

INDIAN CHRONICLE

17 April, 2024 | Wednesday | Volume No:12 | Issue No:56

Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State)

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KCR to chair key meeting with party functionaries on April 18

Hyderabad: Leader of Opposition and BRS president K Chandrashekhar Rao will chair a meeting of key party functionaries to take stock of the political scenario in Telangana ahead of the Lok Sabha elections at Telangana Bhavan on April 18.

He will discuss election strategies and the campaign route map till polling day on May 13. He will also distribute B forms to party candidates apart from handing over cheques for Rs.95 lakh each towards election expenses in adherence to prescribed norms.

Madhapur fuels Hyderabad's office space leasing surge

Hyderabad: Hyderabad has witnessed a surge in leasing activity in the first quarter of 2024. The city's office market recorded a healthy gross leasing of 2.5 million square feet (msf), marking an impressive 125 per cent growth compared to the same period last year, latest Hyderabad office report by Cushman & Wakefield, said.

The prime submarket of Madhapur emerged as the epicenter of leasing activity, dominating with 89 per cent of quarterly office space leasing.

Hearings on Kavitha's bail petition postponed till April 22



GNS News Agency, April 16

New Delhi/Hyderabad: The hearing on the regular bail petition of BRS MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha, who was arrested in the Delhi liquor case and is in Tihar Jail, has been postponed. The Rouse Avenue CBI Special Court Judge is on leave. With this, her trial was postponed. The court will hear arguments on April 22 or 23. She has filed a petition in the court that she is innocent in the liquor case and the case has been filed against her illegally, so she should be granted bail. The case was supposed to be heard on Tuesday, but it was postponed as the judge was on vacation. Kavitha filed a bail petition on Monday in the case where she was arrested by the CBI. The hearing will be held on 22.

1,016 candidates clear UPSC exam, Aditya Srivastava secures top rank

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, April 16

Aditya Srivastava has topped the prestigious civil services examination 2023, with Animesh Pradhan and Donuru Ananya Reddy getting the second and third ranks respectively, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) announced on Tuesday. Srivastava qualified the examination with electrical engineering as his optional subject. He has done his graduation (Bachelor of Technology) in electrical engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, according to the results of the civil services examination 2023 announced by the UPSC on Tuesday.

Animesh Pradhan, a graduate (BTech) in computer science from National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, secured the second rank with sociology as his optional subject, it said. Donuru Ananya Reddy, who possesses Bachelor of Arts (Hons) geography, from Miranda House, Delhi University, stood third in the rank with anthropology as her optional subject. A total of 1,016 candidates (664 men and 352 women) have qualified the examination and have been recommended by the Commission for appointment to various services. Among the finally qualified candidates, the top five comprises three men and two women candidates, it said.

P K Sidharth Ramkumar and Ruhani have got fourth and fifth rank respectively in the civil services examination. Ramkumar, a Bachelor of Architecture from College of Architecture in Trivandrum, secured fourth rank with anthropology as his optional subject. Ruhani, a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in economics from St Stephens College, Delhi University, secured the fifth rank with economics as her optional subject, according to the results of the civil services examination 2023. The top 25 candidates comprise 10 women and 15 men.

The civil services examination is conducted annually in three stages -- preliminary, main and interview -- by the UPSC to select officers of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and Indian Police Service (IPS) among others. Educational qualifications of top 25 successful candidates range from graduation in engineering, humanities, science, commerce, business administration, architecture and law from premier institutions of the country such as IIT, IIM, NIT, University of Delhi and National Law University among others. Top 25 successful candidates have opted for subjects like anthropology, chemistry, geography, economics, electrical engineering, law, history, mathematics, physics, political science and international relations and sociology as their optional choice in the written (main) examination, the UPSC said. The recommended candidates also include 30 persons with benchmark disability (16 orthopedically handicapped, six visually challenged, five hearing impaired and three with multiple disabilities). The civil services (preliminary) examination, 2023 was conducted on May 28 last year. A total of 10,16,850 candidates applied for this examination, out of which 5,92,141 candidates actually appeared in the examination. As many as 14,624 candidates qualified for appearance in the written (main) examination, which was held in September, 2023. A total of 2,855 candidates qualified for the personality test of the examination, the Commission said. Of the total 1,016 recommended candidates, 347 are from general category, 115 are from economically weaker sections, 303 from other backward classes, 165 from Scheduled Castes and 86 from Scheduled Tribes, it said. The government has reported 1,143 vacancies -- 180 in IAS, 37 in IPS, 200 in IPS, 613 posts in different central Group A services and 113 in Group B services -- to be filled through the civil services examination 2023, the UPSC said. As many as 240 candidates have been put in a reserved list, it said, adding that the candidature of 355 recommended candidates has been kept provisional.

'Your efforts will shape nation's future', PM Modi wishes successful Civil Services candidates

GNS News Agency, April 16

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday congratulated the successful candidates of the Civil Services examination, wishing them a promising career ahead. Taking to X, PM Modi said: "I congratulate all those who have successfully cleared the Civil Services Examination, 2023. Their hard work, perseverance, and dedication have paid off, marking the start of a promising career in public service. Their efforts will shape the future of our nation in the times to



come. My best wishes to them." I want to tell those who didn't achieve the desired success in the Civil Services Examination - setbacks can be tough, but remember, this isn't the end

of your journey. There are chances ahead to succeed in Exams, but beyond that, India is rich with opportunities where your... — Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) April 16,

2024 The Prime Minister also had a word of advice for those who could not make it this year, saying there will be more attempts to succeed. "I want to tell those who didn't achieve the desired success in the Civil Services Examination - setbacks can be tough, but remember, this isn't the end of your journey.

There are chances ahead to succeed in Exams, but beyond that, India is rich with opportunities where your talents can truly shine. Keep striving and exploring the vast possibilities ahead. Wishing you all the very best," the Prime Minister said.

Cong and DMK gave away Katchatheevu island: Modi in Tamil Nadu

GNS News Agency, April 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday reiterated his attack against the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-Congress combine various fronts including corruption, dynastic politics and ceding of the Katchatheevu island. Speaking in Tirunelveli Lok Sabha constituency on the transfer of the island in 1974 to Sri Lanka, Modi said, "Congress and DMK gave away Katchatheevu island. For four decades, the people of Tamil Nadu and India were kept in the dark about the reality of the secession of the island." "Our fishermen are still paying for the deeds of the two political parties," he added.

The PM once again reached out to the voter base of the AIADMK by invoking the legacies of party founder MG Ramachandran (MGR) and his successor J Jayalalithaa. This is despite the AIADMK cutting off ties with the BJP last September. "We advocate for honest governance in Tamil Nadu," Modi said. "We want to fulfil the dreams of leaders like MGR. Whereas, DMK uses every chance to insult MGR. They also insulted Jayalalithaa ji in the Parliament." Modi accused the "ideology" of the DMK and Congress, who are key constituents of the INDIA bloc, of being against Tamil culture. "Be it Sengol or Jallikattu, DMK and Congress have protested every initiative that highlights Tamil culture," Modi said. "BJP has become the first choice of people who love the Tamil language and culture. In our manifesto, we have guaranteed to globalise the Tamil language. We will bring Tamil heritage sites to the global tourist maps. BJP has



resolved to build Thiruvalluvar cultural centres across the world." BJP released its manifesto on Sunday. "Your enthusiasm for the BJP is making DMK and INDI Alliance lose sleep. Tamil Nadu is saying, 'Phir ek baar, Modi Sarkar' (Modi government, once again)."

Modi listed development work done by the NDA regime for Tamil Nadu in the last decade such as providing Vande Bharat and promising that soon bullet trains will also run in the south. "The vision of Viksit Tamil Nadu for a Viksit Bharat has become BJP's resolution," Modi said. He was confident that Tamil Nadu would give the BJP a good mandate when the state goes to polls during the first phase on April 19. "This is my last programme in Tamil Nadu for this election. Based on the places I have visited here, I can say that Tamil Nadu is going to create history."

KTR asks Congress leaders to identify Revanth Reddy's political leanings



GNS News Agency, April 16

Adilabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Tuesday dared Congress leaders to say which party Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy belonged to. Reiterating that Revanth Reddy would be the first to join the BJP after the Parliament elections, he asked the people to think whether the Chief Minister was a confidante of Rahul Gandhi or Narendra Modi. Addressing a party meeting in Adilabad Parliament segment here, Rama Rao said every vote to the Congress would ultimately benefit the BJP. He regretted that reservations given to SCs and STs would be abrogated if the BJP came to power again.

"Is Modi a God for privatising public sector undertakings? Where has the proposed Bayyaram steel plant gone? Why is Cement Corporation of India's sick unit in Adilabad not revived so far?" he asked. Reiterating that the BRS would never topple the Congress-led State government, he asked Revanth Reddy to continue in the post for five years and to keep his poll promises. Ridiculing Revanth Reddy for calling Modi 'Bade Bhai', even while Rahul Gandhi was calling Modi 'chor', exposing the dual standards of the Congress, Rama Rao found fault with the government for claiming to have fulfilled jobs even without giving notifications.

The 32,000 jobs for which appointment letters were

handed over by Revanth Reddy to candidates were originally recruited by the BRS government, he said, also rebuking the Congress for collecting a fee of Rs.200 from aspirants of TET. Stating that the BRS had realised ideals of tribal legend Kumram Bheem by introducing various developmental programmes and welfare schemes covering tribals, Rama Rao said the Congress, which was responsible for the infamous Indervelli firing incident, did not even tender an apology to the tribals.

ASI shot dead, another injured after man opens fire on Delhi's busy flyover; accused then kills self

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, April 16

A 44-year-old man, on a shooting spree on a busy flyover in northeast Delhi, shot dead an Assistant Sub-Inspector of Delhi Police, while another passerby sustained a bullet injury on Tuesday, an official said. He said that the assailant then shot himself dead following the incident. The deceased ASI has been identified as Dinesh Sharma while the injured identified as Amit Kumar is undergoing treatment at GTB hospital. Police said that Sharma was posted in the Special Branch of the Delhi Police and he was travelling on his motorcycle when the incident occurred on Meet Nagar Flyover. According to police, a police control room (PCR) call regarding the incident at Meet Nagar Flyover was received at 11:42 a.m. on Tuesday at Nand Nagri police station following which a police team rushed to the spot. Upon reaching the spot, Sharma and Kumar were rushed to GTB hospital, where Sharma was declared brought dead by the doctors. Kumar sustained a bullet injury on his waist, from behind and he was travelling on the Meet Nagar Flyover on his scooter when the incident occurred.

Telangana's Ananya Reddy bags 3rd rank in UPSC exam



GNS News Agency, April 16

Hyderabad: Donuru Ananya Reddy from Mahabubnagar district has come out with flying colours clinching third rank in the Civil Services Examination 2023 results, which were announced by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on Tuesday. She achieved this feat in her first attempt itself. Speaking to Telangana Today, Ananya Reddy said except for coaching for Anthropology optional in Hyderabad she had self prepared for the examination.

"After the interview, I expected to be in the final selection list but not the third rank," said an elated Ananya Reddy, who graduated with Geography from Miranda House, a constituent college of the Delhi University. On her preparation, Ananya Reddy said she went with her own strategy and studied about 12 to 14 hours a day before the exam. "Since my childhood I always wanted to serve the society. So, I took up civil services. In fact, I am first in my family to get into civil services," said Ananya Reddy, whose father is a self-employed and mother, a homemaker. A total number of 1016 candidates have been recommended by the UPSC for appointment to Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service and Central Services, Group 'A' and Group 'B'. The candidature of 355 recommended candidates has been kept provisional. Results have been hosted website <http://www.upsc.gov.in>. Marks will be available on the website within 15 days.

Car hits biker, then drives with victim's body on roof of vehicle for 18 km in A P

Ananthapuramu, GNS News Agency, April 16

A car driver in Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh, collided with a biker and drove for 18 kilometres with the victim's body on the roof of the vehicle. The driver fled the scene and is still at large, but a murder case has been registered, and efforts are underway to apprehend the driver. A fatal road accident occurred near Kothapalli in Atmakuru Mandal on Sunday night, resulting in the tragic death of a biker.

The collision occurred when a car and a bike collided, causing Erriswamy to be thrown into the air and subsequently onto the car, where he succumbed to his injuries. The driver of the car continued for approximately 18 kilometres without stopping, eventually coming to a halt at Hanimireddypalli before fleeing the scene. Authorities are currently piecing together the full sequence of events surrounding the incident. Sub-Inspector Atmakuru Muneer Ahmed stated that upon receiving reports of the accident involving an Innova vehicle, law enforcement officers promptly responded and commenced an investigation. However, the body of the deceased biker was not initially located at the scene. The driver, whose identity remains unknown at this time, abandoned the vehicle after sounding an alarm. Nonetheless, authorities have obtained relevant details, including the vehicle's registration number, and have activated the mobile phone found within the vehicle for further investigation.

Conspiracies are on to eliminate Owaisi brothers: Akbaruddin

GNS News Agency, April 16

Hyderabad: Akbaruddin Owaisi said that Owaisi brothers are strong in Hyderabad and some people started conspiracies because they were afraid that they would not be able to defeat them in the elections. Sensational remarks were made that conspiracies are being made to eliminate Owaisi Brothers. He said that some evil spirits were threatening to kill the duo but they are not the one to go away so easily.

He said that they could be sent to jail and killed by slow poison in the name of medicine. Or they expressed suspicion that they could be shot dead with a gun. However, MIM's key leader Chandrayanagutta MLA Akbaruddin made it clear that they will not be afraid of such things.

No matter how hard anyone tries in Hyderabad, it is not possible to defeat them. He expressed confidence that he will win the next election. A video related to Akbaruddin's comments has now gone viral on social media.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

No, it's not healthy

THE recent directive from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry to e-commerce platforms to remove Bournvita and similar beverages from the 'health drink' category is a much-needed step towards ensuring transparency and raising consumer awareness. The move comes after an inquiry by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights revealed that there was no official definition of a 'health drink' under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Earlier this month, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India had clarified that dairy-, cereal- or malt-based beverages should not be labelled as 'health' or 'energy' drinks. Bournvita found itself in the eye of the storm last year when questions were asked about its nutritional claims, particularly regarding its sugar content. The controversy prompted a re-evaluation of how such products are marketed and labelled. While Bournvita did reduce its sugar content following the backlash, the broader issue of misleading labelling persisted across the industry. The term 'energy drink' specifically refers to flavoured water-based drinks, both carbonated and non-carbonated. These beverages are often marketed as 'health drinks', even though their high sugar content poses serious health risks, especially for children. Excessive sugar consumption can lead to a host of health issues, including obesity, diabetes and dental ailments. The absence of clear regulatory guidelines exacerbates the problem, leaving consumers vulnerable to misleading claims. The latest clarification addresses this ambiguity, besides empowering consumers to make informed choices. Moving forward, the stakeholders must collaboratively establish comprehensive standards for labelling and categorising food products. By holding manufacturers, retailers and e-commerce platforms accountable for labelling, regulators can safeguard public health.

'It wasn't meant to be courtesy call':
Banwarilal Purohit hits back after
Chandigarh Mayor says UT Administrator
cancels meeting last minute



GNS News Agency, April 16

The tiff between Chandigarh Mayor and Union Territory Administrator took a new turn after Mayor Kuldeep Kumar who was given an appointment to meet Banwarilal Purohit on Wednesday claimed that Purohit "humiliated" him as he refused to meet the AAP leader and was asked to return. However, Purohit on Thursday stated that, "Mayor's statement is reprehensible" and "there was no reason for him to visit Raj Bhawan when he was informed one hour prior that the appointment was cancelled." Purohit said that he could not take up any special agenda for discussion as the model code of conduct was in place, though the mayor's actual intent was to discuss several issues, including free water supply "under the garb of a courtesy call".

Purohit said it was through media reports on Wednesday morning that he came to know that the Mayor wanted to take up issues such as 20,000 litres of free water to each household, annual hike in water tariffs and other developmental works in Chandigarh.

Mayor Kuldeep Kumar said that when he reached the Raj Bhawan for the scheduled meeting the officer on special duty (OSD) informed him the appointment had been cancelled. "My appointment was fixed for today to meet the Administrator. I thought I would take his blessings... and also have a word on the free water facility for Chandigarh residents. When I reached the Raj Bhawan, I was asked to return," Kumar told The Indian Express on Wednesday night. When asked, Kumar said, "In fact, one of the newspapers carried a report that I was supposed to speak over the free water facility with the Governor.... maybe that's why the second thought. But it was so humiliating for me." Purohit, in the statement, said the mayor had sought appointment from the Governor's office as a 'courtesy call' without mentioning any specific purpose of meeting.

"Despite the cancellation of appointment, the Mayor reached Punjab Raj Bhawan wherein, it was again impressed upon him that due to imposition of Model Code of Conduct no such agendas can be taken up for discussion. Since this information was shared with him an hour before the meeting, therefore, there was no reason for him to visit Punjab Raj Bhawan. If the Governor had no intent of meeting the Mayor then he would have not given any appointment in the first place; it was only after reading about his actual intent of meeting, in the garb of a courtesy call, that the appointment was cancelled."

Last month, Mayor Kumar and councillors in Chandigarh Municipal Corporation passed an agenda item to provide 20,000 litres of free water to the city residents. "I have been working day and night for the welfare of the city residents. All my fellow councillors and I have only one issue - to provide better facilities to the people of Chandigarh; be it giving 20,000 litres of free water to the people of Chandigarh or the issue of providing free parking in Chandigarh," the mayor said.

The mayor stated that he had sought Purohit's appointment any time around April 6 and he was given time on Wednesday. "I am an elected representative and it is my duty to bring the issues related to the public before the UT Administrator, which I will continue to do. It is my duty to convey the voice of the public to the UT Administrator. I again request him that I want to meet him," he added. Last month in an event, the mayor stated that the Union Territory Administrator publicly embarrassed him from the stage stating that "free water was not possible". Later, Purohit told reporters that false promises to public were being made which he would not let happen.

Is the hot and humid condition in Pune increasing your chances of suffering heat stroke? Find out how to stay safe



GNS News Agency, April 16

Over the last few weeks, Pune's temperature has been hovering around 39-40 degrees Celsius which although high, is not unusual. However, prolonged exposure to sun can be dangerous at a time when the India Meteorological Department (IMD) says Pune is witnessing "hot and humid" conditions. Even as the moisture content in the air increases, chances of dehydration continue to be high, which if not taken care of, can be fatal, say experts.

Anupam Kashyapi, former head of weather forecasting at the IMD, explained that a heat wave is a condition when the maximum temperature is 5-7 degrees Celsius above the 40 degrees Celsius mark. A moderate heat wave is when the maximum temperature is around 43-45

degrees Celsius and any rise above that is called a severe heat wave. The present maximum temperature in Pune is around 1.5-2 degrees Celsius above normal. Pune might technically not be experiencing a heat wave-like situation but what makes it peculiar is the hot and humid condition. "This happens when humidity is coupled with high temperature, like what is happening in Pune right now," Kashyapi said. Moisture bearing winds from the Arabian Sea are wafting into Maharashtra and Pune via Gujarat which has made the city experience the present unpleasant and stifling sensation, he added. Heat stroke or heat-related illnesses happen when the body starts to lose moisture fast and is not replenished. High body temperature, a throbbing pulse, heat rashes and exhaustion are some of the signs of a heat stroke. If not treated on time, a heat stroke can be fatal, experts say. The state government has issued guidelines to all hospitals to report every case of heat stroke in the state.

"Pune might not be experiencing a heat wave, but chances of a heat stroke or heat-related illnesses continue to be high in the city. This is mainly because of quick evaporation of moisture from the body and if not rehydrated, it may cause severe illness," said a state government doctor. Since Pune is experiencing humidity in the air, chances of people not realising that they are dehydrated can't be ruled out. Kashyapi said that frequent hydration and avoiding prolonged exposure to the sun, especially between 11 am and 4 pm, can help people avoid any ill effects of the heat.

Have SOP for hospitals concerning termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks: HC to Maharashtra govt

GNS News Agency, April 16

Medical termination of pregnancy Bombay HC Nagpur Under the amended provisions of the Act, the state government is required to constitute medical boards in each district which has the power and discretion to allow or deny termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks of gestation period. The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has directed the Maharashtra government to formulate a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for handling cases related to termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks.

A division bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Nitin Sambre in its order of April 5 noted that the amended Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act permits termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks in cases of severe abnormalities in the foetus. Under the amended provisions of the Act, the state government is required to constitute medical boards in each district which has the power and discretion to allow or deny termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks of gestation period. The bench was hearing a petition filed by a woman seeking termination of her 32-week pregnancy due to abnormalities in the foetus. As per the plea, the general hospital in Wardha informed the woman about the fetal abnormalities during her 24th-week scan. While giving relief to the woman, the bench noted that it was disturbing that instead of referring her to the medical board directly, the hospital asked the petitioner to approach the court to seek termination of the pregnancy.

The high court said the provisions of the amended MTP Act permit termination of pregnancy exceeding 24 weeks if the medical board thinks that way and has diagnosed that the foetus has substantial abnormalities. "Under



the Scheme of the MTP Act as amended up-to-date, there is no such requirement of seeking any permission from the court by any woman who intends to get her pregnancy terminated even if the pregnancy is beyond 24 weeks," HC said.

The court directed the state's Department of Public Health and the Department of Medical Education and Drugs to formulate an SOP which shall be issued to all government hospitals and medical colleges across Maharashtra. "We expect that this Standard Operating Procedure, to be prepared by experts in the field, shall be formulated and notified by the State Government within a period of two months," the court said, posting the matter for further hearing on June 12. The SOP, once put in place and implemented, would ensure that no woman needs to move court seeking permission for termination of pregnancy if she is entitled to do so under the provisions of the MTP Act, the HC said. The bench permitted the woman to terminate the pregnancy and directed the general hospital in Wardha to bear the expenses.

'We are headed for elections, not civil war': Delhi HC dismisses plea to reschedule CA exams

GNS News Agency, April 16

plea to reschedule CA exams, Delhi HC dismisses plea to reschedule CA exams, CA exams, CA exams schedule. The court said the petitioners were being "less than fair to the security administration in place in their rather bleak prediction" that "chaos, commotion and violence" is likely during elections. The Delhi High Court has dismissed a plea seeking rescheduling of the Chartered Accountant Intermediate and Final examinations to the second week of June in view of the forthcoming general elections.

A single-judge bench of Justice C Hari Shankar noted in its April 8 order that 4,36,246 candidates are scheduled to appear for the examinations scheduled for May 2-5, 8-11 and 14-17 as well as June 20, 22, 24 and 26.

The prayers in the writ petition, moved by 27 candidates, were predicated on the Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held on April 19 and 26 and on May 7, 13, 20 and 25 as well as June 1. "The mere fact that certain individual candidates may face a hardship in undertaking it cannot constitute the basis for this Court to derail the entire CA Intermediate, or Final, examination, which presently is to be undertaken by as many as 4,36,246 candidates. Indeed, this Court is surprised that such a request has even been made," the bench said. The court said the petitioners were being "less than fair to the security administration in place in their rather bleak prediction" that "chaos, commotion and violence" is likely during elections.

Justice Shankar observed that general elections are held periodically and the court has "no reason", given the past experience, to doubt the capability of the security machinery in place to ensure that the elections take place in a free and fair atmosphere. "The plea of violation of Article 21 is based on the prediction, of the petitioners, that the entire nation is bound to be in a state of turmoil during elections. There is no basis for this presumption. We are headed for elections, not civil war," the court underscored, adding that only in the "rarest of rare circumstances" can the court, "if at all", interfere with schedules of national-level exams. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) contended that no examination has been scheduled for any date when the elections are being held. In fact, there are only two of the dates of elections that are proximate to the dates when the examinations are to be held, the court noted. Justice Shankar said that ICAI has "taken care to ensure" that no examination



is held either on the date of elections or on the date immediately prior to it. The court said the ICAI had been "proactive and ensured" that an individual candidate will be able to, should they so desire, cast their vote and appear for the examination, adding that "no more can be expected" of the institute.

Underground service from Civic Court to Swargate likely to start in mid-June; trial runs completed

GNS News Agency, April 16

pune metro The start of underground metro rail service would mean the completion of phase one of the project, which is from Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) to Swargate and Vanaz to Ramwadi. The Pune Metro rail expects to start the underground service on both lines from Civic Court to Swargate in mid-June with the recent successful trial runs in the route, according to officials. "The Pune Metro has now done the trial run on the second line of underground metro rail service and it was successful," said a Pune Metro rail official, adding that the work on the underground metro station is going on in full swing. "We are hopeful that the underground metro rail service from Civic Court to Swargate would be operational by June 15," the officer said, as the election code of conduct would get over in June. The original deadline for starting the operations from Civic Court to Swargate was March 31. "But the work was not complete and the election code of conduct came into force," he added. The start of underground metro rail service would

AICTE, C-CAMP launch Inter-Institutional Biomedical Innovations Programme



GNS News Agency, April 16

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP) recently launched the AICTE-Inter-Institutional Biomedical Innovations Programme (IBIP). The initiative will promote interdisciplinary research and innovation in the field of engineering and medical education. "The collaboration between engineering and medical students will foster creativity, innovation, and a deeper understanding of the complex challenges in healthcare. By leveraging their complementary skills and knowledge, students from both disciplines can develop impactful solutions that improve patient care and advance the field of medicine," said AICTE Chairman Prof T G Sitharam during the launch event.

An MoU was exchanged between Prof Rajive Kumar, Member Secretary, AICTE, Dr Taslimarif Saiyed, CEO and Director of C-CAMP and Dr Ravi Nayar, Programme Lead of C-CAMP IBIP, at AICTE headquarters in New Delhi. In addition to interdisciplinary education, the programme will also offer an online structured Bio-Entrepreneurship Didactic course accredited by the Healthcare Sector Skill Council.

Under the IBIP, the institutions will be provided with a grant of Rs 10 lakh if they are successful in the development and implementation of at least 10 ideas addressing the challenges in the field. Dr Ravi Nayar, Programme Lead, C-CAMP IBIP, said, "The visionary step of AICTE of encouraging interdisciplinary innovations, acknowledging the role played by C-CAMP in this regard by involving us in the nationwide rollout, will go a long way in improving the quality of innovations and fostering entrepreneurship spirit among doctors and engineers nationwide." Institutions chosen for the AICTE-IBIP will be a part of the network that will allow them to learn from each other's projects, collaborate, and improve their overall effectiveness.

Delhi High Court seeks Centre's stand on plea over 'illegal' sample collection, 'false reports' by labs



GNS News Agency, April 16

delhi path labs The plea seeks a direction to authorities to conduct an inquiry and to take appropriate action against these pathological labs (Representational Image)

The Delhi High Court has sought the Centre's stand in a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) petition seeking action against pathological laboratories for allegedly "illegally" collecting blood and other samples and issuing "false" medical reports. The petitioner Vipul Goel has claimed that certain labs have cheated the "public at large" and have "illegally" made a profit of more than "Rs 150 crore".

A division bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Manmeet Pritham Singh Arora on April 5 issued notice to the Centre, National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL), Delhi Government's Department of Health and Family Welfare, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), Delhi Police, and several pathological laboratories and their senior functionaries. Meanwhile, NABL's counsel submitted that it has withdrawn the accreditation granted to one of the labs mentioned in the plea last year. The plea seeks a direction to authorities to conduct an inquiry and to take appropriate action against these pathological labs for

mean the completion of phase one of the project, which is from Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) to Swargate and Vanaz to Ramwadi. At present, Vanaz to Ramwadi route is fully operational, while PCMC to Civic Court route is partly functional except for the underground stretch till Swargate. The central government has given the approval for the extension of route from PCMC to Nigdi which is part of phase-I, while it is yet to approve the proposal to extend the route from Swargate to Katraj. The second phase proposal of Pune Metro rail has been submitted to the Maharashtra government for approval after which it will be forwarded to the central government. Meanwhile, the Pune Metro is working on improving the feeder service from Metro station to the nearest location so as to provide last mile connectivity to commuters. "There is good response to feeder service to Pune airport from Metro station. More routes for feeder bus service are being explored and tried on an experimental basis," said the Pune Mahanagar Parivahan Mahamandal Limited (PMPML) officer.

Professional investment advice: Who can give it?



Prescribed process However, if the person is professionally qualified and has the requisite permission from the regulator, he/she has to follow the prescribed process and due diligence, and is subject to audit on the process followed. In social media, anybody and everybody can express views and give recommendations. In today's age of internet and free flow of information and opinions, we have the phenomenon of social media influencers. Here, you have to distinguish between celebrities recommending a brand of cloth or cosmetics, and recommending investments.

Matter of choice The distinction is, clothes or cosmetics is a matter of choice, and it is your choice to be influenced by a celebrity. You may argue that when you are investing your own money, it is your choice where to invest and whom to be influenced by. True. But think of it: when you are not well, do you take medicines recommended by a social media influencer or a doctor? That also is your choice. Cases are surfacing, which are referred to as 'pump and dump.' A person or a group of people makes propaganda on the social media, the market price of the stock is jacked up, and they sell off at a profit. If a SEBI-registered intermediary does this, there will be a SEBI audit and the licence is liable to be cancelled. However, when a non-SEBI-licensed person or entity does this, they are penalised, but as per civil laws. There is no licence to be cancelled. The question that arises here is, who is a SEBI-authorized person in this regard? A person who is giving an opinion about a stock in public through a report, or opinion communicated through social media, has to be a research analyst. There is an exam called NISM Series XV which has to be cleared, and she/he has to register with SEBI as a research analyst. For advising on portfolio construction, there are Investment Advisers (IAs). IAs have to pass the requisite exams and have commensurate background to get the licence. Risk profiling! As have to do risk profiling of clients and document the basis or rationale of why they are recommending, what they are recommending. For investments through Mutual Funds and incidental advice, there are Mutual Fund Distributors (MFDs). There is an exam called NISM Series VA which has to be cleared. MFDs also have to do client risk profiling. To conclude, when you are being influenced by a film or other celebrity, it should rather be about the acting or other skills, than about investing your hard-earned money.

Again, as per SEBI, the investment advice given through newspaper, magazines, any electronic or broadcasting or telecommunication medium, which is widely available to the public, shall not be considered as investment advice for the purpose of Investment Advisor regulations. However, investment advisers who make public appearance or make recommendations or offer an opinion concerning securities or public offers through public media, are required to comply with the relevant provisions of SEBI (Research Analysts) Regulations. What we derive from this SEBI definition is that when something is disseminated through formal media, there is a filtering and there is some level of accountability. However, when something is communicated through social media only, there is no accountability. Views may go wrong. Views of a seasoned, SEBI-registered investment professional also may go wrong.

'Get ready for global turbulence': Uday Kotak amid rising US inflation



In March, US inflation rose by 3.5%, higher than anticipated, marking the highest increase in six months. This uptick followed a 3.2% rise in February, reducing expectations of an imminent interest rate cut. Brent crude futures surpassed the \$90 per barrel mark, with US West Texas Intermediate crude futures also rising above \$86.24 per barrel. Geopolitical risks have prompted Morgan Stanley to revise its forecast for Brent crude oil prices upwards to \$94 per barrel in the third quarter of this year. The Reserve Bank of India's governor, Shaktikanta Das, recently announced the Monetary Policy Committee's decision to maintain interest rates unchanged, citing consistent inflation and growth forecasts despite acknowledging potential growth risks.

Uday Kotak, the founder and non-executive director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, issued a warning regarding potential global economic turbulence on Thursday.

He pointed out that the recent higher-than-expected US inflation figures could delay expected rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve. This comes at a time when crude oil prices are on the rise, further adding to economic uncertainties. Kotak's concerns arise from the possibility of these factors leading to prolonged higher interest rates worldwide, including in India. He mentioned that the situation is worsened by the uncertainty surrounding China's economy, which he described as the "only wild card."

"US inflation is higher than expected. Postpones US rate cuts to later, closer to US Presidential elections, if at all. Brent oil now \$90. Will keep rates higher for longer worldwide, including India. Only wild card: China imploding economically. Get ready for global turbulence," said Uday Kotak on X (previously Twitter). Kotak suggested that the US might postpone rate cuts until closer to the presidential elections. He highlighted the current increase in Brent crude oil prices, reaching \$90 per barrel, alongside the unexpected levels of inflation.

The recent minutes from the US central bank's policy review meeting revealed a cautious stance, with officials indicating a preference to wait for more stable inflation figures before considering any changes to interest rates.

When will ITR1 forms become available for tax filing. Check details

property and those who have made capital gains. ITR4 is for individuals with income from business and professions that are taxable under specific sections. This year, the Income Tax Department has notified the tax return forms earlier than usual, providing taxpayers with more time to file their taxes. However, many salaried taxpayers might have to wait until the end of June to receive the necessary TDS certificates before they can start filing their tax returns.

India jumps 17% to rank 4th in digital services exports: WTO

New Delhi: India registered a 17 per cent jump in the export of digitally delivered services to a staggering \$257 billion to become the world's fourth-largest exporter in the segment, according to the latest Global Trade Outlook and Statistics report of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). India's growth rate was much higher than the 4 per cent increase posted by China and Germany.

According to WTO estimates, global exports of digitally delivered services rose to \$4.25 trillion in 2023, up 9 per cent year-on-year, accounting for 13.8 per cent of world exports of goods and services.

Unlike trade in goods, which fell in 2023 globally and in all regions, exports of digitally delivered services continued to thrive.

In Europe and Asia (which hold a global share of 52.4 per cent and 23.8 per cent, respectively) exports rose by 11 per cent and 9 per cent, the report said. In 2023, business, professional, and technical services accounted for 41.2 per cent of world exports of digitally delivered services, followed by computer services (20.5 per cent), financial services (16 per cent), intellectual property-related services (10.9 per cent), insurance and pension services (5.2 per cent), telecommunications services (2.6 per cent), audio-visual and other personal, cultural, and recreational services (2.1 per cent), and information services (1.5 per cent).

'Eating disorders are not lifestyle choices': Why many people share a complicated relationship with food



Kritika Ghai was first diagnosed with binge-eating disorder when she was merely 12 years. Since birth, she had an enlarged adenoid that blocked her nose pipe, making her gain weight. Her suffering was further exacerbated by her inability to perform any kind of exercise, owing to her irregular breathing patterns. As such, as a child, she was put on various extreme diets to manage her weight. This forced her to eat large amounts of food — rapidly and secretly. "Not knowing what I was going through, eating became a way to validate my emotions," she said, adding that the pandemic-induced anxiety only led to her eating even more food during stressful and lonely times.

Finally, she consulted a nutritionist who helped her develop healthy eating patterns. Ghai was advised to not curb her cravings and eliminate the difference between 'good' and 'bad' food in order to stop associating eating with guilt and shame. "I started seeing my body as a structure that supported me and this perspective enabled me to develop a healthy body image," she said. Finally, after years of battling with this binge-eating disorder, she has developed a healthy relationship with food by eating regular meals, exercising and food-mapping, a technique which involves charting your daily meals in a journal to keep a track of what you're eating. Similarly, Pranshu Mishra developed binge-eating disorder due to polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), stress, and an excessive study load in eleventh grade. "You just don't stop at one single serving; you just mindlessly eat even if you feel discomfort," Mishra said, calling eating disorders "a tug of war between the stomach and brain".

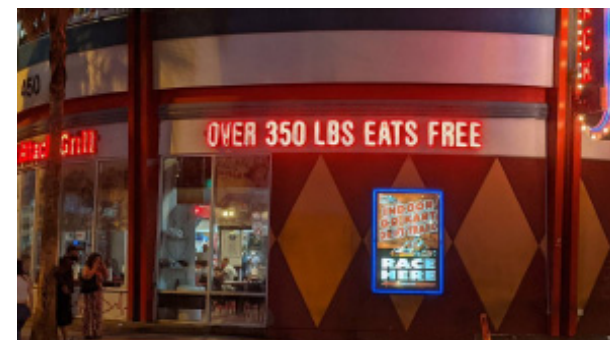
While eating her favourite food induced happy hormones in her body, she would feel immense guilt immediately after consumption, leading her to starve herself for hours before repeating the same cycle, she admitted. Ann, on the other hand, developed bulimia — a serious eating disorder marked by bingeing, followed by methods to avoid weight gain — in 2007. "I have been a chubby kid all my life because of which I faced a lot of bullying. It reached a point where people made snide remarks like 'do people in your house get to eat food or do you eat it all?' or 'go for a walk.' This massively affected me, and I stopped eating in front of people," she told indianexpress.com. Owing to her condition, she used to excessively work out which made her lose weight drastically. "I felt very weak and light-headed all the time," she said. To understand more about the mental and physical aspects of such eating disorders, we reached out to experts, who emphasised that these disorders are not lifestyle choices. Dr Aparna Ramakrishnan, Psychiatry Consultant, Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital, Mumbai said, "Eating disorders are complex disorders associated with significant disturbances in an individual's eating behaviours and related thoughts, emotions and attitudes which impair their physical, psychological health

and psychosocial functioning. They can often be life-threatening." She highlighted that the exact causation is elusive, but eating disorders are caused by a complex interaction of genetic, biological, behavioural, psychological and social factors. Agreeing, Dr Meghana Pasi, Nutrition Consultant, MyThali Program, ArogyaWorld said, "Societal and peer pressure to achieve unrealistic body standards as well as people with low self-esteem and impulsive behaviour are at risk of developing eating disorders." The expert said that nutritional counselling, psychotherapy and medications are some available treatment options. Implementing these, Mishra sought nutritional advice from a dietitian who asked her to eat at regular intervals and practise mindful eating, a technique which makes you pay closer attention to your food and how it makes you feel, thereby helping you distinguish between physical and emotional hunger. Alongside, she also included physical activities such as swimming, yoga, and exercise in her routine which made her feel better about her body. "Earlier, people used to body shame me and call me different names, but after developing self-confidence, I am able to ignore their nasty remarks," she said. As for Ann, running was what changed her life for the better as it became a mechanism for her to lose weight in a healthy way, helping her achieve mental peace.

Talking about the same, Dr Ramakrishnan said, "Exposure to media like fashion magazines, television and social media mediate thin-ideal internalisation and can be associated with the development of eating disorders. More time spent or frequent use of social media means more exposure to images, messages and peer interactions which can propagate body stereotypes." She further explained that inaccurate visual media representation like the use of filters on photos and videos can raise the risk of eating disorders. Moreover, after analysis of videos and chat groups across social media platforms, there is a worrying presence of 'pro-ana' and 'pro-mia' content which focus on anorexia and bulimia being lifestyle choices (that are to be respected) rather than being categorised as disorders, Dr Ramakrishnan said. Agreeing, Dr Dinika Anand, Clinical Psychologist, BLK-Max Superspecialty Hospital said, "Social media plays a huge role in our relationship with food. On one end, social media projects the ideal body type and size, and on the other end, it glorifies and celebrates food through advertisements and food bloggers." The experts stressed that women are more likely to be affected by social pressure and unfavourable evaluations of their physical appearance. Moreover, gender stereotypes, especially the objectification and sexualisation of women, contribute to the emergence of eating disorders among them. Research published in The Journal of Treatment and Prevention in 2012 concurs with this claim as it showed that men are less likely to be diagnosed with an eating disorder even when they exhibit the same symptoms as women because eating disorders are considered generally 'female' disorders. Here are some tips by experts that can help manage eating disorders:

- *Keep meals on track
- *Eat small portions of meals throughout the day
- *Stop starving
- *Do not restrict your urges
- *Delete or limit the usage of food delivery applications
- *Scroll through social media mindfully by engaging with body positivity and relatable content instead of unrealistic and curated feeds

Hospital-themed restaurant in US criticised for offering free meals to customers over 158 kgs



A US-based restaurant, called Heart Attack Grill, recently came under scanner after it reportedly gave free food to overweight diners. Several viral videos on TikTok and other social media platforms show potential customers lining up outside the controversial eatery in Las Vegas to see whether they qualify for a free meal on a giant weighing scale. As per the viral claims, anybody with a weight of 158 kg or above was eligible for this offer. Soon after the videos went viral, social media became abuzz with people all over the world criticising the restaurant for its dangerous offer, and other harmful services. A user wrote, "ONLY in America will you have a restaurant called 'Heart Attack Grill'. If you're over 350 lbs, you eat for free. Dawg they got a burger with 40 slices of bacon... wtf ?? This is why so many Americans suffer from obesity and death via heart disease is sky high." "One of the greatest crimes of USian civilization — the 'Heart Attack Grill' of Las Vegas is responsible for killing at least four patrons with obesity alone. They sell among other items the 20,000

calories 'Octuple Bypass Burger,' another added. Fun Fact: There was a restaurant or something that was called Heart Attack Grill and surprising enough it did give people heart attacks and almost killed some people. Maybe next time don't go to a restaurant that has "heart attack" in the name. — Sawyer Hageman (@guyfromabridge) March 8, 2023

"The existence of the heart attack grill is sickening and disturbing to me," a user wrote on the microblogging site. Founded in 2005, this restaurant is famous for its high-calorie and unhealthy food options on the menu. With a controversial hospital theme, it refers to its customers as patients with waiters dressed up as doctors and waitresses dressed as nurses. If this wasn't enough, customers are supposed to change into their hospital gowns after placing their orders. Some of their dishes include the Single Bypass Burger, the Octuple Bypass Burger, Flatliner Fries, and Butterfat Milkshakes. Their food items are available in 'Single,' 'Double,' 'Triple,' 'Quadruple,' 'Quintuple,' 'Sextuple,' 'Septuple,' and even 'Octuple Bypass' orders. Basically, if such food items are eaten frequently, they can increase the chances of one suffering from a heart attack. While patients who are unable to finish their meals are subjected to brutal spankings, finishing a Triple or Quadruple Bypass Burger will earn the diners a chance to be placed in a wheelchair and wheeled out to their vehicle by their "personal nurse". Several incidents of death and ill health have been reported in relation to the consumption of the food served by this restaurant. Despite repeated criticism and complaints, Heart Attack Grill thrives on controversy as a marketing strategy.

Is rabri-jalebi an effective Ayurvedic remedy against migraine?

Ayurvedic practitioners swear by different remedies to help you combat lifestyle issues that mostly happen due to poor diet, lack of sleep, and inadequate physical activity. While they emphasise making lifestyle tweaks to help you with various issues, they also highlight that one's body composition can play a huge role in their ability to tackle various chronic issues. As such, we recently came across a video post from ayurvedic practitioner Dr Mihir Khatri explaining that rabri-jalebi, the delectable dessert combination, can even serve as an ayurvedic remedy for a few with migraine, a type of moderate to severe one-sided headache. According to him, dawn is associated with vata (air and space elements) which leads to pain. As jalebi and rabri are "kaphavardhaka aahar", or bring balance to the doshas, they help combat migraine-related headaches. "Have hot jalebi with rabri. But only continue for 1-3 weeks," noted Dr Khatri. However, people

with diabetes or those who are lactose intolerant should avoid it completely, he noted.

So, does the combination help?

Stating that one of the potential triggers for migraine headaches is casein, a form of protein, Dr Avantika Krishna Killa, naturopathy physician and founder, Panchatattva said that casein found in dairy and dairy products are a major trigger for most chronic diseases, especially for those with a leaky gut. According to Dr Killa, there are "better ways to manage migraine which is with complete lifestyle change". According to registered dietitian Garima Goyal, however, no food or beverage can be suggested just on the basis of a mere claim without sufficient human trials involved. On top of it, this combination has many disadvantages too, she said, listing a few: Leads to chronic diseases — The use of refined wheat flour or maida to make jalebis makes it an unhealthy option.

Boney Kapoor says he lost 15 kgs because of his kids Arjun, Anshula, Janhvi and Khushi: 'My kids are worried about me'



Producer Boney Kapoor, whose latest film Maidaan released in theatres today, has opened up about how he has been taking care of himself amid all the promotional activities. Boney revealed how his kids Arjun, Khushi, Janhvi and Anshula are worried about his health and added that they call him every day.

In an interview with Connect FM Canada, Boney was asked how he is taking care of himself during the hectic promotion schedules of Maidaan. He said, "In the last six to eight months, I have lost around 14 to 15 kgs. I'm eating healthy food. I'm sleeping properly. I'm taking care of my health. More than me, my kids are worried about me, and they make sure that I take care of my

health."

The producer continued, "Janhvi-Khushi, Arjun-Anshula, all of them call me every day. I don't count the number of calls, but I have this habit of picking up every phone call, even when they are not from my contact list. I will pick up every phone call surely, and in case I miss out, then I'll call back. But I have this tendency of picking up every call that I get." Boney Kapoor's production venture Maidaan stars Ajay Devgn in the lead role. The film clashed with Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff starrer Bade Miyan Chote Miyan. Maidaan revolves around the story of coach SA Rahim and his football team's success at the 1962 Asian Games.

PVR-INOX stops screening Malayalam films including Varshangalkku Shesham, Aavesham and Aadujeevitham across India. Here's why

It is currently festival season in Kerala, which is also the time the Malayalam film industry flourishes. With the Eid and Vishu holidays, filmmakers bank on the season to release their projects for increased gains. However, this year turned out to be a disappointment and a shock as PVR-INOX has decided to boycott Malayalam films in its multiplexes across India. Besides not screening new releases Varshangalkku Shesham, Aavesham, Jai Ganesh, and Marivillin Gopurangal, PVR has also taken down Prithviraj's Aadujeevitham, which has been doing well at the box office.

The reason behind PVR-INOX's drastic move is the ongoing conflict between Malayalam filmmakers (and theatre owners) and PVR-INOX regarding the Virtual Print Fee (VPF). It is a charge paid to service providers like QUBE for screening films in multiplexes. Kerala producers have opposed the fees for a long time now as it ends up eating into the profit of the makers and theatre owners. Speaking to The Indian Express, Subramanian aka Evershine Mani, Secretary of the Film Distribution Association of Kerala, unpacks the problem between the two factions. "PVR has done a blunder. They shouldn't have stopped the films," he begins.

"There are many service providers like QUBE, UFO, Sony, and the likes. They provide virtual print for theatres like PVR and other multiplexes, and they charge a fee called VPF which is exorbitant. For one week, they charge Rs 11,500. If it is for multiplexes with four or five screens, they charge Rs 24,500. For one show, Rs 450... like that, they have many schemes," he revealed. To avoid this cost, the producers council in Kerala came up with their own service provider after a lot of training and studying the technology.

"We started our own content mastering unit two years back called PDC. Gradually, we are asking all theatres to change to our content mastering scheme because our charges are just Rs 3500 per week, Rs 5500 for a lifetime, and in multiplexes, it will be Rs 7500. This will hugely benefit the producers, who are already losing money while making the film and distributing it," he said. The producers council has been providing virtual print services to theatres for the past few years. However, since PVR-INOX and other multiplexes have a contract with service providers like QUBE, they refuse to avail the service of the producers council, which has led to the conflict. "These multiplexes have a long contract with them and that says they can't use our technology. They also have a binding clause in the agreement that they should not use any other service," Subramanian further revealed.

The producers council also claimed that any new multiplexes in the state should only use their technology and that became the reason for the problem to reach its crescendo. The newly opened PVR-INOX theatre at Forum Mall in Kochi recently refused to use PDC. A negotiation between PVR-INOX and producers council ended up in a stalemate. On the other, Kamal Gianchandani, the CEO of PVR-INOX, has released a statement claiming that the Kerala film producers union is forcing them to only opt for PDC. According to him, it goes against the laws and is prohibitive under law. The official statement read, "At the outset, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to all our Producer and Distributor friends in Malayalam Film Industry for their unwavering support for the theatrical platform and their significant contribution to the revival of theatres post Covid-19. No one holds greater respect for all the Producers releasing their films in our theatres than all of us at PVRINOX."

Addressing the issue with the newly inaugurated 9-screen PVR-INOX theatre in Kochi's Forum Mall, he wrote, "Our cinemas has been advised by the Association to source Malayalam movie content exclusively through one channel i.e. through the content mastering and distribution network run by the association. Such an action of forcing an exhibitor to procure content from only one source is anticompetitive in nature and prohibited under the law. As a law-abiding member of Indian Film Industry, we are unable to comply with this



advice." However, according to the Subramanian, the producers council had asked PVR-INOX to share the screens between PDC and other service providers. "For now, we asked them to go with their service providers in the old screens, but for new screens we want them to use our service. We also asked to divide the screens between PDC and other players. But they have abruptly stopped screening all Malayalam films. This was a bad decision. They have to remember recently all theatre owners survived because of three Malayalam films Manjummel Boys, Brahmayugam, and Premalu. We are going to fight this in court," Subramanian concluded. Looks like PVR-INOX theatres in Kerala and across India will not screen Malayalam films in the coming days. It has to be seen who is going to be affected by this boycott of Malayalam cinema by the multiplex chain.

Maidaan report: Ajay Devgn-starrer pales in comparison to Shaitaan, earns around Rs 5 crore

Maidaan box office day 1 early report: Ajay Devgn-starrer rakes in Rs 1.95 crore. Maidaan box office day 1 early report: Ajay Devgn-starrer crosses the Rs 5 crore mark. The sports drama Maidaan, starring Ajay Devgn in the lead role, hit theatres on Thursday. Despite the Eid holiday, the film saw a slow start at the box office, earning around Rs 2.72 crore on its opening day, according to trade tracker Sacnilk.

Chronicling the life of Indian football legend Syed Abdul Rahim, Maidaan's collection got a boost on Wednesday as it minted Rs 2.6 crore in paid previews, bringing its total domestic collection to Rs 5.32 crore. However, these figures are provisional, with final numbers for Day 1 set to be released at 10 pm.

Facing tough competition from Bade Miyan Chote Miyan, which also released on the same date, Maidaan struggled to match its rival's success, as Akshay Kumar and Tiger Shroff's action entertainer raked in Rs 10.54 crore (early estimates) on day one. Maidaan's collection also pales in comparison to Ajay's last released Shaitaan as it minted Rs 14.75 crore on its opening day.

Despite its box office performance, Maidaan has garnered praise from both critics and audiences. Renowned writer Javed Akhtar took to social media to laud Ajay Devgn's performance in the film, calling it a "must-watch."

He wrote, "It is a true story that will make every Indian proud of our certain national achievements that unfortunately most of us don't know about. A must-watch. Congratulations to producer Boney Kapoor, director Amit Sharma and to Ajay Devgn who has given a mind-blowing performance."

Priyamani: 'Nayanthara has balanced her career so beautifully, got as much importance as Shah Rukh Khan in Jawan'

Actress Priyamani has been garnering a lot of attention in Bollywood. After starring in the blockbuster Jawan that featured Shah Rukh Khan, Priyamani started 2024 by featuring in Article 370. And now she is all set to be seen in Maidaan opposite Ajay Devgn. Ahead of the film's release, Priyamani spoke to Indianexpress.com looking back at her journey, the success of her latest films, and female-centric films, and also sharing her opinion on whether Indian cinema is still male-dominated.

Talking about how she deals with success, Priyamani shares, "I have still not dealt with success yet. I am just happy with the way my previous movies have turned out and the response and love that has been given to us. Box office numbers don't matter to me much, somewhere down the line if a film doesn't do well, it does matter, but if everyone else is happy that matters to me." Further talking about getting validation from the industry, Priyamani opines, "I don't think I need that validity if a film is raking in the box office numbers, whether it has earned a few 100 crores. I don't necessarily need that to validate the place I am at now. My work speaks for me. People's love is the validation for me."

Commenting on the male dominance in Indian cinema and how female-centric films are taking over, Priyamani said, "It was there from the time even I entered the industry, I have also done a lot of female-centric films that might not have done as much as films fronted by men. Very few female-centric films have done well in a male-dominated industry. You can hand-pick a few even if you count South films. A lot more cinema is coming up now where women are carrying the entire film on their shoulders."

Priyamani further adds, "In the South as well, many films have actresses in the front. Nayanthara is a classic example, she has balanced her career so beautifully that she is doing female-centric films that are doing well, then she does a film like Jawan that is also did very well. She was given as much importance as Shah Rukh Khan has in the film. There is a beautiful balance she has created. Others like Samantha are also doing quite when it comes



to delivering female-centric films that do quite well." Though Priyamani feels her life has not changed much after the success of Jawan or Article 370, she says, "There is no complaint, people have been approaching but I am taking my time in choosing and saying yes to a project. I just don't want to commit to anything just because it's a Hindi film. I am very happy but still hungry to do good work."

Sharing if her approach towards choosing work has changed now, Priyamani explains, "I am very clear right from the start that the story needs to be good. I am not saying that I am being approached for a movie where I am supposed to romance the hero, I am not being offered anything like that, though I would like to do that also. I will never say no to that. I wouldn't want to just be a part of song and dance anymore. If the character has something important to do, I would take it up. I have been there and done that." "Nowadays we are all quite secure in our space and I don't think the length of a role matters as much. Storytelling and content is also very different right now. There is a vast amount of stories coming from all over the world. Times are changing and good stories are coming up," Priyamani adds. Priyamani is also quite gung-ho about Maidaan that released on Thursday. "I am waiting for people to watch the film and travel with us on the roller-coaster of emotions," she says.

'He started crying': Amar Singh Chamkila's song writer recalls when the singer received threatening letters, apologised in Amritsar for his 'vulgar' songs

Imtiaz Ali's film Amar Singh Chamkila details many chapters of the late singer's life. In the film, when Dijit Dosanjh's Chamkila starts getting threatening letters commanding him to stop performing his 'vulgar' songs in akhadas, he gets visibly worried about his and his family's safety. Much like the film, in real life too, Chamkila ran into a government officer working in the Income Tax department, who later became the songwriter for his devotional music album. The songwriter named Swaran Sivia helped Chamkila in meeting with the seniors of the 'Kharku Singhs' who were orchestrating the threats.

In a chat with the YouTube channel RPD 24, Swaran Sivia shared in Punjabi that when Chamkila showed him the threatening letters back in 1986, he was quite skeptical about their authenticity. "He wanted me to see if those letters were true or if someone was trying to fool him," he recalled and added. "He showed me all the threatening letters. One was from Bhindranwale Tiger Force which was signed by Rashpal Singh Chandra. The other letters were from Khalistan Commando Force and Khalistan Liberation Force."

Swaran said that after consulting with a few 'Kharku Singhs' who happened to be in his village, he learnt that the letters were genuine and Chamkila was visibly shaken. In fact, when Chamkila was dropping him back home in his Ambassador car, they happened to cross the village of Rashpal Singh Chandra. When Chamkila learned that they were so close to Chandra's village, "he was shaking, he lost his grip on the steering wheel for a second." Meanwhile, Swaran found a connection so Chamkila could visit Amritsar and meet the seniors of the 'Kharku Singhs' at the Golden Temple. "They (the men arranging the letter) said that proceed with caution. Tell them that you will sing good and decent songs and they won't threaten you anymore," he recalled.

Upon reaching the Golden Temple, Swaran said that he first went in alone and sought their permission for Chamkila to come in. "I told them that Chamkila is a soft hearted man that if you look at him sternly, he might have a heart attack," he recalled and was assured that Chamkila would be safe. When Swaran asked Chamkila to join in, he started "crying." "He said I am scared. He



was a little skeptical of me as well that I might get him killed in Amritsar. I said they might have weapons but they are not going to shoot you inside. They have made a promise in front of Guru Granth Sahib, they won't do something like this. He then gained some confidence."

Swaran recalled the instructions he gave Chamkila before entering the room. "I told him that you don't touch their feet. I said you only pray to god inside. When we entered inside, Baba Wassan Singh Zaffarwal was standing so he immediately hugged Chamkila. He told him that you have a roaring voice, you do the right thing, sing some good songs. They did not scold him at all. Chamkila folded his hands and apologised. He said I have made a huge mistake, please forgive me. They said you apologise to God and then speak to us. While praying, he offered Rs 5,100 there," he recalled.

Swaran said that as they were leaving the place, Chamkila tried to give a donation of Rs 25,000 but they refused. They suggested that he might as well donate it to needy children. In the film too, Dijit's character apologises as he leaves from Amritsar and promises the seniors that he would stop singing vulgar songs. He even does a couple of devotional albums too but soon after, he resumes singing his old songs. On March 8, 1988, Chamkila and wife Amarjot were shot dead near Mahismampur village in Jalandhar district when they were on their way to perform at a function. Although militants were blamed for their murder, the identity of the assailants and the motive behind the killings remains a mystery.

Payal Kapadia's All We Imagine as Light is first Indian film in 30 years to make it to Cannes' competition section

In the festival's 77th edition, Kapadia's feature will compete with the latest films by some of the biggest names in world cinema. Francis Ford Coppola's Megalopolis,

Writer-director Payal Kapadia's debut fiction feature 'All We Imagine As Light' will compete for the top honours during the upcoming edition of Cannes Film Festival, scheduled to be held from May 14 to 25. All We Imagine As Light, Kapadia's feature film debut, will be the first Indian film to compete for Palme d'Or award after nearly three decades. The last Indian film to be made it to this coveted section was Shaji N Karun's Swaham in 1994.

In the festival's 77th edition, Kapadia's feature will compete with the latest films by some of the biggest names in world cinema. Francis Ford Coppola's Megalopolis, Sean Baker's Anora, Yorgos Lanthimos's Kinds Of Kindness, Paul Schrader's Oh Canada, Magnus Von Horn's The Girl With The Needle and Paolo Sorrentino's Parthenope too have been picked for the festival's com-



petition section, among others. Greta Gerwig, director of Ladybird and Barbie, will preside over the jury.

Paris 2024 track & field gold medal winners will get paid – why is this significant and what does Neeraj Chopra say about it?



GNS News Agency, April 16

When a track and field athlete stands on the top of the Olympic podium in Paris this summer, a gold medal will not be their only prize. For the first time, they will also be rewarded with a cheque. World Athletics announced a cash prize of \$50,000 (approx Rs 41.6 lakh) for each gold medal winner at the Paris Olympics, which begins on July 26. Four years later, at the Los Angeles Games, all three medal winners will receive monetary benefits in addition to a medal, the global body announced.

With this decision, the body headed by British track and field legend Sebastian Coe partially shattered one long-standing myth that is often romanticised about the Olympics – that the athletes, unlike in other sports, are amateurs. In tennis, football or cricket, athletes are paid to play matches and rewarded with hefty bonuses and cash prizes based on their performances. Sportspersons competing at the Olympics are held to a higher standard and expected to maintain the tradition where they compete to uphold the 'spirit' of the Games. This concept was put forward by Frenchman Pierre de Coubertin, the father of the modern Olympics, who said that amateurism was essential to the Olympic movement.

For half a century, it remained like that. The International Olympic Committee even punished athletes who were caught receiving money. One of the classic examples of this remains that of the USA's Jim Thorpe. The pentathlete and decathlete was stripped of his gold medals in the two events in 1912 after it was found that he received tiny payments from a baseball player two years before the Olympics. Gradually, over the decades the IOC loosened its position on the issue of Olympic athletes not getting paid at all. The shift began in 1971 when it was alleged that the Soviets financially supported their athletes and by the time the 1992 Olympics came, the concept was done away with after the USA fielded its 'Dream Team' – some of the world's highest-paid athletes who played in a professional league.

Yet, till today the athletes do not get directly paid for turning up or winning at the Olympics, unless it's from their sponsors or the respective governments. This has been a friction point for a while. For years, it's been held

that while almost everyone else involved in the Olympic movement make money off it, the key actors – athletes themselves – aren't paid for their roles. Even the Olympic bosses – from the IOC president to members to executive board officials – make between \$450 to \$900 per day while on official business.

The IOC said it redistributes 90 percent of the billions of dollars it makes in revenue back into sport. However, an Inside The Games report suggested that a fraction of it goes back to athletes. A major chunk of the money is distributed among the international federations and other IOC operations. The International Federations are placed in different brackets, depending on their performance at a Games that is determined using various parameters, and the revenue is distributed accordingly.

For instance, according to a 2019 report in the Olympic watchdog website Play The Game, athletics, gymnastics and aquatics were placed in Group A and were entitled to receive \$40 million each from the IOC. The lowest category was E, where golf, modern pentathlon and rugby were grouped with each getting \$ 14.10 million. More than 50 percent of these federations depend on the IOC dole to carry out their basic functions and hence are left with very little money to distribute among the athletes as prize money. Giving athletes their due

It leaves athletes in a precarious position. An Indian Express investigation earlier this year showed that the majority of India's athletes depend on government jobs for income to sustain their sporting careers. After the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) awarded Rs 75 lakh to gold medal winners, Rs 40 lakh to the silver winners and Rs 25 lakh for those who won bronze.

Before the Tokyo Games, NBC reported that more than half of the USA's Olympic hopefuls – 59 percent – made 'less than \$25,000 during the year of their respective Olympics', be it the Winter or Summer Games. Although a majority of federations might not be able to afford something like this, given they do not have \$2.4 million which a body like the World Athletics can spare. By doing so, the Guardian noted that Coe-led World Athletics also highlighted 'the fact (that) in the 128-year history of the Games it (IOC) has never paid its stars to compete in the biggest sporting show of all.' And that is the sports politics side of this. Coe is among the candidates to succeed Thomas Bach as the IOC president when the German's term gets over next year. This is Coe's way of giving the athletes their due. The amount offered might not be much – a Neeraj Chopra might make more from a 10-second commercial. But the message isn't lost. As Chopra said, "Money-wise in athletics, there isn't the kind of money that is in tennis or football among other sports. World Athletics' decision to announce prize money for gold-winning athletes at the Paris Olympics is a good start. It's a good addition."

Glenn Maxwell on Virat's Kohli's inclusion in T20 World Cup squad: 'I'm hoping India don't pick him'

GNS News Agency, April 16

Even as discussions about Virat Kohli's inclusion in the upcoming T20 World Cup rumbles on, his Royal Challengers Bengaluru teammate Australia's Glenn Maxwell playfully said that he hopes India do not pick the former captain in their squad which will turn out to be advantageous to the other teams of the tournament.

"Virat Kohli is the most clutch player I've ever played against. You see his career just stands as the most amazing tournament rap sheet. The innings he played us against us in Mohali in the 2016 T20 World Cup is the most amazing innings I've had played against me. It changed the face of the whole game. He was hitting balls to different areas on a wicket that was inconsistent. He had the ability to change his hands position at the last moment and flick it almost like a table tennis bat and time it into the gap or over the fences. It's something that's unmatched around the world. His awareness is phenomenal," Maxwell recalled in ESPN's Around The Wicket Show.

"It's been amazing to train alongside him and watch him go about it. But I still have to play against him. So I'm hoping India don't pick him," the Australian swashbuckler added. Kohli has been in inspired form in this edition of the Indian Premier League, slamming the first century



of the ongoing season for Royal Challengers Bengaluru against Rajasthan Royals at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur last Saturday.

Kohli notched up his hundred off 67 deliveries after RCB was sent in to bat. Kohli thereby extended his record tally of IPL hundreds to eight and an overall nine in his T20 career. Kohli leads the list of batters with most hundreds in IPL history with seven centuries in his career. The 35-year-old Kohli had recorded two hundreds last season while amassing 639 runs in 14 matches. Furthermore, the knock also marked his highest score against RR in the IPL.



gesture to the Lucknow crowd after an 18-run win. An on-field tussle with LSG pacer Naveen-ul-Haq then carried on after the game. Kohli was then approached by LSG's Kyle Mayers for a chat, when Gambhir intervened and pulled his player away from the RCB batter. Soon, the cameras caught Kohli and Gambhir in a heated exchange, prompting a host of players from both teams to hop in and control the situation. Last year during the World Cup, Kohli and Naveen had shared a warm embrace and exchanged pleasantries in the middle of India's win over Afghanistan which earned praise from Gambhir as well.

What unique record has Shubman Gill broken during RR vs GT clash to surpass Virat Kohli and Sanju Samson?



GNS News Agency, April 16

Shubman Gill on Wednesday scored a sublime 72 of just 44 balls to help Gujarat Titans (GT) beat Rajasthan Royals (RR) by three wickets in a close encounter. The 24-year-old during his innings also became the youngest player in the history of the Indian Premier League (IPL) to go past 3000 runs surpassing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) premium batter Virat Kohli and RR captain Sanju Samson.

In addition to becoming the youngest to 3000 runs, Gill also became the fourth quickest in terms of innings to reach the mark equalling David Warner and Faf du Plessis's record. The youngster has already played a couple of crucial knocks in the tournament for Titans and is in contention for an orange cap as he scored 255 runs at an average of 51 and a strike rate of 151.79 and is

behind Kohli and Riyan Parag (RR) in the race for the orange cap. While Gill was looking in good form playing his trademark crisp shots through off-side and down the ground he did not have much of support from the other end. "I am very impressed with Shubman Gill because, again, he was not getting the kind of support that he would have wanted at the other end. You want somebody to be there to build a partnership. At the start of the innings, if you have a bit of a partnership, it eases quite a bit of your problems." Sunil Gavaskar would observe on Star Sports. However, the GT skipper on the night would keep his composure and keep the GT in the game till the final overs post which Rashid Khan and Rahul Tewatia would take care of the rest of the task in the final overs by making the unthinkable possible and hand RR their first loss of the season after four matches.

'Completely drained' Adam Zampa on missing IPL with Rajasthan Royals: 'Not easy to spend 9 weeks in India where I'm fighting for my spot in team'

GNS News Agency, April 16

Aussie spinner Adam Zampa revealed recently that he opted out of this year's Indian Premier league (IPL) due to being completely drained from playing cricket regularly in the last year. "There are several reasons why the IPL wasn't for me this year. The most important one was the fact that it's a World Cup year and I'm completely drained from 2023," the player who was supposed to represent the Rajasthan Royals, said on Willow Talk.

"I did the full IPL last year. Obviously, the World Cup was three months in India as well. I had the best intentions of trying to play the IPL again this year. But once push came to shove, I felt like I just couldn't really offer the Rajasthan Royals the best version of myself and looking forward to the World Cup, that's what's more important to me, that's for sure," the off-spinner who was part of the Australian team which won the 50-over World Cup last year, said.

"It came down to my decision being I probably need to put my body and my mental health first. Then you throw other things into the equation as well, like the fact that I've got a young family. It's not easy to spend nine weeks in India in my situation where I'm fighting for my spot in the



team as well. It's not like I can say to myself, 'Well, that's alright I've got 14 games to prepare for a World Cup'. I don't know whether or not that's going to be two games or four games or six games," he said. "I kind of worked out that maybe just to rest, putting my family first, putting my body first, was better for me," he added. The Rajasthan Royals are currently the table toppers in this year's IPL, having just lost their first match in 5 games against the Gujarat Titans

Sanju Samson's batting transformation: Spin domination and six-hitting spree

GNS News Agency, April 16

As the Rajasthan Royals found themselves in a dicey situation against the Gujarat Titans at home on Wednesday, Samson commanded attention with an unbeaten 68 off 38 balls that lifted his team to 196. Entering in the fifth over, Samson picked his battles wisely against lead spinners Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad before breaking free at the death. There were two contrasting hundreds in the Rajasthan Royals-Royal Challengers Bengaluru game last weekend, but it was a half-century that caught the eye for more than one reason.

Samson's 69 off 42 balls not only played a key role in RR reaching the target of 184 with plenty to spare, but also showed a new side of the captain's batting – his improved prowess against spin. He has been found wanting against tweekers in the past, but in that game, took them down meticulously. When left-arm spinner Mayank Dagar landed a length ball on the middle-stump line, Samson stood outside leg-stump and effortlessly chipped the ball over extra-cover for four. Anticipating a repeat, Dagar followed up with a quicker delivery that angled in sharply. Samson re-sent the ball to the extra-cover boundary for a flat six, by charging down the track, making room from a middle-stump guard and lofting the ball over the ring – all in one motion with a high backlift and fluid backswing.

Samson's new-found strength against spin was born in the confines of the Covid-19 lockdown in 2020. It was then that a wiry batter decided to add "muscle mass" to his frame, improving physically to boost his shots. Numbers seem to suggest that it has worked for the Kerala batsman, even though it may have come at the price of somewhat compromising his game against pace. Samson Samson against pace since 2017: The backlift has taken a significant upward movement over seven IPL seasons, with a progressing open stance shaping into a crouched position.

In the RR-RCB game, Samson began with diffident footwork against the faster bowlers. In his previous outing, the RR No.3 had lost his wicket to extra pace off the surface against Mumbai Indians' Akash Madhwal's skiddy

length, as a tame dab away from the body dragged the ball onto the stumps. RCB's left-arter Reece Topley almost replicated the same with his first delivery – over the wicket and angled across, as Samson lowered his bat for an inside edge that whizzed past leg-stump. There was not much trouble afterwards, against either pace or spin, though Virat Kohli handed him a reprieve from an impulsive pull.

From 2013 to 2019 in the IPL, Samson aggregated 854 runs in 63 innings against spin at a lowly strike rate of 122, averaging 28.46. However, in the five seasons since, Samson has drastically improved his returns – 807 runs in 51 innings at a strike rate of 155.49 with a 50.43 average. Only four batsmen have scored more runs against tweekers since 2020, but none of them possess the combination of a 50-plus average and 150-plus strike rate. His RR teammate Buttler is the only other batsman to score over 500 runs with a 50-plus average and 150-plus strike rate in the period.

To buttress his game further, Samson has smacked over 100 sixes (103) in the IPL since 2020 – the only batter to reach the mark, ahead of Buttler (92). "With a higher backlift, the backswing gets an even better relay to hit consistently through the ine. That is evident in his game, especially against spinners as it gives him extra time to attack them. That swing has got better with this change that he has made over the last few years," remarks Bijumon N, Samson's coach from Thiruvananthapuram. Samson Samson against spin since 2017: The upright stance moves to a lower, crouched position as the backlift shapes upward across seven years. Bijumon says Samson, a natural stroke-maker, decided to improve his power game to keep up with the dynamics of the evolving T20 game. "T20s are not what they used to be. The old 180s are now 200-plus scores. More sixes are being hit. The necessity now is to hit more boundaries and he has walked along that line to make this transition to power-hitting." Samson's technical overhaul hasn't been an unmixed blessing. It may have also stopped him from having a blockbuster season on his profile that could have strengthened his case for a longer