

## News Brief

### Senior IPS officer Satish gets interim charge as DG Prisons in Delhi

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) An IPS of the 1992 batch Satish Golcha has been given interim charge as Director General of Prisons following the retirement of Sanjay Beniwal, an official said on Wednesday.

According to an order by Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena, "Sanjay Beniwal, IPS (AGMUT: 1989) was holding the charge of Director General, Prisons, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD) and further retired on April 30. And Whereas, a proposal has already been submitted to the Election Commission of India (ECI) for seeking clearance for the appointment of an officer as Director General, Prisons, GNCTD; And Whereas, such clearance is awaited from ECI."

### Priest beaten to death in UP's Deoria

Deoria (UP), May 1 (IANS) The priest of a temple in a village here was beaten to death with sticks following an altercation with some people over the playing of loud music, police said on Wednesday.

The incident happened on Tuesday night in Tenuba Chaubey village and three persons have been detained over it. Superintendent of Police (SP), Sankalp Sharma, said that the deceased, identified as Ashok Chaubey (60) was beaten with sticks by some persons with whom he had an altercation over the playing of DJ (music). The SP said Chaubey was rushed to a medical college where he was declared dead.

### Four of a family killed in road accident in TN

Chennai, May 1 (IANS) Four people of a family were killed when their car collided with another vehicle in Bhavanisagar near Sathyanagaram in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Murugan (35) of Jadayampalayam in Coimbatore district, his wife Ranjitha (30) and their children, Abhishek (8) and Niheesha (6).

The incident occurred when Murugan, who was driving the car, lost control of the vehicle and it collided with another car coming from the opposite direction on Sathyanagaram- Mettupalayam road, Bhavanisagar Police said.

### Four die in granite quarry explosion in Tamil Nadu

Chennai, May 1 (IANS) Four people were killed in an explosion at a granite quarry in Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu on Wednesday morning. The blast occurred in the storage room of the quarry where the explosive materials were kept. Police officials told IANS that two lorries used for transporting the granites were totally gutted in the explosion. Virudhunagar district in Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of fireworks factories in the state and is considered as the fireworks capital of the country.

## Congress directionless and now leaderless: Yogi



BARAMULLA, Police attached properties of 7 Pak based handlers in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district on Wednesday.UNI

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that after Independence, the Congress became directionless and is now leaderless.

Addressing the media, he said that the adverse effect of this is that many Congress leaders have continuously made malicious attempts to curse, insult India's civilization and culture and defame Sanatan in every way.

The same unfortunate situation was seen during the UPA government when a senior Congress leader and the then Union Home Minister made a malicious attempt to insult India's Sanatan culture and defame it in front of the world in the name of saffron terrorism. Everyone knows that the policies of Congress have been the

cause of Naxalism and terrorism within the country.

The chief minister said that under the leadership of Modi, the problem of terrorism and Naxalism has been solved.

"Extremism-terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and anarchy in the North-East have also been curbed. During the UPA government, there were about 115-120 districts in 17 states which were in the grip of Naxalite violence. That government did not have the will to fight terrorism, Naxalism and extremism, that was the reason there was anarchy and disorder in the country but now Naxalism has been controlled. It has been limited to two-three districts of some states of the country. Very soon Naxalism will end from here also," he stated.

The chief minister fur-

ther said that in the last 10 years, a better security environment has been created in the country.

"By completely abolishing Article 370, the root of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir, under the leadership of PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, Jammu and Kashmir was connected to the mainstream of development. By controlling the extremism and anarchy in the North-Eastern states, it was successful in connecting them with the mainstream of the nation. The Congress government used to insult and defame India's eternal civilization and culture, but under the leadership of Modi ji, it is gaining respect in the world. India's pride has now been restored," he said. He said he believed that Congress was playing with the security of the country by making malicious attempts to defame the Sanatanis, to steal from them and to divide them into caste camps.

Yogi Adityanath said that Congress' policy of Muslim appeasement had become the reason for the Partition of the country. "This shows that the Congress leadership had become puppets in the hands of those who were responsible for the Partition of the country by insulting and putting India's eternal culture and tradition in the dock. People, who have always cursed India and Indianness, have caused irreparable damage to it. Congress was continuously humiliating India while playing into their hands," he added.

## Heatwave intensifies across Gujarat

temp. to remain above 40 degrees

Ahmedabad, May 1 (IANS) Gujarat is bracing for a severe heatwave, with meteorologists predicting record-breaking temperatures across the state from May 2 to May 4.

According to weather forecasts by the India Meteorological Department, regions, including Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar, are expected to experience temperatures soaring between 41 to 44 degrees Celsius, with some areas potentially exceeding this range. The heat is set to peak during the voting period, raising concerns about the impact on voter turnout. The state's weather bureau has issued heatwave warnings for Saurashtra, with predictions extending to Diu and Kutch, where the mercury is expected to climb even further.

After May 3, a sharp rise in temperature by approximately two degrees Celsius is anticipated, pushing the limits of seasonal heat records.

Residents and officials are advised to prepare for extreme conditions that pose health risks. Authorities recommend staying hydrated, avoiding direct sunlight during peak hours, and taking necessary precautions to ensure safety amid these scorching temperatures. This is essential as Gujarat goes to polls on May 7 for the Lok Sabha election 2024.

## We are deeply concerned: Delhi-NCR schools react after bomb threats

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) After receiving the terrifying bomb threats mentioning the presence of numerous explosive devices within the school premises, the schools on Wednesday said that they are deeply concerned.

Multiple schools in Delhi/NCR, including DPS Dwarka, Sanskriti School, Indian School, St Thomas School, and Amity School in Pushp Vihar, received chilling bomb threats via email. Following this, some informed parents that the schools would be closed on Wednesday, while others sent children home.

According to Delhi Fire Services (DFS) Chief Atul Garg, the department received bomb threat calls from over 80 schools across Delhi/NCR. However, nothing sus-

picious has been found so far.

"We are deeply concerned about the recent bomb threats that have disrupted several schools in Delhi, including one of our associate schools. The safety and security of our students, staff, and school community are our top priority. We are working closely with the authorities to ensure the continued safety of our school premises, and our staff are trained to respond effectively to emergencies," said Dr Amrita Bahl, Chief Education Officer, GD Goenka Public School, Dwarka.

"We urge all parents, students, and staff to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities or information to the authorities immediately," she added.

She also thanked the "authorities for their swift response and cooperation in this matter".

Meanwhile, police said that they have roped in the Special Cell also to trace the origin of the email and its IP address.

"More than 40 schools have been searched by the teams and nothing suspicious has been found. Bomb squads are continuing the search. The mail was received in the early hours by schools," said a senior police official earlier, noting that an investigation was going on.

Speaking to IANS, Nikita Tomar Mann, Principal at Indraprastha Global School (IPGS) in Delhi-NCR, asked people to maintain calm, "behave maturely and not indulge in rumour-mongering". "I request as an edu-

cator that the schools that received the threat must respond appropriately and ensure the safety and security of all the children on the school premises. At the same time, the other schools in the neighbourhood must ensure that they do not participate in the panic by unnecessarily sending messages and creating panic by shutting schools and early dispersals because it's leading to a lot of anxiety and fear in the parents," she added.

## Plea in SC seeks medical panel under Retired apex court judge to examine Covishield side effects

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking the formation of a medical panel of experts under the supervision of a retired judge of the apex court to examine the side effects and risks of Covishield vaccine after its developer and pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca reportedly admitted that the AZD1222 vaccine could cause low platelet counts and formation of blood clots in "very rare" cases.

The application moved by advocate Vishal Tiwari stated that after Covid-19 there has been an increase in the cases of death due to heart attack, even in youngsters, and sudden collapse of persons and seeks direction to the Union government to establish a Vaccine Damage Payment System for the citizens who got severely disabled or died

as a result of a vaccination.

It said that after the document filed in UK court by the developer of Ox-

## Man dies of asphyxiation in Kerala while trying to rescue goat from well

Thiruvananthapuram, May 1 (IANS) A 25-year-old man named Althaf died due to asphyxiation while trying to rescue a goat that fell into a well at his house near Kollam on Wednesday.

In his bid to rescue the goat, Althaf accidentally slipped into the well which was 60 feet deep. After a while, he started to feel breathlessness. Despite the best efforts of the rescuers, including fire officials, Althaf could not be saved.

ford-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine, sold as Covishield in India, the government is required to take immediate steps for the sake of the safety and health of Indian citizens and the issue has to be looked upon on priority so that in future no risk may occur regarding the health and life of people.

AstraZeneca has accepted a link between the vaccine and Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), a medical condition characterised by abnormally low levels of platelets and the formation of blood clots. Oxford-AstraZeneca Covid vaccine formula was licensed to Pune-based vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII) during the Coronavirus pandemic for the manufacture of Covishield. More than 175 crore doses of Covishield have been administered in India, the plea said.

## Ilaiyaraaja issues notice to Sun Pictures

Chennai, May 1 (IANS) Music maestro Ilaiyaraaja has issued a legal copyright notice to Sun Pictures for unauthorised usage of his music in their latest film 'Coolie', starring Tamil megastar Rajinikanth.

Ilaiyaraaja, in the notice, said that the makers of the film had used his musical work in the teaser without authorisation. Asserting that he is the rightful owner of the music, Ilaiyaraaja said that the makers of the movie did not seek any formal permission from him.

In the notice, Ilaiyaraaja claimed that the teaser of Coolie had a rendition of his song 'Vaa Vaa Pakkam Vaa' from the film 'Thanga Magan', also starring Rajinikanth. This music, according to the petitioner, is remixed in the song 'Disco for Coolie'. The music maestro emphasised that such usage constitutes a clear violation of the Copyright Act (1957). Furthermore, Ilaiyaraaja pointed out that the director of Coolie, Lokesh Kanagaraj, had previously utilised his compositions in the movie 'Vikram' without obtaining consent. In the notice, Ilaiyaraaja demanded that either the producers of Coolie get proper authorisation for the song 'Vaa Vaa Pakkam Vaa' or remove it from the teaser of the movie.

The notice said that if the producers do not abide by the conditions stated in the notice, they will have to "face serious legal repercussions."



NEW DELHI, Student coming out of their school after received a bomb hoax mail by several Delhi schools, in New Delhi on Wednesday.UNI

## Cong-Left Front unity in true spirit felt only in Murshidabad District

Kolkata, May 1 (IANS) Despite an official seat-sharing arrangement in West Bengal, barring a couple of seats where the All India Forward Bloc has fielded candidates against the Congress despite the Left Front's objections, the Left Front-Congress unity in the true spirit is reflected in three out of 42 constituencies, all of which are in Murshidabad District.

These three constituencies, namely Baharampur, Murshidabad and Jangipur are under focus because of the presence of heavyweight candidates from the Congress and the CPI(M). While state Congress President and five-time Lok Sabha candidate from Baharampur, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury is contesting this time as well, at Murshidabad the important candidate is the CPI(M)'s

politburo member and the party's state Secretary Mohd Salim. Mortoza Hossain is the Left Front-supported candidate from the third constituency in Murshidabad District, Jangipur. Both Chowdhury and Salim have been trying to ensure a smooth transfer of their dedicated votes to the other party. Political observers say that this smooth transfer of votes between the two camps is especially crucial for the Left Front, since in the past elections it was evident that while dedicated Left Front voters opted for Congress candidates wherever applicable, it was not reciprocated from the other side.

Chowdhury seems to have realised that and has taken out time from his busy schedule at Baharampur to campaign for

Salim at Murshidabad.

He accompanied Salim when the latter went to file his nomination recently.

Outside the nomination venue Chowdhury received a cordial welcome from the CPI(M) workers who put a stole with the party symbol of 'Hammer-sickle-star' around his neck, which he accepted with a smile.

"Congress workers have to ensure the victory of Salim from Murshidabad even at the risk of their own lives," Chowdhury gave a call to the party workers from there.

Apart from that, a couple of days ago Salim and Chowdhury conducted a joint rally at Domkal in Murshidabad District where both the leaders emphasised that in this election there is no difference between Chowdhury,

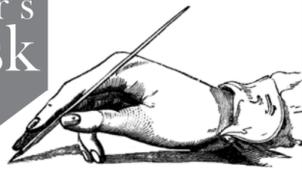
Salim and Mortoza Hossain. Both Salim and Chowdhury stressed that this election was not the time for harping on the historical differences between the Congress and the Left Front.

Both emphasised that the battle was the same for both the Congress and the Left Front against the dual rivals BJP and Trinamool Congress. The fact that Left Front-Congress unity in West Bengal would be strong in Murshidabad District compared to other pockets was evident from the time seat-sharing talks started between the two parties. While the CPI(M) readily agreed to forego its stake at Jangipur in support of the Congress candidate, the same flexibility was shown by another Left Front ally Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) in case of Baharampur.



NEW DELHI, BJP candidate for North East Delhi Parliamentary constituency Manoj Tiwari with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at a roadshow before filing his nomination papers at Yamuna Vihar, in New Delhi on Wednesday. UNI

From Editor's Desk



### BJP's uncontested wins in Indore and Surat: Selected to office

The walkover raises questions. EC must investigate, put doubts to rest

In the 2019 general election, a total of 5,67,636 electors voted for the first runners-up in the Surat and Indore Lok Sabha constituencies. While BJP candidates won both seats by massive margins (74.5 per cent of the vote in Surat and 65 per cent in Indore), they did so through the competitive, often adversarial, process that is an Indian election. Five years on, it could be argued that the BJP candidate from Surat, Mukesh Dalal, has beaten his predecessor's record: Congress candidate Nilesh Kumbhani's nomination form was rejected by the District Election Officer after three proposers submitted affidavits saying the signatures on the form were not theirs. Other candidates too withdrew, making Dalal the first MP-elect this election cycle. The lack of an electoral contest has robbed lakhs of voters in Surat of their franchise. Now, a similar saga is unfolding in Indore with Congress candidate Akshay Kanti Bam withdrawing his nomination. The developments in the two constituencies run counter to democratic principles and procedure. The Congress has, predictably, accused the BJP of intimidating candidates and promising them inducements. It has said that it will contest the Surat election in court after June 4. In Indore, the fact that Akshay Kanti Bam has been photographed with BJP leader and state minister Kailash Vijayvargiya, who has also welcomed him to the party in a post on X, casts a shadow over the nomination and poll process. The potential erosion of faith in the electoral process is something that should worry the ruling party as much as the Opposition. A Member of Parliament who gains office unopposed — in practice or in effect — especially when there is no broader political consensus behind such an outcome, is in essence selected, not elected. It is important to underline that Surat and Indore are anomalies. This general election, like all the ones before it, is being fought robustly across the length and breadth of India, with the Election Commission overseeing what is arguably the most challenging poll in the world. The EC must now live up to its well-deserved reputation as a watchdog. It needs to thoroughly investigate the dropping out of candidates in the two constituencies and put to rest any doubts about the sanctity of the nomination and poll process. In India's constitutional scheme, the voter is the ultimate source from which the entire edifice of the state derives authority and legitimacy. The fundamental right of every citizen to exercise their franchise should not be abridged.



New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Perimenopause — the transitional phase before menopause — may raise the risk of depression among women by 40 per cent, according to a study on Wednesday. The study by researchers from the University College London (UCL) is based on a meta-analysis of seven studies involving 9,141 women from across the world, including Australia, the US, China, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Compared to premenopausal women, the results

## Risk of depression 40pc higher in perimenopausal women

published in the Journal of Affective Disorders found that perimenopausal women had a significantly higher risk (around 40 per cent) of experiencing depressive symptoms and being diagnosed with depression.

The finding highlights the "clinical need for screening and support in this potentially vulnerable group".

No significant increase in depression risk was found for postmenopausal women compared to those who were premenopausal.

"This study shows that women in the perimenopausal stage are

significantly more likely to experience depression than either before or after this stage," said senior author Roopal Desai, from UCL's Psychology & Language Sciences.

"Our findings emphasise the importance of acknowledging that women in this life-stage are more vulnerable to experiencing depression. It also underlines the need to provide support and screening for women to help address their mental health needs effectively," she added. Mindfulness and cognitive behavioural therapy can be helpful,

according to a previous study by the same researchers.

Perimenopause, which occurs three to five years before the onset of menopause, causes fluctuation in oestrogen and progesterone levels. This leads to mood changes, irregular menstrual cycles, and other menopausal symptoms, including increased feelings of depression.

This stage of menopause continues until one year after a woman's last period and can often last for between four and eight years in total.—IANS

## Telangana's richest candidates battling it out in Chevella

Hyderabad, May 1 (IANS) The richest candidates of the three main political parties are locked in an interesting contest in Chevella Lok Sabha constituency.

With family assets of Rs.4,568 crore, Konda Vishweshwar Reddy of the BJP is the richest among all candidates for the 17 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state.

The second-richest candidate, G Ranjith Reddy of the Congress is also contesting from Chevella. He has family assets of Rs.435.49 crore.

The assets of Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, who contested unsuccessfully on a Congress ticket, jumped by 410 per cent in five years, shows the affidavit he filed along with his nomination.

In 2019 Konda Vishweshwar Reddy had declared assets of Rs.895 crore. Elected to the Lok Sabha from Chevella on a BRS ticket in 2014, the tech entrepreneur had family assets of Rs.528 crore. His wife K. Sangita Reddy, Joint Managing Director of Apollo Hospital, owns majority of the assets.

G Ranjith Reddy, who was elected from Chevella in 2019 on a BRS ticket but is now contesting as a Congress candidate, had declared assets of Rs.163.50 crore five years ago.

Interestingly, the third-richest candidate Kasani Gyaneshwar of the BRS is also testing his electoral fortunes from Chevella, a constituency comprising parts of Hyderabad city and the rural areas of adjacent Ranga Reddy District.

Kasani Gyaneshwar has family assets of Rs.228.47 crore.

Eight candidates have assets of more than

Rs.100 crore. Four of them are from the BJP and three from the BRS.

G Ranjith Reddy is the only Congress candidate in the state to have assets of over Rs.100 crore.

K. Madhavi Latha of the BJP, who is contesting from Hyderabad, is the fourth-richest candidate in the fray with assets of Rs.221.40 crore.

Nama Nageswara Rao of BRS, who is seeking re-election from Khammam, owns assets of

Rs.109.89 crore. In 2019, he had assets of Rs.87.69 crore.

K Krishna Reddy, the BRS candidate from Nalgonda, has declared assets of Rs.83.66 crore while Gali Anil Kumar, BRS candidate from Zahirabad, has assets of Rs.82.92 crore.

BJP National Vice President DK Aruna, who is contesting from Mahabubnagar, owns assets of Rs.66.75 crore.

Almost all the candidates of the three main parties are crorepatis. As many as 35 candidates have assets of more Rs.10 crore each. Thirteen of them are from the BJP, 12 from the Congress and 10 from the BRS.

P Bharat Prasad, the BJP candidate from Nagarkurnool has declared assets of only Rs.33.85 lakh.

He is the son of sitting MP P. Ramulu, who was elected on a BRS ticket in the 2019 elections. The father-son duo recently defected to the BJP.

A total of 525 candidates are in the fray for 17 Lok Sabha seats in Telangana. Majority of them are Independents and candidates from smaller parties.

Polling for all 17 seats in the state is scheduled to be held on May 13.



Rs.155.90 crore.

BB Patil, who was elected from Zahirabad on a BRS ticket but recently joined the BJP, is worth Rs.151.69 crore. His assets in 2019 were to the tune of Rs.128.78 crore.

Kyama Mallesh, the BRS candidate from Bhongir, has assets of 145.34 crore.

Arvind Dharampuri of BJP, who is seeking re-election from Nizam-

## Telangana CM Revanth Reddy seeks time to respond to Delhi Police notice in doctored video case

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has sought time to respond to the notice in Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video case, a source said on Wednesday.

His lawyer has sent an email to the IFSO unit of Delhi Police, the sources added.

Besides Reddy, four Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) members, including Shiva Kumar Ambala, Asma Tasleem, Satish Manne and Naveen Pettem, were also summoned under sections 91 and 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc) to join the investigation today at 10.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

Recently, after the end of the second phase of Lok Sabha polls, a doctored video of Union Home

Minister Amit Shah went viral on social media, where his statement indicating a commitment to abolishing reservation quotas for Muslims



in the state, was changed to make it seem that he was advocating scrapping of all reservations.

On Sunday, Delhi Police registered an FIR after two complaints were received by it, one from the

BJP and another from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The case has been registered under Sections 153, 153A, 465, 469, and 171G of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 66C of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

Meanwhile, the investigators are yet to receive any response from social media giants X and Meta in connection with a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a source in the Delhi Police's Special Cell told IANS.

Three persons have been arrested by the police for circulating the fake video so far, two in Gujarat and one in Assam. "We are trying to trace the origin of the doctored video. A reply from the social media giants is of utmost importance in this case. X, meanwhile, has deleted all the morphed videos from its platform," said a senior Delhi Police officer privy to the probe.—IANS

## On Gujarat Foundation Day, BJP's Kheda candidate slams Cong's legacy, nepotism

Kheda, May 1 (IANS) On the occasion of Gujarat's 64th Foundation Day, Devusinh Chauhan, the Lok Sabha candidate from Kheda, addressed the Enlightened Citizens' Conference and slammed the Congress.

Reflecting on the state's journey since its establishment in 1960, Chauhan criticised the "historical governance challenges attributed to the Congress party," which he described as "marred by injustice and nepotism."

Chauhan highlighted the "substantial progress Gujarat has made over the decades, despite the struggles and political hindrances that have historically plagued the state."

He emphasised the "transformation seen in both Gujarat and the entire nation, particularly pointing

out the changes since 2004, with a specific focus on the years of despondency between 2004 and 2014 under previous administrations."

The Lok Sabha candidate also discussed the "significance of Gujarat in the global context, noting the state's role in the recent G20 meetings held in Delhi and the broader implications for India on the world stage."

He mentioned the completion of the Lord Ram temple, which he tied to a broader narrative of cultural resurgence and national pride under the current government.

As the conversation approached the upcoming elections, Chauhan urged the audience to exercise their right to vote, drawing a symbolic parallel to adorning Lord Ram's forehead with a 'tilak'. He stressed the

importance of voting as a pivotal act of civic duty that shapes the nation's future.

Chauhan's political journey in this region began with a victory in the 2014 General Election, where he secured the seat as a BJP candidate. His continued success was evident in the 2019 elections, where he won with an overwhelming margin of 367,145 votes, obtaining 714,572 votes, which constituted 65 per cent of the vote share.

His closest competitor, Bimal Shah from the Congress, garnered 347,427 votes, representing 31.55 per cent of the votes.

Earlier, Devusinh made headlines for urging the observation of a "no-meat" day in Kheda on January 22 to coincide with the consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

## 2,387 candidates in fray for Andhra Pradesh Assembly polls

Amaravati, May 1 (IANS) A total of 2,387 candidates remain in the fray for the elections to the 175-member Andhra Pradesh Assembly while 454 will be testing their electoral fortunes in 25 Lok Sabha constituencies in the state.

According to the Election Commission, 318 candidates withdrew their nominations for Assembly polls while 49 pulled out of the contest in Lok Sabha constituencies.

The deadline for withdrawal of nominations ended on Monday but the election authorities released the details late on Tuesday.

A total of 2,705 nominations were found valid in all Assembly segments while 503 nominations were accepted for Lok Sabha polls.

Simultaneous elections to the Assembly and Lok Sabha are scheduled on May 13.

The maximum number of candidates (46) are in the fray in the Tirupati Assembly segment followed by 40 in Mangalagiri. Only six candidates remain in the contest in the Chodavaram constituency, while there are seven candidates each in Tekkali, Srikakulam, Narasannapeta, Palakonda (ST), Kurupam (ST), Salur (ST), Cheepurupalle. Rajahmundry Rural, and Nagari.

According to the Chief Electoral Officer, 503 nominations were found valid for Lok Sabha elections.

A maximum of 33 candidates are in the fray in the Visakhapatnam constituency, followed by 31 in Nandyal and 30 in Guntur.

There are only 12 candidates in Rajahmundry, and 13 candidates each are contesting in Araku (ST), Srikakulam, Eluru, and Hindupur.

Over 4.08 crore, more than half

of them women, are eligible to cast their votes.

A direct fight is likely in both the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls between the ruling YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and the opposition National Democratic Alliance comprising the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the Jana Sena Party (JSP), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The Congress, which drew a blank in Assembly and Lok Sabha polls in the state both in 2014 and 2019, is the third biggest player.

In 2019, the YSRCP wrested power from the TDP by bagging 151 Assembly seats. The TDP won 23 seats while JSP secured one.

The YSRCP had also captured 22 Lok Sabha seats with the TDP bagging the remaining three.

The TDP, the JSP, and the BJP have joined hands this time to avoid a split of anti-incumbency votes. Under the seat-sharing agreement, the TDP is contesting 144 Assembly and 17 Lok Sabha seats. The JSP has fielded candidates in 21 Assembly segments and two Lok Sabha constituencies, and the BJP is contesting 10 Assembly and six Lok Sabha seats. Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, TDP President N. Chandrababu Naidu, Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan, TDP General Secretary Nara Lokesh, actor and TDP leader N. Balakrishna are among the key candidates for Assembly polls. State Congress chief Y.S. Sharmila Reddy, state BJP President D. Purandeswari, and YSRCP Rajya Sabha member Vijayasai Reddy are among the prominent contestants in the Lok Sabha elections.—IANS

## Thiruvananthapuram's woman Mayor faces flak for 'misbehaviour' with bus driver

Thiruvananthapuram, May 1 (IANS) Protests were held by the Congress and the BJP, as well as a section of state roadways employees, in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday against the way Mayor Arya Rajendran, her CPI-M legislator husband Sachin Dev and other family members behaved with a bus driver of the state-owned KSRTC.

The protests came after CCTV visuals surfaced showing that the car, in which Rajendran and her family members were travelling, had intercepted the KSRTC bus in the middle of the main road in the state capital. The incident took place at around 10 p.m. on Sunday.

Rajendran on Monday said they reacted against the driver not only because he was driving dangerously and on a few occasions, almost hit their vehicle, but also made an obscene gesture at them. However, she said that they did not intercept the bus at a traffic signal.

However, the visuals contradicted her version of the incident, leading to criticism. However, the visuals contradicted her version of the incident, leading to criticism.

On the other hand, police took the driver, identified as Yadu, into custody but refused to accept his complaint that Rajendran had obstructed him from his duty and spoke to him rudely.

Yadu on Tuesday told the media that he was stopped from doing his duty and denied justice as

moving around as the Mayor might be travelling.

They stuck similar notices on the KSRTC buses that were passing the spot.

The pro-Congress trade union body of the KSRTC also staged a protest before the KSRTC head office here, demanding action against Rajendran and others for intercepting and stopping the bus, which is an offence.

BJP councillors of the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation also staged a protest at the Council meeting, presided over by Rajendran, over her rude behaviour while the ruling CPI-M members demanded the bus driver should be dismissed from service.

The issue also flared up on social media with pro-Rajendran and anti-Rajendran supporters taking on one another.

Rajendran was in the news after she was sworn in as the youngest Mayor in the country in 2020. However, she later faced some corruption allegations and one case is still under probe, waiting for a report from the Forensic Department.



## Netflix's Kapil Show: Bobby Credits His Father, Dharmendra For This Reason!

Mumbai, Basking in the glory, The Great Indian Kapil Show has been enjoying success week on week since its launch. Netflix's The Great Indian Kapil Show is back with one of Bollywood's most iconic sibling duo - the Deol brothers (Sunny and Bobby Deol) in its upcoming episode this Saturday. In this episode, the Deol brothers share everything from nostalgic callbacks to gratitude for their recent successes, but the sweetest moment comes from Bobby Deol's heartwarming story about his father Dharmendra. After a blockbuster year, stealing the show and earning rave reviews for his stellar performance as 'Abrar' in ANIMAL, Bobby Deol has been on cloud nine. But did you know

what truly melts his heart? Making his legendary father, Dharmendra, beam with pride! In a heartfelt moment, Bobby reveals a sweetest interaction with his father, post the success of ANIMAL, where the legendary icon couldn't

ing through Instagram...he stopped me and then exclaimed 'Bob, people are crazy about you!' And I responded, 'I am your son, why wouldn't they be crazy about me?' We are not crying, you



help but shower his son with praise. Talking about the incident, Bobby Deol shared, "Every son wants to see that happiness in their father's eyes and I've always looked up to my father so much... I had returned home after a week and dad had been scroll-

are! It's moments like these that remind us that no matter how high Bobby Deol soars in his career, his love and admiration for his father will always reign supreme. After all, we can all agree, the swagger and confidence he exudes definitely runs in the Deol blood!

## Huma Qureshi reveals what perks her up even when she is 'sleep deprived'

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) Actress Huma Qureshi, who is currently busy shooting for her next project 'Gulabi', shared what perks her up even when she is sleep-deprived.



The 'Maharani' star took to her Instagram stories, where she shared a video of her stepping into a bookstore. The actress seems to be at the airport when she spots her maiden novel 'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero' kept in the "highlight" section in the bookstore. She captioned it: "No matter how sleep deprived.... This always perks me up."

novel 'Zeba: An Accidental Superhero' is themed around "magic, wonder and resilience". In the story, the protagonist, Zeba, wears her hijab as a cape and turns into a relatable symbol of strength in the face of challenges.--IANS

Huma also shared a glimpse from the shoot of her upcoming film 'Gulabi', where she will be essaying the role of an auto-rickshaw driver who inspired women to reclaim their destinies. Huma's debut

## Manisha Koirala and Sonakshi's powerplay lights up the diamond bazaar

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) From adab, adaa and aiyashi to power, love and the spirit of freedom blended with an eye-watering star cast plus Sanjay Leela Bhansali's trademark opulence and period music has 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar' ticking

light area, the melting pot of the British, the nawabs, the courtisans and freedom fighters), the period (the 1940s), and the transitions that make the series a snapshot of a time of ferment.

Divided into eight episodes, each an hour long, the series takes off from the time when Manisha Koirala's Mallika Jaan becomes the 'huzoor', the madame of the courtisans and Heeramandi's reigning queen. Her antagonist is a feisty Fa-reedan, played like a tigress by Sonakshi, who's out to wreak revenge on Malika Jaan for having murdered her mother, Rehana, also played by Sonakshi.

And Rehana just happened to be Mallika Jaan's elder sister.

The cast led by Manisha Koirala, yet another industry veteran who has made a spectacular comeback, and Sonakshi Sinha breathe life into the script and resurrect the place (Lahore's notorious red

area, the melting pot of the British, the nawabs, the courtisans and freedom fighters), the period (the 1940s), and the transitions that make the series a snapshot of a time of ferment.

## Anupam Kher just loves Jr NTR's work: 'May he keep rising from strength to strength'

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) Veteran Bollywood actor Anupam Kher shared a picture posing with Jr NTR, and heaped praise on the star saying that he "loved" his work in 'RRR'.

strength to strength! Ja! Ho! #Actors."

Anupam is currently busy with his second directorial 'Tanvi The Great'. It marks his return to the director's chair after 22 years. His first film as a filmmaker was 'Om Jai Jagdish', revolving around three brothers played by Fardeen Khan, Anil Kapoor and Abhishek Bachchan. On the other hand, Jr NTR is busy prepping for 'War 2' starring Hrithik Roshan. The film is directed by Ayan Mukerji. 'War 2' is a sequel to the 2019 film 'War' featuring Hrithik, Tiger Shroff and Vaani Kapoor. He also has 'Devara: Part 1', a pan-India film, which also has Janhvi Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan. The film is slated to release on October 10.



In the image, the two stars are seen posing for the camera in a restaurant.

For the caption, Anupam wrote: "It was such a pleasure to meet one of my favourite persons and actor @tarak9999 last night. Have loved his work. May he keep rising from

## Bobby Deol declares that brother Sunny is 'strong like Superman'

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) Actor Bobby Deol, who received acclaim for his performance in 'Animal' and is gearing up for his films down south, appeared on the latest episode of the streaming comedy show 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' along with his brother Sunny Deol. During the episode, Bobby revealed that his brother has had multiple back surgeries but he still stands strong and can effortlessly pull off action scenes.

but in spite of that, whenever he is required to lift someone for a role, he easily does it. The funny part is he does it like they

The Deols had a great year 2023 as all their films worked at the box office including 'Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani' which starred Dharmendra, the Sunny Deol-starrer 'Gadar 2' and 'Animal' starring Bobby as the antagonist.



The new episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Show' promises a blend of humour, nostalgia, and candid confessions from the brothers in arms - Sunny and Bobby Deol. It delves into the Deol family's legacy

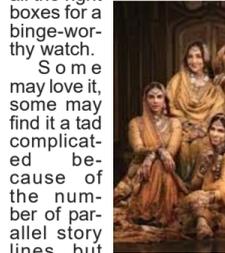
Bobby shared: "In real life, if there is someone strong like Superman, then it's my brother. I have never seen a stronger person than him. He's had multiple back surgeries

weigh nothing. Flawlessly." In 2022, Sunny got treated in the US after he sustained a back injury during a film shoot.

with engaging conversations, anecdotes, light-hearted banter and great camaraderie. "The Great Indian Kapil Show" streams on Netflix.

## Kareena wishes 'Saba dearest' on her 48th b'day, shares throwback pics

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) Kareena Kapoor Khan, on Wednesday, showered love on her sister-in-law Saba Ali Khan on her 48th birthday, and dropped some unseen throwback pictures.



The actress took to Instagram Stories and shared two throwback photos with the birthday girl. Kareena's husband and actor Saif Ali Khan also features in one of the photographs.

On the work front, Kareena was recently seen in 'Crew', a heist comedy film directed by Rajesh A. Krishnan. The film stars Tabu, and Kriti Sanon in the lead alongside Kareena.

Some may love it, some may find it a tad complicated because of the number of parallel story lines, but the magnum opus series just cannot be ignored. The cast led by Manisha Koirala, yet another industry veteran who has made a spectacular comeback, and Sonakshi Sinha breathe life into the script and resurrect the place (Lahore's notorious red

area, the melting pot of the British, the nawabs, the courtisans and freedom fighters), the period (the 1940s), and the transitions that make the series a snapshot of a time of ferment.

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Gujarat AAP Secretary demands action following murder of retired police couple in Himmatnagar

Ahmedabad, May 1 (IANS) Gujarat AAP's state organisation Secretary, Jaydeep Singh Chauhan, on Wednesday spoke about the rise in violent crimes in Gujarat. He pointed to the April 30 murder of a couple who had retired from the police force, in their home in Himmatnagar. They were attacked by unidentified assailants armed with sharp weapons during the day. A police team is investigating the matter and reviewing the CCTV footage from surrounding areas to track down the perpetrators. Pointing to the murder of the retired police officers from the Rajput community Chauhan said, "The audacity of this daytime attack has shocked the local community and raised questions about the effectiveness of law enforcement in Gujarat. "If retired police officers are not safe in their own home, what can we say about the common people?"

85 heatstroke cases in A'bad in a week

Ahmadabad: With temperatures rising in the city, case of heatstroke have increased in tandem. In the last week, hospitals and urban health centers run by the Ahmadabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) saw 85 cases of heatstroke. According to the data released by the civic body's health department, six cases were reported at Infection Diseases Hospital in behrampura and LG Hospital between April 21 and 27. One case was reported at the Sarkhej community health center, four each at the Thaltej, Rakhial and Danilimda CHCs, five cases at the Faisalnagar UHC, nine in Gompipur, 14 in naroda, 16 cases in Sabarmati, eight in Sarkhej, six in Vastral and three at the Vatva CHC. Most of these patients complained of headaches, stomach aches and dizziness.

APSEZ Secures AAA Rating - India's First Private Infrastructure Developer With AAA

Ahmedabad, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), proudly announces revision of its credit rating to AAA by CARE Ratings. The top most rating signifies highest level of credit worthiness and the ability to fulfill all its financial guidance. With this development, APSEZ has become the first large sized private infrastructure developer to get this recognition. The rating is driven by APSEZ's robust integrated business model, dominant industry position, strong growth in operations with healthy profitability, coupled with high liquidity and low leverage. APSEZ's successful track record of turning around port assets post-acquisition and its integrated approach as a transport utility providing services from port gate to customer gate has led to 15% compounded annual growth in volumes for FY19-FY24 as compared to 4% CAGR for all Indian ports. In FY24, APSEZ did a cargo volume of 419.95 MMT, 24% higher than the previous year. Mr. Karan Adani, Managing Director, APSEZ said, "We cherish the recognition to our financial discipline and commitment to deleveraging, diversified asset base as well as customer base and the highest profitability in this sector globally."

Mann Shah (Class - 9) Qualified for IOITC - 2024



Ahmedabad. The students of ALLEN Career Institute Private Limited are continuously performing well in National and International Olympiads. In this sequence, Mann Shah regular classroom student of ALLEN Ahmedabad has qualified for International Olympiad in Informatics Training Camp (IOITC) 2024. To celebrate this success of Mann a press conference is organized at ALLEN Ahmedabad with cake cutting ceremony. On this occasion, ALLEN Ahmedabad's Centre Head Pankaj Baldi Sir, Head of COE & Engineering Division Ankit Agarwal Sir, Head of Administration & Business Development Ankit Maheshwari Sir and Head of PNCV Division Abhishek Maheshwari were present and graced the occasion. ALLEN Ahmedabad's Centre Head Pankaj Baldi said that two students of ALLEN have qualified for IOITC 2024. The second round, the Indian National Olympiad in Informatics (INOI) involves programming. The only programming language allowed for INOI is C++. Approximately 30 students are selected from INOI for the IOI training Camp (IOITC). IOI-2024 will be hosted by Egypt.

Shruti ENT Hospital Celebrate 16 Years of Cochlear Implant Program



Surat: Dr. Soumitra Shah and the team at Shruti ENT Hospital are elated to announce the completion of 16 years of their Cochlear Implant Program, marking a significant milestone in their journey of transforming lives. Over the past 16 years, the hospital has successfully conducted 1000 cochlear implant surgeries, with substantial support from the government. The Cochlear Implant Program at Shruti ENT Hospital has not only provided hearing solutions to children with hearing impairment but has also extended support to underprivileged patients. The dedication of the team, along with the generous contributions from donors, has enabled countless families to overcome the challenges associated with hearing disabilities. Dr. Soumitra Shah emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and intervention in children with hearing impairment. With advancements in technology, early detection through OAE screening allows for timely recommendations and interventions, including cochlear implants, significantly enhancing the quality of life for affected children. The success of Shruti ENT Hospital's Cochlear Implant Program underscores the importance of awareness and support for individuals with hearing disabilities in society. Dr. Soumitra Shah and his team remain committed to their mission of bridging the gap between silence and speech, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive in a world filled with the richness of sound.



The Lok Sabha general election is going to be held in the Gujarat state on May 7, 2024 as part of which comprehensive work has been carried out by the Ahmedabad district election system. A 'Run for Vote' program will be held at the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad on 5th May, 2024 at 7 am. The Run for Vote will be flagged off by Ms. P. Bharti, Chief Electoral Officer of Gujarat State. District Election Officer and Collector Ms. Praveena DK reviewed and gave necessary directions to all the officers present.

No evidence of harassment at GNLU:HC Student Has Alleged Rape Harassment of A Queer Student

Ahmadabad: During the hearing in the Gujarat high court it was revealed on Monday that the fact-finding committee did not find direct evidence of harassment against any one in the Gujarat National Law University (GNLU). This led the court to opine that the university cannot file an FIR, when amicus on criminal investigation in the matter. The suo motu proceeding is on the basic of news reports on the student's posts on Instagram about allegations of rape and harassment of a queer student in GNLU. The Committee highlighted various incidents. However, no victim came forward to complain. Amicus curiae Karina Calla suggested registration of an FIR on the basis of the fact finding committee's report. The bench of Chief Justice Sunita Agawal and Justice Aniruddha Mayee opined that the university cannot do anything unless it gets a concrete report about the incident, and the fact-finding committee's report has no concrete evidence about anything. However the amicus curiae insisted that once a criminal offence has come to the criminal machinery into motion because the offence is against the state.

At this juncture, advocate general Kamal trivedii rose and read from the report, "None of the victims have come forward with the grievance before the committee and there is no direct evidence against anyone in the matter of alleged incident as reported in the newspaper or any other incident on Instagram. And the committee is not in a position to give any factual findings with regard to happening of such incident. However, in the opinion of the committee, the occurrence of such incidents seems to be possible." The judges made it clear that the court was concerned about recommendations of the committee, and, therefore, the finding of the committee were placed before the governing council for corrective measures. After the ICG, ATS and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in a joint operation, recovered heroin worth Rs 600 crore from a Pakistani boat with 14 crew members. The Gujarat ATS, in collaboration with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Narcotics Control Bureau, conducted a joint operation to intercept an Indian fishing boat suspected of smuggling narcotics, said Gujarat DGP Vikas Sahay at ATS headquarters on Monday. The operation was initiated based on intelligence received by Gujarat ATS. The team, led by PSI Hitesh Vadher, set out from Porbandar on the ICGS (Indian Coast Guard Ship) sa jag. On Sunday, the team successfully located and boarded the fishing boat. 173 packets of hashish in the boat's hold, the DGP said. The contraband was in the possession of Mangesh Tukaram alias Sahu and Haridas Ramnath Kulal alias Puri, who were arrested on Monday. They are residents of Beed in Maha-rashtra. Further investigation revealed the involvement of several other individuals, including Kailash Vajinath Sanap, Datta Sakharam, residents of Beed, and Ali Asghar Halepotra alias Arif Bidana, a resident of Mandvi in Kutch. Preliminary findings indicated that these individuals were coordinating with Pakistan-based drug

Two held with hashish worth 60cr 173Kg of Drugs Found On Indian Fishing Boat

Ahmedabad: The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in collaboration with the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Gujarat anti-terrorist squad (ATS) seized 173kg of hashish (canna bisresin), worth Rs 60.5 crore, from an Indian fishing boat and detained its two crew members off the Gujarat coast on Sunday, officials said on Monday. The seizure comes a day after the ICG, ATS and Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in a joint operation, recovered heroin worth Rs 600 crore from a Pakistani boat with 14 crew members. The Gujarat ATS, in collaboration with the Indian Coast Guard

ets of hashish in the boat's hold, the DGP said. The contraband was in the possession of Mangesh Tukaram alias Sahu and Haridas Ramnath Kulal alias Puri, who were arrested on Monday. They are residents of Beed in Maha-rashtra. Further investigation revealed the involvement of several other individuals, including Kailash Vajinath Sanap, Datta Sakharam, residents of Beed, and Ali Asghar Halepotra alias Arif Bidana, a resident of Mandvi in Kutch. Preliminary findings indicated that these individuals were coordinating with Pakistan-based drug

Surat lifeline for Amreli, courtesy an uncontested win

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, Jayanti Suhagiya, a diamond broker in the Adajan-Pal area of Surat, fumes as he talks about roads leading to his native Likhala village in Savarkundla in Amreli. "Show me one road leading to my village that is in good shape. These roads

were carpeted not long ago, but there is so much corruption in government projects," complains 53-year-old Suhagiya, who came to Likhala from Surat on April 25 to campaign for the BJP. Jayanti, who owns 25 bigha in Likhala, is among the thousands of farmers who migrated to Surat to work in the diamond industry after crops failed due to water scarcity. Suhagiya, who migrated in 1990, says there is no way but to support the BJP. "Local leaders are not doing their job well here and we must call a spade a spade. But we have good leaders in Delhi. So, we have to vote for the BJP," he says, adding, "Our job is done in Surat. Therefore, I came to Likhala to work for the party." Jayanti's father Vallabh is the only member of his family who is registered as a voter in Amreli while the rest are voters in Surat which became the first Lok Sabha seat in the country whose results were declared and the BJP's Mukesh Dalal won uncontested.

Jaya Deshmukh becomes MICA's first female director

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, In the first time in the history of Mudra Institute of Communications (MICA) in Ahmedabad, the institute has appointed a female director. Jaya Deshmukh is set to take charge of the post for a period of five years from July. She will succeed Shailendra Raj Mehta who was appointed as the director in 2017. Mehta was given a second term in 2020. He was given an extension for around a year while the Search Committee looked for his successor. His tenure will expire on May 31. With Jaya Deshmukh's appointment, the MICA Governing Council has also changed the tenure of director from three to five years. Professor Tridip Suhrud, President of the MICA Governing Council, said, "Tina Anil Ambani, the chairperson of MICA Foundation, based on a unanimous recommendation of the Search Committee has appointed Jaya Deshmukh as the next director of MICA, Ahmedabad. MICA thus becomes that rare institution to be led by women leaders- Chairperson of the Foundation Tina Ambani, Dean Professor Githa Hegde, Registrar Professor Shubhra Gaur and now Jaya Deshmukh as the Director." An alumna from the first batch of MICA, which was established in 1991, Deshmukh brings to the position over 25 years of extensive global experience in business strategy and digital transformation, said the institute. Deshmukh has held leadership positions in India, Asia Pacific, USA, and Europe, working with technology giants such as Google, Microsoft, Colt, Cognizant and AT&T.

Hatkeshwar, new Chimanbhai flyover tenders only after polls

Ahmadabad: The coming Lok Sabha election in Gujarat has cast a shadow over infrastructure project in the city. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has decided to postpone decisions on tenders for various projects, including flyovers, until after May 7. This deferral includes an extension to the deadline of the Rs 51.70 crore tender for demolition and reconstruction of the hatkeshwar Flyover and the building of a new bridge parallel to Chimanbhai Patel Bridge, at a cost of Rs 129 crore, originally slated for April 2024. On March 7, the AMC's bridge project department floated an engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) tender with a base cost of Rs 51.70 crore for demolition of the Hatkeshwar flyover and building one to replace it. Despite two precious at templates by the AMC to retrofit the bridge, no contractor were willing to take it on. The AMC's Hatkeshwar tender was to have technical bids opened on April 1, but as there were no takers, the deadline was extended to May 1. AMC officials said that tenders for smaller specifically maintenance project are being processed as usual. Project such as flyover and sewage treatment plants (STPs) are being put on hold due to the potential for post-approval disputes during the election period. "These tenders will be reviewed and brought before the standing committee for approval only after the model code of conduct (MCC) is lifted," said a senior AMC official.

MP Report Card: Mitesh Patel, BJP MP Constituency - Anand

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, Dominated by the Kshatriya community, Anand has traditionally been a bastion of the Congress. Since 1991, however, the Congress has won four of seven Lok Sabha polls. The BJP managed to dent the Congress spree in 1999 when Dipak Patel defeated Congress's Ishwar Chavda by a slender margin of 3,661 votes. It was then in 2014 that the BJP's Dilip Patel defeated former Gujarat Chief Minister Madhavsingh Solanki's son - sitting Congress MP and Union Minister of State Bharatsingh Solanki, who also lost the 2019 Lok Sabha polls to Mitesh Patel. It was, however, after the 2022 state polls that the Congress was reduced to rubble in its bastion. The party lost Borad - once held by Madhavsingh Solanki - for the first time in electoral history. Soon after, the BJP also took over the reins in the coveted milk cooperative Kaira District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union Limited - popularly called Amul - that had eluded the BJP since inception in 1946. The BJP was holding the post of chairman since 2017 when Congress leader and Amul chairman Ramsinh Parmar switched over to the party, and in 2022, it took over the Amul board. He holds a diploma in telecom engineering, and is a businessman and agriculturist. Mitesh Patel, known as Bakabhai in his constituency, has previously been a treasurer of the Anand unit of the BJP and is also associated with the cooperatives of the district. Patel is the chairman and managing director of Laxmi Protein Products Pvt Ltd, located in Anand. Debates he participated in on December 4, 2023, emphasised on the need to promote cultivation and production of millets in the country. He stated that it required "less water and effort" as compared to the production of wheat and rice.



A signature campaign on 'Voting Awareness' was held by District Election Officer and Collector Ms. Praveena DK at the Collector's office, Ahmedabad. Collector Ms. Praveena DK signed the signature poster and gave the message of correct voting.

Amit Shah: Vote for Modi again to end Naxalism in India in 2 yrs

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, India is set to witness an end to Naxalism under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday as he addressed an election rally in Ahmedabad. If voted to power for a third straight term, Modi will eliminate Naxalism in the country in the next two years, Shah further asserted as he urged the crowd to vote for him. He made the remarks in Gujarati while addressing an election rally at Naroda Gam, which witnessed two of the most gruesome massacres during the 2002 Gujarat riots - Naroda Gam massacre and Naroda Patiya massacre. In the Naroda Patiya massacre, 97 people were killed while 11 people were killed in the Naroda Gam massacre. The locality falls under Ahmedabad East Lok Sabha constituency where the BJP has fielded sitting MP Hasmukh Patel. "Narendrabhai has almost freed the country from terrorism. Once, Naxalites were dreaming of the red corridor from Pashupatinath to Tirupati. In just five years of Narendra Modi's rule, Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have been freed from Naxalism. Some tall has been left in Chhattisgarh, and there too, a BJP government has been formed. Just today, nine Naxalites have been killed by the police there," he said. He then added, "You make Narendrabhai the Prime Minister for a third consecutive term. I want to assure you that within two years, Modi saheb will end Naxalism in the country."

Patidar stir: Surat court acquits 3 youths accused of assaulting cops

By Staff Reporter Ahmedabad, The Surat District Court has acquitted three youths for allegedly assaulting three police personnel, including an inspector, and snatching away a service revolver during a Patidar agitation for reservation in 2015 in Surat. "The accused are not directly or indirectly involved in the offence. The prosecution has failed to establish presence of the accused in the mob, assault on the police officials, snatching a police inspector service revolver, damaging the police vehicles or obstructing police men to do their duties. The accused were arrested from their homes and not from the spot," Principal session judge A I Rawal stated in an order Monday. He noted that the missing service revolver of the police inspector has not been recovered from the accused. The arrest pertains to the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samithi movement spearheaded by Hardik Patel. On August 25, 2015, Hardik was arrested by Ahmedabad police for taking out a rally. A day later, police inspector H S Purani and his team were patrolling in the Amroli area of Surat when they spotted a mob of nearly 1,500-2,000 youths gathered at Sudama Chowk chanting slogans against the government condemning Hardik's arrest. Despite Purani's instruction to disperse, some of the youths allegedly assaulted him and snatched away his service revolver.

## AEA chief to visit Iran in coming days: Nuclear official

Tehran, May 1 (IANS) An Iranian nuclear official has said that Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, would visit Iran in the coming days, according to media reports.

Spokesman of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi said the IAEA Chief is scheduled to attend the International Conference on Nuclear Sciences and Technologies held in the central Iranian province of Isfahan from May 6 to 8 and hold talks with Iranian officials, including AEOI President Mohammad Eslami, Xinhua news agency reported. The AEOI Chief earlier this month reaffirmed Iran's commitment to nuclear activities that align with its cooperation

with the IAEA, while addressing the agency's concerns over "ambiguities" in the country's nuclear programme, according to the Iranian Students' News Agency.

Eslami also stressed Iran's adherence to the safeguards agreement and the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the report said.

Iran signed a nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with world powers in July 2015, accepting restrictions on its nuclear programme in exchange for lifting sanctions.

Efforts to revive the JCPOA commenced in April 2021 in Vienna, Austria, but despite multiple rounds of negotiations, no substantial progress has been reported since the last talks in August 2022. -IANS



## RWANDA SCHEME TAKES OFF

The migrant, whose name is unknown, was flown out of the UK yesterday evening and arrived in Kigali. He was put on a commercial flight and given around £3,000 from the British taxpayer to help relocate under the terms of a deal with Rwanda. It marks the first time the government has relocated a failed asylum seeker to a third country. The man's attempt to stay in Britain was rejected at the end of 2023, before he accepted the offer to start a new life in the central African nation.

## UN chief Guterres appeals for international pressure to stop Israel incursion into Rafah

United Nations, May 1 (IANS) As Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stood firmly by his determination to send troops into Rafah, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres appealed for international pressure to stop the attack on the area where more than 1.2 million Palestinians are sheltering from Israeli invasion that has rolled across most of Gaza. "I appeal for all those with influence over Israel to do everything in their power to prevent it," he said on Tuesday.

"A military assault on Rafah would be an unbearable escalation, killing thousands more civilians and forcing hundreds of thousands to flee" the area where "more than 1.2 million people are now seeking shelter in Rafah governorate, most of them fleeing the Israeli bombardment that has reportedly killed over 34,000 people," he said at a news conference.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, stated firmly: "We

will enter Rafah and we will eliminate Hamas' battalions there, with or without a deal, to achieve the total victory".

The statement came ahead of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Israel where he is expected to reinforce President Joe Biden's opposition to the invasion of Rafah, which, according to the White House, the President reiterated to Netanyahu in a phone call on Sunday.

Guterres warned that an incursion into Rafah would have "serious repercussions on the occupied West Bank, and across the wider region".

The US and its allies have been trying to get Israel and Hamas on a deal



that would lead to a ceasefire and the release of some hostages kidnapped by the terror organisation in an attack on Israel in October. Blinken said in Riyadh on Monday that "Hamas has before it a proposal that is extraordinarily - extraordinarily - generous on the part of Israel". "And in this moment, the only thing standing between the people of Gaza and a ceasefire is Hamas. They have to decide, and they have to decide quickly," he said.

According to media reports, Israel has lowered the number of hostages it demanded freed to less than 40 in exchange for the release of some Palestinian prisoners and a limited ceasefire. Guterres warned that a famine was looming over Gaza because of limited access to food. He called for the opening of two more crossing points between Israel and northern Gaza to enable the delivery of aid into Gaza from Ashdod port and Jordan.

## Crew of Israeli-linked ship seized by Iran in full health: Iranian official

Tehran, May 1 (IANS) A senior Iranian maritime official has said the entire crew members of an Israeli-linked container ship seized earlier this month by Iran's naval forces near the Strait of Hormuz were safe and in full health.

The caretaker for maritime affairs at Iran's Ports and Maritime Organisation (PMO), Ali Akbar Marzban, made the remarks while elaborating on the latest condition of the crew members of the Portuguese-flagged container ship, MSC Aries, which was seized by the Navy of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps on April 13, the PMO's official website reported on Tuesday.

Iranian authorities said the vessel, which was operated by London-based Zodiac Maritime, a company owned by Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer, had violated international maritime law and failed to respond to inquiries, Xinhua news agency reported.

Marzban said that out of the 25 crew members

from India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia and Estonia, a female crew member, who was an Indian deck cadet, had been transferred to her home country, while the remaining 24 were all safe and in good health.

"The entire crew members are freely on the ship and enjoy all the necessary rights," he added, noting that they had Internet access and could keep in touch with their families via phone.

The PMO official

stressed that the embassies concerned were briefed on the situation, adding that their ambassadors and representatives had met the crewmen and could do so in the future.

Marzban said the PMO had informed the shipowner's representative and the government under whose flag the ship was operating that it was possible to send a portion of the crew members back to their home countries in compliance with maritime and shipping conventions.

## Israeli PM vows ground attack on Rafah with or without deal with Hamas

Jerusalem, May 1 (IANS) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has pledged to launch a ground attack on Rafah "with or without" a deal with Hamas.

Speaking in a meeting with families of hostages, Netanyahu said on Tuesday that Israel has begun the evacuation of Palestinian civilians from Rafah,

according to his office as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

"We will enter Rafah and eliminate Hamas battalions there, with or without a deal, to achieve the total victory," he added.

Rafah is Gaza's southernmost city, where about 1.2 million Palestinians have been seeking shelter.

## Jordan's king calls for immediate Gaza ceasefire in meeting with Blinken

Amman, May 1 (IANS) King Abdullah II of Jordan has stressed the necessity of an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza Strip during a meeting with visiting US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. At the meeting, the king highlighted the need for urgent action to stop the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza and called for protecting innocent civilians, the state-run Petra news agency reported on Tuesday.

He emphasised the significance of consistently providing sustainable humanitarian, relief, and medical aid to the region through all possible means, Xinhua news agency reported. Cautioning against any military action in Rafah city in southern Gaza, the king warned that the catastrophic effects of the Gaza conflict could extend to the West Bank, Jerusalem, and the broader region.

## UN chief calls for intl probe of mass graves in Gaza

United Nations, May 1 (IANS) UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called for an internal investigation of the newly found mass graves in Gaza.

"I am deeply alarmed by reports that mass graves have been discovered in several locations in Gaza, including Al Shifa Medical Complex and Nasser Medical Complex. In Nasser alone, over 390 bodies have reportedly been exhumed," he said on Tuesday.

There are competing narratives around several of these mass graves, including serious allegations that some of those buried were unlawfully killed, he told reporters as quoted by Xinhua news agency report. "It is imperative that independent international investigators, with forensic expertise, are allowed immediate access to the sites of these mass graves, to establish the precise circumstances under which hundreds of Palestinians lost their lives and were buried, or reburied." The families of the dead and missing have a right to know what happened. And the world has a right to accountability for any violations of international law that may have taken place, the UN Chief said.

## Palestinian death toll in Gaza rises to 34,535: Ministry

Gaza, May 1 (IANS) The Palestinian death toll from ongoing Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip has risen to 34,535, the Hamas-run Health Ministry said in a press statement. During the past 24 hours, the Israeli army killed 47 Palestinians and wounded 61 others, bringing the total death toll since the outbreak of the Israel-Hamas war to 34,535 and injuries to 77,704, Xinhua news agency reported. Some victims remain under the rubble amid heavy bombardment and a lack of rescue crews, said the statement on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the Israeli army reported attacking 24 targets in Gaza, including tunnel entrances and a missile launch platform, according to Israeli public radio. The General Directorate of Civil Defence in Gaza estimated that there were more than 10,000 individuals in total still missing beneath the rubble of the demolished buildings in the Strip.



**ROBERT HARDMAN: His tie said it all. It has been a favourite since he became King, appearing on away days, at Palace receptions and even a trip to church. Featuring a blue dinosaur pattern on a pink silk background, it is a cheeky play on his official 'Charles III Rex' cypher. Staff know that when 'C-Rex' is wearing his 'T-Rex' tie, he probably has a spring in his step. And so it was as the King came to the Macmillan Cancer Centre at London's University College Hospital to mark his cautious return to regular public duties for the first time since his own diagnosis in February.**

## Palestinian presidency blames US support for Israel's possible Rafah attack

Ramallah, May 1 (IANS) The Palestinian presidency has said that Israel would not dare to continue its assault in Gaza without US support.

Palestinian Presidency spokesperson Nabil Abu Rudeineh made the remarks in response to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's statements earlier on Tuesday that an invasion of Rafah is imminent, according to the Palestinian news agency WAFA.

"The blind US bias towards Israel, and its protection from punishment and submission to international legitimacy, has proven that the US administration has become a partner

in Netanyahu's crimes and bears full responsibility for the continuation of genocide," said Rudeineh on Tuesday as quoted by Xinhua news agency report.

He added that the US administration should intervene immediately and compel Israel "to stop its crimes, foremost of which is preventing the invasion of Rafah, which would have very serious repercussions on the region as a whole and the world".

He also called on the international community to intervene to prevent Israel from continuing its aggression. Earlier on Tuesday, Netanyahu pledged to launch a ground attack on Rafah

"with or without" an agreement with Hamas.

During his meeting with the families of hostages held in Gaza, Netanyahu said that Israel had begun evacuating Palestinian civilians from Rafah, according to his office.

Israel considers Rafah the last major stronghold of Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Netanyahu made these statements at a time when negotiators from Israel and Hamas are holding talks through Egyptian mediation to reach an agreement to cease hostilities in the ongoing conflict in Gaza for about seven months, which would ensure the release of hostages.

Designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), 'SMART' is a next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system that will enhance

## Blinken arrives in Israel to push for Gaza truce deal

Tel Aviv, May 1 (IANS) The US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, arrived in Israel where he will meet the country's President Isaac Herzog and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday to push forward the Gaza ceasefire deal.

This is the seventh visit of Blinken since the war between Hamas and Israel broke out on October 7, 2023. The Secretary of State will also meet Israel Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and National Security Adviser Tzachi Hanegbi. Blinken will also meet the families of the hostages. The top US diplomat arrived in the Middle East on Monday and had interactions with the Jordanian and Saudi officials regarding

peace in the region.

Israel has agreed to the suggestion of the mediators for the release of 33 of its hostages (women, elderly, and those suffering from diseases) in the custody of Hamas in exchange for around 600 Palestinian prisoners languishing in Israeli jails. Blinken had earlier announced that he would not arrive in Israel during his present visit to the Middle East but sources in Israel Prime Minister's office told IANS that there were some bottlenecks in the indirect mediatory talks being held at Cairo between Hamas and Israel. The Secretary of State will be discussing with the Israeli leaders the issues leading to the blockade in mediatory talks.

## G7 ministers agree to phase out coal use by 2035

Rome, May 1 (IANS) Environment Ministers from the G7 nations committed themselves to phase out the use of coal by 2035 as part of a wider effort to reduce and eventually eliminate the use of fossil fuels.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Ministers gathered on Tuesday in Reggio di Venaria, just outside the northern Italian city of Turin, for the latest working session for the G7, which is headed by Italy this year, Xinhua news agency reported.

Ministers agreed to a host of energy and climate-related goals, including encouraging the development of renewable energy sources, increased collaboration on energy from nuclear fusion, a reduction in emissions of



methane and other greenhouse gases, and to "break away" from Russian imports of natural gas. The participants of the two-day summit focused on measures to eliminate the use of coal and later phase out all fossil fuels. These measures are part of the nations' commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. Though the agreement says countries will eliminate coal use by the "first half of the 2030s" -- in other words by 2035 -- it did allow for that deadline to be changed if it remained on "a timeline consistent with keeping a limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius temperature rise within reach".

## India successfully test fires SMART torpedo system

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) India on Wednesday successfully flight-tested Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (SMART) system from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.

Designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), 'SMART' is a next-generation missile-based light-weight torpedo delivery system that will enhance

the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy far beyond the conventional range of lightweight torpedo.

This canister-based missile system consists of several advanced subsystems, namely a two-stage solid propulsion system, electromechanical actuator system, precision inertial navigation system, etc. The system carries advanced light-weight torpedo as payload along with a parachute-based

release system.

The missile was launched from the ground mobile launcher. Several state-of-the-art mechanisms such as symmetric separation, ejection and velocity control have been validated in this test.

## Ukraine's agricultural exports via Black Sea return to pre-conflict level

Kiev, May 1 (IANS) Ukraine's agricultural exports via Black Sea ports have reached pre-conflict levels, the government-run Ukrinform news agency reported, citing a senior diplomat.

Since last summer, Ukraine has exported about 25 million tons of

foodstuff through the ports of Odesa, Chornomorsk and Pivdenny, said Sergiy Kyslytsya, Ukraine's permanent representative to the United Nations, on Tuesday. According to Kyslytsya, these vessels delivered grain and other agricultural goods from Ukraine to 40 countries.

## Police arrest protesters at Columbia University, clear occupied building

New York, May 1 (IANS) Police stormed Ivy League Columbia University, the ground zero of nationwide pro-Palestine protests, breaking up the occupation of a building by agitators and arresting scores of them.

University officials, who were under fire for inaction on the agitation, asked the police Tuesday night to clear protesters who took over the administration building after

breaking windows to enter it and reinforcing the entrances with furniture and equipment to keep officials out.

The action came as the agitation in support of Palestine veered off into communalism with attacks on and threats to Jewish students based on their religion, with one of the leaders found to have called for "death to Zionists".

Before the police ac-

tion, New York Mayor Eric Adams said that "professional agitators", who were not students, had infiltrated the protests and were behind the occupation.

Police released videos of people at the university who they said were the "outside agitators" clad in black who had been seen at other agitations in the past creating conditions for clashes with police.

CBS New York TV reported that according to

city officials, the wife of a known terrorist was at the protests.

Other media identified the man as Sami Al-Arian who was charged with supporting the Palestinian Islamic Jihad and deported from the US.)

Riot police used special equipment with a ramp to dramatically climb in through windows on a higher floor of the building and used flash grenades, devices that set off spurts

of bright lights and explosive sounds but without shrapnel, to stun the agitators.

Police also arrested students who had set up a tent encampment in the university quadrangle and had been ordered by the university to clear out.

Police clashed with students at the campus of local government-run City College, where agitators threw firecrackers, and arrested several people.



**Former President Donald Trump has found out whether he will be able to go to his son Barron's graduation next month. The former president complained on the first day of the trial that he may be barred by Judge Juan Merchan from seeing 18-year-old Barron receive his diploma.**

**IPL 2024: MI skipper Hardik fined for slow over-rate offence**

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Mumbai Indians' (MI) captain Hardik Pandya has been fined after his team maintained a slow over-rate during IPL 2024 match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Lucknow on Tuesday.

"As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Pandya was fined INR 24 Lakh" the BCCI statement read.

"The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either INR 6 Lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser" it added. MI succumbed to its seventh loss of the season in 10 games after suffering a 4-wicket defeat at the hands of LSG. After Tuesday's loss MI's chances for playoffs are bleak even if they win all of their remaining games.

**ISL: Chennaiyin FC extend contract of goalkeeper Samik Mitra until 2027**

Chennai, May 1 (IANS) Goalkeeper Samik Mitra has signed a contract extension with Chennaiyin FC that will keep him at the club till 2027, the Indian Super League (ISL) club announced on Wednesday. Mitra joined the Marina Machans from the Indian Arrows in 2020 and has played a total of 22 matches for the team in all competitions, keeping clean sheets in three games.

The 23-year-old goalkeeper from Siliguri has become a force to be reckoned with between the posts and has played a crucial role in the team's success on many occasions.

Head coach Owen Coyle expresses confidence in Mitra's abilities to continue playing for the team in the forthcoming season. "We believe in giving chances to youngsters at the club, and Samik Mitra is someone who has great potential. He is young, and we have already seen his capabilities in the matches that he has played for the team."

**IPL 2024: The only person who has to pay the price... Brett Lee slams LSG for mishandling Mayank's injury**

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) As young fast-bowler Mayank Yadav walked off the field after complaining of discomfort during the IPL 2024 match against the Mumbai Indians (MI), former Australian fast bowler Brett Lee lashed out at Lucknow Super Giant's (LSG) management, saying they did not manage the pacer's injury well. Mayank, who returned for the Lucknow side after missing five matches due to soreness in the lower abdominal area, walked off the field on Tuesday without completing his fourth over, leaving with the figures of 1 for 31 in 3.1 overs.

"Side strain, or whatever they're calling it, normally takes at least four to six weeks to even come right. We don't know the depths of how big a strain it was, but for somebody who is pushing the limits of their body by bowling 150 kmph, that's not good management at all. His first game coming back and getting injured, has to directly be on the leadership and the medical staff of the Lucknow Super Giants," said Lee on Jio Cinema, the tournament's official streaming partner.



**PLAYER RATINGS**  
KIERAN GILL: The spoils were shared in Germany as Bayern Munich and Real Madrid played out an enthralling 2-2 draw in their Champions League semi-final first leg tie on Tuesday. Thomas Tuchel's side started well at the Allianz Arena, but the Spanish giants struck first as Vinicius Jr (right) finished well after a delightful through ball from Toni Kroos. Bayern came out firing in the second half and Leroy Sane got them back on level terms following a fine run and finish, before Harry Kane put the hosts ahead from the spot when Jamal Musiala was fouled by Lucas Vazquez.

**T20 WC: Marsh to lead 15-man Australian squad; Smith, Fraser-McGurk left out**

Melbourne, May 1 (IANS) Mitchell Marsh has been appointed captain of the Australian men's T20 team and will lead the side at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, starting on June 1 in the West Indies and USA.

Marsh will be leading a strong 15-member squad, excluding batter Steve Smith, young gun Jake Fraser-McGurk, experienced seamer Jason Behrendorff and all-rounder Matt Short.

While Marsh has been performing the role of interim captain of Australia's T20I side for much of the last 12 months, the T20 World Cup will be his first major tournament as skipper.

"It's been an immense privilege to play for my country and now an even greater honour to lead the squad to a World Cup. I am extremely grateful to have such a good group of people in our players and staff. We have had some

strong success in recent times and I am hopeful that will continue in what looks like a wide-open tournament.

"We take a very experienced group to the West Indies, I very much look forward to the challenge and working alongside Andrew (McDonald), the coaches, players and staff," said Marsh.

The squad also featured Ashton Agar and Cameron Green, both of whom have been absent from international T20 cricket for nearly 18 months.

Selection chair George Bailey believes Australia have a well-balanced squad and is confident of a strong showing in the ninth edition of the T20 World Cup.

"This is an experienced squad with extensive World Cup experience that offers a variety of structures and covers the scenarios the panel believes will factor in the

West Indies with the unique nature of the venues and our opponents. It's great to have Ashton Agar back into the squad following a spate of unfortunate and untimely injuries.

"We believe Ashton can play a critical role in this tournament along with Marcus Stoinis, Glenn Maxwell, Cam Green and Mitch Marsh in complementing our front-line attack options. The batting options available allow a tailored approach to each venue and opponent," said Bailey. Bailey acknowledged some of the omissions from recent T20 sides and said, "Steve Smith, Matt Short, Jason Behrendorff, Aaron Hardie, Spencer Johnson, and Xavier Bartlett were all part of long conversations, along with several others, including Jake Fraser-McGurk who is yet to play T20 International cricket but continues to impress and is developing rapidly."

**'He's sore in the same spot, will undergo scan', LSG coach Langer gives injury update on Mayank Yadav**

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) head coach Justin Langer has given an injury update on star pacer Mayank Yadav, stating that despite undergoing "perfect rehabilitation", the youngster still has soreness in the same area that kept him out of action for over three weeks.

Langer further said the young pacer will also undergo a scan.

Mayank returned for Lucknow side after missing five matches due to a soreness in the lower abdominal area. He left the field due to injury with the figure of 1 for 31 in 3.1 overs in the match against Mumbai Indians at Ekana Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

**Nadal bids farewell to Madrid Open after fourth round loss**

Madrid, May 1 (IANS) Rafael Nadal bid farewell to fans at the Madrid Open, the ATP Masters 1000 tournament that he won five times during his illustrious career, after a 5-7, 4-6 fourth-round loss to the Czech player Jiri Lehecka. The five-time champion of the tournament (2005, 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2017) produced the final epilogue of his Madrid Open journey against Lehecka. His fourth-round match against a Czech player lasted two hours and two minutes. A win would have meant victory number 60 for the Spaniard in Madrid, but his count will now forever remain at 59 triumphs and just 15 defeats since his first match against Alex Corretja in the Madrid Arena in 2003. After the match, an emotional Nadal received a special presentation on the court in which banners marking his five titles in 2008, '10, '13-'14 and '17 unfurled from

the closed roof as Nadal said goodbye to its greatest champion.

"It's been a very special week for me, very positive in many ways, both personally and for my tennis. I had the chance to play again on court. A few weeks ago, two days before Barcelona, I didn't know if I would compete in an official match again and I've now played two weeks. It's been unforgettable," Nadal was quoted by ATP tour.

"The only thing I can say is 'thank you'. It's been an incredible journey that started when I was little. I came to Madrid for the first time in 2003, when the tournament was played indoors. The first time I came here feeling competitive was in 2005. It was one of the most exciting wins of my career, still indoors. Ever since, the support has been unconditional from everyone. I cannot thank you enough," he added.

**Protest in TN as T Natarajan ignored for T20 World Cup**

Chennai, May 1 (IANS) Following the announcement of the Indian squad for the upcoming T20 World Cup, people in Tamil Nadu came out in protest over the exclusion of left-arm medium pacer T Natarajan.

Tamil Nadu Minister for Industries TRB Raaja, son of veteran DMK leader TR Baalu, also expressed his anguish after the pacer got snubbed.

Raja said that Natarajan not finding a place in the Indian team was unfortunate. "Good to see this being discussed widely! Consistently performing TN athletes have many a time been denied their rightful place by 'Delhi'! This is happening more often now BUT is beyond regimes. This is just how myopically 'Delhi' operates in many sports. 'Delhi' has MOST of the time turned a blind eye to many immensely talented athletes from the south!

Many Athletes cutting across sports AND ideological bearings KNOW this! Glad Badri Spoke his mind. Natarajan and our other boys TRULY deserve better," the state industries minister said in a post on social media platform 'X'.

Former Indian Test player and one of the most prolific run scorers in domestic cricket for Tamil Nadu, S Badrinath in a local Tamil Television show on Tuesday night also expressed his disappointment on Natarajan's exclusion from the World Cup squad. He said that Natarajan was performing extremely well and had fetched good number of wickets in the IPL season. He added, players from Tamil Nadu had to perform double than those from other regions to get into the Indian team. He said that he himself was a victim of such discrimination in the Indian team.

**Business & Technology****Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Unveils Privé A One-of-a-Kind Program that Provides Unparalleled Coverage and Service Excellence**

Pune, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, one of the leading private general insurers in India, today announced the launch of Privé, an exclusive customer experience program offering access to elevated and unmatched customer service excellence. Traditionally, in India, the thrive to increase insurance penetration over the last few years has largely been focused on tapping the customer base across the tier 2/tier 3 locations and rural markets, predominantly covering middle, upper middle class, and rural customers. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, in addition to its strong focus on increasing insurance penetration across all the above-mentioned customer segments, will now also cater to a special segment of customers typically requiring insurance solutions

with enhanced coverage limits. Recognizing the multifaceted requirements and comprehensive protection that align with such discerning customers' financial and lifestyle preferences, Privé goes beyond the traditional insurance offerings. By being part of Privé, the customers gain access to an array of exclusive and prioritized insurance services, ensuring their requirements are met with precision. Privé, being a unique first-of-its-kind program, was launched in Pune. Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd., also graced the event. At the launch event, renowned Indian music composer duo Vishal Shekar enthralled the attendees with an electrifying musical performance. Fashion designer Rocky S also added glamour to the event by show-

ing his unique collection. A few select partners and employees also graced the ramp. The event also saw the launch of the Privé logo unveiled by Mr. Sanjiv Bajaj, Chairman and Managing Director, Bajaj Finserv Ltd., Mr. Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, Rocky Star, Indian Fashion Designer, and Mr. Vikram Bhayana, Head - Marketing, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance.

Speaking on the launch, Mr. Tapan Singhel, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, said, "At our core, we're dedicated to pioneering insurance solutions that cater to the diverse needs of every individual across our nation. With Privé, we're reaffirming our commitment to continuously innovate and address the unique requirements of discerning individuals.

**NUVOCO Vistas announces its financial results for FY24: PAT at Rs. 147 crores**

Mumbai, Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., a leading building materials Company in India, announced its audited financial results for the year ended March 31, 2024. With 25 MMTPA of combined installed capacity, Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd. is the fifth largest cement group in India and amongst the leading cement players in East India.

The Company's consolidated cement sales volume stood at 18.8 MMT in FY24. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs. 10,733 crores, during the same period. Consolidated EBITDA improved by 35% YoY to Rs. 1,657 crores. Further, the company reduced net debt by Rs. 384 crores YoY to Rs. 4,030 crores, resulting in Net debt / EBITDA of 2.4x. This year marked the successful commissioning of a 1.2 MMTPA Grinding unit at Haryana Cement Plant, marking a significant

milestone in our expansion. The development has enhanced North share in the total company's capacity from 20% to 24% and will further solidify our footprint in the region. The company completed debottlenecking projects at Risda and Nimbol Plants, which has resulted in a notable increase in clinker capacity. The Company remains dedicated to its strategic imperative in premiumisation and has expanded its premium products Dura-guar F2F and Concreto Uno, into the markets of West Bengal and Jharkhand. Concreto Uno's unique water-repelling properties and damp lock formula address the ever-changing needs of the construction industry.

The Company made significant strides in sustainability efforts under its 'Protect Our Planet' agenda with a reduction in carbon emissions by ~2% YoY

to 454 kg CO2 per ton of cementitious materials<sup>1</sup>, reaffirming our position amongst the industry leaders in low carbon emissions.

Commenting on the performance of the Company, Mr. Jayakumar Krishnaswamy, Managing Director, Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., stated, "The Company enhanced its operational efficiencies and delivered strong growth in EBITDA and PAT despite a volatile demand environment during FY24, achieving the highest profitability. Our commendable operational outcomes reflect our dynamic and efficient strategy focused on premiumisation and cost optimisation. Moving to FY25, our strategies focus on growth, expanding our market presence, and extracting more volumes from home markets while continuing our thrust on efficiency improvement initiatives."

**Bajaj Allianz Life Announces its highest-ever bonus for their participating products**

Pune, Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, announces bonuses for the 23rd consecutive year! This is for the over 11.66 lakh policyholders who have invested in the Company's participating products. This is the Company's highest bonus declaration ever at Rs. 1,383 crores for FY2024.

Policyholders with traditional participating (with-profit) policies are eligible to receive this bonus, which is declared from the surplus generated under the participating (with-profits) funds. All participating policies in force as on March 31, 2024, are eligible to receive this bonus. Policyholders of participating products like Bajaj Allianz Life Flexi Income Goal, Bajaj Allianz Elite Assure, Bajaj Allianz Life Ace, amongst others stand to benefit from the bonus declared. FY2024 bonus marks a 15% increase over FY2023 bonus, which stood at Rs. 1,201 crores. Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, said, "We are happy to declare one of the highest bonuses in our history of over two decades. It's a reflection of the focus we lay of enabling the long-term life goals of our customers in every manner. Our investment strategies that back our value-packed products are designed to ensure we bring our customers closer to their life goals each year. This bonus declaration is one such essential step in that direction. We will continue to work tirelessly towards our customers' life goals and acknowledge their trust and faith in us through such declarations." Bonuses declared in each financial year are accumulated and distributed upon policy maturity or exit. Additionally, cash bonuses will be paid out on specific policy events in accordance with policy conditions.

**TKM Records Sustained Monthly Sales Momentum with growth of 32% in April 2024**

Bengaluru, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has continued to strengthen its growth trajectory by recording a consistent increase in its monthly sales units. The company today announced that 20,494 units were sold in the month of April 2024, representing a Y-o-Y growth of 32%, as compared to April 2023, where the company sold 15,510 units.

The growth momentum was sustained despite a weeklong maintenance shutdown from April 06-14, 2024, for upkeep of machinery and equipment to sustain operational efficiencies, productivity and safety. In the current month, domestic sales accounted for 18,700 units while exports totalled to 1,794 units during the same month.

This success also reflects a significant increase of 48% in first four months of CY 2024, with a sale of 97,503 units, as compared to the same period in CY 2023, where the company sold 65,871 units.

Speaking on the sales momentum, Mr. Sabari Manohar - Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "In FY 2023-2024, we demonstrated an unwavering commitment towards quality and customer centricity that pivoted us to report record breaking growth. Inspired by the same determination, we are thrilled to announce that in the month of April 2024, we have recorded a growth of 32% over the same period last year. We believe that this stable performance underlines a strong foundation for another positive year.

**IIT Madras BS Data Science helps place 2,500 students with jobs & promotions**

Madras, IIT Madras' BS Degree in Data Science and Applications, which is going to complete four years, has enabled more than 2,500 of its students to get jobs or promotions. 850+ students have secured admission for Masters and PhD programs at esteemed universities such as Cornell University & Georgia Institute of Technology, US and Aalto University, Finland, among others, even being able to switch streams from their primary domain to Computer Science or Data Science. Elaborating on this, Prof. Andrew Thangaraj, Professor-In-Charge, BS (Data Science and Applications), IIT Madras, said, "It is noteworthy that the inaugural batch of the 4-year BS degree program is yet to complete their 4 years in the program and graduate.

However, the remarkable accolades already achieved by these students are quite impressive. From gaining admission into esteemed universities to securing valuable research and internship opportunities with reputable companies, their accomplishments speak volumes about their potential and the program's quality."

Congratulating the program on its success, Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras, said, "I am proud of the achievements of our BS data science program and its students. The program has opened the doors of IITM to anyone who is willing to work hard and is interested in learning. We hope to introduce more such programs to reach all sections of society." The Program ensures equitable access to educa-

tion even for the socially and economically challenged sections by providing fee waivers and other forms of support.

Further highlighting the distinctive features of the BS programs, Prof. Vignesh Muthuvijayan, Professor-In-Charge, BS (Data Science and Applications), IIT Madras, said, "The program's integration of multiple exit options empowers students to acquire the necessary skills at each level and pursue their desired goals effectively. Moreover, its holistic approach, which encompasses project-based assignments, research projects, academic competitions, and leadership roles within student communities, enhances the educational experience and cultivates valuable skills among participants."

**JEE Main Result 2024: 75 Students of Ahmedabad PW Vidyapeeth Qualify, 9 Exceed 99 Percentile**

Ahmedabad: Physics Wallah (PW), a leading ed-tech company known for affordable and high-quality education, has announced exceptional results in JEE Main Exam Session 2, from its Vidyapeeth center in Ahmedabad, as 75 students qualify for JEE Advanced. A total of 9 students achieved scores above 99 percentile.

Overall, 4000+ Vidyapeeth students have qualified the exam across India. Of these, 399 students scored above 99 percentile, while 192 students achieved an impressive above 99.5 percentile score. Additionally, 118 of Vidyapeeth students bagged ranks under 1000 All India Rank (AIR), including both Common Rank List (CRL) and Category rank lists.



At Ahmedabad PW Vidyapeeth, 11 students secured ranks under the top 1000, including Jainam 471 (AIR), Sahaj Chokshi 573 (AIR), Samarth Sanjay Shah 108 (SC), and Bhuva Prashil Rohitbhai 164 (GEN-EWS), who were the top performers.

The result highlights PW's success in providing high-quality education that empowers students to reach their academic goals. Ankit Gupta, PW's Offline CEO, said, "Seeing

## 25 pc of cyberattacks motivated by 'espionage' in APAC region last year: Report

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) About 25 per cent of cyberattacks were motivated by 'espionage' in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region last year, which is significantly higher than the 6 per cent and 4 per cent in Europe and North America, respectively, a new report showed on Wednesday.

Of the 2,130 security incidents and 523 confirmed breaches in the APAC region, system intrusion, social engineering, and basic web application attacks represent 95 per cent of breaches, according to Verizon Business report.



The report analysed 30,458 security incidents and 10,626 confirmed breaches in 2023 - a two-fold increase over 2022.

Last year, 15 per cent of breaches involved a third party, including data custodians, third-party software vulnerabilities, and other direct or indirect supply chain issues, the

report mentioned.

About 68 per cent of breaches whether they include a third party or not, involve a non-malicious human element, which refers to a person making an error or falling prey to a social engineering attack, according to the report.

"India is one of the key countries affected by phishing attacks, where employees often click on malicious links or attachments that appear to be from legitimate sources, often leading to severe financial losses," said Anshuman Sharma, Director - VTRAC, Cybersecurity Consulting Services, Verizon Business.

"However, there's a silver lining as reporting practices have improved, with 20 per cent of users now identifying and reporting phishing during simulation tests," he added.

## Microsoft announces to open its first regional data centre in Thailand

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Microsoft on Wednesday announced to build a new cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in Thailand, provide AI skilling opportunities for more than 100,000 people, and support the nation's growing developer community.

The data centre region will expand the availability of Microsoft's hypercloud AI cloud services, facilitating enterprise-grade reliability, performance, and compliance with data residency and privacy standards, according to the company. "Our new data centre region, along with the investments we are making in cloud and AI infrastructure, as well as AI skilling, build on our long-standing commitment to the country -- and will

help Thai organisations across the public and private sector drive new impact and growth," said Satya Nadella, Chairman and CEO, Microsoft. According to the company, the new data centre will allow Thailand to capitalise on the significant economic and productivity opportunities presented by the AI technology. "Microsoft is dedicated to helping Thailand excel as a digital economy, ensuring that the benefits of cloud and AI technologies are widespread and contribute to the prosperity and well-being of Thais," said Dhanawat Suthumpun, MD of Microsoft Thailand.

On Tuesday, Microsoft announced to invest \$1.7 billion over the next four years in new cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in Indonesia. It also announced to provide AI skilling opportunities for 2.5 million people in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states by 2025.

## The 127-year-old Godrej empire split: How it was resolved amicably

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) In the increasingly contentious world of family business splits, the peaceful division of the 127-year-old Godrej empire worth \$5.7 billion is a rare occurrence.

According to the company, Adi Godrej, who is head of the family and his brother Nadir Godrej, will retain control of the five listed companies of the Godrej Group. "Godrej was founded in 1897 to help build economic independence for India," Nadir Godrej said. "This deep purpose of innovating for a cause - the values of trust and respect and the belief in trusteeship and making communities that the companies operate in stronger and better - continue to form the bedrock of who we are 127 years lat-

## GST collections scale record high of Rs 2.1 lakh crore in April

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) The country's gross GST revenue collection for April this year soared to the highest ever level at Rs 2.10 lakh crore, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced on Wednesday. This represents a significant 12.4 per cent year-on-year growth, driven by a strong increase in domestic transactions (up 13.4 per cent) and imports (up 8.3 per cent). The Finance Ministry said that there has been a positive performance across components. The collections comprise -- Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST): Rs 43,846 crore; State Goods and Services Tax (SGST): Rs 53,538 crore; Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST): Rs 99,623 crore, including Rs 37,826 crore collected on imported goods; Cess: Rs 13,260 crore, including Rs 1,008 crore collected on imported goods.

## FirstCry CEO's remuneration drops 49 per cent to Rs 8.6 crore a month

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Supam Maheshwari, Co-Founder and CEO of mother and child care e-commerce platform FirstCry, has seen his monthly remuneration drop at least 49 per cent to Rs 8.6 crore, as per the company's revised Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP).

FirstCry has refilled its DRHP for an Initial Public Offer (IPO) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to raise Rs 1,816 crore via fresh issue of shares. For the first three quarters of FY24, Maheshwari's remuneration per month dropped to Rs 8.6 crore, compared to Rs 16.7 crore in the same period in the previous fiscal year (FY23).

When it comes to total remuneration (including short-term employment benefits, stock and other long-term employment benefits), Maheshwari received Rs 77.5 crore in the first three quarters of

FY24, from Rs 200.7 crore for FY23, according to the revised DRHP. Sanket Hattimattur, FirstCry's other co-founder and chief of staff, received Rs 8.3 crore for the first three quarters of FY24, from Rs 18.5 crore for FY23.

Sanket Hattimattur, FirstCry's other co-founder and chief of staff, received Rs 8.3 crore for the first three quarters of FY24, from Rs 18.5 crore for FY23. Gautam Sharma, the company's chief financial officer, received Rs 1.6 crore in the first three quarters of FY24, from Rs 4.8 crore in FY23.

In January, reports surfaced that Maheshwari offloaded 6.2 million shares worth around Rs 300 crore prior to filing for the company's IPO.

According to the earlier DRHP filed in December last year, Maheshwari has offloaded 9.34 million shares during six months before the date of filing of the IPO papers.

## Business Brief

### Samsung to Soon Unveil Galaxy F55 5G with Premium Vegan Leather Finish in India

GURUGRAM, Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today announced that Galaxy F55 5G will be launching in India early next month. Galaxy F55 5G, the latest addition to the immensely popular Galaxy F series, is set to stand out with several segment-leading features. Galaxy F55 5G, the most premium Galaxy F series smartphone will feature a classy vegan leather finish graced with a stitched design that exudes elegance and sophistication. Galaxy F55 5G will come in two colours and will be available on Flipkart, Samsung.com and across select retail stores.

### Kotak Announces Departure of KVS Manian, Joint MD from the Group

Mumbai, Kotak Mahindra Bank (the Bank) today informed the exchanges that KVS Manian, Whole Time Director designated as Joint Managing Director has stepped down from his position to pursue other opportunities in the Financial Services sector. The Board has accepted his resignation with immediate effect. Leveraging its strong leadership strength, the Bank announced a new reporting structure to drive a sharper focus and leadership oversight to its business.

The Wholesale, Commercial and Private Bank will now report directly to Ashok Vaswani, Managing Director & CEO, while the Asset Reconstruction Division will report into Shanti Ekambaram, Deputy Managing Director. Shanti will also oversee the Investment Banking and Institutional Equities businesses.

Commenting on the development, Ashok Vaswani, MD & CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank said "Manian has spent over 29 years at Kotak and we are thankful to him for his association and we wish him well in his future endeavours. We are confident of the strong leadership talent at Kotak and our ability to scale our businesses to the next level in times to come."

### Elon Musk lays off entire Tesla charging network team

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Elon Musk has disbanded Tesla's charging team in a new layoff round, a move which was unexpected and "surprising to everyone", he layoffs at Tesla's Supercharger network come despite onboarding top automakers like Ford and General Motors to use its connectors. Tesla's Supercharger network has the connector technology known as the North American Charging Standard (NACS), which is being adopted by major automakers.

In an email to senior staff, the Tesla CEO told them to cut more employees who "don't obviously pass the excellent, necessary and trustworthy test" or resign. Will Jameson, one of the affected employees at the charging, posted on X that he has let "our entire charging org go." "What this means for the charging network, NACS, and all the exciting work we were doing across the industry, I don't yet know. What a wild ride it has been," he posted on X. However, Tesla "will continue to build out some new Supercharger locations, where critical, and finish those currently under construction", according to Musk's email, reports TechCrunch.

### Eager to harness AI to bring societal benefit for 'Bharat': OpenAI's first employee in India

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Sam Altman-run ChatGPT developer OpenAI is eager to contribute to India's artificial intelligence (AI) mission by collaborating with developers, users and policymakers, Pragna Misra, the company's Public Policy & Partnerships lead in the country, said on Wednesday. Misra, who earlier worked at Meta-owned WhatsApp and caller identification app Truecaller, is the first employee of OpenAI in India. "Excited to share that I've joined OpenAI as their first hire in India to lead Public Policy and Partnerships to advance OpenAI's values of safety, transparency, and human-centric innovation," she posted on X social media platform. Misra said that OpenAI is eager to contribute to India's AI mission "by collaborating with developers, users, academics, civil society, and policymakers to harness AI's potential for societal benefit for Bharat". In March, the government approved the AI mission with an outlay of Rs 10,371.92 crore. The mission will establish a comprehensive ecosystem catalysing AI innovation through strategic programmes and partnerships across the public and private sectors.

### Govt cuts windfall tax on crude oil, ONGC, Oil India Ltd to gain

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) The Government has cut the windfall tax on crude oil to Rs 8,400 a metric ton from Rs 9,600 with effect from Wednesday as part of its fortnightly revision.

Upstream oil exploration and production companies ONGC and Oil India Ltd stand to gain as they will have to pay a lower tax on their crude.

The reduction in the windfall tax has been announced in view of the decline in crude oil prices in the market which means the upstream oil companies are not making as much money as they were earlier. The government had on April 16 raised the windfall tax on petroleum crude to Rs 9,600 a metric ton from Rs 6,800 due to the sharp increase in oil prices at the time. The windfall tax on crude was introduced in July last year as a sudden spike in prices had increased the earnings of the oil companies and the government wanted to tap part of this gain to reduce the fiscal deficit.

### Odisha continues to reel under scorching heat wave conditions

Bhubaneswar, May 1 (IANS) Odisha continued to reel under severe heat wave conditions as the mercury touched 46 degrees Celsius in two cities of the state on Tuesday, while 15 places recorded 44 degrees or higher, a senior India Meteorological Department official said.

Baripada in Mayurbhanj district, at 46.4 degrees Celsius, logged the all-time highest temperature for the city. Previously, it had recorded a high of 46.1 degrees on April 21, 2010.

Baripada, along with Balasore and Bhubaneswar, were placed among the top 10 hottest places across the globe on Tuesday, with the first two being the second and third hottest places. Balasore recorded 46 degrees Celsius while the temperature reached 45.4 degrees in the state capital, which was at the tenth spot in the list of hottest places on Tuesday. The all-time highest temperature (49.6 degrees Celsius) during the month of April in Odisha was recorded in Tiltlagarh on April 26, 1976.

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from NIKUM DURGABEN MADHAVBHAI to new name NIKUM DURGAVATIBEN MADHAVBHAI  
Add. B-3, Gokul Appratment, Chirakunt Society, Maninagar Ahmedabad-380008  
349

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from ABDULSATTAR ALIKHAN PATHAN to new name ABDULSATTAR ALIKHAN SHAIKH  
Add. 100, Narayandas Ni Chali, Behrampura, Ahmedabad-380022  
351

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from PATEL NIRMALKUMAR NAYANENDRA to new name PATEL NIRMAL NAYANENDRA  
Add. 25, Ambika Residency, Bakrol-Vadtal Road, Bakrol, Anand-388315  
M018

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from MAKWANA MICHELLE SHANTILAL to new name AMIN MICHELLE SHANTILAL  
Add. B-201, Rajjapa Avenue, Anand Nagar Char Rasta, Satellite-380015  
350

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from SHAH MAYUR SHASHIKANT to new name SHAH MAYURBHAI SHASHIKANT  
Add. Paldi Ahmedabad  
348

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my minor son's old name from MAKWANA PARNIL SHANTILAL to new name AMIN PARNIL SHANTILAL  
Add. B-201, Rajjapa Avenue, Anand Nagar Char Rasta, Satellite-380015  
350A

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from "PATEL BHAUTIKKUMAR CHHAGANBHAI" to the new name "PATEL BHAUTIKKUMAR CHHAGANLAL" and I will be known as my new name so concerned please note.  
Address : Vad Faliya, Segvi, Tal. & Dist. Valsad, Gujarat -396001  
C010

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from GOSWAMI JAYESH PRAVINBHAI to new name GOSWAMI JAY PRAVINBHAI  
Add. 315/3777, Bahuchar Chowk Mahatmagandhi Vasahat, Gota, Ahmedabad-380060  
P061

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from MANISHA GITESH to new name MANISHA GITESH MAHESHWARI  
Add. N 51, Ambica Tenament Isanpur, Ahmedabad-382443  
350C

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from PINJARA MOIN IBRAHIMBHAI to new name MOIN IBRAHIMBHAI MANSURI  
Add. Opp. Bagban Gali, Dhalgarwad, Kapad Bazar, Ahmedabad-380001  
351A

**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from INDRAMRUTALAL to new name INDRAMRUTAL MAHESHWARI  
Add. N 51, Ambica Tenament Isanpur, Ahmedabad-382443  
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**CHANGE OF NAME**  
I have changed my old name from VYAS YOGINIBEN CHANDRAKANT to new name RAVAL ASHABEN NAYANKUMAR  
Add. 473, Dairy valo Vas, Balva, Ta-Mansa, Dist-Gandhinagar  
V045

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350B

alongside his brother Adi and their immediate families.

**પશ્ચિમ રેલવે - વડોદરા ડિવિઝન**  
વિવિધ અનિચ્છિત કાર્યો

ઇ-ટેન્ડર સૂચના નંબર DRM-BRC 034 થી 036 વર્ષ 2024-25

ભારતના રાષ્ટ્રપતિના માટે અને વતી ડિવિઝનલ રેલ્વે મેનેજર (WA/C), પશ્ચિમ રેલવે, પ્રતાપનગર, વડોદરા-390004 દ્વારા નીચેના કામો માટે સીલબંધ ટેન્ડરો મંગાવવામાં આવે છે.

ક્ર. સં.	ટેન્ડર નંબર અને કામનું નામ	કામની અંદાજિત કિંમત (₹)	બિડ સિક્યોરિટી જમા કરવાની રકમ (₹)
01	DRM BRC 034 OF 2024-25 વડોદરા (P)- સીનિયર સેક્શન અનિચ્છિત (વર્કસ) BRCP (ફરીથી આમંત્રિત) (R-2) ના અધિકારક્ષેત્ર હેઠળ વ્યવસ્થા અને મેન્ટેનન્સના વાર્ષિક જાળવણી કરાર	11,56,362.59	23,100.00
02	DRM BRC 035 OF 2024-25 વડોદરા યાર્ડ- સીનિયર સેક્શન અનિચ્છિત (વર્કસ) BRCC ના અધિકારક્ષેત્ર હેઠળ વ્યવસ્થા અને મેન્ટેનન્સના વાર્ષિક જાળવણી કરાર	13,77,314.87	27,600.00
03	DRM BRC 036 OF 2024-25 વડોદરા વિભાગ- એડીએન-આણંદના અધિકારક્ષેત્ર હેઠળના સ્થાનીય સપ્લાયમાં સુધારો	2,00,65,882.42	2,50,300.00

ટેન્ડર જમા કરવા અને ખોલવાની તારીખ અને સમય : ટેન્ડર 17.05.2024 ના રોજ 15.00 કલાક પહેલા જમા કરાવવાનું રહેશે, અને તે જ તારીખે 15.30 કલાકે ખોલવામાં આવશે. વેબ સાઇટની વિગતો અને સ્થળ માટે સૂચના જ્યાં સંપૂર્ણ વિગતો જોઇ શકાય છે અને ઓફિસનું સરનામું જ્યાંથી ટેન્ડર ફોર્મ ખરીદી શકાય છે. ડિવિઝનલ રેલ્વે મેનેજર (WA/C) પશ્ચિમ રેલ્વે, પ્રતાપનગર, વડોદરા-૩૯૦૦૦૪, વેબસાઇટ: www.treps.gov.in

અમો તાલુકા સરો: facebook.com/WesternRly / અમો ઓો સરો: twitter.com/WesternRly

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Under instruction and & Authority from my client Alkaben Hiteshbhai Patel, R/o. At & Po: 78, Patel Vas, Mahadevpura-Lolasan, Ta: Himatanagar, Dist: Sabarkantha. It is hereby informed that: the Residential N.A. property bearing Balvantpura Village Survey No. 58 Paiki, Plot No. 4, admeasuring 144.300 Sq.Mtrs Land, situated at Balvantpura, Ta: Himatanagar, Dist: Sabarkantha, State: Gujarat is owned & possessed by my client and she had purchased said property from Chavada Dinaba Vijaysinh vides Registered Sale Deed No. 2405/2024 dated 28/02/2024. At the time of purchase of said property: the previous owner had handover the all previous original Sale Deeds and its Receipts to my client but out of said original documents the [1] Registered Sale Deed No. 1102/2003 dated 24/03/2003 & [2] Registered Sale Deed No. 499/2006 dated 04/02/2006 have been lost/ misplaced. And my client want to apply for the Loan and as per rules of the Bank/financial institute the original document must be deposited with Bank / financial institute but due to loss of said document: my client can't deposit the same. Therefore my client has obtained the certified copies of sale deeds from SRO. If any person gets the said Document, may kindly be returned to my client.

In case any person has any right, title, interest, claim of whatsoever nature by way of sale, gift, lease, heirship, possession or by any other nature in respect of aforesaid property, the same should be known in writing to me at the address mentioned below with the documentary proof within 15 days from the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be construed that such claim is waived, abandoned and thereafter no claim of whatsoever will be entertained.

**Maheshkumar M. Ahuja (Advocate)**  
Add: "Advocate House",  
B/h. Vyapar Bhavan, Nyay Mandir, Himatanagar, Dist: Sabarkantha, Gujarat State. Mo. : 9375111112.

Date: 01/05/2024  
Place: Himatanagar

**NALIN LEASE FINANCE LIMITED**  
CIN: L65910GJ1990PLC014516  
Regd. Off: Ground Floor, Gandhi Nursing Home Bldg., Dr.Nalin Kant Gandhi Road, Himatanagar-383 001, Gujarat India Phone: 02772-241264, 242264, email : info@nalinfin.co.in, www.nalinfin.co.in

**EXTRACT FROM THE STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER ENDED ON 31.03.2024** (Rs.in Lacs)

Sl. No.	PARTICULARS	For the quarter ended		For the year ended	
		31 March 2024	31 Dec. 2023	31 March. 2023	31 March 2024
		Audited	Unaudited	Audited	Audited
1.	Total Income From Operations	161.00	181.24	130.54	666.75
2.	Net Profit/(loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	112.35	155.44	80.76	517.09
3.	Net Profit/(loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	112.35	155.44	80.76	517.09
4.	Net Profit/(loss) for the period after Tax(after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	96.15	108.08	61.38	384.98
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit /(Loss) for the period (after Tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	96.15	108.08	61.38	384.98
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	655.82	655.82	655.82	655.82
8.	Earnings Per share (of Rs 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinuing operations)-				
1.	Basic:	1.47	1.65	0.94	5.87
2.	Diluted:	1.47	1.65	0.94	5.87

Note :The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly Financial Results is available on the BSE website (www.bseindia.com) & Company's website (www.nalinfin.co.in)

Place : Himatanagar  
Date : 01.05.2024

For, NALIN LEASE FINANCE LTD  
Sd/- Harsh Dilipkumar Gandhi  
Wholtime Director

## News

## in a Nutshell

## Senior secondary schools in Haryana see 85.31 p.c. pass percentage

Chandigarh, May 1 (IANS) The result of the senior secondary -- academic and open schools -- annual examination conducted by the Board of School Education Haryana was declared on Tuesday with the pass percentage for regular candidates was 85.31 per cent, while it was 65.32 per cent for private candidates.

Board Chairman V.P. Yadav said 2,13,504 candidates appeared for the senior secondary (academic) examination, of which 1,82,136 passed and 6,169 failed.

In the examination, of the 105,993 girl students, 93,418 passed, achieving a pass percentage of 88.14 per cent, while of the 1,07,511 boy students, 88,718 passed, achieving a pass percentage of 82.52 per cent.

## Oppn leaders misleading people over reservation: BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad

Patna, May 1 (IANS) Former Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has accused Opposition leaders of misleading people on the issue of reservation. The BJP MP from Bihar's Patna Sahib on Tuesday said, "Congress and RJD leaders are claiming that the BJP will cancel the reservation and change the Constitution if it comes to power again. This shows the disappointment of the opposition parties. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that the reservation to SCs, STs and OBCs will remain as it is in the country and there is no doubt about it." "They are repeatedly saying that if BJP comes to power, the reservation will end. I want to say that there can be no bigger lie than this," he added.

## Lucknow: Van carrying women prisoners, cops charred in fire; no casualties

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) A police van transporting nine female inmates and 14 police officers from the Lucknow District Jail to a courthouse burst into flames near the Raj Bhavan on Tuesday afternoon.

According to official sources, all the passengers in the van were safely rescued but the van was completely charred.

The incident occurred in front of Raj Bhavan's gate, near Sachivalaya Annexe.

Hazratganj Fire Station officer Ram Kumar Rawat said that two fire tenders were rushed to the spot on receiving information and the blaze was doused within 15 minutes.

According to Rawat, the van driver noticed sparks emanating from the battery area. Upon seeing this, the driver promptly halted the vehicle and evacuated the prisoners and police personnel from the vehicle.



HAZARIBAGH, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma along with BJP Jharkhand President Babul Marandi at an election campaign rally in favour of BJP Candidate Manish Jaisawal in Hazaribagh, Jharkhand on Wednesday. UNI

## Governor urges people to create new, strong &amp; prosperous Maharashtra

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) Governor Ramesh Bais on Monday appealed to the people to come together to create a new, prosperous and strong Maharashtra, one of the leading states in agriculture, industrial products and manufacturing, trade and transportation.

In his address after the flag hoisting and parade on the 65th foundation day of Maharashtra State at Shivaji Park, he said, "The geographical condition of Maharashtra is conducive to industrial development and Maharashtra has always been a centre of attraction for investment be it domestic or foreign. Our state is an economic and financial powerhouse which has always played an important role in the infrastructure development of the country."

The Governor paid tributes to all the martyrs who laid their lives for the creation of Maharashtra. He

also congratulated all the labourers on the occasion of the International Labour Day. "Maharashtra has always been at the forefront of social reforms and has a legacy of legendary leaders who devoted their entire lives to creating social equality, spreading education, women empowerment and eradicating superstitions. We are fortunate to have such legends and remembering a few of them today would be apt, including Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Jotiba Phule, Kanti Jyoti Savitribai Phule, Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj, Bharat Ratna Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar," said the Governor.

He said that one can have a glimpse of India through the diversity of Maharashtra, one of the states with the highest literacy. "Our state has various high-quality universities and vocational training institutes which attract

students, researchers and scholars from all over the world," he added.

The Governor further stated that Maharashtra has a rich tradition and cultural heritage with the legacy of the Warkari Sect and saints. It has a big coastline along with hill ranges, forests, forts, riv-

er basins and plateaus along with sanctuaries like Tadoba, Melghat and Pench which are rich in biodiversity. Maharashtra with all these heritage attractions attracts Indian and foreign tourists who refer to Maharashtra as the most favoured destination.

## TN Board announces dates for Class 10, 11 &amp; 12 results

Chennai, May 1 (IANS) The Tamil Nadu School Education Board on Wednesday announced the dates for results of Class 10, Class 11 and Class 12.

The Board in a statement said that the results for Class 12 students will be announced on May 6. For the Class 11 students, the results will be on May 14 and the students of Class 10 will have their results on May 10.

Students can check the results from the Tamil Nadu School Education Board websites.

The board examination for Class 12 students was completed on March 22 and the valuation concluded on April 13.

The Tamil Nadu School Education Board in the statement said that the Class 10 students had their exams till April 8 and the valuation was completed on April 22.

## Over 66 p.c. voting in phase 1, 2 of Lok Sabha polls: Election Commission

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday released the final voter turnout data for the first two legs of the seven-phase Lok Sabha elections, showing a turnout of over 66 per cent in both phases.

As per the data, of those eligible to poll in the first leg (April 19), 66.14 per cent of people exercised their right to vote, with the corresponding figures for the second phase (April 26) being 66.71 per cent.

In phase one of polling, the poll panel said that the male turnout stood at 66.22 per cent, female (66.07 per cent) and third-gender (31.32 per cent) and the overall turnout was 66.14 per cent, while the corresponding figures for the second phase were 66.99 per cent, 66.42 per cent and 23.86 per cent. The EC has also re-

leased state-wise and Parliamentary constituencies-wise voter turnout data for the two phases of polling.

The poll panel said that the data is also updated regularly on the voter turnout app as updated in the IT system by Returning Officers through Form 17C.

A copy of Form 17C is also provided for every polling station in a constituency to all candidates through their polling agents. The final voter turnout will only be available post-counting with the counting of postal ballots and its addition to the total vote count. The postal ballots include postal ballots given to service voters, absentee voters (85+, PwD, essential services, etc.), and voters on election duty. The daily account of such postal ballots received, as per statutory provisions, is given to all candidates.

## Major jolt to Congress in Delhi, Naseeb Singh &amp; Neeraj Basoya quit party, blame AAP alliance

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) In a major setback to the Congress party, two of its leaders and observers for two Lok Sabha seats in Delhi, Neeraj Basoya and Naseeb Singh have resigned from the party. The two leaders in separate letters addressed to party president Mallikarjun Kharge have majorly blamed the Congress' AAP alliance for their quitting the parties.

Neeraj Basoya, former MLA and party Observer for the West Delhi Parliamentary Seat, has said, "I am addressing the present communication to you, being aggrieved by the alliance of the party with the AAP in Delhi. I have humbly submitted that the said alliance is bringing a great dis-repute and embarrassment to Delhi Congress workers on a daily basis. And I believe, that as a self-respecting party leader, I cannot be associated with the party anymore."

"I hereby tender my resignation from all Party Posts and the primary membership of the Party. I thank Smt Sonia Gandhi Ji for giving a common man like me, all the opportunities in the last 30 years," said Basoya in the letter dated May 1.

Naseeb Singh, former MLA and party observer for North West Delhi has expressed his anguish over the appointment of Davinder Yadav as the Delhi Congress chief.

He said in his letter, "Davinder Yadav has up till now run a campaign in Punjab solely based on attacking Arvind Kejriwal's false agenda and today, he in Delhi will be mandated to praise and support AAP and its CM Arvind Kejriwal."

The two resignations from the party come close on the heels of veteran Congress leader Arvind Singh Lovely resigning as Delhi unit chief, over strong differences with the Central leadership.



NEW DELHI, Actor Rupali Ganguly joins BJP in presence of party leaders Anil Baluni and Vinod Tawde, in New Delhi on Wednesday. UNI

## Yogi govt to spend Rs 4,000 crore on animal protection

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) The Uttar Pradesh government will spend nearly Rs 4,000 crore on the protection, treatment, and service of animals, including cows, a government spokesman said here on Wednesday.

"The state Department of Animal Husbandry, dairy, and Fisheries has prepared an annual plan in this regard while a budget of Rs 3,907.1 crore has also been proposed for it," he said. This includes complete details of the expenditure incurred in cow protection, veteri-

nary education and other areas, including veterinary hospitals, polyclinics and service centres. According to the annual plan, a total amount of Rs 1,140 crore will be spent on cow conservation of which Rs 140 crore will be used to establish cow protection centres, while the remaining Rs 1,000 crore will be given as a grant for the maintenance of stray cows.

In addition to this, there is a plan to spend Rs 470.30 crore on veterinary, polyclinics, and ser-

vice centres. This includes Rs 55 crore for establishing veterinary hospitals, Rs 6 crore for veterinary polyclinics, Rs 4.5 crore for veterinary service centres, and Rs 71 crore to meet various expenses in veterinary hospitals, service centres, research, and diagnostic services (revenue head). Furthermore, Rs 36.52 crore will be spent on mobile veterinary services, Rs 186.72 crore on the National Animal Health and Disease Control Programme, and Rs 22.50 crore on vaccination. -IANS

## Delhi Police await X's reply on Home Minister's doctored video

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) The investigators are yet to receive any response from social media giants X (formerly Twitter) and Meta in connection with a doctored video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a source in the Delhi Police's Special Cell told IANS on Tuesday.

Three persons have been arrested by the police for circulating the fake video so far, two in Gujarat and one in Assam.

"We are trying to trace the origin of the doctored video. A reply from the social media giants is of utmost importance in the case. X, meanwhile, has deleted all the morphed videos from its platform," said a senior Delhi Police officer privy to the probe.

After registering an FIR, the Special Cell's IFSO unit, which has

been tasked to crack the case, sent a letter to the X seeking details.

Summonses have been issued under Sections 91 and 160 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), calling individuals to participate in the probe and provide relevant documents and electronic devices as evidence.

Some sections invoked by the police in the FIR classify the offence as non-bailable. Over 16 persons, including political leaders, from seven states have been summoned by the Delhi Police in connection with the case.

The Special Cell has also sent teams to Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Nagaland, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Madhya Pradesh as a part of the

probe. On Monday, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy along with four Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) members -- Shiva Kumar Ambala, Asma Tasleem, Satish Manne, and Naveen Pettem -- were summoned to appear before the Delhi Police on May 1.

## Multiple schools in Delhi receive bomb threats, search operation underway

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) Three schools -- Delhi Public School in Dwarka, Mother Mary School in East Delhi's Mayur Vihar area, and Amity School in South Delhi's Pushp Vihar -- received bomb threats through email on Wednesday morning, an official said, adding that teams, including the bomb disposal squad, are on the

spot. According to police, after receiving information from schools separately regarding the bomb threat, local police teams along with the bomb detection team, bomb disposal squad and officials of Delhi Fire Service (DFS) reached the spot in the morning. been found," said a senior police official. More details are awaited.

## 2 Samajwadi Party leaders booked in HM Amit Shah's edited video case

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) Two Samajwadi Party (SP) leaders have been served summons in connection with the edited video speech of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

SP candidate from Ambedkar Nagar, Lalji Varma, has been served notice and was even subjected to initial questioning. "This is a clear attempt to prevent me from filing nomination and contesting election from Ambedkar Nagar but incidents like Surat cannot

be repeated everywhere. See the haste with which the Delhi Police is working. They filed the case on April 28 and landed at my house within the next 24 hours. I will not be cowed down by such tactics and will reply to the notice," he said on landed in trouble because he posted the edited video of Union Home Minister Amit Shah on his X account. Another SP leader who has been summoned by Delhi Police is party spokesman Manoj Kaka.

## Shiv Sena nominates Dr Shinde from Kalyan, Mhaske from Thane

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) The Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena has formally announced the nominations of Dr Shrikant Shinde from Kalyan and Naresh Mhaske from Thane constituencies.

Dr Shinde's nomination was earlier unilaterally declared by Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis but on Wednesday the formal announcement was made by the Shiv Sena.

Dr Shinde, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's son, was elected in 2014 and

2019 elections as the nominee of the Shiv Sena (United), and hopes to score a hat-trick in Kalyan.

He has been pitted against the Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Vaishali Darekar who was earlier associated with the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS).

After Dy CM Fadnis' announcement, Dr Shinde had started his campaign.

It was only after intervention by Dy CM Fadnis and the Public Works Minister Ravindra Chavan that BJP cadres

came on board as they were initially reluctant to work for CM Shinde's son.

Further, after unconditional support by MNS chief Raj Thackeray to the Mahayuti, the lone MNS legislator Raju Patil is also now campaigning for Dr Shinde.

Patil had earlier raised objections against Dr Shinde's style of functioning.

As far as the Thane seat is concerned, Shinde had made it a prestige issue as Thane is his home turf.

The Shiv Sena has fielded Naresh Mhaske who is the former Thane Mayor and was among the few who left Uddhav Thackeray and joined Shinde after the split in the party in June 2022.

Mhaske will take on Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee and sitting MP Rajan Vichare.

The BJP had also staked its claim on the Thane seat as the names of party leaders Sanjay Kelkar, former MP Sanjeev Naik and former MP Vihayak Sahasrabudhe

were doing the rounds.

The Thane seat was represented in the past by the BJP but after 1996 the Shiv Sena held the seat till 2009 when NCP nominee Sanjeev Naik wrested it from the Shiv Sena. However, Shiv Sena (United) won the Thane seat in 2014 and 2019 elections again, riding on the PM Modi wave. In the run up to these elections, the BJP had aggressively pitched for the same but ultimately CM Shinde outsmarted it during the seat sharing arrangement.

तमारा मतथी  
1 करोड ग्रामीण महिलाओने लक्षपति दीदी बनावी

आ वजते तमारा मतथी  
3 करोड महिलाओने  
लक्षपति दीदी बनावीशुं  
स्वसहाय जूथो द्वारा  
रोजगारीनी नवी  
तको पूरी पाडीशुं

नियत सारी तो  
परिणाम सारा

इरी अके वार  
भोदी सरकार

कमजनुं अटन दबावो  
लाजपने छुताडो