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Hyderabad's real estate market soars: Rs 4,000 crore worth of homes sold in March

Hyderabad: Hyderabad witnessed a significant surge in high-value home registrations in March, with properties worth over Rs 4,000 crore sold during the month, according to Knight Frank India. A total of 6,416 residential properties were registered in March, marking a 12 per cent increase in value compared to the same period last year. The majority of registered homes, about 70 per cent, were in the size range of 1,000 to 2,000 square feet, while 16 per cent of properties were priced above Rs 1 crore. According to the report, in terms of price categories, properties in the range of Rs 25 lakh to 50 lakh accounted for 45 per cent of all registrations.

Woman ASI suspended for hugging BJP's Hyderabad LS seat candidate

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Police Commissioner K. Sreenivas Reddy has suspended an Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of police for hugging BJP's Hyderabad Lok Sabha seat candidate K. Madhavi Latha. In a video, widely circulated on social media, ASI Uma Devi of Saidabad Police Station was seen shaking hands with Madhavi Latha and hugging her.

The police officer in uniform was on duty when the BJP leader was campaigning in an area under the limits of Saidabad Police Station.

EC declines comment on PM's Rajasthan poll speech



GNS News Agency, April 22

PM Modi on Sunday suggested that if the Congress came to power, it would redistribute the wealth of people to Muslims and cited former PM Manmohan Singh's remark. The Election Commission on Monday declined to comment on remarks made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his poll speech in Rajasthan. "We decline comment," a poll panel spokesperson said on queries related to the prime minister's speech on Sunday in Banswara. Modi on Sunday suggested that if the Congress came to power, it would redistribute the wealth of people to Muslims and cited former PM Manmohan Singh's remark that the minority community had the first claim on the country's resources.

Hearing in defamation case against Rahul now on May 2



GNS News Agency, April 22

Sultanpur (UP): The defamation case against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in Sultanpur, will now be heard on May 2. The case against Rahul Gandhi, who is on bail in the defamation case, could not be heard in court on Monday due to the transfer of the judge of MP MLA Court.

It may be recalled that during the Karnataka Assembly elections, Rahul Gandhi had given an objectionable statement against the then BJP National President and current Home Minister Amit Shah during a Press conference. Sultanpur BJP leader Vijay Mishra had filed a complaint in the MP MLA court here. The court had summoned Rahul Gandhi last November. Later, Rahul Gandhi appeared in court on February 20 and got his bail.

Revanth backing Komatireddy amid cash-for-vote scare: Maheshwar Reddy

GNS News Agency, April 22

Hyderabad: BJP Legislative Party Leader A Maheshwar Reddy claimed that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was fearing that he would be convicted in the cash-for-vote scam, hence he was promoting the name of Komatireddy Venkat Reddy for the Chief Minister's post. "I think Revanth is not sure of continuing in the post of CM till August. He may be forced to leave the post in the wake of hearing of the cash-for-vote scam on July 24 in the Supreme Court," he said. Addressing a press conference on Monday, Maheshwar Reddy said the Chief Minister had come to a conclusion that he would be convicted in the cash-for-vote scam by the SC and sent to prison, hence he was taking the names of party leaders for the CM's post. "Usually Congress high command decides about the CM, but I don't know why he is taking the name of Komatireddy Venkat Reddy. We don't know he might have made similar promises to other Congress leaders too," he said. Terming the claims of Revanth Reddy that about 20 BRS MLAs were in touch with him as false, he said in the last four months the Chief Minister managed to induct just three MLAs in the party and it was difficult to believe that he was in touch with 20 MLAs. "KCR is also claiming that he was in touch with 20 Congress MLAs. Maybe Venkat Reddy is the one who is in touch with him, that's why Revanth is promoting his name for the CM's post," he said. Accusing Congress of deceiving the people of the State by not fulfilling promises made to them, the BJPLP leader said the Chief Minister had promised to waive farm loan of Rs. 2 lakh and provide Rs. 500 bonus to farmers by August, but what about the other promises, when was he going to fulfil it. "You will fulfil only two promises made to farmers and what about other promises and six guarantees? When are you going to fulfil other promises? If for every promise CM has to swear by God then he has to swear over 400 times to fulfil all the promises," he said.

Revanth seeks Left support in Lok Sabha polls

GNS News Agency, April 22

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy called upon the Left party leaders to support Congress candidate Chamala Kiam Kumar Reddy in the Bhongir Lok Sabha constituency as the grand old party had always given highest respect to the Left parties though at times they differed with them ideologically. On the other hand, the BRS, Revanth said, had never given a respect to the Left parties that they deserve. It was the Left parties who had always fought for the poor and backward sections of society, but BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao who took their support during the struggle for separate Telangana had dumped them later and humiliated them on several occasions.

Addressing the road corner meeting in Bhongir following the filing of nomination by Kiran Kumar



Reddy, Revanth said it was time for the Left parties to join hands once again with the Congress both at state and national levels in order to save democracy. He said the Congress always wanted that the INDIA alliance should become a strong group to fight the Modi-led NDA government at the Centre.

"We should put a united fight to ensure that the BRS does not win even a single seat in these elections. If the BRS wins it will mortgage itself to Modi," Revanth said. Eulogizing the 'sacrifices' made by

Congress government. Listing out the failures of the previous BRS government, he asserted that the Congress government was fulfilling all the promises it had made, he said. He said in a short span of 100 days, the Congress government had given jobs to 30,000 youth. Those who spoiled their health after becoming drunkards during the KCR government are now getting treated under the increased AarogyaSri cover," he said. The CM said: "Modi does not have the right to seek votes in Telangana as he questioned the very existence of Telangana. He had said the bifurcation was a conspiracy of the Congress." Revanth Reddy said as far as Nalgonda district was concerned Komatireddy brothers were the 'double engine' who will bring development to the district and with Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy as MP from Bhongir, this will turn into a triple engine," the CM added.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy during the Telangana movement, Revanth Reddy said that if anyone deserves to be the CM after him it was 'Vekanna.' Revanth said Venkat Reddy had resigned from the Council of Ministers in the undivided Andhra Pradesh and sat on hunger strike demanding separate Telangana. His struggle and fight for the issues related to Nalgonda were acknowledged by everyone. Revanth Reddy asked those in the pink party as to why they were trying to destabilise the

Kejriwal has been asking for insulin daily: AAP sources cite CM's letter to Tihar superintendent



GNS News Agency, April 22

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal wrote to Tihar jail superintendent on Monday claiming he has been asking for insulin daily amid spike in sugar levels, according to AAP sources. The sources said Kejriwal has also rejected the jail authorities' claim that AIIMS doctors have said there was no reason to worry about the chief minister's health condition.

In the letter written to the superintendent on Monday, he accused the jail administration of "lying" under "political pressure", the sources said. There was no immediate reaction from Tihar jail authorities. In a statement on Sunday, the Tihar administration had said they had arranged a video conference of Kejriwal on April 20 with senior specialists from AIIMS during which neither "the issue of insulin was raised by Kejriwal, nor was it suggested by the doctors". The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has accused the Tihar administration of denying insulin to Kejriwal, who suffers from diabetes. The party has also

alleged a "conspiracy" to "kill" him. "Kejriwal wrote to Tihar jail superintendent saying he was hurt after reading the statement from jail authorities in newspapers," a party source said. "In the letter, he said the statements of Tihar administration are false and said he has been asking for insulin on a daily basis. During the day, his sugar levels see a spike thrice and read anywhere between 250 to 320," said a source from AAP. In the letter, he also said that AIIMS doctors had not said that there was no cause of worry. "The doctors had said that they will assess the situation based on the history and data of Kejriwal's condition," added the source. The Tihar administration, in the statement on Sunday, said appropriate senior specialists from AIIMS provided consultation to Kejriwal during the video call on April 20. "After a 40-minute detailed consultation, Kejriwal was assured that there was no serious concern and was advised to continue with the prescribed medicines, which will be evaluated and reviewed regularly," a jail official had said.

The video conference was organised by the Tihar Jail administration on a request by the chief minister's wife Sunita Kejriwal. Apart from a senior specialist from the hospital, medical officers of the Tihar jail were also on the call. The AIIMS specialist was provided with a complete record of CGM (Glucose Monitoring Sensor) and the details of diet and medicines being taken by Kejriwal, the official said. "Neither the issue of insulin was raised by Kejriwal, nor was it suggested by the doctors," the official added. Kejriwal was arrested on March 21 by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money-laundering case linked to the Delhi government's now-scrapped excise policy. He is lodged in Tihar jail since April 1.

Over 25,000 West Bengal teachers lose jobs as Calcutta High Court cancels all appointments

Kolkata, GNS News Agency, April 22

The Calcutta High Court on Monday ordered cancellation of all appointments made through the recruitment process of the State Level Selection Test-2016 (SLST) in West Bengal Government-sponsored and aided schools, declaring it as "null and void". A division bench comprising justices Debansu Basak and Md Shabbir Rashidi also directed the CBI to undertake further investigation in respect of the appointment process, and submit a report within three months. The bench directed the West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) to initiate a fresh recruitment process. Over 23 lakh candidates had appeared for the SLST-2016 for 24,640 vacant posts. A total of 25,753 appointment letters were issued against the vacancies, said Firdaus Shamim, a lawyer for some of the petitioners. The division bench also rejected a prayer by some appellants for a stay on the order. SSC Chairman Siddharth Majumder said the commission will appeal in the Supreme Court, challenging the high court verdict, after going through the complete order. Moments after the court order, hundreds of school job aspirants waiting outside its premises rejoiced, as many broke into tears. "We had been waiting for this day. After years of struggle on the streets, justice has finally been delivered,"

one of them said. The division bench, formed by the Chief Justice of the high court on a direction of the Supreme Court, had extensively heard numerous petitions and appeals relating to the selection of candidates for appointment by the SSC in the categories of teachers of classes 9, 10, 11 and 12 and group-C and D staffers through the SLST-2016. Hearing in the matters concluded on March 20 and judgement was reserved by the bench. On writ petitions by some candidates who appeared in SLST-2016, but did not get jobs, a single bench presided by Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay had ordered CBI investigation into alleged irregularities in the recruitment process. The high court had also ordered the termination of a number of jobs of teaching and non-teaching staffers after finding irregularities. Disposing of petitions before it in connection with the matters, the Supreme Court had on November 9, 2023, requested the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to constitute a division bench to hear all the petitions and appeals pertaining to the recruitment process through SLST-2016 for early adjudication. The apex court had in its order accorded protection to the appointments, which were terminated by the high court, for a period of six months to enable the division bench to adjudicate on the disputes.

AP CM Jagan takes a break from 'Memantha Siddam' tour



GNS News Agency, April 22

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan on Monday gave a break to the 'Memantha Siddam' bus trip which is being organised as part of the election campaign. On Monday, Jagan will hold a key meeting on the election strategy regarding Uttarandhra. Senior leaders will participate in this meeting. In this meeting, election campaign, attracting voters and other issues will be discussed.

On the other hand, preparations are being made to release the YCP manifesto on 26th of this month. It is reported that Jagan has specially focused on the design of the manifesto. It seems that comprehensive development of Uttarandhra is given priority in the manifesto. Efforts are being made to take the manifesto widely to the masses. The YCP manifesto is being drafted as a counter to the TDP-Janaseena-BJP alliance. Jagan will hold a special meeting with YCP social media wing on Tuesday. After the meeting with the social media wing, Jagan's bus trip will resume. Bus trip will continue in Vizianagaram district tomorrow. The Chief Minister will participate in the road show and public meeting.

AP SSC results released



GNS News Agency, April 22

Amaravati: AP 10th class exam results was declared on Monday. Commissioner of School Education Department Suresh Kumar released Tenth Results at 11 am this morning. In the context of the Election Code, apart from the Minister of Education, the relevant department officials are going to release the results.

The 10th class exams were held in AP from March 18 to 30. Examinations were conducted in a total of 3,473 centers across the state. A total of 6.23 lakh regular students wrote the exams. 1.02 lakh people wrote the exams privately. Students and parents are anxiously waiting for the 10th class exam results. It is noteworthy that many students are taking inter admissions in many private colleges before the 10th results.

PM Modi targeting Muslims only to gain votes, says Owaisi

GNS News Agency, April 22

Hyderabad: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Monday lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea that insulting Muslims is the best way to get votes. "Modi has been following this method since 2002", he added. He alleged that Modi is insulting Muslims for guaranteeing votes. Asaduddin Owaisi tweeted in response to Prime Minister Modi's comments.

Asaduddin criticized Modi for portraying Muslims as intruders and having too many children. He slammed PM Modi's remarks that if Congress comes to power, it would grab people's property and distribute it to Muslims. He reminded that if we have to talk about the country's wealth, Modi's friends will definitely be mentioned. 40 per cent of the country's population owns only 1 per cent of the wealth, while Modi's few wealthy friends have the rest of the wealth, he said. Asaduddin made it clear that there is no truth in Modi's allegations but it is a ploy to get votes by terrorizing Hindus.

Congress chief Mallikarjuna Kharge has criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi's accusations against the Congress party in Jalore, Rajasthan, as demeaning the office of the prime minister. He said that it is sad that such words come from the mouth of a person holding a responsible position, and no other prime minister in the country has spoken so irresponsibly so far. He said that what Modi did in Jalore was definitely a hate speech. He said it was an attempt to divert people's attention with false allegations. Kharge alleged that making such false allegations is the specialty of Sangh and BJP training.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Yoga fee taxable

THE Supreme Court's recent decision to uphold an appellate tribunal's ruling on taxing yoga camps organised by the Patanjali Yogpeeth Trust marks a significant stride towards equity and accountability in the realm of service taxation. The verdict underscores the principle that no entity should be exempted from contributing to the public coffers when it comes to commercial ventures. In October last year, the Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal had ruled that yoga camps conducted for a fee — even if in the name of 'donation' — by the trust constituted a 'health and fitness service' and were subject to service tax. It was a reasonable interpretation of the law as the tribunal rightly observed that the services rendered were akin to those provided by health clubs and fitness centres, falling within the taxable category. The trust's argument that its services were aimed at curing ailments and, therefore, not taxable did not hold water.

The ruling follows a few similar verdicts, such as the one given by the Kerala High Court in February. The HC held that the fee for yoga and meditation was subject to taxation under the Kerala Tax on Luxuries Act. Uniformity in legal interpretation across jurisdictions reinforces the principle of equality before the law and ensures consistency in tax administration. This also highlights the broader issue of responsible advertising and consumer protection. The scrutiny faced by Patanjali Ayurved under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act of 1954 makes it imperative for the firm to ensure that claims made in advertisements, especially those related to health and wellness, are truthful and substantiated.

Though undoubtedly beneficial for physical and mental wellbeing, yoga is increasingly becoming commercialised.

'We once found bombs in Najafgarh': Rakesh Tikait recalls Delhi Police days



GNS News Agency, April 22

The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson was a member of the force between 1988 and 1995. Speaking about his Delhi Police days, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait on Thursday recalled being a constable there and working with the bomb squad. "I wanted to go to the military and undergo commando training. I did not get through the military, but I got through Delhi Police recruitment. Their training was good. We were trained at Moradabad and then I was posted in the bomb squad," Tikait told.

The Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) spokesperson also talked about finding country-made bombs at a Delhi farmhouse. "I served in areas of central Delhi. We once found country bombs at a farmhouse in Najafgarh. I said, 'We should burst these crackers'," he remarked.

Tikait, who became face of the 2020-2021 farmers' agitation held in the national capital, also recalled "protesting" during his police days. "In protests, I would not participate on the stage. I did the background work," he said. The BKU leader, who was a member of the police force between 1988 and 1985, also stated that his father, ex-BKU chief Mahendra Singh Tikait, never asked the former to quit the police, adding that "I had learned what I had to learn." Tikait also talked about how he did his Bachelor of Arts (BA) but did not complete his Master of Arts (MA). During the interview, the farmer leader was also asked if his family's name had become synonymous with the cultivators' movement in India. He replied, "We have always said that for generations to come, anyone who is born in the Tikait family, will have to participate in the farmers' movement." The BKU is now headed by Rakesh's elder brother Naresh, who has been at its helm since their father's May 2011 demise.

Paloncha municipal staff in ACB net



GNS News Agency, April 22

Kothagudem: A town planning supervisor and an outsourcing worker serving at Paloncha municipality in Kothagudem district were trapped by ACB on Thursday. The accused town planning supervisor Lakkireddy Venkata Ramani was caught red handed by the ACB officials when she demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs. 15,000 from the complainant Kampelli Kanakeswara Rao for herself and water supply worker (outsourcing) Perabattula Prasanna Kumar.

She demanded the bribe to process the LRS applications of the complainant pertaining to three plots of survey number 817/41 and to forward those applications to higher officers. The bribe amount of Rs. 15,000 was recovered from Ramani.

Unusually heavy rain before last October's glacial lake flooding: Sikkim govt to NGT



GNS News Agency, April 22

In its first attempt at explaining the reasons leading up to last year's flooding that ravaged four districts and killed over 40 people, the Sikkim government has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that "more than usual heavy rainfall" — possibly a cloudburst — had preceded the glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) event in the South Lhonak lake. The state government has based its conclusion on a report by the North East Space Application Centre (NESAC), which supports the Northeastern region with space science and technology. NESAC analysed rainfall before and after the GLOF using satellite data.

Crucially, however, its report mentioned that satellite data for rainfall was not available for about three hours when the incident happened. But, it added, it had rained heavily before the GLOF and there had been chances of more rain. The Sikkim government's account — filed in its affidavit to the Kolkata bench of NGT, which had taken suo motu cognisance of the October 3 disaster — seems to confirm the initial suspicion of the National Disaster Management Authority that heavy rainfall could have triggered the series of events that resulted in the disaster.

Last year, 40 people were killed and 76 went missing during floods in at least four districts of Sikkim after the water levels of the Teesta River rose as the South Lhonak Lake — a glacial lake situated in the state's north-west at 17,000 feet — burst, leading to the release of water in downstream areas. Around 100 villages in these four districts — Mangan, Gangtok, Pakyong and Namchi — were affected. In a press release issued on October 4, the NDMA had said that while scientists were investigating the exact cause of the flash floods, the primary reason for the sudden surge appears to be a likely combination of excess rainfall and a GLOF event at South Lhonak Lake. Later, it also became known that an ice avalanche sank into South Lhonak creating tall waves that eventually led to the flash flood downstream in Teesta, though

scientists are still investigating what triggered the ice avalanche.

"The unusually heavy rainfall over the region appears to have resulted in rapid downstream flow of the Teesta River in much greater volumes than preceded and which exceeded the capacity of the dams installed at the hydro-power project at Chungthang Dam," the Sikkim affidavit said. According to the NESAC report on which the affidavit is based, satellite data on rainfall activity was not available from 10:15 pm on October 3 to 1:30 am on October 4, the period during which the GLOF event and the subsequent dam breach occurred.

There was, it said, good amount of rainfall over north western Sikkim around 10 pm on October 3 and conditions were favourable for further heavy rainfall over northern Sikkim area beyond 10 pm and till the lake burst occurred. "However, this could not be confirmed because of the absence of satellite images after 22.15 PM," the report said. Beside satellite products, NESAC also analysed water vapour data which indicates moisture availability. Based on this analysis, it said that there was a probability of rapid condensation of available moisture and strong convection which could have led to torrential rains. Himanshu Thakkar of the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People said that even if rainfall was a causative factor of the disaster, the Sikkim government should explain what action they took when they got the information about the GLOF. "Why was the Teesta 3 dam not emptied when there was almost an hour between when they got the information about the GLOF and the point when Teesta 3 dam broke. The fact is, South Lhonak lake was known to be a potential source of flood since at least the 1990s due to rapidly changing sizes of glaciers," said Thakkar. On the measures it took to prevent adverse effects of a possible natural calamity on account of the dam, the Sikkim government submitted that it had conducted mock exercises in May 2023 to test preparedness of state and district authorities.

On September 18, less than a month before the disaster, a mock drill on GLOF was conducted by Chungthang sub-division with participation of the Sikkim Urja Hydrel Project Developers, the affidavit stated. There was no early warning system (EWS installed and the state was in the process of implementing and setting up of the EWS at the time of incident, the state submitted further. "In the absence of EWS system, the information flow was mainly via mobile communication, landline communication, police WT system, siren and alarm systems at hydro power projects, warning system of Sikkim Police and Fire & Emergency Services, warning by beat police manually and informal WhatsApp groups," the affidavit stated.

Tampered video, says BJP MLA accused of threatening voters with bulldozer

GNS News Agency, April 22

SILCHAR: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lawmaker Bijoy Malakar, who was accused of threatening a section of voters in Assam's Karimganj district to support the party or face demolition by bulldozers, on Thursday denied making the objectionable comment in his speech. Malakar insisted that he was telling voters not to be afraid of bulldozers because the BJP was going to give them land documents. But the Congress tampered with the video, he said on Thursday, more than 24 hours after a video clip from his public meeting on Tuesday, April 16, emerged on social media. In the video, Malakar appears to be telling his audience that if they don't vote this time (for the BJP), "I know where are you from, where your house is, the election result is on (June) 6th.. no no (June) 4th. Make sure the JCB doesn't reach your home after that".

Congress leaders from Karimganj on Thursday said they filed a complaint with the Badarpur police station against the Ratabari MLA for the speech but the police are yet to register a case. Congress party's Badarpur committee member Abdul Kasim Talukdar said a complaint against the MLA has also been sent to election officers. Hafiz Rashid Ahmed Choudhury, the Congress candidate for Karimganj Lok Sabha seat, said that they have sought action against Malakar because such speeches can lead to communal clashes before polling. "This person is a repeat offender and he made controver-



sial remarks against one religious community in the past also. We have demanded action against him," he said. Malakar insisted that his 46-minute speech was tampered with by the Congress. "I have seen the viral video and later I watched my entire speech again, which is available on Facebook. I told the locals that they were denied land patta even after living here for many decades, I said, they should not be afraid of bulldozers anymore because BJP is going to give them land patta," he said. Malakar said the Congress tampered with the video clip because they knew that they had nothing to offer to the public. "They have lost trust, so they are using these tricks to malign our reputation. We have identified those who shared the video and we'll take action against them," he added.

Indian foreign secretary's visit to Bangladesh called off



"There is a standing invitation for the Bangladeshi prime minister to visit India and the foreign secretary's visit to Dhaka will help firm up plans for that visit," one of the people cited above said.

GNS News Agency, April 22

New Delhi: India on Thursday called off foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra's visit to Bangladesh this weekend, which was meant to take stock of bilateral ties and prepare the grounds for a trip to New Delhi by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, people familiar with the matter said. No reasons were given for the postponement and there was no information on fresh dates for the visit, the people said on condition of anonymity.

Kwatra was set to meet his Bangladeshi counterpart Masud Bin Momen and foreign minister Hasan

Mahmud during his day-long visit on April 20, the people said. The rapidly deteriorating situation in Myanmar, where the junta has suffered a string of defeats at the hands of resistance forces, was expected to figure in the meetings, the people said. The foreign secretary would have been the second senior official from the Indian side to visit Bangladesh since Hasina returned to power for a record fifth term after the general election in early January. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval made an unannounced visit to Dhaka in early February, which was closely followed by a trip to India by the Bangladeshi foreign minister. "There is a standing invitation for the Bangladeshi prime minister to visit India and the foreign secretary's visit to Dhaka will help firm up plans for that visit," one of the people cited above said. Kwatra and Momen were expected to review bilateral relations and firm up plans for future cooperation, the people said.

Hasina is unlikely to visit New Delhi before the conclusion of India's general election in early June. The Bangladesh premier also has plans to visit China after travelling to India, and Kwatra's visit will help prepare the grounds for her trip to New Delhi, the people said. Hasina's visit is expected to take place only in late June or early July, they said. There is also a possibility of a meeting between Kwatra and Hasina, the people said. Besides bilateral relations, the situation in Myanmar, which has thrown up several security challenges for India and Bangladesh, was expected to figure in Kwatra's meetings in Dhaka. The anti-junta resistance forces have captured key border trade and crossing points on the frontiers with India, Bangladesh, China and Thailand. The resistance forces have also overrun military bases in many areas along the borders with India and Bangladesh, and both countries have had to deal with Myanmar troops entering their territories to escape the fighting.

Abusive language used against Chirag Paswan's mother amid RJD rally; LJP leader reacts



GNS News Agency, April 22

Lok Janshakti Party president Chirag Paswan on Thursday reacted to the purported viral video showing derogatory language being used against his mother in a rally held by RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in Bihar. Speaking to news agency ANI, the LJP leader said the incident hurt him. "I am hurt that the leader in front of whom my family and I were abused is my younger brother. Allegations have been levelled against me several times that despite being a part of the NDA, I go soft on Lalu Yadav and his family. I will have a direct contest with them on the political stage but there are a few familial decorums that originated from the times of my father..." Chirag Paswan said. "My father and Lalu Yadav remained friends, so I have such relations with that family. I have always upheld the dignity of those relations. I opposed them politically but never escalated it to the family... I am sad that when my family was being abused, my younger brother was on the stage. For me, Rabri Devi is my mother. I would have given a befitting reply had someone used such language for her or my sisters Misa Bharti and Rohini Acharya..." the Lok Janshakti Party leader added. Meanwhile, RJD Jamui Lok Sabha seat candidate Archana Ravidas said that 'it looked pre-planned.' "...It looks pre-planned. In the video, only this part was highlighted, but the person who said it could not be seen. Our opposition has done this in a pre-planned manner due to fear of loss and to spoil our image."

The Bharatiya Janata Party hit out at the RJD concerning the viral video. BJP leader Shah Nawaz Hussain said that the RJD is irritated 'as they are losing the election.' "They're now abusing people. RJD people abused the mother of Chirag Paswan in the presence of their leaders, including Tejashwi Yadav. Nobody stopped. It has never happened in Bihar. It is unacceptable," he said. In a video that is making the rounds on social media, a voice can be heard making derogatory comments about LJP leader Chirag Paswan and his family. While the man raising the slur is not seen, RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav can be seen addressing the rally at the time.

Amethi Cong leader says he went to meet Smriti Irani. Photo claims he 'joined BJP'



GNS News Agency, April 22

Amethi Congress leader Vikas Agrahari on Thursday said he did not join the BJP as claimed by news reports showing his photo with Amethi MP Smriti Irani. The Congress leader said he went to meet the MP and was accorded a formal welcome when he was photographed with the BJP leaders. But after he left, he claimed to have found out reports that he joined the BJP. "I went to meet the MP with some issues pertaining to my area. The media claimed I had joined the BJP. But there is no evidence. There is no video, I did not give any speech there. But the media made me join the BJP," Vikas Agrahari told the news agency.

The incident came as the Congress was in the middle of an Amethi doldrum with the name of the Lok Sabha candidate not yet finalised. In 2019, Rahul Gandhi was defeated by Smriti Irani from Amethi as until then Amethi used to be the Congress bastion. On a question on Amethi, Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday if the Congress Election Committee decides to field him from Amethi, alongside Wayanad, he will abide by the decision. "I never left the Congress and I have not joined the BJP. Congress is in my blood and soul. I will always remain a Congressman," Vikas Agrahari said. On the photo with Smriti Irani in which Vikas Agrahari can be seen with a saffron flag around his neck, he said it was not a BJP flag; it was just a saffron flag. Amethi will go to the election on May 20 but the Congress has not yet announced any candidate against Smriti Irani though the party bargained the seat from the Samajwadi Party. While the Congress candidate from Amethi remains a suspense, Robert Vadra expressed interest in contesting the Lok Sabha election this time and said the people of Amethi wanted him to represent them.

Deputy Tahsildar booked for misbehaving with woman

GNS News Agency, April 22

Sangareddy: Narayankhed police have registered a case against a Deputy Tahsildar, S Raju, who was on election duty in Narayankhed assembly segment, on charges of misbehaving with a woman. According to the police, Raju was staying in a penthouse in the same apartment where the woman was staying with her family. In her complaint to Narayankhed Police, the woman alleged that Raju was passing objectionable comments on her for the last month.

Mithun Chakraborty abandoned TMC, sided with BJP to bail out son: Mamata Banerjee



GNS News Agency, April 22

Kolkata: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday attacked actor-turned-politician Mithun Chakraborty for abandoning the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and siding with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the 2021 assembly polls.

"I had made Mithun Chakraborty the Rajya Sabha MP of TMC. But I never knew he was another big traitor of Bengal. He went to RSS and bowed down just to save his son," Banerjee said. The TMC supremo was addressing an election rally at Islampur in North Dinajpur district. Raiganj Lok Sabha constituency in the district goes into poll in the second phase on April 26.

"If you remember his son was booked. Police had gone to the wedding to investigate. He got scared and

went straight to the RSS office in Mumbai and said that he was a BJP sevak. Those who can fight, I consider only them as humans," she added. The scheduled wedding of Chakraborty's son had to be called off on July 8, 2018 after Mumbai police arrived at the wedding venue to investigate a rape case against the groom. He got married on July 10 after getting bail. Chakraborty strongly responded to Banerjee's comments. "I am Gaddar (traitor). I am Sardar (chief). I am everything. She has lost her mind seeing the crowd swell at the BJP rally," Chakraborty told reporters in Darjeeling where he was campaigning for the BJP.

In 2014, the TMC sent Chakraborty to the Rajya Sabha but the Saradha scam apparently tarnished his image as he was the brand ambassador of the group that ran a ponzi scam in Bengal. Many other TMC leaders were associated with the group. During the investigation into the scam, Chakraborty was interrogated and returned ₹1.19 crore to the Enforcement Directorate after tax deduction from ₹2 crore that he had got from the group for being their brand ambassador. This happened in 2015. In 2016, Chakraborty resigned from the Rajya Sabha citing health reasons. In 2021 RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat met the actor at his Mumbai residence triggering speculation of the actor's return to politics. Chakraborty ended speculation on March 7, 2021 when he joined the BJP at a rally in Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground ahead of the West Bengal assembly election. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the rally.

Gauhati HC rejects Kokrajhar MP's plea challenging cancellation of ST status

GNS News Agency, April 22

GUWAHATI: The Gauhati high court on Thursday dismissed a petition by sitting MP Naba Kumar Sarania challenging a January 12 order of the state-level caste scrutiny committee (SLSC) that cancelled the Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificate issued to him in 2011. The high court's verdict implies that Sarania, a two-term Lok Sabha member, won't be able to seek re-election from the Kokrajhar seat reserved for ST candidates. Kokrajhar is due to vote on May 7. Justice SK Medhi said the court didn't find any "illegality or impropriety" in the SLSC order that quashed Sarania's ST (Plains) certificate through a reasoned order.

The high court noted that Naba Sarania, 53, was issued the ST certificate only on October 17, 2011 and contested elections for the first time from the Kokrajhar parliamentary constituency reserved for ST candidates in 2014. He was re-elected in 2019.

"There is not even an iota of evidence or material brought on record by the petitioner at any stage of the proceedings which are prior to the year 2011 pertaining to his claim to belonging to ST(P)," the court observed. The



court also noted that Sarania's father, who was in government service, also never claimed to be from the Bodo/Bodo Kachari community. "The materials on record which were considered by the SLSC would show that there was no basis for granting the caste certificate to the petitioner in October 2011 that he belongs to the Boro Kachari community," the court said. The SLSC order was followed by another one by Assam's department of tribal affairs (plains) on January 20 that cancelled the caste certificate issued by the Assam Tribal Sangha, Tamulpur District Unit in October 2011.

'India is top-tier security partner': Australia in first national defence strategy



GNS News Agency, April 22

Australia perceives India as a "top-tier security partner" and is giving priority to practical and tangible cooperation between the two sides that contributes to Indo-Pacific stability, according to the maiden national defence strategy released by Canberra. The document, issued by the Anthony Albanese government on Wednesday, states that Australia will support India's key role in the region by enhancing defence cooperation. Australia will also seek opportunities with India to drive bilateral and multilateral cooperation, defence industry cooperation and information-sharing. The national defence strategy aims to bolster the Australian Defence Force (ADF)'s deterrence and warfighting capabilities in the Indo-Pacific, including by building stronger partnerships with key countries. Defence minister Richard Marles has said Australia plans to hike military spending by \$50.3 billion over the next decade and hit \$100 billion by 2033.

"India is a top-tier security partner for Australia. Through the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between Australia and India, the Government is continuing to prioritise practical and tangible cooperation that directly contributes to Indo-Pacific stability," the document stated in the section devoted to the Indian Ocean region. "Australia will continue to support India's key role in the region by increasing the depth and complexity of our defence cooperation. The Government will continue to seek opportunities with India to drive practical bilateral and multilateral cooperation, defence industry cooperation and information sharing," it said.

India and Australia, both members of the Quad grouping that includes Japan and the United States, have witnessed a marked uptick in their defence and security cooperation in recent years. In addition to a range of military training exercises, India and Australia also participate in the annual Malabar naval exercise with the other two Quad members. In 2020, India and Australia signed the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA), which allows both sides to access each other's military bases for logistical support. Much of the military cooperation has been driven by shared concerns about China's aggressive behaviour across the region.

The national defence strategy said Australia must work with key partners such as Japan, South Korea and India that "share our concerns and are prepared to strengthen cooperation in support of shared interests". Describing the northeastern Indian Ocean as central to Australia's security and sea lines of communication, the document said the Australian side will engage with several other countries in this region.

In addition to engaging with India, Australia's defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean will focus on regularising the ADF's presence, including increasing deployments, training and exercises with Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Bangladesh, and bolstering regional maritime domain awareness. The ADF will also continue to integrate with the US and "key partner defence forces — particularly Japan, Indonesia, India, the Republic of Korea, the UK, France, Germany, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines — to coordinate our collective strengths and minimise gaps in our global security engagement", the document said. However, the document acknowledged the "risk of a crisis or conflict in the Taiwan Strait is increasing, as well as at other flashpoints, including disputes in the South and East China Seas and on the border with India". There is also increasing competition for access and influence across the Indian Ocean, including efforts to secure dominance over sea lanes and strategic ports. The document also pointed to India's strained relations with China and Pakistan. "There remains potential for tension and miscommunication between India and Pakistan, and between India and China — with the risk of nuclear weapons use or proliferation a factor in each potential flashpoint," it said.

'Congress party will dissolve after elections': Karnataka BJP leader

GNS News Agency, April 22

Karnataka assembly LoP and BJP leader R Ashoka has claimed that the Congress party would dissolve after the Lok Sabha election 2024. He also predicted BJP's victory in Bengaluru, calling it "a stronghold of the party". "This time, after the elections, the Congress party will dissolve. There will be no Congress in the nation... Bengaluru is the stronghold of the BJP... We will win..." said R Ashoka as quoted by news agency. Meanwhile, Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah on Thursday predicted that the Congress party would win up to 20 seats in the state in the upcoming Lok Sabha polls.

"The response is very good from the voters in Karnataka, but I do not know about the other parts of the country. As far as Karnataka is concerned, we will win up to 20 seats this time," said Siddaramaiah, reported news agency Siddaramaiah also reacted to BJP state president B Y Vijayendra's comments that the guarantee schemes in the state are "temporary". "Vijayendra doesn't know things, what does he mean by temporary? Is he a fortune teller? In Karnataka we will be (in power) this term and the next term too, and will not stop guarantee schemes for any reason," said Siddaramaiah. "Guarantee schemes will be continued and for this, we have set aside ₹52,000 crore in the budget," added the Karnataka CM. Karnataka elects 28 Lok Sabha members to Parliament. In the Lok Sabha election 2024, voting will be held in Karnataka in two phases, on April 26 and May 07. The results of the polls will be declared on June 4. Notably, the Congress party is contesting in all 28 seats in Karnataka. The BJP is contesting in 25 seats while its alliance partner, the JD(S) has been allocated three seats.

'You are the backbone of our party': Rahul Gandhi in address to Congress workers



GNS News Agency, April 22

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Thursday addressed party workers via a video message and urged them to work tirelessly to fight the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) ideology even in the farthest villages of the country in the

upcoming Lok Sabha elections. "This is not a normal election. This is a battle to save our country and the Constitution. So, I urge every 'Babbar Sher' to take responsibility and spread Congress' guarantees to each and every household. You are the real voices of the Congress. Let's take a pledge to spread Congress' guarantees and pass it on," Gandhi said in the video posted on X. A total of 102 constituencies across 21 states and Union Territories will go to polls in the first phase on April 19 to determine the fate of 1,625 candidates. "You are the backbone and DNA of our party. The BJP-RSS are against the idea of India. They are attacking our Constitution, the country's democratic structure, our institutions, including the Election Commission of India and the legal framework of the country. Your fight is against the ideology of the RSS on the streets, in the villages, and everywhere. You are the defenders. You helped us bring key ideas from the people of India into our manifesto for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. We rely on you, and we love you," he said.

'Unthinkable', says BJP on Supriya Shrinete's 'martyrs' remark on Chhattisgarh encounter

GNS News Agency, April 22

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday called out Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete after she used the term "shaheed" (martyrs) while responding to a question on the recent Kanker encounter in Chhattisgarh, in which 29 Maoists were killed in a gunfight with the Border Security Force (BSF). The BJP alleged that Shrinete used "shaheed" for the Maoists, also called Naxals. Three BSF men who sustained injuries in the encounter are currently recuperating.

"Instead of welcoming the action by the security forces, the Congress has done what is expected of them. However, it is unthinkable that it (Congress) claimed that the Naxals were essentially martyrs. It puts a question mark on the bravery of our security forces," BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said at a press conference. Poonawalla, himself an ex-Congressman, continued, "Supriya Shrinete described the Naxals as martyrs and expressed sympathy for them. She also said that a thorough probe should be conducted into this operation." He further stated that she "exposed the real face" of the Congress-led opposition I.N.D.I.A bloc, adding that the grand old party was "advocating" for the Maoists, as it is losing the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

This latest controversy involving Shrinete, a former



journalist, comes days after she was censured by the Election Commission of India (ECI) for a "derogatory" Instagram post on actor Kangana Ranaut, the BJP candidate from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi. She, however, gave a "clarification" saying that the post was not made by her, and that "multiple people" had access to her Instagram and Facebook accounts. "One of those people posted an extremely problematic and disgusting post from my Instagram account. As soon as I learnt of it, I first deleted it because anyone who knows me knows that I can never launch such a personal and horrid attack against a woman," she said at the time.

SC extends businessman's interim bail in Delhi excise policy case



GNS News Agency, April 22

Abhishek Boinpally, who was arrested in October 2022, faces trial in the case for allegedly influencing the now-scrapped 2021-22 Delhi excise policy. The Supreme Court on Thursday extended the five-week interim bail granted to businessman Abhishek Boinpally on March 20 in the Delhi excise policy case until May 8. A bench of justices Sanjay Khanna and Dipankar Datta passed the order after senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Boinpally, 36, mentioned the matter. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) did not object to the relief. "The interim

bail granted on March 20 will continue till May 8," said the bench. Boinpally's appeal against the Delhi high court order denying him regular bail in July last year is listed for May 8. Arrested in October 2022, Boinpally faces trial in the case along with former Delhi deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia. Boinpally is accused of influencing the now-scrapped 2021-22 Delhi excise policy and being part of the conspiracy for undue benefits to private liquor traders. The Supreme Court granted interim bail to Boinpally, who cited medical problems during his incarceration for it, while directing him to surrender his passport to the trial court and remain in Delhi except when travelling to his native Hyderabad. The court allowed the trial court to impose necessary bail conditions to ensure there was no hindrance to ED's pending investigation.

Boinpally got bail from the trial court in the Central Bureau of Investigation in the matter. In November 2022, ED arrested him in connection with the money laundering probe relating to the same case. The ED has linked the proceeds of the crime of ₹105.55 crores to Boinpally, which he has denied claiming the link was based on uncorroborated statements of witnesses. In his bail plea, Boinpally argued the trial in the ED case was yet to commence and the investigation against him is complete.

Goa chief minister welcomes Archbishop's call, says BJP is secular



GNS News Agency, April 22

Chief minister Pramod Sawant on Thursday welcomed Goa Archbishop Filipe Neri Ferrao's statement asking people to fulfil their moral obligation of voting for those with "secular credentials" and uphold the values of the constitution, saying the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is secular.

"...the BJP government has spent money for the upkeep of Churches of Old Goa and the Exposition [of the relics of St Francis Xavier]. ...the BJP government revived the minority commissions in Goa and nationally... If any party is secular, it is the BJP," Sawant said. In a circular to churches, Ferrao, who is one of six Catholic Cardinals in India, called on all eligible Catholic voters to vote for "persons with secular credentials, who are truly committed to work for the good of all the people and to uphold the values enshrined in our Constitution." He said it was his "bounden duty, as the Head of the Church in Goa, to call the attention of our Church members to the fact that, in the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."

Ferrao said the Church's obligation to participate in nation-building and in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of faith. "...it is an all-important part of the mission."

Farmers sell paddy on spot to traders fearing untimely rains

GNS News Agency, April 22

Hyderabad: Uncertain weather conditions coupled with practical challenges involving paddy storing have made Yasangi farmers vulnerable, forcing them to dispose of the stocks to traders immediately after harvest operations. Paddy ready for harvest and stocks close to the paddy purchase centre were exposed to rains in different districts including Nizamabad, Karimnagar and Kamareddy recently.

Isolated rainfall with thunder storms have been forecast for Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh and Rayalaseema from April 18 to 21. Prompted by the cloudy weather conditions prevailing in parts of the State for the last one week, farmers were trying to dispose of their paddy as quickly as possible for fear of the stocks getting exposed to rain.

They are looking at the traders to sell the paddy without further delay. According to reports, private traders were way ahead in reaching out to the farmers. While the Civil Supplies Corporation could procure a little over four lakhs metric tons of paddy through paddy purchase centres so far, private traders are said to have managed to procure double the quantity in the last one month.

Elections only hope to save democracy: CM Mann introduces party candidates



GNS News Agency, April 22

Launching Aam Aadmi Party's Lok Sabha election campaign with all 12 party candidates by his side, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Thursday called the upcoming Lok Sabha elections a "historic event providing last ray of hope to protect democracy and Constitution from an autocrat". The chief minister also called upon party volunteers to bury "grudges" and come together to strengthen the AAP. "These elections are not about winning or losing but for saving the Constitution and democracy. An autocrat has emerged on the scene and has been putting leaders of rival parties in jails. When such limits are crossed, then God takes out his broom and cleanses," he said, reiterating: "Sansad Vich Vi Bhagwant Mann" mission.

Mann alleged a "big crisis" has come up before the country as he accused the Narendra Modi government of putting rival party leaders behind bars. Asking the people not to be lured by money, Mann said, "They used to announce a manifesto. Now they have started giving guarantees in line with Kejriwal's guarantees. They will offer you lollipops. You go and tell the people in villages. Have they not made the LPG cylinder cheaper? Now, do not fall for any traps. AAP saves your money. It saves at least Rs 3,000 per month for power. It saves you Rs 1 lakh every year. They will try to buy you by giving you money. If they come with money, accept it and promise that you will vote for them, but press 'jhaadu' button on June 1." Addressing party workers and volunteers after holding a meeting with the 13 party candidates in Mohali's Zirakpur, Mann said, "You all support the party. The youth may have some grudges, but I assure you that I will listen to each one of you and redress your grievances. Remember, the governments have no dearth of posts. The government can have a dearth of people but not posts. Hence, believe that you are Arvind Kejriwal and fight like him."

Talking about his campaigning, Mann said, "When

I go to other states, people tell me that they will respond to these excesses with their votes. That is why I say Kejriwal is not a person, he is thinking (soch), and thinking cannot be put behind bars. The party becomes a national party in 10 years. We have governments in two states and we have 10 MPs in the Rajya Sabha. We have mayors in Chandigarh and Madhya Pradesh. We have MLAs in other states too." Talking about AAP candidates, who were sitting on the stage, the CM said, "They are all from common households. Is there a minister's son among them?" He assured the volunteers that he would be in Punjab in the coming days. "Wherever you would like me to come, I will come. You make a programme where the rally, roadshow or a meeting is to be organised. You take care of the workers of opposition parties. I will take care of their leaders. I am already engaged with them in kabaddi anyway."

Reiterating he has a clean image, Mann said, "I have no share in mines, buses, dhabas or anywhere else. I only share people's happiness and sorrow." Mann told the volunteers to vote for AAP even if he was not able to visit every village. "I will not be able to go to every village. But I will come to thank you after the elections. I am here to do this. I have nothing else to do." Taking a dig at the BJP, which is facing farmers' anger, Mann said they did not allow farmers to go to Delhi and now farmers are not allowing them to go to their villages. "They do not allow us to go to Delhi while our forefathers fought for freedom. They do not give us money. They do not allow our tableau." Asking people to vote in favour of AAP in the Lok Sabha polls, Mann said they should vote for Punjab and the future of their children. "Set up a record of 13-0 in favour of AAP," said Mann. While 11 candidates were present, two of them Lajjit Singh Bhullar from Khadoor Sahib and Gurmeet Singh Meht Hayer from Sangrur could not make it to the function.

The CM announced from the stage that Hayer and Bhullar had to appear in a case in a court in Tarn Taran, so they could not make it. However, Bhullar reached before the CM ended his speech. wife Dr Gurpreet Kaur and Punjab Cabinet Minister Anmol Gagan Maan were also present at the function. The candidates Ashok Parashar Pappi from Ludhiana, Malvinder Singh Kang from Anandpur Sahib, Gursher Singh Sherry Kalsi from Gurdaspur, Jagdeep Singh Kaka Brar from Ferozepur, Karamjit Anmol from Faridkot, Dr Balbir Singh from Patiala, Kuldeep Dhaliwal from Amritsar, Dr Raj Kumar Chabbawal from Hoshiarpur, Pawan Kumar Tinu from Jalandhar, Gurpreet Singh GP from Fatehgarh Sahib and Gurmeet Singh Khuddian from Bathinda were present at the function.

As Lok Sabha polls kick off, families part of first-ever translocation for tiger conversation in Bengal head back to Buxa forest for one last time to vote

GNS News Agency, April 22

As 30-year-old Susmita Kumal and her husband Bikas prepare for a new life at their new home at Bana Chhaya in Kalchini Block of Alipurduar district in West Bengal, they will travel 40 km on Friday to cast their vote for one last time at their old homes located in the core area of Buxa Tiger Reserve. Kumals are among the 240 families who were moved out of their homes at Bhutiya Basti and Gangotia Basti as part of the first-ever relocation of villages in West Bengal for the conservation of tigers.

While the families prepare for tomorrow's bus ride, arranged by the authorities, they think of the challenges of settling at a new place and starting their life from scratch. Pointing to their new home, which stands on stilts, Susmita says, "You see all the houses here are elevated and stand on stilts. This is because elephants frequent this area. The elephants come at night. Then there is also the problem of wild bison. After we informed them, the authorities started patrolling the area after dark. We have a lot to do here to start a new life. What will be difficult is to find a job," said Susmita, who lives with her two sons and husband. Buxa The families have received Rs 15 lakh and 8 decimal land at Ban Chhaya from the government as compensation for relocations. "I and my husband work as daily wage labourers. At our Bhutiya Basti home, we sold forest products when there was no work. Here there is no such thing. Here there are no opportunities for jobs either. That's the challenge we are facing," says Susmita, who has two young sons. The families have received Rs 15 lakh and 8 decimal land at Ban Chhaya from the government as compensation for relocations.

"We have no complaint about the compensation, but the problem here is that we have no job opportunity. In Bhutiya Basti, we used to get a lot of work. Our family used to go to the forest and pluck fruits, woods, and other things which we sold or used for our consumption. Here, we have no such option. The administration said that they will give 100-day work to use. But from when and how much we will be able to earn, we don't know," says 36-year-old Ajit Majhi. According to the authorities, the decision to translocate Bhutiya Basti and Gangotia Basti was taken in February 2023 as the two villages fell on the tiger corridor, used by tigers to move from Bhutan to Buxa.

"It is the first ever relocation of people for conservation in West Bengal. Bhutiya Basti, in fact, fell in the middle of the Tiger corridor from Bhutan to Buxa. It is a huge leap forward for us in terms of conservation. The villages in the core area of the reserve created anthropogenic disturbances, which human disturbance in an ecological area," says Apurba Sen, Field Director of Buxa Tiger Reserve.

"It will take some months for the people to settle down. They have been relocated from the core area to an area which is near the forest and the town itself. We are also in regular touch with the villagers," says Sen. "Regarding job opportunities, the villagers were a part of the Joint Forest Management Committee. However, the Committee was dissolved as they were relocated. After the elections, we will form a new JFMC. We give 40 per cent of revenue generated from ticket sales (Buxa Tiger Reserve) to JFMCs. Members of JFMCs are also hired for various types of work in the forest. So, they will not lose job opportunity. Moreover, they will find jobs in Kalchini town which is near the new habitat," Sen said, adding that since they are now out of the core area, they are allowed to rear cattle which is of advantage to them," Sen adds. Bimla Majhi, who had to leave her Bhutiya Basti home to settle in the new village, says: "We are waiting for proper roads and a school to come up here. My sister-



in-law is a class eight student and since we came here in March, she has stopped going to school," Bimla says.

The Buxa Tiger Reserve and National Park covers 760 square km area and is located in North Bengal's Alipurduar district. Its northern boundary runs along the border with Bhutan. According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority, the Reserve has corridor connectivity across the border with the forests of Bhutan in the North; linkages with the Kochugaon forests and Manas Tiger Reserve in the East; and with the Jaldapara National Park. Buxa According to the authorities, the decision to translocate Bhutiya Basti and Gangotia Basti was taken in February 2023 as the two villages fell on the tiger corridor, used by tigers to move from Bhutan to Buxa. (Express Photo by Partha Paul) Buxa Tiger Reserve was in the news last December after the sighting of a tiger via camera trap. After that a proposal was sent to the National Tiger Conservation Authority through the state government. The final go-ahead to translocate the two villages in the core area of the reserve came in February 2023. According to the authorities, the remnants of Bhutiya Basti have been cleared, including the concrete structures, to give free passage to the tigers. Alipurduar, a Scheduled Tribe reserved constituency, will vote for the ensuing Lok Sabha election on Friday along with Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri, both Scheduled Caste reserved constituencies.

Scorching temperatures hit Telangana: Hyderabad records 43°C, nine districts above 45°C

GNS News Agency, April 22

Hyderabad: Hyderabad and several districts in the state are currently experiencing an intense heat spell, with temperatures soaring well above normal levels. On Thursday, Hyderabad's mercury climbed to 43 degrees Celsius, while nine districts in the state recorded temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius, indicating a severe heat. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for Hyderabad, cautioning residents about the escalating heat conditions. Additionally, parts of Suryapet, Mancherial, Peddapalli, Jagtial, and Adilabad are under a red warning for Friday, with temperatures expected to surpass 45 degrees Celsius. Over the next five days, Hyderabad is predicted to endure even hotter temperatures, with the average maximum temperature forecasted to settle at 42 degrees Celsius. This prolonged heat is likely to impact various localities significantly.

Ajit Pawar's Jayant Patil slip and why MVA candidates' had to sit on the road



GNS News Agency, April 22

At Thursday's Mahayuti rally held in Pune, when Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's turn came to speak, he spoke about how the overflowing river water which goes Karnataka will be diverted to drought-hit areas of Purandar, Baramati, Indapur and Daund. While revealing his plans, Ajit Pawar said a meeting in this connection was held recently where Water Resources Minister Jayant Patil was present. After taking Jayant Patil's name, Ajit Pawar paused a little while the crowd burst out in laughter. Ajit Pawar quickly corrected himself and replaced Jayant Patil's name with Devendra Fadnavis. He then went on, "The meeting was held at Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's residence where Vijay Shivtare and Devendra Fadnavis were also present." For the record, Jayant Patil, the former Water Resources Minister, is with Sharad Pawar led NCP. There was a grand show of strength by MVA after the candidates filed their nomination for Baramati, Pune and Shirur constituency. The rally was organised in the Rasta Peth area with a large number of supporters seated in heat during the day

candidates Supriya Sule of NCP (SP) for Baramati, Amol Kolhe of NCP (SP) for Shirur and Ravindra Dhangekar of Congress for Pune decided to sit on the

road along with the supporters when Supriya Sule, Amol Kolhe and Ravindra Dhangekar decided to sit on the road along with the supporters. (Express Photo) The stage was on the road and was small compared to the number of leaders that were present for the rally. Thus, the candidates Supriya Sule of NCP (SP) for Baramati, Amol Kolhe of NCP (SP) for Shirur and Ravindra Dhangekar of Congress for Pune decided to sit on the road along with the supporters to accommodate other leaders on stage attending the rally. This led the supporters to cheer for their candidate as all together faced the scorching summer heat for two hours.

With the election season and peak summer overlapping, the police officers and personnel on security deployments and poll duties struggle with both high pressure duties and heat-related health risks. Senior officials said that the pre-deployment briefings to the police teams include specific guidelines on protection from the heat and care that needs to be taken during these high stress assignments. The constabulary staff in Pune currently have 12 hour designated shifts but they often stretch to 15 to 18 hours, and sometimes more during election season. The officers on the other hand have no shift timings and are often on duty round the clock. Additional Commissioner of Police (Administration) Arvind Chavria said, "Every deployment order and briefing consists of specific guidelines on safety and health. For the present high pressure duties, the personnel are being advised to keep themselves hydrated by consuming plenty of water and fluids. Avoid eating unhealthy food items and prefer home cooked food. They are told to be mindful of heat related health risks and report if they experience any symptoms." Officials said that at the individual unit level, rotation of outdoor and indoor duties is done to minimise the risk.

Tandon refers to Emergency and loyalty to Gandhis, Tewari reminds him about Masih

GNS News Agency, April 22

The debate on "saving democracy" took a different turn in Chandigarh on Thursday evening with Congress candidate Manish Tewari and BJP candidate Sanjay Tandon getting into a war of words with each other. In a statement released to the press, Tandon said "it does not suit Tiwari to talk about democracy as his party was known for suspending the Constitution during the Emergency when the entire Opposition was put behind bars." Tiwari should also understand how the Congress has been promoting dynastic politics in which a single family governs and rules over the party and that nepotism had been always a hallmark of the Congress," he said. Tandon went on to say, "Tewari's remarks about saving democracy would carry more weight if they were not coming from a party steeped in dynastic rule."

"The Congress party, where leadership revolves around the Gandhi family, lacks the moral authority to speak on democracy. For decades, they have stifled internal democracy and promoted a culture where only one family 'calls the shots.' This is not the democracy our forefathers envisioned or what the people of India deserve." Tandon said, "The BJP's commitment to democratic principles and governance truly represents the people. The BJP stands for a democracy where every Indian has an equal voice, and leaders are chosen based on merit and public service, not lineage. As we approach the elections, I urge the citizens of Chandigarh to reflect on who truly upholds the democratic spirit and who merely pays lip service."

When Tewari was asked about Tandon's statement, he replied on X and said, "Wow that is really rich... coming from someone whose party colleague Mr Masih had



to be upbraided by none other than the Supreme Court of India for subverting democracy in broad daylight in the glare of candid camera. Have you or @BJP4India had the courtesy of not courage to apologise to the people of Chandigarh for your reprehensible conduct." Earlier during the day, BJP's office-bearer Hukum Chand in a statement released termed Tewari "absconder" leaving his two constituencies. He also said that "Chandigarh be not made Anandpur Sahib and Ludhiana". To this, then Tewari replied on X. He posted, "Someone forwarded a BJP Chandigarh press note to me. The vitriol had me in splits. It is rich that those who mercilessly butchered democracy in Chandigarh that compelled the Supreme Court to step in and use their extraordinary powers under Article 142 of the Constitution of India have the temerity to point fingers at me. My question to them is that you have been ruling both at the Centre & the state for 10 years, what have you done for Chandigarh? The shoe is on the other foot, Gentlemen. It is my time to question your track record & the questions will come in droves."

'Our vote doesn't matter': Anger, resentment simmers among violence-hit Manipur residents in Delhi



GNS News Agency, April 22

The sentiment was voiced by several Manipur residents in Delhi, who fled the ethnic violence last year, as the first phase of the Lok Sabha election kicks off in the Northeast state on Friday. In the background, there is talk of the Centre and State having done little about the conflict nearly a year since, discussions of a poll boycott among sections of the Kuki community back home, and persistent uncertainty over whether those in the national capital will be able to return home. A 20-year-old Manipur University student who moved to Delhi in May last year with his family, a few days after violence broke out on May 3, said he would have voted for the first time had he been back home in Imphal. "The government hasn't done anything... and we can't vote. We have been hearing mixed things about the election, there are young people there who are talking about boycotting it, since the Central government doesn't recognise our plight. Right now, for people who are here, it will be difficult to return home," said the first-year BA student, who belongs to the Kuki community. He began working after he moved to Delhi but hopes to complete his education. "It's a corporate job and was very difficult to find. It has been quite hard here to adjust to a new environment, but what can we say... it's about survival. Seven of us moved to Delhi since my aunt lives here, and we didn't have anywhere else to go after we spent four days in a relief camp," he said.

Tara Manchin Hangzo, 58, a former member of the State Commission for Scheduled Tribes, who is from Imphal, also moved to Delhi last May. "It has been nearly a year since we were chased out of our house. It has been a struggle. We live here in rented accommodation... I have my 87-year-old mother with me and my sister. It will soon be one year since we even set foot in Imphal... what will we gain from voting when nothing has been done for us? People were killed, and no justice has been

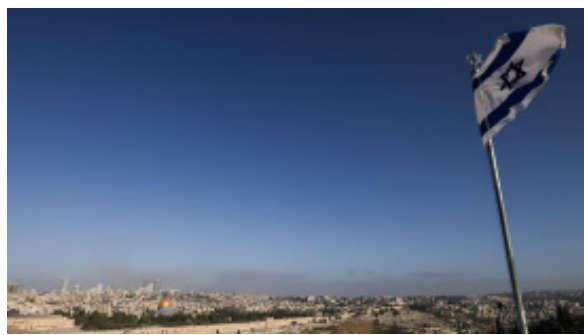
served. Many people are unable to vote and our vote doesn't seem to matter. We need assurance that there will be peace, and we will get our homes, livelihoods back. The Centre and the State have not responded to the crisis. We seem to be minor, miniscule people among billions in the country," she said. A 28-year-old PhD student at Delhi University, from the Kangpokpi district, said his cousins from back home have moved to live with him in Delhi. "There are no sources of income there, and they moved here to look for opportunities. Three of my cousins are in their 20s — one is now working in the medical line, and the others are at private companies. They had to look for jobs here, and it wasn't easy. I was registered as a voter back in Manipur. We've been talking about the elections, about the fact that the current ruling party has not done anything about the conflict. They have allowed it to stretch for nearly a year now. There is a government that could have controlled or ended this ethnic conflict, but they are not doing anything," said the student. "The last time I was able to go home was in February last year before all this began. I was reluctant to ask my family for financial support, so I ended up working for a few months while studying," he added.

SI, constable and private person in ACB net

GNS News Agency, April 22

Kothagudem: The ACB sleuths have arrested a Sub-Inspector of Police, a constable and a private person in a bribe case at Bhadrachalam in the district on Thursday. According to an official release, the accused constable Shankarashetty Shankar was caught red handed by the ACB officials when he demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs. 20,000 with the tacit approval of SI Mulagundla Srinivas of Bhadrachalam town police station. The constable with the approval of the SI demanded Rs 25,000 from the complainant Marri Sai Teja and an accompanying witness Golla Ganesh for himself and for the SI for not booking a criminal case against the complainant and two others as well as to release the mobile phones and passenger auto belonging to the complainant.

US knew about Israel's reported Iran attack: 10 points



GNS News Agency, April 22

Israel has reportedly attacked Iran, days after Tehran fired 300 projectiles towards the country. Tehran's Fars news agency reported that three explosions were heard near an army base in Isfahan. Iran's state TV claimed the country's defense system destroyed three drones in the sky. An Israeli flag flies on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Al Aqsa mosque compound and the city skyline in Jerusalem on April 19, 2024. US media quoted officials saying Israel had carried out retaliatory strikes on its arch-rival Iran, while Iran's state media reported explosions in the central province of Isfahan. (AFP)

An Israeli flag flies on the Mount of Olives overlooking the Al Aqsa mosque compound and the city skyline in Jerusalem on April 19, 2024. US media quoted officials saying Israel had carried out retaliatory strikes on its arch-rival Iran, while Iran's state media reported explosions in the central province of Isfahan. (AFP) Israel had vowed to avenge Iran's weekend attack, which was largely blunted by Tel Aviv and its allies, including the United States. Iran's first direct attack on Israel was in response to the alleged Israeli air strike on the nation's consulate in Damascus. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi had warned that his country would severely respond to any attack on its territory. Iran's state media said nuclear facilities in Isfahan were unharmed. Flight operation at Airports in Tehran,

Shiraz and Isfahan was stopped as precaution US media reported that the United States had received information about Israel's reported strike in advance. However, they didn't endorse the operation or participate in it. The US had said that it would support Israel's defense but would not take part in any offensive operations. The country had also announced new economic sanctions against Iran. "We didn't endorse the response," a US official told CNN. According to some reports, Iran used air defense batteries in Isfahan. The Israel military and the White House have not made official remarks so far. Iran's IRNA said it fired batteries at a major air base in Isfahan, which houses American-made F-14 Tomcats, purchased before Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979. On Thursday, Iran told a UN meeting that Iran's weekend attack against Israel was a legitimate response to a suspected Israeli missile strike on its embassy compound in Syria. Iran's foreign minister Hossein Amirabdollahian had said Iran would give a decisive response to Israel's attack. "Certainly, in case of any use of force by the Israeli regime, and violating our sovereignty, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not hesitate a bit to assert its inherent rights to give a decisive and proper response to make the regime regret its actions," he said. As Western countries were dissuading Israel from attacking Iran, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a curt reply, said on Wednesday that it reserved the right to protect itself against Tehran. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres painted a grim picture of the situation in the Middle East, warning that spiralling tensions over the war in Gaza and Iran's attack on Israel could devolve into a "full-scale regional conflict." "The Middle East is on a precipice. Recent days have seen a perilous escalation -- in words and deeds," Guterres told the Security Council. "One miscalculation, one miscommunication, one mistake, could lead to the unthinkable -- a full-scale regional conflict that would be devastating for all involved," he said, calling on all parties to exercise "maximum restraint. Meanwhile, oil prices surged more than three percent in early Asian trade on Friday following the reported explosions.

At least 108 anti-Israel protesters hauled away, arrested from Columbia University, dozens of tents tossed in trash

GNS News Agency, April 22

NYPD officers in riot gear cuffed and took away over 100 anti-Israel protesters from Columbia University on Thursday, April 18. This came after the college president decided to clear a massive anti-Israel protest encampment. Later, a crowd of other demonstrators were seen rushing to the police vehicles in an attempt to prevent them from leaving the scene. Officers also tore down multiple tents and tossed them in the trash. "I applaud the cops. They are doing the right thing," a 20-year-old student of the university said, wishing to remain anonymous, according to New York Post. We don't feel safe. We fear for our lives. "Remember who started this? Hamas, that terrorist group," he added. "We pay a lot of money to come here and we should feel safe and protected." Dozens of officers were seen on the Morningside Heights campus shortly after 1 pm. They were seen wearing body armour and face shields. Columbia President Minouche Shafik said that she "authorized" the NYPD to block the protest. Among those who have been arrested are Isra Hirsi, the daughter of "Squad" Congresswoman Ilhan Omar (D-Minn.). All those who were arrested were slapped with trespassing summonses. Two protesters were even handed obstruction of governmental administration summonses. Speaking of the protests, Mayor Eric Adams said, "Students have a right to free speech. They do not have a right to violate university policies and disrupt learning on campus."

"I know the conflict in the Middle East has left many of us grieving and angry. This is a painful moment for our city, for our country and for the globe. New Yorkers have every right to express their sorrow. But that heartbreak does not give you the right to harass others to spread hate," he added. When Minouche Shafik sought the NYPD's help, Shafik had previously emailed students, staff and faculty saying she had to request the NYPD to assist, even though she thought it would "never be necessary."

Why did Biden block UNSC resolution for Palestine statehood? US stand Explained

GNS News Agency, April 22

On Thursday, the United States stood alone in opposing a United Nations Security Council resolution to grant the Palestinian territories full UN membership and statehood. The U.S. vetoed the proposal put forward by Algeria on behalf of Arab nations, resulting in the resolution's failure. While twelve of the 15 council members voted in favour, Britain and Switzerland abstained.

Had the resolution passed, it would have moved to the U.N. General Assembly, where a two-thirds majority among the 193 member countries would be required for approval. Currently, around 140 U.N. members recognize the Palestinian territories as a state. U.S. officials have argued that endorsing statehood at this time could jeopardize the chances of achieving a lasting peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. It insists a mutually agreed-upon solution is essential.

"President Biden has consistently emphasized that a lasting peace in the region hinges on a two-state solution reached through mutual agreement," U.S. representative Robert Wood told the council. "This is the only path that ensures Israel's security and its future as a democratic Jewish state, while also guaranteeing Palestinians can live in peace and dignity in their own state." "We also have long been clear that a premature action here in New York, even with the best intentions, will not achieve statehood for the Palestinian people," Wood said. The United States "fully shared responsibility with its Israeli allies for the deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians." Even before the vote it was widely anticipated that Biden would veto the resolution. The resolution

needed nine out of 15 votes for passage and no veto from any permanent member, including the U.S. The administration had actively encouraged members to either vote against or abstain from the resolution to prevent a veto. Despite this stance, the majority of the council disagreed. Many argued that the U.S., due to its unwavering support for Israel, shares responsibility for the ongoing challenges faced by the Palestinian people. Russian Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya criticized the U.S. veto as an attempt to resist the inevitable course of history. Despite the U.S.'s strong stance, even its closest allies on the council did not support the veto. Britain, for instance, explained its abstention by saying that while they support Palestinian statehood, such recognition should be part of a broader process. Algeria, the resolution's sponsor, remained resolute, declaring their commitment to the cause until it's achieved.

Ziad Abu Amr, representing Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, pointed out that the same 1947 UN resolution that established Israel also called for a Palestinian state. He questioned how granting Palestinian statehood could hinder peace efforts. "How could granting the state of Palestine full membership of the United Nations ... damage the prospects of peace between Palestinians and Israelis" or international peace? Abu Amr asked. "To those who say that recognizing a Palestinian state must happen through negotiations and not through a U.N. resolution, we wonder again, how was the state of Israel established?" Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gilad Erdan vehemently opposed the resolution, dismissing the idea of a Palestinian state meeting membership criteria.

Suicide bomb attack on vehicle carrying Japanese nationals in Karachi



GNS News Agency, April 22

Karachi suicide attack: All five foreigners survived the attack. The suicide bomber and two militants were killed in retaliatory fire by the police. At least two people were killed in a suicide blast attack in Pakistan's Karachi on Friday that struck a vehicle in which foreign nationals were travelling, broadcaster Geo News reported. All five foreigners in the vehicle survived the attack, the report said, adding that the suicide bomber and two terrorists were killed in retaliatory fire by the police.

Terrorists seeking to overthrow the government and set up their own strict brand of Islamic rule have launched some of Pakistan's bloodiest attacks over the last few years, sometimes targeting foreigners, such as Chinese,

news agency Reuters reported. The Japanese survivors have been moved to a safe place in police custody, the police spokesperson, Abrar Hussain Baloch, said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack from any militant group. The Karachi Police confirmed that it was a suicide attack. It said another vehicle was also damaged in the explosion, Geo News reported. As per initial reports shared by the police, the second terrorist killed in the encounter was also a suicide bomber. "A suicide jacket and a grenade are tied to the terrorist's body," the police said, adding that a bomb disposal team is reaching the site of the attack. The law enforcement agency also shared that the foreign nationals were working in the export processing zone, the report said. Jinnah Hospital officials told Geo News that three injured were brought to the medical facility out of which two were critically injured. The injured, which included two security guards and a passerby, were identified as Noor Muhammad, Langar Khan and Salman Rafiq.

They also confirmed that no foreign national was injured in the accident. "After the explosion, a terrorist was firing at the vehicle," Geo News quoted a security guard, who was with the nationals and witnessed the incident, as saying. Meanwhile, Sindh governor Kamran Tessori condemned the suicide attack in Landhi, directing the CCPO and IG to present a report on the attack. "Terrorism will not be tolerated in the city under any circumstances," the governor said.

Florida Gov Ron DeSantis signs bill requiring history of communism to be taught in lower grades. What you need to know

GNS News Agency, April 22

Florida governor Ron DeSantis on Wednesday, April 17, signed a bill that would require history of communism to be taught in schools in lower grades. It was the 63rd anniversary of the Bay of Pigs invasion being launched by the United States. That was, however, a failed attempt at overthrowing Fidel Castro's dictatorship in Cuba. "We know that the Bay of Pigs was launched because the island of Cuba had succumb to communist tyranny," DeSantis said at a press conference at the Hialeah Gardens Museum, according to US Today. The museum was made to honour the efforts of the Bay of Pigs' Assault Brigade 2506. "We're going to tell the truth about communism in the state of Florida. We're going to tell the truth about the evils of communism," DeSantis added.

What does the bill do?

According to DeSantis' website, the bill (SB 1264), "adds to existing Communist history standards with instruction on the history of Communism in the United States and the tactics of Communist movements." Further, with the help of the bill, the Institute for Freedom in the Americas at Miami Dade College will be able to promote the importance of economic and individual freedoms, especially in the Caribbean and Latin America. Reportedly, the institute is set to partner with the Adam Smith Center for



Economic Freedom at Florida International University. The website adds that the bill also allows the Florida Department of State, along with the Florida Department of Education, "to recommend to the Legislature the creation of a Florida-based museum on the history of Communism." It will also help students learn to withstand indoctrination on Communism at educational institutions. The truth will set us free," said DeSantis on his website. "We will not allow our students to live in ignorance, nor be indoctrinated by Communist apologists in schools. To the contrary, we will ensure students in Florida are taught the truth about the evils and dangers of Communism."

X dubs Google 'compromised' after Elon Musk reveals trick, here's what happens when you type 'before:2023'

GNS News Agency, April 22

Social media users have named Google a "compromised platform" after Elon Musk revealed an unusual feature. A screenshot of a "pro-tip" given a person, and shared by Musk, reads, "If you have to do a Google search, use 'before:2023' at the beginning of your search string. You get a completely different (and IMO much more usable) set of results. The web has died." Another person wrote about this comment, "Someone recently posted a hot tip about adding 'before:2023' to Google web searches and I forget who it was but wow what a huge difference it makes. So thank you to whoever that was. It gets rid of so much AI-generated SEO cr*." Many took to the comment section of the post to talk about the search engine, with one user saying, "It's time for Elon and ?? to create their own search Engine. Google's search engine is run by the FBI and Democrat Party". "Make a search engine. We will use it!" one user said, while another wrote, "What Google did with Gemini is what they've been doing with Google search for years. They add in a secondary DEI prompt layer that modifies the original query to make it more PC friendly." "The world will never be the same. We must record the real history on the blockchain," said



one user. Another wrote, "I'll just continue to not use Google. Compromised platform." "Google ... also the enemy of the people!!!" one user said, while another wrote, "@elonmusk when are you going to roll out a search engine? The world needs access to ALL information, not just propaganda." "We need to go back to the middle when things were normal and people had common sense," one said. Another wrote, "Oh wow. In the beginning, Chat GPT seemed stuck in time. I wonder if there's any correlation. Or maybe we're all dreaming right now".

Prince Harry is 'trolling' King Charles after announcing US residency the exact same day he was 'kicked...'

GNS News Agency, April 22

Prince Harry's decision to list his US residency on the same day he reportedly left Frogmore Cottage is raising eyebrows. Some media outlets are suggesting it might be a deliberate jab, or "trolling," directed at King Charles. The Duke of Sussex, on the other hand, is slated to return to the UK in May for his Invictus Games commitment. Many believe that during this visit, he might discuss his royal titles with his father, now that he has chosen the US as his official home. 2020 saw Prince Harry and wife Meghan Markle leave the UK's Royal Palace when the couple chose to step down from their position as working royals. In an interview with GB News, Royal Editor Charlotte Griffiths claimed that Harry's UK exit was brought on by resentment at his father's choice to "kick him and Meghan out of Frogmore Cottage."

The royal relationship has never been easy to understand. After leaving Frogmore Cottage, Harry and Meghan moved to Windsor Palace before it was vacated for Prince Andrew. By then, Harry was already a father of

one (Prince Archie). The couple left the royal scene in 2020 without attempting reconciliation. Tensions heightened with their Netflix series and the explosive Oprah Winfrey interview, sparking new speculations about Kate and Prince William. The royal expert believes that Harry could have chosen any date to announce his US residency after settling in California. However, he chose the day he and Meghan "officially stepped down as working royals". "To me, it feels like he's trolling his dad a bit, because he could have said that he's been a US resident since 2020, when he quit the UK and moved to the States, but instead he chose the exact day that his dad kicked him out of Frogmore." The royal expert believes that the reason the Duke was asked to leave the palace was because he harshly criticised Queen Camilla in "Spare." "It was a difficult decision for Charles because no father wants to kick their son out of their home." But, "he went beyond the pale." The expert also mentioned that the Sussexes spent around £2.4 million renovating the cottage, only to move out of it anyway.

Elon Musk on Israel-Iran tensions: Rockets should be 'sent to stars, not...'



Tesla CEO Elon Musk said that rockets should be sent to stars rather than at each other after reports of Israel strikes on the city of Isfahan in Iran as tensions escalated in the region. It was reported that Israel launched missile strikes against Tehran in the latest exchange between the two countries. Iranian media reported explosions and said three drones over the central city of Isfahan had been shot down. Israel military and prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu have remained silent on the alleged strikes by Tel Aviv. Elon Musk's post

after the reported blasts across Iran read, "We should send rockets not at each other, but rather to the stars. Maybe world leaders should just email memes at each other and let the public vote on who wins."

What we know about Israel's reported strikes on Iran?

Reports suggested that the United States received notification before Israel's attack. The strikes come days after Iran launched an unprecedented strike on Israel with a barrage of drones and missiles. Israel had then said that most of those drones and missiles were shot down. Following this, US and the West pressed on Israel to not respond and ensure that any retaliation was limited to prevent a broader conflagration in the region. Tehran's attack came after an alleged Israeli air strike on the Iranian embassy compound in Damascus on April 1. Iran has supported Hamas following the latter's assault into Israel on October 7.

What has Iran said on Israel so far?

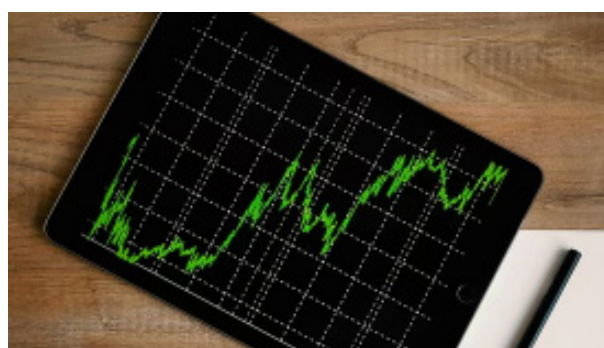
Iranian president Ebrahim Raisi warned Israel that Tehran would deliver a "severe response" to any attack on its territory after which it also told the United Nations Security Council that Israel "must be compelled to stop any further military adventurism against our interests."

Oil Pares Gain After Iran Downplays Israel's Retaliatory Attacks

Oil pared an earlier jump, after Iranian media appeared to downplay retaliatory strikes following last weekend's unprecedented bombardment of Israel.

Brent crude traded about 2% higher after earlier soaring above \$90 a barrel on concerns over the potential for a wider regional conflict that could endanger crude supplies. Israel launched a strike on Iran, according to two US officials, but the Islamic Republic's semi-official Tasnim news agency denied the reports and said that the Isfahan nuclear facility was safe. Traders have been girding for an Israeli response to last weekend's missile and drone attack, with the rhetoric between the two escalating as Tehran warned against striking its nuclear facilities. The Middle East accounts for about a third of global crude supplies.

Haven assets also rose as tensions ratcheted higher. Gold spiked toward a record, before giving back some of its gains, while the US dollar climbed to a multimonth high. "Depending on the nature of strikes, we are moving closer toward a scenario where supply risks become a reality," said Warren Patterson, head of commodities strategy at ING Groep NV in Singapore. "The market will likely have to start pricing in an even larger risk premium." Crude has rallied this year, with gains driven by the worsening hostilities in the Middle East, as well as OPEC supply cuts that have tightened the market. Higher energy prices, if sustained, would boost risks for the global economy and pose a challenge for central bankers as they seek to tame inflation. The supply curbs orchestrated by OPEC, which include cutbacks in Saudi Arabia as well as Russia, mean that the producer group has a buffer of unused capacity of several million barrels a day. At present, the



output restrictions are set to last through the first half of this year.

Among the initial reports about Iran, ABC News, citing an unidentified US official, said Israeli missiles hit a site in the country. Separately, the Mehr news agency said that flights had been suspended in Tehran, Isfahan and Shiraz. Trading volumes spiked, with over 430,000 lots of Brent and nearly 350,000 of West Texas Intermediate traded by 1 p.m. in Singapore, far more than usual. There was also active trading of Brent June and July call options — which profit when prices gain. The premium of call options over put options also surged to around the highest since October. "We continue to highlight the heightened risk that this war will move up the escalation ladder," RBC Capital Markets LLC analysts including Helima Croft said in a note before crude's spike. "Oil supplies could be caught in the cross-hairs of this metastasizing conflict."

Godrej family begins formal division of group, will start divestments soon: Report

The Godrej family has begun the formal division of the conglomerate by exiting the boards of each other's companies, it was reported. The family will soon divest their stakes, The Economic Times reported citing people in the know. This separation is between two branches of the founding family with Adi Godrej and his brother Nadir on one side. The other side has Jamshyd Godrej and his sister Smita Godrej Crishna. This comes after Adi and Nadir Godrej resigned from the Godrej & Boyce Board while Jamshyd Godrej also left his seat in the boards of GCPL and Godrej Properties.

The report claimed, "Top executives close to the matter said real estate estimated at ₹3,400 crore, mostly prime land in the Mumbai suburbs, will remain under Godrej & Boyce (G&B), and a separate agreement will be worked out to govern ownership rights." Adi and Nadir Godrej will divest their stakes in Godrej & Boyce to the other branch, the report added, while Jamshyd Godrej and his side of the family will transfer interests in Godrej Consumer Products (GCPL) and Godrej Properties to their



cousins. This will be done through a family arrangement, it added.

Read more: Q4 results today: Wipro, Jio Finance, HDFC AMC among companies to post earnings. The Godrej Group has five publicly listed companies - GCPL (Godrej Consumer Products Ltd), Godrej Properties, Godrej Industries, Godrej Agrovet and Astec Lifesciences.

Meta AI challenge to ChatGPT has an element of surprise, albeit not unexpected

It is likely that you're in the midst of the ultimate juggling act, with a decision yet to be made. That is, which artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot or assistant to begin using, more regularly. A conundrum many are struggling with. If the present choices of OpenAI's ChatGPT, Microsoft's Copilot, Google Gemini and Perplexity AI's curation of multiple AI models with the Pro subscription weren't enough, add Meta AI to the list. To that effect, Mark Zuckerberg's Meta may be making adoption simpler, by seamlessly appearing within WhatsApp, Instagram, Facebook and Messenger, alongside meta.ai on the web. Meta's latest AI model, the Llama 3, is what Meta AI is built on. That, according to the company, is the reason they're confident this foundational open-source model will outperform competition. In fact, Meta is rolling out two different Llama 3 models. One will be the underlier for consumer facing AI chatbots in Meta's apps. The other, a larger and multimodal version, will soon be available on platforms including Amazon Web Services or AWS, Databricks, Google Cloud, Hugging Face, Kaggle, IBM WatsonX, Microsoft Azure, NVIDIA NIM, and Snowflake. Extensive hardware support too, including chips by AMD, AWS, Dell, Intel, NVIDIA, and Qualcomm.

While functionality may vary slightly depending on which app or service you access Meta AI from, but the capabilities portfolio is extensive. For example, the search functionality which is expected to be a standard spread across Meta's apps, can point you to web search results from Google Search as well as Microsoft Bing — as far as my knowledge helps, Meta AI is the only AI assistant thus far, to do so. ChatGPT and Copilot rely on Microsoft Bing,

while Gemini expectedly points to Google Search.

There is a text to image generator tool which goes beyond just that — Imagine can generate AI images as you may be typing a message in WhatsApp, and this is now rolling out as part of a beta test for now, but only in the US. There's integration with the Facebook Feed for more context or information about something you just saw in a post. There is a certain level of confidence that Meta is clearly projecting, with some benchmark tests that they point to suggesting Meta AI's Llama 3 has a performance advantage in the 8B and 70B parameters in instruct model and pre-trained model tests — the former compared with Gemma and Mistral, while the latter compared with Google's Gemini Pro 1.5 and Claude 3 Sonnet. OpenAI never disclosed parameter specifics for GPT-4, and the next generation GPT-5 is expected to roll out in the coming months. For Meta, foundational strength and accuracy will be important, as it would want to avoid the mistakes Google made in succession with Bard and then Gemini, including earlier this year when the latter got the diversity balance all wrong in image generations — some generations included pictures of Nazis and the Founding Fathers of America, as people of colour. Google's Prabhakar Raghavan later clarified a series of "tuning" issues with context and caution. OpenAI's GPT, which also is the basis for Microsoft's Copilot assistant, has also often been criticised for incorrect information or limited context. As AI model parameter naming suggests, 8B is categorised as a very large model, with 8 billion parameters used for training, while 70B is an even larger model with 70 billion parameters

Women, find out why your underwear may often get discoloured in the middle



Women, have you ever spotted bleached patches — usually in the middle — of your underwear? Relax, there is no reason to panic. That is because white discharge, called leucorrhoea, are vaginal secretions that can discolour your favourite pair of underpants. Such vaginal discharge, however, is a normal and healthy occurrence in the female body and is, in fact, the body's way of cleaning and protecting the vagina from infections and other harmful organisms. "But, it is essential to understand that vaginal discharge can vary in texture, consistency, and colour, depending on factors such as the menstrual cycle, hormonal changes, and infections," said Dr Chandrika Anand, Consultant Obstetrics & Gynecology, Fortis Hospitals, Nagarbhavi.

Echoing the same, Dr Amina Khalid, an obstetrician-gynaecologist wrote on Instagram, "A lot of you may have noticed your panties getting sort of discoloured at the crotch area. This is most likely to be seen in dark-coloured underwear like black or dark blue. But don't worry. It's perfectly normal!"

But why does this happen?

According to Dr Anand, a healthy vagina has a natu-

ral pH value between 3.8 and 4.5, which means it is largely acidic. "The vagina has good bacteria called lactobacilli, which keep it healthy by maintaining optimum acidity levels and preventing bad bacteria from causing infection. Vaginal discharge generally increases when you ovulate, as well as during pregnancy. When this discharge is exposed to air, it can cause a yellow or orange-coloured stain on your underwear due to oxidation." While there is nothing you can do to prevent it, you can try these methods to avoid discoloration: "You can try opting for light coloured panties on the days you know the vaginal discharge is ought to be more, so that bleaching is less visible." You could use panty liners that can absorb the discharge and prevent it from staining the panties. "Try to use cotton underwear as much as possible, since they prevent moisture to get trapped and prevent infections. However, if you notice abnormal discharge symptoms such as a foul smell or an abnormal colour, it is best to consult a health professional. vaginal secretion if you notice abnormal discharge symptoms such as a foul smell or an abnormal colour, it is best to consult a health professional. (Source: Freepik)

Dr Ritu Sethi, Director, Aura Speciality Clinic, Gurgaon and Senior Consultant- Cloud Nine Hospital, Gurgaon said that abnormal vaginal discharge, however, can be a sign of an underlying infection or condition, and changes in the colour of the discharge can be a clue to what is causing the problem. Some signs to look out for in terms of abnormal discoloration due to vaginal discharge include: "Yellow or green discharge: This could be a sign of a bacterial infection, such as bacterial vaginosis or trichomoniasis. "Gray discharge: This could also be a sign of bacterial vaginosis. "White discharge: A thick, white, cottage cheese-like discharge can be a sign of a yeast infection. "Brown or bloody discharge: This could be a sign of menstrual spotting or bleeding, but it can also indicate a more serious issue, such as cervical cancer or an ectopic pregnancy. "Frothy discharge: This could be a sign of trichomoniasis.

Between fresh vs frozen vegetables, you should pick...



When it comes to their nutritional value and shelf-life, it is natural, rather expected, to pick fresh produce over frozen food — because it is, simply, fresh! But is it true — that fresh vegetables are really more nutritious than frozen ones? Well, this could be the case if you have access to a farm but otherwise, as it turns out, frozen nutrition could have higher nutritional value than fresh. Doesn't make sense to you? Worry not, Krish Ashok, author of Masala Labs: The Science of Indian Cooking, took to Instagram to explain why frozen vegetables, unlike commonly believed, are not really bad for you. Read on to know what he had to say. "It's quite common for a lot of people in the subcontinent to assume that fresh vegetables are fresher than frozen vegetables. In fact, many wrongly assume that freezing destroys nutrients. Nothing could be farther from the truth. To survive transportation and storage, fresh vegetables are often harvested prematurely at sub-par nutrition levels. On the other hand, frozen vegetables are harvested close to peak maturity and nutrition levels," he informed on Instagram. "Unless you have your own kitchen garden or have access to a farmers market located close to where the vegetables are actually grown, frozen is a better bet — it's fresher, more convenient, and rather crucially, more easily accessible for you to improve the health quotient of your meals," he explained.

It is true?

Speaking with indianexpress.com, Dr G Sushma — Consultant — Clinical Dietician, CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad said, "Fresh beans are picked and sold within a few days, while frozen beans are harvested and then immediately flash-frozen. Nutritional content can be affected by factors such as storage time and temperature. However, in most cases, frozen beans have similar nutritional value to fresh beans. This is because freezing can help preserve the nutrients and prevent spoilage".

Are frozen vegetables more nutrient dense than fresh vegetables?

Do you feel an irresistible urge to move your legs while sleeping? This is why

Have you ever experienced a tingling or crawling sensation in your legs that just wouldn't let you sleep? Or felt an irresistible urge to move your legs, beyond your control? If yes, then you might be suffering from what is called the Restless Legs Syndrome (RLS). Dr Sanjay Manchanda, Chairman Department of Sleep Medicine, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi said that RLS is a neurological condition, and more specifically, a neurological sleep disorder.

He explained, "RLS is both a sleep problem and a movement disorder because the symptoms are caused by resting and attempting to sleep. RLS symptoms can range from moderate to severe. It is perceived as an irresistible desire to move during sleep, particularly the legs. And it is even more severe at night, where it can induce anything from a creepy crawliness sensation in the legs to painful legs to jerky limb movement." While the urge to move your legs may look harmless, it can cause sleep deprivation and can lead to significant sleep disruption, making it difficult to fall asleep or return after waking up. "Moving the legs or walking usually lessens the pain, although the symptoms generally return after the section is stopped. It could cause cortical arousal, leading to poor quality of sleep and daytime somnolence," Dr Manchanda said.

But, what causes it? Dr Sujit Kumar, Senior Consultant Neurologist and Epileptologist, Apollo Hospitals, Seshadripuram, Bangalore said the causes include iron deficiency anaemia, renal failure, peripheral neuropathy, and, sometimes, can happen without any cause. Here are some other causes, as per Dr Suhas HS, Consultant Pulmonologist, Manipal Hospital, Sarjapur, Bangalore.

*End-stage renal disease and hemodialysis

*Neuropathy (nerve damage)

*Sleep disorders such as sleep apnea, sleep deficit

*Hormonal changes

*Pregnancy, especially during the last trimester. The symptoms subside within four weeks of delivery in most

cases. *Use of alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine

restless legs syndrome It can cause sleep deprivation and can lead to significant sleep disruption (Source: Getty Images/Thinkstock)

Agreeing with the impact of RLS on sleep, Dr Suhas said, "A person with restless leg syndrome has an irresistible urge to move, which is often accompanied by uncomfortable sensations in the lower limbs. Sensations in the leg may feel like aching, throbbing, pulling, itching, crawling, or creeping. Usually, sensations begin after rest when a person is inactive for extended periods, especially during sleep. Often the person has difficulties falling asleep and staying asleep. As a result, the quality of sleep gets hampered and often results in changes in mood, exhaustion, daytime sleepiness, problems concentrating, impaired memory, decreased productivity, depression and anxiety." Conversely, lack of a good night's sleep is one of the etiological factors for developing RLS. "A lack of adequate sleep can worsen RLS symptoms. It can lead to increased levels of stress, which can exacerbate RLS symptoms. Additionally, fatigue can make it more difficult to cope with RLS symptoms during the day," Dr Lakshmi Lavanya, Senior Neurologist, Kamineni Hospitals, Hyderabad said. Agreeing, Dr Manchanda said that it is important to address both sleep disturbances and RLS in order to improve overall sleep quality and alleviate RLS symptoms. Experts said that RLS symptoms might differ from person to person in terms of intensity and frequency, and may only show up once or twice per week.

To manage the condition, they stressed the need for consulting a health expert to better understand the severity and underlying causes. "It is advisable to see a doctor if you experience an intense, frequently overwhelming urge to move your legs that is frequently accompanied by uncomfortable and unpleasant sensations," Dr Suhas said, adding that a few lifestyle adjustments may be enough to treat mild cases of restless legs syndrome that are unrelated to an underlying medical disease.

Satinder Sartaaaj: 'There are many gorgeous girls who cannot act like Neeru Bajwa'



GNS News Agency, April 22

Singer, songwriter, poet and actor Satinder Sartaaaj is a multi-hyphenate personality who has made his mark in Punjabi music and cinema. With a huge fan following, the singer made his acting debut with historical drama *The Black Prince* (2017), based on the life of the last Maharaja of the Sikh Empire, Duleep Singh. While Sartaaaj has been very selective in his choice of films, he starred in *Kali Jotta* (2023), alongside Neeru Bajwa. The film went on to be a blockbuster and the duo has once again come together for the upcoming release, *Shayar* (2024), where he plays a role much closer to his life, that of a poet.

Talking about his decision to come on board the film, he said, "This film is very close to me, so I quickly said, 'Yes'. Poetry is my genre, my affection, my love, my profession, my passion, so *Shayar* was a no-brainer. For *Kali Jotta*, Neeru Bajwa gave me a call, and I accepted, but later, it was the script and the intensity of it [that appealed to me]. The distributors thought that the film might not work, but the very first day, at the first screening when I saw the movie, I held her [Neeru Bajwa] from her shoulders and said that you are the finest actor, why are you

putting pictures of yourself on the treadmill on social media? Just display your art. There are many gorgeous girls who cannot act like her, and above beauty, there is an art in her, so she should showcase that." Heartbreak and the passion of love have been predominant themes in poetry and *Shayar* sees Satinder Sartaaaj playing a budding poet who falls in love and embarks on a journey. "As an actor and even as a singer, these are mostly the two emotions that you have to portray so there was nothing hard [in the role], this was so flawless, this was so me. This is the most enjoyable character I've played in my entire filmography."

Recognising the intensity of the love that builds between the lead pair, Sartaaaj spoke about the elevated themes that would captivate the audience, saying, "A few times, when I came home, I realised that we are making a cult film here." *Shayar* transports audiences back in time when the Punjabi language integrated words from Urdu cohesively. While composing the poetry for the film, Satinder Sartaaaj was careful to replicate that time. "The film is a period drama and is set around the 1970s, when there was a very profound insertion of Urdu in Punjabi poetry. Every Punjabi poet was writing in Shahmukhi so that [including Urdu] was a conscious decision and that is also my favourite era of Punjabi poetic tradition. Balraj Sahni, Sahir Ludhianvi, Raj Kapoor Saab, all used to be in Chandigarh, attending mushairas over long nights. MS Randhawa Saab would coordinate this, Shiv Kumar Batalvi Saab would come to Chandigarh also and that whole atmosphere is very close to my heart." As an actor, Sartaaaj is partial to period dramas and is excited about roles that are set in a historical period. *The Black Prince* involved shooting in several actual palaces that made for a novel experience for the actor. "The *Black Prince* was shot at Princess Diana's palace and we were instructed not to sit on particular chairs, not to touch the switches. It's the historical films that I look forward to."

Shilpa Shetty, Arbaaz Khan's wife Sshura visit Salman Khan's Galaxy Apartments; Bharti Singh condemns gunfire incident

Days after the scary gunfire incident, which took place outside Bollywood superstar Salman Khan's apartment in Mumbai, where two unidentified men, riding a motorcycle fired multiple shots, Arbaaz Khan's wife Sshura Khan was spotted outside Galaxy Apartment. Sshura, who tied the knot with Salman's brother Arbaaz in December 2023, arrived at the actor's residence earlier today. The celebrity makeup artist was spotted coming out of her car and rushing towards the building where Salman lives with his parents, Salim Khan and Salma Khan.

Arbaaz and Sshura also visited Salman following the firing incident on Sunday. The couple, who were out of Mumbai, rushed back to the city after they heard the news. The incident occurred around 5 am on Sunday, and fortunately, no injuries were reported.

Following the incident, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met Salman Khan at his residence assuring him that the actor and the family would be protected even as Mumbai Police continued with their investiga-



tion. Several celebrities have condemned the gun-firing incident, calling it "scary" and "horrific". In a video shared by Viral Bhayani, Bharti Singh said, "Bhai has a lot of blessings; Bhai will be safe, I want him to be safe always." Reacting to the news, filmmaker Sanjay Gupta criticised the act and called it "cowardly". "Firing at a building at 5 am shows cowardice you fukn a***," he said.

'Uttama Villain was the reason behind my financial crisis... I asked Kamal Haasan to make many changes in vain'



Director Lingusamy, who is a self-proclaimed fan of Kamal Haasan, produced *Uttama Villain*, which was considered to be a dream project of the Tamil star. The film, which was released in 2015, turned out to be a box office disaster, and according to Lingusamy, it plunged his production house into a financial crisis. In a recent episode of a popular Tamil YouTube series, the filmmaker claimed that Haasan has promised to do a movie for the production house with a budget of Rs 30 crore.

"I am not complaining but that is the truth that the film (*Uttama Villain*) led me into a severe financial crisis. Kamal Haasan and his brother said that they will do a film with a budget of Rs 30 crore to compensate for it. Due to the immense respect I have for him, I go and ask about it often. He has assured it recently as well," he said.

Lingusamy revealed that he wanted to make a commercial film with Kamal Haasan like *Devar Magan* or *Apoorva Sogadharagal*. "At first, he told us about a super commercial film about a person like Velu Naicker rescuing his brother from baddies. Siddharth was supposed to play the brother, but the problem with Kamal is that he keeps changing his mind often. He has done that

before and has succeeded in it. Had I been a director, it would have been a different thing, but I went in as a producer." Lingusamy's brother N Subhas Chandrabose, who was also a part of Thirrupathi Brothers, first wanted to remake *Drishyam* with Kamal Haasan. "Kamal called me and named two good actors and said that even they wouldn't do it. But later, he did the same film for another production house," he said. Lingusamy claimed that he never interfered with the making of *Uttama Villain*, but asked Haasan to make several changes after the film was wrapped up. "Kamal Sir told me that whatever problem arises after the film is released, he will take care of it, but wanted to do the film as his dream project. I told him I would not interfere at all but would ask for some corrections after the film was completed. Likewise, we went with a list of corrections to him, and after listening to all of them, he didn't correct anything." "If he had made those corrections, the film might have worked. It was honestly good edits, and he also agreed. But I don't know what happened later, he changed his mind. And wanted to release the film as it is," the filmmaker said. It is not clear when Kamal Haasan will team up with Lingusamy for a film as he has three big releases in the pipeline.

Guruvayoorambala Nadayil teaser: Basil Joseph calls Prithviraj 'real hero' in this relationship drama



What would people want to say if they meet Prithviraj Sukumaran? That he is even more glamorous in person. On Thursday, the makers of *Guruvayoorambala Nadayil* dropped the film's first teaser, which plays out in a cheeky manner, using the star power of Prithviraj and infusing it with the comic timing of Basil Joseph. The one-and-a-half-minute long teaser opens with Basil on the bed, praying to God about the "uncertainty" of a wedding,

and underlining it is a matter of "life and death". He has blocked his side view with both his hands, hoping to start his day with an "auspicious" sight. He opens the door and gasps. We are not shown what he sees, but the teaser unfolds with a string of funny events.

Prithviraj Sukumaran is then introduced, as a woman describes him as a "simple" man, while Basil Joseph's Vinu, his brother in law, is called a "smart fellow". The teaser then glimpses the love story angle, as Nikhila Vimal enters the frame with a query: "You had a past lover affair, right?", leaving Basil stunned.

The promo then slowly packs in more characters as Basil and Nikhila's marriage is discussed, but chaos ensues, and things seem to go out of hand—all while people laugh and celebrate. The video ends with Basil's character announcing that not him, Prithviraj's character is the "real hero". It is a smartly cut teaser, which obviously acknowledges the golden phase Prithviraj is seen to be in. His latest Malayalam release *Aadujevitham* opened to rave reviews and is already one of the biggest hits of the industry.

Neeru Bajwa on Punjabi film industry: 'Until we are professional, we are not going anywhere'

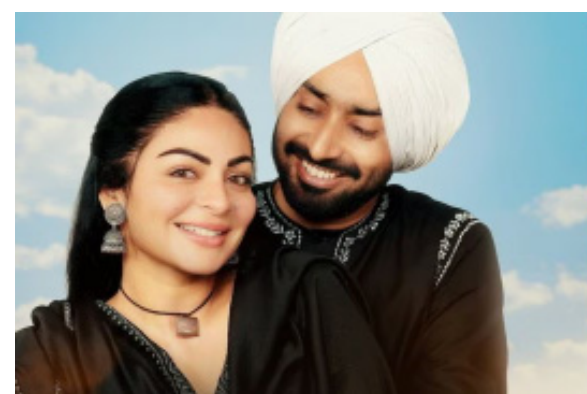
An actor par excellence and a superstar of Punjabi cinema, Neeru Bajwa is gearing up for the release of her upcoming Punjabi-language film, *Shayar* (2024). Also starring singer, songwriter, actor Satinder Sartaaaj, the film is all set to repeat the chemistry that the duo shared in the blockbuster hit, *Kali Jotta* (2023). Both films also featured Bajwa as the producer.

Speaking about her journey in the industry and the transition to becoming a producer, Bajwa said, "It has been a beautiful journey. Punjabi cinema is home, and I'm so proud of it. I see the growth every single year. I'm very passionate about the industry, and I want to see it grow bigger, but I also think it has tested me at times. As an actress, I think people thought that I had achieved what they thought was the epitome of success for a woman, and I took that as a challenge."

She added, "I wasn't getting any film offers and when we produced our first film, I was pregnant at the time. We thought that we'll make a small budget movie, do something different, we'll put our heart and soul in it and let's see what happens. And it was a success and after that I got *Laung Laachi* (2017)."

Neeru Bajwa has starred in several women-centric films that foreground women and their experiences. Not afraid of exploring these themes that hitherto have been largely portrayed conventionally in Punjabi cinema, *Kali Jotta* was the boldest amongst the films, in its exploration of mental violence on women. Speaking about her choices, Bajwa said, "I think I've got an opportunity to restart, reset many times and kind of break the norms and my own stereotypes as well as that of others. I've been really lucky that even in my initial days, I was never used as a decoration piece... Obviously after a certain point, when you don't have to work for money or to survive, you want to do something that you're excited about. I think that change came when I got a taste of something different with *Channo Kamli Yaar Di* (2016) and then in *Laung Laachi*. Amberdeep is an amazing director and he really pushed me to my limits, which no director has ever done. And then, *Kali Jotta* was I think the first time when I challenged myself as an actor. So I've gotten a taste of it now and I want more and more."

Her upcoming film, *Shayar*, is a love story that is reminiscent of the classic love ballads *Heer Ranjha*, *Laila*



Majnu, and *Sohni Mahiwal*. "It is a beautiful love story and I'm so blessed to be a part of it. I was watching the film on my lunch break and I couldn't get out of their love story. I was stuck there and was so immersed in their love."

Showering praise on her co-star Satinder Sartaaaj, who plays a poet in the film, she said, "I think he resonated with the character and he really connected with it. You won't see him in the film, you'll just be disconnected from him and you'll see the character." While *Shayar*, like *Kali Jotta*, has an off-beat theme, Neeru Bajwa is keen on not painting herself in a corner and wishes to do both commercial and off-beat films. However, she is particular about whom she collaborates with. "I do love doing comedies and rom-coms, but now, everything matters to me. My co-star, director, writer, cameraman because I need a nice positive atmosphere where everybody gets along and we make a beautiful film. Because sometimes, when you get the right script and the wrong co-star or the wrong director, that film just gets destroyed. One person does not make a project, it's all the people together." The Punjabi film industry has grown from strength to strength, with a remarkable increase in the number of releases every year. However, speaking about the one thing that the industry needs, Bajwa promptly said, "Professionalism. We have a lot of work to do on ourselves as well. I love my industry, and I love the people so much, but until we are professional, we are not going anywhere. We need to grow much more."

Suniel Shetty pens heartfelt note on son-in-law KL Rahul's birthday: 'It's a connection I can't explain...'

Bollywood actor Suniel Shetty took to social media to wish his son-in-law, cricketer KL Rahul on his birthday on Thursday. The star cricketer celebrated his 32nd birthday on April 18. Suniel shared an unseen picture of the Shetty Boys — Suniel and his son Ahan chilling with Rahul.

Sharing the photo on Instagram, Suniel wrote, "They say it's not what we have in life, but who we have in our life that matters... feeling blessed to have you in ours for it's a connection I can't explain... happy birthday Rahul... love you son?"

In the picture, Suniel, Rahul and Ahan are seen chilling indoors and soaking in some sun as they relax on a couch. Reacting to Suniel's post, his daughter, actor Athiya Shetty, who tied the knot with Rahul in January last year, wrote, "favourite men ???" While Mary Kom actor Darshan Kumar commented, "Happy Birthday @klrahul ????" Sangeeta Bijlani wrote, "?? Such a cute pix."

Athiya also took to Instagram and shared some beautiful unseen pictures of herself and KL Rahul on the occasion of his birthday. She captioned the photos, "my whole heart for my whole life... happy birthday, my everything ???" KL Rahul is currently busy with the ongoing season of Indian Premier League (IPL). He is the captain of Lucknow Super Giants team this year. Suniel Shetty



has always been very supportive of Rahul. At a time when he was going through a tough time in his career and facing a lot of trolling on social media, Suniel, in an interview with *indianexpress.com*, had said, "Good deeds never go unnoticed, even if you try everything to run a person down. He has that fire, commitment, discipline and consistency. He also has that urge to do something. And above all, he has a large heart which is always ready to give. I always tell my children it's the art of giving that teaches you the art of living. As for Rahul, I have been a fan since he was a cricketer, and today, when he's a son, not even my son-in-law, I still am a fan."

Rishab Shetty, wife Pragathi Shetty meet Mohanlal, fan says, 'Legend meets legend'

Actor-filmmaker Rishab Shetty on Thursday took to his Instagram handle and shared pictures with Malayalam superstar Mohanlal. Rishab, who was seen sporting a long beard, posed with Mohanlal. Rishab's wife Pragathi Shetty also joined the duo and posed with them.

Sharing the photos, Rishab wrote in the caption, "An honor and a pleasure to meet the legendary @mohanlal sir." Fans rushed to the comment section of the post and shared their excitement. One of the fans wrote, "Hope in future you both collaborate for a movie." Another comment read, "Legend meets legend."

Earlier, the news that producers of director Lijo Jose Pellissery's *Malaikottai Vaaliban* approached Rishab Shetty for a role excited many fans. However, Rishab



had revealed in an interview that he won't be making his Malayalam debut with the Mohanlal starrer.

Virat Kohli's statue unveiled in Jaipur wax museum



GNS News Agency, April 22

Virat Kohli will now be forever immortalized in Jaipur with the city's wax museum on Thursday unveiling a statue of the cricketer on occasion of World Heritage Day. The statue, weighing 35 kg, has been sculpted in about two months. "They (tourists) had a strong opinion that Kohli's statue should be in the museum. The wax statue was unveiled today on World Heritage Day," Anoop Srivastava said.

Badminton: As Kento Momota announces retirement, here's why his career will not just be defined by elusive Olympic Games gold

GNS News Agency, April 22

New Olympic champions get crowned all the time. Every four years, at any rate. But Kento Momota will be remembered wistfully amongst the badminton legions, as one that got away. The crown eluded him, but he might well endure in public memory and shuttle's myths longer than anyone else with gold around the neck. An overwhelming favourite a year out from the Tokyo Games, Momota finished with one of the most underwhelming heartbreaks there, as he exited the last Olympics at the first stage. On Thursday, less than 100 days away from the Paris spectacle, Momota announced he was letting go of this ultimate dream. Unable to qualify, ranked outside Top 50, the Japanese dwelled on retirement after the Thomas Cup that would be his last assignment.

The 29-year-old refused to shed tears in his retirement press conference for all the missed chances, the wretched turn of events with a horrific car accident in 2020, and for what could have been. Refusing to be defined by the Olympics (non) legacy, unwilling to be bitter over what fate had handed out to him, he spoke with a smile instead, speaking of a non-sporting, everyday challenge: his goal to get a driver's license.

Mundane for most, but for a survivor of a car wreck in Malaysia where the driver lost his life, and the star shuttle was left with a damaged eye-socket, the Japanese legend now plans to take on the steering wheel bravely. "I don't have a driver's license. Now that I'll finally have the time, I hope to finally get one," he was quoted as saying, by Olympics.com. Twice world champion in 2018 and 2019, Momota was on a redemptive arc heading into the 2020 Olympics. He won a staggering 11 titles in 2019, the invincibility spoken of as an inevitability for a gold at his home Games. Ahead of 2016 Rio Olympics, Momota was already a big deal. But the Japanese badminton federation imposed a ban on him, for a gambling offence, unrelated to sport. He would miss Rio, with the Chinese picking another gold and Lee Chong Wei another silver. Momota was to bide his time, and shine at Tokyo, the wise men said.

On either side of this punishment, Momota's game stayed defensively airtight, as his incredible forearm racquet control, economy of movements and inscrutable tactics gave him one big title after another. He ran like most Japanese of the past did, but he had the finishing kills, the anticipation, and a backhand blitz combined with nerveless certitude of going from Point 17 to Point 21, no matter who the opponent was, and what mighty effort they were putting in. Momota had an eye-popping 14-3 against Viktor Axelsen. India's combined might of Srikanth Kidambi, HS Prannoy, Lakshya Sen, Sai Praneeth and Kashyap Parupalli played him 42 times, winning only 7.

Momota suffered the accident, and within a month the world went into a lockdown soon after in early 2020,

The museum, located on the Nahargarh fort premises, already has 44 wax statues, including those of cricketers Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni. The museum also has the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, APJ Abdul Kalam, Subhash Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, Kalpana Chawala, Amitabh Bachchan and Mother Teresa. Speaking of Kohli, he has had a mixed Indian Premier League season with him being the highest run getter in the league but Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the last position with 6 defeats in their last 6 matches.

In a highly-anticipated duel against Bumrah in Mumbai, Kohli failed to set the tone for the contest, falling cheaply within the PowerPlay. There was not much he could do later when RCB were set a record T20 chase of 288 against SRH in Bengaluru. Kohli's ultra-aggressive approach earned him a quick 42 off 20 balls, even as he did not look in complete control throughout the knock. A week ago, Kohli had got to his 8th IPL century, which was against the Rajasthan Royals. But that could not take his team to victory as Jos Buttler scored a century of his own to guide RR to victory.



as the coronavirus deferred the Olympics. He would be shaken by the car crash, and pained by the loss of the driver's life. He underwent several procedures, but the eye socket fracture, made him see double. And a return after the rest of the body healed could never turn into success as his vision issues made him disoriented on court. The sharpest shooter who got under the shuttle in seconds, and was hardly late for a return, was robbed of that unreal peripheral depth perception. His third innings – for his redemption from the ban had been complete with two world titles – was a helpless scramble at regaining his old form. The Olympics wasn't meant to be, but even routine events on the Tour proved too hard. Pre-accident, Momota was inscrutable, perfect with robotic precision, that only comes from determined human discipline. Post the mishap, he returned and was kinder to himself. He loved banter with teammates in training. And it's surrounded by them that he will bid adieu after the Thomas Cup. "Honestly, it was one difficult time after another. But I didn't want to blame it on the accident. I wanted to try and beat it. I had so much support. It's how I managed to come this far," Olympics.com quoted him. "But I felt I couldn't become world No. 1 again."

The man from Kagawa had all of Japan's hopes thrust on him to take the Olympic gold away from the Chinese, at home. The script went up in flames. His own disappointment was dire, and the physical barriers daunting. "I'd get tired like I never used to. I tried. But I just felt it was no longer possible to keep up with the world's best players. I couldn't play badminton the way I wanted to," he added. Olympic greatness eluded him, but perhaps the biggest ode was scribbled by the man who went on to pick Tokyo gold. "Even though you have kicked my a** way too many times, it has been an absolute pleasure sharing the court with you," Viktor Axelsen would warmly say. Conventional Olympic history will leap past Kento Momota, and the professional Japanese system too has gone about raising their next phalanx in men's singles like clockwork. But Momota will be remembered as the champion the Olympics missed out on, rather than viewed the other way.

KL Rahul opens up about his regret during the 2023 WC final: 'If I could have played till the end....'

GNS News Agency, April 22

The date of 19th November 2023 will always be a day which the Indian cricket fans will look back in agony as Australia edged India in the 2023 World Cup final at the Narendra Modi Stadium. It was obviously also tough for the Men in Blue in the middle who went so close to their 3rd World Cup crown only to have it snatched away from them. KL Rahul who top scored for India on that day with 66, recently opened up about his regrets on not sticking through to the end of the innings.

Asked by Ravichandran Ashwin if he could go back in time to review one decision he would like to correct all over again, he said, "The World Cup final against Australia, I was stuck in the moment, whether to take down Starc or just play him as it was reversing, bowling in tough angle – in that confusing I ended up nicking it – if I could have played till the end, it could have been 30-40 more runs & probably World Cup in our hands – that is what I regret."

India won 10 matches on the trot, and most of them rather comprehensively, before eventually falling short against Australia in the final played on 19 November at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The brand of cricket that India played during the tournament was impressive to see but Pat Cummins and Co got the better of them on the day when it mattered the most. While skipper Rohit Sharma produced a spellbinding charge with his 31-ball 47, the middle-order struggled to come to terms with the nature of the pitch against Australia's bowling attack. Though fifties from Virat Kohli and Rahul took In-



India won 10 matches on the trot, and most of them rather comprehensively, before eventually falling short against Australia in the final played on 19 November at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. The brand of cricket that India played during the tournament was impressive to see but Pat Cummins and Co got the better of them on the day when it mattered the most.

dia to 240 in 50 overs, a whirlwind Travis Head century (137) helped Australia romp to a six-wicket win and their sixth World Cup title.

How Vidit Gujrathi let Ian Nepomniachtchi off the hook



GNS News Agency, April 22

Think of Ian Nepomniachtchi not as a grandmaster, but as an escape artist. Time and again at the Candidates tournament in Toronto, he's found himself in losing positions, like he did against Praggnanandhaa in Round 5 and against Alireza Firouzja in Round 9. Time and again, he's escaped unscathed. On Thursday, Nepomniachtchi performed his most jaw-dropping trick in Toronto yet, managing to survive from two losing positions before defeating Vidit Gujrathi after a marathon battle that lasted over five hours.

The victory sent Nepomniachtchi into sole lead in the open section of the Candidates chess tournament with seven points. Nepomniachtchi has Gukesh, the 17-year-old, first-timer from India, and 36-year-old Hikaru Nakamura, a two-time Candidates contender, hot on his heels. Both have half a point less than Nepomniachtchi with just three more rounds left. Gukesh played out a draw against World No.2 Fabiano Caruana with white pieces while the third Indian in the open competition, Praggnanandhaa, lost to World No.3 Nakamura, a result that sees him 1.5 points off the pace. Chess Candidates When the end came, five hours and 67 moves later, both players were in shock. (Michal Waluszka via FIDE)

The scenario could have been a lot different had the chips fallen differently in the Round 11 game against Vidit. Had the Indian managed to defeat Nepo, Gukesh and Nakamura would have been joint leaders. Had he managed to draw with the Russian, there would have been three joint leaders heading into Round 12. When the end came, five hours and 67 moves later, both players were in shock. Vidit shook his head, held his face in both palms as he walked away. It was dawning on him that defeat left him two points behind the Russian, meaning his hopes of winning the Candidates are virtually over. Nepo sat on his chair for a while, shuttered his eyes with his palm, scarcely believing that he had managed to claw a victory out of a game he seemed destined to lose. Twice by the 33rd move, Vidit, playing with white pieces, had built up a significant advantage on the board. He could have added to that advantage by advancing his pawn in the 'h file' by one more square to h5, which would have put the black pawn on 'g file' under pressure: it could either capture the advancing pawn, or be captured

by it. Either way, had Vidit made that move, there would be a pawn advancing towards Nepo's king, not to mention the rook on the first rank who could have darted sideways before charging at Nepo's king on h8.

Instead, Vidit chose the move 34. Kd3, which the computer didn't appreciate too much. "I was doing fine after that (move). But I wanted to win the game," Nepo said before launching into an analysis of what he had thought during the game and its critical moments, a monologue he ended with: "I got lucky." He would get lucky again. The second reprieve Vidit inadvertently offered Nepomniachtchi was three moves later when instead of claiming the pawn on d5 with his knight, Vidit chose to withdraw his king to c2. It was a decision that Vidit made in a hurry, because his time on the clock was thinning. Had Vidit chosen to claim the pawn with his knight, it would have started off a massacre on the board with two knights, two pawns, one bishop and two rooks losing their lives but Vidit emerging with a significant advantage. Later, Nepo admitted he had not calculated what would happen if Vidit claimed the pawn with his knight. "Oh, white would win? Good to know," he said with a straight face at the post-match press conference before the shadow of a smile appeared on his face as he added earnestly. "I didn't calculate that of course." There was one more moment where Vidit could have chosen to repeat his move and push the game to a draw. But he chose differently.

On the 41st move, Vidit pushed his knight to d2, which got him a bishop d6 response. Vidit promptly shifted his knight to e4, attacking the black bishop. Nepo shifted it to the initial square again, which meant that the position had repeated twice on the board. All Vidit had to do was move his knight to d2 again. But he chose Ng3, which indicated he wasn't looking for a draw.

Nepomniachtchi has an enviable record at the Candidates. He won the 2020 edition, which was split in half by the coronavirus pandemic — the first half being played in March 2020 and the second half starting 13 months later in April 2021 in Yekaterinburg. But Nepo stayed consistent through that phase. He was joint leader when the event was stopped, and confirmed his victory with a round to spare when the players reconvened in 2021. In 2022, the event was clouded with a different kind of uncertainty: whether Magnus Carlsen will defend his title against the Candidates winner or not. Even at that edition, Nepo managed to win with a round to spare. Chess Candidates The man who has a 100 percent success rate at the Candidates tournament is now one square ahead of the rest of the eight-player field. Gukesh and Nakamura have just three more moves left to catch the man who's an escape artist on the 64 squares. (Michal Waluszka via FIDE) The man who has a 100 percent success rate at the Candidates tournament is now one square ahead of the rest of the eight-player field. Gukesh and Nakamura have just three more moves left to catch the man who's an escape artist on the 64 squares.

Indian wrestlers Deepak Punia and Sujeet Kalkal 'sleeping on the floor of Dubai airport' after being stranded while enroute to Bishkek for Paris Olympics qualifiers

GNS News Agency, April 22

India's Paris Olympics medal hopeful Deepak Punia and fellow wrestler Sujeet Kalkal have been stranded at the Dubai International Airport since Tuesday owing to the record rainfall that's led to floods and caused disruption. The unprecedented situation has put the duo's participation in the Asian Olympic Qualifying tournament, to be held in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), in serious doubt. Punia and Kalkal's bouts are to take place on Friday, with weigh-in scheduled for 8 am local time. However, Sports Authority of India said that the wrestlers will be accommodated in a flight from Dubai to Bishkek on Thursday itself. "Officials of @cgidubai are in touch with wrestlers, Deepak Punia and Sujeet Kalkal who have been stranded in Dubai due to the disruption of flights. They will be accommodated in a flight from Dubai to Bishkek tonight ahead of the Asian Olympic Qualifying tournament," SAI said in a Facebook post. Punia, who competes in the 86 kg category, and Kalkal, who wrestles in the 65 kg weight class, are accompanied by their Russian coach Kamal Malikov and physio Shubham Gupta.

According to Kalkal's father Dayanand, the wrestlers are hoping to get a late-night flight from Dubai, which – if it departs – will ensure they reach Bishkek at around 4.30 am local time. "At least then they will be able to appear for the weigh-in at 8 and participate in their bouts later in the day," Dayanand told The Indian Express. "But it's a tense situation. I am worried for their well-being." Even if they make it in time for the qualifiers, Dayanand said he was concerned if Punia and Kalkal would be physically and mentally ready to compete. "They have been sleeping on the floor of the terminal and have not been able to eat proper food. They are in a terrible situation," Dayanand said.

While the other Indian wrestlers, including Vinesh Phogat, left for Bishkek directly from Delhi, Punia and Kalkal were travelling by themselves. The duo was training in Dagestan, Russia, from April 2 to 15. On April 16, they took a flight from Makachkala to Bishkek via Dubai, which was booked by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). Operations at the Dubai airport, however, have been severely disrupted due to the heavy rains, which have battered the Emirates. According to the UAE government, the country received its highest rainfall in 75 years as up to 259.5 mm of rain fell on Tuesday.

According to the BBC, around 300 flights have been cancelled so far and hundreds more have been delayed. Punia, who narrowly missed out on a bronze medal at the Tokyo Games, is one of the biggest contenders to earn a qualification quota for the Paris Olympics from the tournament in Bishkek, which is the first of the last two chances for wrestlers to earn spots for their nations. This was the first major tournament for Kalkal, who made the cut in a weight class in which Bajrang Punia won a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics. Bajrang, who was among the wrestlers to lead the protests against former WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh and alleged that he had sexually harassed women wrestlers, lost in



the early rounds of the domestic selection trials, where Kalkal prevailed. The challenge for both wrestlers, even if they reach Bishkek in time for their bouts, will be to ensure they can cut weight and remain eligible to take part.

Rohit Sharma's funny moment ahead of IPL match: Nostalgic encounter with younger self

GNS News Agency, April 22

Mullanpur: Ahead of the clash against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024, former Mumbai Indians skipper Rohit Sharma had a hilarious moment with teammate Romario Shepherd when he came across a picture of himself at 20 years old, starting off for the Indian team. PBKS will lock horns with MI in the 33rd fixture of IPL 2024 at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, Chandigarh, on Thursday. Mumbai Indians took to social media platform X and posted a video with the caption, "Bholi si surat, aankhon mein masti... In the video, Rohit reacted after seeing the picture of himself at 20 years old, saying that he was a small boy and was struggling to grow a beard. The Hardik Pandya-led side is currently at the eighth spot in the IPL 2024 points table with just four points, having won only two out of their six matches in the ongoing season. The five-time champions have a net run rate of -0.234 in the 17th edition of the IPL. MI squad for IPL 2024: Ishan Kishan(w), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya(c), Tilak Varma, Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Mohammad Nabi, Shreyas Gopal, Jasprit Bumrah, Gerald Coetzee, Akash Madhwal, Dewald Brevis, Naman Dhir, Nehal Wadhwa, Harvik Desai, Piyush Chawla, Kwena Maphaka, Shams Mulani, Luke Wood, Arjun Tendulkar, Kumar Kartikeya, Shivalik Sharma, Nuwan Thushara, Anshul Kamboj. PBKS squad for IPL 2024: Shikhar Dhawan(c), Jonny Bairstow, Prabhsimran Singh, Liam Livingstone, Sam Curran, Jitesh Sharma(w), Shashank Singh.