nuclear cooperation between the two countries to "fully realise" the US-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement, marking a significant diplomatic upside for India.

At a time when the Trump administration has been extremely transactional on the issue of balancing trade deficits and supporting US manufacturing, the commitment to move forward on plans to jointly build US-designed nuclear reactors in India — through large scale localisation and possible technology transfer — is being seen as a significant diplomatic gain for India. The new deal potentially offers a chance for India's nuclear sector to upgrade its reactor specialisation to those in use across much of the world, and scale up capacity addition against the current glacial pace of project development. The plan to leverage private

sector capabilities to get into the niche, but growing, SMR space is also significant. Though India's civil nuclear programme has expertise in manufacturing smaller reactor types — 220MWe PHWRs (pressurised heavy water reactors) and above — the problem for India is its reactor technology.

Based on heavy water and natural Uranium, PHWRs are increasingly out of sync with the pressurised water reactors or PWRs (a light-water nuclear reactor type that constitute the large majority of the world's nuclear power plants) are now the most dominant reactor type across the world. Holtec International, a privately-held company, is billed as one of the world's largest exporters of capital nuclear components and is a leader in the decommissioning sector. With this 810 authorisation, the possibility of India and the US joining forces to compete with China is a possibility when Beijing too is working on an ambitious plan to seize the opportunity of global leadership in the SMR space, unlike large reactors where China has been a latecomer.

Like India, China sees SMRs as a tool of its diplomatic outreach in the Global South that could shake up the SMR industry, just as it has done in the electric vehicle sector. Both India and the US are hamstrung to compete with China on their own, given India's technological constraints and the US being impeded by a relatively high cost of labour and the growing protectionist mood in that country. Holtec has a non-nuclear manufacturing facility in Dahej, Gujarat, and has conveyed that it can double the workforce at that plant in less than a year if the proposed manufacturing plans are cleared. The 123 agreement signed by India and the US way back in July 2007 did, in fact, explicitly aim to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation between the two sides by providing for "full civil nuclear energy cooperation covering nuclear reactors and aspects of the associated nuclear fuel cycle including enrichment and reprocessing" Since then, there has been no progress on the ground and a single investment is yet to come through. On the Indian side, there are legal issues too. The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, which sought to create a mechanism for compensating victims from damage caused by a nuclear accident, and allocating liability and specifying procedures for compensation, has been cited as an impediment by foreign players such as GE-Hitachi, Westinghouse and French nuclear company Areva. This is primarily on the grounds that the legislation channels operators' liability to equipment suppliers, with foreign vendors citing this as a reason for worries about investing in India's nuclear sector due to fear of incurring future liability.

Holtec could explore a collaboration with TCE, one of India's largest consulting engineering firms in power sector, and partner with L&T to make some of the components for the upcoming nuclear plants here. In due course, Holtec said it hopes to work with the two state-owned entities authorised to operate nuclear power plants in India, NPCIL and NTPC, as potential customers and operators of the SMR-300 reactors. Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act 1962 also have to be initiated to enable private companies to enter nuclear generation as operators, which is currently restricted to only state-owned companies. The Indian government has committed to getting this done. This development comes when India is working to get into the manufacturing value chain of small reactors.

## Kuldeep Yadav reveals lessons taught by Sunil Narine: 'I believed I could rely solely on my skills...'



GNS News Agency, April 2

Kuldeep Yadav burst onto the scene as a lethal weapon. However, he lost his edge after the first couple of seasons and became predictable. The wrist-spinner recalls Sunil Narine's advice on bowling length and how it has helped immensely. "As a bowler, you must aim to dominate. Players like Jasprit Bumrah and Sunil Narine have done that consistently. I learned a lot from Sunil Narine when I was with KKR. He was ahead of his time. He always emphasized the importance of bowling length," Kuldeep Yadav

said speaking on Jiohotstar. "Back then, I believed I could rely solely on my skills, but now I realize he was absolutely right. Since returning from injury, I've focused a lot on my length, and that has made a significant difference," he added. The scores have been sky-rocketing in the IPL for the last couple of years Kuldeep would also emphasize how difficult it is to maintain the economy. "The IPL is very tough for bowlers — it's highly competitive. You may pick up wickets, but you can't always expect to maintain an economy of just 6 or 7 runs per over. It's a challenging format with high-quality players,"

Axar Patel has been made the captain of Delhi Capitals for the upcoming season. "Axar and I have been playing together since our U-17 days, so our understanding is very smooth. We have a very clear-cut communication style. I remember during the U-19 World Cup in 2012, when we won in Australia under Unmukt Chand's captaincy, we were both in standby. We've been together since then, which speaks volumes about our bond," Kuldeep would say. "Our bowling partnership has always been simple. I have always been an attacking bowler, while Axar provides control, which creates pressure on the batsmen," he added.

## 'Play on flat pitches and back your batters to win it': Aakash Chopra advice to struggling Rajasthan Royals

GNS News Agency, April 2

Former India cricketer and commentator Aakash Chopra advised struggling Rajasthan Royals to stick to flat surfaces and back the batters to win matches. This came after season one champion, Rajasthan lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders in their opening two games. "Saying it again—play on flat pitches and back your batters to win it," Chopra posted on X. In Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel and Nitish Rana, Rajasthan have gone with an Indian core at the top, with Shimron Hetmyer being the only recognisable hitter in the mix.

The foreign bowling trio of Jofra Archer, Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana have also been ordinary until now for RR, resulting in Rajasthan's struggling with both bat and ball in the first two matches. Hyderabad scored 286, the second-highest total in IPL history against the Men In Pink, while they could only manage 151 against KKR batting first. Jofra has conceded over a hundred runs in 7 overs without taking a single wicket. There are two options—Fazalhaq and Maphaka. But don't know if that'll make a significant difference to their bowling resources. Their marquee signing, Archer, especially has been taken to the cleaners by batters; and his 4-0-76-0 against SRH was also the most expensive spell by any bowler in IPL history. Chopra remarked that the Englishmen's replacements, Fazalhaq Farooqi and Kwena Maphaka, could hardly make



any difference. "Jofra has conceded over a hundred runs in 7 overs without taking a single wicket. There are two options—Fazalhaq and Maphaka. But don't know if that'll make a significant difference to their bowling resources," Chopra added. "And Hetmyer can't possibly bat at 8 ever again," said Chopra after Hetmyer was demoted to No. 8 against Kolkata, his lowest batting position in T20 cricket. Rajasthan host Chennai Super Kings for their last match at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati. Sanju Samson, who is recovering from a finger injury and playing as an Impact Sub, is likely to be fully fit after his game. This also means that Samson can take over the captaincy duties from Riyan Parag, who was leading RR in his stead in front of his home crowd.

## Who is Zeeshan Ansari, former India U19 WC spinner who made IPL debut for SRH vs DC in IPL 2025?

GNS News Agency, April 2

Lucknow-born leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari gained the spotlight on Sunday at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam as he made his IPL debut for Sunrisers Hyderabad against the Delhi Capitals. Ansari was drafted in by captain Pat Cummins, replacing his Australia compatriot and leggie Adam Zampa in the SRH XI. Interestingly, Ansari has only played one T20 match for the Uttar Pradesh side in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, returning wicketless while conceding 32 runs on debut.

Prior to his First-Class debut, Ansari had represented in India during the 2016 Under-19 World Cup where they finished runners-up. The all-rounder featured in two games, scoring 35 runs. Unlike most others in India's then Under-19 World Cup squad, Zeeshan didn't represent his state at under-14 or under-16 levels. When Zeeshan didn't make it to the age group teams, his father's patience with his pursuit wore thin. Zeeshan's joint family was 19-strong and an extra hand at work would be of huge help, instead of being



a drain on their finances. Representing the Meerut Mavericks in the UP T20 League, Ansari emerged as the leading wicket-taker of the tournament last year, recording 24 scalps. The 25-year-old late secured a Rs 40 lakh bid from SRH during the IPL 2025 Mega Auction in Jeddah in November 2024. Zeeshan has also represented Uttar Pradesh in five FC games, picking up 17 wickets.

## Serial record breaker Gulveer smashes 10,000 m national record by 14.66 whole seconds



Championships qualification standard of 29:33.26, and should make it to Gumi, Korean. Gulveer is now third behind Qatar's Ahmad Hassan Abdullah (Kenya born) and Nicholas Kemboi (also Kenya born) in Asia.

## Radical changes proposed in the All India Football Federation draft constitution

Hyderabad: The draft constitution of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has proposed several radical changes, including the provision for inclusion of at least five former national players in the 14-member Executive Committee and removal of the office bearers through a no-confidence motion. The draft constitution, prepared by retired Justice L Nageswara Rao, has been submitted to the Supreme Court. An SC bench comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Joyymalya Bagchi on March 25 commenced final hearing on pleas related to the finalisation of the AIFF Constitution. The matter is likely to be taken up by the bench for further arguments and final disposal on April 2. The draft constitution says that the current elected members of the Executive Committee (after polls in September 2022), "shall stay in power and serve their permitted full term(s) of four years, subsequent to which fresh elections shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in this amended Constitution." But according to officials tracking the development, the election can be called before the end of the term of the current office bearers — which is September 2026 — if the SC gives nod to the new constitution and the AIFF adopts it quickly.

## Starc, Kuldeep help Delhi Capitals restrict Sunrisers to 164



GNS News Agency, April 2

Visakhapatnam: Aniket Verma was the surprising batting hero for Sunrisers Hyderabad cracking a brilliant 74 (41b, 5x4, 6x6) as it set up a modest target of 164 for Delhi Capitals in the IPL league match at the ACA-VDCA International Stadium here on Sunday. For Capitals, Australian pace ace and left-armer Mitchell Starc with a five-wicket haul (5/35) and left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav (3/22) were the lead performers. It was a splendid effort by Aniket when the other big name in batting except Heinrich Klaasen failed to get going. In the first over, Abhishek Sharma (1), who was slow to respond for a sharp single from striker Travis Head was stranded and not the kind of start Sunrisers would have hoped for. Then, in the third over, Aussie pace ace Mitchell Starc struck a double blow — forcing southpaw Ishan Kishan (2) slash straight to third man and then local hero Nitish Kumar Reddy moved away to play a mistimed pull stroke for a two-ball duck. Sunrisers was clearly in trouble at 25 for three in 2.3 overs. Starc continued to torment the

batting line-up dismissing the dangerous looking Travis Head (22, 12b, 4x4) as he slashed only to edge to the wicketkeeper to the delight of the Capitals' camp to make it a pathetic 37 for four in 4.1 overs. It was a superb spell by Starc, who mixed his pace with yorkers and wish length giving little away. But, Heinrich Klaasen was in a different mood — pulling nonchalantly over the fence and then essaying an extravagant cover drive to the fence in one over from Starc. Capitals' captain and left-arm spinner Axar Patel would have had Aniket Verma (on 6) with his second ball but Abhishek Porel failed to latch on to the leading edge when the batter played across the line in the sixth over. In the power-play Sunrisers scored a paltry 58 for four. That fielding lapse proved costly as the 23-year-old Aniket from Uttar Pradesh played a brilliant knock which included two massive sixes in one over off Axar — one over square-leg and one straight into the sight screen.

Soon, a superb catch, running back from backward point by Vipraj Nigam to latch on to a leading edge off an intended off-drive by Heinrich Klaasen (32, 19b, 2x4, 2x6) off pacer Mohit Sharma in the 11th over was just the kind of breakthrough Capitals needed badly (114 for five) to come back into the game. This ended the best partnership (77 off 42 balls) between Aniket and Klaasen for the fifth wicket. A couple of quick wickets soon saw Sunrisers slip to 123 for seven in 14 overs. But Aniket continued to toy with the bowlers hitting a four and two huge sixes in one over off Axar in the 15th over. A brilliant catch when Fraser McGurk timed his jump to perfection at deep mid-wicket to hold on to a shot from Aniket off left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav provided the much needed relief to Capitals in the 16th over. Kuleep was once again exceptional with his spell of 4-0-22-3.

## Indian cricket men team to tour Australia for white-ball games in 2025/26 season, women to play all-format series

GNS News Agency, April 2

New Delhi: The India men's cricket team is all set to tour Australia for a white-ball series in the 2025/26 international cricket season in the country, while the women's side will play an all-format series later. In the schedule unveiled by Cricket Australia (CA) on Sunday, the 2025-26 international season will be the first ever to feature men's internationals in all eight Australian states and territories. Australia will begin their international season by hosting South Africa for three men's T20Is and as many ODIs in Mackay, Darwin, and Cairns in August.

The T20Is between Australia and South Africa in Darwin will see international cricket return to the Northern Territory after a 17-year hiatus. It will be followed by India returning to the country for a white-ball series after losing the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series 3-1 earlier this year. India and Australia will play three ODIs in Perth, Adelaide and Sydney from October 19-25, while the five T20I will be played in Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Gold Coast and Brisbane from October 29 to November 8. The biggest showpiece series of the international season will be the five-match men's Ashes series between Australia and England happening in Perth (November 21-25), Brisbane (December 4-8), Adelaide (December 17-21), Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 4-8). After that, the all-format women's series between Australia and India will take centre stage. The Sydney Cricket Ground will host the opening T20I on February 15, followed by matches at Manuka Oval and Adelaide Oval on February 19 and 21, respectively. The three ODIs will be held at Brisbane's Allan Border Field (February 24), Hobart's Bellerive Oval (February 27) and Melbourne's CitiPower Centre (March 1), before the highly awaited one-off Test at the newly redeveloped WACA Ground takes place from March 6-9.

Due to the all-format series, the 2026 season of the



Women's Premier League (WPL) had been shifted to a January-February window as per the new ICC Women's Future Tours Programme. "We are excited to announce the schedule for what will be another incredible international season including the grand history and intense rivalry of the Ashes, the fantastic box office appeal of the India men's and women's teams and a return to some iconic tourist locations in northern Australia for the white ball series against South Africa." "We look forward to bringing international cricket to fans across the country with 11 cities and 14 venues hosting matches throughout the season including matches in every state and territory capital city for the first time in 17 years. "We smashed many records for attendance, viewing audiences and digital engagement last summer and we're confident that this incredible momentum will continue throughout what promises to be an engrossing season. "We are extremely grateful for the cooperation and support of all our government, venue, broadcast and commercial partners who ensure Australia's national sport continues to deliver brilliant experiences in stadiums and drive participation across the country," said Todd Greenberg, the newly-appointed CEO of CA.

## IPL is tough for bowlers, says Kuldeep Yadav; Credits Sunil Narine for key lessons

GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad: Delhi Capitals' star spin bowler Kuldeep Yadav says that the IPL is very tough for bowlers—it's highly competitive. "You may pick up wickets, but you can't always expect to maintain an economy of just 6 or 7 runs per over. It's a challenging format with high-quality players," Kuldeep said in a chat with JioStar. "As a bowler, you must aim to dominate. Players like Jasprit Bumrah and Sunil Narine have done that consistently. I learned a lot from Sunil Narine when I was with KKR—he was ahead of his time," Kuldeep said. "He always emphasized the importance of bowling length. Back then, I believed I could rely solely on my skills, but now I realize he was absolutely right. Since returning from injury, I've focused a lot on my length, and that has made a significant difference," he

On his long-standing spin partnership with fellow Delhi Capitals teammate Axar Patel, dating back to their early cricketing days, Kuldeep said Axar and he had been playing together since under-17 days, so their understanding is very smooth. "We have a very clear-cut communication style. I remember during the U-19 World Cup in 2012, when we won in Australia under Unmukt Chand's captaincy, we were both in standby," he said. "I have always been an attacking bowler, while Axar provides control, which creates



pressure on the batsmen. That pressure often converts into wickets—either for him, for me, or for someone else bowling at the time," Kuldeep said. "The pressure Axar builds in the middle overs is crucial, and our communication is seamless when discussing plans. Like I used to understand Chahal's game, I have the same understanding with Axar. While our bowling styles differ, my mindset remains very clear when bowling alongside him," the star spin bowler said.

## 'Loved Tilak Varma wicket the most; Sai Kishore staredown with Hardik was fun to watch'

Economical bowling with 4.50 runs per over after coming on rather late wasn't the only thing that made Prasidh Krishna happy about his match turning bowling in the win against Mumbai Indians. The Gujarat Titans Speedster anointed 'Skiddy' was happy he had claimed the dangerous Tilak Varma's wicket just when MI chase was getting back into the groove. "Well, I really loved getting the first wicket," he told GT social media after the 2/18 figures. "For GT, that was great as well. I thought it was going overhead but (Rahul) Tewatia really took a good catch. And of course Surya's was a very important wicket at that point of time," he added. Ashish Nehra, GT coach has put together an impressive all-India Three Towers bowling attack comprising Md Siraj (2/34, and 1.78 metres tall), Prasidh (1.88 m) and

Sai Kishore (1.96 m) with an average of 187 centimetres. However, it was the two pacers — 'Miyan' and 'Skiddy', who polished off the dangerous MI top order, after Siraj (2/34) sent back Rohit Sharma. It was the longest Skiddy had been made to wait to bowl on the black soil wicket. "I was itching to bowl actually," Prasidh said at the post-match presentation. "It was the tenth over. I was just thinking I haven't really waited so long in a game, in a T20 game, before bowling but everything paid off." "When I got the ball in my hand, the first couple of them were not really good but then when I got to know what the pitch was like ... And I think the message was clear from the team to back yourself and to go out there and execute and I'm happy as I have been doing it," he added later to GT SM.

## Sikandar movie review: Salman Khan, AR Murugadoss deliver a lacklustre, dull film



class cabin of an airplane. After that it's all downhill: you are hard put to see any freshness in the lazy, formulaic writing which pits the Raja of Rajkot against arrogant neta (Sathyaraj), complicit cop (Kishore), and their goons, when he is sharing some softer moments with faithful wife (Rashmika Mandanna).

The other supporting actors revolve around Sikandar, with the talented Sharman Joshi being relegated to the background, literally. A mouthy slum kid named Kamaruddin is quickly reduced to Kamar. Why? Because Muslim references needed to be tamped down? You can see the attempt to make this film 'pan-Indian' by bunging in a South Indian family segment, the traditional 'thaatha' (grandfather) who doesn't want his daughter-in-law (Kajal Aggarwal) to work agreeing meekly to change overnight because the Gujarati-spouting Sikandar, who not only owns his tears but is a feminist to boot, gives said grandpa a lecture about how women should be free to do anything they want. But nothing works. In the past, love him or hate him, Bhai has always managed to arouse feelings: his walk-on part in Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathan', which captured a wry acknowledgement of his advancing years, brought the house down. You can't see any of that in this lacklustre, dull offering, fronted by a distinctly uninterested and uninvolved Salman. In an early moment in the film, Sikandar says, 'I'm done, bro'. That feels, um, prescient. Where has the Bhai who strode on to the screen, agate stone dangling from his wrist, beating up the baddies, making things better, gone? Can someone bring him back? In this iteration, I was bored out of my skull. Sikandar movie cast: Salman Khan, Rashmika Mandanna, Satyaraj, Sharman Joshi, Kishore, Kajal Aggarwal, Prateik Babbar, Jatin Sarna. Sikandar movie director: AR Murugadoss. Sikandar movie rating: One and a half stars

You can see him go through the motions of emotion and action, delivering dialogue, dancing, romancing, shedding tears—yes, he's man enough to cry—but nowhere do you see traces of the one and only Bhai, who has never pretended to be anything other than who he has been in the last thirty years—the star with his very specific style-and-swing—the blue bracelet and the bulked-up arms-and-torso akimbo adorning his favourite avatars of the loveable rascal-cum-the desi Robin Hood with the golden heart.

In 2025, when the three Khans turn 60, the struggle to stay relevant has never been as difficult: the world has changed, and Salman hasn't adapted. Nor has AR Murugadoss, who became familiar to Hindi-speaking audiences with Aamir Khan's 'Ghajini', a masala film which found its beats in its star, and his presence. In 'Sikandar', both the director and the star flounder spectacularly, failing to give us anything we haven't seen before. The opening sequence starts with faint promise, with Bhai coming on and schooling an entitled minister ka beta (Prateik Babbar) in the first

## Ranveer Allahbadia announces podcast 'rebirth' amid controversy, vows to create responsible content: 'Give me one more chance'

Ranveer Allahbadia has shared his first Instagram post and YouTube video following the controversy over his obscene remark on Samay Raina's show India's Got Latent. In the clip, Ranveer announced that his podcast, The Ranveer Show, will soon return with 'better quality'. He said, "We will actually change the country through our content and our work." The YouTuber also apologised to his fans for his remarks on India's Got Latent.

Ranveer began his YouTube video by expressing gratitude to fans who texted and supported him during the ordeal. He also thanked his family and his team for standing by him through the tough phase. He said, "Not a single person in the team resigned through this whole phase." Ranveer also acknowledged the support he received from 'actors, cricketers, bureaucrats, and business professionals' who had been guests on his podcast and reached out to him during the row. In the video, Ranveer Allahbadia promised to create content with more responsibility. He said, "So many people consider me a son, so many people consider me a brother, mainly sorry to all of them. In the next 10, 20, 30 years, as long as I create content, I will create content with more responsibility." Ranveer added, "So many kids also watch our show. Obviously, going forward, I will carry on my work with a lot of responsibility. I have a responsibility towards you." Ranveer announced that his podcast is in the 'restarting phase' and asked his audience for another chance. He said, "Please make space for me in your heart. Give me one more chance. I love content creation a lot, I love podcasting a lot. Exploring the history and culture of our country is my passion. That's what I am doing through my job." Lastly, Ranveer admitted that following the uproar over his remarks on India's Got Latent, his 'mental health got so bad' and that only 'meditation, sadhna, and prayer' helped him cope. The YouTuber shared that he wants to



see this phase as 'a learning and not punishment'. He added, "I consider this phase as a gift from God. Now I am just going to let my work speak." Apart from the video, Ranveer Allahbadia also shared an Instagram post where he was seen posing with his family and team. He wrote, "Thank you to my loved ones ?? Thank you universe ?? A new blessed chapter begins - Rebirth..."

On comedian Samay Raina's show India's Got Latent, Ranveer Allahbadia asked a fan whether he would rather watch his parents have sex every day for the rest of his life or join in once and stop it forever. This remark led to widespread uproar and FIRs against the two comedians and other panelists. Ranveer even apologised for his remark, saying, "My comment wasn't just inappropriate, it wasn't even funny." On March 3, the Supreme Court lifted ban on Ranveer's podcast but with strict guidelines, asking him to ensure that his podcast adheres to moral and decency standards, making it suitable for audiences of all ages.

## Shreyas Talpade reacts to accusations of involvement in a multi-crore chit fund scam: 'It is deeply unfortunate...'

After actor Shreyas Talpade's name got dragged into a multi-crore chit fund scam, his team issued a statement denying all allegations. According to the statement, even though Shreyas might have attended a few events by the organisers, he has no personal or professional connection beyond that. The statement released on Instagram read, "It is deeply unfortunate that, in today's world, a person's hard-earned reputation appears to be vulnerable to undue tarnishment by unfounded rumours. Recent reports alleging Mr Shreyas Talpade's involvement in fraud or misconduct are completely false, baseless, and devoid of any merit whatsoever." The statement further read, "As a public figure, Mr. Talpade, like many other celebrities, is frequently invited to various corporate and annual events, which he attends as and when possible. Beyond such appearances, he has no association whatsoever with the company in question. Needless to say, Mr. Talpade has no nexus whatsoever with any fraudulent or unlawful acts as are being alleged and/or circulated." The statement concluded, "We urge everyone to verify facts before spreading misinformation and re-



quest that Mr. Talpade's name be kept away from these baseless rumours. Mr. Talpade is a law-abiding citizen who remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and professionalism in all of his endeavours."

## Never liked the way women were in James Bond, says Helen Mirren

Los Angeles: Veteran Hollywood star Helen Mirren said that she never liked 'James Bond' movies and that the whole concept of it is drenched and born out of profound sexism. Mirren will soon reunite with former co-star Pierce Brosnan in Guy Ritchie's 'MobLand', and though she's a "huge fan of Pierce Brosnan," she deemed the James Bond franchise in which he appears decidedly "not (her) thing" due to its portrayal of women. "I mean, oh my god. Obviously, he's gorgeous and everything, and I think he's fabulous in 'MobLand', but he also happens to

be one of the nicest people you'll ever have the pleasure to work with. And indeed Daniel Craig, who I've met and know a little bit." "Again, a very lovely gracious person," she told the UK's The Standard in a recent interview, reports deadline.com. However, she added: "The whole series of James Bond, it was not my thing. It really wasn't. I never liked James Bond. I never liked the way women were in James Bond." As a result, the 1923 star said she's opposed to a female actor taking up the mantle as 007 and would rather see retellings of women from history who occupied spy roles.

## Neha Kakkar's Melbourne concert organisers react to her accusations of mismanagement: 'She should be the one paying us'



Earlier this week, singer Neha Kakkar faced backlash from the audience for arriving three hours late to a concert in Melbourne. After the audience booed the singer and asked her to leave, she broke down on stage. Following the incident, Neha took to social media, accusing the organisers of mismanagement. She alleged that the organisers ran away with her money, and her band was not provided with a hotel, food, or even water. In response to Neha's accusations, the organisers have asserted that her allegations were false.

Stating that their company has incurred a loss, the organisers issued a statement on social media that read,

"We will be back with all the proof and details of what happened with the Neha Kakkar show. We will expose everybody tomorrow, it will be live." Later on a Facebook Live, the event's representative called Neha Kakkar's show a disaster and clarified that all arrangements were in place. They added, "The allegations are completely false. We are in a big debt after the show. She should be the one paying us. It was a mistake having her on board." Later, they took to Instagram to release a list of expenses incurred due to Neha Kakkar's team and wrote, "Here are the expenses, and we are down \$-530,000." The organisers also stated that they were banned by the venue due to the unprofessional and delayed performance. After the concert, Neha Kakkar had shared a note which read, "Do you all know that I performed absolutely free for my Melbourne audience? The organisers ran away with my money and others too. My band was not even given food, a hotel, or even water. My husband and his boys went and provided them with food. In spite of all this, we still went on stage and did the show without any rest because my fans were waiting for hours for me." She further wrote, "Do you know our sound check got delayed by hours because the sound vendor was not paid and he refused to put the sound on. And when, after so much delay, our sound check started, I could not reach the venue. We didn't even know if the concert was happening because the organizers stopped picking up my manager's calls. After all, they were running away from the sponsors. Though there is a lot to share, I guess this is enough."

## Aditi Rao Hydari reveals she got married after Heeramandi because there was a 'draught' of offers: 'I thought it's going to be a bauchaar of interesting stuff'

Aditi Rao Hydari says there was a draught of interesting offers after Heeramandi. Aditi Rao Hydari says there was a draught of interesting offers after Heeramandi. Who can forget the viral Gajgami walk of Aditi Rao Hydari in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut show Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar, a period drama which released on Netflix India last year? Or her stirring patriotic scream in the closing moments of the finale episode? However, these standout moments did little for Aditi on the professional front, as the actor revealed recently. "After Heeramandi, the way everybody went on and on, and how it was loved and I thought now it is going to be a bauchaar (shower) of interesting stuff and then cut to... I am like, 'What's going on?' It was really like a drought," Aditi said, talking to friend and choreographer-filmmaker Farah Khan in an episode of the latter's cookery show on YouTube. A surprised Farah then asked Aditi, "Really? Tabhi tune shaadi kar li (That is why you got married)!" To which, Aditi responded, "Actually! No seriously we had to space it out so that we get could get back from work, get married and then get back to work. But the wedding was a lot of fun." Aditi tied the knot with boyfriend and actor Siddharth in September last year. Aditi and Siddharth had a traditional south Indian wedding which took place at a 400-year-old Sri Ranganayakaswamy Temple, located at Srirangapur in Wanaparthy District, Telangana. The two had their wedding photoshoot at a fort-turned-luxury hotel in Bhisangarh in Rajasthan. Aditi revealed in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India after their wedding that the feminist in her was "appalled" when



Siddharth proposed to be a stay-at-home dad to their cat and dog. "So now we have to worry about the longevity of my career. Having said that, I'm very content and secure. If you tell me tomorrow that nobody is ever going to make a film with me again, I won't lose sleep over it," Siddharth confessed in the same interview. In Heeramandi, Aditi Rao Hydari played the role of Bibbojaan, a courtesan and a closeted freedom fighter in pre-Independence India set in a locality of Lahore, present-day Pakistan. Heeramandi marked Aditi's second collaboration with Bhansali after Padmaavat (2018), in which she played the wife of Alauddin Khulji, essayed by Ranveer Singh. Meanwhile, Siddharth will be next seen in the Netflix India cricket film Test, also starring R Madhavan and Nayanthara.

## Empuraan themes 'pained many who love me': Mohanlal expresses regret as political controversy rages

Actor Mohanlal on Sunday expressed "sincere regret for the mental distress caused to many I hold dear" by some political and social themes in his latest movie, Empuraan, which has caused a political storm in Kerala. The Malayalam movie, which hit screens worldwide on Thursday, has angered several Hindutva organisations and leaders, who accused it of maligning the Hindutva ideology and trying to please "anti-national elements" with its references to the 2002 Gujarat riots and other scenes. BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who had previously expressed his wish to watch the film, changed his stance on Sunday, saying he was disappointed by "this type of movie making" and that he would not be watching it.

Mohanlal on Sunday said in his Facebook post: "Certain political and social themes that have emerged in the making of Empuraan, which is a second part of Lucifer, have pained a large number of people who love me. As an artist, it is my responsibility to make sure that my film does not have any hostility towards any political movement, ideology or religious sect. Hence, I and the team of Empuraan sincerely regret the mental distress caused to those I hold dear. With the realisation that the responsibility for it lies with all of us who worked behind the film, we have decided together to remove such themes from the film." On Satur-



day, the makers of the movie had decided to make voluntary modifications in the movie already on screens. They have decided to approach the regional censor board in Thiruvananthapuram in this regard. Gokulam Gopalan, one of the producers of the movie had said that if any dialogue or scene in the film had hurt anyone, he had told director Prithviraj Sukumaran to make necessary changes. "Certain words have already been muted. There is a protest against certain things in the film. I have asked the director to make necessary changes. We are not involved in any politics," Gopalan told reporters.

## How Tom Cruise's simple trick helped Marvel star Hayley Atwell overcome social anxiety: 'If you're scared of something...'

"Social anxiety is something a lot of people talk about these days, and many experience it at some point," Atwell said. "For me, it manifests as overthinking. If you walk into a room and feel the anxieties coming, it makes me want to retreat into myself," she continued. "I start questioning—'Do I look weird? Do I seem awkward?' And then I retreat into myself."

Hayley Atwell, who is set to return for the next and possibly last installment of Mission: Impossible, reprising her role as Grace, revealed how Tom Cruise encouraged her to do the opposite of what her anxiety dictated. Instead of withdrawing, he suggested she confront the fear head-on. "Tom said, 'Try looking out. Look around the room and find the thing that's making you feel insecure,'" Atwell recalled. "Where is the thing that I have attached to my insecurity? Is it that person over there that reminds me of my

school bully? That person over there didn't give me a job once? That person over there that I think was meant to be me once?" By keeping a tap on the source of anxiety, Atwell found that she could give it a name, making it feel less overwhelming. "If I look at it long enough, I can identify what it actually is," she explained. "Maybe I'm feeling jealous, lonely, or intimidated by someone's confidence. But once I name it, the vague sense of unease disappears. That's when I actually have the power to do something about it." Cruise summed up his prep talk with a simple but effective mantra: "If you're scared of something, just keep looking at it, and it will often give you information about what to do to overcome it." Directed by Christopher McQuarrie, Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One hit theatres in 2023. However, despite the Tom Cruise factor, the film's box office numbers were underwhelming, grossing just \$571 million worldwide.