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Wasim Akram to train Sri Lankan bowlers for T20 World Cup

Ahead of ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Sri Lankan bowlers are to be trained by Pakistan cricket legend Wasim Akram. The former seamer arrived in Sri Lanka on Wednesday to conduct a two-day.. **12**



Ola Electric captures over 52 pc market share in EV 2-wheeler segment in April

Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric on Wednesday announced that it has captured over 52 per cent market share in the electric vehicle (EV) two-wheeler segment in April. **07**



Struggles for wealth redistribution should intensify: CPM leader

CPI(M) politburo member BV Raghavulu today called upon the working class to fight against exploitation and for redistribution of wealth. May Day celebrations were organized... **02**



I will not be intimidated by cases against me : CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, May 1 (IANS) : Telangana Chief Minister, A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday came down heavily on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah and accused them of trying to intimidate him. CM Reddy alleged that they were being vindictive towards him for questioning them over the conspiracy to change India's Constitution. He claimed that the duo from Gujarat was trying to do 'bossism' in Telangana and termed the Lok Sabha election a fight between 'Gujarat bossism' and 'Telangana vigour'. **Continued on pg 02**



AIMIM and Congress win polls through fearmongering : Madhavi Latha

Hyderabad, May 1 (IANS) : BJP candidate from Hyderabad Lok Sabha, Madhavi Latha slammed AIMIM and Congress, alleging that they have been winning polls by "spreading hate and terrorising people". "I am surprised that Rahul Gandhi, whose team morphs videos and tries to bluff people, whose party comes into coalition with unknown understandings with parties like AIMIM who give speeches filled with hatred, he cannot talk about peace and bringing unity in the nation," said Madhavi Latha told ANI. When asked about Asaduddin Owaisi's statement, Madhavi Latha said, "I would only want to say that AIMIM, like Congress, has only been winning the seat by spreading hate and by terrorising people who honestly want to vote... They take control of polling stations and cast bogus votes." **Continued on pg 02**



KCR's name can't be erased from Telangana : KTR

Hyderabad, May 1 (NSS): BRS Party working president KT Rama Rao today said if the traces of KCR needs to be eliminated in Telangana, then Telangana should be eliminated. He said it was not possible for CM Revanth Reddy to eliminate the traces of KCR in the State.

KTR participated in the May Day celebrations held at Telangana Bhavan here and addressed the gathering. Speaking on the occasion, he referred to the saying of Alishetty Prabhakar, who said sweat was the basis of history, he said workers were the makers of history and added that workers were the creators of wealth. He reminded that Mahakavi Sri Sri said there was nothing equal to the hard working beauty of life.



The Prime Minister's announcements are tarnishing his office : Ponnam

Rajanna Sirisilla, May 1 (TIM Bureau) : State Transport BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that if you look at the Prime Minister's statements for the past week, he is speaking in such a way that it will tarnish the position of the Prime Minister. On Wednesday, a media conference was held at the District Congress Party office along with Government Whip Adi Srinivas, Karimnagar Parliament Congress Party candidate Welichala Rajender Rao and Sirisilla Congress Party in-charge KK Mahender Reddy. Earlier participated

- There is a conspiracy to remove reservations
- Modi became impatient with the first two phases of polling
- What did Bandi Sanjay do to Sirisilla Cheneta should be discussed
- We will bring a better plan to the leaders than the last ten years

in the May Day celebrations held in Sirisilla town. Speaking at Netanna Chowk, on the occasion of World Labor Day, he wished May Day to the Sirisilla workers, especially from the Congress side. Later, in a media conference at

Sirisilla DCC office, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that Narendra Modi's statements were the reason behind BJP's graph falling in the polls held in North and South India.



Telangana roasts as nearly 150 locations record over 45°C, Gudapur tops at 46.6°C

Hyderabad, May 1 (IANS) : The entire state sweltered under blistering heat on Wednesday, as temperatures soared to unprecedented levels across numerous locations. According to data from the Telangana State Development Planning Society, a staggering 150 locations, precisely 146, in multiple districts experienced maximum temperatures exceeding 45 degrees Celsius by 4:00 pm, catapulting the summer heat to new heights.

525 candidates are in fray in Lok Sabha polls: Vikas Raj

Hyderabad, May 1 (NSS): Chief Electoral Officer Vikas Raj has informed that a total of 525 candidates are contesting in the Lok Sabha elections in Telangana. Speaking to the media here on Wednesday,

Vikas Raj said the Secunderabad Lok Sabha constituency has the highest of 45 candidates while Adilabad Lok Sabha segment has the lowest of 12 candidates.



Shabbir slams PM Modi's comments on Muslim reservation



Hyderabad, May 1 (NSS): Advisor to the Telangana Government and senior Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir criticized Prime Minister Narendra Modi for remarks made during a public meeting in Sangareddy regarding Muslim reservations.

Congress spreading lies on reservation quotas, says Laxman

Hyderabad, May 1 (IANS) : BJP Rajya Sabha member K Laxman on Wednesday accused the Congress of spreading false propaganda that the BJP would change the Constitution and scrap the reservations of weaker sections.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Laxman said despite Prime Minister Narendra Modi and union Home Minister Amit Shah clarifying on the issue, the Congress was continuing to target the BJP on the issue.

Even RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat had also clarified that his organisation was not against the reservation, he said.

"The Congress is trying to create fear among weaker sections by saying that the BJP is planning to scrap reservations. Let me clarify that the BJP respects the



Constitution a lot and that it has no intention to change it after coming to power at the centre for the third term,"he said. Coming down heavily on Congress, he said Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy were intentionally spreading lies about reservations and trying to mislead the people of the nation. "It is not the BJP but the Congress which has been undermining the Constitution,"he said.

CHANGE OF NAME

I MALISSETTI UPENDARRAO (Old Name), S/o. Jagathaiah, R/o. H.No. 11-10-770/12/2, Raparathi Nagar-2, Near Bypass Road, Khammam Urban, Khammam City & District. I Have changed my Name as **MALISHETTY UPENDAR RAO** (New Name), S/o. Malishetty Jagathaiah. Here after my name known as **MALISHETTY UPENDAR RAO** (New Name) for all purposes.

SPECIMEN OF PUBLICATION MATTER
I, **SHAIK ABDUL SATHAR** S/o. **SHAIK AMEER**, Qualification: SSC, Designation: ASST. SUB-INSPECTOR (AF), EMP ID.1603445, shall henceforth be known as **SHAIK ABDUL SATTAR** S/o. **SHAIK AMEER**, for the purpose of correction of wrong entries occurred in school record, due to parental mistake.
Station: BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM
Date: _____
Sd/- **SHAIK ABDUL SATHAR**

SHIRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Administrative office: 6th Floor(level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE
Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **SHIRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** (Formerly known as Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHIRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of **SARFAESI Act, 2002** calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1)	Pannala Bal Chander Reddy, S/o:Laxma Reddy, Age:38 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H No-3-100/1/A, Plot No :15, 1st Floor, Sri Nagar Colony, Near Ambedker Statue, Ghatkesar Mandal, Boduppal, Hyderabad-500039, B/o: Proprietor of "Pannala Ram Reddy Educational Society", At # Sri Nagar Colony, Boduppal, R.R Dist, Hyderabad.	10-04-2022	26-03-2024
2)	Pannala Urmila, W/o: P Laxma Reddy, Age: 57 Years, Occ: Pvt Employee, R/O: H No:- 3-100/1/A, Plot No :15, 1st Floor, Sri Nagar Colony, Near Ambedker Statue, Ghatkesar Mandal, Boduppal, Hyderabad-500039, O/o: "Pannala Ram Reddy Educational Society" Working As A "Joint Secretary", At # Sri Nagar Colony Boduppal, Hyderabad, 3)	10-04-2022	26-03-2024
3)	Pannala Bal Reddy, S/o:Laxma Reddy, Age: 39 Years, Occ: Pvt Employee, R/O:H No:-3-100/1/A, Plot No: 15, 1st Floor, Sri Nagar Colony, Boduppal, Hyderabad-500039, O/o: "Pannala Ram Reddy Educational Society" Working As A "President", At # Sri Nagar Colony Boduppal, Hyderabad, 4)	10-04-2022	26-03-2024
4)	Kanchisamudram Govind Reddy, S/o: Late Kanchisamudram Muni Reddy, Age: 59 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O:H No:- Plot No :110 (Or) Plot No: 111, Ncl Avenue Pet Bashirabad, Near Balaji Hospital, Jeedimetla Village, Outubullapur, Rangareddy-500055, B/o: Proprietor Of "S Carlet Technologies", At # Plot No. 10, H.No: 8-38, Ncl Avenue Venture, Pet Basheerabad, Ranga Reddy,	10-04-2022	26-03-2024

BSRBGT1904300004- DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY SCHEDULE "A": All that the Piece and parcel of plot No.2, in Survey No.113, Admeasuring 318 Yards or Equivalent To 265.84 Sq.Mtrs. Situated At Boduppal Village and Gram Panchayat, Ghatkesar Revenue Mandal, Medchal-Malkajgiri Dist And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: 40' Wide Road Towards West: Neighbours Land Towards North: Plot No.1 Towards South: Plot No.3.

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under. Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date:29-04-2024 Place: Rangareddy Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiriram Finance Limited

SHIRIRAM FINANCE LIMITED
Registered Office: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase, Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai-600032, Administrative office: 6th Floor(level 2), Building No.Q2, Aurum Q parc, Gen 4/1, TTC, Thane Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai-400710.

DEMAND NOTICE
Whereas the borrowers/co-borrowers/guarantors/ mentioned hereunder had availed the financial assistance from **SHIRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** (Formerly known as Shiram City Union Finance Limited, amalgamated with Shiram Transport Finance Company Limited, subsequently Shiram Transport Company Limited name Changed as Shiram Finance Limited) We state that despite having availed the financial assistance, the borrowers/guarantors have committed various defaults in repayment of interest and principal amounts as per due dates. The account has been classified as Non-Performing Asset in accordance with the directives/guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India, consequent to the Authorized Officer of **SHIRIRAM FINANCE LTD.** under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices on respective dates mentioned herein below under Section 13(2) of **SARFAESI Act, 2002** calling upon the following borrowers /guarantors /mortgagors to repay the amount mentioned in the notices together with further interest at the contractual rate on the amount mentioned in the notices and incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. until the date of payment within 60 days from the date of receipt of notices. The notices issued to them on their last known addresses have returned un-served and as such they are hereby informed by way of public notice about the same. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

S.No.	Name of the Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	NPA Date	Date of Demand Notice
1)	Azam Shareef Mohammed, S/o: Mahamood Shareef Mohammed, Age: 40 Years, Occ:Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 8-3-3/11, Green Estates Colony, Karmanghat(V), And Saroor Nagar Mandal, Hyderabad, B/O: Proprietor Of "MS R.K. Computers" At # S.No:76, Cheney Trade Centre (Ctc) Market Centre, Park Lane, Secunderabad,	13-10-2013	23-02-2024
2)	Mohammed Kazam Shareef, S/o: Mohammed Mahmood Shareef, Age: 42 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O: H.No: 8-3-3/11, Plot No:26, Green Estate Colony, Champapet, Karmanghat, Saroor Nagar, Hyderabad, B/O: Proprietor Of "Bharath Engineering Works", 3) Mohd Ismail Shareef, S/o: Shareef Mohammed, Age: 59 Years, Occ: Self Employee, R/O:H.No: 8-3-3/5, Plot No: 5, Green Estate Colony, Karmanghat, Champapet, Hyderabad, B/o: Proprietor of "R.K Computers", I.S. Sadan, Santhosh Nagar, Hyderabad,	13-10-2013	23-02-2024

DLSKNFT120629003- Description Of The Immovable Property Schedule "A": All that Piece and Parcel of house bearing Municipal No 8-3-3/56, Consisting of Ground and first floor Constructed on Plot Bearing No.56, Admeasuring 200 Sq Yards Or 167.23 Sq Mts. In S.No.128 Situated At Green Estates Colony, Karmanghat Village, Saroor Nagar Mandal Under L.B.Nagar Circle, Ghmcc, Eastwhile Ranga Reddy East Sub-District, Presently L.B.Nagar Sub-District, Ranga Reddy District, And Bounded As Follows: Towards East: 30feet Wide Road, Towards West: Neighbours House, Towards North: Neighbours House, Towards South: Neighbours House

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/ or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules there under. Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date:29-04-2024 Place: Karmanghat Sd/- Authorised Officer, Shiriram Finance Limited

Public Notice For E-Auction For Sale Of Immovable Properties
Sale of Immovable property mortgaged to IFIL Home Finance Limited (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.) (IFIL-HFL) Corporate Office at Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Phase-V, Gurgaon-122015 (Haryana) and Branch Office at "D No.5-22/B/04, 5th Floor, My Home Sarovar Plaza, Secretariat Road, Hyderabad-500004"/ "Door No 4-14-111 A, 1st Floor, Opposite Sivalayam, Anjaneyapet, Amaravathi Road, Guntur - 522007" under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (hereinafter "Act"). Whereas the Authorized Officer ("AO") of IFIL-HFL had taken the possession of the following properties pursuant to the notice issued U/S 13(2) of the Act in the following loan accounts/prospect nos. with a right to sell the same on "AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS BASIS and WITHOUT RECOURSE BASIS" for realization of IFIL-HFL's dues. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the website: www.ifilhome.com

Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount	Description of the Immovable property/ Secured Asset	Date of Physical Possession	Reserve Price
1. Mr. Gyara Yadamma 2. Mrs. Bora Sambashivudu 3. Shiva Mini Super Bazar (Prospect No 965704)	20-Sep-2023 Rs. 14,40,118/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakh Forty Thousand One Hundred and Eighteen Only)	All that part and parcel of the property bearing House Bearing Municipal Door No.10-10-111 (P) (R) (1202401655), Ground Fir, Shop 1, 2 And 3 On Plot No 63 South Part, S/No 13/16,Cn Reddy Colony, Koheda Village, Hayathnagar Revenue Mandal, Abdullapurmet Mandal, Turkyamma, Peddambertel, Rangareddy, 501511, Telangana, India. Area Admeasuring (In Sq. Ft.): Property Type: Land Area, Built Up Area, Carpet Area Property Area:900.00, 700.00,100.00	12-Apr-2024 Total Outstanding as On Date 16-Apr-2024 Rs. 15,79,890/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Only)	Rs. 30,80,000/- (Rupees Thirty Lakh Eighty Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 3,08,000/- (Rupees Three Lakh Eight Thousand Only)
1. Mr. Sathuluri Hanumaisah 2. Mrs. Sathuluri Mariyamma (Prospect No 961542)	07-Sep-2022 & Rs.7,17,911/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Seventeen Thousand Nine Hundred Eleven Only) Bid Increase Amount Rs. 25,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five Thousand Only)	All that pieces or parcels of property acquired through instruments as D No 795/2, admeasuring 78.685 Sq. Yds., Door No.172, Janapadu (Village), Piduguralla (MD), Piduguralla Janapadu Church Road, Narasaraopet, Near Church - Piduguralla, Guntur Dist., 522413, Andhra Pradesh, India (Built up area admeasuring 808 sq. ft.)	17-Apr-2024 Total Outstanding as On Date 10-Apr-2024 Rs. 7,81,883/- (Rupees Seven Lakh Eighty One Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Three Only)	Rs. 10,88,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Only) Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs. 1,08,800/- (Rupees One Lakh Eight Thousand Eight Hundred Only)

Mode of Payment: EMD payments are to be made vide online mode only. To make payments you have to visit <https://www.ifilhome.com> and pay through link available for the link (Prospect No. and Bid amount) (after adjusting the bid amount) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment. The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.

Terms and Conditions:

- For participating in e-auction, intending bidders required to register their details with the Service Provider <https://www.ifilhome.com> well in advance and has to create the login account, login ID and password. Intending bidders have to submit / send their "Tender FORM" along with the payment details towards EMD, copy of the KYC and PAN card at the above mentioned Branch Office.
- The bidders shall improve their offer in multiple of amount mentioned under the column "Bid Increase Amount". In case bid is placed in the last 5 minutes of the closing time of the auction, the closing time will automatically get extended for 5 minutes.
- The successful bidder should deposit 25% of the bid amount (after adjusting the bid amount) within 24 hours of the acceptance of bid price by the AO and the balance 75% of the bid amount within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale by the secured creditor. All deposit and payment shall be in the prescribed mode of payment.
- The purchaser has to bear the cess, applicable stamp duty, fees, and any other statutory dues or other dues like municipal tax, electricity charges, land and all other incidental costs, charges including all taxes and rates outgoings relating to the property.
- Bidders are advised to go through the website <https://www.ifilhome.com> and <https://www.ifil.com/home-loans/properties-for-auction> for detailed terms and conditions of auction sale & auction application form before submitting their bids for taking part in the e-auction sale proceeding.
- For details, help procedure and online training on e-auction prospective bidders may contact the service provider E-mail ID: auction.hi@ifil.com, Support Helpline Numbers: @18002672499.
- For any query related to Property details, Inspection of Property and Online bid etc. call IFIL HFL toll free no. 1800 2672 499 from 09:30 hrs to 18:00 hrs between Monday to Friday or write to email-auction.hi@ifil.com.
- Notice is hereby given to above said borrowers to collect the household articles, which were lying in the secured asset at the time of taking physical possession within 7 days, otherwise IFIL-HFL shall not be responsible for any loss of property under the circumstances.
- Further the notice is hereby given to the Borrowers, that in case they fail to collect the above said articles same shall be sold in accordance with Law. In case of default in payment at any stage by the successful bidder/ auction purchaser within the above stipulated time, the sale will be cancelled and the amount already paid will be forfeited (including EMD) and the property will be again put to sale.
- AO reserves the rights to postpone/cancel or vary the terms and condition of tender/auction without assigning any reason therefor. In case of any dispute in tender/auction, the decision of AO of IFIL-HFL will be final.

UNDER RULE 8 (6) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002
The Borrower are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of Tender/Auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues if any will be recovered with interest and cost.

Place: Rangareddy/ Guntur. Date: 02-May-2024 Sd/- Authorised Officer, IFIL Home Finance Limited.

I will not be intimidated by cases against me : CM Revanth Reddy

Continued From pg 01

CM Reddy was addressing a public meeting as part of the Congress' campaign at Korutla in Nizamabad Lok Sabha constituency.

Stating that a case was registered against him by Delhi Police, he alleged that PM Modi and HM Shah were trying to intimidate him, but he was not scared of such cases.

"You may have agencies like ED, IT, CBI and police but the four crore people of Telangana are with me," he

said. He was referring to the case registered by Delhi Police against him and other Telangana Congress leaders over a doctored video of HM Shah about reservation.

He asked if Amit Shah became Chief Minister to Delhi in the midst of election campaigns.

The Chief Minister said that if the BJP tries to intimidate him, they will not win one seat in Telangana. He added that Telangana was the

land of revolutionaries who resisted autocracy and repression. The Chief Minister also took exception to the remarks made by PM Modi at a public meeting in Zaheerabad on Tuesday.

Stating that he must be respectful towards the PM, CM Reddy said it is unbecoming of a person holding the top post to "come to Telangana and abuse us and threaten the Chief Minister."

CM Reddy said instead of telling what he would do for Telangana and instead of giving assurances to fulfill the commitments made to the state, PM Modi abused and insulted Telangana.

He reiterated the allegation that RSS and BJP had hatched a conspiracy to end reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward Classes.

AIMIM and Congress win polls through fearmongering : Madhavi Latha

Continued From pg 01

History tells, us that if in the history of elections in India, if someone got 110% of the votes, it was the AIMIM... Where are the extra 10 % coming from?"

Latha also alleged that Owaisi did no developmental work in the Hyderabad Lok Sabha constituency in the last 40 years. "Despite all this drama being created by AIMIM for the last 40 years, Hyderabad has been facing unbelievable unemployment, underdevelopment, and unbelievable backwardness among the poor and SCs, STs, and OBC sections of the constituency. Children are unable to study because of poor facilities in government schools and very high-cost private schools."

Voting for all 17 seats in Telangana will take place on May 13 in the fourth phase of the Lok Sabha Elections 2024. In the 2019 general election, Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) won nine seats, the Bharatiya Janata Party four, Congress three and AIMIM one seat.

The voting for the first two phases has been completed so far. The next round of voting will be held on May 7. Lok Sabha polls are being held across seven phases till June 1 and votes will be counted on June 4.



Free Spoken English Classes by Sirisilla Popa

Rajanna Sirisilla, May 1 (TIM Bureau) : Popa General Secretary Kankuntla Punno Chander said that under the authority of Padmasali Officials and Professionals Association Rajanna Sirisilla district free spoken English classes are being conducted for intermediate students from 8th standard.

He explained that this program was taken to remove depression and increase language skills. Classes are held every day for a month. Spoken English classes are arranged for students from all social groups of the society and English education is taught by 10 English subject experts. The course directors are famous English teach-

ers. He explained that Boora Srinivas and Cherala Tirupati were appointed. In this program the members of Popa were Gajula Pratap, Maccha Anandya, Boora Srinivas, Cherala Tirupati, Kokkula Srinivas, Nagula Srinivas, Bairi Ravinder, Jayaram, Udepu Venu, Ym. Venkatesham, Mr. Mahesh, K. Duttu participated.

Struggles for wealth redistribution should intensify: CPM leader

Hyderabad, May 1 (NSS): CPI(M) politburo member BV Raghavulu today called upon the working class to fight against exploitation and for redistribution of wealth. May Day celebrations were organized under the chairmanship of CPI(M) State secretary wing member S. Veeraiah at MB Bhavan in Hyderabad on Wednesday.

B.V.Raghavulu hoisted the Aruna flag on the occasion and spoke later. He explained how the struggles against exploitation, racial, religious and caste oppression and for the protection of the environment were intensifying across the world. "Today, universities are completely paralysed. Students of universities in the United States are putting aside their studies and coming into struggle to protest against Israel's attacks on Palestinians. The manner in which the American rulers are going to the extent of firing to suppress their struggles was exposed. Workers around the world are taking to the streets for their rights and fighting against the rulers. In the last 10 years, the BJP government at the Centre tried to destroy democracy, secularism, federalism and social justice in our country and erase the basic principles of the Constitution."

He said it was the victory of the farmers to fight re-



lently against the policies of the Modi government and stop the black laws. He said the people had succeeded in making amendments to the Constitution so that the BJP government at the Centre, which has been adopting anti-labour and anti-farmer policies, did not come back to power. He expressed concern that the intensity of exploitation was increasing in the country. "There is a huge difference between the increase in wages of workers and the rising prices.

lently against the policies of the Modi government and stop the black laws. He said the people had succeeded in making amendments to the Constitution so that the BJP government at the Centre, which has been adopting anti-labour and anti-farmer policies, did not come back to power. He expressed concern that the intensity of exploitation was increasing in the country. "There is a huge difference between the increase in wages of workers and the rising prices.



BRS party's victory is certain: Jagadish Reddy

Suryapet, May 1 (NSS): Former minister and Suryapet MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy today exuded confidence that the pink flag would fly in the two Lok Sabha seats of Nalgonda.

Shah's doctored video case : CM Revanth seeks four-weeks time

Hyderabad, May 1 (NSS): Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has sought four-weeks time to respond to the notice issued by Delhi police in connection with Home Minister Amit Shah's doctored video case. Revanth Reddy's advocate has sent an email to the IFSO unit of Delhi police and replied to the notice. The Chief Minister stated that he has nothing to do with the case and moreover, he has not shared the video. He further disclosed that he is not managing the Twitter account of INC Telangana Congress, but using only two Twitter accounts (CMO Telangana and personal

account). The Chief Minister's reply was sent to the Delhi police by his lawyer Soumya Gupta on Wednesday. In the Amit Shah's doctored video case, Revanth Reddy along with four other Congress leaders, 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).

Political parties in UP tweak campaign strategy as mercury soars

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) : With temperatures rising menacingly with every passing day, various political parties have tweaked their campaign style and strategy to protect their workers and voters from the heat. Lucknow recorded 42 degrees Celsius on Wednesday and there is no respite in sight from the heatwave in the near future. BJP MLA from Sarojini Nagar in Lucknow, Rajeshwar Singh, said, "We are not campaigning between 12 noon and 4 p.m. We connect with voters in door-to-door meetings be-

tween 7 a.m. and 10 a.m. and in the evening, we do meetings in small groups. Most of the organisational meetings at the ward level are held indoors in the afternoon." He further said, "Our focus is on increasing the voter turnout in the state capital. With the district administration deciding to make polling stations in 14 high-rise buildings, the party is knocking at every door appealing to voters to cast their votes as a responsible citizen of the country." Praveen Garg, media in charge of BJP, said, "We carry out door-to-door visits in morning hours between 7 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Thereafter, we do our organisation meetings to chalk out strategies and again in the evening, we do 'nukkad sabha' and public meetings in small groups." "We have made adequate arrangements for packaged drinking water for our party workers on Monday when Rajnath Singh files his nomination in which several thousand people will take part in the procession from the state BJP office to the Collectorate," Garg added. The Samajwadi Party leaders also have made changes in their timings to connect with people as they drum up support for their sitting MLA Ravidas Mehrotra who has been



fielded against Rajnath Singh from Lucknow Lok Sabha seat. "We planned a month-long connect with our voters that began on April 18 and ends on May 18. We are doing a door-to-door campaign between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. In the afternoon, we hold meetings in

community halls. Between 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., we try to reach out to voters by organising small meetings," said Gaurav Singh Yadav, media in-charge, Samajwadi Party, Lucknow Lok Sabha seat.



Four held for gangrape in Bihar's Kishanganj

Patna, May 1 (IANS) : Bihar's Kishanganj police on Wednesday arrested four persons in connection with the gan-grape of a 30-year-old woman. The accused, identified as Sher Singh (55), Aakash Singh (27), Brijlal Singh (30) and Shayamu Singh (25), allegedly kidnapped the victim on Saturday from her house located at Halim Chowk under Kishanganj police station area and took her in a Bolero camper van. Later, they brutalised her at knife-point in a maize field. The accused, after committing the crime, threatened her with dire consequences and fled from the spot in the van. The victim reached home and narrated her ordeal. "We received a complaint of gang-rape. As the matter was very sensitive, we immediately constituted a team to nab the accused. The victim provided us the description of the accused and our team gathered the input about them.



Rohini just a mask, real fight is with Lalu Prasad in Saran : Ex-Union Minister Rudy

Patna, May 1 (IANS) : Former Union Minister and BJP candidate for Bihar's Saran Lok Sabha seat, Rajiv Pratap Rudy on Wednesday said that his real fight is with RJD chief Lalu Prasad and Rohini Acharya is just a "mask". "Lalu Prasad Yadav cannot contest the election... Hence, he is using Rohini Acharya as a mask," Rudy said. "Rohini Acharya sometimes calls me a fool and makes indecent remarks about our (BJP) state president Samrat Choudhary. The people of Saran sent me to the Parliament

for the two consecutive terms, were they fools? Is Rohini trying to say this?" the sitting MP said. Rudy is contesting against Acharya, the daughter of former Chief Minister Lalu Prasad, from the Saran Lok Sabha constituency, where polling is scheduled to be held in the fifth phase on May 20. Rajiv Pratap Rudy is visiting door-to-door for his election campaign while ailing RJD supremo Lalu Prasad, along with his wife and former CM Rabri Devi, recently campaigned for his daughter in Saran.

INS Kochi responds to Houthi attack, crew including 22 Indians safe

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Indian Naval Destroyer INS Kochi responded to a maritime security incident after an attack on a merchant vessel by Houthi rebels. The incident involved an attack on Panama-flagged crude oil tanker Merchant Vessel (MV) Andromeda Star PM on 26 April, in the Red Sea. The Navy said on Wednesday that the Indian Mission deployed in the sea responded

and all 22 Indian nationals, who were on board the merchant vessel, are safe. According to the Navy, the MV was intercepted by the Navy ship and an aerial reconnaissance by helicopter was undertaken to assess the situation. The EOD team was deployed onboard MV for residual risk assessment. A total of 30 crew (including 22 Indian nationals) are reported to be safe and the vessel is continuing its scheduled transit to the next port. The swift action of the Navy

ship reiterates the commitment and resolve of the Indian Navy in safeguarding the seafarers plying through the region, an official added. According to some international reports, the attack on the Andromeda Star was claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels. After the attack, Houthi rebels had stated that the missiles targeted the tanker as part of their ongoing support for Palestinians.



Sub-inspector killed in Delhi road accident

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : A Sub-inspector of Delhi Police died after his scooter hit a divider in the national capital, an official said on Wednesday. The incident occurred on Saturday night and the deceased was identified as N K Pavitharan. The officials said that Pavitharan was posted in the East Delhi district's crime team.

AIADMK slams TN govt for collecting fee for summer sports coaching camps

Chennai, May 1 (IANS) : AIADMK General Secretary and former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K. Palaniswami on Wednesday criticised the decision of the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDATN) to collect fee from students studying in government schools across the state for organising sports coaching camps during summers. Palaniswami in a statement said that most of the students, who will be attending the camp which will begin from April 29 and conclude on May 13, will not be able to pay the camp fee. The camp fee, according to a notification by SDATN, for the coaching camps to be held in Chennai will be Rs 500 while at other district headquarters it will be Rs 200.



Odisha: JP Nadda tears into BJD; urges voters to throw out 'corrupt' Naveen Patnaik-led govt

Bhubaneswar, May 1 (IANS) : Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President JP Nadda on Wednesday upped the ante against the ruling Biju Janata Dal (BJD) in Odisha, urging the voters to throw out the "corrupt" Naveen Patnaik-led state government. Addressing a public gathering in Berhampur area of Ganjam district, JP Nadda urged the voters to give a third term to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India the third-largest economy in the world. The BJP chief also asked the electors to vote his party to power in the state for the proper implementation of development projects launched by the Central government. "A BJP government should be voted to power in Odisha for the proper implementation of the development programmes being launched by PM Modi in Delhi," JP

Nadda said. In a veiled attack on BJD leader and former bureaucrat V.K. Pandian, JP Nadda said: "Efforts are on to bring an outsider as leader. Are there no leaders in Odisha and no son of the soil for the leadership? It is worrisome the way outsiders are being promoted under Naveen Patnaik's government?" The BJP national president alleged that 160 chit-fund companies duped 20 lakh investors of Rs 32,000 crore and that is an example of corruption of the BJD government. Taking a jibe at the ruling BJD, he alleged that tenders under the Jal Jeevan Mission are being given to blacklisted contractors. He also criticised the state government for not introducing the Ayushman Bharat scheme in Odisha. He said 68 lakh poor and needy people in Odisha are deprived of benefits under Ayushman scheme. JP Nadda also listed various achievements of the Central government under the leadership of PM Modi. He said PM Modi has brought a



massive change in every sector of Indian politics. He said that earlier, politics was being done on the basis of caste, religion, community and locality but PM Modi connected Indian politics with 'Vikasvaad' and took the country towards development. JP Nadda said that now politics is done over report cards, development, accountability. "This change was brought under the leadership of PM Modi," he said. JP Nadda also said that the Indian economy is now considered a bright spot while the economy of other countries was in a bad state due to the effects of the Covid-19, and Russia-Ukraine war. "India has become the fifth-

largest economy in the last 10 years of PM Modi's rule. India is second in the sector of medicine manufacturing. The country recorded 128 per cent increase in the export of drugs," JP Nadda said. He said India is in third spot by overtaking Japan in the sector of automobile manufacturing. India registered a 106 per cent increase in exports in the petrochemicals sector. "Mobile phones are now being manufactured in India. Similarly, around 1.5 lakh villages are being connected with optical fiber under PM Modi's rule," JP Nadda said.

NCW asks Bengal DGP to probe attack on woman BJP leader, take action

Kolkata, May 1 (IANS) : The National Commission for Women (NCW) asked West Bengal's Director General of Police Sanjoy Mukherjee to conduct a thorough investigation into the Wednesday attack on woman BJP leader, Saraswati Sarkar, allegedly by ruling Trinamool Congress activists. The NCW issued a statement, strongly condemning the assault on Saraswati Sarkar, who heads the BJP's Kasba unit in south Kolkata. "The shocking incident underscores a disturbing pattern of violence against women in West Bengal," the statement read.



OPINIONmail



RAHUL KEEPS HIS FOCUS FIRM ON CASTE CENSUS, PRO-POOR JUSTICE

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has placed the OBC, SC and ST question as the top priority of the national discourse by maintaining a sharp emphasis on the matter in his election campaign speeches and demanding nationwide caste census to better evaluate the situation of India's Dalits, OBCs and the poor. Gandhi even said that "an X-ray of society" - a national headcount to determine the socio-economic status of marginalised sections - is "now [his] life's mission". He added that the Congress party manifesto promised the return of a small amount of money to the 90% people of the country from the ₹ 16 lakh crore that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave to the select 22 crony capitalists he hobnobs with.

"We did not say we will return the entire 16 lakh crore. We have calculated and said only a small amount of money would be returned," Rahul Gandhi said speaking at Samajik Nyay Sammelan in Delhi's Jawahar Bhawan. With the possibility of Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi contesting from the Gandhi bastion, Rae Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh, saffron corridors are abuzz with speculations that Varun Gandhi, who was denied a ticket by the BJP from his Pilibhit Lok Sabha constituency and is currently in the political sulk mode, may have got a feeler to test the waters in Rae Bareilly. Sources close to Varun Gandhi revealed that the top BJP leadership was now contemplating making it a "Gandhi vs Gandhi" battle in Rae Bareilly. However, Varun Gandhi has opted out of a possible poll contest against his cousin Priyanka Gandhi Vadra for the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha seat. Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee and Rae Bareilly Congress passed resolutions stating that the party should field "Priyanka or any other member of the Gandhi family" from Rae Bareilly. Priyanka has been campaigning extensively in the Lok Sabha polls and now ready to fight from Rae Bareilly seat if the party grants her the permission. She would be the third generation from the Nehru-Gandhi family to contest from Rae Bareilly, if that's the case.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray has claimed that INDIA bloc will win over 300 seats in the 543-member Lok Sabha. Addressing a rally in Maharashtra's Buldhana for Shiv Sena (UBT) nominee Narendra Khedekar, Thackeray said the BJP would soon be made to learn a harsh lesson by the people for calling his party "nakli [fake] Shiv Sena." "You call my party 'nakli' Shiv Sena, but this same Sena will show you its real strength. Is my Shiv Sena like your degree that you call it nakli? The people will show you your place," Thackeray added. Modi had earlier called the Thackeray-led party a "nakli" Shiv Sena. Doordarshan, the autonomous national public service broadcaster, has drawn flak from the former Prasar Bharati CEO and Trinamool Congress MP, Jawahar Sircar for amending the colour of its iconic logo from ruby to saffron amidst the ongoing general elections.

Defending its move, DD highlighted the fact that its initial logo which was launched in 1959, was also of saffron shade. While West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee led accusation towards the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of changing the colours of national properties and icons into saffron to influence and win the sentiment of people, when the seven-phase Lok Sabha polls are underway. "How could the Election Commission of India allow this crude, pro-saffron violation of the Model Code of Conduct when the people are in the electoral mode?" Banerjee asked. In addition, Congress's Manish Tewari, who was the Information and Broadcasting Minister from 2012 to 2014, also alleged that the logo colour change was the government's attempt to capture public institutions.

EDITORIAL
the indian mail

U.S. WORRIED AT THE POSSIBILITY OF HARMING FORMER PM IMRAN KHAN IN PRISON

Recent discussions in the US Congress on the political situation in Pakistan have raised questions about the safety of the former Prime Minister Imran Khan presently lodged in prison. According to several sources familiar with the matter who spoke to The Intercept, the Senate Majority Leader emphasized to Pakistan's ambassador in Washington that ensuring the safety of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan is a top concern for the United States. Late last month, Senate Majority Leader Schumer, a leading Democrat in Congress, issued a warning to Pakistan. This followed vigorous campaigning by the Pakistani diaspora, who are

worried that the Pakistani military might harm Khan, the former prime minister removed from office in 2022.

Mohammad Munir Khan, a Pakistani American political activist, told The Intercept, "Chuck Schumer's discussion with the ambassador about Imran Khan's safety is a positive step." He added that the Pakistani American diaspora has been disappointed with Washington's inability to address and hold Pakistan's influential figures accountable for obvious human rights abuses and undermining core democratic principles.

Imran Khan, who is widely regarded as Pakistan's most popular politician, is currently in jail on corruption charges that many view as politically motivated. He was ousted from power in April



2022 through a no-confidence vote believed to be engineered by Pakistan's influential military and supported by the U.S. Since then, his party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), has been subjected to severe crackdowns, sparking global concern and condemnation from human rights organizations. The worries about Imran Khan's safety that led to Senator Schumer's conversation with Pakistani Ambassador Masood Khan stem from increasing fears that the military might respond to Khan's enduring popularity by endangering his life while he is in prison. According to The Intercept,

Schumer's office chose not to comment on this story, and the Pakistani Embassy in Washington has not yet responded to a request for comment. Senator Schumer, who has many Pakistani American constituents (or Voters) in New York, reached out as a new government in the South Asian country tries to secure its position despite public unhappiness with a February election that many say was fraudulent. Besides banning the PTI party, Pakistan heavily cracked down before the February election.

JANATA DAL (S) KEY TO BJP'S KARNATAKA CALCULATIONS IN 2024 POLLS

The Janata Dal (Secular) is in alliance with the Bharatiya Janata Party. Does this mean the JDS is fighting for its "political survival"? Ask party head HD Kumaraswamy, a former Karnataka Chief Minister and the son of ex-Prime Minister HD Devegowda, and he says JDS wants Lok Sabha seats to ensure good governance and Karnataka's share of national resources.

But it has been media practice to keep trotting "JDS fighting for survival" headlines whenever there is assembly or Lok Sabha elections. The BJP and the Congress are not seen fighting for "survival", when every five years, one of the two is sent packing by the Karnataka voter. The Congress and BJP take turns at governing and are declared in fine fettle even after losing elections.

The same does not apply to the JDS. But if "survival" is criteria, and alliance a distress signal, then the INDIA-Alliance must also be for "political survival" of each and every political party in the INDIA bloc. The Janata Dal Secular has been battling the stigma of "fighting for political survival" for nearly two decades.

TYLA'S JOURNEY FROM A TIKTOK STAR TO GRAMMY-WINNER IS FABULOUS

It takes just a glance at one of her music videos for one stop and replay and then discover all of her playlist. Before the 22-year-old winner of the Best Music Performance Award at Grammy 2024 became a hot South African music sensation, she has been cute and adorable to her global fans — TikTok 8.2 million, Instagram 5.3 million, YouTube 3.5 million, and Spotify 993.5k.

After her hit song went viral last year, she landed a clothing deal with Gap and even won a Grammy! Now, she's released her first album, a collection of 14 songs that proves she's the African pop star she always dreamed of being. Indian music fans may have missed out on Tyla's hit song "Water" in 2023, but it served as a delicious introduction to a sound taking the world by storm: Amapiano. This genre, born in the South African townships during the 2010s, is more than just a catchy name. Amapiano, which roughly translates from Zulu to "the pianos" or "piano people," blends deep house with the smooth sounds of jazz, the energy of kwaito, and the rhythmic punch of log drum percussion. The result? Infectious mid-tempo music that's become the lifeblood of South Africa's party scene.



Tyla's journey to stardom wasn't all viral fame and celebrity. Despite a global pandemic delaying her music video and forcing a shoestring budget production, her dedication paid off when the video caught the attention of record labels. This relentless work ethic continued as she honed her sound, collaborated with a diverse range of artists, and strategically leveraged TikTok to launch her music to the world.

It's this combination of talent, hustle, and social media savvy that has propelled Tyla from hopeful singer to amapiano queen. While "Water" might have been your introduction to Tyla, it's just the tip of the amapiano iceberg. Keep an eye on this rising star, because she — and the captivating sounds of amapiano — could soon be taking over your playlist.

There's more to amapiano than just infectious beats that get you moving. "It's so much deeper than just music," explains artist Tyla.

RSS GETTING WORRIED AT THE TRENDS OF VOTING IN LOK SABHA POLLS

The electoral fate of Narendra Modi is in the hands of Lord Ram. But it seems that Lord Ram isn't too keen to bestow his blessings on him. It is this realisation that he would eventually lose the election that has compelled Modi to rush to the doorsteps of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in Nagpur and bow before the leadership. Top RSS sources maintain that in the night of April 19 after the end of the first phase of polling, Modi met some of the senior leaders and requested them to prevail upon the swayamsevaks not to harden their stand, not to keep aloof from the election and come out openly to ensure victory of the BJP candidates. Besides a large band

of activists and cadres, RSS has at least one lakh high-ranking dedicated swayamsevaks. For years, they have been managing votes at the booth levels, the crucial site in the electoral battle.

So far, except of course the Lok Sabha election of 2004 in which the RSS cadres had maintained a reclusive posture and did not whole heartedly support Atal Behari Vajpayee-led BJP at the directive of the RSS leadership, the RSS swayamsevaks have handed victories to the BJP in several elections. The most fortunate leader to get the unstinted support of the RSS in 2014 and 2019 has been Narendra Modi. RSS handpicked him from Gujarat and pushed him into the national political limelight, eventually crowning him as the prime minister. But the RSS leadership and its swayamsevaks are no more inclined

to sweat it out for Modi. A senior RSS leader confided that Modi has of course met them, but he has always preferred to maintain distance from the Nagpur headquarter. While RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has been extending full support to Modi, but the prime minister on his part has always given the impression that his was a larger-than-life image. Bhagwat maintains that while Modi must maintain the dignity of the office he holds, he however must not show his contempt towards the organisation which has elevated him to the highest constitutionally-permitted position.

Disgusted with his style of functioning and nursing a strong perception that BJP could lose the 2024 Lok Sabha election, the RSS has its centenary celebration scheduled in 2025 on hold for the time being. Hundred years of existence and functioning would be deemed the

greatest achievement for any organisation. For RSS, it is certainly the greatest occasion. However, with defeat looming over their heads, the RSS is not sure of the success of the event, or to what extent the impending electoral loss would impact the cadres.

Unfortunately, even after being aware of this predicament, Modi is not willing to bring about any change in his style of functioning. He continues to play his old broken record of Hindu-Muslim animosity and hatred.

Uncertain of victory with RSS having tentatively cancelled its centenary programme, undoubtedly an illustrious occasion for the Sangh, Modi has been busy playing up the hyperbole and claiming "Abki bar 400 par".



Western, Arab officials expected to meet in Riyadh over Gaza crisis

Riyadh, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : Senior Western and Arab officials are expected to meet next week in Riyadh to discuss the months-long war in the Gaza Strip on the sidelines of an economic forum in Saudi Arabia, according to diplomatic sources. Foreign Ministers of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Qatar, the UAE and Jordan will meet Wednesday in Riyadh with their US, German, British, French and Italian counterparts, the sources said. The Arab officials, joined by a Palestinian Authority representative, will meet on Saturday to formulate a "unified Arab stance" ahead of the Monday meeting, the sources told dpa on condition of anonymity. The Palestinian official will not attend the talks with the top West-

ern diplomats, the sources added. Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry travelled on Saturday to Riyadh, sources at Cairo airport said. Saudi Arabia is hosting an international economic forum in Riyadh on Sunday and Monday. The international talks come amid fears of a planned Israeli offensive in Gaza's Rafah city and renewed efforts to broker a hostage and ceasefire deal. A top Hamas official said on Saturday that the Islamist militant group is studying an Israeli counterproposal regarding such a deal. "Hamas will examine this proposal and submit a response," Khalil al-Hayya, the deputy head of the group's political arm in Gaza, said in a statement posted on Telegram.

Dozens of pro-Palestine protesters arrested at Arizona State University

Los Angeles, May 1 (IANS) : A total of 69 protesters attending a pro-Palestine protest on Arizona State University's Tempe campus, the main campus of the public research university in the Phoenix metropolitan area, were arrested for "violating university policy." The protesters were arrested early on Wednesday "for trespassing after they set up an unauthorised encampment, in violation of university policy," said a statement released by the university, Xinhua news agency reported. Demonstrations against Israeli military action in Gaza are spreading on major university campuses across the US, with hundreds arrested.



South Korea, Australia join hands to enhance security, defence industry cooperation

Seoul, May 1 (IANS) : South Korean Foreign and Defence Ministers met Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Canberra on Wednesday to discuss ways to expand cooperation in regional security and the defence industry. South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Tae-yul and Defence Minister Shin Won-sik held a meeting with Albanese and Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong to exchange opinions on Indo-Pacific strategic cooperation, the military and defence industry, and

North Korean issues, Yonhap news agency reported. The meeting took place ahead of the Korean ministers' "two plus two" talks with Wong and Defence Minister Richard Marles, slated for Wednesday, their Ministries said. The Ministers vowed to further advance the "comprehensive strategic partnership" and bolster defence ties. After the meeting, Albanese emphasised the importance of continuing to develop bilateral relations for regional security. "South Korea is a crucial regional partner for Australia. Our two countries are working together

towards an open, stable, and prosperous region," Albanese wrote on X. Earlier in the day, Cho paid tribute at the Australian National Korean War Memorial in Canberra. Australia was among the 22 countries that sent troops and gave medical aid to South Korea under the UN flag during the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in a ceasefire, not a peace treaty. Canberra dispatched a total of 17,164 service members during the war, and 340 of them were killed in action, according to South Korean data.



'N.Korea installs mines on inter-Korean road within demilitarized zone'

Seoul, May 1 (IANS) : North Korea has installed land mines on an inter-Korean road within the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the two Koreas, a South Korean military official said on Wednesday, the latest in a series of moves to shut down cross-border roads. The military detected the North laying mines on the unpaved road inside the DMZ late last year near Arrowhead Hill in Cheorwon, 85 km northeast of Seoul, Yonhap news agency reported, citing the official. The path was created under a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement to connect the South and the North for joint efforts to excavate re-

mains of those killed near the hill during the 1950-53 Korean War. Since late last year, the North has installed mines on all roads between the two Koreas once seen as symbols of inter-Korean reconciliation and cooperation. In January, North Korean troops were spotted installing mines on two inter-Korean roads -- the Gyeongui road between the South's western border city of Paju and the North's Kaesong and the Donghae road along the east coast. Last month, the military also detected the North removing dozens of streetlights along the two roads.

Australian PM calls leaders' meeting amid gendered violence crisis

Canberra, May 1 (IANS) : Australia's Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, has called an emergency meeting of the country's leaders to address a crisis of violence against women. Anthony Albanese will on Wednesday hold a meeting of the national cabinet, which is composed of federal, state and territory leaders, to discuss plans to prevent male violence against women, Xinhua news agency reported. "We need to look at the full suite of policy measures that can make a practical difference here," he told state media Australian Broadcasting

Corporation (ABC) television on Wednesday. On Wednesday, the Prime Minister was one of thousands of Australians who joined protests across the country demanding an end to gender-based violence following a wave of incidents. According to the advocacy group Destroy the Joint, 27 women have died violently in Australia so far in 2024, more than double the 12 in the first four months of 2023. Addressing protesters in Canberra, Albanese dismissed organisers' calls for the government to declare family violence a national emergency, instead making the case for long-term action to address the national crisis.



He told the ABC on Monday that an emergency declaration would trigger immediate one-off government actions, such as emergency payments during natural disasters. "What we need here is not one-off actions. What we need here is a concerted plan," he said. Earlier on Monday, Environment Minister Tanya

Plibersek said that misogyny online was working against government policies aimed at reducing violence against women. She told Seven Network television that adolescent boys in particular are being fed violent content online that is supporting misogynistic attitudes.

Polish Foreign Minister urges Germany's Scholz to give missiles to Ukraine

Berlin, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : Following the delivery of long-range US missiles to Ukraine, Poland's Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski is hoping that German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will change his mind and provide the attacked country with German Taurus cruise missiles. "I hope the Chancellor feels encouraged by the events of the last few days," said Sikorski in an interview with German newspaper Bild am Sonntag and other Axel



Springer media in Warsaw. Sikorski described the delivery of US ATACMS missiles to Ukraine as a "reaction to the Russian escalation" in Ukraine, to which Germany must also respond.



S. Korea to deploy more staff as doctors at 5 major hospitals take weekly breaks

Seoul, May 1 (IANS) : South Korea's Health Minister Cho Kyoo-hong, on Wednesday, said that the government plans to deploy more medical staff as senior doctors at five major hospitals in Seoul decided to take a weekly day off starting this week. Cho also renewed a pledge to accomplish medical reform, although a mass walkout by trainee doctors has crippled public health services at major hospitals for more than two months, Yonhap news agency reported.

The government will "further strengthen the emergency treatment system by sending more medical personnel to prevent damage to patients because of sudden resignations or leaves of absence by medical professors," Cho told at a government response meeting. Cho said that the government will "unwaveringly push for medical reform," while calling for senior and junior doctors to stop their collective action against the government's plan to hike the number of medical students. Last week, medical professors working for South Korea's five major hospitals -- Asan Medical Center, Samsung Medical Center, Severance Hospital.

Hamas delegation arrives in Cairo : Airport sources

Cairo, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : A Hamas delegation has arrived in Cairo amid renewed negotiations for a ceasefire and prisoner exchange deal with Israel, airport sources told DPA. The three-member Hamas delegation flew in from Doha to discuss the latest proposal for a ceasefire and an exchange of hostages for Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails, the sources said. Israeli news website ynet reported on Wednesday that the proposal envisages the release of 33 hostages in return for several hundred Palestinian prisoners. These are to include women, including female soldiers, elderly people, the injured and the "mentally impaired." Citing a senior Israeli government representative, ynet reported that the duration of the ceasefire would depend on the number of hostages released.



NRIs hold car rally from Ahmedabad to Surat in support of PM Modi

Ahmedabad, May 1 (IANS) : A group of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) embarked on a car rally on Wednesday from Ahmedabad to Surat to campaign for the BJP while traversing nine Lok Sabha constituencies. These NRIs are mostly Gujaratis who are here to join election fervour campaigning and lend support to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Organised by the BJP's foreign affairs department, the rally made its way through the key towns of Nadiad, Anand, Vadodara, and Bharuch, aiming to culminate in Surat where they will be received and felicitated by Gujarat BJP president C.R. Patil.



of the BJP's foreign affairs department, highlighted the dedication of the participants who, "despite lacking the right to vote or stand for election, are fervently campaigning at their own expense". "Our purpose is to contribute to PM Modi's vision," Sompura said. "We have gathered here from various parts of the globe, including the UK, Africa, New Zealand, and the US, to advocate for nation-building and raise political awareness," he said. "The rally, covering nearly 270 kilometres and traversing nine Lok Sabha constituencies, is more than just a political gesture.



India unstoppable under 'visionary' PM Modi : Rajnath Singh

Ahmedabad, May 1 (IANS) : Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said that with a visionary leader like Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is unstoppable on its path to becoming the third largest economy. The minister, who is in Ahmedabad to campaign for BJP candidates, highlighted the party's achievements and criticised the Congress party's performance. "What does Congress have? They lack a leader, policy, and intent," he remarked. In contrast, the de-

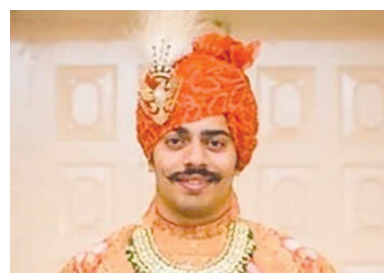
fence minister cited data from the International Monetary Fund indicating a reduction in poverty rates under PM Modi's leadership, with a promise to eradicate poverty within the next 5-10 years. In Surat, the BJP's candidate won unopposed, according to the minister, a testament to the party's strength. Singh also accused Congress of undermining fundamental rights during the Emergency and of frequently misusing Article 356 to dismiss state governments. "And yet, they (Congress) accuse us of infringing on fundamental rights?" he said.

Addressing allegations against the Enforcement Directorate (ED), he assured the public of legal recourse, stating, "If ED has done anything wrong, you can always go to the courts." He also recalled Mahatma Gandhi's advice that the Congress should be disbanded, suggesting that the public is now inclined to see the Congress party's influence wane. Looking forward, Singh announced that India is set to host the Olympics in 2036.



He has made 251 trips to jail but is not a 'criminal'

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) : He is one of the 'oldest' student leaders, contesting the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. He is better known for making a record of sorts by going to jail more than 251 times in his 40-year-long career. Meet Ravidas Mehrotra, the Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate from Lucknow Lok Sabha seat. Mehrotra, 66, an alumnus of Lucknow University, has had a chequered career with more downs than ups but that has not lessened his zeal for social work. About his jail record, Mehrotra says, "All the cases against, me are related to demonstrations and protests held by me during my university days and after that, when I joined politics. It speaks for the fact that I have been a fighter all along. There is not a single 'criminal' case against me."



'I feel pity for him': Bhavnagar's prince lampoons Cong's Yuvraj over 'kings as land grabbers' row

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's analogy of Kings and Maharajas as the 'land grabbers' continues to invite public wrath and ire of the Rajput community, with the latest being Jaiveerraj Singh Gohil, the 'Yuvraj' of Bhavnagar, Gujarat. Jaiveerraj Singh Gohil, also a role model and fashion icon for youth, scoffed at the Congress leader for describing the ancient kings and maharajas as the 'looters' of public wealth. "I feel pity for Rahul Gandhi. It's very sad that the person whose father and grandmother were nation's Prime Minister, has ruined the party," the Bhavnagar prince said in scathing criticism of Congress' 'Yuvraj'.

9 held for gang rape of minors in Meghalaya

Guwahati, May 1 (IANS) : Nine persons were arrested by the police in connection with the rape of minor girls in the South West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, officials said on Wednesday. Earlier on Sunday, Priyank Kanoongo, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) Chairperson, said that illegal Rohingya infiltrators were behind this incident. He has also shared a video on his social media platform X, in which he reached the crime spot with the police team. Kanungo wrote on X, "I

have come here with the NCPCR team to investigate the complaint in connection with the gang rape of minor girls in the attack during a tribal festival in South West Garo Hills's Ampati district of Meghalaya. It is surprising that there has been no discussion at the national level on such a brutal crime against tribal children. According to the complaint, the culprits are suspected to be illegal Rohingya intruders. Investigation is underway." According to the police, the incidents of rape took place on April 16 night at Chenga Benga Mela village in Ampati, the headquarters of South West Garo hills district.

Superintendent of Police (SP), West Garo Hills district, Vikash Kumar, told IANS, "The incident happened on April 16 night and the police complaint was lodged on April 18. Although the state had conducted Lok Sabha polls on April 19, the police launched a probe immediately and the accused were taken into custody." "Nine accused persons were arrested from South Salmara-Mankachar district with the active assistance of the Assam Police. They were taken into custody after more than a week of investigation," he added. The police said that one minor girl was raped and another one was gang raped on



April 16. SP Kumar asserted all nine accused persons are residents of the Teporpara village in Assam's South Salmara-Mankachar district. The village is located between the border of Assam and Meghalaya. According to the Meghalaya Police, seven mobile phones have been seized from the possession of the arrested

persons, and the data were analysed meticulously. "During the course of investigation, it was learnt that the criminals had snatched a mobile phone from one person and also threatened and extorted money from another person," the police added in a statement.



Grid connectivity to J&K's Gurez restored fully

Srinagar, May 1 (IANS) : Grid electricity supply to Jammu and Kashmir's Gurez was successfully restored on Wednesday with the 33KV line now charged up to Dawar Gurez after disruptions caused by recent heavy snowfall in the Razdan and Zadkhusi areas, an official statement said. "The restoration of the 33KV Bandipora-Gurez line, completed up to Dawar, comes after severe weather conditions affected electricity supply through the grid

in the area," it said. "During the disruption period, Gurez received electricity through diesel generators." Despite facing significant challenges due to heavy snowfall and adverse weather conditions, a team of 20 personnel from KPDCL and STD Ganderbal/Bandipora undertook the task of retrieving the submerged line, buried under approximately 10 feet of snow at Razdan, and successfully re-erected and replaced 15 damaged HT poles in the tough stretch from Zadkhusi to Koragbal.

"This concerted effort led to the swift restoration of grid-connected electricity to Gurez," the statement said. The successful restoration within the stipulated timeline marks a significant milestone, considering the challenging terrain that the transmission line traverses through, including the Razdan Pass, situated at an altitude of 12,672 feet above sea level, and the treacherous Zadkhusi stretch on the Bandipora-Gurez Road.

SP has already accepted defeat even before the battle is over : Yogi Adityanath

Budaun (UP), May 1 (IANS) : Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on Wednesday that the Samajwadi Party (SP) has become a joke of the Lok Sabha elections by changing its candidates again and again which proves that they have accepted defeat even before the battle is over. He said that those who challenge the power of God are certain to fall. He said that Congress is working on a hidden agenda against the country. Yogi Adityanath was addressing a huge public meeting for Bharatiya Janata Party candidate and regional president Durvijay

Shakya in Bilsa on Wednesday. "The previous Prime Minister used to hesitate in going to Ayodhya. Modi ji is the first Prime Minister who visited Ram Janmabhoomi in Ayodhya and also installed Ram Lalla in the grand temple after 500 years," he said. The chief minister started his address by paying homage to the great sage Kashyapa of Saptarishi tradition, and Budaun, the holy place of Vedas and the holy place of Maharaj Bhagiratha. Taking a jibe at SP, he said, "Even the uncle (Shivpal) thought it best to flee from here and the nephew's (Aditya Yadav) legs had already been uprooted."



BSP's Akash Anand booked for hate speech against BJP

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) : Bahujan Samaj Party's national coordinator Akash Anand has been booked for a hate speech in Uttar Pradesh's Sitapur district, police said on Wednesday. Senior police officials confirmed that a case against the BSP leader has been registered.





GST demand notices contributing to burgeoning GST collections

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : An increasing number of GST demand notices being issued to companies is contributing to the burgeoning GST collections. Abhishek Jain, Partner and National Head, Indirect Tax, KPMG India, said, "The consistent growth in GST collections with the latest being the highest collection ever is a big cheer and reflects upon the strong domestic economy, especially given the fact that growth on account of domestic transactions is 13.4 per cent as compared to imports at 8.3 per cent.

Another significant reason for this growth could be linked to the deadline for GST audits and the corresponding notices issued during this year. Companies are receiving a flurry of GST notices from the authorities. Many of the companies have expressed their intention to appeal against the GST orders. Apollo Tyres said it received an order passed by the Sales Tax Officer, Delhi, under the GST Act demanding GST and levying a consequential penalty of Rs 13.94 lakh.



MG Motor India clocks retail sales of 4,485 units in April

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Car manufacturer Morris Garages (MG) Motor India on Wednesday announced that it clocked retail sales of 4,485 units in the country in April. The company's electric vehicle (EV) portfolio contributed 34 per cent of the total units sold in this period. "The recently launched MG Hector BLACKSTORM has been receiving a positive response from SUV enthusiasts across the country," the car manufacturer said. Last month, MG Motor announced its network expansion plans in Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities and rural markets across the country. The company had said that it is set to establish 100 new touchpoints by the end of the year

to enhance accessibility and bring the brand closer to customers. Each of these dealerships will offer the latest MG models on display, digital configurators, and aftersales support, ensuring a seamless and immersive experience for customers, according to the company. "We are working towards introducing 100 new MG dealerships this year, tailored particularly for rural and Tier 3 and Tier 4 cities," said Satinder Singh Bajwa, Chief Commercial Officer, MG Motor India. The company also mentioned that it aims to attain 100 per cent nationwide coverage and plans to have 520 touchpoints in 270 cities by the end of FY2024.

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).



Adani Wilmar clocks 67 per cent surge in PAT for FY24, gains market share across key products

Ahmedabad, May 1 (IANS) : Adani Wilmar on Wednesday reported a 67 per cent surge in profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 157 crore for the quarter ended March 31, 2024, compared to Rs 94 crore in the same quarter in the last fiscal year. The revenue for the full year (FY24) stood at Rs 51,262 crore as the food and FMCG segment reached a milestone of almost Rs 5,000 crore, nearly doubling in two years, the company said in a statement. For the fourth quarter (Q4), the company recorded a revenue of Rs 13,238 crore.

While edible oils grew by 11 per cent and food and FMCG by 9 per cent in volume terms, a significant decline in the export business of oil meals dragged down the overall volume growth to 3 per cent (YoY) in Q4, the company said. "We continued to witness strong volume growth in our edible oils & foods business driven by increased retail penetration. A focused approach in sales and marketing and regional approach in each category is leading to gaining market share from the local players," said Angshu Mallick, MD and CEO, Adani Wilmar Ltd. In fiscal FY24, the food and FMCG business reached 1 million

metric tonnes (MT) in sales and the company surpassed 6 million MT in sales overall. "The food and FMCG segment recorded revenue of Rs 1,341 crore in Q4, with an underlying volume growth of 9 per cent YoY for the quarter," said Mallick. The company has been gaining market share in its key products. In edible oils, the ROCP (Refined Oil Consumer Pack) market share of Adani Wilmar has increased by 60 bps to 19 per cent on a moving annual total (MAT) basis. "In wheat flour, our market share has increased by 60 bps to 5.6 per cent," said the company. The edible oil segment recorded



revenue of Rs 10,195 crore in Q4 and Rs 38,788 crore in FY24. The volume grew by 11 per cent YoY in Q4 and 9 per cent YoY. The 'Industry Essentials' segment recorded revenue of Rs 1,702 crore in Q4 and Rs 7,479 crore in FY24. "Improvement in branded mix in edible oils during the year has also led to better profitability for the company in the second half, with reported PAT in H2 2024 of Rs 358 crore and Rs 404 crore on a consolidated and standalone basis respectively," Mallick added.



Ola Electric captures over 52 pc market share in EV 2-wheeler segment in April

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Bhavish Aggarwal-led Ola Electric on Wednesday announced that it has captured over 52 per cent market share in the electric vehicle (EV) two-wheeler segment in April. According to the government's VAHAN Portal, the company recorded 34,000 registrations during the month and registered a year-on-year growth of 54 per cent over the corresponding month last year. "Our robust cost structures and vertically integrated manufacturing capabilities have collectively contributed to this uptick in our market share," Anshul Khandelwal, Chief Marketing Officer, Ola Electric, said in a statement. "With the deliveries of our mass-market S1 X portfolio starting soon,

we are all set and excited to enter the mass-market 2W EV segment in India," he added. Ola Electric recently marked its entry into the mass-market segment and announced new prices for its S1 X portfolio. Available in three battery configurations (2 kWh, 3 kWh, and 4 kWh), the scooter is now priced at Rs 69,999 (introductory price), Rs 84,999, and Rs 99,999, respectively. The company also revised the prices of its premium offerings S1 Pro, S1 Air, and S1 X+ to Rs 1,29,999, Rs 1,04,999, and Rs 84,999, respectively.

Godrej family to continue joint biz for Vikhroli real estate project in Mumbai

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) : Godrej & Boyce, the owner-developer, and Godrej Properties, the development manager, announced on Wednesday that the two companies will continue their association for land development in Vikhroli. "The two companies will continue their Memorandums of Understanding executed from time to time, for the development of land in Vikhroli owned by Godrej & Boyce, as and when Godrej & Boyce is desirous of developing the said land," according to a joint statement issued by the two groups. The announcement comes after the larger Godrej family on Tuesday sealed the deal for dividing their business conglomerate into two groups to be managed separately by two families. Godrej Construction, a business

of Godrej & Boyce, designed and built four phases of Godrej Platinum, an IGBC Platinum-rated residential development project with a total constructed area of 1 million square feet, which has been marketed by Godrej Properties and, in March 2024, a new project named Godrej Vistas was successfully launched under this arrangement. Jamshyd Godrej, Chairperson & Managing Director, Godrej & Boyce, said: "The future development of Vikhroli presents a unique opportunity to create a holistic space in the metropolis of Mumbai where urban development and biodiversity co-exist harmoniously.



Microsoft announces to open its first regional data centre in Thailand

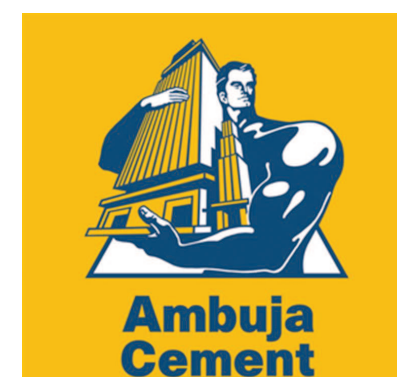
New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Microsoft on Wednesday announced to build a new cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in Thailand, provide AI skilling opportunities for more than 100,000 people, and support the nation's growing developer community. The data centre region will expand the availability of Microsoft's hyperscale cloud services, facilitating enterprise-grade reliability, perfor-

mance, 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 al-

low Thailand to capitalise on the significant economic and productivity opportunities presented by the latest 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.

Adani Group's Ambuja Cements clocks highest-ever PAT at Rs 4,738 crore in FY24

Ahmedabad, May 1 (IANS) : Ambuja Cements on Wednesday reported profit after tax (PAT) at Rs 4,738 crore for FY24 -- up by a record-setting 119 per cent (year-on-year) -- and operating EBITDA at Rs 6,400 crore, up by 73 per cent. For the fourth quarter in FY24, the cement and building materials flagship of the diversified Adani Group reported operating EBITDA at Rs 1,699 crore, up 37 per cent (on-year), with a healthy cash (and cash equivalent) at Rs 24,338 crore. "Our impressive financial performance during the year is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of our business model.





With 25,46,916 voters, Gurugaon Lok Sabha seat tops electorate chart in Haryana

Chandigarh, May 1 (IANS) : Gurugaon Lok Sabha constituency has the highest number of voters, 25,46,916 (13,47,521 men, 11,99,317 women and 78 transgenders), among Haryana's 10 seats, Chief Electoral Officer Anurag Agarwal said here on Wednesday. The second highest voters are in the Faridabad constituency, at 24,14,168, of which 13,10,206 are men, 11,03,844 are women and 118 are transgenders. Agarwal said the voter turnout in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections was 70 per cent and this time, the target is set to increase it to at least 75 per cent. For this, several unique initiatives have been undertaken by the department, including launching the

Voter in Queue app, sending polling invitations to voters akin to wedding invitations, and setting up 31 polling booths in the multi-storey societies of Gurugram city. The Chief Electoral Officer said the election notification would be issued on April 29, and the fate of the candidates contesting the election will be decided by 1,99,81,982 voters across the state on May 25. He said in the Ambala Parliamentary constituency, there are 10,51,443 male voters, 9,35,635 female, and 76 transgender voters. In the Kurukshetra constituency, there are 9,38,029 male voters, 8,50,439 female and 23 transgender voters, while in the Sirsa Lok Sabha constituency, there are 10,20,510 male voters, 9,11,339 female and 41 transgenders. The Hisar Lok Sabha constituency has 9,52,598 male voters, 8,32,569 female and 11 transgender voters, while in the Karnal Lok Sabha constituency, there are 11,03,606 male voters, 9,92,721 female, and 37 transgenders. In the Sonapat Lok Sabha constituency, there are 9,40,969 male voters, 8,20,483 female, and 44 transgenders.

K'taka govt stages protest against Centre over drought relief

Bengaluru, May 1 (IANS) : Karnataka's Congress government staged a protest on Wednesday in front of Mahatma Gandhi's statue on the premises of the Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru, against the Central government over drought relief. The protest was led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Dy CM and Karnataka Congress President D. K. Shivakumar. AICC General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala, Cabinet Ministers and prominent leaders also took part in the protest. Shivakumar stated that the "struggle will not end here." The state had given a memorandum over drought in September 2023. From September till date, the state has incurred a further Rs 50,000 crore worth of damages. "No one has got work and the Centre has not given funds under NAREGA. This has to be released," he said.



Ballia SP candidate booked for spreading hatred, threatening official

Ballia (UP), May 1 (IANS) : Samajwadi Party (SP) candidate from Ballia Lok Sabha seat, Sanatan Pandey, has been booked for allegedly spreading enmity, hatred and animosity among sections of the society and also threatening the District Election Officer, police said on Wednesday. Superintendent of Police Dev Ranjan Verma said that on the complaint of Sub Inspector Makhhan Singh in Ballia city, an FIR has been lodged against Pandey under Section 171 F of the IPC (exercising undue influence in elections).

Pakistan Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar appointed Deputy Prime Minister

Islamabad, May 1 (IANS) : In a major political development in Pakistan, Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar has been given the additional charge of Deputy Prime Minister in the Shehbaz Sharif-led coalition government, it was announced on Wednesday. "The Prime Minister has been pleased to designate Mohammad Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister of Foreign Affairs, as Deputy Prime Minister with immediate effect until further notice," said a notification issued by the Cabinet Division. The elevation of Dar, who is considered close to former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, is seen as the first strong influence of Nawaz Sharif in the federal government, which Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) refrains from taking ownership of and insists that it is a coalition government handed over to it forcibly. "We have seen voices from within the PML-N stating that they were forced to take over the federal government by the military establishment even though Nawaz Sharif was not in favour of the decision

because the party did not get a single majority to form the federal government," senior political analyst Javed Siddique said. "It is clear now that PML-N is focused on the Punjab province because Nawaz Sharif's daughter Maryam Nawaz is its Chief Minister. Nawaz Sharif wants to regain his stronghold and work towards promoting his daughter as a success story, while also maintaining a strong influence over the federal government through his trusted aides like Ishaq Dar," he added. Dar previously served as Federal Minister of Commerce and Investment during 1997-99 when Nawaz Sharif was the Prime Minister. He served twice as Federal Minister for



Finance, Economic Affairs and Statistics from 1997 to 1999 and during 2008. Dar has also served in a key position in the Punjab government as well, headed the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and was appointed as Minister of State/Chief Executive of the Pakistan Investment Board (PIB) from 1992 to 1993. He became the Federal Minister for Finance in 2008 but resigned after his PML-N parted ways with coalition partner, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), in the federal government.

Governance in Punjab paralysed, says Sukhbir Badal

Mansa (Punjab), May 1 (IANS) : Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) President Sukhbir Badal on Wednesday said like the case of Delhi, governance in Punjab had come to a standstill because Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was not signing any file for months now, resulting in complete paralysis in government work. He also promised that SAD was committed to establishing a medical college in Mansa once it came into power in the state while castigating the AAP government for promising to establish 16 medical colleges but not even starting work on one institution. Talking to the media here, Badal said while two lakh school students in Delhi had not got their school uniforms, books, and stationery because Arvind Kejriwal has not resigned as Chief Minister, even after being arrested in a corruption case, education and health services and even various projects had been affected in Punjab because Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was not signing important files since months.



Ujjwal Nikam praises Modi govt for 'ruthless' approach against terrorism, giving befitting reply to Pakistan

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) : A day after being nominated from the Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha seat, prominent lawyer Ujjwal Nikam said that he accepted the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) offer after being quite impressed with Narendra Modi government's ruthless approach and policy of zero tolerance against terrorism. Having handled several high-profile cases, including that of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks as a Special Public Prosecutor, Nikam believes that PM Modi has kept the national interest at the forefront over the last 10 years. "The government took a firm stand that terror and talks (with Pakistan) will not happen at the same time. The success achieved by PM Modi-led government in defeating the anti-national ele-

ments, including in the Kashmir Valley by empowering the army, is unique," said Nikam on Wednesday. "In the last 10 years, incidents of terror attacks and bomb blasts have been largely kept under check. However, if you recall the phase before that, Pakistan had created a sense of fear in the minds of Indians by carrying out terrorist attacks in the country, including Mumbai. The number of sleeper cells in the country was also increasing. The political system used to kneel before the separatists instead of taking a firm stand against Pakistan," Nikam, the man behind the execution of Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab involved in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, added. The prominent lawyer praised the current government for reacting strongly after the Pulwama and Uri terror attacks.

'Lovely experienced personal pain over last 2 to 3 months', says Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : After the resignation of Delhi Congress president Arvinder Singh Lovely, Congress leader Sandeep Dikshit expressed understanding for Lovely's "personal challenges", attributing them to recent developments within the grand old party. Dikshit also met Lovely at his residence in the national capital. Talking to reporters, he said that Lovely has experienced personal pain over the last two to three months due to developments in the party. "I haven't read the letter. His

pain is that we are struggling to bring back our old reputation in Delhi. Becoming the President of Congress is a crown of thorns," Dikshit said, emphasising the demanding nature of leadership within the party. "Despite this, he worked hard in the last 6-8 months and built the party, which is evident through INDI alliance rallies," he said. Sandeep Dikshit also emphasised the need for unity and consensus within the Congress, and said, "When we get two or three seats, it seems that if we give seats to people with the consent of all the

people of Congress, then the work will go better in the future." Earlier on Wednesday, in a huge setback to the Congress, its Delhi unit chief Arvinder Singh Lovely resigned from the party post. This comes amid the ongoing seven-phase Lok Sabha elections and Delhi is scheduled to go to polls on May 25. In a four-page letter to party president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday, Arvinder Singh Lovely expressed anguish over the functioning of the Congress. Expressing his unhappiness over the party's alliance with the Aam

Aadmi Party (AAP) in the national capital, he said, "The Delhi Congress unit was against an alliance with a party, which was formed on the sole basis of levelling false fabricated and mala fide corruption charges against the Congress party and in turn whose half the cabinet minister is currently in jail on corruption charges. Despite that, the party decided to ally with AAP in Delhi." Lovely also expressed his dissatisfaction over the selection of candidates for the Lok Sabha elections for Delhi seats.

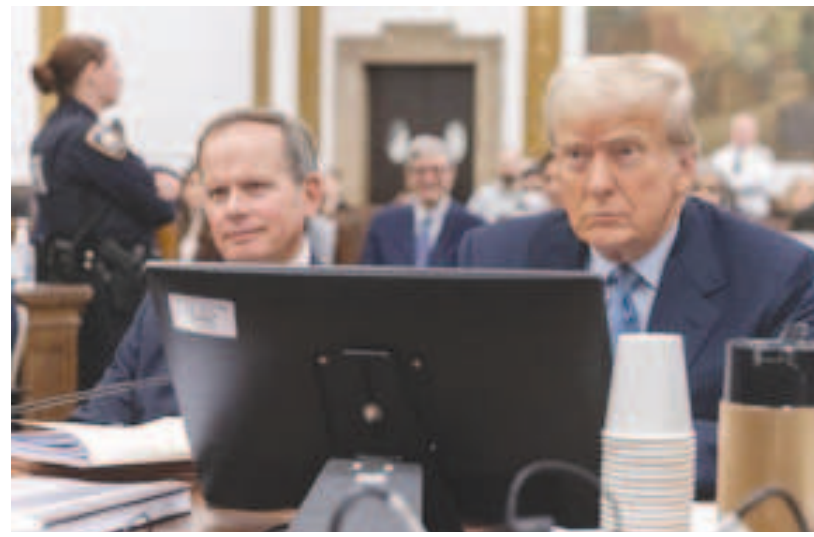


A conviction can cost Trump his vote, some Republican support: Analysis

Washington, May 1 (IANS) : A conviction for former President Donald Trump on any of the 91 criminal charges he is facing across four separate cases will not prevent him from running for the White House but it will cost him the support of a third of his own Republican party voters and Independents, according to polls, and deprive him of his own vote. Trump is currently on trial in Manhattan in a case of falsification of business records in

regard to hush-money he allegedly paid an adult porn star in 2016 for not going public with their affair. He is facing 34 charges in the case, each of which carries the punishment of four years in jail. But a conviction will not land him in prison immediately as he will be able to appeal it in the appellate court and eventually the Supreme Court. The other three cases have not gone on trial yet. A Reuters/Ipsos poll in February found that while the majority of Americans - 55 per cent - will not

vote for Trump if he is either convicted or is in jail, a third of Republicans - 32 per cent - said they won't, and 24 per cent said they were not sure yet of what they will do. A vast majority of Democrats - 90% - said they won't vote for him if he was convicted or jailed. Another poll by Ipsos, done with Politico magazine in Month, found that a third of Independent voters said they would be less likely to support Trump if he were to be convicted in the Justice Department's case against him for



trying to subvert the 2020 election through the January 6 insurrection and the Manhattan case of falsifying business records.

Independent voters are critical in determining the electoral outcomes in the handful of swing states that decide the presidential

election every cycle. The poll did not cover views about the two other cases, mishandling of classified documents and trying to overturn the 2020 vote count in Georgia. A conviction would not, however, stop him from running. The US Constitution only lays down three qualification rules for running for President: 35 years of age, a natural-born citizen, and a resident of the US for 14 years. There are no rules on criminals and felons, and although some states have barred felons from running, these rules do not apply to elections for federal offices.



UK PM Sunak again refuses to rule out July general election

London, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has again refused to rule out a July general election, amid speculation that a disastrous set of local election results for the Tories could force his hand. Sunak said he would not "say anything more than I've already said", which is that the national poll is likely to be in the second half of the year. Most Westminster analysts take this as meaning October or November, although it could technically also mean July. However, a drubbing in mayoral and council elections on May 2 could either lead to a challenge to his leadership or persuade him that an earlier polling day could be a better solution than limping on with a divided party. The defection of a Conservative ex-health minister to Labour could

further spook already restive Tory MPs and increase the pressure on the Prime Minister. Dan Poulter on Wednesday announced he was quitting the Tory Party, which he accused of no longer prioritising the overstretched NHS. Sunak was asked on Wednesday Morning with Trevor Phillips, recorded before Poulter's shock defection, whether the latter half of 2024 could mean July. The Prime Minister said: "I'm not going to say anything more than I've already said, I've been very clear about that." Pressed repeatedly whether he was ruling out July, he said: "I'm not going to do that." "You're going to try and draw whatever conclusion you want from what I say. I'm going to always try and say the same thing.

Russia claims to have shot down 17 Ukrainian drones

Kiev, May 1 (IANS) : Russian forces shot down 17 Ukrainian drones over its territory on Wednesday, the Russian Defence Ministry claimed as quoted by media reports. According to the Ministry, Russian air defence shot down two drones over the Belgorod region, three over Kursk region, three over Kaluga region, and nine over Bryansk region, The Kyiv Independent reported. Vladislav Shapsha, Governor of Kaluga region in Russia, claimed that three drones "fell

down" near an oil depot in the town of Lyudinovo. No casualties or damages were reported. Ukrainian officials did not comment on these claims, which cannot be verified independently. In recent weeks, Ukrainian forces have launched a series of drone strikes aimed at damaging Russia's oil industry, which is crucial to sustain Moscow's war efforts. One of the oil refineries was targeted in Kaluga region in mid-March in an attack reportedly carried out by Ukraine's military intelligence agency. In one of the latest strikes, the Security Service of Ukraine



(SBU) struck with drones two oil refineries and a military airfield in Russia's Krasnodar region on April 27, hitting "key technological objects," according to the Kyiv Independent's source in the security and defence forces. Strikes against Russian energy targets have prompted criticism from US officials, who have made it clear

that Washington does not support Ukraine's campaign against oil refineries, citing fears that it could threaten the global energy market. In response, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said that Kiev has the right to use its own weapons with retaliatory strikes on Russian oil refineries.



German Minister urges universities to weigh China ties after spy case

Berlin, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : Germany's Minister of Education and Research, Bettina Stark-Watzinger, has called on universities to scrutinise any joint projects with China in the light of recent arrests over spying allegations. "The arrest of three Germans for suspected espionage once again makes it abundantly clear that we must not be naive in our dealings with China," the liberal politician told German news magazine Wirtschaftswoche. "We need to weigh up the risks and benefits of cooperation even more carefully, especially in science and in universities. This includes reviewing existing cooperative relationships."

Hamas official says no agreement with Israel if war continues in Gaza

Gaza, May 1 (IANS) : A Hamas official has said that the group will not accept any agreement with Israel that does not include a cessation of hostilities in the Gaza Strip. Sami Abu Zuhri, a senior Hamas official, said in a statement on Wednesday that the group "will not accept any agreement that does not include a cessation of war in Gaza", Xinhua news agency reported. Abu Zuhri added that Israel's response, which reached the movement through mediators, is under study, and that it is too early to reach a decision regarding it. A Hamas delegation is scheduled to visit Cairo on Monday, to deliver the movement's response regarding a ceasefire in Gaza and to negotiate

a hostage-for-prisoner swap deal with Israel, according to a source from the movement. The source, who preferred not to mention his name, added that the delegation is headed by Khalil Al-Hayya, the Hamas deputy chief in Gaza. Earlier in the day, as reported by Israeli public radio, a senior Israeli official described the current development as "decisive moments in the efforts to reach a new hostage deal with Hamas."



Iraq passes legislation criminalising homosexuality

Baghdad, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : The Iraqi Parliament has passed a law criminalising same-sex relations and vowing tough penalties against them in a decision that rights advocates decried as discriminating against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. The legislature on Wednesday voted for an amendment to a 1988 anti-prostitution law, penalising homosexuality by 10 to 15 years in prison, and which bans promoting prostitution and same-sex relationships in "any way" in Iraq, making it punishable by at least seven years in jail. An initial draft proposed the death penalty for same-sex relations, the Iraqi independent portal Alsumaria News reported. The acting head of the Iraqi Parliament, Mohsen al-Mandalawi, defended the bill. "It is an essential step to protect the value structure of society and a supreme interest to protect our children against



calls of moral depravity and homosexuality," he said in a press statement. However, the legislation triggered an outcry and condemnations. "Absolutely horrific developments in law for Iraq today (Saturday) as it codifies discrimination against the LGBT community," said Raz Salayi, an Iraq researcher at the rights group Amnesty International. The US, an ally of Iraq, said it was "deeply concerned" about the Iraqi move. "This amendment threatens those most at risk in Iraqi society and weakens Iraq's ability to diversify its economy and attract foreign investment."

Japan's ruling LDP loses 3 lower house seats in by-elections

Tokyo, May 1 (IANS) : Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has lost all three lower house seats, as the country's main opposition party won big by sweeping victories in three key by-elections. The Constitutional Democratic Party (CDP) of Japan on Wednesday

emerged victorious in three crucial by-elections, including a closely watched race in Shimane Prefecture, traditionally considered a conservative stronghold, long dominated by the LDP, Xinhua news agency reported. The by-elections, the first elections since the LDP's slush fund scandal surfaced late last year, were held in Shimane and Nagasaki prefectures, as well as

one in Tokyo. The seats were previously held by the conservative LDP before they became vacant. Local analysts pointed out that the public's dissatisfaction with the ongoing scandal within the LDP was much underscored by the CDP's wins in the Shimane No. 1 district, the Nagasaki No. 3 district and the Tokyo No. 15 district.





Three murdered in separate incidents in Kerala

Thiruvananthapuram, May 1 (IANS) : Three people were killed in separate incidents in Kerala on Wednesday. Sreekanth (47) was found murdered in his autorickshaw. Elathur police told media persons that Sreekanth, according to neighbours, was seen drinking with the accused Nithin and another person on Saturday night. Sreekanth was found murdered in his auto early Sunday. Nithin has been taken into custody. A car belonging to Sreekanth was gutted a few days before. In another incident, a person Libin Jose (26) was stabbed to death at Pala in Kottayam district. Libin, hailing from Ernakulam, reached Pala along with his friends to attend a family function and during a drunken brawl, he was stabbed with scissors.



Haryana Chief Secretary calls for stricter measures against liquor smuggling ahead of LS polls

Gurugram, May 1 (IANS) : Haryana Chief Secretary, T.V.S.N. Prasad has called for more stringent measures to combat liquor smuggling ahead of the Lok Sabha polls scheduled on May 25 in the state in the sixth phase of general elections. He emphasised the critical role of intensified intelligence gathering at the micro-level by Police Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners.

After heavy rain, water level in rivers & streams rises in Kashmir

Srinagar, May 1 (IANS) : Incessant rain during the last 24 hours has swollen all rivers and streams in Kashmir as authorities advised people in low-lying areas to be vigilant. Authorities have asked all field staff associated with emergencies like floods and inundation to be present at their places of duty. J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo took a meeting on Thursday to review the preparedness of various departments dealing with emergencies arising out of the

situation. The weather office has forecast the same conditions to continue till April 30 after which the overall weather is likely to improve. A weather department advisory said, "On April 28 and 29, generally cloudy sky with light to moderate rain/snow (light snow over higher reaches) at most places with thunder/Lightning/Hail-storm/gusty winds at few places with the possibility of heavy rain over isolated places of Jammu & Kashmir is likely. On April 30, a generally cloudy sky and light rain with thunder in many places is ex-



pected." "Farmers are advised to suspend farm operations till 30th April. Temporary disruption of traffic over higher reaches of Zojila, Sinthan Pass, Mughal

Road, Razdan Pass, etc., is possible," said the MeT department. "Waterlogging in low-lying areas. Possibility of Landslides & shooting stones. Tempo-

rary increase in water level in Jehlum & tributaries and other local streams & nallahs is expected," the advisory said.



Walk for Kejriwal: AAP organises rally amidst Chief Minister's legal woes

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : In a show of solidarity with incarcerated Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), on Wednesday morning, organised a walkathon dubbed 'Walk for Kejriwal' in the national capital. The event aims to galvanise support for Kejriwal, who is facing the heat of ongoing legal battles, notably his recent arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with a money laundering case linked to the liquor policy. Minister and senior AAP

leader Saurabh Bharadwaj, while participating in the walkathon, emphasised the party's stance on corruption. "Today the youth wing of the party has organised a walkathon. We have installed a BJP washing machine here, if you put any corrupt leader in this machine, he will come out clean," Bharadwaj asserted, drawing attention to the party's anti-corruption narrative. "PM Narendra Modi is very nervous. The way he has changed his stance in his election rallies makes it clear that even he believes that the Opposition is coming to power," he said, reflecting on the political dynamics at play amidst

the ongoing Lok Sabha elections. Echoing Bharadwaj's sentiments, another AAP leader and Delhi Minister, Atishi, reiterated the resolve of the people to stand behind Kejriwal in these testing times. "Today through this walkathon, the people of Delhi have come to express their support for Kejriwal ji. BJP thought that if they put Arvind Kejriwal in jail, AAP will not be able to campaign for the elections. But the people of Delhi are campaigning for Arvind Kejriwal," Atishi said.

Snatched by BJP in 2019, NCP bastion Madha may play truant

Solapur (Maharashtra), May 1 (IANS) : The 15-year-old Madha Lok Sabha constituency in Solapur has been a (undivided) Nationalist Congress Party stronghold which was among the few in the country that overcame the first Bharatiya Janata Party wave in 2014. However, in the 2019 elections spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, even Madha crumbled under the BJP tsunami when its candidate Ranjeetsingh Naik-Nimbalkar sailed through, opening the party's account here. In 2024, there's again a question mark on the BJP's prospects here -- owing to several factors - though the party has given a ticket from Madha again to Naik-Nimbalkar -- a descendant of the erstwhile

royal family of the Phaltan Kingdom. For one, a young and strong BJP local leader, Dhairyasheel Mohite-Patil hopped over to the Nationalist Congress Party (SP) in the run-up to the 2024 general elections and was promptly rewarded with a Lok Sabha ticket for Madha. Another big jolt to BJP was when the ex-deputy chief minister Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil suddenly walked over for a 'ghar-wapasi' with his old party NCP (SP) and he warmly hugged his old senior friends Sharad Pawar and Sushilkumar Shinde, in mid-April 2024. Incidentally, it was in 2019 -- when Vijaysinh Mohite-Patil had quit the (undivided) NCP -- that the party (NCP-SP) had also forfeited Madha to the BJP in the second 'Modi wave'.



No ice, no toothpaste for burn injuries, say KGMU experts

Lucknow, May 1 (IANS) : Contrary to the common practice of rubbing ice or applying toothpaste, it is better to keep the affected burn area under flowing water until the pain stops. This is the best thing to do in case of burns, said experts at the ongoing medical education

event WOUNDCON 2024 hosted by the Society for Wound Care and Research at King George's Medical University (KGMU). According to the faculty member in KGMU's plastic surgery department, Prof Brijesh Mishra, rubbing ice and applying toothpaste or oil on a burn might seem like common remedies, but they

can actually do more harm than good. "Ice can freeze the skin and halt blood flow while toothpaste has hard stuff like calcium and peppermint that can worsen burns and oil traps heat, making burns harder to cool," explained Mishra, warning that these methods raise the infection risk.



BJP fields 26/11 counsel Ujjwal Nikam from Mumbai North Central; drops Poonam Mahajan

Mumbai, May 1 (IANS) : The BJP has denied renomination to its two-term sitting MP Poonam Mahajan from the Mumbai North Central Lok Sabha constituency and fielded prominent lawyer Ujjwal Nikam -- who served as the Special Public Prosecutor in several high-profile cases, including the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks -- from the seat. With Nikam's nomination, the suspense is finally over the BJP's candidature for the high-profile seat.

Mehbooba Mufti tells voters she believes in uniting, not dividing people

Jammu, May 1 (IANS) : Former Jammu & Kashmir chief minister, and Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President, Mehbooba Mufti, sought votes from people of Poonch and Rajouri districts on Wednesday, saying that she stands for uniting and not dividing people of the two regions of the union territory. Mufti is contesting Lok Sabha elections from the Anantnag-

Rajouri seat and the two districts of Jammu division -- Poonch and Rajouri -- are part of this constituency in addition to Anantnag and Kulgam districts of the Valley. She is mainly challenged by Mian Altaf Ahmad of the National Conference (NC), which is a part of the INDIA bloc, and Zafar Iqbal Manhas of the J&K Apni Party. BJP is not contesting in Anantnag-Rajouri seat.

The constituency goes to the polls on May 7. She is on a weeklong poll campaign programme in Poonch and Rajouri districts these days. She moved to Poonch town on Saturday after addressing people in the Mendhar and Surankote areas of the district. She reached here on April 25 by travelling through the Mughal Road that connects the Valley with



the Jammu division as an alternative road link. She told a public meeting, "Irrespective of religion and region, we have to move together and raise a united voice to seek redressal of our issues." "I am thankful for the warm welcome given to me by the local people including Paharis, Gujjars and Hindus living here. "I stand to unite people and not to divide them.

Two Ukrainians killed in Germany were servicemen, says Kyiv

Moscow/Munich, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : Two Ukrainian men who were stabbed to death in the southern German state of Bavaria, allegedly by a Russian citizen, were members of the armed forces, according to information from Kyiv. The two men had been in Germany for medical rehabilitation after sustaining injuries during the war, Ukrainian media reported. Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba had instructed his diplomats to keep a special eye on the case and maintain constant contact with Germany's security agencies so that the suspect would be punished according to the full severity of the law, the reports said on Sunday

evening. Two men from Ukraine were stabbed to death on the premises of a shopping centre in Murnau in Upper Bavaria on Saturday evening. Shortly afterwards, police arrested a 57-year-old Russian. Kuleba thanked the German authorities for the arrest, the online portal Ukrainska Pravda reported. According to police reports on Monday, there are no indications so far that the crime is connected to the Russian war against Ukraine, which Russian President Vladimir Putin launched on February 24, 2022.



14 killed in bus crash while on pilgrimage in Mexico

Mexico City, May 1 (IANS) : At least 14 people died and 31 were injured when the bus they were travelling in while on pilgrimage overturned near Malinalco in central Mexico. The accident occurred on Wednesday morning on the Capulin-Chalma highway and state police have attended to it, the local Mexican security secretariat said in a statement. Medical units also rushed to the scene to transport the injured to hospitals. How the driver had come to lose control remained unclear. According to media reports, the pilgrims from Guanajuato state were travelling to Chalma, the site of a Christian sanctuary to the south-west of Mexico City. The sanctuary is one of the most important destinations for pilgrims in Mexico.



US : 4 killed after tornadoes hit Oklahoma

Houston, May 1 (IANS) : At least four people have been killed since Wednesday night when multiple large tornadoes began to hit Oklahoma in the US, Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt has said at a news conference. In the hardest-hit town of Sulphur in Murray County in south Oklahoma, a person was killed and some 30 others injured in the wake of at least two large tornadoes, which flattened a number of homes and buildings, Xinhua

news agency quoted Stitt as saying on Wednesday. A flood warning was also issued for the city, according to the National Weather Service. "It seems like every business downtown has been destroyed now here in Sulphur," Stitt said. "It's definitely the most damage since I've been governor that I've seen." Two others, including an infant, died in the Holdenville city, where at least 14 homes were damaged or destroyed. The fourth died near

an interstate road, local media reported. Nearly 47 million people are at risk for severe weather on Sunday when storms continue threatening more twisters, heavy rain and large hail from Missouri to Texas, said the reports. "In addition to the severe weather, intense rainfall rates are expected to accompany these thunderstorms at times, leading to a moderate to locally high potential of flash flooding," the National Weather Service said.

Zelensky decries Russian attacks on gas infrastructure

Kyiv, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has decried Russian attacks on the country's gas transit system. Zelensky said in his evening video message broadcast in Kyiv on Wednesday that the infrastructure through which gas is channelled through Ukraine to the European Union has been attacked. Despite the Russian invasion, which has been going on for more than two years, Russian

gas continues to flow through the country - albeit in much smaller quantities. The state-owned gas company Naftogaz had also previously complained of Russian attacks on the pipeline network, without giving details. The company recently announced that it would no longer be transporting Russian gas to the West from 2025 onwards - the current contracts with the Russian state-owned company Gazprom expire at the end of the year.

The main recipients are countries without access to the sea that are unable to switch to liquefied natural gas (LNG). Russia once again hit Ukraine with missile attacks in the early hours of Saturday, targeting energy facilities in particular. Four thermal power plants were damaged, according to the energy company DTEK. Following the air strikes, Zelensky once again called on the West to provide more air defence support. In his video address, he explained

that Russia had expanded the radius with its massive attacks, which was now making the work of Ukrainian air defence even more difficult. Ukraine needs more US Patriot air defence systems. Workers in Ukraine are in the process of repairing the damage caused by the new Russian attacks, said Zelensky. Moscow had previously excused the massive new shelling of energy facilities in Ukraine by saying that Kyiv was also attacking Russian infrastructure with drones.



Bangladesh faces longest-ever heatwave

Dhaka, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : The authorities in Bangladesh have issued another heatwave alert for three more days from Wednesday as the South Asian country is facing its longest heatwave in 75 years. Bangladesh reported the season's highest temperature at 42.7 degrees Celsius on Friday in the south-western district of Chuadanga. Dhaka's maximum temperature was 38.2 degrees that day, according to Meteorological data. The blistering heat has forced the government to shut schools for a week, with hospitals preparing to receive higher numbers of patients with heat-related ailments. The heatwave reached a 29th day on Sunday, the longest since the government started keeping records in 1948, said meteorologist Shaheenu Islam. The previously record hot spell of 23 days was recorded in 2019, according to data tracked by Bangladesh's Meteorological Department. "The hot spell is impacting more than 50 out of 64 administrative districts," said Khandaker Hafizur Rahman, another meteorologist. Rahman said hot weather is likely to continue until the first week of May. Physician Mohammad Niatuzzaman, head of state-run Mughdah Hospital in Dhaka.



German military officer charged with spying for Russia goes on trial

Dusseldorf, May 1 (IANS/DPA) : A German military officer charged with espionage for allegedly providing information to a Russian intelligence service goes on trial on Wednesday. The defendant, who holds the rank of Captain, had worked at the Federal Office of Bundeswehr Equipment, Information Technology and In-Service Support (BAAINBw). The Koblenz-based institution is responsible for equipping the Bundeswehr, Germany's armed forces, with equipment and weapons, as well as developing, testing and procuring defence technology. Since May 2023, the man is said to have offered to cooperate with the Russian consulate general in Bonn and the Russian embassy in Berlin on several occasions and on his own initiatives. Prosecutors say that the defendant, who is identified only as Thomas H due to Germany's strict privacy laws, handed over information with the intent it be used by Russian intelligence. There are no indications that he received money in return. Details about what information he may have passed along have not been revealed. Germany has been one of Ukraine's biggest military supporters in the face of Russia's ongoing invasion.

French FM urges Hezbollah, Israel to avoid escalation

Beirut, May 1 (IANS) : French Foreign Minister Stephane Sejourne has called on Lebanon's Hezbollah and Israel to avoid escalation, reaffirming France's ongoing efforts to prevent the expansion of conflict between the two sides. "We reject the worst scenario in southern Lebanon, and it is in no one's interest for the conflict between Hezbollah and Israel to expand," Sejourne was quoted by Lebanese TV channel Al-Jadeed as saying on Sunday.

Sejourne made the remarks after his meeting in Beirut with senior Lebanese officials, during which they discussed solutions to the ongoing conflict between Hezbollah and Israel, Xinhua news agency reported. "We have presented proposals to all partners, considered Lebanon's response, and will wait for Israel's response on Wednesday. An agreement must be reached in the end," he said. Sejourne emphasized France's commitment to safeguarding Lebanon, stressing



the importance of restoring stability in southern Lebanon by sending the Lebanese army to the area. He said that Paris would continue to support the Lebanese army, pointing out the "decisive role" of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) in "avoiding the worst scenario," and urging all parties to allow UNIFIL to carry out its tasks.

WCK announces resumption of relief work in Gaza

Gaza, May 1 (IANS) : The World Central Kitchen (WCK), a US-based charity, has announced the resumption of its relief work in the Gaza Strip after a nearly month-long suspension in response to the killing of its seven staff members in an Israeli airstrike. The WCK said in a press statement on Wednesday that despite the dire humanitarian situation in Gaza, it is "resuming its operations with the same energy, dignity, and focus on feeding as many people as possible". It added, "We have so far distributed more than 43 mil-

lion meals, and we are eager to provide millions more." The organization stressed the importance of delivering food aid to northern Gaza, noting that its 276 trucks carrying the equivalent of approximately 8 million meals are ready to enter Gaza through the Rafah border crossing, Xinhua news agency reported. It added that it is also exploring the maritime corridor, in addition to establishing 68 community kitchens, say-



ing, "We are building a third high-production kitchen in (the southern Gazan town of) Al-Mawasi, along with two others in Rafah (in the south) and Deir al-Balah (in central Gaza)." The charity suspended its humanitarian aid operations in Gaza on April 2 after seven of its staff members were killed in an Israeli strike targeting an aid convoy in Deir al-Balah.



**'We reached the summit':
Djokovic splits with
long-time fitness coach Panichi**

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Novak Djokovic has announced that he has split with fitness coach Marco Panichi, marking the latest change to his support team following a split with former coach Goran Ivanisevic in March. For the past seven years, the 36-year-old has been collaborating with Panichi, but now they're set to embark on a new path. In a social media post, the Serb thanked Panichi for his services. "Grande Marco, what amazing years of collaboration we've had. We reached the summit, won titles, broken records. But most of all.

T20 WC: 'Stats rule over cricketing sense', Rayudu disappointed by Rinku's exclusion from main squad

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Former Indian cricketer Ambati Rayudu has voiced his discontent over Rinku Singh's exclusion from India's T20 World Cup 2024 squad, as the batter has been listed among the reserves instead. Rayudu claimed that apart from Ravindra Jadeja, India didn't have a reliable finisher and that Rinku had to be a part of the squad. In a social media post, the 38-year-old questioned

whether any of the chosen players have consistently showcased the capacity to bat aggressively with a notable strike rate during the pivotal 16th and 17th overs in T20 cricket throughout the last two years. "Rinku Singh's omission clearly indicates stats rule over cricketing sense.. who in this selected Indian has been walking out in the 16th and 17th over in a T20 game in the last 2 years.



Wasim Akram to train Sri Lankan bowlers for T20 World Cup

Colombo, May 1 (IANS) : Ahead of ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Sri Lankan bowlers are to be trained by Pakistan cricket legend Wasim Akram. The former seamer arrived in Sri Lanka on Wednesday to conduct a two-day training program for national players, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) announced.

During his coaching session, starting from Thursday, Akram will also train SLC High Performance Coaches (HPC) and the coaches of the major clubs. "In total, Akram will conduct five sessions, covering the SLC pace academy, HPC, and major club coaches. He will also observe Sri Lanka's

national players' preparation for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup," the SLC stated. The board noted that this program will mark Sri Lanka Cricket's initiative to bring in the required expertise to enhance the coaching strength of the SLC High Performance Center and the Major Club system in the country.



India working hard to secure recurve team quota for Paris 2024: Dhiraj Bommadevara

New Delhi, May 1 (IANS) : Dhiraj Bommadevara, the only Indian recurve archer to have grabbed a quota place at the Paris 2024 Olympics so far, believes India has strong prospects for medals in Paris. He also mentioned that the archers consistently strive to secure the team quota. Bommadevara was part of a troika that scripted history at the Archery World Cup Stage 1 earlier this week in Shanghai, winning gold medal in the

World Cup after 14 years. He won a second World Cup medal when he teamed up with Ankita Bhakat to win the bronze in the mixed team event, beating Mexico in straight sets. "Chances are pretty high. We are trying hard to convert the individual quota into a team quota, so we are working consistently towards it, planning for it and taking part in as many tournaments as possible. Our first priority is to get the team quota. We will go to Paris 2024 with a simple mindset just to give our best. The

rest is not in our hands. No expectation on results. We have to be prepared for everything and perform accordingly," Bommadevara, who won a team silver at the Hangzhou Asian Games, told SAI Media.

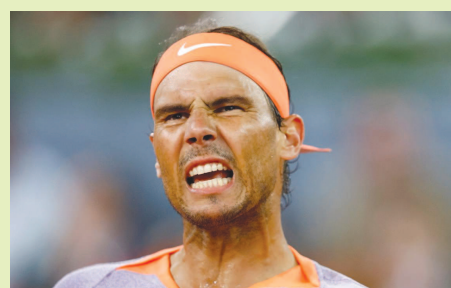
ISL: Chennaiyin FC extend contract of goalkeeper Samik Mitra until 2027

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. "It's important that such talented

players stay at the club, and I believe that he can continue to grow with the team," commented head coach Owen Coyle on the extension. Mitra made four appearances for the club in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2023-24 season.



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 Madrid said goodbye to its greatest champion.

Four Indian boxers march into semis at Asian U-22 & Youth Championships

Astana (Kazakhstan), May 1 (IANS) : Indian boxers Aryan, Yashwardhan Singh, Priyanshu and Sahil marched into semifinals with confident wins at the Asian U-22 & Youth Boxing Championships 2024, here on Wednesday. Aryan gave India a perfect start with a 5-0 unanimous decision win against Uzbekistan's Juraev Shkarboy in the 51kg category. His win was followed by Yashwardhan (63.5kg), who made a remarkable comeback after going down in the first round to grab a 4-1 victory over Iran's Mirahmadi Babaheidari.

Priyanshu (71kg) and Sahil (80kg), on the other hand, didn't break sweat as they wrapped the bout with referee stop the contest (RSC) decision against Chinese Taipei's Wu Yu En and Turkmenistan's Yklymov Abdyrahma respectively. Meanwhile, Jatin ended his campaign in the 57kg category with a 1-4 loss against Uzbekistan's A Nodirbek. The youth semi-finals will be played on Friday. Aryan (92kg), Nisha (52kg), Akansha Phalasal (70kg) and Rudrika (75kg) will be in action later today in their respective youth quarter-finals bouts.



'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".

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. Raaja said that Natarajan not finding a place in the Indian team was unfortunate.

