

### Fire breaks out at pre-owned cars showroom in Jubilee Hills, 16 vehicles damaged

Hyderabad: A total of 16 cars were damaged when fire broke out at a pre-owned cars showroom at Jubilee Hills in the early hours of Tuesday.

On information two fire tenders reached the spot and doused the flames. It took nearly two hours for firemen to completely douse the fire.Panic prevailed for a while on the busy stretch for a while with people from adjacent buildings rushing out for fear of explosions and fire spreading into neighbouring buildings.

### Hyderabad's RGIA becomes fourth busiest Indian airport by passenger footfall

Hyderabad: In the fiscal year 2023-2024 (April 2023 to March 2024), Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) secured the fourth position among India's top 10 airports by passenger footfall, as per official data from the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

RGIA served a total of 2,50,42,282 passengers, including both international and domestic travelers, marking a significant growth compared to the previous fiscal year.

### BJP winning 35 seats in Bengal will guarantee freedom from illegal infiltration: Amit Shah

# PM's 'infiltrators' remark: Complaint under consideration, say poll body sources



### GNS News Agency, April 23

Kolkata: If the BJP winning 18 seats in West Bengal during the 2019 Lok Sabha polls can ensure the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, bagging 35 seats this time will surely guarantee freedom from illegal infiltration, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.Addressing an election rally at Karandighi under the Raiganj Lok Sabha constituency in North Dinajpur district, Amit Shah said: "The people of West Bengal voted in large numbers for the BJP candidates in 2019. Thereafter, the Ram Temple in Ayodhya became a reality. If the number (of BJP seats) goes up to 35 this time, the people of West Bengal will get freedom from the menace of illegal infiltration."A major part of the Home Minister's 20minute speech focused on illegal infiltration, as he launched a scathing attack against Mamata Banejree, saying: "Instead of resisting illegal infiltration, the Chief Minister is pampering the infiltrators for vote bank politics

"In Sandeshkhali, she tried to protect those responsible for harassment of women because of the same vote bank politics. But after the women raised their voices, the authorities were forced to take action and send the accused behind bars."He also said the country needs Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister for a third straight term to free the nation from the menace of illegal infiltration and to grant citizenship to the genuine refugees."The Chief Minister is encouraging illegal infiltration and also opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). Even the Congress has said that if it comes to power, it will withdraw CAA. I dare the Congress and the Trinamool to block CAA if they can," the Home Minister said.

He also said that only the BJP can end the reign of corruption in West Bengal, where every government job sold."A massive amount of Rs 51

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

PM Modi had alleged that the Congress planned to give away people's hardearned money to "infiltrators" and "those who have more children". The Opposition accused the PM of carrying out a communal campaign.The Election Commission has received a complaint against Prime Minister Narendra Modi's controversial 'infiltrators' remark at a rally in Rajasthan on Sunday, sources said, adding that it is under consideration.In a scathing attack on the Congress, PM Modi, at a rally in Banswara, said, "The Congress manifesto says they will calculate the gold with mothers and sisters, get information about it and



then distribute that propwhom will this property be distributed? It will be diserty. They will distribute it tributed amongst those to whom - Manmohan Singh's government had who have more children." said that Muslims have the "It will be distributed to first right to the country's

the infiltrators. Should your hard-earned money go to "Earlier, when their the infiltrators? Do you approve of this?" he said."Do (Congress) government was in power, they had you accept this? Does the said that Muslims have the government have a right to seize your property? Gold first right to the country's is not for showing off, it is assets. This means to

linked to women's self-respect. Her mangalsutra is linked to her dreams. You want to snatch it?" PM Modi said, adding that the Congress is now "in the grip of urban Naxals".On Monday, a delegation of Congress leaders approached the Election Commission and submitted complaints against the Prime Minister, urging it to take action against him for his 'redistribution of wealth' speech. The Congress alleged that PM Modi was lying and was creating a divide between Hindus and Muslims.The party alleged that PM Modi's "redistribution of wealth" remark made at the Rajasthan poll rally was "divisive" and "malicious", adding that the Prime Minister was using religion to ask voters to refrain from voting for the Congress.

### CM Kejriwal, K Kavitha's judicial custody extended in money laundering case till May 7



GNS News Agency, April 23

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday extended till May 7 the judicial custody of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and BRS leader, K Kavitha in the money laundering case linked to the alleged Delhi liquor policy scam case. Special Judge Kaveri Baweja of the Rouse Avenue Court passed the orders upon expiry of the previously-granted judicial custody.

The ED arrested CM Kejriwal on March 21 after questioning him for over two hours at his official residence in Delhi.The ED has termed CM Kejriwal the "kingpin and the key conspirator" of the alleged excise policy scam in collusion with other ministers of the Delhi government, AAP leaders, and other persons. On Monday, the Delhi High Court dismissed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking extraordinary interim bail to incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister in all the criminal cases registered against him by the central agencies, till the completion of his tenure or the trials, whichever ends earlier. Imposing a cost of Rs 75,000 on the petitioner, a law student, a Bench presided over by Acting Chief Justice Manmohan termed the petition as "totally misconceived" and questioned his locus standi to file such a plea.

### KCR bid to topple govt is Revanth's lie



# Sharad Pawar Warns Of Emergence Of "New Putin" In India, Criticizes PM Modi's Governance Approach



assets.

ing at a campaign rally in Amravati for a Maha Vikas Aghadi candidate, Pawar emphasized the significant contributions of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to the country, asserting that his legacy remains unquestionable

Expressing apprehension about the direction of Indian governance, Pawar warned against the rise of autocracy, citing public statements made by certain BJP leaders advocating constitutional amendments. He urged the public to remain vigilant and resist any attempts to undermine democratic principles.Reflecting on the leadership of past prime ministers, including Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Narasimha Rao, and Manmohan Singh, Pawar contrasted their efforts to shape a progressive India with what he perceived as the current prime minister's penchant for criticism without substantive action. The remarks come amidst a heated electoral contest in the Amravati Lok Sabha constituency, where the BJP has nominated Navneet Rana, the incumbent MP who secured victory in the 2019 polls as an Independent candidate. Rana is pitted against Balwant Wankhede of the Congress party, setting the stage for a closely watched battle.

from the residence of a close aid of Partha Chatterjee, who is behind bars now. But Mamata Banerjee is yet to suspend her from the party," Amit Shah said. The Home Minister also said that an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) will be set up in North Bengal, which has been a long-standing demand of the people of the region, if the BJP retains power for a third consecutive term.

### Pawan Kalyan Files Nomination for Pithapuram, says NDA will clinch victory



#### GNS News Agency, April 23

In a significant development ahead of the assembly elections, Janasena Chief Pawan Kalyan officially submitted his nomination for the Pithapuram assembly seat. The charismatic leader embarked on a spirited rally from his residence in Chebrolu, located in Gollaprolu Mandal of Kakinada District, to Padagaya Kshetra in Pithapuram before proceeding to the Returning Officer (RO) office to file his nomination.

Addressing the media after completing the nomination process, Pawan Kalyan exuded confidence in the NDA alliance, expressing optimism about their prospects of securing a decisive victory in the upcoming elections. His nomination filing marks a significant milestone in Janasena's electoral campaign, signaling a strong commitment to contesting the elections and championing the party's vision for governance and progress.

The rally and nomination filing event showcased Pawan Kalyan's proactive engagement with the electorate and his dedication to representing the aspirations and interests of the people of Pithapuram. As the election fervor intensifies, Pawan Kalyan's candidacy adds a dynamic element to the political landscape, setting the stage for a spirited electoral contest in the region.

GNS News Agency, April 23

NCP (SP) leader Sharad Pawar took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, suggesting concerns over the emergence of what he described as "a new Putin" in India. Pawar accused PM Modi of instilling fear among the populace, drawing parallels with Russian President Vladimir Putin.Pawar alleged that instead of highlighting his government's achievements over the past decade, PM Modi consistently focuses on criticizing others. Speak-

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Hyderabad: BRS leader Ponnala Lakshmaiah on Monday alleged that the Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was speaking irresponsibly and uttering lies.Addressing a press conference here, Lakshmaiah said that it was unfortunate that Revanth Reddy being in the position of CM was speaking lies. He said that Revanth distorted the comments made by BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao in Telangana Bhavan recently. "KCR said BJP was a threat to the Congress government. He cited BJP's attempts to topple his government in the past. KCR said that a senior Congress leader was in touch with him and he will bring 20 MLAs with him and he had reprimanded him not to do so but Revanth is campaigning in every meeting as if KCR will bring down his government," said Lakshmaiah, adding the party was complaining to EC about his comments. The BRS leader took exception to the comments of the chief minister on providing jobs. "Revanth Reddy is talking shamelessly that 30,000 jobs were given after the Congress government came into power. The CM does not have the common man's understanding of how much time it takes to give a job. The CM is not talking about the implementation of guarantees," said Lakshmaiah.

### BRS writ in HC directing EC to act against Konda Surekha for code violation

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Hyderabad: Sravan Dasoju, the BRS spokesperson on Monday filed a writ in the Telangana High Court seeking a direction to the Election Commission to initiate action against Minister Konda Surekha for passing derogatory and defamatory comments against K Tarakarama Rao, MLA and BRS working president, during a press meet in Warangal, violating the model code of conduct. Her comments were widely published / circulated in the media, seriously damaging the goodwill and image of the BRS party and KTR. The petitioner contended that Surekha, at a press conference made derogatory and defamatory statements against KTR stating that KTR is involved in phone-tapping case and that he will be sent to jail.

# **Two former Telugu NRIs emerge** India's richest candidates in LS fray

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Dubai: Two former NRIs and contenders in the Lok Sabha elections from the Telugu States have emerged among the richest candidates in the country so far. With family assets of more than Rs.5,705 crore, Pemmasani Chandrasekhar is the richest candidate in the Lok Sabha elections so far. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) candidate from Andhra Pradesh's Guntur constituency on Monday declared his family assets in the affidavit submitted to the Election Commission while filing his nomination for the May 13 election.

In fact, Chandashekhar had been trying for a TDP ticket for a decade to contest the parliament elections. In 2014 and 2019, he tried for Narsaraopet, his native Lok Sabha constituency, in the same district. However, luck did not favour him in both elections. Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, the BJP candidate from Chevella Lok Sabha constituency in Telangana is the second richest contender with declared family assets of Rs.4,568 crore. The former BRS MP lost by a narrow margin in 2019 as a Congress candidate and is now in the poll fray for the third time.

Vishweshwar Reddy had worked with electrical giant GE in the USA and later set up his own business in New Jersey. He is the grandson of the late Konda Venkata

Ranga Reddy, the Congress leader after whom Ranga Reddy district was named.Former NRIs Lavu Krishnadevarayulu, sitting MP from Narsaraopet of YSRCP, has now switched to the TDP and is contesting from the same seat on behalf of the TDP. Several NRIs from TDP and YSRCP are contesting for assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh as well.

### **YS Jagan assures of support for revival of Visakha** steel plant, says strived to stop privatisation

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, YS Jaganmohan Reddy, has reiterated his government's commitment to the revival of Visakha Steel Plant and has vowed to continue pressuring the central government against its privatization. He made these remarks during a meeting with the leaders of Visakha Ukku Parikrakshan Porat Samiti at Endada before the start of the bus Yatra on

Tuesday.During the meeting, trade union leaders raised concerns about the challenges facing Visakha Steel Plant, to which CM Jagan responded by expressing unwavering support for the workers. He mentioned that the state government, along with the YSRCP, has taken a strong stance against the privatization of the steel plant, including sending a letter to the Prime Minister and passing a resolution in the assembly on the issue.

# **Indian Chronicle English Daily**

# Maldivian elections

THE results of the parliamentary elections in the Aldives are making waves in the Indian Ocean Rejion. At stake, in particular, are India's strategic intersts amid China's aggressive outreach to smaller naions. The resounding victory of President Mohamed Juizzu's People's National Congress has implications or the Maldives' international alliances, notably with China. The shift towards China aligns with Muizzu's anti-India rhetoric and his administration's endeavours o bolster economic cooperation with Beijing, exempliied by major infrastructure projects awarded to Chiese companies. The decisive win grants Muizzu the olitical leverage to advance the pro-China agenda that he has been pursuing ever since he was elected Presient last year. His tough stance is at variance with his redecessor Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's leaning towards ndia. The poll outcome will make it harder for New Delhi o improve its relations with the Maldives. The diverging aths of Male and New Delhi were apparent in January his year, when Muizzu opposed Indian troops' presnce in the Maldives.India's response to these develpments has been nuanced, balancing diplomatic enagement with strategic caution. While External Affairs linister S Jaishankar has emphasised the enduring ignificance of historical ties and geographical proximty between the two nations, New Delhi has also taken neasures to recalibrate its relationship by safeguard ng its interests. The imposition of restrictions on the export of essential commodities to the Maldives is relective of India's awareness of the geopolitical dynamcs. Spoiling relations with India could prove detrimenal to the Maldives' economic progress as the tiny naion risks overdependence on China. Fostering contructive neighbourly engagement is crucial for sustainng regional stability and security.

Karnataka murder accused's mother seeks forgiveness: 'What my son did is wrong'

# **Ajit Pawar on Chief Minister aspirations:** 'If people, NCP leaders support me...'



### GNS News Agency, April 23

Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar on Saturday yet again expressed his desire to become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and said that if his party leaders achieve the 145 magic figure in the state Assembly elections, he would certainly look up to getting the post."I do want to become the Chief Minister of Maharashtra. If the people of Maharashtra support me

and NCP leaders manage to get the 145 magic figure in the state Assembly, then I would certainly want to become the Chief Minister," Ajit Pawar said while speaking exclusively to India Today TV.

This is not the first time that the senior NCP leader has spoken about his dream to serve as Chief Minister of Maharashtra. Last year in May, while addressing an event, Ajit Pawar had said, "I want to become Maharashtra chief minister to implement certain plans I have for people's welfare". When asked about his reconciliation with Sharad Pawar after the Lok Sabha elections, Ajit Pawar said he had no issues if all NCP leaders united, but laid down the condition that the "other camp" would have to follow the line which his faction has taken."I don't have issues if Sharad Pawar or any other NCP leader wants to join us. But they will have to follow the line our party has taken," Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister said. Ajit Pawar's defection from Sharad Pawar's camp to join the Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government last July, along with numerous other NCP leaders, led to a split in the party founded by the senior Pawar in 1999.

## 54 trains on Ambala-Amritsar route cancelled as farmer stir enters 4th day

### GNS News Agency, April 23

The railway officials said that the farmers' protest has also affected the movement of 380 trains since it began, causing inconvenience to passengers.A total of 54 trains on the Ambala-Amritsar route were cancelled on Saturday as farmers squatted on tracks at the Shambhu railway station in Punjab's Patiala district for the fourth day, railway officials said. The protestors have been demanding the release of three farmers arrested by the Haryana Police during the ongoing stir.

The protest has also affected the movement of 380 trains in the last three days, causing inconvenience to passengers, the officials added. The farmers have been protesting under the banner of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) in Patiala district's Shambhu. They began their protest for the release of arrested farmers on Wednesday by squatting on the tracks on the Ambala-Ludhiana-Amritsar route in Shambhu near the Punjab-Haryana border.Farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said the protest will con-



tinue until the three farmers are released. The SKM (Non-Political) and the KMM are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march by farmers to press the government to accept their demands, including legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops. The farmers have been staying put at the Shambhu and Khanauri border points between Punjab and Haryana since February 13 when their march was stopped by the security forces.

### Case against DK Shivakumar for poll code violation



GNS News Agency, April 23

A case was filed against Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday for violation of the Mode Code of Conduct during the Lok Sabha polls campaign. The case was filed on the basis of a complaint filed with the Election Commission by BJP MLA Ashwath Narayan, accusing DK Shivakumar of making a "business deal with the voters".

The FIR was lodged under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for "bribery" and "undue influence at elections", the state's Chief Electoral Officer said. The Karnataka unit of the BJP had accused DK Shivakumar of violating poll conduct by promising to ensure water supply in exchange of votes for the Congress.

Shivakumar, for his part, rejected the allegations and said that he was communicating to the people that the Congress government was bound to solve their issues."We are there to solve the problems... It is our duty, we are doing it. I want to communicate to them that we are there to sort out their problem, by hook or by crook we will serve them water ... " DK Shivakumar said.

Notably, this is not the first time that the BJP has approached the poll body against th Congress leader.Earlier this month, the saffron party also filed a complint against Shivakumar accusing him of making "false and unsubstantiated" allegations about its role in bringing down a "Vokkaliga Chief Minister". The "Vokkaliga Chief Minister" mentioned by Shivakumar was a reference to former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy.In 2019, the BJP formed the government after the collapse of the JD(S)-Congress coalition led by HD Kumaraswamy. The complaint said while criticising the political leaders, Shivakumar violated the MCC by levelling false allegations based on the caste and communal feelings of the people, particularly the Vokkaliga community.

### Ajit Pawar says polls not 'Pawar' battle, but PM Modi vs Rahul Gandhi contest



GNS News Agency, April 23



The mother of a man who killed a Karnataka Congress corporator's daughter sought forgiveness from the people on behalf of her son.

GNS News Agency, April 23 The mother of a man who killed a Karnataka Congress corporator's daughter sought forgiveness from the people on behalf of her son. The victim was the killer's former classmate and the attack took place inside a college campus in Karnataka. The mother of a 23-year-old man who killed the daughter of a Karnataka Congress corporator inside a college campus in Hubballi, has sought forgiveness from the people of the state on behalf of her son. She said what her son Fayaz did was "wrong". On Thursday, Fayaz attacked Neha, his former classmate and a Masters of Computer Applications (MCA) student, inside the premises of the BVB College campus.CCTV footage of the incident captured him stabbing the 23-year-old victim multiple times before fleeing the spot. The accused has been arrested, and the police said the victim died of multiple stab wounds.In a statement to reporters, Fayaz's mother Mumtaz said, "On behalf of my son, I seek forgiveness from all the people of Karnataka. I seek forgiveness from the parents of the girl as well. She is also like my daughter.""I am not differentiating here at all. I know how they must be grieving. I am equally sorrowful. What my son did is wrong. No matter who it is, what is done is wrong," she added.

# **BJP's youngest candidate on Vadodara** ticket: 'Didn't even get a phone call'



Joshi from Vadodara after sitting MP Ranjan Bhatt pulled out of the race despite being renominated by the party.

"Until my name was officially announced, I did not even get a phone call that I was being considered as the party candidate. My wife and I are working people, and we get little time to go out together. We were out to attend a musical programme at Sursagar lake in the city on Holi after offering prayers when my name was announced," the PhD scholar recalled. Joshi said he had large shoes to fill considering that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had won from Vadodara in 2014 by a record margin, before vacating it for the Varanasi Lok Sabha seat."To give a person like me an opportunity to contest such a big election, and to offer all kinds of support for the same is overwhelming for me," he said.Joshi said he is also banking on the support of the constituency's young voters. He said he has done a course on leadership in education from IIM Ahmedabad and is now pursuing a PhD in leadership. The BJP has never lost a Lok Sabha election in Vadodara since 1998. The constituency has elected three women MPs since 1991. Joshi is pitted against Congress' Jaspalsinh Padhiyar, a former MLA from Padra.All 26 seats in Gujarat will vote in a single phase on May 7, 2024.

A tearful Mumtaz further said that her son should be punished for his crime according to the law of the land.But in a controversial remark, she said her son and the victim "were in love with each other ... I have known about this for the last year". This was in complete contradiction to what Neha's father, Niranjan Hiremath said of his daughter's relationship with Fayaz.

Speaking to a local TV channel, Hiremath said his daughter "was only pursuing her education and did not have any relations with the accused"."They were only friends while in college, not lovers," the Congress corporator said, alleging that Neha rejected and refused Fayaz's proposals every single time that he made his advances."She told him earlier that she would file a complaint against him if he continued with his proposals." Previously as well, Hiremath had said that Favaz "proposed to my daughter, but she rejected his proposal"."She did not like him, and she usually stayed away from all this... She refused his proposal, saying they both belonged to different castes and that she did not wish to have any relationship with him. Out of anger, he stabbed my daughter.'

The incident has led to protests in Karnataka and a sparring match between the opposition BJP and ruling Congress over a 'love jihad' angle in the case."This is an unfortunate incident and I believe there is an angle of 'love jihad' in this. When the girl refused (the guy's) advances, she was murdered. Under the Congress government, law and order is not there," Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said.'Love jihad' is a phrase popularised by Hindutva organisations to denote the relationship between a Muslim man and a non-Muslim woman where the Muslim partner wishes to convert the non-Muslim.However, the Karnataka government firmly rejected those allegations. State Home Minister G Parameshwara claimed that Neha and Fayaz were in a relationship before it soured.

GNS News Agency, April 23

Hemang Joshi, 33, BJP's youngest candidate in the ongoing Lok Sabha polls, was attending a musical programme on Holi with his wife when he started receiving several congratulatory calls. It was through these calls that Joshi came to know that he was fielded by the BJP from the Vadodara seat in Gujarat. Speaking to the news agency PTI, Joshi said he never dreamt of getting a ticket."It came as a matter of immense surprise to me." Joshi said, adding that he aims to win the polls by a margin of more than 10 lakh. In March this year, the BJP fielded

# Punjab toddler vomits blood after eating expired chocolates from grocery shop

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

A one-and-a-half-year-old girl vomited blood and has been hospitalised after she consumed expired chocolates purchased from a grocery store in Patiala in Punjab. An investigation by the police and health department revealed that the chocolates had expired. The girl, who hails from Ludhiana, had gone to Patiala along with her parents to a relative's house. The relative, Vicky Gehlot, had purchased a box of chocolates for the girl from a local grocery store. The girl consumed the chocolates after returning home and started bleeding from her mouth. She was then admitted to the Christian Medical College as her condition deteriorated. Medical tests on the girl confirmed that she fell ill after eating a poisonous substance.

The girl's family then lodged a complaint with the police and the state health department.A team of health officials rushed to the grocery store along with the complainant and collected the samples. The health department confirmed that the shop sold expired eatables. Other expired snacks were also seized from the shop. An inves-



tigation into the matter is underway.Last month, a 10year-old girl in Punjab's Patiala died due to suspected food poisoning after eating a cake on her birthday. Other members of her family had also fallen ill but survived. The family sought action from the state health department. Later, it was revealed the bakery where the cake was ordered was not registered and was running under a fake name.

### Amit Shah jabs Rahul 'baba' Gandhi over Kashmir: 'No guts to throw a stone'

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Addressing a gathering while holding a roadshow in Rajasthan's Udaipur, Amit Shah cited statements made by Rahul Gandhi on Jammu and Kashmir. He asserted that the situation was normal in the Union Territory and that nobody had the guts to throw a stone today."In Kashmir, (People's Democratic Party chief) Mehbooba Mufti and (Congress leader) Rahul baba (Gandhi) used to say there would be bloodbath there once Article 370 is removed," he said."Rahul baba, five years have passed

(since the abrogation of Article 370). This is the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Leave alone the talk of bloodbath, No one has the guts to throw a stone there," he said. He asserted that the Congress would be wiped out in the Lok Sabha elections and exuded confidence that the BJP would win all 25 Lok Sabha seats in the state.Amit Shah held the roadshow in Udaipur in support of BJP candidate Mannalal Rawat. Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma was also a part of the roadshow.Voting for 12 Lok Sabha seats in Rajasthan was held in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar said that he did not see the Lok Sabha polls as a battle between Pawar family members. 'I see it as Narendra Modi vs Rahul Gandhi," Ajit Pawar said.Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra Pawar is contesting the Baramati Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra against his cousin and sitting MP Supriya Sule.

When asked if the poll battle is between him and Sharad Pawar, Ajit Pawar told India Today TV, "I don't see it like that. I see it as Narendra Modi vs Rahul Gandhi. When we campaign, we tell the voters that the BJP and PM Modi will undoubtedly come to power for a third term. So we must send MPs to support him so we can benefit and bring development."Ajit Pawar also denied the allegations that he is putting pressure on the voters in Baramati against supporting Supriya Sule and Sharad Pawar."If anyone has been pressurised, bring them forward and question them in front of me. If the conversation happened over the phone, then show the records to show how they were pressurised," said the NCP leader.He said the elections are to decide who will rule the country, and it is a battle between PM Modi and Rahul Gandhi. Further, Aiit Pawar denied that he was pressurised by Union Home Minister Amit Shah to field his wife against his cousin to prove his loyalty."This is a lie. He (Amit Shah) only asked to field those candidates who have elective merit. Ensuring each candidate wins is very important,'

# BJP's '400 paar' script flopped on day 1 of Lok Sabha polls: Tejashwi Yadav

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

As the phase 1 of Lok Sabha polls concluded on Friday, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav mocked the BJP, saying the party's "400 paar script turned out to be a flop on the first day of voting". The RJD leader expressed confidence that the Mahagathbandhan would win all the four Lok Sabha seats in Bihar.

'Their (BJP's) '400-plus film' has turned out to be a super flop on the first day (phase) of polling. We (Mahagathbandhan) will win all the four seats in Bihar that went to polls on April 19. We will also perform well in the coming phases," Tejashwi Yadav told reporters.

The result on all four seats of the first phase will shock the BJP. People are fed up with false promises made by BJP leaders," he added.Mukesh Sahani, chief of Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP), a part of the Grand Alliance in Bihar, echoed a similar view."We will win not only the four Lok Sabha seats that went to polls yesterday but also all the remaining 36 constituencies where voting will be held in the coming phases," he said







### Ranga Reddy

# Tajinder Bittu, Priyanka Gandhi's closeaide, joins BJP after quitting Congress



#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Congress leaders Tajinder Singh Bittu, a close aide of Priyanka Gandhi, and Karamjit Kaur Chaudhary, the wife of two-time Jalandhar MP Santokh Singh Chaudhary, joined the BJP in Delhi on Saturday. The development comes as another setback to the Congress, which has seen an exodus of high-profile leaders in recent weeks amid the Lok Sabha polls.Bittu, who was the Congress secretary in-charge of Himachal Pradesh, joined the BJP in the presence of Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and party general secretary Vinod Tawde.Earlier in the day, in a letter addressed to Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Bittu resigned from the party."I hereby tender my resignation from the primary membership of the Indian National Congress and from my post AICC, secretary co-incharge of Himachal Pradesh, effective immediately," he said in the letter.

Bittu shared his resignation letter in a Facebook post with the caption, "With a heavy heart, after 35 years, I resign from the Congress party."Karamjit Kaur, whose husband Santokh Singh Chaudhary died during Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra last year, accused the Congress of disrespecting his legacy. Sources said Karamjeet Kaur was upset with the Congress for fielding former chief minister Charanjit Singh Channi from the Jalandhar Lok Sabha constituency."My family worked for the upliftment of downtrodden... Loyalty is in my blood but doesn't mean to be disrespected," she said.Meanwhile, several Congress leaders, including an ex-MLA, joined the BJP in Madhya Pradesh. Former Congress MLA Hari Vallabh Shukla along with his supporters joined the BJP in the presence of Chief Minister Mohan Yadav at the state BJP office in Bhopal. In March, Congress spokesperson Rohan Gupta resigned from the party, citing "harassment and character assassination" by some leaders in the party. Rohan Gupta was named as the party's candidate from Ahmedabad East constituency. However, he opted out of the race. Earlier, spokesperson Gourav Vallabh and Olympic medallist and boxer Vijender Singh quit the Congress. Veteran Mumbai leader Sanjay Nirupam also resigned even though Congress claimed that he was expelled for "anti-party" activities.

# **Congress leader on daughter's** relation with killer: 'Just friends, not lovers'

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Karnataka Congress Corporator Niranjan Hiremath said his daughter, who was stabbed to death by a former classmate inside a college campus in Hubballi, was just friends with the accused and the two "were not lovers". He also said that his daughter rejected the perpetrator's proposals and warned him that she would file a complaint if he did not stop.On Thursday, the accused Fayaz attacked Neha, a 23-year-old Masters of Computer Applications (MCA) student, inside the premises of the BVB College campus. CCTV footage of the incident captured Fayaz stabbing Neha multiple times before fleeing the spot.Fayaz has been arrested, and the police said the victim died of multiple stab wounds.

Speaking to a local TV channel, Hiremath said his daughter was "a very bold and a very brave girl". "She was only pursuing her education and did not have any relations with the accused. They were only friends while in college, not lovers," the Congress corporator said.He alleged that his daughter rejected and refused his proposals every single time that he made his advances. "She told him earlier that she would file a complaint against him if he continued with his proposals." Previously as well, Hiremath had said that Fayaz "proposed to my daughter, but she rejected his proposal".

"She did not like him, and she usually stayed away from all this... She refused his proposal, saying they both belonged to different castes and that she did not wish to have any relationship with him. Out of anger, he stabbed my daughter."Meanwhile, the incident has led to a major



political storm in Karnataka, with the opposition BJP and ruling Congress sparring over a 'love jihad' angle in the case."This is an unfortunate incident and I believe there is an angle of 'love jihad' in this. When the girl refused (the guy's) advances, she was murdered. Under the Congress government, law and order is not there," Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said.'Love jihad' is a phrase popularised by Hindutya organisations to denote the relationship between a Muslim man and a non-Muslim woman where the Muslim partner wishes to convert the non-Muslim. The Karnataka government firmly rejected those allegations. State Home Minister G Parameshwara claimed that Neha and Fayaz were in a relationship before it soured.Meanwhile, student group ABVP's workers blocked the roads and protested against Neha's murder, demanding the strictest punishment for the accused.Pro-Hindu groups and BJP supporters also staged a protest.

### Vijaykanth's son says BJP strong on social

# Govt has made policies to make India attractive for investment: Nirmala Sitharaman



#### GNS News Agency, April 23

After American tech billionaire Elon Musk postponed his India visit due to his "heavy obligations" at work, Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government has tailored policies to make India an attractive hub for manufacturing and services, especially in the light of industries expressing concerns about China. In response to a question about Tesla CEO Musk's decision, Sitharaman, at a press conference in Ahmedabad, said, "When big companies show interest to come to India, we will do everything to make it attractive for them to come and invest. In that process, if there is anything to discuss, we will certainly discuss. But whatever we do, we do it through policies and this has helped. Especially after China Plus One started being a concern for many industries...we have made policies in such a way that we are making India an attractive destination, both for manufacturing and services."

China Plus One is a business strategy to avoid investing only in China and to channel investments in other promising economies such as IndiaMusk, who was expected to be in India on April 21 for a two-day trip and meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi, wrote on X that he looks forward to visiting India later this year. "Unfortunately, very heavy Tesla obligations require that the visit to India be delayed, but I do very much look forward to visiting later this year," he wrote.Sitharaman also said that after significant efforts, India has become the world's fifth-largest economy, and the country is confidently aiming to secure the third position within the next two to twoand-a-half years.She said, "After significant efforts, we have become the world's fifth-largest economy and are confidently aiming to secure the third position within the next two to two-and-a-half years."Talking about inflation, Sitharaman said it never crossed the tolerance band, except for one month, under the Narendra Modi government, whereas before that (pre-2014) the economy was in bad shape and inflation was in double digits. "At that time nobody had any expectations from the country. Asked about the rule that requires larger companies to pay Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) within 45 days of receiving goods or services. Sitharaman said the law has existed since 2007-08 and was not new. "Later MSMEs themselves came and said the 45-day payment is not happening within that financial year. But within that financial year, this amount is shown as expenditure and to that extent tax is not being paid."We just said tax treatment remains the same. Make a claim in the year you pay to the MSMEs. How can you claim when you have not made payment?" she asked.

Regarding employment, Sitharaman acknowledged the lack of comprehensive data from both formal and informal sectors but affirmed that the government's initiatives have facilitated jobs for millions."While recognising the inadequacy of available data, I must acknowledge that substantial support has been extended to individuals and startups through various schemes," she said. Between October 2022 and November 2023, the government provided employment to 1 million individuals through the Rozgar Mela initiative, she added.Asked about the Indian rupee weakening against the US dollar, she said the fluctuation was due to global uncertainty, wars as well as uncertainty in supply of crude oil from the Middle East. Earlier, addressing industry leaders from Gujarat on 'Viksit Bharat -2047', she said 28 per cent of the total capital under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has come to the state, which has shown remarkable alertness in the last 10-12 yearsSitharaman emphasised that Gujarat stands at the forefront of semiconductor manufacturing for India, supported by a conducive policy framework and a well-prepared government and ecosystem aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Highlighting the significance of the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, she described it as a crucial gateway for the growth of services in Gujarat, providing India with access to global markets for attracting investments and facilitating financial operations.

### 'More than half of the INDI Alliance is out on bail,' claims BJP leader Piyush Goyal

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Union minister and BJP candidate from Mumbai North Lok Sabha seat Piyush Goyal has taken a jibe at the INDIA bloc, saying that they are drenched in corruption and more than half of their members are out on bail.

"The Opposition is so disappointed that they have started talking about dividing the country and saving the corrupt. The Opposition has become so weak that they are not able to see how the future of the country can progress... They are creating controversies. By spreading falsehood among the people, they are damaging their credibility. They are drenched in corruption.. More than half of the INDI Alliance is out on bail. The Opposition has to make a new strategy focusing nationalism and public welfare....," said Goyal, as quoted by news agency ANI.Goyal further warned that wrongdoers will be caught eventually as the grip of law is very strong. "The grip of law is so strong that anyone who does anything wrong will be caught. They should have thought about this when



contesting 21 seats, Congress 17 and NCP (SP) 10."I was listening to Narendra Modi's speech before I came here (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar).

The prime minister belongs to the entire country. If we listen to Modi's speeches, it seems he is the prime minister of BJP and not the country," said Pawar.Meanwhile, voting took place on Saturday in five Lok Sabha constituencies of Maharashtra, in the first phase of the polls. Maharashtra has a total of 48 Lok Sabha constituencies, the highest after Uttar Pradesh (80). Voting in the remaining seats will be held in subsequent phases of the Lok Sabha election 2024. The results will be declared on June 4.

### media, not in Tamil Nadu rural areas

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Desiya Murpoku Dravida Kazhagam's (DMDK) Lok Sabha candidate from Virudhunagar in Tamil Nadu and son of actor Vijayakanth, Vijaya Prabhakaran, said the BJP was not strong in rural areas in the state.Speaking exclusively to India Today TV, Prabhakaran said, "It is always a two-way fight between the DMK and the AIADMK in Tamil Nadu. The BJP may be big in debates on social media, but when you go down the roots, to rural areas in the state, the BJP is not that strong."

The DMDK is contesting the elections in alliance with the AIADMK. All 39 seats in Tamil Nadu voted in the first phase of Lok Sabha polls on Friday. A 70% voter turnout was recorded.Prabhakaran said the rallies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah wouldn't even have a "one per cent impact" on the voters in Tamil Nadu."I am not being offensive to the BJP, but just speaking facts. People from metropolitan cities may support K Annamalai or Modi, but when you go down towards the south of Tamil Nadu, people don't support the BJP," he said. The Virudhunagar Lok Sabha seat consists of six Assembly constituencies - Virudhunagar, Sivakasi, Sattur, Aruppukottai, Tirumangalam and Tirupparankundram.Prabhakaran said all the seats face varied problems. He said the main issue in the constituencies of Virudhunagar, Sivakasi and Sattur was the illegal firecracker factories functioning there. Several explosions have been reported at the firecracker factories functioning in these regions, killing many people.



He said that the constituencies of Tirumangalam and Tirupparankundram have demanded the setting up of an AIIMS and software parks in the area. The DMDK leader said that civic woes were a major issue in the rural areas in the constituency.When asked about Congress candidate from Virudhunagar Manickam Tagore's remark that the AIADMK was the "B team of BJP", Vijaya Prabhakaran said, "It is his last minute play because he knows he is going to lose."He expressed confidence in replicating the performance of the 2011 Assembly elections in the state, when the AIADMK and DMDK alliance stormed to power, with J Jayalalithaa becoming the chief minister."We won in alliance with the AIADMK in 2011, and now we are going to replicate it. Our goal is 2026 and 2024 is the start," he said. The next Assembly election in Tamil Nadu is scheduled to be held in 2026.

# Khammam cybercrime police arrest two for targeting unemployed youth

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Khammam: Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt said on Saturday that two cyber fraudsters who were targeting unemployed youth were arrested. In a statement here, the CP said the accused Parepalli Sai Krishna alias Sai and his associate Ravulapati Shiva of Nalgonda district lived at LB Nagar in Hyderabad. They collected phone numbers of heads of departments of engineering colleges from their websites and called the HoDs pretending to be former students and employees of IBM company. They assured the HoDs that their students would be offered back door job opportunities in multinational companies. Falling for the trick, the HoDs posted the phone number given in their college WhatsApp groups asking the students to contact the phone number for placements, he said. When unemployed youths and students called the phone number, the accused asked

them to pay Rs.35,000 initially and later another Rs 35,000 after receiving salary. Falling in their trap, two young women from Khammam paid them Rs.70,000 recently through UPI. They found the phone number switched off a day after they paid the money and lodged a complaint with police on March 27. A case under IPC Section 420 and Section 66(d) of IT Act was registered at the cybercrime police station and investigation was done. The cybercrime police during their investigation found that about 50 persons in Karimnagar, Nalgonda, Hyderabad, Jagtial, Guntur and Rajahmundry districts along with Khammam were cheated by the accused, Dutt said.The accused were arrested at the new bus stand in Khammam on April 18 and were produced before court. Three mobile phones and Rs 1.10 lakh cash were seized from the accused, the CP said and appreciated ACP (Cybercrimes) Phanindra, CI Siva Kumar,

they were doing corruption... They have to answer to the law and people of the country...," he said.

In Maharashtra, INDIA bloc parties have formed the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance, comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), the Congress party and the Nationalist Congress Party (SP). As per the seat-sharing agreement among the three MVA parties, the Shiv Sena (UBT) is

# Mamata Banerjee shocked at 'saffronisation' of Doordarshan; BJP calls it 'homecoming'



### GNS News Agency, April 23

West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday expressed shock over what she described as the "saffronisation" of the Doordarshan logo after the government-owned broadcaster Prasar Bharati changed its colour to orange. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo called the move "absolutely unethical" and "grossly illegal" when the general elections are taking place across the country.

"I am shocked at the sudden saffronisation and change of colour of our Doordarshan logo when the national elections are taking place across the country! It is absolutely unethical, grossly illegal, and speaks loudly of the pro-BJP bias of the national public broadcaster!" Mamata Banerjee said on X. The chief minister questioned the Election Commission of India for allowing the "crude, pro-Saffron violation of the Model Code of Conduct" during elections. She urged the poll body to immediately reverse the change and "go back to the original blue colour of the logo of Doordarshan!"Dismissing Banerjee's charge, BJP IT cell head Amit Malviya said the saffron logo was "tested way back in 1982" and it is "nothing but homecoming for the national broadcaster."

"Thanks for not abusing. Your language off late has been crass and disgusting. The prospect of losing election is showing," Malviya said on X."On Doordarshan's saffron colour - it was tested way back in 1982. So, don't be shocked and find out who changed it to blue."

To be sure, the first Doordarshan logo, selected by the then prime minister Indira Gandhi and broadcast for the first time on April 1, 1976, was an orange logo against a green background.Former Prasar Bharati CEO Jawhar Sircar, a member of Rajya Sabha from TMC, said he has been watching Doordarshan's "saffronisation with alarm"."This is an optical construct where the identity of the party and the state are merged together. This is part of a totalitarian regime where you cannot differentiate the party from the state," he said.Gaurav Dwivedi, the CEO of Prasar Bharati, dismissed the criticism saying the logo of the network's English news channel, DD India, was changed to the same colour ahead of the G20."Thus, two news channels from the same group now follow the same visual aesthetic," he said."The logo of DD National, which broadcasts general entertainment and news programmes in English and Hindi, was also updated last year to saffron/orange and blue last year," he said.

# BRS leaders deny allegations against former minister Puvvada

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Khammam: BRS leaders vehemently denied the allegations that former minister Puvvada Ajay Kumar had conspired to attack incumbent minister Tummala Nageswara Rao during Assembly elections.

Speaking to the media here on Saturday, Mayor P Neeraja, BRS town president Pagadala Nagaraju, DCCB former chairman K Nagabhushanam, former SUDA chairman B Vijay Kumar, senior leader Bommera Rammurthy and others strongly condemned the allegations against Ajay Kumar made based on report published in a newspaper.They alleged that Congress leaders were trying to spread lies against the Puvvada family that enjoyed public trust for the past five decades. His political opponents were trying to throw mud on former minister Ajay Kumar.









### **Bonhomie missing between BJP**, alliance partners in Andhra Pradesh



#### GNS News Agency, April 23

In over a month since the Bharatiya Janata Party officially entered an alliance with the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) - Jana Sena Party combine in Andhra Pradesh to fight the May 13 elections, the bonhomie between the saffron party and the other two partners of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) appears to be missing. As the nomination process for the elections in the state began on Thursday and the leaders got into hectic electioneering, there are no signs of the BJP joining the other two alliance partners in campaign anywhere in the state.

The only rally which was jointly organised by the three NDA partners was at Chilakaluripet in Palnadu district on March 17, which was addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with TDP president N Chandrababu Naidu and Jana Sena Party chief Pawan Kalyan. After that, there have been no instances of the leaders of the three parties addressing any other rallies together.

In the last one month, Naidu and Kalyan have addressed a few joint rallies together and have announced a few more rallies in the run-up to the polling on May 13. Both the leaders are meeting regularly and working out strategies. Even at the grassroots level at many places, the TDP and the Jana Sena cadres are working in tandem.A senior TDP leader, who refused to be quoted, said the BJP leaders or cadres are not seen anywhere in these joint rallies."Senior leaders like former BJP state president Somu Veerraju, vice-president S Vishnu Vardhan Reddy, former member of Parliament (MP) G V L Narasimha Rao and former MLC P V N Madhav have completely gone silent. They are not taking active part in the electioneering, as they are opposed to an alliance with the TDP," he said. Only on April 10, BJP state president D Purandeswari joined the TDP-Jana Sena rally at Nidadavolu, apparently because the assembly segment forms part of Rajamahendravaram Lok Sabha constituency, from where she is seeking election to the Lok Sabha.

Except in the constituencies, where ex-TDP leaders like C M Ramesh in Anakapalli, Sujana Chowdary in Vijayawada and Adinarayana Reddy in Jammalamadugu, who had defected to the BJP, nowhere else one can notice the flags of the BJP, Jana Sena and TDP flying together. Even at the Jana Sena Party's rallies, the BJP leaders are not joining. Even the proposed common manifesto of the three parties has not seen the light of the day, whereas the TDP-Jana Sena have been going with their common agenda which they had finalised in December itself

In fact, the alliance between the BJP and TDP was formalised on March 9, after hectic and prolonged deliberations between the BJP national leadership and the TDP president. The Jana Sena Party had been an ally of the BJP for the last four years and in October 2023, it announced a formal alliance with the TDP. The BJP national leadership, which was initially reluctant to allow the TDP to get back into the NDA fold despite repeated attempts by Naidu to patch up with the saffron party in the last couple of years, finally succumbed to pressure from Pawan Kalyan who was making all out efforts to prevent split of an anti-incumbency vote in Andhra Pradesh.

Moreover, the BJP also realised that the only way it can win three or four MP seats in Andhra is to have an alliance with the TDP-Jana Sena combine, as the YSR Congress party refused to join the NDA and wanted to go alone in the elections. The BJP had drawn a blank in the 2019 general elections in the state and got a vote share of less than one percent.

After a hard bargaining, the BJP was allocated six Lok Sabha seats and 10 assembly seats to contest the next elections, whereas the TDP is contesting in 17 Lok Sabha and 144 assembly seats in the state and the Jana Sena Party was allocated 2 Lok Sabha seats and 21 assembly seats. There are 25 Lok Sabha seats and 175 assembly seats in Andhra Pradesh.What is baffling the TDP leaders is that none of the BJP leaders is making any strong criticism of the YSRCP or the Jagan Mohan Reddy government, despite the fact that the BJP is part of the opposition alliance. "Even at the March 17 Chilakaluripet rally, the Prime Minister refrained from making any direct attack on Jagan or the government, while appealing to the people to vote for the NDA," the TDP leader quoted above said.

Interestingly, even Jagan has not been attacking the BJP in his election speeches, but is targeting Naidu for surrendering himself to the national party, as he has no capacity to fight the elections alone. "Naidu has joined hands with the BJP and Jana Sena to fight the elections, whereas I am fighting alone like a lion," Jagan said at his rally.According to political analyst Telakapalli Ravi, the BJP appears to be playing a double game. In the last five years, the BJP national leadership maintained cordial relations with Jagan, as he had been extending support to the Centre by voting in its favour in Parliament and in return, the Centre helped his government by liberally releasing funds and allowing it to go in for huge borrowings."But the BJP wants to have its numbers in Andhra Pradesh. While Jagan has refused to join the NDA, Naidu was eagerly waiting for an alliance with the BJP. So, it might have thought it can win a few seats by joining hands with the TDP; at the same time, it doesn't want to rub Jagan on the wrong shoulder," Ravi said, adding that the alliance with the TDP-Jana Sena was only for its political convenience.

# **Tihar jail report says Arvind Kejriwal does not require insulin**

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Amid a major row over Delhi chief minister Arvind Keiriwal's diet and diabetes treatment in Tihar jail, the jail authorities in its report to Delhi LG said RML Hospital doctors did not indicate any insulin requirement for Kejriwal. In the report, as accessed by news agency ANI, it has been mentioned that Kejriwal's blood sugar levels were not alarming and he was advised oral anti-diabetic drugs. The report came as the Aam Aadmi Party claimed that the prison authorities denied insulin to Kejriwal -- in a conspiracy to kill the Delhi chief minister. Enforcement Directorate, the agency which arrested Keiriwal in a money-laundering case linked to the Delhi liquor probe, meanwhile, told the court that Kejriwal was indulging in high-sugar food so that he could seek bail on medical grounds if his sugar level spiked. The report said Kejriwal was on an insulin-reversal programme and stopped taking insulin much before his arrest and was only taking anti-diabetes oral tablet Metformin. As per the MLC report available from RML Hospital, Keiriwal was neither advised any insulin nor any requirement of any insulin was indicated, the report said. "On 10.04.2024 and 15.04.2024, Kejriwal was reviewed by medicine specialist and advised oral anti-diabetic drugs/ medicines... it is incorrect to state that Kejriwal was denied insulin at any point of time during his treatment," the report said. The report said Tihar jail administration has written to AIIMS that Kejriwal has been consuming high-



# **Congress leader's 'verge of** extinction' jibe at LDF, CM Vijayan



#### GNS News Agency, April 23

The Congress in Kerala lashed out at CPI(M) leader and the state's chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan's statements against the UDF on Saturday. Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala said that the Left was 'on the verge of extinction in the country', which is why the CM of Kerala was making such statements.Speaking to news agency ANI, Chennithala said, "Left in the country is on the verge of extinction. Last time, they had only one Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha. This time they will not have any Member of Parliament from Kerala... They are on the verge of extinction which is why the CM of Kerala is making such statements. He is not attacking or criticising Narendra Modi or the BJP. He is criticising Rahul Gandhi and the Congress party. This shows that he is very panicky...'

Speaking about the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, the

### **Tejashwi responds to Nitish Kumar's 'paida bahut** kar diye' attack at Lalu Prasad: 'Blessing for us'

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday said making personal comments won't help the people of Bihar after Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar took a swipe at RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav over the number of children he has."With folded hands, I want to tell the chief minister that you are senior to us, and we respect you and will continue to do that. You can say whatever you want, that is your right," Tejashwi Yadav said.

"Whatever he would say, that is going to be a blessing for us. However, making personal comments won't help the people of Bihar. He shouldn't make such remarks. But whatever he says, I will take it as a blessing," he added. Tejashwi Yadav was responding to the personal attack Nitish Kumar made at a rally in Katihar. While targeting Lalu Prasad over dynastic politics, Nitish Kumar said the RJD supremo appointed his wife, Rabri Devi, as Bihar chief minister after he had to step down following conviction in the fodder scam."Nowadays, (promoting) his children," Nitish said."Paida toh bahut kar diye...Itna ivada paida karna chahive kisi ko, baal-bachcha? (Produced too many...Should anyone produce so many children)," he asked rhetorically."Now they have involved their daughters, two sons, and everyone. They keep say-



ing something or other everywhere. People forget the old things, hence, I want to tell everyone that no work used to get done. People could not get out, there were no roads or education," the chief minister said.RJD leader Mrityunjay Tiwari hit out at Nitish Kumar saying the chief minister has "lost it completely.""The BJP stopped him from sharing the stage with the prime minister, and this has pained him. Besides, he saw people's anger yesterday during the polling. He can see (BJP-led NDA's) defeat, and that's why he is making personal attacks on Lalu Prasad Yadav," he added.

# 54 trains cancelled on Ambala-Amritsar route following farmers' protest

Congress leader said that his party would win all 20 seats in the upcoming elections in the state. "Last time, we won 19 out of 20 seats, this time we will win all 20. Rahul Gandhi's presence in Kerala is also a fear to CPIM and BJP..." Ramesh Chennithala said.Congress leader Ramesh Chennithala's statements came after Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Saturday said that the Congress-led United Democratic Front MPs stood against the state's interest in Parliament.

Addressing an election rally at Vatakara, Vijayan countered Congress' allegation of an 'understanding' between the Left and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Vijayan questioned, "In 2019, 18 UDF members were elected. We would like to ask whether any one of these members stood for the interest of Kerala? They stood with the RSS agenda. They didn't even care to criticise the union government in the Parliament. Have they uttered a single word for Kerala?""When the Centre was financially strangulating the state, the UDF members refused to meet the union finance minister and did not stand up for the rights of Kerala. They (Congress) wanted to blame the Left government for the faults of the BJP-led union government," he added.Recently, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi lashed out at Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan, saying that the leader was targeting him while he fought against the BJP. "Why is he (Vijayan) not being interrogated by the ED, CBI and all? Two CMs are in jail, but why is none of this happening to the Kerala CM? I have been attacking the BJP 24X7 but the chief minister is attacking me. This is a bit puzzling," Gandhi said

sugar items like sweets, bananas, mangoes, fruit chaat, namkeen, sweet tea, poori-aloo and pickles on a regular basis as he was allowed home food. On charges of indulging in high-sugar food, AAP said sweets that he ate were made of artificial sweetener allowed to diabetic patients and Kejriwal had poori-aloo only on the occasion of Navratri. Delhi minister Atishi refuted the report and said Kejriwal took 50 units of insulin even the day before going to jail.

"Tihar jail's report shows BJP's conspiracy. Any doctor will say that a blood sugar level of 300 is dangerous. Attempt to murder CM Kejriwal in jail is going on at the behest of the BJP. What is the difficulty for the jail administration to administer insulin to CM Kejriwal? He has been taking insulin for the last 12 years," Atishi said.

### 'LS polls not about family... but a battle between PM & Rahul Gandhi': Ajit Pawar



Baramati Lok Sabha con-

stituency in Pune district,

officially launched her cam-

paign by offering prayers at

the Hanuman temple at

Kanheri Ajit Pawar, his

sons Parth and Jay, and

several local party leaders

were present for the cam-

paign launch. Sunetra and

her sister-in-law three-term

member

Sabha

Lok

GNS News Agency, April 23

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Saturday said this Lok Sabha election is not about family relations but a battle between Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.Ajit Pawar's wife Sunetra, the NCP's candidate from the Supriya Sule filed their nomination papers for the NCP and NCP (SP) respectively.

Ajit Pawar has also filed nomination papers for the seat, which an NCP functionary described as a backup plan in case his wife's nomination does not stand scrutiny or if any discrepancy is found.Addressing the gathering, Ajit Pawar said, "We are launching the official campaign after praying to Lord Hanuman. The election is not about family relations. The election is all about Prime Minister Narendra Modi versus h u а Gandhi."Incidentally, Sule

launched her poll cam-

paign on Friday by offering

prayers at the Hanuman temple in the presence of her father, NCP (SP) supremo Sharad Pawar, and other members of the Pawar family."Yesterday, everyone (members of the Pawar family) was sitting next to Pawar saheb.

They attempted to show that the family was united. One of them claimed that Sharad Pawar established all institutions in Baramati. In that case. what have I done in the last 30 years?" Ajit Pawar said. The NCP is a constituent in the Mahayuti alliance, comprising the Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party, and the NCP (SP) is a part of the Maha Vikas Aghadi with the Shiv Sena (UBT) and Congress.

GNS News Agency, April 23

A total of 54 trains were cancelled on the Ambala-Amritsar route on Saturday following farmers' protest on the tracks at the Shambhu railway station in Punjab's Patiala district for the fourth consecutive day. The protesters have been demanding the release of the three farmers arrested by the Haryana Police in connection with the ongoing stir. According to officials, several trains, including the New Delhi-Amritsar, Rishikesh to Sri Ganganagar, and Ludhiana to Ambala Cantt trains, were cancelled amid the stir.

The farmers have been protesting under the Samyukta Kisan Morcha and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha banner in Patiala's Shambhu. Speaking about the protest, farmer leader Sarwan Singh Pandher said it would continue until the three farmers were released.Refusing to extend open support to any political party, prominent farmer leader Rakesh Tikait said he wouldn't even tell anyone whom to vote for when the model code of conduct is in place, but those who know him already know which party or candidate is good for farmers. The farmers have been staying put at the Shambhu and Khanauri borders between Punjab and Haryana since February 13, when the security forces stopped their march. Three farmers, Navdeep Jalbera, Gurkirat Shahpur and Anish



Khatkar, were arrested by security forces amid the stir. Navdeep and Gurkirat were arrested on February 28 near Mohali International Airport, while Anish Khatkar was arrested on March 19 by Haryana Police in a murder bid case registered on February 13 in connection with the farmers' agitation. Farmer leaders claimed that Anish Khatkar had been on hunger strike since his arrest and that his health was deteriorating with each passing day. The SKM and the KMM are spearheading the 'Delhi Chalo' march by farmers urging the government to accept their demands, including a legal guarantee of Minimum Support Price for crops.

### **CJI Chandrachud on enactment of three** new criminal laws: 'India is changing'

#### GNS News Agency, April

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Saturday hailed the enactment of three new criminal laws in the country, saying that it is a "clear indication" of India changing. According to the CJI, the new laws have transitioned India's legal framework on criminal justice into a new age."I think that the enactment of three new criminal laws by the Parliament is a clear indicator that India is changing. India is on a move, and we do need new legal instruments to deal with the current challenges that we envisage for the future of our society...These laws signify a watershed moment for our society because no law affects the day-to-day conduct of our society like the criminal law," CJI Chandrachud said while addressing a conference on 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System' in the national capital.

He added,"India is set for a significant overhaul of its criminal justice system with the upcoming implementation of three new criminal laws."According to Chandrachud, the new laws would be successful if those in charge of implementing them, adapt to them. He further stated that the "much-needed improvements" have been introduced to "protect the interests of victims and carry out investigation and prosecution of offences efficiently". The CJI said that while the new criminal laws

create provisions that are synchronised to our times, it must be ensured that the infrastructure accompanying these procedures are developed adequately for the country to reap the benefits of the new laws."This naturally means that we must heavily invest in capacity building of our forensic experts, conduct training of investigating officers, and invest in our court system. Key provisions of the new criminal law would only produce a positive impact if these investments are made as soon as possible," he said, as quoted The three new criminal laws -Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Saksha Adhiniyam (BSA) - which seek to replace the colonial era Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence act, will come into force from July 1 this year. The Parliament approved the laws on December 21 last year and President Droupadi Murmu gave her assent on December 25. The three laws include changes that deal with offences of terrorism and acts against the state, enable the registration of electronic first information reports (FIR), factor in corruption in election processes, and make electronic evidence a form of primary proof. Several crimes such as lynching have been separately defined, with detailed provisions and enhanced punishment for crimes against women and children



# At joint rally, Akhilesh says 'wind of change from West UP', Rahul Gandhi promises radical reforms



GNS News Agency, April 23

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a blistering attack at the ruling BJP and outlined their vision during a joint rally of the opposition INDIA bloc in Amroha.

Addressing a crowd of supporters, Akhilesh Yadav declared, "The winds of change emerging from western UP will sweep across the nation, ushering in a transformation that will not only reshape Uttar Pradesh but will also sweep the BJP out of power."He lambasted the BJP's track record, asserting that their promises had fallen flat, particularly in improving the lives of farmers and tackling unemployment."Yestersday's first-day first-show of the BJP turned out a flop show. Their film of lies failed."The rally was in support of Congress candidate Danish Ali, the sitting BSP MP who crossed over to the grand old party.

"Tell me did any farmer's income double? Youth are unemployed. Even the BJP's traditional voters are rising against the BJP. They are doing panchayats and making

decisions to vote against the BJP. I salute those people for their political awakening against the BJP," Yadav said, in an apparent reference to the 'Kshatriya discontent' in western Uttar Pradesh. The recent caste Mahapanchayat in Muzzafarnagar expressed its anger over the poor representation of Thakurs in ticket distribution by the ruling BJP. The issue of alleged disrespect to community heroes like Raja Mihir Bhoj was also raised.Doubling down on the opposition's charge that the BJP was seeking a two-thirds majority in Lok Sabha elections to change the Constitution, Yadav affirmed, "We do not want the BJP's guarantee; we want the guarantees enshrined in the Constitution by Dr Ambedkar. And we want to safeguard that Constitution." Echoing Akhilesh Yadav's sentiments, Rahul Gandhi underscored the ideological battle between the INDIA bloc and the BJP-RSS."On one side stands the INDIA bloc, committed to defending democracy and the Constitution, while on the other side, the BJP-RSS duo is engaged in dismantling these foundational principles, Gandhi asserted. Denouncing the BJP's purported agenda to amend the Constitution, Rahul Gandhi said, "There is no force on Earth that can alter the Constitution."He criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies, alleging that his government had favoured a select group of industrialists at the expense of the public."Narendra Modi's policies have perpetuated inequality, with a handful of industrialists reaping the benefits of his regime," Gandhi said. He accused the BJP of facilitating the concentration of wealth in the hands of a privileged few, at the expense of the impoverished masses. Promising radical reforms, Gandhi outlined the INDIA bloc's agenda, which includes farm loan waivers, direct financial assistance to the poor through schemes like the Mahalaxmi Yojna, and the creation of 30 lakh government jobs to address youth unemployment.

# On Elon Musk deferring India trip, Congress says: 'He read writing on the wall'

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said it was odd that Elon Musk was coming all the way to meet an outgoing Prime Minister. "He too has now read the writing on the wall and decided to put off his visit. INDIA's PM will welcome him soon, and the INDIA Government will promote electric vehicles even more aggressively," the Congress leader posted adding that he has an EV.Elon Musk deferred his India trip citing obligations at Tesla and said he would visit India later this year. The trip was looked forward to as Tesla could have announced plans to enter the Indian market.

"Is it true that Elon Musk figured that he'd end up being pulled into BJP Jumla Prachaar and hence he has postponed his trip?" Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi wrote on X.Elon Musk's two-day trip was scheduled to begin on April 21, two days after the marathon election process in India began. During his visit, Musk was supposed to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was expected to announce an investment of \$2 billion to \$3 billion to build a factory in India after India announced a policy lowering high tariffs on imported cars if companies invest locally, Reuters reported.Elon Musk is in the middle of a major firefighting in Tesla. Reuters reported on April 5 that Tesla had halted development of its long-awaited affordable EV, called



the Model 2. Elon Musk denied the report and has not spoken about the model while the investors are pressing him. Rohan Patel, a Tesla public policy executive who was one of those leading the company's India entry plans, also resigned this week.Maharashtra and Gujarat reportedly extended land offers to Tesla for the factory purpose."Unfortunately, very heavy Tesla obligations require that the visit to India be delayed, but I do very much look forward to visiting later this year," Elon Musk announced on X. Musk has also been expecting to enter the Indian market for his satellite internet business Starlink.In June 2023, Musk met Modi during PM Modi's US visit and said that he would come to India in 2024. Musk last visited India in 2007.

# What Donald Trump's first week like in the hush-money trial



#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Donald Trump seeks respite during the whole trial week, from posing in a Harlem bodega to hosting the Polish president.Throughout this week of his trial, Donald Trump's frustration was palpable.

Seated for lengthy periods in a timeworn, burgundy leather chair, the former president was deprived of his usual distractions—no social media to peruse, no crowd of associates for company. Instead, he was subjected to the candid opinions of ordinary New Yorkers and reprimands from the judge.Trump openly expressed his discomfort with the courthouse's chilly conditions and the imposed gag order, addressing the press, "They're taking away my constitutional rights to speak — and that includes speaking to you."Amidst the constraints of the courtroom, the 45th US president sought moments of respite, whether it was striking a pose against a backdrop of potato chip bags in a Harlem bodega, which he admired as "a beautiful place," or hosting the Polish president at Trump Tower.Yet, even during his time off, Trump couldn't resist venting online about the trial, disparaging "Stupid Jimmy Kimmel" and criticizing the jury selection process.Trumps trial costing him the presidential campaignFor the first time in many months, it was Trump, not his presidential rival, President Joe Biden, who appeared disconcerted and restricted, caught in the whirlwind of legal battles and campaign activities.

Trump himself seemed to recognize the trial's detrimental impact on his campaign, as he expressed to the media, "I should be right now in Pennsylvania and Florida — in many other states, North Carolina, Georgia campaigning.""This is all coming from the Biden White House, because the guy can't put two sentences together. He can't campaign," he added. In the same way, Trump's natural tendency to create theatrical impact has always been one of the main reasons why he was in the minds of people, the courtroom didn't neutralize this influence on his fame. The relentless media spotlight guaranteed that every move made by Trump was recorded, effectively dimming the visibility of a candidate who was hoping to make a notable mark on the elections for the week.

# Why exactly Tesla recalled almost four-thousands Cybertrucks

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

The issue was brought to light by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), which reported on Wednesday that the defect could lead to the pedal pad dislodging and becoming trapped in the vehicle's interior trim when "high force is applied."This issue arose from an "unapproved change" during the manufacturing process, where "lubricant (soap)" was introduced, compromising the pedal pad's retention, as stated in the recall notice.Despite this, the truck's brakes remain operational even if the accelerator pedal is ensnared, offering a less-than-ideal temporary solution.

The recall encompasses "all Model Year ('MY') 2024 Cybertruck vehicles manufactured from November 13, 2023, to April 4, 2024," with the defect estimated to be present in all 3,878 vehicles produced during this period. This means Elon Musk's automobile firm is recalling the entirety of Cybertrucks since the vehicle's debut last year. The recall became apparent when Cybertruck customers received notifications of delivery delays earlier in the week.

How did Tesla find out their technical fault?

At least one owner reported that their dealership had informed them of a recall due to the accelerator pedal issue. The problem gained further eys when a Cybertruck owner posted a video on TikTok, ushering in how the fault "held the accelerator down 100 percent, full throttle. As documented in the NHTSA filing, Tesla's timeline indicates that the company first became aware of the defective accelerator pedals on March 31st, with a subsequent report on April 3rd. Following internal assess-



ments to determine the cause, Tesla voluntarily initiated the recall on April 12th.As of the beginning of this week, Tesla has not reported any "collisions, injuries, or deaths" resulting from the pedal fault.Tesla also has committed to informing its stores and service centres about the issue "on or around" April 19th.

The manufacturer is committed to the total refunding of the affected part or its replacement for free for all the Cybertruck owners. Plus, any trucks not built with the revised accelerator pedal component and part number starting in from April 17th will be included in the recall immediately. This has become the second event that embarrassed the Cybertruck, the same car that had another recall tainted with only the US Tesla vehicles in February. The previous recall took place because the flight control panel texts' font size was insufficiently large and saw safety regulation not being complied with. This was solved through a software update.

### **Deadpool & Wolverine popcorn bucket is better**

# **'Paida bahut kar diye': Nitish Kumar's attack** on Lalu Prasad over 'too many children'

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Bihar chief minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday trained guns at Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav over dynastic politics saying the former CM has only been promoting his family members.Addressing a rally in Katihar, the JD(U) leader said that Lalu Prasad appointed his wife as Bihar chief minister after he had to step down."Nowadays, (promoting) his children," Nitish said."Paida toh bahut kar diye...Itna jyada paida karna chahiye kisi ko, baal-bachcha? (Produced too many...Should anyone produce so many children)," he asked rhetorically.

"Now they have involved their daughters, two sons, and everyone. They keep saying something or other everywhere. People forget the old things, hence, I want to tell everyone that no work used to get done. People could not get out, there were no roads or education," the chief minister said. When asked to comment on Nitish's remark, Tejashwi Yadav affirmed that making personal comments won't help the people of Bihar.

"With folded hands, I want to tell the chief minister that you are senior to us, and we respect you and will continue to do that. You can say whatever you want, that is your right," Tejashwi Yadav said."Whatever he would say, that is going to be a blessing for us. However, making personal comments won't help the people of Bihar. He shouldn't make such remarks. But whatever he says, I will take it as a blessing," he added.Lalu Prasad's two daughters - Misa Bharti and Rohini Acharya - are in the fray for the parliamentary elections. RJD has fielded Misa Bharti from Pataliputra and Rohini Acharya from Saran Lok Sabha seat. Lalu Prasad's younger son, Tejashwi Yadav, was the deputy chief minister in the previous Nitish-led government and the older Tej Pratap Yadav held the environment portfolio. Tejashwi Yadav has emerged as the main challenger of Nitish Kumar, who has been in power in Bihar for almost 19 years. A day before, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge addressed back-to-back election rallies in Kishanganj and Katihar Lok Sabha constituencies in Bihar, where he came down heavily on Nitish Kumar, alleging that the Bihar chief minister had "no principles" and, hence, was "more dangerous" than even the BJP."Our ally Tejashwi Yadav (RJD leader) has many times lamented the betrayal of his chacha (uncle). I say it is good riddance. People like Nitish Kumar are more dangerous than the BJP and RSS, which at least have a known ideology, however flawed. Nitish Kumar has no principles. He cares only for power".Janata Dal (United) is contesting the Lok Sabha elections as part of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) after Nitish Kumar dumped the opposition



INDIA bloc that he had helped form a few months ago.

### Dubai International Airport resumes some operations, but no operations for connecting flights

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Dubai: Air traffic at Dubai International (DXB) has begun to resume after an unprecedented storm hit the country last Tuesday. However, only the flights reaching Dubai as the final destination are allowed, while the onward connecting flights still remain suspended. Every day hundreds of Telugu NRIs and their families travel to North America and Europe and other parts of the world through Dubai Airport.

The Dubai International Airport urged travellers not to come to the terminal for outbound flights before confirming their flight status, as it said the access to the terminal was "strictly limited" to guests with confirmed departures. Dubai Airports on Friday extended the temporary limiting of inbound flights to Dubai International (DXB) airport due to operational challenges in the aftermath of torrential rains.

"Dubai Airports is endeavouring to do its best to support passengers at Dubai International impacted by travel delays due to the recent unprecedented weather conditions the UAE experienced. However, due to the ongoing disruption, and to assist the effectiveness of recovery, DXB is temporarily limiting the number of inbound flights from 12 pm on April 19 for 48 hours. Departures will continue to operate," said the statement on Friday afternoon.

### than ever, fans say it's even better than Dune 2's

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Marvel fans are eagerly awaiting the release of "Deadpool & Wolverine." The upcoming movie is set to hit theatres on July 26th.

Kevin Feige, president of Marvel, confirmed that Deadpool 3 will continue with its R-rated content, despite initial concerns after Disney's acquisition of 20th Century Fox. Fiege's update reassures fans that the content will maintain its crudeness.Collectable popcorn buckets have been around for a while. Dune: Part Two started the upsurge of collectable arms when it went viral with its container. Even the new Garfield movie is teasing its own collectible buckets for pop corn.

Deadpool star Ryan Reynolds had previously hinted at this, posting "Wait until you see the Deadpool popcorn bucket in a tweet."We've asked Deadpool to design a popcorn bucket for Deadpool and Wolverine," Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige said at CinemaCon."There are some movies that inadvertently make crude and rude popcorn buckets, and then there are popcorn buckets designed by Deadpool.""Realistically, the popcorn bucket is going to be a Deadpool head similar to the Spider-Verse ones from last year. Those sold well. Those and cups with the little figures would sell best," said a user on Reddit.

What do netizens have to say?

"I'm exactly the sucker who will buy all of these available at my local theater. Can't wait," commented another



user on Reddit."This movie is going to make sooo much money," is what one user had to say about the upcoming film and its merchandise.While details about "Deadpool & Wolverine" remain limited, the marketing campaign is gearing up for its summer release.

With merchandise already rolling out, including the infamous popcorn buckets, fans are eager to see how Deadpool will fit into the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU).Speculation runs rampant about potential crossover appearances from characters like Storm, Professor X, Magneto, and Elektra. Online discussions are ablaze with rumors surrounding the cast list, with names like Halle Berry, Patrick Stewart, Ian McKellen, Jennifer Garner, and Famke Janssen being tossed around.

# Bengal governor urges EC to act against electoral officer for 'leaking' list of goons to political leaders

### GNS News Agency, April 23

The Raj Bhavan here moved the Election Commission of India, urging it to identify and take strong action against officials in the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal who may have "leaked names of gangsters and goons" to political parties, sources saidln the wake of the ongoing general elections, the office of Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose had, using its own mechanism, compiled a list of suspected criminals across the state who could be used by political parties to intimidate voters on or before poll dates besides creating other law and order situations. In the second week of March, the Raj Bhavan had shared a list of such goons and antisocial elements with top officials of the CEO's office, West Bengal, through the state Director General of Police for appropriate pre-emptive action, an official said."A few senior officials of the CEO office, West Bengal may have leaked the list of the suspected criminals, provided by the

Raj Bhavan, to top political leaders of the state," the source told PTI and suggested that, in doing so, may have thwarted the governor's attempts to reign in criminal activities during the polls. The Raj Bhavan move comes in the wake of sustained face-offs between the governor's office and the state administration over political and administrative matters in Bengal. The move by Bose was also made within 48 hours of the Trinamool Congress complaining about him with the CEO for "repeatedly illegally interfering with the ensuing Lok Sabha Elections, 2024" after he reportedly made initial plans to visit poll areas during the silent period and the first phase on polls in north Bengal, an idea which the Governor later scrapped. The names of anti-social elements were gathered based on complaints received from people over the phone at the 'Peace Room' established by Governor Bose inside the Raj Bhavan premises and also from grassroots feedback he received during his field visits,









### Govt kicks off consultations with Why bilinguals may have a memory advantage – new research domestic industry, Tesla reps, to evolve guidelines for new EV policy



Tesla, Tesla Motors, EV policy, electric vehicles, Electric Vehicle policy, Indian express business, business news, business articles, business news storiesThe current market size of the automotive sector is Rs 12.5 lakh crore and the sector is expected to cross Rs 24.9 lakh crore by 2030. The automotive sector contributes over 7.1 per cent to the country's GDP.Ahead of Tesla CEO Elon Musk's visit to India, the Centre on Thursday held the first consultation meeting with the automobile industry players, including Tesla representatives, to evolve guidelines to operationalise the new electric vehicles (EV) policy released last month, industry and official sources aware of the development

The participants in the meeting, the first of the more such deliberations, included officials from Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) and the Finance Ministry, along with car manufacturers such as Tata Motors, Maruti Suzuki, Mahindra & Mahindra, Volkswagen, Mercedes and Toyota, as well as Tesla representatives."The EV policy was launched last month but the draft guidelines are yet to be released. The consultation with the automobile industry was to prepare the guidelines for the policy. This was the first such meeting and more are scheduled to take place to prepare the guidelines," an industry executive who attended the meeting said. The guidelines are expected to provide more clarity on investments in EV manufacturing in the country, which is at a nascent stage and is expected to grow into a major category within the automobile sector in the coming years. Tesla's participation comes after India eased duty for a limited number of EV imports for manufacturers setting up facilities in India with a minimum investment of Rs 4,150 crore under the new EV policy. The Texas-based Tesla, Inc., had been seeking tariff concessions as a precondition for building a manufacturing plant in India.

Musk is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 22 and is also scheduled to interact with a number of Indian startups from several sectors. The new EV policy released last month makes way for import of completely built-up (CBU) cars at a 15 per cent import duty. In 2021, Tesla had written to nodal central ministries seeking a reduction in import duties on fully assembled cars and had asked for duties to be cut to 40-15 per cent depending on the price of the car. The new policy effectively fulfills that demand."Under this scheme, EV passenger cars (e-4W) can initially be imported with a minimum CIF value of \$35,000, at a duty rate of 15 per cent for a period of 5 years from the date of issuance of approval letter by Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI)," the new EV policy said. However, the maximum number of e-4W allowed to be imported at the reduced duty rate has been capped at 8,000 per year. The carryover of unutilised annual import limits would be permitted, the policy read.India is currently the world's third largest automobile market and one of the fastest growing automotive markets in the world. The current market size of the automotive sector is Rs 12.5 lakh crore and the sector is expected to cross Rs 24.9 lakh crore by 2030. The automotive sector contributes over 7.1 per cent to the country's GDP.

### **Intel announces Santhosh** Viswanathan as India region head

Computer chip maker Intel on Friday announced Santhosh Viswanathan will head the India region business as its Managing Director (MD). Viswanathan has been with Intel for about 21 years."In March this year, Intel announced India as a separate region within its SMG (Sales, Marketing and Communications Group) organisation, to capitalise on the country's rapid growth and business opportunities. Santhosh Viswanathan, VP and MD-India region will lead the newly formed region, leveraging his expertise to drive value and customercentricity," Intel said.

Viswanathan took charge as Vice President and Managing Director for the Indian market in July 2022. Now Intel has carved out India as a separate region. The company also announced the appointment of Hans Chuang as General Manager (GM) of SMG Asia Pacific and Japan (APJ). Based out of Taiwan, Hans will be responsible for Intel's overall business in the APJ region,



including driving revenue growth, engaging with the local ecosystem to create new opportunities, and strengthening existing customer and partner relationships, Intel

# **Consumer protection regulator asks FSSAI** to probe claim against Nestle



Think about being in a conversation with your best friend or partner. How often do you finish each other's words and sentences? How do you know what they are going to say before they have said it? We like to think it is romantic intuition, but it's just down to how the human brain works. In any communication, we generate myriad predictions regarding what we are about to hear. It's just like when we play the game hangman, where we try to predict the target word based on a few letters.

To begin with - when we only have one or two letters to go on - the pool of potential candidate words is massive. The more letters we guess correctly, the more the pool of candidate words narrows down, until our brain clicks, and we find the right word. In natural communication, we rarely wait to hear the entire word before we begin to plan what to say back. As soon as we hear the first sounds of a word, our brain uses this information, and together with other clues - such as frequency, context and experience - fills in the blanks, cutting down from a vast list of potential candidate words to predict the target word.

But what if you are a bilingual with languages that have similar sounding words? Well, then, the list of candidate words is much larger. This may sound negative making it more difficult to predict words. But a new study, published in Science Advances, has revealed that this may actually give bilinguals an advantage when it comes to memory.

The languages of a bilingual are interconnected. The same neural apparatus that processes our first language also processes our second language. So, it is easy to see why, upon hearing the first sounds of a word, potential candidate words are activated, not only from one language, but from the other one as well.For instance, upon hearing the sounds "k" and "l", a Spanish-English bilingual will automatically activate both the words "clock" and "clavo" (nail in Spanish). This means the bilingual has a tougher cutting down job to do in order to settle on the correct word, simply because there is more to cut down to get to the target. It is not surprising then that bilinguals usually take more time to retrieve or recognise words psychological and in linguistic experiments. Consistently having to access competing words from a large pool of candidates may have longterm cognitive consequences. In the new study, Spanish-

### English bilinguals and English monolinguals heard a word and had to find the correct item among an array of object images, while their eye movements were recorded.

The other objects in the array were manipulated so that they resembled the corresponding word sound of the target item. For instance, when the target word was "beaker", there were images of objects such as a beetle (whose sounds overlap with beaker) or a speaker (that rhymes with beaker). Participants looked longer at those images than at ones with no overlap (such as carriage). Increased looking time reflected the fact that observers activated a larger pool of competing labels, which happens when words sound similar. Not surprisingly, bilinguals looked longer at images that overlapped both within and across their languages - meaning they looked longer at more objects than monolinguals.

The study examined whether this kind of cross-language competition leads to better ability in remembering objects. This is because the more objects you look at, the more likely you are to remember them later on.Participants were required to identify the correct object image after hearing a prompt word. They were then tested on their recognition memory of objects they had previously seen. Participants had to click on a box labelled "old" if they recognised the item and, on a box, labelled "new" if they did not. The findings showed that recognition memory for objects with many competitors (such as beaker, beetle, speaker) was enhanced relative to items with low competitors (such as carriage) in both monolinguals and bilinguals. In addition, bilinguals showed the effect for cross-language competitors as well (for example clock, clavo) - giving an overall memory advantage.

Interestingly, second language proficiency played a crucial role. The memory advantage was most profound in bilinguals with high second language proficiency than in bilinguals with low second language proficiency and monolinguals. Clearly, to play bilingual hangman efficiently, you need to develop high proficiency in the second language, so that its words become competitors alongside those of the first language. The eye tracking data confirmed that items with more competitors were looked at the longest, which led to the memory advantage for those items later on. These findings show that the bilingual cognitive system is highly interactive and can impact other cognitive components such as recognition memory. Other studies also show enhanced memory processing in bilinguals relative to monolinguals in categorisation tasks that require suppressing distracting information. This could certainly indicate that bilinguals are more efficient at multi-tasking and more able to focus on the task at hand, especially when the task requires ignoring irrelevant information (think trying to work in a noisy cafe). The picture that emerges is one where bilingualism is a cognitive tool that enhances basic cognitive functions, such as memory and categorisation. Bilingual hangman is a tougher game, but one that, ultimately, pays

# Myth or fact: Does constant chewing impact dental health?

In the quest for maintaining optimal dental health, we often encounter various claims and advice - some of which can be contradictory or misleading. One such notion is the idea that constant chewing, especially on gum or other edibles, can degrade dental health. But is this a myth or a fact? Let's delve into the science behind it.Many people believe that consistent chewing can wear down the enamel, promote cavities, and lead to jaw-related isseems reasonable – conti



Consumer protection regulator CCPA has asked Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSAI) to look into the claim of a Swiss NGO, Public Eye and International Baby Food Action Network, that Nestle was selling baby products with higher sugar content in less developed countries like India."We have written to the FSSAI to take cognizance of the report on Nestle's baby product," Consumer Affairs Secretary and the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) chief Nidhi Khare told PTI.

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has also taken note of the report and issued a notice to the FSSAI.According to findings by the Swiss NGO, Public Eye and International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN), Nestle sold baby products with higher sugar content in less developed South Asian countries including India, Africa and Latin American nations as compared to markets in Europe.Meanwhile on Thursday, Nestle India had said it never compromises on compliance and it has reduced added sugar in baby food products in India by up to 30 per cent depending on variants over the past five years."Reduction of added sugars is a priority for Nestle India. Over the past 5 years, we have already reduced added sugars up to 30 per cent, depending on the variant, " the company spokesperson had said.

Stressing that compliance is an essential characteristic of Nestle India, the spokesperson said, "We will never compromise on that. We also ensure that our products



manufactured in India are in full and strict compliance with CODEX standards (a commission established by WHO and FAO) and local specifications (as required) pertaining to the requirements of all nutrients including added sugars." According to the report, Nestle's wheatbased product, Cerelac for six-month-old babies is sold without any added sugars in the UK and Germany but 15 Cerelac products analysed from India contained 2.7 grams of added sugar per serving on average. The sugar content was declared on the packaging in India, the report said. The highest sugar content in the product was 6 grams in Thailand. In the Philippines, sugar content was found to be 7.3 grams in five out of eight samples tested and the information was not even declared on the packaging, according to the report.

# **Oil slips after Iran plays down** reported Israeli attack

Brent crude oillran is the third largest oil producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), according to Reuters data.Oil slipped on Friday following an earlier price spike of more than \$3 after Iran played down reported Israeli attacks on its soil, in a sign that an escalation of hostilities in the Middle East might be avoided.Brent futures were down 72 cents, or 0.83%, at \$86.39 a barrel by 1314 GMT.The front month U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude contract for for May fell 66 cents, or 0.8%, at \$82.07 at 1314 GMT. The more active June contract was down 68 cents, or 0.83%, to \$81.42. Explosions were heard in the Iranian city of Isfahan on Friday in what sources described as an Israeli attack, but Tehran played down the incident and said it did not plan to retaliate.

"Whilst the initial spike in oil may have highlighted the initial fear of further escalation, we have seen both equities and crude reverse some of those preliminary

moves," said Joshua Mahony, chief market analyst at Scope Markets. Investors had been closely monitoring Israel's reaction to Iranian drone attacks on April 13 that were in turn a response to a presumed Israeli air strike on April 1 that destroyed a building in Iran's embassy compound in Damascus.Meanwhile, U.S. lawmakers have added sanctions on Iran's oil exports to a pending Ukraine aid package that targets ships, ports or refineries that process Iranian crude and transactions from Chinese financial institutions involving purchases of petroleum from Iran.Iran is the third largest oil producer in the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), according to Reuters data. As oil's risk premium has gradually unwound, prices have fallen around 4% since Monday and are set for their biggest weekly loss since early February.Investors, however, are not ruling out Middle Eastern tensions will disrupt supply."The oil market is nonetheless concerned as there is too much oil supply at stake.

exposes teeth to increased friction and contact with food particles, potentially causing harm over time. While there is some truth to the concerns, the overall impact of constant chewing on dental health is more nuanced than a straightforward myth, explained Dr Nirali Patel, a dental surgeon and oral implantologist."Chewing itself is a natural and essential function that helps break down food, initiate digestion, and stimulate saliva production - a crucial factor in maintaining healthy teeth and gums." Dr Patel told indianexpress.com.Continuous chewing can strain the muscles and joints in your jaw, potentially leading

to discomfort or temporomandibular joint (TMJ) issues, said Dr Karishma Jaradi, head dental surgeon -Dentzz Dental. "TMJ disorders can cause jaw pain, headaches, and difficulty in opening and closing the mouth. Often to relieve stress, people have a habit to chew, especially on hard objects like ice, pens, or hard candies, which can lead to excessive tooth wear. The enamel on the teeth becomes thinner, which may increase the risk of cavities and tooth sensitivity," said Dr Jaradi.

For individuals with braces or other orthodontic appliances, constant chewing on hard or stickyfoods can damage the brackets and wires, prolonging treatment time and potentially causingdiscomfort, noted Dr Jaradi.Chewing on sugary or acidic substances for prolonged periods, like candies or citrus fruits, canincrease the risk of tooth decay. "Additionally, constantly chewing on high-calorie foods couldcontribute to weight gain and other issues. If you have dental restorations like fillings, crowns, orbridges, excessive chewing on hard foods can potentially damage or dislodge the restorations," said Dr Jaradi. The key lies in moderation and the type of substance being chewed. "Chewing gum that contains sugar can indeed contribute to dental problems. The sugar provides a feast for harmful bacteria in the mouth, leading to acid production and an increased risk of cavities. On the other hand, sugar-free gum can have some benefits. Chewing sugar-free gum can help dislodge food particles, increase saliva flow, and aid in neutralising acids," mentioned Dr Patel.dental health, foods, Here's how to have maintain good dental hygiene with what you eat. (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

What to do for dental well-being?

To strike the right balance, consider the following tips from Dr Patel:

Choose wisely: Opt for sugar-free gum or dentalapproved chewing aids that promote saliva production without the negative effects of sugar. Moderation is key: While chewing can have benefits, excessive chewing can strain jaw muscles and potentially lead to temporomandibular joint (TMJ) issues. "Enjoy chewing in moderation," said Dr Patel.Maintain oral hygiene: Regardless of chewing habits, regular brushing, flossing, and dental check-ups remain crucial for overall dental health.Diet matters: A balanced diet plays a significant role in dental health. Limit sugary snacks and beverages to reduce the risk of cavities, said Dr Patel.Concluding, Dr Patel said that the notion that constant chewing always degrades

dental health is more of a myth than an absolute fact "The key lies in making informed choices and practising moderation. Stay informed, and consult your dentist for personalised advice," said Dr Patel, adding that good oral hygiene practices are also recommended.

# Are you messing with your body clock?

Ontario [Canada]: Researchers are employing mathematical models to better understand the effects of interruptions to the body's circadian rhythms such as daylight savings time, working night shifts, jet lag, or even latenight phone scrolling. The University of Waterloo and the University of Oxford researchers have created a novel model to aid scientists in better understanding the robustness of the brain's master clock: the cluster of neurons in the brain that coordinates the body's other internal rhythms. They also want to offer approaches to help individuals with weak or damaged circadian rhythms increase their resilience.Sustained disruptions to circadian rhvthm have been linked to diabetes, memory loss, and many other disorders."Current society is experiencing a rapid increase in demand for work outside of traditional daylight hours,". said Staphanie Abo, a PhD student in applied mathematics and the study's lead author, adding, "This greatly disrupts how we are exposed to light, as well as other habits such as eating and sleeping patterns."•Humans' circadian rhythms, or internal clocks, are the roughly 24-hour cycles many body systems follow, usually alternating between wakefulness and rest. Scientists are still working to understand the cluster of neurons known as the Suprachiasmatic Nucleus (SCN) or master clock. Using mathematical modelling techniques and differential equations, the team of applied mathematics researchers modelled the SCN as a macroscopic, or big-picture, system comprised of a seemingly infinite number of neurons. They were especially interested in understanding the system's couplings "the connections between neurons in the SCN that allow it to achieve a shared rhythm."Frequent and sustained disturbances to the body's circadian rhythms eliminated the shared rhythm, implying a weakening of the signals transmitted between SCN neurons. Abo said they were surprised to find that "a small enough disruption can actually make the connections between neurons stronger." • "Mathematical models allow you to manipulate body systems with specificity that cannot be easily or ethically achieved in the body or a petri dish,". Abo said, adding, "This allows us to do research and develop good hypotheses at a lower cost.

# Sukhwinder Singh denies Ram Gopal Varma's claims that he composed Jai Ho, not AR Rahman: 'Unhe kuch galat pata chala hoga'



Whose song is it anyway? Days after filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma dropped a revelation that the Oscar winning track "Jai Ho" was composed by Sukhwinder Singh and not AR Rahman, the singer has rubbished the claims, saying that the global chartbuster was entirely the Academy Award winner's brainchild.

"Jai Ho" from Danny Boyle's 2008 drama Slumdog Millionaire became a global sensation after it bagged the Best Original song honour at the Academy Award. The Gulzar-penned track was sung by Sukhwinder. While it was already known that "Jai Ho" was originally composed for filmmaker Subash Ghai's Salman Khan-Katrina Kaif led drama Yuvvraaj, RGV, in an interview with Film Companion, said that it was Sukhwinder who came up with the music of the track.

Now, the singer has clarified that it was indeed Rahman, who composed the song and he was only the singer. In an interview with Hindustan Times, Sukhwinder said, "I have only sung it. Ram Gopal Varma ji koi chhoti hasti toh nahi hain, shayad unhe kuchh galat pata chala hoga. (Ram Gopal Varma is not a novice. He must have misunderstood something.)"The singer recalled how Gulzar had written the song, which Rahman liked and then composed it in Sukhwinder's studio in Juhu, Mumbai. Rahman also made Subhash Ghai listen to it, but until then Sukhwinder's vocals had not been recorded.Sukhwinder said though the filmmaker liked the song, he didn't see it fitting Yuvvraaj and requested Rahman if he could come up with a new track. "He said the character for whom he wanted a song had become naughty in the story, this song wasn't fitting. He wanted a more masaledaar song. He told Rahman, but he insisted that this was nice. I too said 'thode changes kar do' (please make some changes), but Subhash ji said poora gaana hi alag chahiye. (I want a whole new song).

"Then he left, Rahman left. I was sad. I requested Gulzar sahab to stay back for 10-15 minutes. He asked why, to which I replied he has written it so well, let me try singing. Naachte kudte maine gaa diya. (I just sang it casually.) It was the same "Jai Ho" you listen to today. I sent it across to Rahman sahab, who in turn made it listen to Danny Boyle, director of Slumdog Millionaire. Rahman also kept his promise and gave another song to Subhash ji for Yuvvraaj," he added Earlier, RGV had claimed that when Ghai had landed in Sukhwinder's studio to listen to the song, he was shocked to find that Rahman hadn't composed it. He recalled, "Subhash Ghai blew up the thing, he told Rahman, 'I am paying you crores of rupees as my music director and you are making Sukhwinder make a tune for me. You have the guts to say that in front of me? If I want Sukhwinder, I'll sign him, who are you to take my money and make Sukhwinder do the music for me?" Ram Gopal Varma said that Rahman's response to Ghai was remarkable and one that he considers "the greatest" he has heard in his life. "Rahman said, 'Sir, you are paying for my name, not my music. If I am endorsing it, it becomes mine. Now you happen to be here, how do you know where I took Taal music from? How do you know whichever music... My driver could have done it, maybe someone else, whatever else," he recalled

# Imran Khan says he was 'barely capable of functioning' when he was 'tackling deep and severe depression': 'Did my best to disappear'

Actor Imran Khan, who has been away from the limelight since 2015's Katti Batti, has been engaging with his fans on social media for the last few months. Unlike many actors who fade away from public consciousness, Imran has been getting a warm reception from his fans, and this has started a conversation about a possible comeback in the movies. In a recent interview, Imran opened up about how a "mental health scare" made him reevaluate his life, and convinced him that stepping away from films would be the best thing to do.

In a chat with Film Companion, Imran said that he had a "mental health scare" that made him realise that he isn't "healthy, strong, capable." Imran said that it was around 2016-2017 that he "started to make (his mental health his) priority." Imran said that he realised that "being an actor is optional, these things are not optional" as he started prioritising his wellbeing.When asked where he'd disappeared for all these years, Imran said that he "removed" himself from the trappings of the film industry because he was "not able to engage with any part of it. He added that it was not that difficult to walk away from the glamorous and seductive life of the movies because he wasn't enamoured by it in the first place."The week before Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na released, nobody could have given a damn if I walked on the street; the week after it released, suddenly there are people chasing my car," he said and added, "A film doesn't do well, the same industry people who were chomping at the bit to show up and pat me on the back suddenly are like, 'You are out of season, you are the wrong kind of flavour'."



Imran opened up about this phase in his life, and said that when he stepped away, he missed the movies but he was primarily spending his time nursing himself back to health. "In those years, I was just not capable of doing these things. I was barely capable of functioning. When you are tackling deep and severe depression, just getting up in the morning and brushing our teeth and taking a shower is a monumental task," he said, and mentioned that making it to his regular therapy appointments was a task in itself.Imran said that he has never tried to cling on to the fame he had, in fact, he tried his best to disappear. "I did my best to disappear. I did not engage via those threads. You know how desperately people cling on to the spotlight, I didn't. I did exactly the opposite of what you are supposed to do to stay relevant. Yet here we are, and here I am," he said.

Ram Gopal Varma says filmmakers are paying more for VFX hoping to get a better product, compares Hanuman and Adipurush's budget and quality



adipurush vs hanuman budgetRam Gopal Varma said that Adipurush had an astronomical budget but could not achieve the same results as Hanuman, which was made in much lesser budget.Ram Gopal Varma, who has made films like Company, Satya, Rangeela, among many others, recently said movies with big budgets that require a significant amount of visual effects work, are sometimes just selecting their visual effects artists on the basis of their remuneration, and in this case, they look for the company that quotes the highest price. He said that since the filmmakers don't know what goes into doing VFX, they just assume that the company charging more money will do a better job.

RGV said that a "famous director" shared with him that he had to choose a VFX company to do a particular sequence of his film and had a choice between a company that was charging Rs 25 crore and another that was charging Rs 35 crore. "The director told me 'sir, I don't know who can make it better. Both are big companies. I don't know how VFX process is done, I am not an expert technician on that but after thinking, we decided to go with the Rs 35 crore company only because we had the money. We thought the more they ask, the better they wil do'," he shared with Film Companion.

Citing the example of Adipurush and Hanuman, RGV said that while Adipurush was made on an astronomical budget, the budget of Hanuman was much lesser but the results of both these films was quite evident. Adipurush was criticised for its poor VFX scenes and Hanuman was praised for achieving high quality work despite limited budget. "Now Adipurush is done by a foreign company and god knows how many hundreds of crores and this guy, Prashanth Varma (Hanuman director) got it done in Karimnagar town or wherever they made it," he said.RGV further said that he had a suspicion that Hanuman was made in lesser money than what was claimed. Prashanth had previously said that he made the film in Rs 40 crore. "I have a suspicion that Prashanth Varma made the film in even lesser cost, much lesser cost because these days you are scared to say lesser cost because they might say cheap film, koi aayega nahi (no one will come). But in comparison, no matter how much he says, compared to Adipurush, it is a super cheap film, and we know the results at the end of the day," RGV said.

# Kareena Kapoor can't stop laughing as she's asked about proper pronunciation of sister Karisma's name: 'Just call her Lolo'

Karisma Kapoor's fans were shocked when they recently learnt that they had been mispronouncing her name all these years. During the promotions of her film Murder Mubarak, Karisma revealed that her name's correct pronunciation is 'Ka-rizz-ma' as opposed to 'Ka-rishma'. While fans were still coming to terms with this information, her sister, actor Kareena Kapoor confused everyone all over again by calling her 'Ka-rish-ma'. She



# Rajat Kapoor says OTT platforms being 'saviours' is a 'lie', calls them out for deciding what people should watch: 'They've not been kind'



Rajat Kapoor, who has helmed several acclaimed independent films in his career of over 30 years, including the fan-favourite Ankhon Dekhi, was asked about the current trend of the industry and if makers are only looking for masala content featuring big stars.

Are streaming platforms still the saviours of cinema as they were made out to be when they entered the scene? Rajat Kapoor doesn't think so. The actor has slammed OTT platforms for doing exactly what "studios and producers" were doing in the industry: siding with stars and concentrating on making money.Rajat Kapoor, who has helmed several acclaimed independent films in his career of over 30 years, including the fan-favourite Ankhon Dekhi, was asked about the current trend of the industry and if makers are only looking for masala content featuring big stars.

In an interview with ETimes, Rajat Kapoor said the producers still have "some guts" but the bigger problem is distribution of films which may not be headlined by stars. In this context, Rajat said the OTT platforms have not been "very kind." He said that the platforms only take "certain kinds" of films and are doing the same thing which was being done by studios and producers earlier, which is making content with stars that has the potential to make big money. "The OTT platforms are deciding what kind of cinema we must watch," he said.

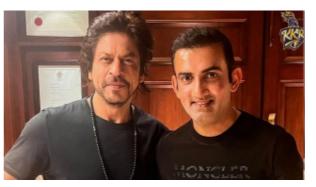
The actor-filmmaker said it is a "myth" that cinema has "moved to a better place" after the arrival of streaming platforms in the country. Rajat said maybe in the initial years OTT was helpful, "but not anymore."Rajat said that the platforms have chosen the side they want to be on, and unsurprisingly, "the side is always that of money." He added, "Who can blame them? And it's always been presented that OTTs have come across as a big thing for the industry and saviors, but it is a lie," he added.

Rajat Kapoor made his feature directorial debut in 2003 with the National award winning Raghu Romeo, which he followed by films like Mixed Doubles, Mithya, Kadakh, RK/RKay. He is currently seen on the Disney Plus Hotstar series Lootere. The show is directed by Jai Mehta, with his filmmaker father Hansal Mehta serving as the showrunner. was asked about the confusion in a new interview.

In a chat with BBC Asian Network, Kareena said with a laugh, "I go with the flow. I go with whatever the interviewer asks me. I am like... yeah whatever. You love her, call her what you want. I think she's also like... whatever... easy about it."Kareena then shared what she presumes must be the reason for this confusion. "A lot of people didn't know, and they couldn't pronounce because... What is Karisma versus Karishma? Karishma is like a miracle. I think she's also like whatever you want to call me, but obviously, her name does not have an 'H' in it and it is just Karisma on her passport," she said. Putting an end to all the confusion, Kareena said that the safest thig would be to call Lolo.

"I think we can just call her Lolo, that's so much easier right?" she said. and added that this was "less controversial." She concluded, "She's so chill. It's about the love and emotion but obviously if you say what her name is in the passport, it is Karisma."In a chat with Netflix India, Karisma left her Murder Mubarak cast members in shock when she told them the correct pronunciation of her name. However, she added that she doesn't really correct people's pronunciation when they address her. Later, when Kareena was promoting her film Crew on BeerBiceps' podcast, she spoke about her sister and addressed her as 'k-rish-ma'.

# Gautam Gambhir says Shah Rukh Khan 'never questioned' his decisions at KKR, motivated him during his bad patch: 'You won't drop yourself'



Cricketer Gautam Gambhir calls Shah Rukh Khan a "great achiever", who is also a wonderful lister. The cricketer, who is currently the mentor for Shah Rukh Khan's Kolkata Knight Riders, recalled how the superstar was supportive during his worst phase in the IPL when he just couldn't score runs.

During his earlier stint with the Kolkata Knight Riders, Gambhir was the captain of the team. In a recent video posted by the official YouTube channel of KKR, Gautam Gambhir along with cricketer Manish Pandey were in conversation with Cyrus Broacha, who asked the former about SRK.

"It wasn't a patch, I couldn't even score a run! He is the best owner I have worked with. And the reason is not because I am now, or was earlier, part of KKR. I don't

think that in seven years of my captaincy, we've had a cricketing conversation for seven minutes, except for that patch which I was going through. At that time also, we had this conversation because I was actually on the verge of dropping myself," he revealed.

Gambhir said when the superstar got to know about this, he showed incredible support to the cricketer, encouraging him stay on and continue being part of the playing 11. The faith that Khan showed in him, Gambhir said, made him re-focus on the game with new energy, and as things rolled, he overcame this patch successfully.

"The only thing he told me was that, till you are hereand you will be here till you want to be here-you won't be dropping yourself. I thought as a leader, first and foremost I should have the courage to be a part of the playing 11, I should deserve to be a part of the playing 11. I told him that, and that's the only conversation I have had in seven years with him when it came to cricket. He told me you will not drop yourself, whatever happens, you will play all the games. And then things turned around.

"So, imagine someone as an owner, who himself has been such a big, great achiever not even talking about cricket, asking you about a single thing about your decision making... He trusted your decision making. I am not saying I have made all the right decisions in those seven years, but he never questioned because that's the relationship, the trust he had in me," he added.

# **Robin Uthappa on the Hardik Pandya captaincy saga** at MI: 'Captaincy was taken from Ricky Ponting and given to Rohit Sharma at same franchise'



Mumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya interacting with Rohit Sharma during IPL Cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans at Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad on Sunday Express photo by Nirmal HarindranMumbai Indians captain Hardik Pandya interacting with Rohit Sharma during IPL Cricket match between Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans at Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad

The frying pan of the ongoing Indian Premier League season has been the captaincy shift at Mumbai Indians from Rohit Sharma to Hardik Pandya. Former MI and India batter Robin Uthappa believes the entire wave of criticism that Pandya and the franchise's management have received could have been avoided had the fivetime IPL winning captain got a fitting farewell.Speaking on The Ranveer Show, Uthappa dissected the matter from different perspectives. First, that of the former MI skipper. "Rohit's perception is that he won five titles for Mumbai Indians. Brought the team out of oblivion after first four-five years, and then discovered incredible cricketers with the help of the management and continues to do so, and became arguably one of the best captains of the league. One thing that was remiss in this whole situation....let's say if Rohit wasn't agreeing with this whole situation but if they had given him a nice send off...the dignity of a nice send off for someone who has achieved so much for your franchise was remiss," Uthappa said.

Breaking into the franchise's point of view, Uthappa said, "Captaincy was taken from Ricky Ponting and given to Rohit Sharma in the middle of the tournament. Same franchise, and all the guys who were there supported Rohit Sharma. Harbhajan Singh, Ricky Ponting, Sachin Tendulkar, they all backed it.'

Uthappa argued that the decision to bring back Hardik Pandya could've snowballed after the franchise's performance since last winning the title in 2020. "In the last four years, statistically - I'm never going to question the calibre of Rohit Sharma the batter - he's scored less than 300 runs in the last three years and the team hasn't won since 2020. Lack of success as a captain and as a batter, there's a reason they landed on this consensus that maybe you have to look beyond Rohit. Maybe it happened last year only and they had discussions about it. And then, Rohit Sharma's success happens in the World Cup. I think his gloriousness and greatness as a captain and a player came through," he added.had reported last year following Pandya's trade from Gujarat Titans to Mumbai Indians that Rohit Sharma was informed by the franchise at the start of the ODI World Cup about Hardik Pandya returning to the MI fold for the upcoming season, this time as captain.Backing Pandya's decision to move back from Gujarat to his former franchise, Uthappa added, "He said if I'm coming back to Mumbai Indians after doing this with another franchise, 'I want to come back as a captain'. Is that wrong? I don't know how long I'll be playing cricket, I want a good deal. Is that wrong?'

"And he's very cognizant of the fact that he's got a brittle body. That's his situation. His body is not built to sustain the kind of force he puts through his body. He lives life loudly. I think he's a very highly misunderstood individual, wears his heart on his sleeve. He doesn't have finesse as a human being. He's very raw. This guy knows his time span in cricket is only this much," Uthappa added.As it stands, MI sit in the bottom half of the points table, having won only three games from the first half of their season

## Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma fire SRH to highest-ever powerplay total in T20 history

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

On the eve of their game against the Delhi Capitals, Travis Head had opened up about Sunrisers Hyderabad's batting strategy in the ongoing season that's helped them post the two highest scores in the league's history."It's not going to work every game. But I can tell you, everyone's terrified of when they come up against us and we have got to blow some teams out of the water before they have even walked out on the field," Head had stated. On Saturday, Delhi was at the receiving end of Head and Abhishek Sharma's wrath as the duo combined to add 125 runs in the powerplay for Delhi, the highest in the history of the league.

The previous record was held by the Kolkata Knight Riders, who had accumulated 105 runs without the loss of a wicket against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the 2017 season.Batting first at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, SRH cross the 100 run mark off just five overs, which was also the quickest any team had got to it in T20 history. It was South Africa's men's national team who held the



his half-century off just 16 balls, Abhishek Sharma scored 46 off 12 deliveries before Kuldeep Yadav got rid off him in the seventh over.

In their previous outing, SRH had blasted 287 runs against RCB, which is so far the highest-total in IPL. Never in franchise cricket's history has a team scored 300 runs.

# Sachin Tendulkar encourages girls to play sports and asks parents to 'support them'



EMS News Agency, March 6

SachinSachin Tendulkar and Anjali Tendulkar visited Yuwa foot a Football program with sachin Tendulkar foundation at Hesatu football field, Ormanjhi close to Ranchi

Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar along with his wife Anjali Tendulkar were in Ranchi at at Ormanjhi block of the district to encourage girl football players of the Yuwa Foundation."Children's energy is infectious. I saw them working hard and enjoying themselves. I recalled my childhood," Tendulkar said while speaking to media persons."The reason behind me coming here is the children. If we get a chance to smile because of them, then there can't be anything bigger than that. I will come here again soon," Tendulkar said.

Tendulkar Foundation and the Yuwa Foundation work in collaboration in the district to help and develop the girl footballers. The Indian batter would say that he got inspired by these children.Sachin Sachin Tendulkar and Anjali Tendulkar with girl footballers. "There are several difficulties in their lives even from home. They go to play football, which sometimes is not liked by parents. I would like to tell them to encourage children and support them. These children will bring smiles on their faces," the 50-year-old said.

Speaking about the Tendulkar Foundation Sachin would say that the body works in three verticals of education sports and health. The cricketer would reveal the reason behind these verticals and say "Education is because my father was a professor, health because my wife is a doctor and sport because I am into it. If three are put together, it can shape the future of the country,"."Its team is honing the skills of girls, changing their lives, giving direction to their lives... The girls will go on to shine as bright as they possibly can," Tendulkar would praise the Yuwa Foundation. Tendulkar is one of the greatest batsmen in history of cricket. He repersented India in 200 Tests and 463 ODIs. He is also the only player to score 100 international tons and is the all time top run scorers in both Tests (15,291 runs) and ODIs (18,426 runs).

# **IPL 2024: Jasprit Bumrah turns** leg-spinner vs Kieron Pollard in MI nets

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

MI pacer Jasprit Bumrah can be seen trying his hand at leg-spin to Mumbai's batting coach, Kieron Pollard, during their nets' session ahead of their clash against RR on April 22, in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. In a recent video uploaded by the official social media handle of MI, Bumrah impressed his teammates with some topnotch spin bowling, which even left Pollard struggling with the bat. Bumrah has been in exceptional form since the beginning of the ongoing IPL season, which has even seen him become the current holder of the purple cap with his 13 wickets in 7 appearances so far.Bumrah's exceptional form has rescued MI's bowling miseries in IPL 2024, which was recently highlighted during their previous clash against PBKS on April 18, where they were almost snatched away from their much-needed third win of the season, PRKS's Ashutosh Sharma's onslaught



further feather in the PBKS clash with his 3/21 spell, which even saw him take the big wicket of in-form Shahank Singh lollowed by him giving away just 3 runs in the over of PBKS's chase. Bumrah received the Player of the Match award for his pivotal performance, which again pointed to how crucial the experienced pacer is in the MI squad.With some much-needed winning momentum in their favour, MI will fix their focus on their highly anticipated upcoming clash against RR, where they will hope to continue their efforts to turn their season around.

previous record - having crossed the triple digit mark It has happened only once in all of T20s, when Nepal inside 5.3 overs last year against the West Indies.While scored 314 against Mongolia at the Hangzhou Games Head - fresh off his hundred against RCB - brought up last year in September.

# 'I am 100% ready to represent India at the T20 World Cup'



#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Dinesh Karthik ready for 2024 T20 World CupRoyal Challengers Bengaluru batter Dinesh Karthik plays a shot during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 cricket match between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad, at M Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru, On April 11th, Indian skipper Rohit Sharma had teased Dinesh Karthik during the Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru IPL match, saying "Shabash DK! T20 World Cup mein selection ke liye push karna hai isko. Dimag mein chal raha hai iske World Cup. (Well done DK! He is pushing for a spot in the T20 World Cup. His mind is occupied with the thought of the World Cup)." Even though it was lighthearted banter, Karthik's 23-ball 53 innings on the day was what brought up the batter's name in contention for the upcoming T20 World Cup squad.He followed that up with a blistering 83 off just 35 balls in RCB's 287-run chase against Sunrisers Hyderabad which led to the voices for his selection getting a bit louder. Recently, Rohit had even mentioned he was "impressed" with the way the 38-year-old had batted and amassed 226 runs with a strike rate of 205.45.On Saturday, a day before the match against Kolkata Knight Riders, Karthik would also shed light on the matter, saying he was 100% ready to represent India in the T20 World Cup if he was called upon."At this stage in my life, it's been the greatest feeling for me to represent India. I am very, very keen to do so. There is nothing bigger in my life than representing India at this T20 World Cup.

"I also feel there are three very honest, stable people

at the helm who will decide what the best team for India will be at the World Cup- Rohit Sharma, Ajit Agarkar and Rahul Dravid. I am completely with them and I respect any decision they take. All I can say I am 100% ready and I'll do whatever I can to be on that flight of the T20 World Cup," he said in a media interaction.

Karthik last played for India in the 2022 T20 World Cup match against Bangladesh but after 14 runs in 4 matches had to give way to Rishabh Pant in the middle of the tournament with India ultimately getting knocked out by England in the semifinal.

For this edition of the World Cup, Karthik will have to contend with the aforementioned Pant, Sanju Samson, Ishan Kishan and KL Rahul, all of them who look to be in decent nick ahead of the 20-over extravaganza in the Americas.In a chat on Club Prairie Fire podcast hosted by Adam Gilchrist, Rohit had spoken about Dinesh Karthik. "It would be easy to convince DK (to play in the T20 world cup) I guess!" It's not known whether he was joking but Karthik sure has announced his ambitions upfront now.

against MI's bowling unit almost took his side the distance at Mullanpur, if it was not for Bumrah's clinical bowling in the death overs. The video uploaded by MI, garnered some amazed reactions from the massive fanbase of the five-time IPL-winning franchise, which further highlighted their praise of Bumrah.

Burmah's phenomenal form in IPL 2024 received a

### Jhappi laga liya: Kohli, Gambhir share friendly conversation before KKR vs RCB clash

### GNS News Agency, April 23

Virat Kohli and Gautam Gambhir shared a heartfelt interaction before KKR and RCB's Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 match on Sunday, April 21 at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata. The duo has been involved in some heated exchanges on the field. But of late, Gambhir and Kohli have been friendly towards each other.During Kolkata's match against Bengaluru at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, Kohli and Gambhir shared a hug. The official social media handle of the Knight Riders uploaded the latest video of Kohli and Gambhir. KKR captioned the video and wrote, "Jhappi laga liya. Masala khatam, Things we love to see on a cricket field."Struggling RCB face KKR in City of JoyRCB, led by Faf du Plessis, are currently languishing at the bottom of the table with 2 points and a net run rate of -1.185. With 1 win from 7 games, RCB have looked completely out of sorts, especially in their bowling department. Virat Kohli is currently the Orange Cap holder with a hundred to his name, but he hasn't got enough support from the others.KKR, on the other hand, would be ruing the fact that they failed to get past the finish line against the Rajasthan Royals (RR). Sunil Narine scored a 49ball hundred, but Jos Buttler's 55-ball century overshadowed it.

Narine was also impressive against RR after he picked up 2 wickets of Dhruv Jurel and Rovman Powell, although his efforts went in vain.KKR are currently second in the table with 8 points and a net run rate of +1.399 thanks to wins in 4 out of 6 matches. Had they beaten the Royals, they would have gone to the top of the table. As far as Gambhir is concerned, he has carried the Knight Riders after returning to the franchise as a mentor.

# Garnacho apologised for controversial social media activity, have moved on: Ten Hag

#### GNS News Agency, April 23

Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has said that Alejandro Garnacho has apologised for his controversial social media activity after the 2-2 draw against Bournemouth and the club has moved on from the incident. Garnacho was taken off at half-time during the stalemate against the Cherries and wasn't too happy with the call made by Ten Hag. After the match was done, the Argentine would go on to like a few tweets that criticised Ten Hag for taking off the youngster, which created an uproar amongst the fans.Speaking ahead of United's FA Cup semi-final against Coventry City, as quoted by Reuters, Ten Hag said that the issue has been put to bed.

The Dutch tactician also said that Garnacho is a young player who has to learn a lot."Alejandro is a young player, has to learn a lot. He apologised for it and after that we move on," Ten Hag said.FA Cup semi-final will be a huge challenge: Ten HagTen Hag went on to say that he expects the semi-final against Coventry City to be a huge challenge but wants to find the solutions to their problems and get into the final."Obviously, we want to win every game," Ten Hag told reporters on Friday. "So when we don't win we are disappointed, are frustrated, sure, but we know also we can beat the best teams."When we play to our levels, we can achieve really high highs.""Last season was last season. We want to achieve every sea-

son, we want to win trophies, we have a big opportunity because we are in a semi-final but it's a huge challenge,' said Ten Hag, whose job future has been the subject of speculation this season."We know all the problems and always when you have so many problems you have to find solutions, so on Sunday we will find solutions and we want to go into the final."Ten Hag is hoping to have Antony, Scott McTominay and Harry Maguire for the match "We have some problems. Harry had a small injury so he hasn't trained so far this week, but now he is back on the pitch," the manager said. "We expect him back in team training today. He will be available for Sunday, I hope."

Printed and Published by V. Srinivas Reddy, on behalf of M/s Sai Krishna Publications, Owned by M/s Sai Krishna Publications, Printed at Sree Seshasai Enterprises, Plot No.98/1, Co-operative Industrial Estate, IDA, Gandhinagar, Quthbullapur Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist, Telangana. Published at Plot No. 3, Flat No.13, Surya Saroj Apartments, Huda Complex, Saroor Nagar, Ranga Reddy Dist. T.S. 500 035. Editor: V Srinivas Reddy RNI No. TELENG/2013/49469, Cell No. 9440231967.