

INDIAN CHRONICLE

UoH students celebrate first victory against Telangana govt

Hyderabad: Days after vehement protests that triggered police lathi charge, the University of Hyderabad (UoH) campus erupted in jubilant celebrations as the Supreme Court on Thursday halted all sorts of developmental activities in Kancha Gachibowli. Despite heavy rain on Thursday that lashed the city, the energy among students was palpable as they gathered outside the University main gate, sang songs against the State government and celebrated their first victory. The State government, as part of the pre-auctioning process of 400 acres of land in Kancha Gachibowli, abutting the University of Hyderabad campus, had commenced deforesting the land.

Congress leaders urges Centre to legalise 42 percent reservation for BCs

New Delhi, April 3 (NSS): Congress leaders from Telangana have called upon the Union government to legalise a 42 percent reservation policy and suggested that this issue be included in the 9th Schedule. Telangana Congress leaders, such as TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnamp Prabhakar, MP Mallu Ravi and several BC legislators, met Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr. Virendra Kumar, at his office in New Delhi on Thursday. They urged him to approve and initiate steps for the implementation of BC reservations. During the meeting, Mahesh Kumar Goud informed the Union Minister about the caste census conducted in Telangana, as well as the passage of the Bill for 42 percent reservation in the Assembly, which has been forwarded to the Centre.

PM holds talks with Thai counterpart Shinawatra ahead of BIMSTEC summit



GNS News Agency, April 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday (April 3, 2025) held delegation-level talks with his Thai counterpart Paetongtarn Shinawatra. PM Modi, who arrived in Bangkok on a two-day visit to attend the 6th BIMSTEC summit, earlier received a Guard of Honour and also witnessed a mesmerising Ramakien - Thai Ramayana performance. "A special ceremonial welcome with Guard of Honour. PM @ingshin of Thailand warmly received PM @narendramodi at the Government House in Bangkok today," MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X. "The two leaders will have wide-ranging discussions for charting the way for future India-Thailand partnership," he said. In a post on X, the Prime Minister's Office said that he witnessed a mesmerising Ramakien, Thai Ramayana performance after he arrived in Bangkok. It showcased the rich civilisational connect between India and Thailand, the PMO said. "A cultural connect like no other! Witnessed a captivating performance of the Thai Ramayana, Ramakien. It was a truly enriching experience that beautifully showcased the shared cultural and civilisational ties between India and Thailand," PM Modi said in a post on X. "The Ramayana truly continues to connect hearts and traditions across so many parts of Asia," he added. In the evening, the Prime Minister will join the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) leaders from Thailand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan to oversee the signing of the Agreement on Maritime Cooperation.

After concluding Thailand's visit, he will travel to Sri Lanka for his first visit to the island country since the election of its new president. The BIMSTEC summit will bring PM Modi face to face with Nepal Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli, Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and Myanmar military junta leader Min Aung Hlaing, among others. In a departure statement, PM Modi described BIMSTEC as a significant forum for promoting regional development, connectivity, and economic progress in the Bay of Bengal region over the past decade.

S C halts Telangana government's actions on Kanch Gachibowli land dispute

GNS News Agency, April 3

The Supreme Court has issued critical orders regarding the Kanch Gachibowli land dispute, expressing strong disapproval of the Telangana government's handling of the matter. The apex court has directed the state to halt all actions related to the land until further orders.

The case was heard on Thursday, during which the Supreme Court reviewed an interim report submitted by the Telangana High Court registrar. Justice Gavai's bench, after examining the report, questioned the state government on how it could take the law into its own hands, calling the matter extremely serious. The court was informed of the issue through media reports presented by the amicus curiae before Justice Gavai's bench.

In a significant move, the Supreme Court included the Telangana Chief Secretary as a respondent in the case and questioned the urgency behind the government's actions. The court also inquired whether the government had obtained permission from the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) before cutting down trees, pointing out that felling trees across 100 acres in a single day was not a minor issue. The Chief Secretary has been ordered to respond to these concerns. The Supreme Court has directed the Telangana government to submit an affidavit regarding the matter and scheduled the next hearing for the 16th of this month. During the hearing, government lawyers argued that the land had been disputed for 30 years and that there was no evidence to classify it as forest land. However, after listening to arguments from both sides, the bench ordered a suspension of all government actions on the disputed land. The case was also heard in the Supreme Court earlier in the day, with the court directing authorities to submit a report by 3:30 pm. The matter continues to remain under legal scrutiny, with further proceedings expected in the coming days.

CM Revanth directs officials to stay high alert amid rains in Hyd



GNS News Agency, April 3

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to remain attentive in areas of Hyderabad that are experiencing heavy rainfall. He recommended implementing appropriate actions to ensure that citizens do not encounter any difficulties. As Hyderabad received intense rain accompanied by thunderstorms, the Chief Minister directed all departmental officials to be vigilant. He has tasked Chief Secretary Santhi Kumari with continuously monitoring the situation and has advised that necessary precautions be taken to protect residents in these vulnerable areas.

Revanth Reddy directed the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), police, and HYDRAA departments

to collaborate effectively to mitigate waterlogging on roads, which could result in traffic congestion and power outages.

The Chief Minister instructed that problems in areas where power supply has been disrupted should be resolved immediately and that electricity should be restored. He recommended that essential aid be given to residents in the flooded regions of low-lying areas. The police were ordered to resolve traffic problems promptly to ensure that travelers can get home without any delays. Revanth Reddy asked the officers and staff of various departments to support each other in the relief measures being taken up in waterlogging areas. The District Collectors, police officers and officers of all departments are also put on high alert in the wake of heavy rains, gusty winds and hailstorms reported in many districts.

KTR vows to reclaim 400 acres of HCU land for Eco Park, slams Congress govt



GNS News Agency, April 3

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao today announced that if his party returns to power, it will reclaim 400 acres of land belonging to Hyderabad Central University in Kancha Gachibowli and transform it into a sprawling eco-park. The move, he said, would serve as a gift to the students of HCU and the people of Hyderabad, while issuing a stern warning to those eyeing the land for real estate gains under the current Congress-led government. Speaking to media persons here today, KTR accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of treating the land as a commodity, cautioning potential buyers that anyone purchasing it in hopes of profiting from Reddy's "biscuit-throwing tactics" would face severe losses once BRS regains control. "We will take back every inch of that land and build an extraordinary eco-park, akin to Central Park in Manhattan, for the future of Hyderabad," he declared. Addressing the ongoing protests by HCU students, KTR saluted their "extraordinary struggle" against the State government's alleged attempts to encroach on university

land. He likened their fight to the historic student movements at Osmania, Kakatiya, and Satavahana universities during the Telangana statehood agitation. "On behalf of the BRS and the people of Hyderabad, I offer a heartfelt salute to the students' fighting spirit," he said. KTR criticized the Congress government for its refusal to engage in dialogue with the students, who have been protesting for the past 10 days. He warned that if the government does not reverse its stance, BRS would mobilize thousands of supporters for a march to HCU. "If they don't step back and change this decision, we will march to HCU with the people of Hyderabad in full force," he asserted. KTR called Chief Minister Revanth Reddy as a "real estate broker" masquerading as a leader. "He claims to work 18 hours a day, but he should spend at least 10 minutes thinking like a human being—like a father or grandfather—about the future generations, instead of acting like a broker," KTR remarked. He accused the government of lacking democratic spirit, alleging that Reddy and his ministers treat the public as "slaves under their feet" and suffer from a "strange mental disorder" of arrogance. The BRS leader also slammed Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka for dismissing concerns about wildlife on the HCU campus, mocking his claim that images of animals were merely "artificial intelligence-generated." "There are no animals there? Bhatti has exposed his own artificial intelligence," KTR quipped. KTR also accused the Congress government of exploiting court holidays to carry out "destructive activities" on the HCU campus, including felling trees and harming wildlife. "Why are they sending bulldozers over the people on Saturdays and Sundays? Has the government no sense, no shame, despite the High Court and Supreme Court's directives?" he questioned.. (NSS)

Rains, gusty winds lash several parts of Hyd

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): The weather in Hyderabad has experienced a sudden shift. After enduring several days of intense heat, the city's residents welcomed relief with rain on Thursday. The downpour, accompanied by strong winds, affected various areas within the GHMC limits. Streets in Begum Bazaar, Kothi, Sultan Bazaar, Abids, Basheer Bagh, Nampally, Liberty, Himayat Nagar, Narayanaguda, Lakdikapal Tank Bund, and other locations were inundated, with some roads submerged under waist-deep water.

This severe weather caused challenges for motorists and pedestrians alike, with vehicles stalling in several areas. Additionally, many trees were toppled by the gusty winds, leading to traffic disruptions. In a separate incident, a large tree fell onto a car on the road from Khairatabad to Panjagutta during the heavy rainfall. Fortunately, extended for several kilometers.

SIT calls investigating officers for review of online betting cases

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): The Special Investigation Team (SIT), constituted by the Government of Telangana under the supervision of the Shikha Goel, IPS, DG, CID, held its first meeting today to chart its future course of action. The meeting was attended by all members of the SIT, namely, M. Ramesh, Inspector General of Police, Provisions & Logistics, TG., Ch Sindhu Sharma, SP, Intelligence, Hyd K. Venkata Lakshmi, SP, EOW, CID, TG., S. Chandrakanth, Addl. SP, TG, M. Shanker, DSP, EOW, CID.

In the meeting, it was decided to call all Investigating

Officers handling online betting cases across the State for a meeting at the State Police Headquarters, Hyderabad. They have been instructed to bring case files and relevant information in the prescribed format. SIT will review investigation in existing cases, develop SOPs and guide IOs in all aspects of investigation. This will be followed by meetings with various other stakeholder agencies. The five-member SIT has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive and time-bound investigation into all online betting cases specifically assigned or transferred to it. Additionally, the SIT will examine the online betting ecosystem to identify enabling factors and suggest necessary reforms to curb such activities. It will evaluate legal provisions, regulations, and restrictions that can be introduced to prevent the organisation, promotion, and advertising of online betting/gaming, and propose appropriate legal measures in the public interest. All government departments and agencies in Telangana were requested to provide full assistance to the SIT. It will submit its final report within 90 days to the Government of Telangana through the Director General of Police (DGP), Telangana. (NSS)

Students of University of Hyderabad conclude protests and relay hunger strike

Hyderabad: After the Supreme Court halted all developmental works in the forested area of Kancha Gachibowli on Thursday, the University of Hyderabad (UoH) students concluded their protests and relay hunger strike, which they commenced earlier today. "Due to stay and the judgement by SC, we have concluded the protests and the relay hunger strike," read a statement from the students. SC

takes suo motu cognizance of mass tree felling at Kancha Gachibowli, halts activity till April 16As the SC halted the works, the university campus erupted in jubilant celebrations.

Despite the heavy rain that lashed the city, many students gathered outside the University main gate, and sang songs against the State government and celebrated their first victory. The State government recently as part of the pre-auctioning process of the 400 acres of

land in Kancha Gachibowli, abutting the UoH campus, commenced clearing the forested land. In a span of two-three days, nearly 100 acres of land was cleared of trees and plants besides levelling.

Ever since the decision to auction the land was announced, students vehemently opposed and protested the move. Earlier in the day, around 20 students, including UoH Students Union general secretary Nihad Sulaiman.

Police maintain round-the-clock vigilance in Delhi-NCR after Waqf Bill passed in Lok Sabha

GNS News Agency, April 3A day after the Waqf (Amendment) Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha, facing raging opposition from Opposition parties and the Waqf Board, police forces are on high alert in Delhi-NCR with possible protests looming over the region, officials said Thursday. The Delhi Police and paramilitary forces carried out a joint flag march in the Jamia Nagar and Saheer Bagh areas. "We have deployed sufficient forces to respond to any emergency situation. Preventive patrolling is also being carried out in sensitive areas to better manage law and order," said Ravi Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South East. Police officials aware of the security arrangements said instructions had been given to station house officers in all sensitive areas for maintaining round-the-clock vigilance. The Lok Sabha passed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill after a lengthy 12-hour debate, with the voting results showing 288 in favour and 232 against. The Bill is set to be discussed in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday. The Bill aims to limit the authority of Waqf Boards and increase government control over them. No information on protests being carried out or planned has been received so far, the Haryana Police said Thursday morning. Police sources in Nuh, Gurgaon, and Faridabad said no demonstrations had been reported or additional patrolling had been called for so

far. Nuh MLA and Congress leader Aftab Ahmed said the party has yet to decide on any protests, which would depend on the outcome of the Bill in the Rajya Sabha. "Any protest, if it happens, will be planned, with permission. For now, the party is awaiting further developments and will not be organising anything right away," he said. Vijay Pratap, Superintendent of Police, Nuh, said, "We have no such information or orders. We have not gotten any inputs to suggest we need to increase police presence anywhere in the district." Sandeep, Gurugram police public relations officer, said while small protests continued to occur, the city police had not received any requests or information regarding large-scale demonstrations against the Waqf development. Sources from the Gurugram Imam Sangathan stated the city would not see any protests from their side at this time. They indicated that demonstrations would be planned for later, but these will be limited to Nuh. "In densely populated and mixed communities, all officers are actively patrolling and conducting checks. The Navaratri festival is currently ongoing, and Ramadan has just concluded. The law and order situation in the area is being closely monitored, with all officers diligently performing their duties," said Shiv Hari Meena, Additional Commissioner of Police (law and order), Noida. Rajesh Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Ghaziabad (city), said police teams are on alert, but there had not been instances of law and order problems. "We still are careful and vigilant," he said.

Ponnamp instructs GHMC officials to stay alert amid sudden rains

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): In the wake of sudden rains lashing the city for the few hours, Minister for Transport and Hyderabad In-charge Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has directed the officials of Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to be on high alert in Hyderabad. He has directed officials to implement all necessary precautions to ensure that residents do not experience any difficulties due to the unexpected heavy rain in Hyderabad. Officials have been instructed to remain vigilant in six zones within the GHMC jurisdiction. GHMC engineering officials have mandated the prompt removal of floodwater from areas affected by waterlogging, particularly around the Secretariat, Raj Bhavan Road, and Masab Tank. The Minister emphasised the urgency of clearing the water due to its effects on major roads that have led to traffic disruptions. Noting that HMWSSB jetting machines are being utilised to prevent drainage overflow, Ponnamp Prabhakar has urged officials to collaborate with the police, GHMC, water board, and electricity departments to ensure that residents in the rain-impacted areas do not encounter any issues. (

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The name game

Uttarakhand might not be a big player in the BJP's national scheme of things, but its double-engine government has developed a knack for going into overdrive to make its presence felt and impress the party top brass. The latest move by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami is to rename 17 places in the hill state, ostensibly in accordance with "public sentiment and Indian culture & heritage". It's no coincidence that these places have a Muslim/Mughal connection. The timing of the announcement — coinciding with Eid and Navratri celebrations — is also not surprising.

Even as fellow CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Yogi Adityanath have confined themselves to saying that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's glorification will not be allowed, Dhami has gone way ahead by renaming Haridwar's Aurangzebpur as Shivaji Nagar. Khanpur, Drishpur, Akbarpur and Abdullahpur are among the other casualties. The bid to erase names that are somehow reminiscent of 'foreign invaders' is just a fig leaf to hide the tried-and tested agenda of polarisation.

The rollout of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) — Uttarakhand is the first state to do it — has been viewed by some Muslim groups as a brazen encroachment on their religious freedom. The CM, however, has confidently claimed that the UCC will free "our Muslim sisters from various types of oppression". He has also termed the sealing of over 150 madrasas in the state as a simple matter of maintaining law and order. The message to the minority community is loud and clear: Fall in line or face the consequences. A state that was ranked first in the country by NITI Aayog last year for achieving sustainable development goals would be well advised to avoid stirring the communal pot. For its own good, 'Devbhoomi' should ideally be a place where all communities can live together in harmony.

TTD's association with real estate temples is unfair...



April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema coordinator "In a statement, CITU district general secretary Kandarapu Murali demanded that the state government should immediately withdraw this attitude as it is unfair to think that TTD should take responsibility for constructing temples at real estate ventures for their business needs." At the TTD review meeting held in Amaravati on Wednesday, Kandarapu Murali said that it was unreasonable for the state Chief Minister to order the TTD to take responsibility for the management of the TTD temple since it was being built at its own expense by a Chennai-based real estate company called G Square, where he had undertaken ventures. If this trend continues, the TTD will become the center of many controversies in the country, and the TTD does not need to be responsible for the construction of temples by individuals for business purposes. "He reminded the TTD of the fact that it had already built and managed Kalyana Mandapams across the country. He reminded the TTD of the fact that it had not been able to manage the Kalyana Mandapam built by Kodela Sivaprasad in his constituency and had given it to private individuals on a monthly lease of just Rs. 100. In a situation where it was not possible to manage Kalyana Mandapams, temples were being built in many places in the country and their management was also becoming troublesome. Apart from this, it was not reasonable for TTD to take responsibility for temples undertaken by private individuals and real estate companies, and Kandarapu Murali requested that this issue be reconsidered immediately. "In the statement, Kandarapu Murali appealed that the TTD's contract and outsourcing workers have been working for decades and that their problems are being neglected. Despite court orders to regularize the outsourcing employees, the TTD management is not paying attention. All those in all departments where regularization orders have been issued should be regularized. It is not right not to discuss this issue in the TTD meeting. In the statement, Kandarapu Murali appealed that the service-related issues related to the workers in TTD should be resolved. Kandarapu Murali appealed that the development and infrastructure facilities in the Tirupati-Tirumala areas should be given first priority.

Most Rev. Udumala Bala is new Archbishop of Visakhapatnam

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): In a solemn and historic ceremony attended by thousands, Warangal, Telangana born Most Rev. Udumala Bala was officially installed as the new Archbishop of Visakhapatnam on Thursday. The installation was led by the Papal Ambassador to India and Nepal, His Excellency Most Rev. Leopoldo Girelli, at a grand Eucharistic celebration held at St. Peter's Cathedral Grounds, Gnanapuram.

The event was marked by the presence of over 25 bishops and archbishops from across the country, including His Eminence Cardinal Anthony Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, and Bishop Emeritus Gali Bali, who delivered the homily. Also present were outgoing Apostolic Administrator Bishop Jaya Rao, along with more than 500 priests, 500 nuns, and an estimated 10,000 lay faithful who gathered to witness this significant moment for the Catholic Church in Andhra Pradesh. (NSS)

Special facilities for devotees donating Rs. 1 crore



April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator "TTD is providing special facilities to devotees who donate Rs. 1 crore to the Tirumala temple. Devotees who donate on other days except the special festivals, can avail

the special facilities provided to them. "TTD is providing the following facilities to donors who donate Rs. 1 crore. "Donor along with four others, can have darshan of Srivari Suprabhata Seva for 3 days and Break Darshan for 3 days, and Supatham Darshan for 4 days. "Along with these, they get 10 big laddus, 20 small laddus, 1 Dupatta, 1 blouse, 10 Maha Prasadam packets, one time Vedic blessing, along with accommodation facility in a room worth Rs. 3000 will be provided for 3 days. Also, once in a lifetime, the donor can get one 5 gram Srivari gold dollar and one 50 gram silver dollar by showing the relevant certificates to the office. "Donors can make donations to Cottage Donation Scheme, SV Pranadana Trust, SV Vidyadana Trust, BIRRD Trust, Sri Venkateswara Annaprasadam Trust, Sri Venkateswara Go Samrakshana Trust, Sri Venkateswara Sarva Shreyas Trust, Sri Venkateswara Veda Parirakshana Trust, SRIVANI Trust, Sri Venkateswara Bhakti Channel Trust, Sri Balaji Arogya Varaprasadani Scheme (SVIMS) and avail related facilities. "Donors can make donations online on the TTD website www.ttddevasthanams.ap.gov.in "However, offline donors should take DD/Cheque in the name of EO, TTD and hand it over to the Donor Cell in Tirumala.

FALSE ALLEGATIONS ON DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE STOPPED.

"P. S. ASHOKAN "INDIAN-CHRONICLE "4-4-2025" MANTHANI "Manthani: Congress leaders condemned the comments made by former MLA Putta Madhukar regarding the development carried out during the tenure of Minister Sridhar Babu, and called for an end to the false allegations on development. On Wednesday, a press meeting was held at the minister's camp office in Manthani town, under the leadership of Mandal Congress Party President Ayili Prasad. In this meeting, leaders such as Ayili Prasad, Publicity Committee Chairman Odnala Srinivas, SC Division President Manthani Satya, District General Secretary Kududala Venkanna, and former Mandal Youth Congress President Erukala Praveen stated that opposition leaders, unable to tolerate the work being done by Minister Sridhar Babu for the development of this region, were spreading poison by misleading the public and attempting to get attention from the media. "The leaders mentioned that the construction of a bridge over the Godavari River at Shivaram, connecting Manthani, has greatly benefited the local people, traders, and small farmers, who rely on selling vegetables and other goods for their livelihoods. They further stated that people from surrounding areas like Shivaram come to Manthani for fertilizers and other materials, and the bridge could be a great help in this regard. The



leaders also pointed out that the people of Manthani are well aware of who is engaged in the real estate business. "They emphasized that Minister Sridhar Babu is working tirelessly for both development and welfare. They also mentioned that plans for the Arenda and Boien Peta bridges are also in queue under the leadership of Minister Sridhar Babu. The leaders warned that if attempts are made to block development, the people will express their disapproval. The event was attended by public representatives, senior leaders, Youth Congress leaders, affiliated organization leaders, and Congress supporters.

HARIDHRA GHATANAM" HELD WITH UTMOST RELIGIOUS FERVOUR IN VONTIMITTA



"April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator "Haridhra Ghatanam - the traditional turmeric powder preparatory ritual was performed with utmost spiritual fervour in the Sri Kodandarama temple premises, at Vontimitta in Kadapa district on Thursday. "In Hindu Sanatana Dharma, any good event or ritual commences with the preparation of turmeric powder. "According to Archaka Sri Manoj, the turmeric powder which is prepared during the Haridhra



Ghatanam is used on "various occasions all along the annual Brahmotsavams including Abhishekam, Kalyanam, preparation of Akshatas and many more rituals. "Hundreds of women devotees, "srivari sevaks participated in this ritual with great enthusiasm and devotion chanting Jai Sri Ram while women employees of TTD offered "Sare" on the auspicious occasion. "DyEO Natesh Babu, OSD SVBC Padmavati, Archaka Veena Raghavacharyulu and others were also present.

Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani, who initiated several development programmes in Chinnagottigallu mandal



83 water tanks have been sanctioned to Chinnagottigallu mandal for drinking water for about the cattle. "Let's take the constituency on a development path beyond parties"

April 3, (Indian Chronicle) Rayalaseema co-ordinator "In view of the intense heat across Chandragiri constituency, the state government has sanctioned 457 water tanks across the constituency with the aim of providing drinking

water to the dairy cattle. "As part of this, about 83 water tanks were sanctioned for Chinnagottigallu mandal and the water tank was inaugurated by MLA Pulivarthi Nani after performing the Bhoomi Pooja in Raghunannagarigadda village. "Speaking on the occasion, Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani said that it has been brought to the attention of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu that due to the intense heat, it is becoming very difficult for the cows to drink water in the villages due to the lack of water tanks. Responding positively, Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu assured that 457 water tanks will be sanctioned for the Chandragiri constituency. The construction of water tanks will be undertaken with NRGs funds. The MLA said that Rs. 38 thousand will be sanctioned for each water tank. "The MLA said that regardless of the parties, water tanks are being constructed for dairy cows in the respective panchayats, keeping in mind the intensity of the sun. Mandal-level officials, coalition government leaders and activists participated in this program.

New tour package on the occasion of Sri Ram Navami.

"April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator "Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation Divisional Manager C.H. Srinivasa Rao said in a statement that a new package tour is being organized on the occasion of Sri Ram Navami.

The details of the package tour are as follows. From April 4 to April 11. He said that the bus will leave from Srinivasam, Vishnu Nivasam (TTD) at 8 am. He said that this bus will visit the pilgrimage sites of Ontimitta, Devuni Kadapa, Tallapaka, and Nandaluru. "He said that the ticket price per person is Rs. 700.00 (including non-AC bus and guide facility) and the bus will reach at 5 pm. For details, please contact the following phone numbers: 0872289123, 9848007033.

Joint Collector Shubham Bansal conducted a random inspection and inquired with the applicant whose problem was resolved in PGRS



"Government is giving top priority to resolving PGRS applications in a quality manner : JC Shubham Bansal "April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator "Tirupati District Joint Collector Shubham Bansal stated that the government is giving top priority to resolving PGRS applications in a quality manner and that the applicants should be resolved to their satisfaction. "As part of an inspection to ascertain whether the complaints received at the PGRS public grievance redressal platform are being resolved in a timely manner and to the satisfaction of the petitioners as per the government guidelines, Tirupati District Joint Collector Shubham Bansal today, Thursday, visited the house of the petitioner along with Guduru Sub-Collector Raghavendra Meena to inquire whether the concerned Tehsildar Kota, who is a PGRS petitioner, Kapuluru Srihari, who submitted an application in PGRS to have his farm surveyed and his share divided, had resolved the issue in a timely manner. He said that the authorities have taken timely steps to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the petitioner. "Kota Tahsildar VRO and others participated in this program.

All Journalists Should Unite Together

"President: Motukuri Srinivas"



"P. S. ASHOKAN "INDIAN-CHRONICLE "MANTHANI "4-4-2025. "The Division Press Club was established by bringing together journalists from four mandals. The journalists of the division will strive to secure their rights and address their issues. The Division Press Club will serve as a role model for all, stated Division Press Club President Motukuri Srinivas. "On Thursday, a meeting was organized at the Division Media Press Club under the leadership of President Motukuri Srinivas, with all the members in attendance. It was mentioned that the establishment of the Division Club was done to meet the demands of all the journalists in the division. "On this occasion, senior journalist Mahavadi Satish Kumar took membership in the Press Club. Assistant Secretary Madarboyyina Kishan, journalists Chiliveri Mahender, P.S. Ashokan, Ramadugu Srinivas, Chira Ravinder, Madeshi Shrivani, Nampally Srinivas, Subhan, Shankar, Dasari Ramesh, Manthani Lakshman, Asampalli Swami, and other journalists participated in the meeting.

KTR indulging in unrealistic hopes of BRS returning to power : TPCC chief

New Delhi, April 3 (NSS): Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud claimed that BRS working president KT Rama Rao is indulging in unrealistic hopes of his party returning to power in Telangana. He asserted that by the time of the next election, the BRS party will no longer have a presence in Telangana's political landscape.

During a media briefing in New Delhi on Thursday, Mahesh Kumar Goud, accompanied by Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Konda Surekha, as well as party legislators, expressed their willingness to address the damage to government properties that occurred during the BRS administration. He accused former minister KT Rama Rao of transferring government-owned lands in the Hyderabad area to his affiliated organisations at significantly reduced prices. "The BRS party is responsible for the unlawful acquisition of lands over the past decade. It has caused both economic and land degradation.

The BRS has created an environment of animosity among the people of Telangana," he charged. The TPCC president accused opposition parties of disseminating false information regarding HCU lands with ill intentions, asserting that leaders from both the BJP and BRS are hindering the progress of Telangana State at every opportunity. "As the Congress party, we urge Telangana BJP leaders to seek Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention for the legalisation of 42 percent reservations. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and his cabinet ministers are prepared to go anywhere to advocate for BC reservations," stated Mahesh Kumar Goud. He further claimed that the BJP is plotting to unjustly treat Telangana Muslims, highlighting that Muslims in Gujarat, the Prime Minister's home state, receive reservations under the OBC category. "We appeal to the Central Government to legalise 42 percent reservations, similar to what has been done in Tamil Nadu. If the BJP government at the Centre is genuinely committed, the matter of 42 percent reservation should be incorporated into the 9th Schedule," he demanded. Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that the expansion of the cabinet is currently the responsibility of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), and the party leadership is analysing all factors related to this process.

"As the president of the TPCC, I am requesting that the party leadership include two additional BC members in the upcoming cabinet expansion," he stated. (NSS)

Creating wealth is the hallmark of a leader : Health Minister Satyakumar Yadav

Let's make good arrangements for the Tatayya gunta Gangamma Jatara: Commissioner N. Maurya...



“April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator ““Commissioner N. Maurya has instructed the officials to make good arrangements for the devotees during the Tatayyagunta Gangamma Jatara in Tirupati under the auspices of the Municipal Corporation. The Commissioner held a review meeting with officials of all departments at the Municipal Corporation office on Friday on the arrangements to be made by the Municipal Corporation for the Tatayyagunta Gangamma Jatara in Tirupati. Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner directed the Health Officer to provide drinking water to the devotees coming to the Ganga Jatara, remove the garbage from the temple premises from time to time, sprinkle bleach and keep it clean. He said that garbage bins should be set up so that garbage does not fall anywhere. He instructed the Engineering officials to ensure that street lamps are lit on the



roads surrounding the temple. He said that the Medical and Health Department should coordinate with them and set up first aid centers. Fire officials were instructed to take appropriate measures to prevent fire accidents. Town planning officials were instructed to make arrangements for vehicle parking, etc. He in-

structed the officials of the respective departments to coordinate and ensure that the devotees do not face any problems during the fair. Additional Commissioner Charan Tej Reddy, Deputy Commissioner Amariah, Superintendent Engineer Shyamsunder, Municipal Engineers Tulasi Kumar, Gomathi, DCP Mahapatra, Health Officer Dr. Yuva Anvesh, Revenue Officers Sethu Madhav, Ravi, ACPs Balaji, Murthy, Fire Officer Srinivasulu, Veterinary Officer Dr. Nagendra, Horticulture Officer Harikrishna, DEs, Sanitary Supervisors, and others participated in this meeting.

““ Minister, District Collector, MLAs inaugurated the new Secretariat building complex at Kaanapalle Village. ““April 3 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator. ““The main goal of a leader is to create wealth, and if he improves his own area, it is like developing the state, said State Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav. State Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav attended the inauguration of the newly constructed Village Secretariat building complex in Kaanapalle village of Proddaturu mandal as the chief guest. Earlier in the program, District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri inaugurated the Village Secretariat building, while Minister Satya Kumar Yadav inaugurated the Bharat Nirman Seva Kendra and Rural Health Center building along with State Government Whip and Jammalamadugu MLA Adinarayana Reddy. ““Later, the Rhythu Seva Kendra was inaugurated by Proddatur MLA Nandyala Varadarajula Reddy. ““Speaking at a gathering organized in the secretariat premises, Minister Satyakumar Yadav said that village secretariats are the lifeline for the progress of the villages and that the main goal of a leader is to create wealth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who believes in the same truth, said that the country's economic status, which was ranked 11th in the world, has now been brought to 4th place. State Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu, who is following the same path, said that through the P4 policy, he is moving forward with the coordination and cooperation of the people, public representatives, officials and industrialists to eradicate poverty in the state. ““He said that the state government, with the support of the central government, is providing all kinds of comprehensive medical services through rural health centers at the doorsteps of the people in every gram panchayat. He said that the state government has brought innovative changes in the medical sector with the support of the Central Finance Commission. He said that by expanding the services further, he is providing health security to the people. He said that he will always be at the forefront in providing his contribution to the development of the Proddatur constituency in all ways. He said that Proddatur is developing as a prestigious and prosperous town in the state. ““As part of the poverty eradication program implemented by the state government, through the P4 policy, every public representative, official, and financially wealthy person in the Proddatur constituency should take their share of responsibility to financially strengthen the families that are still poor. The high-ranking people of the society should connect their energy and capabilities to others as needed and make the P4 policy a success. They said that poverty should be eradicated by

achieving growth in education, health, economic livelihood. They are proud to say that Proddatur constituency is at the forefront in the implementation of government schemes. ““District Collector Dr. Sridhar Cherukuri said that the village secretariats undertaken by the state government have become benchmarks for the development of the state. He said that the government is providing all kinds of services to the rural people in one premises through the village secretariat, farmer service center and rural health center in every gram panchayat. He said that it is a matter of joy that the buildings of the village secretariat, farmer service center and rural health center have been constructed in one premises with the most advanced facilities in the Proddatur constituency with government funds and are now being inaugurated. ““As part of Swamandhra @2047, the main objective of the P4 program is to develop the bottom 20 percent of the poor and the top 10 percent of the wealthy through partnership with the public, people and donors. He said that the government is working to implement the "Zero Poverty P4 Policy" to completely eradicate poverty in the state in the next five years. He said that this P4 policy will be very useful for the development of backward families. ““He also said that steps will be taken to solve the problem of the Madur canal, which has not been solved for a long time in the Proddatur constituency, and the drainage system problem in Kaanapalle village will also be solved permanently. ““MLAs Adinarayana Reddy and Varadarajula Reddy said... They urged various sections of the society, intellectuals, experts and people to contribute their share and make the Proddatur constituency poverty-free. They wanted to reduce the level of poverty and improve the living standards of the people by utilizing the resources available within our jurisdiction and contributing to the well-being of the society. They wanted to reduce inequalities in the villages and eliminate poverty by utilizing the resources properly. They wanted to connect the high-ranking people of the society with some of their power and abilities as needed and bring their area to growth in all sectors. They said that the central and state governments are providing various welfare schemes for the financial self-reliance of poor families and improving their financial living conditions. ““The event was attended by the President of the State Sarpanch Association, Kothapalle Panchayat Sarpanch Kondreddy Shivachandra Reddy, TDP leader Mukthiyar, Jammalamadugu RDO Saisree, Proddatur DSP Bhavana, DMHO Dr. Nagaraju, local Tehsiladar Gangaiah, local public representatives, officials of various departments and others.

Buttermilk distributed to devotees on the occasion of Kodanda Rama Rathostavam..

April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator ““The Kodanda Ramuni Brahmavams are being held in Tirupati with great pomp and show. As part of this, the Lord's Rathostavam on Thursday was a grand affair. Thousands of devotees participated in the Rathostavam and received the blessings of the Lord. On this occasion, buttermilk was distributed to devotees at the Chigora Spiritual Center on the local Dakshinamada Street under the auspices of Hanumantha Rao. Every year, buttermilk is distributed to thousands of devotees as is the custom during the Rathostavam of the Lord. Chigora Spiritual Center founders Chitrapu Hanumantha Rao, Rayalaseema Rangasthalam Chairman Gundala Gopinath, Thondamanati Subrahmanyam Reddy, Chitrapu Seshagiri Rao, Jayalakshmi, Aparna and others participated in this program.



District SP V Harshavardhan Raju conducted a surprise inspection of several police stations.



“April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator ““Tirupati District SP Harshavardhan Raju conducted a surprise inspection of several police stations in Tirupati. In this context, he asked the staff how they were responding to the petitions received at the police station.. He asked them to find out. “On this occasion, SP Harshavardhan Raju said, “There should be no delay in investigating the petitions. “They should investigate the petitions received at the police station and take steps to provide speedy justice. “He inquired about the details of various cases within the police

station. “He inquired about the status of various cases in the station. “He examined all the records in the police station and made several suggestions. “He asked the staff at the police station about who is performing what duties. “It was ordered that those who went anywhere for the purpose of staff duties should be given a duty passport. “Additional SP Peace and Order K Ravi Manohar Achari, Mahila, Tirupati Town, DSP Srilatha, C. I.D.C.R.B, Subrahmanyam “CI Special Branch, Sadhik Ali, SVU CI Ramaiah and staff participated in this program.

Coordination meeting on Sri Ram Navami Shobha Yatra held

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): A coordination meeting was held today with officers from all departments on the occasion of the Sri Ram Navami Shobha Yatra at Draupadi Garden in Sitaram Bagh. The meeting was presided over by CV Anand, IPS, DG, Commissioner of Police Hyderabad. Speaking on the occasion, CV Anand said the Sri Ram Navami Shobha Yatra started in 2010 and has gained fame across the country. The Sri Ram Navami Shobha Yatra proceeds from Sitaram Bagh to Hanuman Gymnasium. On behalf of the Hyderabad City Police, we are making significant security arrangements from beginning to end to prevent any untoward incidents. The people and the organizers of the festival should cooperate with the police for the peaceful conduct of the Shobha Yatra. He requested that arrangements be made to start the Shobha Yatra by 1 PM.

continuous monitoring through CCTV cameras. He asked the organizers and people to follow the rules during the Shobha Yatra and celebrate the festival with devotion. The organizers of the Shobha Yatra should take appropriate precautions regarding the height of the idols.

All departments of the Hyderabad City Police and the Special Police are preparing to provide security with 20,000 police personnel for the Sri Rama Navami Shobha Yatra. We have established full-scale surveillance on the movements of criminals with the She Team and CCS police. He suggested that Hyderabad Zonal Police Officers and other departmental officers form WhatsApp groups with their staff to facilitate information sharing. He said that preventive measures have been taken to prevent any untoward incident in Hyderabad city. GHMC Additional Commissioner said all arrangements are being made for the Sri Ram Navami Shobha Yatra. Orders have been issued to all officials for road repairs, street lights, and other facilities, and instructions have been given to our officials to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience.

After the coordination meeting, CV Anand, GHMC Additional Commissioner, members of the Bhaganagar Sri Ramanavami Utsav Samiti, and officials from R&B, Electricity, Fire, 108 Service, RTC, Water Supply, Transport, and other departments jointly inspected the main procession route of the Sri Ramanavami Shobha Yatra scheduled for April 6. The procession will start from Mangalhot, proceeding via Puranapool Gandhi Statue, Jummerath Bazaar, Siddi Amber Bazaar, Afzal Ganj, Gowliguda, Koti Andhra Bank Chowrasta, and end at Hanuman Gymnasium Ground. The program was attended by Vikram Singh Mann, IPS, Additional CP Law & Order; Joel Davis, IPS, Joint CP Traffic; G. Chandra Mohan, DCP South West Zone; B. Balaswamy, IPS, DCP East Zone; Raghu Prasad, Additional Commissioner GHMC; Srinivasa Rao, DYRM RTC; Bhagavantha Rao, Secretary, Bhaganagar Utsav Committee; Krishna, Organizer; NSS)

Wall poster launched.



““Protest at SPDCL Office on 7th ““April 3, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator ““For the past 11 days, workers have been holding relay hunger strikes at the Tirupati SPDCL office in the scorching sun on the issues of electricity contract workers, but the management is acting as if they are not paying attention. “CITU Tirupati District Secretary Jayachandra said that there is no way to resolve the legitimate issues. “Posters of the Mahadharna to be held on the 7th of this month (Monday) were unveiled in support of the relay hunger strikes being carried out by the workers. ““The SPDCL office has not been regularizing those who have been working with trust for decades, and at least they are not implementing salaries like in Telangana. “The management is not in a position to care about those who are losing their lives while working in substations. “ He warned that if the problems are not resolved, the contract workers in this state will have to unite and take to the roads. “Aidwa District General Secretary Dr. Sai Lakshmi, “CITU Shramika Mahila District Convener

Lakshmi, Sujatha participated and expressed their support. They also expressed their support for the Maha Dharna being held on the seventh day on the problems of electricity contract workers from public organizations and called for a large-scale mobilization for the agitation. ““Employees Union General Secretary Siva Prasad Reddy and Electricity Employees Contact Workers Union District Secretary Kumar spoke and said that even if there is a promotion, there is no way to increase the salaries, and this management is not able to solve the problem that is only within the scope of SPDCL. They are facing serious difficulties without increasing the salaries. Before the elections, the government had said that it would make all the contract workers permanent, but after coming to power, it went back on its word. It was demanded that the G.O. No. 2 be amended and the minimum time scale be applied to all contract workers. ““Srikalahasti Secretary Ravi, Murali, Hari, Hussain Peer, Atmakur Secretary Vijayarameddy, Srinivasulu, Venkateswarlu, Ali, and others participated in this meeting.

City records 4 mn sq ft of office space transactions: KFI

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): Knight Frank India in its latest report, India Real Estate: Office and Residential (January - March 2025) Q1 2025 highlighted Hyderabad's strong commercial real estate performance in Q1 2025. The city recorded 4 million square feet (mn sq ft) of office space transactions, marking a robust 31% year-on-year (YoY) growth—the highest quarterly transaction volume in five years. Average transacted rents also saw a notable rise, increasing by 9% YoY to INR 72 per sq ft per month. Third party IT services dominated the transactions in Hyderabad in Q1 2025, took up 49% of total transactions in the city. Global Capability Centers (GCCs) followed closely, leasing 1.6 mn sq ft and securing a 41% market share.

the city's housing prices remained on an upward trajectory, with the average weighted price rising 9% YoY to INR 6,164 per sq ft.

The segment with ticket size of 10-20mn dominated sale in the residential segment, accounting for 4,257 units. Meanwhile, the INR 20-50 mn category witnessed the most significant growth, surging 14% YoY, indicating increasing demand for higher-value homes. Joseph Thilak, National Director, Occupier Strategy and Solutions, Knight Frank India, said “Hyderabad's commercial market demonstrated remarkable strength in Q1, fuelled by strong leasing activity from third-party IT firms and GCCs, placing the city among the top transaction hubs. While the residential segment saw a marginal slowdown, the premium housing category exhibited strong momentum, underscoring resilient buyer confidence and the city's evolving real estate dynamics.” (NSS)



ABVP team urges Bhupender Yadav to safeguard biodiversity of UoH



New Delhi, April 3 (NSS): A delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad, led by National Secretary Shrayan B Raj, met the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav, and submitted a memorandum regarding the issue of land encroachment and illegal auctioning of 400 acres of land at Kancha, Gachibowli, belonging to Hyderabad Central University, initiated by the Telangana government. The delegation appealed for immediate action and intervention by the Environment Ministry to safeguard the University of Hyderabad's flora, fauna, and rich biodiversity from encroachment. The Revanth Reddy government, with vested interests, has decided to auction the varsity land to private entities proximate to him under the veil of the IT Hub Development project. The ruling dispensation has already commenced work to clear the forest land with bulldozers while attempting to suppress the dissenting voices of the student community. The 400 acres is an abode of a vast expanse of green cover, including diverse flora and fauna, rare wildlife, and endangered species. This land serves as a significant carbon sink and is home to 734 species of plants, 220 species of birds, and vulnerable species like the Indian star tortoise. The presence of Peacock Lake and Buffalo Lake further sustains the local ecosystem. Furthermore, the

iconic mushroom rock formation, a symbol of Hyderabad's geological heritage, is also part of this landscape. The ABVP memorandum encompassed several demands, including urgent intervention from the Environment Ministry to prevent land degradation caused by deforestation, ensuring the preservation of abundant flora and fauna—an inextricable element of Hyderabad's ecosystem—conserving endangered species inhabiting the university premises, and upholding environmental laws and green norms by taking stringent action against unauthorized encroachment. Additionally, it emphasized acknowledging the university's role as a vital environmental asset.

ABVP National Secretary Shrayan B Raj stated, "The Revanth Reddy-led Telangana government has initiated the encroachment of university land to fulfil his vested interests, perpetuating all these horrendous acts to favour private entities proximate to him. The government has already embarked on clearing the dense urban forest with bulldozers, posing a severe threat to the ecological balance and environmental sustainability of this region. Today, our delegation appealed to Bhupender Yadav, to take immediate action to revoke the Telangana government's illegal encroachment and auctioning of land in order to safeguard the flora, fauna, and rich biodiversity of the Hyderabad region." ABVP National Secretary Shivangi Kharwal stated, "The natural habitat within the university plays a crucial role in maintaining ecological stability, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience, especially at a time when the world is grappling with the crisis of global warming and environmental degradation. The destruction of this vital green space would not only affect the local ecosystem but also have a long-term detrimental impact on society and future generations. Since the ruling dispensation, led by Revanth Reddy, hatched the conspiracy to encroach on the land, Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad has been at the forefront of protests, amplifying the voice of the student community. Furthermore, we will proactively express our dissent until the government abjures its heinous plan to snatch land from the varsity and the innocent inhabitants of the forest land." (NSS)

Indian Railways manufactures 7134 coaches!

New Delhi, April 3 (NSS): Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone in the financial year 2024-25 by manufacturing 7,134 coaches, marking a 9% increase from the previous year's production of 6,541 coaches, with special emphasis on non A/C coaches with production of 4,601 coaches, catering the needs of common man. This rise reflects India's growing emphasis on modernizing Railway infrastructure to meet increasing



the Indian Railways has three coach manufacturing units in the country – Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Rail Coach Factory (RCF) at Kapurthala, Punjab and Modern Coach Factory (MCF) at Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the premier passenger coach producing unit of Indian Railways in Chennai, surpassed its previous production records for the year 2024-25, as it rolled out 3,007 coaches.

Growth in Domestic Manufacturing Coach production in India has expanded substantially over the years. Between 2004 and 2014, Indian Railways manufactured less than 3,300 coaches on an average per year. However, from 2014 to 2024, production saw a major boost with production of 54,809 coaches with an average of 5,481 coaches per year, aligning with the push for improved connectivity and self-reliance in Railway manufacturing. The expansion is part of a broader effort to enhance domestic production capabilities, reduce dependence on imports and integrate advanced technology into Railway design. Improving Passenger Experience and Connectivity, the record-breaking coach production aligns with the government's 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' vision, ensuring improved public transport services while also enabling domestic manufacturing.

With more coaches being introduced, passengers can expect better facilities, enhanced safety features and increased capacity to accommodate growing demand.

Additionally, this achievement strengthens the 'Make in India initiative', reinforcing India's position as a key player in Railway manufacturing. By focusing on modern, energy-efficient and passenger-friendly coaches, Indian Railways is making significant strides toward building a more robust and future-ready transport network. With ongoing efforts in Railway electrification, high-speed corridors and upgraded passenger services, the increased coach production will play a vital role in shaping the future of India's Rail transport system, ensuring greater efficiency, comfort and accessibility for millions of passengers. (NSS)

Left wing student activists stage protest



Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): The Left wing student groups have taken to the streets demanding a halt to the Hyderabad Central University land auction process, an end to attacks, lathicharge, arrests of students and the withdrawal of the anti-democratic circular issued by the VC at Osmania University today. The leaders and activists of SFI, AISF and PDSU groups took out a huge rally from the Martyrs' memorial towards the Secretariat. When the police tried to stop them, they pushed them away and tried to storm the State Secretariat resulting in a fierce scuffle between the police and the students. SFI State Secretary Ashok

Reddy was injured in the scuffle. The arrested students were taken to Begumbazaar, Kanchanbagh, Goshamahala and Ramgopalpet police stations. Speaking on the occasion, SFI State vice-president Rajinikanth, assistant secretaries Prashanth and Ashok Reddy, PDSU State president and secretaries Srikanth and Mahesh and AISF State president Manikanth said Congress party was giving a nod to corporate institutions and added that as part of the same agenda, it had taken up a program to auction 400 acres of land belonging to Hyderabad Central University. He alleged that the authorities were cutting down trees with bulldozers in Kanchari Gachibowli area during night times resulting in the death of many wild animals. He alleged that the students, who are blocking the JCBs and bulldozers were being inhumanly lathi-charged and illegally arrested.

He said the VC's actions at Osmania University were brutal and added that the police were seizing universities that provide education to students while calling it undemocratic. He demanded that the circular issued by the VC be withdrawn immediately. He warned that they would besiege the house of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy if the government's crackdown on HCU was not stopped. SFI leaders Lenin, Tara Singh, Likhith, AISF leaders Gyara Nares, Chaitanya, PDSU Vjrumbhana leader Vijay and others participated in this program. (NSS)

We welcome SC decision in Kanchari Gachibowli land issue: Kishan Reddy

New Delhi, April 3 (NSS): Union Minister Kishan Reddy today welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court of India to stay the ongoing works in the controversial Kanchari Gachibowli land issue. "We welcome the judgment of the Supreme Court imposing a stay on the environmental destruction being carried out by the Telangana government in the Kanchari Gachibowli area of Hyderabad. Taking into account the concerns being raised by all sections of the society to protect the environment and biodiversity in 400 acres of land, the Supreme Court has taken up the matter suo motu and ordered the Registrar of the Telangana High Court to inspect the site and submit a report immediately," he said in a statement. Reddy said considering the key points of the report given by the Registrar of the High Court, the Su-

preme Court had ordered an immediate stop to the felling of trees in the controversial lands and added that it had directed the Chief Secretary of the Telangana government to constitute an expert committee within a month while noting that the committee has been asked to submit a report within six months.

We feel that the struggle of the students has been rewarded due to Supreme Court's decision. The Supreme Court has stated that an attempt is being made to damage the forest resources in the Kanchari Gachibowli area. In a situation where permissions are required to be taken just to cut a single tree, have environmental permissions been taken to cut such a large number of trees, the Supreme Court questioned. (NSS)

BJP on Debt Issue: Why Not Oppn. Follow it ?

Hyderabad, April 3 (Parameshwar): The BJP legislator Alleti Maheshwar Reddy has come up with a really novel and laudable suggestion on the State's debt burden issue. Speaking in the Legislative assembly last week, the BJP member was reported to have charged the Congress government with pushing up the debt burden of a State (Telangana) over-burdened with loans taken by the earlier BRS government. He said "for taking such huge loans, a case should be filed against BRS as accused number one, and also against the congress as another accused for loans being taken now". Obviously, the member should have taken note of the repeated statements being made by the BJP leaders and union ministers Kishan Reddy, Bandi Sanjay and also Nirmala seetharaman on Telangana state debt burden.

Responding to the demand made by the BJP legislator about booking cases, one political commentator said that it is a matter of irony that the BJP leaders, including union finance minister, are making statements without taking note of the fact that many other states in the country, including some BJP ruled states, have incurred more Debt than Telangana and the BJP government at the Centre headed by Narendra Modi has landed the country in a worst- ever debt trap, totally brushing aside all relevant regulations. He pointed out that in the list of 27 states, Telangana stood at fifth place from the bottom with less debt burden than 22

other states including BJP ruled states. The union finance minister is well aware of these facts, as she has given the debt details of the states in the parliament, but she has stated recently that Telangana is ensnared in a debt trap. This apart, the Narendra Modi government has surpassed all the prime ministers who ruled the country earlier to him in the matter of loans. The earlier 14 Prime ministers had raised loans totalling Rs.54 lakh crore, while Modi government has dumped the country in an unprecedented debt trap of Rs.205 lakh crore during his first nine and half years of rule. Nearly four years ago, when the debt burden was a little more than Rs.90 lakh crore, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) had warned, in its report, that under Narendra Modi rule, 37 per cent of the country's annual revenue was going towards interest on loans taken by the Centre. According to FRBM regulations, the Centre cannot raise debts amounting to more than 40 per cent of the GDP, but Modi government had already raised loans amounting to 54 per cent of the GDP. The commentator wondered whether the congress and other opposition parties will take the suggestion of BJP legislator and consider the possibility of filing cases against the Modi government at the Centre and the BJP state governments for availing huge loans. It is a matter of irony that the Congress and the BRS leaders have not given a fitting reply to the BJP legislator on the debt issue. (NSS)

Harish unveils statues, slams Congress at Kalwakurthy public meeting

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): Former minister Harish Rao presented a new house to a needy family in Mudvin village, Kalwakurthy, Nagarkurnool district. He then unveiled statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr B.R. Ambedkar, and Sevalal Maharaj at Boyin Gutta. At a BRS public meeting, he highlighted KCR's achievements and criticized the Congress government under Revanth Reddy. Harish Rao expressed joy at unveiling the statues of Gandhi, Ambedkar, and Sevalal on the same day. Gandhi secured India's freedom through peace. KCR fought to create Telangana. Ambedkar drafted the Constitution. Telangana was born from it. KCR honoured Ambedkar with a 125-foot statue. He named the State secretariat after him too. Sevalal Maharaj was ignored earlier. KCR changed that. Telangana became the only State to celebrate Sevalal Jayanti officially. KCR led this effort. He provided 10% reservations for ST students. He built Banjara Bhavan in Banjara Hills for their pride. He upgraded tandas to gram panchayats. This fulfilled "our tanda, our rule." KCR installed taps in every home. Clean water reached everyone. Women no longer carry pots on roads. KCR addressed many issues.



Harish Rao then turned to Congress. They made big promises. They deceived people. Revanth Reddy has governed for one-and-a-half years. Progress remains incomplete. No scheme is fully active. Benefits don't reach the public. He speaks falsehoods outside the Assembly. He repeats them inside. Farmers asked about loan waivers. Revanth swore by gods. He didn't deliver. Gandi Maisamma couldn't shield him from those broken oaths. He promised waivers for all by August 15. He swore again. He failed. Farmers with loans above Rs 2 lakh believed him. They paid banks. They were let down. Harish Rao questioned Revanth. You come from Nallamala forests. Where is your honesty? You are a Palamuru son. Where is your strength? He withheld Rs 8,000 crore from Rythu Bandhu in the rainy season. He took Rs 4,000 crore in the dry season. He combined these and claimed a loan waiver. KCR ensured Rythu Bandhu even during COVID. He never halted monthly pensions. Revanth faces no crisis. Why does he withhold Rythu Bandhu? He pledged Rs 49,000 crore for farmers. He budgeted Rs 31,000 crore. He delivered less than Rs 14,000 or Rs 15,000 crore. KCR boosted Telangana's GDP. Revanth fuels unrest. KCR raised people's income. Revanth grows his family's wealth. The poor see no gains. Revanth's rule is either plunder or neglect. They plan a six-lane road here. Locals oppose it. Nagarjuna Sagar and Srisailem highways already serve. The Regional Ring Road exists. Yet they target 1,200 acres. Farmers lose their land. Revanth ignores their pain. He doesn't offer pharma land titles. He seizes what they have.

Harish Rao urged Rahul Gandhi to secure SC and ST land rights. Revanth holds the Constitution but does little. KCR increased pensions. He introduced Kalyana Lakshmi. Revanth skipped two months of Rs 2,000 pensions. He took

from the elderly. He took from the disabled. KCR aided 13 lakh poor girls' weddings. Mission Bhagiratha brought water to every home. KCR provided KCR kits. He launched many women's programs. Revanth arrived. He ended Bathukamma sarees. He stopped scholarship funds for children. He shut down existing benefits. He added nothing new. Revanth vowed to pass a BC bill in Delhi. Rahul Gandhi avoided that meeting. Revanth can't sway Rahul. How will he influence the Centre? His words are insults, not solutions. STs got no minister post under Revanth. KCR respected Lambadas. Revanth disrespected them.

Revanth disrupts HC University. He eyes land for sale. He took land from Agriculture University. Now he targets HC University land. Has he no governance to offer? Do people's struggles not matter? Where are his promised results? Harish Rao challenged him. You're a Palamuru son. You're from Nallamala. Visit this tanda without gunmen or police if you're bold. Prove the loan waiver. People will shower flowers. If not, they'll decide.

Is democracy alive in the State? Jobless youth face harsh treatment. Congress promised two lakh jobs in a year. They gave fewer than 5,000. Revanth spread lies like Goebbels. That's how he rose. Under KCR, prosperity thrived. Real estate flourished. Now it's slumped. Vehicles are seized. Finance has dried up. He razed poor homes under hydro project claims. He alarmed people with Musi cleanup plans. Telangana regressed under Revanth. He destroys. He doesn't build. BJP MPs won with trust. Delhi's BJP and local Congress delivered nothing. KCR is Telangana's protector. Revanth talks much. He works little. KCR speaks less. He achieves more. Who do people need? Youth and students should reflect. Delhi's BJP betrayed us. Local Congress did too. Modi promised black money from abroad. It never came. Revanth promised Rythu Bandhu. He didn't give it. People should support BRS ahead. Harish Rao lauded the statues of Ambedkar, Sevalal, and Gandhi. Boyin Gutta tanda inspires all. Several Congress leaders and workers joined BRS. Harish Rao welcomed them with party scarves. (NSS)

KCR holds meeting with party leaders from Karimnagar, Adilabad



Ramakrishna Reddy, Ramadevi, Kiran Kommera, Vilas, Shyam Sundar and others also participated in the meeting. (NSS)

SC reserves verdict in MLAs' defection case

New Delhi, April 3 (NSS): The Supreme Court today reserved its verdict in the sensational BRS party MLAs defection case. A hearing was held in the Supreme Court on Thursday morning on the issue of the defected BRS party MLAs changing their parties in Telangana. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi argued on behalf of the State assembly Speaker's secretary. Singhvi said there had been no judgments so far on imposing a time-limit on the assembly Speaker's decision in such MLA defection cases. He also said the Manipur issue was completely different and added the matter had been considered separately. Singhvi also told the court that the Rana case was completely unique and does not fit into the current issue. Responding to this, Supreme Court Judge Justice Gai said the court intervened in the Rana case and imposed disqualification. Justice Gai asked Singhvi as to what was reasonable time in his view? He said the way lawyers deal with such cases was very disturbing. Justice Gai also said that the behavior of the lawyers had completely changed after coming to the Supreme Court of India. A long hearing was also held on the same issue on Wednesday. Senior Council Mukul Rohatgi argued on behalf of the Speaker. On Thursday, Singhvi argued on behalf of the Speaker's secretary. On the other hand, the lawyer representing Kaushik Reddy once again mentioned the words spoken by the CM in the Assembly recently. Following this, Abhishek Manu Singhvi said there were more provocative comments from the Opposition and added that the bench had set them aside by saying that they were all irrelevant. (NSS)

Hyderabad, April 3 (NSS): In the backdrop of the BRS silver jubilee celebrations, a meeting of the party leaders from Karimnagar and Adilabad districts was held at party chief KCR's Erravelli residence on Thursday. The issues related to the public meeting to be held in Warangal on April 27 and the organization of the party's silver jubilee celebrations were discussed during the meeting. BRS party chief KCR gave directions to the party leaders of the two districts on various issues.

The meeting was attended by the party working president KTR, former MPs Boinapally Vinod Kumar, Joginapally Santosh Kumar, former minister and MLA Gangula Kamalakar, former minister Koppula Eshwar, party State leaders R.S. Praveen Kumar, MLC L. Ramana, MLAs Dr Kalvakuntla Sanjay, Padi Kaushik Reddy, Anil Jadhav, Kova Lakshmi, party district presidents G.V. Ramakrishna Rao (Karimnagar), Thota Agaiiah (Sircilla), Jogu Ramanna (Adilabad), Balka Suman (Mancherial), former MLAs Vodithala Satish Kumar, Rasamai Bala Kishan, Sunke Ravi Shankar, Dasari Manohar Reddy, Korukanti Chander, Putta Madhu, Kalvakuntla Vidyasagar Rao, Nadelli Diwakar Rao, Durgam Chinnaiiah, party State leaders Kalvakuntla Vamsidhar Rao, party district leaders Dava Vasantha, Chalmeda Lakshmi Narasimha Rao, Johnson Nayak,

Cathay Pacific strengthens India ties with Hyd resumption, enhancing passenger and cargo connectivity with Hong Kong



Cathay Pacific has further strengthened its network in India with the resumption of its non-stop passenger service from Hyderabad, the capital city of India's Telangana state on 31 March 2025. The highly anticipated service is operating three times a week on Mondays, Thursdays, and Sundays, ensuring seamless travel connections for customers to Hong Kong and beyond. With this resumption, Cathay Pacific is now operating across five Indian cities – Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, and Hyderabad – solidifying its role as a key carrier connecting India to its home hub, Hong Kong. Cathay's Regional General Manager South Asia, Middle East, and Africa, Rakesh Raicar said: "Resuming flights to Hyderabad is a significant step in our India expansion strategy. With this resumption, we remain committed to providing Indian travellers with more choice, greater connectivity, and world-class service. "Hyderabad's economic rise and growing outbound travel demand make it a vital addition to our network. As we continue to enhance our operations, our focus remains on fostering connections – bringing people, businesses, and economies closer, while reinforcing Hong Kong's position as a leading international aviation hub."

Sharing his enthusiasm about the resumption of this key route, GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd. CEO Pradeep Panicker said: "We are delighted to welcome back Cathay Pacific to Hyderabad. The resumption of direct flight services between Hyderabad and Hong Kong represents a significant milestone in our international connectivity. This development will facilitate stronger business ties, tourism, and cultural exchange between these two dynamic regions. Additionally, the resumption introduces valuable belly cargo capacity, allowing us to offer more time-bound solutions for

the Hyderabad market, particularly benefiting time-sensitive products such as perishables, mail, and courier services." The resumption of flights from Hyderabad underscores the significance of India to Cathay Pacific's global network. The direct service is being operated by the airline's Airbus A330-300 aircraft, featuring Business and Economy cabins. Cathay Pacific now operates a total of 39 return passenger flights per week from five destinations in India. This will rise to 43 return flights per week by 1 September 2025, including five flights per week from Hyderabad, double-daily flights from Delhi, ten flights per week from Mumbai, and daily flights from Bengaluru and Chennai. Hyderabad, a thriving hub for technology and commerce, has seen a surge in outbound travel demand. Hyderabad's strategic location, coupled with its robust infrastructure and economic growth, positions it as an attractive long-haul travel destination. The recent expansion of the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport developed and operated by GMR Hyderabad International Airport Ltd, along with the city's growing international connectivity, has enhanced its potential to attract long-haul flights. Hyderabad International Airport is currently connected to 72 domestic and 23 international travel destinations. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport has emerged as India's fastest-growing metro airport, achieving around 15% growth in total traffic in 2024 compared to 2023. On 22nd February 2025, the airport recorded its highest-ever passenger traffic of 93,575 passengers. And on 26th February 2025, the airport recorded its highest number of air traffic movements at 622. Rajiv Gandhi International Airport crossed the 25 million passenger traffic mark in 2024 as compared to 21 million passenger traffic in 2023, marking a 19% year-on-year increase.

Eight months on, landslide-hit Mundakkai, Chooralmala remain ghost towns

GNS News Agency, April 3

Wayanad, Suhara Joseph, 56, was taking a respite from the scorching heat under the shade of a shop in Chooralmala in Wayanad district, blankly looking across the Bailey bridge at the rubble where her house once stood. She had just returned from the spot where her home had been completely wiped away, with not even a trace left, as huge boulders swept it away on July 30 last year in the worst landslide Kerala has ever witnessed.

She reluctantly returned to the shade, as she was alone and afraid of fainting in the scorching sun. "I am least concerned about the house and the properties we lost, but I can't get over the fact that the people who were so close to us are all gone," Suhara told PTI, choking with emotion as tears rolled down her cheeks. Suhara survived because she was at a hospital for her husband's treatment. All the neighbours who had visited them at the hospital the previous night perished. Eight months after the disaster, the Mundakkai and Chooralmala regions resemble a ghost town, with an eerie silence surrounding them.

Once a bustling hub of tourist activity, this beautiful valley in Meppadi, Wayanad, is now devoid of residents or visiting tourists. Even nature itself seems to be standing still, as the mud- and boulder-covered area remains brown, with no new plant life sprouting from the rubble. When night falls, wild animals take over the region, and elephants often wander through the rubble. "I am just going to see the place where my uncle and aunt lived. We have lost everyone friends, family. This silence is unbearable," said Faisal, who often visits the disaster site, still unable to fathom the quietness of the place, as he told PTI. For many like Faisal, who often visit the places where their loved ones once lived, it is a journey to connect with their past, their memories, and often a homage to those who lost their lives in the



landslides. "Many of them still remain buried deep somewhere here. This place is like a tomb for our relatives, and visitors may not respect it," Faisal said with deep sorrow, fully aware that there would be a barrage of visitors to the site if it were opened for tourism. The local people had given a memorandum to the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, requesting him not to open the place for tourism. In the three wards of Meppadi Panchayat Punchirimmattam, Mundakkai, and Chooralmala there are no residents left. Even the houses that remained intact after narrowly escaping nature's fury remain closed.

In the partially damaged houses, all that can be found are broken household items, books, and other belongings once woven so closely with the vibrant life that thrived here now standing as sorrowful reminders of what happened in the early morning hours of July 30. The flood marks on these houses remain intact, a stark reminder of how furious the nature's assault was on these hapless people. In most of the remaining areas, only iron bars and pieces of concrete serve as evidence that houses once stood there, sheltering the families."

Tackling pollen allergies from sniffles to solutions

Hyderabad: Allergies are on the rise in India, with 22% of adolescents suffering from hay fever and over 34 million battling asthma. Climate change exacerbates the crisis by increasing pollen levels and prolonging allergy seasons. Pollen, a major trigger, affects 12–40% of people globally, with India's peak pollen seasons causing severe symptoms in sensitive individuals. As pollen exposure continues to grow, so does the need for greater awareness, timely diagnosis, and effective management. Omer Ali, Dyson engineer shares key insights "If your flare-ups of constant sneezing, a runny nose, watery eyes, and an itchy throat can be tied to certain seasons of the year, you potentially have a pollen allergy or sensitivity. It is a common misconception that the pollen season falls in spring. However, depending on your location and climate, different plants thrive and pollinate during different seasons and for varying durations. Hence, pollen can still be present all year round." Pollen particles stuck to a strand of hair, seen under a microscope. Understanding your allergy triggers enables you to better anticipate flare-ups and take necessary precautions. Anticipate allergy flare-ups. Beyond the seasons, temperature, time of day, humidity, and rain affect pollen counts. Many plants release pollen early in the morning and when the weather is sunny and warm – these conditions are when pollen counts are likely to soar. Avoiding outdoor



activity when pollen counts are high goes a long way to reducing a flare-up of allergy symptoms. According to the Dyson Global Dust Study, just 10% people think that pollen constitutes household dust. Pollen particles can stick to one's hair, clothes, and even pets and be brought into the home. The Dyson Global Dust Study reveals that 19% people wear their outdoor shoes in and around their homes while 50% of people do not change their clothes upon entering their homes. Stick to a cleaning routine. While most people clean their homes regularly, it is important to vacuum beyond just the floors. Open windows mean airborne pollen can enter the home and stick to surfaces including window ledges and curtains. Soft furnishings, fabric covers, pillows, mattresses, sofas, and carpets amongst others can harbour pollen for months and impact one's health and well-being even outside the peak pollen season.

HC rejects decision denying HIV positive personnel promotion, appointment in paramilitary forces

GNS News Agency, April 3

New Delhi, The Delhi High Court has held that authorities are under a legal obligation to provide "reasonable accommodation" in employment to those suffering from HIV, and rejected the denial of promotion and appointment to three men in the paramilitary forces who were found positive for the virus. In the present case, two petitioners constables in Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police Force were denied promotion while the third petitioner, a constable on probation in the Border Security Force, was denied appointment in 2023. The petitioners contended that they were denied their respective promotions and appointment solely on the ground of their HIV positive status, which was in violation of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, Act.

Granting relief, a bench headed by Justice Navin Chawla said the HIV Act protected HIV-positive persons against discrimination in matters of employment unless the employer was able to "certify" the administrative or financial hardship for not providing such a person a reasonable accommodation. The bench, also comprising Justice Shalinder Kaur, held the petitioners were "wrongly denied" promotion and the same could not be refused to them only because they were not in the "SHE-1" medical category on account of being HIV positive. The court said such a denial would defeat the protection granted to them under the HIV Act and directed the authorities concerned to review the issue of their promotion. Similarly, it ruled that termination of service of the third personnel on probation only on the ground of him being HIV positive would also result in discrimination and directed that a fresh determination shall be made regarding the retention/removal of the third petitioner from service.

"We have, hereinabove, considered various categorizations of the medical categories relating to HIV-positive



personnel. We have also noticed that in spite of being HIV positive, such personnel can be deemed 'fit' for the performance of duties, in some cases at all places, while in some cases there may be restrictions for the place of their posting or the nature of the work/duties that they can perform," the court said in the judgement dated March 28. "It is only the personnel who are placed in the P5 Medical Category, who are deemed permanently 'unfit' for any type of service and can be invalidated out from the service. We have also held that the respondents are under a legal obligation to provide reasonable accommodation to persons suffering from HIV," it further said. The court said the 2008 office memorandum, which mandates that personnel are required to be in "SHE-I" medical category for promotion has to be "read down" for HIV-positive personnel and there was an obligation cast on the authorities to show that such persons, on being granted promotion, would not be able to be accommodated in any other work. It clarified in case the petitioners, who were "wrongly denied" promotion, were found "fit" in reassessment, they would be entitled to notional seniority and other consequential benefits from the date they were denied promotion, except for the differential in salary for the two posts.

NIA busts human trafficking ring sending immigrants to US via 'dunki route'

GNS News Agency, April 3

Accused Gagandeep Singh alias Goldie, a resident of west Delhi's Tilak Nagar, has been arrested by the NIA, an official statement said on Sunday. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a key accused allegedly involved in sending a man illegally to the US via the infamous 'dunki' route. The term 'dunki', believed to have originated from the word "donkey", refers to an illegal pathway that immigrants take to enter countries like the United States without proper documentation. Their risky and arduous travel is usually facilitated by a human-trafficking syndicate.

Accused Gagandeep Singh alias Goldie, a resident of west Delhi's Tilak Nagar, has been arrested by the NIA, an official statement said on Sunday. Goldie was allegedly paid around ₹45 lakh by a victim from Punjab's Tarn Taran district for illegal immigration, it said. The victim was sent to the US via the 'dunki' route in December 2024, the statement issued by the NIA said. He was deported to India by US authorities on February 15 and had thereafter filed a complaint against the accused "agent". The case was originally registered by the Punjab Police and later, taken over by the NIA on March 13. NIA investigations revealed that Goldie, who did not possess a license or legal permit or registration for sending people abroad, had used the 'dunki' route and sent the victim to the US via Spain, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. "Donkers/associates of Goldie had even beaten up and exploited the victim, besides snatching the dollars he was carrying, during the arduous journey, NIA investigations further revealed," the statement said. Replying to a query in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh had, on March 28, said, "From January 2025 till date, a total of 636 Indian nationals have been deported to India from the US."

Skore Strengthens Position in Sexual Wellness Category with New Pleasure Product Expansion

Hyderabad: Skore, a brand from TTK Healthcare, has announced a strategic expansion of its product portfolio with a new range of pleasure products. Backed by a legacy in sexual wellness dating back to the 1950s, TTK Healthcare has been a pioneer in the category, and Skore, launched in 2012, has since emerged as one of India's fast-growing brands in the space.

This expansion deepens Skore's presence in the evolving intimacy and pleasure category, as the brand continues to respond to shifting consumer attitudes and growing openness—especially among Gen Z and millennial audiences. The sexual wellness segment in India has seen rapid growth, with pleasure products becoming more mainstream, aided by discreet e-commerce access and increasing digital literacy. Skore first entered the pleasure segment in 2019 with the launch of couple toys, at a time when e-commerce adoption for intimacy products was still nascent. Today, with the market seeing high double-digit annual growth and consumers actively seeking safe, innovative pleasure options, Skore expects this expanded lineup to significantly boost both online traction and overall category contribution in FY25. The newly launched, curated range of SKUs is priced between ₹700 and ₹5,000, offering consumers a premium-yet-accessible selection across three key categories—solo play, couple play, and foreplay enhancement. All products are crafted using medical-grade silicone, go through rigorous quality checks, and come in secure, travel-friendly packaging—ensuring they are safe, hygienic, and convenient for everyday users. These offerings reflect a deep consumer understanding and stand out as unique in the Indian market, combining functionality, design, and affordability to meet both emotional and physical needs. Teasher – An ergonomically designed, finger-shaped foreplay massager built for targeted stimulation and playful exploration.

Vibher – A wand-style massager equipped with an LED display that allows users to easily navigate multiple intensities and battery levels, making pleasure both intuitive and



customisable.

Armour – A rechargeable massage sleeve that delivers a 360-degree sensation, covering both the sides and the top for full-contact stimulation and heightened sensitivity. Tremors – A dual-motor vibrating ring designed to heighten pleasure for both partners.

Waves – A stimulator engineered for mutual satisfaction. With this expansion, we're aligning our portfolio with changing consumer expectations and a cultural shift that places equal importance on pleasure, emotional connection, and exploration," said Vishal Vyas, VP, CPD Division at TTK Healthcare. The launch is supported by 'Won Love', Skore's new brand campaign that positions intimacy as a mutual, stigma-free, and emotionally connected experience. The campaign will span digital platforms, D2C channels, and Q-commerce touchpoints to ensure wide availability and relevance.

Nokia to upgrade Vodafone Idea's optical transport network for 4G, 5G expansion

GNS News Agency, April 3

New Delhi: Telecom major Nokia on Monday said it will upgrade and expand Vodafone Idea Limited's (VIL) optical transport network across key metro and circle locations in India. The upgrade will increase its capacity, supporting 4G data growth. In addition, Nokia's equipment will modernise the network, providing flexibility and efficiency, and boost VIL's 5G rollout, the company said in a statement. "With Nokia's advanced optical network solutions, we are excited to build an agile, high-capacity and future-ready network that will support India's digital transformation and drive innovation across sectors," said Jagbir Singh, CTO at Vodafone Idea Limited.

Among the comprehensive optical suite of products deployed to enable this network overhaul include Nokia's 1830 Photonic Service Switch (PSS) platform, and its CDC-F 2.0 wavelength switching technologies. Nokia's future-



ready solution will also enable VIL to efficiently scale its network from C-band to C+L band as required, avoiding the need for any forklift changes in platform or architecture. According to the company, this deployment will lead to reduced VIL's operational costs. Additionally, the project prioritises sustainability.

Ex-NATO chief Willy Claes slams

Donald Trump's anti-European stance: 'Makes me sick'



GNS News Agency, April 3

When Belgium's Willy Claes took over as NATO secretary general in 1994, Bill Clinton was US president, the Cold War had ended, and Europe still took American protection for granted. But now, some 30 years after his brief stint in charge, the fierce anti-European stance of Donald Trump's administration and its outreach to Russia is making the ex-Belgian foreign minister queasy with nerves. "Their disdain is incredible," Claes, 86, told AFP in an interview at his home. "I can't understand why they're being so anti-European and showing solidarity with the Russians at the expense of their long-standing allies. It makes me sick." Claes's tenure at NATO lasted just 13 months -- making him the shortest serving secretary general -- and ended in disgrace when he had to resign over a corruption scandal. But it was a critical period for the alliance as it searched for its purpose after the collapse of the Soviet Union, and launched its first military operation to intervene in the Balkans. Now, NATO appears to be facing another decisive moment, as Trump rocks the foundations of the security order that has underpinned the West for the past seven decades. Claes says he is "waiting impatiently" for NATO's summit in The Hague in June for Trump to give a sign of whether the alli-

ance will continue in its current form. "We will know whether or not the United States intends to respect the commitments made since NATO's creation. If not, it will be very painful for us Europeans," he says. As questions hang over Washington's commitment, Claes insists that Europe needs to work on having "greater autonomy" in decisions taken at the alliance. Back in his time, there were only 16 member countries in NATO -- but now it has 32 and finding unanimity has often become trickier. Claes recognises that Europe is often divided as some countries such as Hungary "prefer dialogue with Moscow". "How can we organise confidential decisions on armaments with partners like Hungary, Slovakia and even Turkey?" he says.

Putin's ambitions?

Russia has pitched its invasion of Ukraine as a reaction in part to NATO's moves towards its borders -- a narrative rejected by the West as a flimsy justification for President Vladimir Putin's expansionism. Claes says that, in his opinion, it was US president George Bush who miscalculated in 2008 by pushing the alliance to say ex-Soviet Ukraine and Georgia would one day become members. "He caught the French and Germans short," Claes said of Bush. "Putin thought that we were getting too close to his borders." Shortly afterwards, Russia launched a lightning war in Georgia, setting the stage for the tensions to come. Another error came in 2013 when Bush's successor, Barack Obama, backed down at the last minute on striking Syria after Bashar al-Assad's use of chemical weapons. "Obama made a mistake, he gave Putin a signal of weakness. That's when the Kremlin said to itself, 'it's time to get on with it,'" he says. For now, Claes does not see an assault from Moscow against a NATO country as likely, as the Russian army has been weakened in Ukraine. "But I can't hide my concerns about nuclear weapons," he added. "There is an urgent need to restore dialogue between the major powers on the control of these weapons, and if possible on disarmament. The whole of humanity is at risk."

Israeli military orders evacuation of most of Rafah



GNS News Agency, April 3

The Israeli military on Monday (March 31, 2025) issued sweeping evacuation orders covering most of Rafah, indicating it could soon launch another major ground operation in the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip. Israel ended its ceasefire with the Hamas militant group and renewed its air and ground war earlier this month. At the beginning of March it cut off all supplies of food, fuel, medicine and humanitarian aid to the territory's roughly two million Palestinians to pressure Hamas to accept changes to the truce agreement.

The evacuation orders appeared to cover nearly all of the city and nearby areas. The military ordered Palestinians to head to Muwasi, a sprawl of squalid tent camps along the coast. The orders came during Eid al-Fitr, a normally festive Muslim holiday marking the end of the fasting month of Ramadan. Israel launched a major operation in Rafah, on the border with Egypt, last May, leaving large parts of it in ruins. The military seized a strategic corridor along the border as well as the Rafah crossing with Egypt, Gaza's only gateway to the outside world that was not controlled by Israel. Israel was supposed to withdraw from the corridor under the ceasefire it signed with Hamas in January under U.S. pressure, but it later refused to, citing the need to prevent weapons smuggling. Israel has vowed to intensify its military operations until Hamas releases the remaining 59 hostages it holds -- 24 of whom are believed

to be alive. Israel has also demanded that Hamas disarm and leave the territory, conditions that were not included in the ceasefire agreement and which Hamas has rejected. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday (March 30, 2025) that Israel would take charge of security in Gaza after the war and implement U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal to resettle Gaza's population in other countries, describing it as "voluntary emigration."

That plan has been universally rejected by Palestinians, who view it as forcible expulsion from their homeland, and human rights experts say it would likely violate international law. Hamas, meanwhile, has insisted on implementing the signed agreement, which called for the remainder of the hostages to be released in exchange for a lasting ceasefire and an Israeli pullout. Negotiations over those parts of the agreement were supposed to have begun in February but only preliminary talks have been held. The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel on October 7, 2023, rampaging through army bases and farming communities and killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians. The militants took another 251 people hostage, most of whom have since been released in ceasefires or other deals. Israel's retaliatory offensive has killed more than 50,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were civilians or combatants. At its height, the war had displaced some 90% of Gaza's population, with many fleeing multiple times.

South Korean actor Kim Soo-hyun denies underage dating accusation

GNS News Agency, April 3

SEOUL, - South Korean actor Kim Soo-hyun on Monday denied allegations that he dated the actress Kim Sae-ron when she was underage, breaking down in tears as he said he could not "admit what is not true." Brands including Prada have cut ties with the actor amid the controversy over his relationship with Kim Sae-ron, who was found dead in February in a suspected suicide. She was 24. The 37-year-old Kim said he dated Kim Sae-ron five years ago for about a year, but not when she was underage. He said a YouTube expose released earlier this month cited testimonies and evidence that were false, including screenshots of messages that could not be from the actress. Kim Sae-ron was born in July 2000. The age of consent in South Korea is 16. "I did not date the deceased when she was a minor. And it is also not true that the deceased made a tragic choice because of me turning a blind eye," Kim told a press conference on Monday, alluding to claims that their relationship led to her suicide. Lawyers representing Kim Soo-hyun and his agency said on Monday they had sued people involved in the YouTube expose for a total of 12 billion won in damages, and reported them to the authorities for defamation and violation of the information protection act. A lawyer



representing the relatives of Kim Sae-ron could not immediately be reached for comment. Kim Sae-ron was one of South Korea's most promising actresses until her career took a hit after a drunk driving incident in 2022.

Kim Soo-hyun rose to fame in South Korea and China over his role in hit South Korean drama series "My Love from the Star" and "Queen of Tears". This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text. Read breaking news, latest updates from US, UK, Pakistan and other countries across the world on topics related to politics, crime, and national affairs.

How Alice Walton, the richest woman in the world, spends her fortune

GNS News Agency, April 3

Though the Walton family is largely quite private, it is known that Alice Walton spends her fortune on things varying from expensive art to horse breeding. Walmart's Alice Walton is the richest woman in the world boasting a net worth of \$102 billion. Her wealth grew 46% since last year, primarily due to a surge in Walmart's share price, according to the Huron Global Rich List 2025. This also brings forth the question of how the 75-year-old heiress spends her fortune. Though the Walton family is largely quite private, it is known that Alice Walton spends her fortune on things varying from expensive art to horse breeding.

She has never taken an active role in running Walmart and has instead, focused on her own ventures and also ended up becoming an art patron, having fallen in love with art at a young age, according to a New Yorker report. Walton purchased her first work of art at the age of 10 for \$2. It was a reproduction of a Picasso painting. She then went on to build an immense collection, with original works from legendary American artists such as Andy Warhol, Norman Rockwell, and Georgia O'Keeffe.

She even opened a \$50 million museum called the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas, in 2011 for housing her art collection now worth around \$500 million, according to a Business Insider report. Her other interest lies in the Texas horse breeding scene. She sold her Millsap, Texas ranch called the Rock-



ing W Ranch in 2017 for an undisclosed amount, though it had an initial asking price of \$19.75 million, but was later reduced to \$16.5 million. It boasted more than 250 acres of pasture and outbuildings for cattle and horses. She has also traditionally been a donor to Republican candidates and PACs, according to a Forbes report which added that despite this, she donated \$353,400 to the Hillary Victory Fund which is a joint fundraising committee supporting Clinton and other Democrats, in 2016. Among the richest women in the world, Walton was trailed by L'Oréal's Francoise Bettencourt Meyers with a \$67 billion fortune, Koch Industries' Julia Koch & family with a \$60 billion net worth, Mars' Jacqueline Mars, worth \$53 billion, and HCL's Roshni Nadar & family with \$40 billion in wealth.

Oil climbs as Trump warns of tariffs on Russian oil buyers and bombing of Iran

GNS News Agency, April 3

Oil prices rose about 1% in choppy trade on Monday as U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to impose secondary tariffs on buyers of Russian oil and warned Iran of possible military action if it did not agree to a deal over its nuclear program. The more active June Brent crude futures rose 69 cents, or 0.95%, to \$73.45 a barrel by 0817 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude climbed 68 cents, or 0.98%, to \$70.04 a barrel. Front-month Brent, which was up 76 cents, or 1.03%, at \$74.39, expires later on Monday. Both benchmarks were on track to end the month higher. Trump said on Sunday he was "pissed off" at Russian President Vladimir Putin and will impose 25%-50% secondary tariffs on buyers of Russian oil if he feels Moscow is hindering his efforts to end the war in Ukraine. China and India are major buyers of Russian crude and their acquiescence would be crucial to making any secondary sanctions package seriously hurt exports from the world's second largest oil exporter. Trump also threatened Iran on Sunday with bombing and secondary tariffs if Tehran did not come to an agreement with Washington over its nuclear program. "Threat on secondary tariffs on Russia and Iranian oil is a

factor oil market participants are tracking, although he has indicated he is not planning to introduce them for now," said UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo. "But, there is a rising risk of larger supply risks down the road." Some analysts believe that Trump may not act on his threats, a view that is putting a cap on oil prices.

IG analyst Tony Sycamore said the market felt Trump would not follow through. If enacted, he said, the tariffs would be another step toward a trade war that would weigh on global growth and demand for crude oil. On Monday several Chinese traders were unfazed by the latest threat. Three who spoke with Reuters all said Trump's constant brinkmanship meant they discounted what he said. "We expect WTI to stay in a range of \$65 to \$75 for now as the market assesses the impact of Trump tariffs on oil supply and global economy, as well as the supply situation from the U.S. and OPEC," said Yuki Takashima, an economist at Nomura Securities. Elsewhere, talks to restart Kurdish oil exports through the Iraq-Turkey pipeline have hit a snag as a lack of clarity over payments and contracts persists, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters.

Gen Z drives surge in Tamil Nadu's summer travel demand

GNS News Agency, April 3

As summer intensifies and the holiday season approaches, travel firms are seeing a significant surge in demand from the fast-growing Tamil Nadu market. What stands out in this trend is that the majority of this increase is being driven by Gen Z travelers. With a growing appetite for adventure, cultural tours, and personalised travel options, Gen Z is emerging as a key demographic for tour operators. "Gen Z travellers (aged 13-27) are redefining luxury travel with a clear preference for international destinations that offer a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure. They are not just looking for a quick getaway -- they are investing in well-curated, memorable experiences, with an average deal size of ₹2 lakh," said Hari Ganapathy, co-founder, Pickyourtrail, a travel startup headquartered in Chennai. "They are also decisive planners, typically finalising their bookings around 42 days before departure and embarking on their adventures within 58 days," he added.

Santhosh Kanna S., senior vice president at Thomas Cook India Limited, pointed out that demand has been strong from the Tamil Nadu market for the travel period April-June. "Summers remains a favourite time to travel for not only families but also millennials, young professionals, Gen Z, and solo travelers," he added. According to Mr. Kanna, easy visa and visa-free entry has been a game-changer, especially for destinations like Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Malaysia, Thailand, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan, providing greater convenience and flexibility for last-minute plans. Swaminathan Subramanian, co-founder of Exoticamp Adventures, also pointed out that a defining trend this year is the rise of Gen Z travellers -- and they're not holding back. Armed with EMI options, Buy Now Pay Later (BNPL) services like Simpli, LazyPay, and ZestMoney, this cohort is comfortably booking both domestic and international trips, he added. He explained that the summer traveler demographic is a diverse mix this year. "The two dominant groups are: young families seeking school vacation getaways and young professionals aged 22-30 leveraging the string of long weekends," Mr. Subramanian said.

Rakesh Bawa, senior vice president and head (holidays), SOTC Travel Limited, said that Tamil Nadu's



millennials and Gen Z, have been drawn to spiritual tourism coupled with leisure and adventure experiences such as white-water rafting, river rappelling, kayaking, and night treks, among others. For Thomas Cook, escorted group tours are witnessing brisk demand, and top international favourites include Switzerland, France, Italy, Austria, Spain, Portugal, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, and new destinations like Azerbaijan, Georgia, Sabah (Malaysia), Bintan. "Kashmir is drawing special attention this year with the Tulip Festival on and the recent opening of new train stations, making the region more accessible than ever. Down south, the staples -- Kodai, Ooty, and Munnar -- continue to be popular, especially among families from Tamil Nadu and Kerala looking for quick, scenic getaways," said Mr. Subramanian. Sharing his views on location trends of Gen Z, Mr. Ganapathy said: "Topping their list is the Maldives, reflecting their love for serene, tropical escapes. Bali follows closely, reaffirming their inclination toward picturesque island getaways. However, it's not just beaches that attract Gen Z -- Dubai and Singapore, with their vibrant cityscapes and dynamic experiences, show that this generation also seeks excitement beyond these shores."

Barron flaunts yellow gold 'Daytona' Rolex while arriving at Trump Tower. Here's how much the watch costs

Barron Trump was seen flashing an expensive Rolex on his wrist while arriving at Trump Tower in New York City with his mother, Melania Trump. Barron donned a black shirt underneath a dark blue bomber jacket and black jeans. However, his pricey yellow gold 'Daytona' Rolex has been catching attention.

How much does the Rolex cost?

Page Six noted that the watch is available at gandtimepieces.com, where it costs a whopping \$48,700. The gold colour can be seen shining on Barron's wrist in the photos that have surfaced. Melania, on the other hand, wore a grey trench coat over her shoulders and a pair of sunglasses. Barron and Melania were spotted together a day before classes are set to resume at Barron's college -- New York University's Stern School of Business -- after spring break. Barron is enrolled there for his freshman year at present. Barron was flanked by security detail when his classes began last fall, as he walked through the campus. Melania said in December last year that her son knows he cannot have a normal college experience as the child of the United States' president, Donald Trump. "I don't think it's possible for him to be a normal student. His experience at col-



lege -- it's very different than any other kid," Melania said on "Fox and Friends" at the time. "I'm very proud [of] how he's handling [it]. He's very strong and he knows that he's in a different position than other children." Barron is believed to be very popular among ladies on the campus. "He's at Stern so he's studying business in some way. He's a ladies' man for sure. He's really popular with the ladies," a source previously told People. "He's tall and handsome. A lot of people seem to think he's pretty attractive -- yes, even liberal people like him," the source added.

Tears, prayers in search for monks trapped by Myanmar quake



GNS News Agency, April 3

Covered in dust and resembling a Buddhist statue, the face of a dead monk emerges from the rubble of a religious examination hall in Mandalay flattened by Myanmar's devastating earthquake. A rescue worker gently brushes some of the grey powder off the face before covering it respectfully with a fan. Under another concrete slab, flies crawl over a shaven head matted with blood. The rotting odour of death permeated the air above the remains of the U Hla Thein monastery on Sunday, 48 hours after the shallow 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck, destroying buildings across the central Myanmar city. More than 180 monks were taking the third session of a six-day exam for a senior level of monkhood when the tremors hit around 12:50 p.m. (0620 GMT) on Friday (March 28, 2025). A picture shows them sitting on pink plastic chairs at individual desks in the cavernous hall, heads diligently bent over their papers as they worked. An unknown number were able to escape as the three levels of one part of the building slammed down, one

on top of another. On Friday and Saturday (March 29, 2025) a total of 21 people were rescued alive, and 13 bodies had been recovered by Sunday morning, a co-ordinator said. It was impossible to say how many more lay crushed in the concrete, but it could be dozens. Farmer Kyaw Swe's son Seikta was taking the exam at the time and was among the missing. He became a novice at the age of nine and has been in the monkhood for 31 years. "I am hoping he is alive," Kyaw Swe said, a tear trickling down his cheek. "His mother is very sad. "If it is your time to die, you can not avoid it. If you can abide by the Dhamma (Buddhist scripture), you will find some relief but if you can't you will be tormented. "It's meant to be"

Novices, monks and relatives of the missing, many of them wearing surgical masks, peered through the hall as rescue workers used jackhammers to break up the pancaked mass of concrete. Two people had been detected alive in the wreckage, one rescue officer said, and they were working to free them. Cracks run through the still-standing but damaged structure of the rest of the building, and every sudden sound sent rescuers and onlookers sprinting away for fear of a collapse. San Nwe Aye, 60, whose brother was administering the exam, said she hoped he would not be tormented by thoughts of his family while trapped. "I want to hear the sound of him preaching," she said. "He has such a great voice. I feel happy whenever I see him." Bhone Thuta, 31, who has been a monk for 18 years, said the devotees' religious study taught them acceptance. "This happens because it's meant to be. You can't blame anyone," he said. "In Buddhism, we believe it's because of our karma from our past lives. We are merely repaying our debts. Only Buddha knows what will happen and this is a debt we have to repay."

Centrifuge: getting to the good uranium

GNS News Agency, April 3

The enrichment centrifuge is a device used to extract uranium-235 isotope from a sample of natural uranium. U-235 is fissile and thus useful to generate nuclear power and to build nuclear weapons. Natural uranium consists of 99.3% U-238 and 0.7% U-235. Nuclear power reactors need the uranium fuel to contain 3-20% U-235, depending on the reactor design. Nuclear weapons need U-235 to be enriched to around 90%.

The first step for both technologies is to enrich uranium in a centrifuge. This device is named for the centrifugal force: it contains a chamber attached to a rotor. When the rotor spins the chamber very fast, the centrifugal force acts on objects inside such that the denser ones are moved more outwards. The amount of this force is equal to the mass of the molecule multiplied by its distance from the centrifuge's centre and the square of the angular velocity ($F_c = m \times \omega^2 \times r$). Uranium is converted to compound form (usually uranium hexafluoride, UF6), then to gas, and flowed into centrifuges. U-238 is slightly more dense than U-235,



so as the centrifuges spin at 50,000 revolutions per minute, more U-235 collects towards the centre. This mass is then diverted to more centrifuges to further separate U-238 out. Over multiple stages, the sample becomes more enriched in U-235. The spinning part is made of some light yet strong material that doesn't disintegrate during such extreme motion, like carbon fibre.

Beyond the surface: Kerala's enduring battle with dark skin bias

GNS News Agency, April 3

In a State that boasts of progressivism, the harsh reality of colour discrimination continues to shape lives, with dark-skinned individuals facing ridicule, exclusion, and prejudice. From the arts to everyday life, the obsession with fair skin remains deeply entrenched, revealing a painful contrast to Kerala's celebrated cultural and educational achievements. The revelations of Chief Secretary Saradha Muralieedharan targeting her complexion, further reveal the true state. When Cuckoo Devaky walked into her Bharatanatyam class at Adyar Kalakshetra, she was met with giggles and whispers. Coming from a small village in Kerala's Thrissur district, the then teenager was unprepared for the ridicule that came with her dark skin. Her classmates had expected a "cute and bubbly" girl upon hearing her name, but instead, they saw a dark-skinned, plump girl — sparking surprise and discomfort. This reaction was just the beginning of a long struggle with the colourism and prejudice that would shape her journey as both a dancer and a woman. "I used to be the obvious choice for characters with negative shade such as Hidimbi, the rakshasa wife of Bhima, or Thadaka, the demoness in performances," she says. After completing her training and returning to Kerala, Cuckoo realised that being a dark-skinned dancer was not easy. "We have to fight for every step. Society scrutinises everything — our clothes, accessories, how we walk," she says. Today, Cuckoo, a graduate in Law, practises as a lawyer in Thrissur. But her path has not been without struggle. "Society turned me into a rebel," she reflected. "I began to challenge its norms and assert my own terms." "Politics of black"



Understand the depth of the struggle. Racist discrimination is deep-rooted in our society. We continue to hold a hopeless admiration for anything white."

"Being dark-skinned is resentful. Being a dark-skinned woman, makes it bitter," says Emmanuel Mettles, a psychologist-artist, who conducted a painting exhibition 'Me, the Dark', on the subject. "As a dark-complexioned woman, I have faced body shaming numerous times," says Ms. Mettles. As a psychologist she often encounters children who endure similar humiliation, leaving them emotionally fractured with shattered self-esteem. "How can we expect these broken individuals to grow into strong and capable adults?" she questions. "The critical gaze of society ruins their confidence." "The pervasive discrimination based on skin colour is deeply intertwined with caste and class domination — the "pathetic admiration towards the upper class", says noted dancer R.L.V. Ramakrishnan, who is fighting a case against another dancer, who made colour-tinged casteist remarks about him. "Her assertion that fair complexion and attractive looks are prerequisites for classical arts reflects a prevalent public perception and is 'blatantly racist and insulting,'" Ramakrishnan notes. "Casteism corrodes the classical arts in Kerala," Ramakrishnan says. "Classical art forms such as Bharatanatyam, Mohiniyattam, Koodiyattam, Chakyar Koothu, Kathakali, and Carnatic Music have traditionally been dominated by forward castes. Kerala society has consistently been reluctant to acknowledge and appreciate artists from outside these privileged groups," he adds.

Will Elon Musk step down as Head of USA's DOGE?

Elon Musk founder of SpaceX, who is often in the news, made headlines after being appointed as a 'Special government employee' by President Donald Trump for spearheading the United States of America government's cost cutting and fraud limitation programme Department of Governance Efficiency (DOGE).

However, not many know that his tenure as the Special Government Employee came with a time limit of 130 days. Now, with the deadline closing in by May end, questions arise on extension of Elon's tenure. Answering whether his job in the Government is completed, in an interview with Fox News, he said that he has completed majority of the work needed. "I believe we will have completed the majority of the work needed to reduce the deficit by \$1 trillion within that period of 130 days," Musk said.

"Our goal is to reduce the waste and fraud by \$4 billion a day, every day, seven days a week. And so far, we are succeeding... Unless this exercise is successful, the ship of America will sink," he remarked and added that reducing



the government's spending by 15 per cent is achievable. The Tesla CEO described his tenure as a historic overhaul of federal spending and added, "At the end of the day, America's going to be in much better shape. It's going to be a fantastic future."

Palakkad division ranks first in key performance indicator rankings of Indian Railways



GNS News Agency, April 3

Palakkad division has secured the first position in the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) rankings of Indian Railways, moving upwards from 54th in 2023 and 5th in 2024. The rankings, by the Railway Board, evaluate all the 68 railway divisions across various parameters. The division reached its revenue target as early as February by earning ₹1607.02 crore through improved passenger and freight earnings. It also effectively controlled expenditure through optimised resource allocation and energy conservation. Punctuality performance The division significantly improved punctuality with emphasis on operational efficiency and achieved 94.01% train punctuality despite operating several special trains and enforcing many line as well as power blocks for infrastructure maintenance. Freight loading saw 36.55% increase, from 5.9 million tonnes and ₹427.64 crore revenue in 2023-24 to 6.41 million tonnes and ₹583.37 crore revenue in 2024-25. The feat was achieved by efficient terminal management, enhanced wagon availability and customer-centric initiatives. Efficient use of locomotives, coaches, wagons and infrastructure

enhanced operational productivity while data-driven planning improved asset turnaround time. It maximised the potential of e-auction platforms to monetise passenger amenity assets, including catering stalls, parking areas, paid AC waiting halls and advertisements at stations, generating ₹50 crore contract value from 115 assets.

Track renewal and maintenance Stringent safety protocols, regular inspections, and proactive track maintenance have led to zero accidents. The division executed major track renewal projects, replacing aged rails and sleepers. It granted 19% more traffic blocks for safety related, engineering, signal & telecommunication and traction works, as compared to last year. Nearly 40 km new tracks were laid replacing old tracks while 64.41 km tracks underwent deep screening. The division provided enhanced security across stations and trains by deploying additional RPF personnel, surveillance systems and patrolling. While 45 cases of crimes against women and children were reported, 42 were detected with arrest of 44 accused persons. Under Operation Nanhe Fariste, 198 children — 157 boys and 41 girls — were rescued and reunited with their families.

Palakkad division has undertaken infrastructure improvements, including modernised waiting halls, improved station lighting, better sanitation facilities, and accessibility upgrades under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). Additional platform shelters were erected under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at Mangaluru Junction Railway Station. While 300 crore was sanctioned to upgrade 16 stations, including Mangaluru Junction and Central, the division has spent 175 crore so far. The stations feature well-lit parking areas, expanded circulating spaces, over 200 additional platform shelters, foot overbridges, lifts, escalators, and upgraded platform surfaces.

China ties — beware conciliation without deterrence

GNS News Agency, April 3

Political winds seem to be shifting, with India adopting a more conciliatory crouch towards China. In a podcast released in mid-March, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made his warmest comments about China in years, saying "only through dialogue can we build a stable, cooperative relationship", which is "essential for global stability and prosperity". Chinese officials lapped it up. This has not come out of nowhere. India-China relations have been slowly recovering since they ruptured in 2020, when China launched multiple incursions across the Line of Actual Control, into Ladakh, and a skirmish killed 20 Indian soldiers. Military talks haltingly disengaged forces from many sites on the border. Despite a diplomatic freeze, bilateral trade grew to set new records. And less than six months ago, in October last year, India and China made a surprising deal to disengage their troops from the last two incursion sites. The crisis was nominally resolved, and the two countries were on the path toward normalisation. It is not yet clear if Mr. Modi's comments were simply a new tone, or if they presage a substantive policy shift. New Delhi itself has probably not decided, and may just be keeping its options open. It may be returning to the more conciliatory approach of the earlier days of the Modi government, when New Delhi hoped to find a mutually-productive relationship, holding summits with China's President Xi Jinping to find areas of policy alignment. At the same time, the India-China rivalry is structural and abiding. Just days after Mr. Modi's podcast appearance, India's Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, met with senior commanders from India's Quad partners, Australia, Japan, and the United States.

India's grand strategy has always prioritised national economic development; from that perspective, India would be prudent to defuse military confrontations with its largest trading partner. Indeed, China boasts an economy more than four times larger than India's. So, as India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has said bluntly, it is "common sense" for India to seek a stable and even profitable relationship with its giant neighbour. New Delhi does not, however, make policy in a vacuum. The Modi government has doubtless been examining the new Trump administration closely, and recent signals from Washington suggest an ambiguous policy stance. Mr. Trump has followed through on his threat to impose tariffs on Beijing, but his toughness on trade does not seem to extend to defence policy. He warily suggested that the United States and China (along with Russia) should slash defence spending in half. His nominee for the top policymaking job at the Pentagon, Elbridge Colby, demanded that frontline allies such as Japan — as well as Taiwan — should radically increase military spending and assume more responsibility for their own defence.

Apart from China, Mr. Trump has shown a predilection for orchestrating grand bargains with other great powers. His peace process for Ukraine involves accommodating Russian strategic interests, while delivering lavish commercial profits to the U.S. Mr. Trump has thus shown a willingness to suddenly reverse decades of policy, ceding a sphere of influence to America's erstwhile rival, Russia, for the sake of forging a 19th century-style compact among great powers. There is no logical impediment to Mr. Trump



seeking a similar compact with America's other great power rival, China — trading away American strategic influence for mercantilist gain and an illusory peace. More pointedly, Mr. Trump all but ceased support to Ukraine — even cutting off intelligence warnings of Russian missile attacks against civilians — to coerce Kyiv into submitting to a deal. America's European allies instantly lost faith in its decades-old security guarantees. Such wanton pressure tactics could not have escaped New Delhi's attention. India does not rely on American protection, but as former Indian Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane admitted, it has come to expect U.S. assistance, especially intelligence, in managing the Chinese threat on the border. Now, doubts over American support in a crisis, and even the slight possibility of a deal that strengthens China's position, add more reasons for India to stabilise its relationship with its powerful neighbour.

With a new tone, and possibly a new conciliatory policy, some in New Delhi may be tempted to conclude that India can ease off on investing in military capabilities, or deepening military cooperation with partners. In fact the opposite is true. India's military preparations have been anaemic even despite the urgency imposed by the Ladakh crisis. Defence spending, as a share of the national budget and as a share of GDP, has steadily declined over the past decade. The risk of a stabilisation policy is that it gives New Delhi an excuse to keep putting off overdue investments in modernisation or organisational reforms. That would play right in to Beijing's hands. For India to have military options in the future, it must invest in military power today. Military capabilities take inordinate time to field — as recent news stories have reiterated again and again, building submarines and developing fighter aircraft take years, if not decades. In the interim, the Indian military should continue to pursue operational cooperation with its partners, regardless of Washington's unpredictability or New Delhi's tactical shifts in tone. Exercises in the field and on the high seas build interoperability and Indian capability. Further coordination of operations and plans can build Indian capability even more, without binding New Delhi or any of its partners to any particular policy. Ultimately, the purpose of military power is to deter, and, if necessary, defeat aggression. Indian policymakers can expect more Chinese aggression in the future — just as they have endured for decades in the past, including after Mr. Modi's own summits with Mr. Xi. If India wants stability, it must accompany its conciliatory tone with the material capacity to deter aggression. Otherwise, stability risks turning into submission.

400 acres in Kancha Gachibowli doesn't belong to UoH: Telangana Govt

The Telangana government said that it was the sole owner of 400 acres of land in Kancha Gachibowli Village, Serilingampally Mandal, on whose ownership a group of students from the University of Hyderabad are agitating. Officials said the 400 acres of land were allotted to a private entity by the then government of Andhra Pradesh in 2004. But the present Congress government has fought against the private entity in the Supreme Court and reclaimed the land. The University of Hyderabad does not own even an inch of land in this survey and any contention regarding land ownership is contempt of court, as per official statement. Moreover, as is being alleged, the development plans of the government in this land do not include any lake. The rocks formation would not be disturbed by the new development plan either, it added. The government, in a statement here, said that the opposition to the project was purely political and that the students were being misled by those opposing the government with interests in real estate. Explaining the legal aspects, it was stated in the statement that the then AP Government allotted 400 acres to IMG Academies Bharata Pvt Ltd on January 13, 2004, in Survey Number 25 of Kancha Gachibowli Village for the development of sports facilities. As the project of the IMG Academies Bharata Pvt Ltd did not take off, the then Government of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) revoked the allotment

on November 21, 2006, which was challenged in the A.P. High Court. The new government pursued the matter vigorously, and the High Court passed orders in favour of the government on March 7, 2024. Aggrieved by the order, IMG Academies Bharata Pvt Ltd filed an SLP before the Supreme Court of India. The government again contested the matter, and the SLP was dismissed by the Supreme Court of India on May 3, 2024. Thus, the government was able to secure the land. The ownership of the land was also confirmed by the Deputy Collector and Tahsildar, Serilingampally Mandal who confirmed that as per Revenue records the land in Survey Number 25 of Kancha Gachibowli Village was recorded as "Kancha Asthabal Poramboke Sarkari", which is government land and an extent of 400 acres was free from encroachments and under the possession of government for further development. On the legal acquisition of land, the government said that the I&C Department recommended alienation proposals under the new land allotment policy on September 14, 2022. Accordingly, on June 19, 2024, the government requested to handover advance possession to the TGIC for setting up an Information Technology (IT) and mixed-use project. The land was handed over to TGIC on July 1, 2024, duly conducting the panchanama. The revenue records clearly show that it is not forest land, unlike the false claims made in certain sections.

Why the Parker Solar Probe is trying to 'touch' the sun



GNS News Agency, April 3

Among the various places humans have aspired to visit in the solar system, the sun remains the most forboding. On December 24, 2024, NASA's Parker Solar Probe arrived within 6.1 million km from the star's surface. This is a short distance to be from the sun: no spacecraft has ever made such a close approach. Even the Parker Solar Probe took seven years to get here. The probe made another approach to the sun on March 22 and will do so again on June 19 this year. Sunlight is the main source of energy for earthlife. The sun's core produces this energy using nuclear fusion. The star also has strong, dynamic magnetic fields crisscrossing its surface, and sudden changes in the way they're arranged give rise to intense explosions called solar flares. Numerous electrons, protons, and heavy nuclei are spit out of the solar corona — the uppermost layer of the sun's atmosphere — at about 900 km/s.

These particles carry an enormous amount of energy and sometimes rush towards the earth at tremendous speed in an event called a coronal mass ejection. Their effects on the earth constitute a solar storm, including electric grid failures, loss of telecommunication channels, and damage to the ozone layer. They can also damage instruments onboard satellites. To understand the dynamics of the corona over time and their effects on the solar system at large, scientists need to observe the sun closely. This is also why the Indian Space Research Organisation launched and is currently operating the Aditya-L1 probe, stationed at about 150 million km from the star. Around six decades ago, a scientist named Eugene Parker predicted the existence of the solar wind: a stream of charged particles flowing out from the sun in all directions. NASA named the Parker Solar Probe in his honour. The probe was launched on board a Delta IV rocket from Cape Canaveral in Florida in August 2018. Once in space, the probe's maximum speed was an astounding 692,000 km/hr. To protect against the sun's intense heat, the probe has an 8-foot-wide, 4.5-inch-thick carbon-carbon composite material shield that can withstand up to 1,370°C while weighing only 73 kg. This shield was built by researchers at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory. It consists of a carbon composite foam sandwiched between two carbon plates. Its sun-facing side is coated with white ceramic paint to reflect as much sunlight

as possible instead of absorbing it. Just a few metres behind the shield, in its shadow, the ambient temperature drops to 29°C, allowing the probe's scientific instruments to operate without special provisions to maintain the temperature. The probe also has two sets of solar power arrays: one in the shield's shadow that supplies power to the instruments and the other on the sun-facing side, which uses a special fluid pump to cool itself while powering the probe during its close approaches. Curiously, the first obstacle to the mission's success wasn't the sun's heat but its gravity. Since the probe flew through space at a very high speed, it had to decelerate significantly as it got close to the sun. If it didn't, the sun's gravity would have encouraged it to dive right into the star. This is why Parker's first mission profile had the probe fly towards Jupiter and swing around the gas giant to achieve an optimal speed to fly towards the sun. This idea fell out of favour because of the large travel distance.

The probe's final mission profile was more direct: to use the combined gravitational forces of the earth and Venus to slowly spiral closer to the sun's surface, in the process spending more than 2,000 hours flying through the corona and 24 times along the solar equator. The probe has four scientific instruments: FIELDS, Integrated Science Investigation of the Sun (ISoS), Wide-Field Imager (WISPR), and Solar Wind Electrons Alphas and Protons (SWEAP). FIELDS measures the electric and magnetic fields of the sun's atmosphere; ISoS observes the energetic particles that cause solar storms while SWEAP records their properties; and WISPR takes pictures as it passes through the corona. A 'sun-touching' event occurred in April 2021 when Parker moved closer to the sun than its Alfvén surface — the height beyond which the solar wind can't affect the star's surface — as ascertained by the FIELDS and SWEAP instruments. A fifth instrument, called a Faraday cup, lies outside the shadow of the heat shield and measures the density of ions and electrons in the solar wind. It is made of a molybdenum alloy with a melting point of 2,349°C. Parker data has already revealed many new details about the sun. The solar system is ceaselessly coated in dust particles created when space rocks weather and scientists believed the dust ought to be everywhere. Yet Parker revealed dust-free pockets near the sun. The probe also detected magnetic switchbacks: parts of the solar wind where the magnetic field (created by the collective of charged particles) abruptly bent back on itself. An important open question in solar astrophysics is why the sun's surface is only 6,000°C or so whereas the solar corona is 200-times hotter. Based on Parker's data of magnetic switchbacks and other related phenomena, scientists believe the answer to the mystery lies in Alfvén waves: an oscillation of ions in the plasma released by the sun, set in motion by forces in the surrounding magnetic field. During its close-approach on March 22, the Parker Solar Probe once again attempted to get within around 6 million km of the sun's surface. What did it find this time?

Cobblery: a craft that is quietly and slowly vanishing from Chennai pavements



GNS News Agency, April 3

On a Saturday afternoon, in the searing heat, Lakshmi Selvam, 56, pushed a hand stitcher through a slipper and deftly pulled out the thread. A few quick stitches, and the strap was sewed to the sole and she collected ₹20 from her customer. Be it giving a dash of shine with a polish or mending a snapped slipper, cobblers, like her, seated under a tree on a footpath, breathe a new lease of life into footwear. "Some days, the business is fairly good and some other days, it is poor. In the last 30 years since I got into this work after my marriage, I can see how the business has

dwindled drastically in recent times," she says. Long commute. M. Srinivasan, 56, travels every day by bus from Red Hills to Anna Nagar West. He sits near a bus stop from 8 a.m. till 5 p.m. He doesn't mind the commute because unless he goes to a busy location, there will barely be any business. "My father taught me this craft and I began doing it when I was about 16," he adds. While working in the gruelling heat is exhausting, there will be some business during the summer, Mr. Srinivasan says. "Monsoon is a time that I dread. Barely anyone comes and I have to sustain by borrowing every other day," he adds. Life disrupted. M. Ravikumar, 62, tried his hand at repairing fans, lights, and radios before becoming a cobbler in 1980. He learnt his craft from one of his acquaintances at Periamet and would get a weekly wage. He worked rigorously. With great difficulty, he began not only mending footwear but also making and selling it. "All that came to a grinding halt during the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, I work as a cobbler at a shop at MMDA Colony and manage to run my family," he adds. With changing times and plummeting business, there are a few cobblers left in the city, he says. As people buy everything online at a throwaway price, they dispose their footwear of rather than repair it, he adds. "No one appreciates this craft. It is dying. But people will realise its value only when they won't have the heart to discard an expensive pair of shoes or sandals," he says.

Inside Israel's Military Operation in a West Bank Refugee Camp



JENIN, West Bank—For decades, narrow, twisting alleys crammed full of tens of thousands of Palestinian refugees and their descendants have been a central theater for the cat-and-mouse game here between Israeli security forces and militants. Now, they are empty. Israeli bulldozers, looking for hidden explosives, have reduced much of the roads to sand and mud. The fighting and controlled demolitions by Israel have reduced many buildings to rubble. A century-old Ottoman train station is now a heap of debris. Others, including schools and mosques, are pockmarked with bullet holes. The shops left unshuttered are still full of supplies, and clothes are still hanging to dry, signs that those who left thought they would soon return. Only Israeli soldiers, indefinitely stationed here in Jenin, patrol its streets on foot and in armored vehicles. Neither the soldiers nor the Palestinians know how long the situation will continue. In recent years, Israel's military has conducted hundreds of raids into the camp, and dozens in the past year alone. Streets were largely empty and buildings damaged during a visit to Jenin last week. For Israel, the camp, where impoverished descendants of Palestinian refugees of the 1948 Arab-Israeli war live, has long been seen as a constant breeding ground and place of shelter for Palestinian militancy. For Palestinians, the camp is a center of resistance to Israel and a symbol of the group's core collective trauma: the mass displacement of Palestinians during the war. But Israel has never tried anything like what it is doing now: clearing the camps entirely. It is part of Israel's aggressive security posture following the attacks of Oct. 7, 2023, actively working inside enemy territory to pre-empt new threats. It also seeks to remedy lessons learned from the war in Gaza, in which Israel's decision to cede ground allowed Hamas to regroup multiple times in areas where it had already been defeated.

Officers said was evidence militants had used the position to fire on Israeli troops in a street below. The militants' most effective weapons, say Israeli military officials, are improvised explosive devices that they can detonate remotely with a phone call once Israeli soldiers are close enough.

"When I started, there were a lot of operations for two or three days," said an Israeli military officer stationed in the Jenin area for the past year. "We go inside, kill terrorists, find IEDs and shoot them, and we find weapons. Once each operation is over, the militants regroup and rearm. Now, the officer said, "We're trying to make sure they won't have time to recover." Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz in February said soldiers should be prepared to be there for at least a year. Soldiers in Jenin said they were told to be there indefinitely. Amir Avivi, a former senior Israeli military official close to the government, said it appeared the government didn't yet have an endgame for the operations in Jenin. For now, he said, the government is focused on the war in Gaza and a potential confrontation with Iran.

The militants place cameras throughout the camp to follow the Israelis' movements, the official said. Soldiers pointed out one such camera hanging from a United Nations school window. Five Israeli soldiers have been killed by IEDs in the West Bank since Oct. 7, 2023. Only one soldier has been killed in the current operation, during a shootout. The U.N. says more than 900 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank since the war in Gaza began. Abu al-Rub, the governor of Jenin, said 29 people have been killed in Israeli operations since January in Jenin. Israel says most of those killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank were militants. For years the Palestinian Authority, which technically governs the area, had been reluctant to enter the Jenin camps because of the militants. It eventually did launch a counterterrorism campaign there in December last year to pre-empt any Israeli operation, which it said would prove ultimately far more destructive. Residents of the camp accused the PA of wanton destruction and collective punishment. Now PA officials there are accusing Israel of the same. Blood stains the floor of a building in Jenin, where the local governor says dozens of people have been killed in Israeli operations this year.

"In some cases they have a tendency to keep things obscure and let the forces figure it out without any clear direction," Avivi said of the government. "I think this is what's happening." Palestinians who left Jenin are coming to believe they may not return for months or years. Several large sites have been designated to house them meanwhile, including the Arab-American University campus, 6 miles southeast of Jenin. Kamal Abu al-Rub, Jenin's governor, said the school closed sometime after the war in Gaza began, leaving thousands of dormitories vacant. The university didn't respond to a request for comment. When The Wall Street Journal visited the campus in early March, families were busy moving in and cleaning up dusty units. Palestinian officials and residents worry that Israel has bigger ambitions, using its war against militants as a pretext to do away with the refugee camps completely.

"I believe Israel's intention is to weaken the Palestinian Authority and make Jenin unsuitable for living so people will leave on their own," said Abu al-Rub. Still, Israeli and Palestinian security forces are coordinating behind the scenes. They agreed, for example, that the Palestinian forces would operate against militants hiding out in Jenin's hospital, located near the camp, according to Israeli military officials. Palestinians who left the camp are trying to resume their normal lives. In early March, children played on a patio overlooking the Arab-American University campus while they waited their turn for a haircut from Jamil Mirei, who ran a barbershop underneath his family's apartment in the camp. Mirei, 19, said he fled after the PA raided their home in December, arresting one of his brothers and injuring another with a stray bullet. He said he wasn't aware of any members of his family being involved with militant groups, and that he left in such a hurry he took little more than his clippers. No one can afford to pay him for his haircuts anymore, but he said he does it just to pass the time. "It reminds me of my normal life," he said. "It makes me feel like I'm myself again." Military vehicles have churned up the surface of streets in the camp.

Kunal Kamra yet to respond to police summons over "Traitor" remark on Eknath Shinde

GNS News Agency, April 3

"They are changing the nature and structure of the camp, they are dismantling it," said Abu al-Rub at his office in Jenin, the city that includes the camp. Israeli military officials said there has been no decision on the final status of the camp. The Journal visited the Jenin camp in an exclusive tour with the Israeli military on Tuesday. Three Israeli armored vehicles drove right through the city to reach the camp without encountering any resistance. "These camps are symbolic of our right to return," said Hammad Jamal, who leads a committee providing basic services to the camp. "As long as they exist, they are a daily reminder that this issue is still unresolved." The operation in Jenin, which began in January, has expanded into other cities in the northern West Bank.

Mumbai: A big question mark hangs over whether controversial comedian Kunal Kamra will appear before Mumbai's Khar Police on Monday to record a statement, as there has been no communication from him to the police, said an official. The Mumbai Police have issued two summons to Kamra so far. The second one, issued on March 24, asked him to appear at Khar Police Station on Monday (March 31) over his recent "traitor" jibe at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. A police official said there was no official information available whether Kunal Kamra would appear before Khar police on Monday.

Financed by Iran and armed with M16 rifles stolen from Israel, militants in Jenin have grown in power and sophistication. Israeli troops have found tunnels connecting hideouts, similar to Gaza though smaller in scale, and destroyed nascent rocket-manufacturing sites. Forcing the militants out of their Jenin camps ensures they are no longer able to organize, Israeli military officials said. As individuals now spread around surrounding villages and out of their hiding spots, militants have been much easier for Israeli and Palestinian security forces to find and arrest.

While the chances of Kamra joining the investigation during the day appeared low, his advocate, V. Suresh, has been expressing fears over the comedian's safety if he comes to Mumbai. Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut on Monday also raised security concerns for Kamra, alleging that the comedian had received threats from some Cabinet ministers. On March 24, Khar Police issued summons addressed to Kamra but delivered them to his parents' residence in Mumbai, asking him to appear for an investigation on Monday, said the lawyer.

Israel is also reshaping the topography of the camp. It has used its tractors to widen the now-dirt roads, allowing Israeli forces to use armored cars in areas previously inaccessible to them. The military showed the Journal two mosques in the Jenin camp where it said militants had created shooting positions to attack Israeli troops. Someone had scrawled on a door in red spray paint the Arabic words Kata'ib Jenin—the Jenin Brigades, a popular militant group. In a separate mosque, a large banner mourning Ismail Haniyeh, the Hamas leader assassinated by Israel last year in Tehran, was laid on the red carpet, now covered in mud by the boots of Israeli soldiers. A window in a storage room had a stack of cinder blocks placed on the sill, which sol-

In response, Kamra sent a letter stating that he was not in Mumbai due to prior commitments and offered to appear on April 2. Kamra has been granted protection against arrest till April 7 by the Madras High Court.

An IJS is an idea whose time has come

Over the past few days, social media has been awash with several memes. Of these, there is one that appears to be the best — "For the first time, a fire brigade has ignited more fire than what it extinguished." The fact is the fire is still raging. There are no marks for guessing what the incident being referred to is — the recent and shocking discovery by the Delhi fire brigade of half-burnt currency notes while putting out a fire that broke out in the official residence of a Delhi High Court Judge. One hopes that the internal inquiry that has been ordered by the Chief Justice of India will be completed early and its findings made public. The judge in the eye of the storm has been repatriated to his parent High Court. Any other public servant would have faced a first information report followed by an investigation. Many may recall the case of a former CJ who included himself as a member of the inquiry committee that had been constituted to probe a complaint of sexual harassment that had been lodged by a court staff against the CJ. This led to such public outrage that the CJ had to opt out. Whatever be the resulting convulsions and discomfort in the judicial system, this disturbing episode has drawn attention to an issue which everybody knew but maintained a discreet silence about for various reasons.



That this incident has happened just after two recent developments has not helped matters. In the first instance, the Supreme Court of India took objection to an order passed by the Lokpal taking cognisance of a complaint of corruption against a High Court Judge and referred it to the CJ. The Court has taken suo motu notice of this 'disturbing' order, as in its view, the Lokpal has no jurisdiction to act upon complaints against judges. The matter is before the Court. Irrespective of the final verdict, it has once again sharpened the focus on judicial accountability, raising questions about the effectiveness and the transparency of its internal inquiry mechanism.

The second instance happens to be a repulsive order passed by a High Court Judge wherein the Lordship was of the view that grabbing body parts of a minor girl and 'breaking the strings of her pyjama' were not enough to charge an accused with the offence of rape or attempt to rape. Mercifully, this obnoxious order has been stayed by the Supreme Court, due to its "total lack of sensitivity". What is the common factor in these three cases that involve High Court Judges? The answer is that all the judges have passed through the existing system of selection by the Collegium of Judges. This is a selection process that has drawn criticism on and off for many years, because of its opaque nature and the stranglehold of a few families over this system. Judicial dynasties sometimes result in the selection of incompetent and mediocre persons. Have an Indian Judicial Service

There are several advantages in having an Indian Judicial Service. First, it would result in the higher judiciary becoming more inclusive and representative in character. At present, the higher judiciary is an elite club dominated by a few families. Women and the marginalised sections of society are very poorly represented. There is an urgent need to open the doors of the judiciary to meritorious candidates from all parts of India and all walks of life to compete for senior judicial positions. Second, recruitment may be entrusted to the UPSC by the Supreme Court, stipulating the criteria and the method of selection for the senior judicial positions, in consultation with High Courts and legal luminaries. This process would also insulate the judiciary from any interference of the executive.

Third, a transparent selection process, with details in the public domain, is obviously much better than the closed-door meetings of the Collegium. Post-selection, a comprehensive training programme would ensure that those selected are well versed in the multiple branches of law. The Supreme Court may also evolve a system of oversight to ensure integrity and to initiate disciplinary action against those who lack integrity. In this writer's view, this will greatly help in restoring the faith of the people as well as the image of the higher judiciary in the largest parliamentary democracy of the world. Archana Ramasundaram is a retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer and a former Member of the Lokpal of India. The views expressed are personal

Vanguard to set up first Global Capability Center in Hyderabad, plans to hire 2,500 employees

GNS News Agency, April 3

Hyderabad: Vanguard, an investment management company, on Monday announced that it has decided to establish its first Global Capability Center (GCC) in Hyderabad.

Vanguard's Hyderabad office is expected to open formally later this year. The company hopes to hire between 2,300 to 2,500 crew members over the next four years in India.

Vanguard's delegation led by CEO Salim Ramji met Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and top officials. After discussions, Vanguard announced it would scale-up the Hyderabad office, where they would hire engineers with a special focus on Artificial Intelligence, Data & Analytics, and Mobile Engineering.

The Vanguard Hyderabad office would become an innovation hub that would support IT mission and goals, and drive AI strategy, unlock potential of our data and analytics, and support the firm's mobile-first initiatives.

Vanguard is currently designing its strategy to ensure it finds right talent to add to its global crew with a special focus on AI, Data and Analytics, and Mobile Engineering.

TeleManas helpline proves lifeline for mental health support in Telangana



into psychological issues, stress-related disorders, anxiety problems, sleep disturbances, mood-related sadness, relationship conflicts, suicidal ideation and medical complaints, highlights the growing demand for mental health interventions. The last three months of 2022 saw 621 instances of psychological issues, 218 stress-related concerns, and 161 sleep disturbances. Anxiety problems and mood-related sadness accounted for 86 and 47 cases, respectively. Suicidal ideation was documented in 42 cases, while medical-related concerns stood at 75. By 2023, there was a sharp rise in cases, with stress-related concerns surging to 5,032 and sleep disturbances escalating to 5,750. Psychological issues spiked to 4,847 while anxiety-related complaints more than doubled, reaching 1,906. Suicidal ideation cases saw a troubling rise to 323 and medical concerns skyrocketed to 10,356.

The trend continued in 2024 with psychological issues increasing to 7,466, stress-related cases rising to 9,657, and anxiety problems growing to 2,892. Sleep disturbances reached 7,091 while mood-related sadness peaked at 5,935. Medical issues maintained an alarming upward trend, exceeding 12,880 cases. In the first three months of 2025 alone, calls related to psychological issues were already at 1,288, stress-related complaints stood at 1,464 and anxiety problems reached 373. Sleep disturbances and mood-related sadness remained significant concerns, with 1,565 and 988 cases reported, respectively. Suicidal ideation cases stood at 102, while medical-related complaints remained high at 2,182. "With the rising burden of mental health disorders, helplines like TeleManas remain a crucial support system for those in distress, providing timely intervention and guidance to those in need," said a senior health official.

Such cases underscore the role played by the TeleManas helpline in addressing mental health issues in Telangana. An analysis of the TeleManas cumulative report from October 2022 to March 2025 reveals a steady increase in mental health concerns. The data, categorised

West Bengal's ambitious project to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B

In an ambitious goal to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B by 2026 the West Bengal government, has recently begun a pilot project, believed to be the first-of-its kind in the country. The 'Triple Elimination' initiative has been launched in partnership with the William J Clinton Foundation (WJCF) and the World Health Organization, and is being spearheaded by the State Health Department.

Why triple elimination?

All three diseases -- HIV, syphilis and Hepatitis B -- are infectious, and their mode of transmission is similar, sexual and vertical (mother-to-child) transmission. All three diseases have a long incubation period and also have a lifetime impact on infected persons. There is evidence of increased mortality and morbidity rates in infected mothers and infants with these diseases. The lower the age of a child with Hepatitis B, for instance, the higher the chances of their getting chronic liver diseases; birth with congenital syphilis can lead to deformities in the baby. "The USP of this initiative is that two major disease control programmes, the HIV control programme along with the STI/RTI (sexually transmitted/reproductive tract infections) and the Viral Hepatitis control programme are now no longer functioning in silos. They are being dealt with together to address maternal and child health as whole. Four verticals (HIV, STIs, Hepatitis and maternal/child health) are now acting in unison to prevent infections in newborns," said Pallav Bhattacharya, State Task Force member of the Triple Elimination initiative, adding that this was the first such medical initiative to address and stop the transmission of three diseases through a holistic approach.

How is West Bengal going about it?

The government has formed a State Task Force (STF) and a Technical Advisory group (TAG) to initiate this project. It was first launched in April 2024, as a pilot in four districts: Coochbehar, Rampurhat, South 24 Parganas and Diamond Harbour. Once the intervention showed a positive response in these four areas, in March 2025, the project was launched across all 23 districts in the State. Rahul Biswas, State Coordinating Officer for Triple Elimination, said that the government was positive that complete elimination would be successful by 2026. "Our foundations are fairly sound. This is why we scaled up the initiative across the whole State." Though started by the government health department, the initiative now includes private medical facilities for a comprehensible and inclusive approach towards elimination. Every pregnant woman is screened for all three infections during the anti-natal period. This includes both high-risk groups and the general population. If any woman tests posi-



itive, she is linked to the concerned medical departments to initiate treatment and counselling. The programme then ensures that the delivery is institutional and there is no transmission of the infection during childbirth. The Hepatitis B Zero dose vaccine is compulsory for every child born in India under the Universal Immunisation Programme's schedule, and, additionally, the newborn of a Hepatitis B positive mother gets another dose of HBIG (Hepatitis B Immune Globulin) injection within the first 24 hours of birth. While discussing challenges faced during the implementation of the project, Dr. Bhattacharya pointed out that accessibility of services was a major challenge at the grassroots level. "We have decentralised syphilis services. Earlier, these services were all concentrated in district hospitals, but now we have moved them to block levels to improve accessibility. The management of HIV positive pregnant women is also done at the block level now. Deliveries of HIV and Hepatitis positive women were only happening at higher medical centres. Now, we have decentralised that to the block level as well," he said. The issue of pregnant women having to travel long distances to access services has also now been addressed through a hyperlocal approach. There are also district-level nodal officers to address escalated situations at the initial stages to stop any stigmatisation. The stakeholders of the initiative also pointed out that extensive capacity-building at the grassroots level and improving of counselling has helped strengthen the initiative. Empowering front-line workers has helped in better outreach.

What happens next? Dr. Bhattacharya said he hoped the success of this initiative would help in modelling it across the country to help in eliminating newborn infections of these three diseases. With the National AIDS Control Organisation and the National Health Mission being in the loop throughout the various phases of this project, national-level implementation should be considered in the coming years, experts said.

Wayanad landslides washed away forest encroachments spanning over 0.55 hectares, Kerala Forest dept tells NGT

GNS News Agency, April 3

Kerala Forest department has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that the massive Wayanad landslides on July 30, 2024 completely destroyed two encroachments spanning 0.55 hectares in the Panchirimattam forest area. It included an encroachment of 0.43 hectares identified in the Panchirimattam vested forest area and another one extending to around 0.12 hectares downstream. The Wayanad landslide area located in Panchirimattam forest area in Meppady Range of the South Wayanad forest division is part of the vested forest committee item no. 22, according to the report filed by the department before the Southern Bench of the tribunal on March 27.



the various stages of court cases. Already, 1,976 encroachments corresponding to an area of 373.4 hectares of forest land have been evicted in Wayanad district since January 1, 1977, it said. The Forest department said it has undertaken boundary demarcation and consolidation by constructing permanent cairn stones and 'kayyalas' (dwarf walls) to check encroachment. The process of digitisation of forest boundaries has been initiated in collaboration with the Revenue department. With regard to boundary consolidation covering a stretch of 16,846 kilometres, of which 5,291.26 kilometres included natural boundaries (not requiring demarcation), the length of boundary requiring demarcation is 11,554.74 kilometres. Of this, 10,694.74 kilometres of boundary demarcation has been completed, said the report.

Burnout engulfs India's IT sector as one in four professionals logs 70 or more hours weekly



zation, and Microsoft lead the list, with a large majority of their employees reporting workweeks beyond the legal limit. Even more concerning, up to 42% of employees at Cisco, Amazon, ServiceNow, Walmart, and VMware admit to working over 70 hours weekly.

Excessive workloads are directly linked to higher burnout rates. While 83% of respondents reported experiencing burnout, the figure exceeds 90% among employees at companies notorious for long work hours. The survey also highlights that 68% of IT professionals feel compelled to respond to work-related messages outside official hours, a behavior partly rooted in remote work habits from the pandemic era but now ingrained in corporate culture. The root cause of these extreme work habits appears to be systemic pressure to overwork. A staggering 75% of professionals either feel pressured themselves or have observed colleagues being pushed to work beyond standard hours. This relentless cycle of overwork and burnout reflects a troubling trend within the Indian IT landscape. Despite the demanding environment, many professionals argue that longer hours do not equate to higher productivity. Additionally, industry leaders like Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy and L&T Chairman SN Subrahmanyam have come under fire for advocating 70-90-hour workweeks.

A recent survey conducted by Blind, an anonymous professional community app, has unveiled a stark picture of overwork and burnout plaguing India's IT sector. The survey, carried out from March 12-19, 2025, among 1,450 verified IT professionals, found that 72% of respondents routinely exceed the 48-hour workweek limit. Shockingly, one in four professionals logs 70 or more hours weekly, contributing to an alarming burnout rate of 83%. The survey identifies specific companies where extreme work hours are most prevalent. Organisations like Confluent, Intuit, UiPath, Adobe, Uber, InMobi, Salesforce, Walmart, Oracle, Ama-

WHO conference: Over 50 countries pledge to reduce air pollution health impacts by 50% by 2040

India has pledged to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by 2040, aligning its actions with the National Clean Air Programme at the concluding session of the second World Health Organisation (WHO) conference on air pollution and health. Speaking at the conference organised in Colombian city of Cartagena, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's Aakash Shrivastava said that the Indian government is "committed to supporting the health sector" and will "promote cleaner cooking energy, particularly for vulnerable populations."

"The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, India, is committed to supporting the health sector with actions in alignment with the National Clean Air Programme to reduce the health impacts of air pollution by 2040. We will strengthen air pollution and noncommunicable disease surveillance, promote cleaner cooking energy, particularly for vulnerable populations, and support clinicians in protecting at-risk patients," Mr. Shrivastava said. However, a report presented to the Rajya Sabha by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests, and Climate Change revealed that a substantial ₹858 crore allocated for pollution control in 2024-25 remains unutilised.

This budget represents 27.44% of the Indian Ministry's revised annual allocation. More than 50 countries, cities and organisations announced major commitments to tackle air pollution and safeguard health at the concluding session of the WHO's global conference. Over 700 participants including government representatives, U.N. agencies, civil society, scientists, and health societies, came together at the conference organised jointly with the government of Colombia by the WHO. A shared goal to reduce the health impacts by 50% by 2040 was agreed upon to save millions of lives every year, the WHO said. Urging the participants to respond to a global call to action, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said urgent actions are needed on all fronts to achieve clean air. He emphasised the need for financial investment in sustainable solutions such as clean energy and sustainable transport, technical enforcement of WHO global air quality guidelines, and social commitment to protect the most vulnerable in the most polluted regions. Air pollution claims more victims than violence itself and poisoning our air costs lives in silence, said President of Colombia Gustavo Petro, who was also present at the concluding session of the conference. "This conference reinforces our determination to implement policies for both the environment and the health of our people," he added. At the conference, Spain assured that they are "committed to achieve" a carbon-neutral health-care system by 2050 through emission reduction, multi-sectoral collabora-



tion and promoting innovation.

The United Kingdom and Northern Ireland reiterated their commitments to tackling air pollution by chairing the Forum for International Cooperation on Air Pollution (FICAP), setting health-based PM2.5 (fine particulate matter 2.5) targets, and publishing an Air Quality Strategy, which will review existing targets and consider how to increase public awareness on air pollution and address inequalities. The U.K. also committed to supporting the Africa Clean Air Programme. Brazil pledged to strengthen inter-ministerial cooperation, advance key initiatives, establish the National Air Quality Policy, update air quality standards in line based on WHO guidelines as a Legal Framework, and monitor their impact on reducing pollution-related mortality. China, on the other hand, stated that they are "committed to stronger air quality standards, smarter health protection systems, and enhanced international cooperation." "The country will continue its efforts to achieve national environmental and climate goals for 2030, 2050, and 2060," Chinese government official said at the conference.

On behalf of the co-chairs of C40 cities, representing almost 100 of the world's biggest cities, the Deputy Mayor of London Mete Coban assured supporting WHO's 2040 target and roadmap. Mr. Coban further called on other governments to expand investments in clean air solutions, strengthen air quality monitoring systems, and recognise cities as key partners in developing and implementing clean air strategies. Meanwhile, the Clean Air Fund (CAF) stated they will allocate an additional \$90 million over the next two years for climate and health efforts. Responding to the commitments made at the concluding session of the conference, WHO Director Maria Neira said that the "WHO remains dedicated" to supporting countries in translating these commitments into concrete actions.

U.S. measles cases till March surpasses all of 2024

Since the first measles case was reported on January 23, 2025 in Texas, the number of cases has risen sharply and the virus has spread to New York City and 17 other States in the U.S. As of March 20, the total number of cases reported across the U.S. stands at 378, with Texas and New Mexico alone reporting 327 and 43 cases, respectively. There have been two deaths so far and both were in unvaccinated individuals. With 301 cases reported as of March 14, the total number of cases reported in less than two months since the first case was reported this year surpassed 285 cases reported for all of 2024.

The first outbreak of measles in the U.S. this year has been in the Mennonite community in Gaines County, West Texas. So far about 226 cases have been reported from Gaines County, and many have been tied to a Mennonite community with low vaccine uptake. The Mennonite community is largely unvaccinated due to cultural and historical reasons. The Mennonite community in Gaines County has reported nearly 14% vaccine exemption rates for school-aged children. Of the 378 confirmed measles cases reported as of March 20, CDC noted that 124 (33%) cases



have been in children aged under five years and 159 (42%) cases have been in individuals aged 5-19 years; in Texas, 63 adults have been infected. As expected, 95% of individuals infected with measles are either unvaccinated or with unknown vaccination status. While 3% of individuals infected with measles have taken only one dose of the MMR vaccine, 2% have taken both doses of the MMR vaccine. That 2% of individuals got infected with measles despite being fully vaccinated is not unexpected — even two doses of the MMR vaccine does not provide 100% protection. According to the CDC, one dose of the MMR vaccine is 93% effective against measles, while

the effectiveness increases to 97% with two doses. "Some [fully] vaccinated people may still get measles, mumps, or rubella if they are exposed to the viruses. It could be that their immune system didn't respond as well as they should have to the vaccine; their immune system's ability to fight the infection decreased over time; or they have prolonged, close contact with someone who has a virus," the CDC says. However, fully vaccinated people generally have milder disease symptoms and are also less likely to spread the virus to others. But almost everyone who has not been vaccinated will get infected if they are exposed to the virus and get sick.

Though the MMR vaccine is primarily meant to prevent measles infection, individuals exposed to measles virus can still take the vaccine. The MMR vaccine can offer some degree of protection against the disease or reduce the severity of illness if vaccinated within 72 hours of exposure to the measles virus. On March 13, the WHO said that 1,27,350 measles cases were reported in 2024 in the European region (53 countries in Europe and central Asia), double the number of cases reported in 2023 and the highest number since 1997. There were 38 deaths as of March 6, 2025, the WHO said. The European region accounted for a third of all measles cases globally in 2024.

Sharath Kamal interview: 'I leave Indian table tennis in good hands, we need a clear monitoring process to ensure we grow as a team'



Thakkar, and Manush Shah. Then, we have young talents like Ankur Bhattacharjee, Taneesha Kotecha, Sayali Wani, and Pritha Vartikar. These kids are already doing well internationally. They just need the right system and support to transition smoothly to the senior level smoothly.

Our Indian players have caused a few upsets now and then, but what's still missing for India to consistently challenge the top nations like China and Japan?

The system and structure need to be in place. We have resources now, and support from the government and corporates is improving. But what matters most is using these resources effectively and having a clear monitoring process to ensure we grow as a team.

As you transition into an administrative or mentorship role, what's one major reform you'd like to implement?

I'd like all players to come together. Right now, everyone is following their own plans and tournaments. Massimo Costantini (national coach) has been trying to align things, and I'd love to assist him in making Indian table tennis stronger as a team.

Table tennis is growing in new pockets, for example, say Surat. What more can be done to expand its grassroots development?

We need a clear pathway: from grassroots to feeder levels and then to high-performance centers. Initiatives like U-15 tournaments are a step in the right direction. We need more workshops, player education, and structured coaching programs to build a broader talent pool.

Will analytics play a huge role, and can it give India an edge?

Very much. We analyse every match, tracking our opponents, refining our own techniques, and adjusting tactics. Analytics is an essential part of modern sports and we're using it to help us get better. TT players aren't necessarily well-built or tall - lower center of gravity and all. Was being tall a disadvantage for you?

It helped me. I had better reach and could generate more power in my shots. So, it worked in my favour rather than against me.

You've been the pillar of Indian table tennis. How do you want to be remembered?

Honestly, I don't have to try too hard. People already see me as the pioneer and pathfinder for Indian table tennis. I just hope the next generation keeps pushing the boundaries and achieves even greater heights.

Ronaldo says 'foreign coach', Rivaldo says 'only home-grown'; the debate for Brazil's national coach rages on



Stadium in Buenos Aires.

The time to break from the past and turn their gaze towards Europe to hire their next coach has long arrived. Such an eventuality had been knocking on the doors for years. The success superiority of European coaches to the Brazil counterparts had been blatantly laid out by the hard facts that since winning the World Cup in 2002, Brazil has crashed out at the quarter-final hurdle in four of five editions, or as soon as they have met elite European adversaries. The defeats exposed a deeper fault. Brazil could be the highest exporter of footballers to the top five leagues in Europe, its talent-mine could be bottomless, even its contemporary iteration has more quality and star power than most other national teams, but the country doesn't churn out quality coaches as they do players. It's a cruel paradox, but one that Brazilian football has to acknowledge to resurrect their glory days. Historically, Brazil has not been a coach-producing country. Unlike their fierce rivals Argentina, the culture that had honed Cesar Luis Menotti, Marcelo Bielsa, Alejandro Sabella and Carlos Bilardo, the new wave of Diego Simeone, Mauricio Pochettino, Lionel Scaloni and Nestor Lorenzo. Seven of the 16 participating nations in last year's COPA had an Argentine at their helm. Comparatively, only a handful of Brazilians had managed teams in Europe's top five leagues. Most of them, needless to say, had forgettable times. The most famous one, Luiz Felipe Scolari, the last Brazilian coach to win a World Cup, had a humbling time with Chelsea in the 2008-09 season. As did Vanderlei Luxemburgo in Real Madrid in 2005, lasting barely a season.

GNS News Agency, April 3

The inevitable ouster of Dorival Junior, the third coach of Brazil's beleaguering national football side in 15 months, has revived the old, nation-splitting debate. Whether to hire a foreign coach or not, a procrastination that has plunged them to recurring tragedies on the global stage, and now shaken them on the continental dais too.

The topic is as passionate as religion and politics in the country, perhaps even more because the sport is the greatest unifying force in the country. The foreign coach zealots argue about the country's paucity of quality coaches (both in their own league and elsewhere). Amongst them is the legendary Ronaldo. "I know I will get flak because I'm being 'unpatriotic' and I prefer foreigners. That is not it. We have to hire the best." Waving the placard for domestically-raised coaches is his long-time strike partner Rivaldo. "The Seleção is ours and has to be managed by someone who has Brazilian blood running through his veins."

Nothing perhaps captures Brazilian football's delusional and self-destructive romance with their long-gone past than their resistance to hire a foreign manager. It's symbolic of both their pride and vanity, their skepticism as much as the insecurity, of another colonial invasion that could wreck the soul of their football culture. A national team, after all, is a reflection of every element of that culture: the good and the bad, the strengths and the weaknesses. Not that a non-Brazilian coach is an utterly alien concept in the country. Uruguayan Ramon Platano (four games in 1925), Portugal's Joreca (two friendlies against Uruguay in the 1940s) and Filpo Núñez (one exhibition game in 1965) have all managed them. But none had them in a World Cup, and none had after they emerged as a powerhouse in the 1950s, as the country that embodies the beauty in the beautiful game. For decades, they remained resistant to the seductions of European football philosophies, be it to The Football or Tiki Taka. When Johan Cruyff's total footballers fluttered in football's garden, Tele Santana created the most beautiful team to have never lifted the World Cup. They borrowed tactics—and exchanged some of theirs too, in the ever-shrinking world. But the emphasis was to play football the Brazilian way—best described by the great Pele as "football as happiness, dance and a true party—even though it fell apart in a world where tactical systems reign supreme, when note-perfect orchestras consigned them to strumming hideous falsettos. Joao Gomes walks off after Brazil's loss to Argentina in a FIFA World Cup 2026 qualifying soccer match at Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires. (AP Photo) Joao Gomes walks off after Brazil's loss to Argentina in a World Cup 2026 qualifying soccer match at Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires.

After an illustrious career spanning over two decades, Indian table tennis legend Achanta Sharath Kamal played his final international match on Saturday at the WTT Star Contender in Chennai, bidding farewell on his home turf. In an interview with The Indian Express, the 43-year-old talks about the road ahead for him, what needs to be done to grow the sport in the country, and more. Not really, not at all, actually (laughs). The tournament went fantastically well, especially in terms of performance. I'm still soaking in the moment. The farewell was nothing short of amazing. I don't think it could have been any better, having done it here in Chennai in the presence of all my family and friends.

What's next for you?

I'll take a short break for the next two months; I'll be spending time with my kids, family and going on holidays. But after that, I'm looking at setting up a high-performance center, which I hope will eventually become a national training hub. There are multiple options, maybe as a high-performance director or an administrative role in the ITTF. I just need to zero in with some clarity in my head. In the next two months, I will try and work that out.

Do you think you're leaving Indian table tennis in good hands? What were the turning points that helped Indian table tennis rise on the global stage?

Absolutely, it's in very good hands. The most crucial period was between 2016 and 2018. Before that, I was mostly alone on the international stage. But in 2016, we had two male and two female players representing India at the Olympics for the first time. That was a significant step. Then, in 2018, our performances at the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games truly turned things around for Team India.

Who are some of the young players India should really behind?

Of course, there's Manika Batra, Sreeja Akula, Manav

'Dhoni can't bat ten overs running full stick': CSK coach Stephen Fleming explains star's batting order arrivals

GNS News Agency, April 3

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) coach Stephen Fleming has explained to the team's faithful that they should not expect former captain and all-time team talisman Mahendra Singh Dhoni to walk in to bat around the 9th or 10th over mark in the Indian Premier League 2025. Dhoni managed to score just 16 runs off 11 balls in the Chennai team's chase of 183 at Guwahati against the Rajasthan Royals. CSK fell short by six runs versus RR. Dhoni did bat up the order in the Rajasthan Royals compared the game against Royal Challengers Bengaluru where he had come in at No 9.

After the defeat to Rajasthan Royals, CSK coach Stephen Fleming explained the team management's decision-making process behind Dhoni coming in later than most pundits and fans were expecting him to.

"Yeah, it's a time thing. MS judges it. His body is... his knees aren't what they used to be. And he's moving okay, but there's still an attrition aspect to it. He can't bat ten overs running full stick. So he will gauge on the day what he can give us. If the game's in the balance like today, he will go a little bit earlier, and he backs other players when other opportunities are up. So he's balancing that," Fleming said at the post-game press conference.



Dhoni went in against the Royals with CSK needing 54 off 25 balls. Against RCB, even though CSK lost their fifth and sixth wickets in a single over, Jadeja and Ravichandran Ashwin were sent to bat ahead of Dhoni. That decision had gotten some stick with cricketer-turned-analyst Aakash Chopra saying, "Ashwin ahead of Dhoni vs RCB didn't make sense." "I said it last year [as well], he's too valuable to us - leadership and wicket-keeping - to throw him in nine-ten overs. He has actually never done that. So, look, from around 13-14 overs, he's looking to go depending on who's in."

Why did Rinku Singh get '2:21 pm on a clock' tattooed on his arm? And who praised Vaibhav Arora for his tattoo?

GNS News Agency, April 3

The tattoo stakes at Kolkata Knight Riders were raised when Australian international cricketer star, legspinner Amanda Wellington posted she was thrilled to match inkings with Kolkata Knight Riders pacer, Vaibhav Arora. Game sees game and all that. Arora had "You are your own limit. Remember what you started" in a cross running over his carpels, just like the Aussie. But Rinku Singh recalled his original KKR-inspired tattoo, dating back to 2018. Speaking on KKR's Knight Bite cookery episode on YouTube, Rinku told chef Kunal Khanna all about his five distinct tattoos on his forearms.

On the left is 'God's plan' engraved into a design. But it's the right arm that has the inkings closest to him that signified his IPL journey. "When I was picked in 2018 by KKR, we had no money,



no house, no things. But picked for 80 lakh, my life changed, life got easy for me, my parents and siblings. Hence I have the word Family written," Rinku said. There was also a rose. "It signifies a blooming flower, the start of a beautiful journey. Rose khil gayaa," he explained.

However the most impressive tattoo for Rinku was a clock dial with the time

stopped at 2:21, and his fortunes changed. "I got picked, shaayad do bajke ikkis ya bees baje. Mera samay badlaa," Rinku explained.

There's also assorted other symbols on Rinku. "Thoda peace & udaan," Rinku stated. Peace and taking flight in life. Some of Indian cricket's most famous tattoos as per GQ, are Virat

Kohli's Samurai on his left bicep (amongst 11), Suryakumar Yadav's 18 tats including his parents' portraits and an Aztec sleeve, Hardik Pandya's lion on his forearm, and KL Rahul's pet dog on his back. Chris Gayle and Ben Stokes' respective franchises were once involved in a tattoo war on social media to determine which was better.

Jakub Mensik reveals he tried to pull out of Miami Open, but referee was out for lunch!

GNS News Agency, April 3

Jakub Mensik celebrates after defeating Taylor Fritz during a semifinal match at the Miami Open tennis tournament. (AP Photo) Jakub Mensik celebrates after defeating Taylor Fritz during a semifinal match at the Miami Open tennis tournament. Teenager Jakub Mensik stunned his idol Novak Djokovic in the final of the Miami Open to win his first-ever ATP title. The teenager has revealed that he had gone to pull out of the event before his first round game due to inflammation in his right knee, but was prevented from doing so because the referee was out for lunch. So Mensik instead ended up heading to his physio's room and ended up playing his opener against Roberto Bautista Agut. The 19-year-old defeated Djokovic 7-6(4), 7-6(4) in the final on Sunday to claim a famous victory.

Here's the incredible story of how Mensik almost withdrew from the event. "It was just a big inflammation. I couldn't walk, I couldn't run," Mensik told reporters after his win over Djokovic. "I started to treat it, started to take painkillers. Nothing was helping. During matchday it was the same... I tried to step on the treadmill. I couldn't move. I was like, 'Okay, well, that's it. I'm pulling out'... I was visiting the referee's office to say 'Guys, I'm pulling out', but he was having lunch. So okay, let's visit the physio first. I was there and I said, 'Hey, my knee is hurting. Just fill the paper. I'm going'."

Jakub Mensik holds the Butch Buchholz Champion-



ship Trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic in the men's singles final at the Miami Open. (AP Photo) Jakub Mensik holds the Butch Buchholz Championship Trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic in the men's singles final at the Miami Open. But Mensik was forced to change his mind when the physio convinced him that his knee was not a serious problem. "I was like, 'okay, let's try one more time. I stepped on the treadmill and it was the same. But I went over the pain. I was suffering in those moments,'" Mensik added. "After a few minutes I started to feel a little relief. I took different painkillers, which helped a little bit. I was like, 'Okay, let's try it. It's like 30 minutes before the match. I can walk. I can run. Let's see'. Somehow I won the first round and basically then I had one day off, which of course, for my knee was much more better. Day by day the knee was getting better and with that also my game."

Robin Uthappa predicts RCB could win IPL 2025, thanks to Rajat Patidar's 'f****g unbelievable' captaincy

The Royal Challengers Bengaluru came in to the 2025 edition of the Indian Premier League with Rajat Patidar at the helm after the team left Faf du Plessis walk away in the auction. With talisman Virat Kohli taking a backseat on the leadership role, RCB caused some surprise by opting to ask Patidar to captain the team. But the gamble seems to be paying off, at least in the initial games of IPL 2025 with RCB currently on top of the IPL standings with two wins from two games, thanks to wins over five-time champions Chennai Super Kings and defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders.

Former India cricketer Robin Uthappa believes that RCB, a franchise which is yet to win the men's IPL title despite being around for all the 17 completed seasons, could go all the way to the title. "I have a feeling about RCB this year. I'll tell you why, because of Rajat Patidar! His leadership in the last couple of games has been f****g unbelievable! It has been so good!" Uthappa said on the The KimAppa show with cricket analyst Jarrod Kimber.

Virat Kohli Rajat Patidar IPL 2025 Virat Kohli of Royal Challengers Bangalore and Rajat Patidar of Royal Challengers Bangalore during the Eliminator match of the TATA Indian Premier League 2022 (IPL season 15) between the

Lucknow Super Giants and the Royal Challengers Bangalore held at the Eden Gardens Stadium in Kolkata on the 25th May 2022.

"What I love about Patidar is proactiveness and the calmness in which he exercises his proactiveness. It's so cool to see someone who's leading a team for the first time on the IPL stage exercise the level of calm that he has exercised, right. He's not reactive. He's trusting the the processes." Uthappa highlighted one moment from RCB's first game vs KKR that highlighted Patidar's confidence. "The fact that he bought Suyash Sharma back into the attack when Andre Russell came into bat (in the RCB vs KKR game), when he knew that Suyash has already already given 40 runs in three overs. He said (to Suyash) 'I picked you to get this guy out. Now get this guy out, I need you to do it for me!' To exercise that level of faith in your first game as a captain when your bowler has gone away for 40 runs in three overs... tells you he has the character. For me that defines that Patidar has got character." "Also the way he's batting. He's not taking pressure about being the captain. He's going there and exercising his role as a batter which is to take the bowlers to the cleaners and be aggressive with them. He's doing it with such panache."

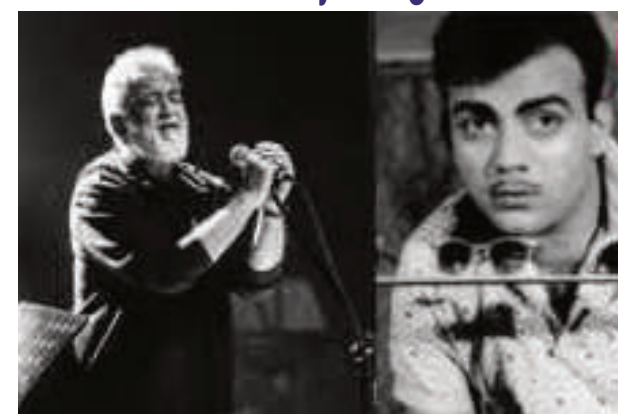
Mohanlal's Empuraan re-edited version to hit theaters after controversy from this date



Hyderabad: Malayalam blockbuster L2: Empuraan, the sequel to Lucifer, hit theaters on Thursday, March 28 and made a huge impact. But soon after its release, some scenes sparked controversy, especially among viewers concerned about religious and political themes. To address the issue, Mohanlal released a statement on Sunday, March 30, promising changes to avoid hurting anyone's sentiments. The film has now been re-edited with 17 cuts, including a name change for the villain. The updated version, which is two minutes shorter, starts screening on Monday, March 31.

Mohanlal assured fans that his films will never spread hatred toward any political or religious group. He said he values their love and trust and is committed to making meaningful cinema. Despite the controversy, L2E has been a massive hit, crossing Rs 100 crores in just two days. Directed by Prithviraj Sukumaran, Empuraan features Mohanlal, Tovino Thomas, Abhimanyu Singh, Manju Warrier, Prithviraj Sukumaran, Indrajith Sukumaran, Sachin Khedekar, Saniya Iyappan, Sshivada Nair,

'Lucky Ali left home with his guitar after fight with father Mehmood,' recalls Rajesh Roshan: 'They fought a lot'



Music composer Rajesh Roshan recently opened up about his association with celebrated singer Lucky Ali, describing him as 'like family.' He also recalled how Lucky once left home after a fight with his father, legendary actor Mehmood, and sought refuge with him.

In a conversation with Radio Nasha, Rajesh was asked whether Lucky Ali worked as his assistant. He, however, refused to call him that and instead referred to him as a friend. He said, "Lucky Ali was like family. He and his father would fight a lot. Mehmood was a short-tempered person and he wouldn't listen to anyone. Lucky once came and told me, 'I have left home and I am not going back.' He asked me where to go. He was with his guitar. I told him to come with me. He was my friend, not an assistant." He added, "He played guitar in my songs, along with other guitarists. At that time, he worked a lot with me." In an earlier interaction, Lucky Ali has shared how his father 'never agreed with his concepts' when it comes to creativity and arts. Apart from singing, Lucky had also dabbled in acting, but unlike popular belief, he wasn't welcomed warmly in the film industry and faced scrutiny from all those people who had worked with his father. "They took it out all on me. They were like what do you do, are you an actor? Are you a singer? Why do you want to do a role in English and things like that," he said. Lucky Ali appeared in films like Yehi Hai Zindagi, Sur - The Melody of Life, and Kaante. However, he is best known for his timeless songs like O Sanam, Kitni Haseen Zindagi, Aa Bhi Ja Aa Bhi Ja, and Safarnama, among others.

Sanoj Mishra, director who gave Monalisa a film role, arrested in rape case

Sanoj Mishra, the director who offered viral sensation Monalisa a role in his film during the Kumbh Mela, has been arrested in connection with a rape case. The arrest follows the rejection of his bail application by the Delhi High Court. On March 30, 2024, Sanoj Mishra, aged 45, was apprehended by the Delhi Police following intelligence gathering and technical surveillance.

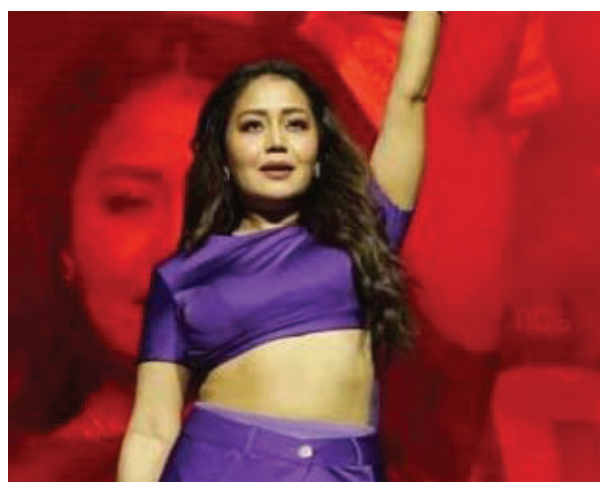
The arrest took place in Ghaziabad, and Mishra, who resides with his family in Mumbai, was taken into custody by the Nabi Karim Police Station. The case centers around a 28-year-old woman from a small town, who alleged that Mishra repeatedly raped her over a period of four years.

The woman, who aspired to become a film actress, claimed that she had been in a live-in relationship with Mishra in Mumbai during this time. She further alleged that Mishra forced her to undergo abortion procedures on three separate occasions. The complainant, in her statement to the police, also accused Mishra of reneging on his promise to marry her. According to a statement from the Delhi Police, an FIR was lodged on March 6, 2024, under several sections including rape, assault, causing miscarriage, and threatening. The complainant also supported her allegations during a statement under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). The police were able to gather medical evidence related to the alleged abortions from Muzaffarnagar. The incident that triggered the complaint occurred on February 18, 2025, when the accused allegedly brought the victim to Hotel Shiva in Nabi Karim.

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 organizers 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."

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

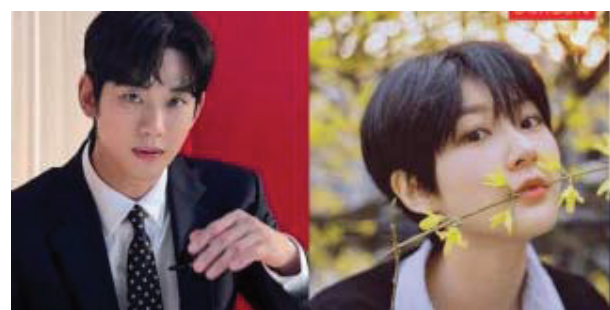
After actor Shreyas Talpade's name got dragged into a multi-crore chit fund scam, his team issued a statement denying all allegations. According to the statement, even though Shreyas might have attended a few events by the organisers, he has no personal or professional connection beyond that. The statement 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 request 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." On the film front, Shreyas Talpade has Welcome To The Jungle, Kapkapii, and The Game Of Girgit in the pipeline.

Kim Soo-hyun accepts Kim Sae-ron relationship for the first time, denies 'paedophile' tag; seeks 12 billion won in damages from her family



South Korean actor Kim Soo-hyun held a press conference on Monday, accompanied by his lawyer, Kim Jong-bok, to address scrutiny regarding his relationships with late actors Sulli and Kim Sae-ron. This marked the first time he publicly spoke about his relationship with Kim Sae-ron allegedly when she was a minor. Both Kim Sae-ron and Sulli died by suicide. Kim Soo-hyun began the press conference by apologising. He said, "Firstly, I am sorry. Because of me, I think so many people are suffering. And also I feel sorry that the late actor [Kim Sae-ron] isn't able to rest in peace. I consider myself a coward. I have always been too preoccupied with holding on to what I have. I couldn't even trust the goodwill that came my way, always fearing loss, harm and running away, denying everything. That's why it took me so long to stand here today." Kim Soo-hyun says he dated Kim Sae-ron when she was an adult

Kim Soo-hyun said that he wants to end this 'hell-like situation' and share his side of story. The actor admitted denying his relationship with the late actor while filming of the show Queen of Tears. He said, "I was in the same situation when [Kim Sae-ron] posted a picture of her and me when Queen of Tears was airing. I was together with her for about a year, about 4 years before the drama aired. But at that time, I denied our relationship. I fully understand that criticizing my choice is justified." He went on to reveal that he kept their relationship hidden to protect the cast and crew of the show. He said, "When Queen of Tears was airing, I had so much to protect as its lead actor. What would have happened if I had admitted to a year-long relationship. What would happen to the actors, the staff who were working overnight and the production team who had all everything staked on that project. What would happen to our agency's employees." He added, "I'm willing to receive any criticism that say I am selfish and cowardly." Kim Sae-ron didn't die because of me, my agency: Kim Soo-hyun Kim Soo-hyun, however, denied dating Kim Sae-ron when she was a minor. Explaining the same, he said, "I couldn't let it be. I

couldn't accept (them) coercing me to take what's fake as the truth. I never dated [Kim Sae-ron] when she was a minor. Except for the fact that both of us were actors, our relationship was just like that of any other ordinary couple. And it is not true that she had made this tragic choice because of me or my agency pressuring her over a debt." He revealed that he didn't contact the late actor after they had broken up. He said, "We dated with good feelings and after some time, we broke up. After that, we weren't able to contact each other like we used to. Just like any other couple, contacting a lover after breaking up is a very cautious thing." He added, "I also couldn't contact her easily when she had the DUI (Driving under the influence of alcohol) incident."

"Kim Sae-ron was dating someone else during DUI incident" He also shared that Kim Sae-ron was dating someone else when DUI incident happened. "From YouTube, I heard that the former CEO of the agency was having a hard time because of me when the drunk driving incident happened. But I was aware that the late actor was in a relationship with someone else. So I was very careful about contacting her," he said. Addressing Kim Sae-ron's family's accusations, he said, "But the family of the late actor, just because I am the ex-boyfriend of the late actor, is asserting that I pushed her to death. They are demanding me to confess to something that I didn't do. [They said] you played with her even from when she was a minor. You threatened her with money. So you are a murderer. I would like you to listen to this audio."

He later in the press conference also denied that the CEO of his agency pressurised Kim Sae-ron for debt repayment, an allegation made by the latter's parents. He also played a phone call between the CEO of Gold Medalist and a representative of Kim Sae-ron to prove the same. He said, "The voice recording disclosed by the late actor's family is something that's newly recorded. And the same goes for KakaoTalk chat that the late family initially revealed." Kim Soo-hyun revealed that his agency contacted Kim Sae-ron in 2019 just 'as an actor and she was not involved in casting or visual directing.' He declared, "These fake testimonials and evidence are piling up just because we dated." Addressing Kim Sae-ron's family's allegations of him sending flirtatious texts to the late actor in 2016, Kim Soo-hyun claimed that it wasn't him who sent her those messages. "They are framing me as paedophile, accusing me of grooming based on KakaoTalk chats we had in 2016. The person who is having the conversation with the late actor is different for the KakaoTalk chats made in 2016 and 2018. In order to prove this, I have requested analysis into the KakaoTalk chat revealed by the late actor's family in 2016, 2018 and this year."

Malaika Arora recalls a 'crazy fan' entering her living room uninvited with a pair of scissors: 'Kuch toh gadbad hai'



While Bollywood is yet to recover from the shockwaves left by the attack on renowned star Saif Ali Khan at his Bandra residence in January this year, actor Malaika Arora has stepped forward to share a chilling experience she once faced, when a fan entered her living room uninvited with a pair of scissors. Although nothing untoward happened, Malaika said that the incident sent chills down her spine. "I remember when main upar ghar pe ready ho rahi thi (I was getting ready upstairs). When I came down to the living room, someone was sitting there. I had no idea, no clue, nothing. They were just sitting there and had come to say... tell me that... I got a little scared, I'll be very honest. It was actually a female, and she was sitting there. A crazy fan. She had some scissors or something in her bag as well, which was a little scary. So, I figured ki kuch toh gadbad hai (something was off). However, I just tried to be calm about it and yeah, that was the craziest fan interaction," she shared during a chat with Bollywood Bubble. Although Malaika did not suffer any injuries in the said incident, Saif's ordeal was far scarier and the actor was wounded in the attack. On January 16, an unknown intruder broke into the residence of Saif and his wife Kareena Kapoor Khan with the intention of robbing them. Although he wasn't spotted at first, a staff member soon noticed the miscreant and raised an alarm. Hearing this, Saif came out of his room, after which an altercation ensued between the two. The actor was then allegedly attacked with a hexa blade and suffered injuries to his hand, neck and back. While Khan was rushed to the hospital, the intruder managed to escape before eventually being captured on January 19. Saif, meanwhile, had to undergo two major surgeries.

Suriya takes selfie with Trisha, Jyotika and Ramya Krishnan at 'beautiful reunion'



Actors Trisha Krishnan, Radhika Sarathkumar, and Ramya Krishnan were among those who came together with Jyotika and her husband Suriya for a get-together this Sunday. The photos of this meet are going viral on social media. Trisha took to her Instagram story to share photos from this get-together. She posed with Jyotika and Ramya Krishnan in some clicks while the photo which is getting a lot of love from fans is a selfie which Suriya took with the ladies at this memorable reunion.

Suriya happens to be actor Jyotika's husband, and looks like the brunch was hosted by Jyotika. The ladies looked stunning at the party. In one of the photos shared by Jyotika, she was seen dressed in a blue pantsuit while Trisha was in a white dress, posing along with Ramya, "We are strongest when we cheer each other." She also shared a then and now photo of her and Jyotika and wrote, "Thank you God for ageing." Here are some photos from the stars party night: Trisha, Jyotika and Ramya Krishnan, Suriya Trisha, Jyotika and Ramya Krishnan, Suriya Trisha, Jyotika and Ramya Krishnan, Suriya On the work front, Jyotika was last seen in Netflix's Dabba Cartel. Created by Shibani Dandekar Akhtar, Gaurav Kapur, Vishnu Menon, and Akanksha Seda, the series also had Shabana Azmi, Shalini Pandey, Nimisha Sajayan, and Anjali Anand. Meanwhile, Suriya is working on his upcoming film Suriya 45, directed by RJ Balaji. Actor Trisha Krishnan was last seen in the film Vidaamuyarchi, directed by Magizh Thirumeni.

Rakul Preet stresses dressing appropriately in temples amid new guidelines across India

Mumbai: Amidst the implementation of new guidelines in temples across India, actress Rakul Preet Singh has stressed the significance of dressing respectfully when visiting sacred places. With a focus on mindful fashion choices, Rakul encourages people to be conscious of their attire, ensuring it aligns with the decorum expected at such spiritual sites. The 'Dhruva' movie actress shared her thoughts on the importance of dressing appropriately for every occasion, especially in the public eye. Rakul emphasized the responsibility that comes with being a public figure and how it extends to one's fashion choices. Speaking on the sidelines of the ongoing edition of the Lakme Fashion Week, Rakul said "Anything you do in the public eye as a public figure, you have to take actions with responsibility, I feel. And in fashion, I always believe in dressing according to the occasion. If you're going to a temple, dress accordingly; if you're going to the gym, wear appropriate clothes; or if you're going out for dinner, you will dress accordingly."