

Medak town records heaviest rains in last 24 hours in Telangana

Medak: Medak town has witnessed heaviest rainfall in the State during the past 24 hours at 8.30 am on Thursday.The Medak RDO office recorded 11.9 cm rainfall while Masaipet located close to the town recorded 11.2 cm rainfall. Kulcharam, Veldurthy, Chegunta, Toopran, Manoharabad, Nizampet and other mandals also recorded heavy rains.Medak town and Masaipet were only two places to record more than 10 cm rainfall across the State.Meanwhile, Sangareddy and Siddipet districts also witnessed moderate rains during the period. The farmers, who brought harvested paddy to procurement centres, have found it difficult to save the produce. In many places paddy grains swept away with the rainwater.

Telangana Govt transfers 30 Additional SP-rank officers, issues fresh postings across state

Hyderabad: The State government on Thursday transferred 30 officers of Additional Superintendent of Police (Non Cadre) and gave them new postings. A few officers with their postings are B Kishan (Addl SP – Operations and Crimes Warangal), A Naresh Kumar (Addl SP – Admin, Bhupapally), S Jayaram (Addl SP – TGICCC), Golla Ramesh (Addl SP Nalgonda Admin), A Laxmi (Addl DCP Traffic, L. B Nagar), V Raghu (Addl SP, Intelligence), T Govardhan (Addl DCP L&O, Warangal), K Poornachandrar (Addl DCP, Shamshabad), M Sudershan (Addl DCP CCS Hyderabad) and N Shyam Prasad Rao (Addl SP CID).

PM Modi’s message to Pakistan in Rajasthan’s Bikaner: ‘Sindoor turned into barood’

GNS News Agency, May 22
In this screengrab from a video released by PMO on May 22, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during the inauguration and foundation stone laying of various development projects, in Bikaner district, Rajasthan. In this screengrab from a video released by PMO on May 22, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during the inauguration and foundation stone laying of various development projects, in Bikaner district, Rajasthan. | Photo Credit: PMO via PTIPrime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday (May 22, 2025) asserted that the country's enemies have learnt what happens when 'sindoor' becomes gunpowder, and lauded India's armed forces for creating

such a trap that Pakistan was forced to go down on its knees.In his first public address in Rajasthan after Operation Sindoor that was launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, the Prime Minister slammed Pakistan, and said in response to the attack, "we destroyed nine biggest terror hideouts in 22 minutes".PM Modi: Enemies saw what happens when sindoor turns into gunpowder | Video Credit: The Hindu"The world and the enemies of the country have seen what happens when 'sindoor' turns into 'barood' [gunpowder]," he said at the public meeting in Palana here, adding, "Those out to wipe out 'sindoor' were reduced to dust". "Not blood but sindoor runs

in my veins," the Prime Minister said amid applause from the audience.In a strong message to Pakistan, Mr. Modi said that if India faces a terrorist attack, a strong retaliation will follow.The Prime Minister also asserted that there will be no talks with Pakistan."There will be neither trade nor talks with Pakistan; if talks, then only about Pakistan occupied Kashmir," he said.India carried out precision strikes under Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.



Supreme Court reserves interim orders in waqf case

GNS News Agency, May 22
The Supreme Court on Thursday (May 22, 2025) reserved its interim orders on three issues, including the power to denotify properties declared as "waqf by courts, waqf-by-user or waqf by deed" after hearing a clutch of pleas challenging the validity of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.Follow the highlights on Waqf (Amendment) Act hearing on May 22, 2025

Before reserving the interim orders, a Bench comprising Chief Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih heard senior advocates Kapil Sibal, Rajeev Dhavan and Abhishek Singhvi on behalf of those opposed to the amended waqf law and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, representing the Centre, for about three consecutive days.

The Centre strongly defended the Act, saying waqf by its very nature is a "secular concept" and can't be stayed given the "presumption of constitutionality" in its favour.Mr. Sibal, leading the petitioners, described the law as a "complete departure from historical legal and constitutional principles" and a means to "capture waqf through a non-judicial process". "This is a case about the systematic capture of waqf properties. The government cannot dictate what issues can be raised," Mr. Sibal said.The petitioners at the present stage sought interim orders on three key issues.

One of the issues related to the power to denotify properties declared as waqf by courts, waqf-by-user or waqf by deed.The second issue was over the composition of State waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council, where they contend only Muslims should operate except ex-officio members whereas the last one is over the provision stipulating a waqf property won't be treated as a waqf when the collector conducts an inquiry to ascertain if the property is government land.On April 25, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs filed a preliminary 1,332-page affidavit defending the amended Waqf Act of 2025 and opposed any "blanket stay" by the court on a "law having presumption of constitutionality passed by Parliament".The Centre notified the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 last month after it got President Droupadi Murmu's assent on April 5.The bill was cleared by Lok Sabha with the support of 288 members while 232 MPs were against it. The Rajya Sabha saw 128 members voting in its favour and 95 against it.

Modi virtually inaugurates redeveloped all-women-operated Begumpet railway station alongside Karimnagar, Warangal stations

GNS News Agency, May 22
Hyderabad: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has virtually inaugurated the redeveloped Begumpet railway station which is an all-women-operated railway station on Thursday. Along with it, the Karimnagar and Warangal railway stations in Telangana were also opened to the public. The Begumpet railway station has been redeveloped into a modern transit hub, reflecting the rich heritage of Telangana under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 26.55 crore.Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G Kishan Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Minister of Roads and Buildings, Telangana, South Central Railway (SCR) General Manager Arun Kumar Jain and others were present.According to the South Central Railway (SCR) officials, the facelift includes a host of passenger-friendly features such as escalators, lifts, spacious waiting halls, modern toilets, and dedicated facilities for differently-abled commuters. Moreover, Telangana's state bird, the Indian Roller (Pala Pitta), has been installed as a symbolic centrepiece. SCR officials said the station now boasts illuminated lighting, landscaped greenery, water features, and marked signage which have been designed to enhance the overall commuting experience.

1

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DEPARTMENT OF TELANGANA

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web: <https://endowments.ts.nic.in> | web: <https://saraswatipushkaralu.com>

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Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Collector launches Yoga Andhra-2025 drive

Nandyal: Collector G Rajakumari explained the importance of integrating yoga into daily life for physical and mental well-being. She urged officials and the public to actively take part in the state-led Yoga Andhra-2025 campaign. Launching the 11th International Day of Yoga celebrations at Nandyal Indoor Stadium on Wednesday, she lit the ceremonial lamp and inaugurated the month-long campaign. The Collector stated that daily yoga practice promotes physical fitness, mental peace, and emotional balance, helping reduce stress and anxiety. She recalled that International Yoga Day, now celebrated in over 170 countries, began after the Prime Minister's 2014 proposal at the UN. Under the Chief Minister's guidance, Yoga Andhra-2025 will run from May 21 to June 21. Trained yoga practitioners will serve as resource persons at all administrative levels, conducting awareness and training sessions from May 28. She announced that the Prime Minister will attend the International Yoga Day event on June 21 in Visakhapatnam, expected to draw five lakh participants. The district administration is celebrating the campaign's launch with grandeur, involving departments like AYUSH, Health, Panchayati Raj, and Municipal Administration. Officials have been directed to extend full support. Yoga enthusiasts are encouraged to train under certified instructors. DRDA and MEPMA officials have been asked to register participants on the official website. At the municipal level, two trainers will be allotted per ward or group of wards. Plans include mass yoga sessions with at least 1,000 participants at 24 tourism sites and temples. Special focus will be on involving women from self-help groups and MEPMA. Joint Collector C Vishnu Charan noted that yoga is a lifestyle and praised public involvement in the initiative.

KTR lends helping hand to bedridden NRI in Saudi Arabia, assists him in reaching home in Sircilla



GNS News Agency, May 22

Dubai: Manda Mahesh, a 35-year-old Telangana NRI, who was bedridden, flew back home on Thursday with the help of BRS working president KT Rama Rao.

Mahesh, who was bedridden after a road mishap in Saudi Arabia, was desperate to return home and his family approached Rama Rao during his visit to their village in Mandepalli in Rajanna Sircilla district earlier this month. Rama Rao, who promised full support to the family, had contacted Indian officials and his acquaintances in Saudi Arabia, who swung into action and helped Mahesh.

Mahesh, who had migrated to the Gulf to support his wife and two young children, was travelling in a company-provided bus to his workplace when an accident occurred near Jubail. The accident claimed nine lives, with Mahesh and another individual surviving but sustaining serious injuries to his spine and both legs. He was undergoing treatment at the Jubail General Government Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, his family reached out for help and Rama Rao responded, saying: "You are not alone. I will stand by you in this crisis." With trembling hands and a choked voice, prior to boarding from Dammam, Mahesh expressed his deep gratitude to Rama Rao for standing with him during the most difficult of times of his life. The repatriation of Mahesh was a herculean effort as he was undergoing treatment and unable to even sit properly. In between, Rama Rao kept track of his health condition and the repatriation process as well. He ensured full support to Mahesh and his wife Lakshmi, and children Nitya Sri and Harshavardhan, until he reached Hyderabad airport and subsequently a leading private hospital in Hyderabad upon arrival on Thursday. Touched by the plight of the family, the Telugu NRI community in Saudi Arabia also volunteered its support to the family.

Participated in the opening of Blue Ocean office in Sriram Nagar..



“Senior Congress party leaders Sheikh Chand Pasha” Kondapur May 22 | Chronicle Senior Congress party leaders Sheikh Chand Pasha and Blue Ocean CEO Mohammed Moineuddin participated as the chief guests in the opening of Blue Ocean office in Sriram Nagar, Kondapur division. Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Chand Pasha said that it is a great pleasure for Blue Ocean to set up an office in the colony to provide new services like passport/visa, online flight tickets, train tickets, bus tickets and others. Without going around the offices, one can directly go to them and apply for visa as well as use other services. Tirupati Yadav, Trilok Ram, Srinivas Chaudhary, Ganesh and others participated in the program.

Rapido Now Covers All of Telangana with 11-City Mobility Expansion



Hyderabad: Rapido, India's leading ride-hailing platform, has achieved full operational coverage across Telangana with the launch of its Bike Taxi and Auto services in 11 new cities. With this strategic expansion into Siddipet, Mahbubnagar, Sangareddy, Ramagundam, Nizamabad, Nalgonda, Bhuvanagiri, Kothagudem, Suryapet, Adilabad, and Kamareddy, Rapido now offers its app-based mobility solutions in every district of the state. This milestone strengthens its position as Telangana's go-to platform for convenient, affordable, and accessible first and last-mile travel. The move is also aligned with Rapido's larger goal of reaching 500 cities across India, underscoring its commitment to transforming local transportation. As one of India's largest contributors to the gig economy, Rapido has already

created over 9 million jobs nationwide. Through this expansion, the company is aiming to generate 1 lakh new job opportunities and empower residents with economic independence and flexible earning potential. Rapido currently facilitates close to 4 million rides daily, solidifying its position as the country's leading ride-hailing platform.

With this launch, residents can now rely on the Rapido app to book quick, affordable, and convenient rides—whether commuting to work, accessing nearby public transit hubs, or running errands across town.

“We're thrilled to introduce Rapido's services in Telangana, making dependable transportation more accessible and improving the way people move around the city. Beyond mobility, this launch is also about creating livelihood opportunities for hundreds of local youth who can now earn by joining Rapido as captains. We believe that by connecting riders with local captains, we are enhancing transportation options as well as strengthening the local economy,” said Pavan Guntupalli, Co-founder, Rapido. Beyond mobility, this expansion will also unlock micro-entrepreneurship opportunities. Rapido aims to onboard thousands of new captains, creating income streams and contributing to community-level economic development. Rapido is committed to closely working with local authorities and stakeholders to ensure seamless service integration and deliver a safe, compliant, and customer-friendly commuting experience.

Vice-Chancellor Visits EAPCET-2025 Examination Centres

“(May 22, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator) “Sri Venkateswara University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ch. Appa Rao, on Thursday visited the EAPCET-2025 examination centres at Sri Rama Engineering College and Sri Venkateswara College of Engineering, Karakambadi. “The Andhra Pradesh Engineering, Agriculture, and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (AP EAPCET) is conducted by Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Kakinada (JNTUK), on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE). “During his visit, Prof. Appa Rao inspected the arrangements and monitored the smooth conduct of examinations at both centres. He appreciated the efforts of the staff and coordinators for ensuring a fair and efficient examination process. “The Vice-



Chancellor reaffirmed the university's commitment to supporting the successful and transparent administration of entrance exams crucial for students' academic futures.

From Vedas to the World: SVU Highlights Global Relevance of Yoga“

“(May 22, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator) “Sri Venkateswara University today marked its commitment to promoting holistic wellness through yoga by hosting a special event at the Senate Hall as part of the Government of Andhra Pradesh's Yogandhra-2025 campaign. “Prof. Ch. Appa Rao, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Sri Venkateswara University, addressed the gathering, underscoring yoga's ancient roots in the Vedas and Upanishads and its enduring significance for physical, mental, and emotional well-being. He praised the efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, whose leadership led to the United Nations declaring June 21 as the International Day of Yoga in 2014. Prof. Appa Rao highlighted that over 192 countries participated in the inaugural Yoga Day in 2015, illustrating yoga's powerful role as a global unifier. “Registrar Prof. M. Bhupathi Naidu reaffirmed the university's proactive role in the Yogandhra-2025 initiative, encouraging faculty, staff, and students to embrace yoga as a daily practice for enhanced health and stress management. “The programme featured insightful talks by Prof. T. Damodaram, NSS Coordinator; Prof. N. Chendrayudu, Dean, CDC; Dr. Harikrishna Yadav, Assistant NSS Coordinator; Dr. P. Vivek, Cultural Coordinator; and Dr. Neeraja, Yoga Expert. Experienced yoga instructors Sri Dhananjay and Sri Amarnath demonstrated foundational yoga practices and shared their expertise with attendees. “Organized by the NSS Cell and the Cultural Wing, the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from non-teaching staff reflecting Sri Venkateswara University's unified commitment to this transformative public health initiative.



Upholding Academic Excellence in Schools is Imperative“—



DEO Madhavi Participates in Summer In-Service Teacher Training “The third day of the Summer In-Service Training Programme, organized by the Telangana School Education Department, concluded successfully, witnessing active participation from educators. The sessions focused on pedagogical strategies in Telugu and Mathematics, and provided in-depth orientation on the implementation of the NSLN (Nipuna Sanchalana Lakshya Nirdehaka) initiative. Eminent resource persons facilitated the training, offering insights into innovative teaching-learning processes. “As part of the programme, District Educational Officer (DEO) Smt. Madhavi visited the training venue. She meticulously observed the sessions and assessed the extent to which the teachers were comprehending and engaging with the key concepts presented. “In her address, DEO Madhavi underscored the importance of such training programmes in enhancing the quality of instruction in schools. She encouraged teachers to make the most of these opportunities and strive to uphold high academic standards. She also appealed to the teaching community to take proactive measures to increase student enrollments in government schools. “Highlighting a significant development, she announced that the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based learning project, introduced as a pilot initiative in the previous academic year, would be scaled across all schools starting this academic year. She urged teachers to be fully

equipped to embrace this technological transformation in classroom teaching. “DEO Madhavi further pointed out that students from government schools have been consistently outperforming their peers and securing higher eligibility in residential Gurukula institutions. She expressed satisfaction after inspecting the arrangements and the effective delivery of training modules at the centre. “Following her remarks, Educational Officer Smt. Lakshmi addressed the participants, encouraging teachers to integrate technology into pedagogy to enrich the learning experience. “Distinguished resource persons who contributed to the sessions included Erram Ramesh, Eerla Ramesh, Bahut Kishore, Maddi Ramu, Loke Raj, Pawan, Boge Chandrasekhar, Kota Lakshman, and N. Naramalla Lakshman. Cluster Resource Persons (CRPs) Mallanna, Supraja, Radhika, and Swapna also actively participated in facilitating the training.

Training classes for surveyors from 26: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil“

“Ranjith naik Bhukya, Bhadrachalam, May 22 (Indian Chronicle) : “Training classes will be held from June 26th to July 26th for those selected as license surveyors to conduct land surveys for the registration process under the Land Act, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil said. District Collector Jitesh V. Patil inspected the arrangements being made for the training of license surveyors at Kothagudem Mining College on Thursday. On this occasion, he inspected the classrooms and drawing rooms in the college. Speaking on this occasion, the collector said that training will be given to 426 candidates in 50 working days. As part of this training, field training will be conducted for the candidates at 9 am, and theory and practicals will be conducted from 10 am to 5 pm.

He instructed the officials to arrange all the necessary equipment, such as projectors, boards, etc., for the training. Since the role of surveyors is crucial in the implementation of the Land Act, candidates should be given a com-

Airtel Payments Bank delivers another strong performance, posting revenue of 2,709 crores

Net profit up by 81.4%, while customer balances grow to 3,659 crores



Hyderabad: Airtel Payments Bank today announced its results for the financial year ended March 31, 2025. For the full year, revenue stood at ₹ 2,709 crores, a growth of 47.5% year-on-year. The net profit rose to ₹ 63 crores, up by 81.4%, while EBITDA increased by 64% YoY to ₹ 299 crores. Customer balances reached ₹ 3,659 crore, up by 30.6% and the Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) stood at ₹ 3,808 billion. Airtel Payments Bank is today the third-largest mobile bank in the country by user base.

For the fourth quarter ended FY25 revenues were at ₹ 726 crore, a 34.7% increase over the same period last year, while profit stood at ₹ 26 crores, an increase of 138% YoY. Over the past four years, the bank has delivered a strong 44% CAGR in revenues. Anubrata Biswas, MD and CEO, Airtel Payments Bank, said, "Our strong growth this year reflects the unwavering trust of our customers, and diversified scale of our businesses. The rapid adoption of our Safe Second Account offering reflects the growing need for a secure alternate bank account for digital payments. Today we are processing one in two domestic remittances and one in every five Aadhaar-enabled payments in the country. As we continue to scale, our commitment remains on empowering every Indian with simple and seamless banking solutions to bridge the digital divide."

With growing adoption of its safe second account, the bank has become a preferred choice for reliable daily digital payments. In tier-3 and beyond areas, the bank has 5,00,000 active banking points, majority of which are operated by women banking correspondents. It also sees strong demand for its RuPay NCMC On-The-Go cards, with over 2.5 million users. In the B2B space, it is seeing strong growth in omnichannel digital payments with top aggregators and enables seamless transit payments across five major metro networks, including the DMRC. Airtel Payments Bank serves Urban Digital, Underbanked, and Institutional segments with end-to-end digital banking. It processes nearly 12 billion transactions annually and extends services to three in four villages, digitizing over ₹ 8,000 crore of cash monthly with 6,200+ corporate partners.

The construction of culverts along roads should be carried out, according to District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.



“Ranjith naik Bhukya, Bhadrachalam, May 22 (Indian Chronicle) : “District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has instructed officials to commence the construction of culverts along roads throughout the district. On Thursday, he held a review meeting via teleconference with relevant officials to discuss the necessary steps for building these culverts as part of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagi Dari program. During the meeting, the collector highlighted the numerous benefits of having culverts along every road.

He explained that rainwater seeps into the ground, which helps to raise the groundwater level, thereby addressing water scarcity and preventing water accumulation on roads that can cause damage. “He stated that photos of each constructed hole should be uploaded to the Jal Sanjay Jan Bhagidari portal. The collector expressed optimism that the district would secure second place in the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari program nationwide and emphasized the necessity for large-scale construction of the holes to achieve first place.



plete understanding of the Land Act in the training classes. “The Collector was accompanied by AD Srinivas, Deputy Inspector D. Srinivas, Mining College staff of the joint Khammam District, and others.

Justice Demanded for RTC Contract Bus Drivers“– Kethiri Mahesh, Akula Kiran.



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani may, 22”“RTC contract bus drivers have urged immediate action from bus owners to address their legitimate demands. In a press conference held at the Manthani Division Media Press Club on Thursday, union representatives Kethiri Mahesh and Akula Kiran voiced their concerns.”“Kethiri Mahesh, President of the Contract Bus Drivers Union, stated that as per their agreement, wages should be revised every two years. However, the bus owners have not adhered to this clause. Despite issuing three formal notices, the management has shown no intention of resolving the issue. As a result, the drivers were compelled to go on strike.”“The indefinite strike, which began on the 19th of this month, has now entered its fourth day without any response from the bus owners. Mahesh emphasized that all drivers are fully qualified under RTC norms, having undergone a seven-day training program in both Karimnagar and Warangal. He raised concerns that unqualified temporary drivers are being appointed during the strike, which could endanger the safety of passengers and the general public.”“The drivers’ key demands include:”“Monthly wages of ₹25,000 for Express Karimnagar Ordinary Night Out drivers”“₹24,000 for BHEL, Peddapalli, Odedu, and Arenda route drivers”“Provision of two uniforms per year”“One month’s salary as annual bonus”“Travel passes covering at least 100 kilometers for each driver”“Monthly salary to be paid by the 5th of each month”“Additionally, they demanded that in the case of any accident or incident, the responsibility must lie with the bus owner. If a driver is to be removed from duty, a 15-day prior notice must be served. Drivers who take buses for servicing or repairs must be paid a full day’s wages along with meal expenses.”“Akula Kiran, Honorary President of the Union, remarked that in the past, agreements between owners and drivers were reached amicably. However, this time, certain owners have acted in a way that disrespects mediators, which is regrettable. While local bus owners from Manthani have shown a willingness to cooperate, those from outside have not responded positively, leading to a breakdown in negotiations.”

“He criticized the aggressive behavior of some external owners, stating that it disrupted the talks. Kiran added that drivers usually issue strike notices well in advance of major events such as festivals or Pushkarams to allow time for negotiations. Despite engaging in discussions five months ahead of the upcoming Saraswati Pushkarams in Kaleshwaram, no resolution was reached due to the unyielding stance of the owners.”“Akula Kiran called on the contract bus owners to abandon their rigid approach and participate in talks unconditionally. He also alleged that the RTC management is attempting to undermine the strike. He appealed to both RTC management and the bus owners to come forward and address the drivers’ genuine demands.”“Several union members were present at the press conference, including General Secretary K. Satish, Treasurer Md. Apsar, Vice President V. Srinivas, Joint Secretary N. Sagar, Organizers B. Rakesh and D. Shrivani, Senior Advisors Md. Naeem and P. Rajayya, I. Ravi, S.K. Shakeel, A. Koteswar, and Executive Members J. Srinivas, M. Sagar, P. Babu, A. Sreekanth, and A. Naresh, along with other drivers.

Gross Mismanagement of Saraswati Pushkaralu — Former MLA Putta Madhukar Blasts Administrative Apathy.



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani May, 22”“Pushkaralu rendered ineffective by the Duddilla couple’s administrative indifference”“Dereliction of duty: Basic amenities denied to on-duty personnel”“Ex-gratia relief of ₹50 lakhs demanded for deceased tractor operator”“No initiative to uphold or enhance the sanctity of Kaleshwaram temple”“Former MLA Putta Madhukar undertakes Pushkara Snamam, assesses on-ground conditions”“Former Manthani legislator Putta Madhukar has vehemently denounced the state government’s inability to execute the Saraswati Pushkaralu with the solemnity and grandeur befitting the sacred Kaleshwaram shrine, revered as the “Dakshina Kashi.” Accompanied by his spouse, Shailaja, Madhukar performed the ritualistic Pushkara Snamam in the Godavari and paid obeisance at the revered Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy temple.”“During his visit, he meticulously reviewed the infrastructural provisions allocated for personnel deployed in Pushkar-related duties and expressed profound dissatisfaction. “This is not a mere political accusation,” he asserted. “The grievances articulated by common devotees and spiritual leaders alike are a clear indictment of the prevailing mismanagement.”“Madhukar pointed out that advance warnings regarding logistical shortcomings were ignored, consequently tarnishing the reputation of the sacred Kaleshwaram site. He condemned the gross negligence whereby 70 panchayat secretaries were crammed into a single school building with only one functional lavatory, calling it a disgrace to administrative ethics.”“Further lambasting the arrangements, he mentioned that shamanias erected for pilgrims were decimated by windstorms, with no credible backup plan except a hasty shift to a Rythu Vedika devoid of fundamental facilities.”“He accused the sitting Manthani MLA and his spouse, who serves as the Principal Secretary of the Endowments Department, of systematically eroding the spiritual integrity of the Pushkaralu. He further alleged that a Member of Parliament was publicly humiliated during the festivities and demanded accountability from the Principal Secretary.”“Madhukar brought to light the tragic demise of Manthani Srinivas, a tractor driver from Gangaram Gram Panchayat, due to sunstroke while on duty, and mentioned that a police constable too suffered severe health complications. He expressed dismay that the government had yet to announce any compensatory measures. “The administration’s failure to extend even symbolic financial relief is utterly reprehensible,” he said, demanding an ex-gratia payment of ₹50 lakhs to the bereaved family. He questioned the conspicuous silence of the local MLA, implying caste-based apathy. “Is the life of a Dalit or Backward Class worker so inconsequential to the elected representative of Manthani?” he asked.”“He further criticized the exclusion of local stakeholders from participating in the event’s organizational framework, labeling such actions undemocratic and arbitrary. Madhukar accused the Principal Secretary of diminishing the prestige of Kaleshwaram rather than upholding its sanctity as a cornerstone of Telangana’s spiritual heritage.”“Reflecting on past precedents, he stated, “During the BRS administration, the Godavari Pushkaralu were orchestrated with impeccable planning and reverence. Not a single devotee faced hardship. The current dispensation, however, has failed even in offering rudimentary amenities.”“He concluded by asserting, “The responsibility to elevate the cultural and spiritual eminence of the Saraswati Pushkaralu was not just neglected — it was consciously undermined. The people must take cognizance of those who have desecrated the dignity of such a sacred occasion.”

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Gross Mismanagement of Saraswati Pushkaralu —



Former MLA Putta Madhukar Blasts Administrative Apathy. “PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani May, 22”“Pushkaralu rendered ineffective by the Duddilla couple’s administrative indifference”“Dereliction of duty: Basic amenities denied to on-duty personnel”“Ex-gratia relief of ₹50 lakhs demanded for deceased tractor operator”“No initiative to uphold or enhance the sanctity of Kaleshwaram temple”“Former MLA Putta Madhukar undertakes Pushkara Snamam, assesses on-ground conditions”“Former Manthani legislator Putta Madhukar has vehemently denounced the state government’s inability to execute the Saraswati Pushkaralu with the solemnity and grandeur befitting the sacred Kaleshwaram shrine, revered as the “Dakshina Kashi.” Accompanied by his spouse, Shailaja, Madhukar performed the ritualistic Pushkara Snamam in the Godavari and paid obeisance at the revered Kaleshwara Mukteshwara Swamy temple.”“During his visit, he meticulously reviewed the infrastructural provisions allocated for personnel deployed in Pushkar-related duties

and expressed profound dissatisfaction. “This is not a mere political accusation,” he asserted. “The grievances articulated by common devotees and spiritual leaders alike are a clear indictment of the prevailing mismanagement.”“Madhukar pointed out that advance warnings regarding logistical shortcomings were ignored, consequently tarnishing the reputation of the sacred Kaleshwaram site. He condemned the gross negligence whereby 70 panchayat secretaries were crammed into a single school building with only one functional lavatory, calling it a disgrace to administrative ethics.”“Further lambasting the arrangements, he mentioned that shamanias erected for pilgrims were decimated by windstorms, with no credible backup plan except a hasty shift to a Rythu Vedika devoid of fundamental facilities.”“He accused the sitting Manthani MLA and his spouse, who serves as the Principal Secretary of the Endowments Department, of systematically eroding the spiritual integrity of the Pushkaralu. He further alleged that a Member of Parliament was publicly humiliated during the festivities and demanded accountability from the Principal Secretary.”“Madhukar brought to light the tragic demise of Manthani Srinivas, a tractor driver from Gangaram Gram Panchayat, due to sunstroke while on duty, and mentioned that a police constable too suffered severe health complications. He expressed dismay that the government had yet to announce any compensatory measures. “The administration’s failure to extend even symbolic financial relief is utterly reprehensible,” he said, demanding an ex-gratia payment of ₹50 lakhs to the bereaved family. He questioned the conspicuous silence of the local MLA, implying caste-based apathy. “Is the life of a Dalit or Backward Class worker so inconsequential to the elected representative of Manthani?” he asked.”

Bhagya Reddy Varma's services are memorable. District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.“



“Ranjith naik Bhukya ,Bhadrachalam, May 22(Indian Chronicle) :““The services rendered by Dalit stalwart and social reformer M.V. Bhagya Reddy Varma are memorable, and his life is an ideal for future generations, said District Collector Jitesh V. Patil. The 137th birth anniversary celebrations of social reformer M.V. Bhagya Reddy Varma were officially organized at the conference hall of the IDOC office on Thursday under the auspices of the Scheduled Castes Development Department. Collector Jitesh V. Patil, who attended the celebrations as the chief guest, garlanded the portrait of Bhagya Reddy Varma along with Additional Collector D. Venugopal and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, the collector said that Bhagya Reddy Varma was



an activist and rights activist who led the Dalit movement with Hyderabad as its center. He praised him for establishing Dalit schools and campaigning against evil practices like child marriage and untouchability. He said that he established a non-violent society and laid a solid foundation for social reforms and the advancement of Dalits. He said that he made his mark in programs like prohibition of alcohol consumption and establishment of libraries. He said that his efforts for the advancement of Dalits should be remembered. CPO Sanjeeva Rao, Scheduled Castes Welfare Officer Anasuya, BC Welfare Officer Indira, AO Ramakrishna, Deputy DMHO Jayalakshmi and officials of various departments participated in this program.

Mini Mahanadu: BC Leaders Felicitate Mannur Sugunamma



“Tirupati District Representative, Praja Jyothi —“ (May 22, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator) “A “Mini Mahanadu” program was grandly organized at the Telugu Desam Party office near Kapilatheertham, under the leadership of former MLA and Tirupati In-charge, as well as the Chairperson of the Andhra Pradesh Greening and Beautification Corporation, Mannur Sugunamma. Senior leaders and activists of the Telugu Desam Party participated in and made the program a success.”“During the event, Amudala Tulasi Das, President of the Tirupati Parliament Shalivahana, participated and lauded Sugunamma for her accessibility



to Telugu Desam Party cadres as an MLA and In-charge, earning the appreciation of everyone. He also conveyed the party’s well wishes and thunderous applause for her success in the position of Chairperson of the Greening and Development Corporation, a role bestowed by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Nara Chandrababu Naidu. As part of the Mini Mahanadu program, she was felicitated with a bouquet and a shawl.”“The program was attended by various BC leaders, including Jagannatham, State Leader of the Gandla community”“Sriramulu, President of the Tirupati Parliament Vaddera Sangham”“Shankara, Leader of the Rajaka Sangham

Tiranga Yatra by SR Students - Sub Operation Sindoor -

Tiranga Yatra Held at Elakathurthy“



“Warangal, May 22 (Indian Chronicle):““Tiranga Yatra was organized under Sub Operation Sindoor by the NSS Unit of SR University, starting from Elakathurthy Police Station to Elakathurthy Circle. The event aimed to instill patriotism, promote national unity, and commemorate the valor of our armed forces.”“The Chief Guest of the program was Dr. R. Archana Reddy, Registrar, SR University. Other



esteemed guests included Dr. G. Bhupal Raj, Dean of Agricultural Sciences, SR University; Dr. Avv Sudhakar, Dean of Student Welfare; Dr. K. Ravindar, NSS Coordinator; and SI Praveen Kumar from Elakathurthy Police Station. “NSS volunteers from SR University actively participated in the yatra, marching with the national flag and raising slogans of unity and patriotism. The initiative was well-received by the local community and highlighted the role of youth in nation-building.”“The university leadership commended the efforts of the NSS team and volunteers for their dedication and discipline in conducting this impactful event.

Hanuman Jayanti Celebrations Grandly Held at Sri Shakti Peetham with Abhishekam of Lakh Betel Leaves and Bananas“



“May 22, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator”“The Hanuman Jayanti celebrations were held with immense grandeur at the Sri Shakti Peetham Mahakshetram, located on the Rayala Cheruvu bund in

Tirupati district. A mesmerizing “Shat Sahasra Nagavalli Dalarchana” (worship with one lakh betel leaves) was performed for Sri Malayala Hanumantu, who is revered for fulfilling devotees’ wishes.”“This was followed by a “Shat Sahasra Kadali Phalamulu” (offering of one lakh bananas) as a grand Mahanaivedyam (sacred offering). Adorned with one lakh bananas and one lakh betel leaves, the deity appeared as “Bhaktajana Vallabhudu” (beloved of devotees). Subsequently, the “Sri Tapasa Manyur Pashupatha Panchavaktra Hanumat Homam” was performed with great devotion.”“After the puja, the revered Swamiji and Pujya Mataji distributed fruits to the devotees with their sacred hands. A large number of devotees participated in the program and received the blessings of Gurudev. The remaining fruits were distributed to orphanages, government hospitals, and the destitute in and around Tirupati city.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely in parts of Telangana for next 24 hours: IMD Hyd

Hyderabad: Several districts of Telangana are expected to receive heavy to very heavy rain accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds for the next 24 hours. The India Meteorological Department – Hyderabad on Thursday issued an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rainfall for Kumram Bheem Asifabad, Mancherial, Nizamabad and Jagtial districts.

Shashi Tharoor on being named part of multi-party delegation for diplomatic outreach: when national interest is involved, will not be found wanting



GNS News Agency, May 22

With the Government nominating him to lead a diplomatic outreach delegation after Operation Sindoor, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Saturday (May 17, 2025) said that when national interest is involved and his services are required, he will not be found wanting. Tharoor also said he is honoured by the invitation of the Government to lead an all-party delegation to five key capitals to present the nation's point of view on recent events. His remarks came after the Government announced that it will send seven all-party delegations to key partner countries, including members of the U.N. Security Council, later this month to convey India's message of zero tolerance against terrorism following the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor. "I am honoured by the invitation of the government of India to lead an all-party delegation to five key capitals, to present our

nation's point of view on recent events," Mr. Tharoor said on X. "When national interest is involved, and my services are required, I will not be found wanting. Jai Hind!" the chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs said. The Government has made a careful selection of leaders who will head the delegations as they come from parties across the political divide and are considered articulate voices. BJP MPs Ravi Shankar Prasad and Baijayant Panda, Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, JD(U) MP Sanjay Jha, DMK's Kanimozhi, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule, and Shiv Sena's Shrikant Shinde will be heading a delegation each. While four of them are from the ruling National Democratic Alliance, three are from the opposition INDIA bloc. A statement issued by the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry earlier on Saturday said, "The all-party delegations will project India's national consensus and resolute approach to combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations. They would carry forth to the world the country's strong message of zero tolerance against terrorism." "In the context of Operation Sindoor and India's continued fight against cross-border terrorism, seven all-party delegations are set to visit key partner countries, including members of the UN Security Council later this month," it said. In a post on X, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said, "In moments that matter most, Bharat stands united. Seven All-Party Delegations will soon visit key partner nations, carrying our shared message of zero-tolerance to terrorism." Sharing the Ministry's statement, he said, "A powerful reflection of national unity above politics, beyond differences." Each delegation may visit around five countries, sources said.

State Level Bankers' Committee, Telangana 45th Quarterly Review Meeting for March 2025 & Launching of Annual Credit Plan for FY 2025-26 State Bank of India, LHO, Bank Street, Koti, Hyderabad.



State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Telangana has convened its 45th Quarterly Review meeting today i.e., on 22.05.2025, at Hotel Marigold, Hyderabad and reviewed the performance of the Banks in Telangana State, for the quarter ended March 2025 and launched Annual Credit Plan of Banks in Telangana State, for the FY 2025-26. The meeting was attended by:

1. Sri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu garu, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Finance, Planning, Energy, Telangana State
2. Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS, Principal Secretary (Finance), Govt. of Telangana
3. Sri N Sridhar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Scheduled Castes Development Dept, Govt. of Telangana
4. Sri A Sarath, IAS, Secretary, Tribal Welfare Department, Govt. of Telangana
5. Sri E Sridhar, IAS, Secretary, BC Welfare Department, Govt. of Telangana
6. Sri Chinmoy Kumar, Regional Director, RBI, Hyderabad
7. Sri Uday Bhaskar, CGM, NABARD, Hyderabad
8. Sri Rajesh Kumar, DMD, SBI, Hyderabad Circle
9. Sri Prakash Chandra Baror, GM, SBI & Convenor, SLBC, Telangana

Senior Officials from the line departments of Govt of Telangana, Government of India, executives from Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks, RRBs, SFBs, Payments Banks, representatives of various Federations of Agriculture and MSME etc., Sri Rajesh Kumar, DMD, SBI, Hyderabad Circle presented the performance of the banks in Telangana during the Financial Year 2024-25 as under:

Ø Total Deposits of the banks grew by **Rs. 60,477 crores** during the FY 2024-25 and the total deposits were at **Rs.8,40,430 crores**.

Ø Total Advances with Banks grew by **Rs. 1,02,302 crores** and the advances of all banks were at **Rs. 10,81,361 Crores** Ø CD ratio continues to be above 100 percent and it has gone up from **125.53 % to 128.67 %** during the FY 2024-25.

Ø During the Year, Banks have disbursed Short Term Production Loans amounting to **Rs.73,105 crores** achieving **80.52%** of the annual targets.

Ø Banks have disbursed **Rs.64,241** crores as Investment Credit to Agri. Allied, Agri. Infra and Agri. Ancillary activities, achieving **104.87%** of the targets.

Ø Banks have disbursed Education loans amounting to **Rs.580 Crores** and Housing loans amounting to **Rs.3,433 Crores** under Priority Sector during the financial year 2024-25.

Ø For Micro, Small & Medium enterprises (MSME) segment, Banks have disbursed **Rs.1,21,343** crores, achieving **93.60%** of the targets.Ø Under Pradhan Manthri Mudra Yojana Scheme, Banks have sanctioned **Rs.13,472** crores achieving **97.37%** of the annual targets Ø Banks together have disbursed an amount of **Rs. 2,67,452** crores to various sections of borrowers under Priority Sector, recording an achievement of **89.61%** of targets.

On the Financial Inclusion front:

a) Banks in the State have **126.52 lakh** PMJDY accounts in their books and **105.28 lacs i.e., 83.20%** of the PMJDY accounts are seeded with Aadhar. RuPay cards are issued to **87.16 lacs** i.e **68.89%** of the PMJDY accounts. b) As far as the social security schemes are concerned, Banks have covered **192.76 lakh** customers under Pradhan Manthri Suraksha Bheema Yojana (PMSBY) and **93.39lakh** customers under Pradhan Manthri Jeevan Jyothi Beema Yojana (PMJJBY). **23.29 lakh** customers have subscribed for Atal pension Yojana scheme.c) Under PM Svanidhi Tranche 1, Banks have sanctioned **4,27,273** applications and disbursed **loans to 4,26,226 Street Vendors**. Under

Tranche 2, Banks have sanctioned **2,22,764** applications and disbursed loans to **2,20,670** Street Vendors. Under Tranche 3, Banks have sanctioned **74,747** applications and disbursed **73,404**.

Ø Under Agriculture Infrastructure Fund, banks have sanctioned **Rs.3,373 crores** against a cumulative target of **Rs.3,200** crores so far.

On this occasion, the Annual Credit Plan of Banks in Telangana State for FY 2025-26 was launched by Sri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Telangana State.

The Highlights of the Annual Credit Plan are presented by Shri Prakash Chandra Baror GM SBI & Convenor SLBC as under

Ø Credit Disbursement for the Financial Year 2025-26 is projected at **Rs.8,58,100 cr** with an increase of 31.67%, over previous year,

Ø Disbursals under **Priority Sector Advances** for the Financial Year 2025-26 are projected at **Rs.3,85,855 cr** with an increase of 29.28%.

Ø Disbursals under **Agricultural Sector** for the Financial Year 2025-26 projected at **Rs.1,62,946 cr**, with an increase of 7.16%.

Ø **Short Term Production Credit (incl. WC for allied activities):** An amount of **Rs.93,884 cr** is projected with an increase of 3.40%.

Ø **Investment Credit (Agriculture Term Loans):** An amount of **Rs.45,659 cr** projected under the Credit Plan for the year 2025-26 under Agri. Term Loans with an increase of 38.96%.

Ø **Agriculture Infrastructure:** An amount of **Rs. 7,251 cr** projected under the Credit Plan for the year 2025-26 with an increase of 19.96%.

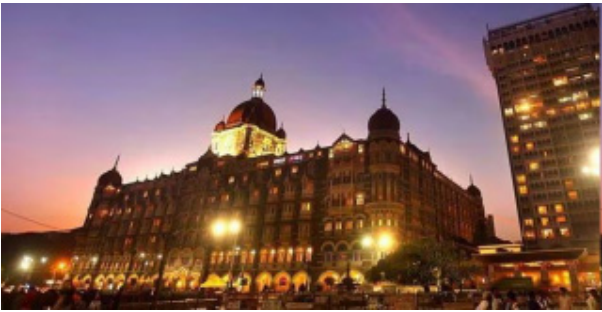
Ø **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME):** An amount of **Rs. 2,03,565 cr** is projected for disbursals under the sector for the year 2025-26 an increase of 57.03% over previous year.

Ø **Other Priority Sectors:**

- o An amount of **Rs. 10,493 cr** is allocated for **Housing sector**.
- o An amount of **Rs. 2,486 cr** is allocated for **Education Loans** An amount of **Rs. 5,753 cr** is allocated for **other sectors**

Sri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, while applauding the efforts of Banks in achieving various targets, sought the Banks to continue achieving the targets set for current Financial Year as well. He advised Banks to achieve commercial goals along with Social goals with human touch. He appealed to the Banks to be magnanimous in focusing more on extending credit to agriculture, weaker sections and SHGs. He further sought the support from all Banks in expediting the process of applications received under Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme, within the timelines. Further, he conveyed that more and more micro enterprises are to be credit linked, which will generate large scale entrepreneurial and employment generation. He asked the Banks to focus on Horticulture, Palm Oil activities, Agriculture Infrastructure Fund credit. He mentioned about "Indira Giri jala Vikasam" scheme launched by State Government and sought the support from Banks. Also, he stressed upon the need to focus on extending credit to SHGs for income generating activities, While speaking on the occasion, Sri Sandeep Kumar Sultania, IAS, Principal Secretary (Finance), Govt. of Telangana, emphasised the need to focus more on Priority Sector lending and Education loans. Further, he appealed to the Banks for extending all needed support to Rajiv Yuva Vikasam scheme of Govt. of Telangana. Sri N Sridhar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Scheduled Castes Development Dept, Govt. of Telangana, Sri Uday Bhaskar, CGM, NABARD, Hyderabad, Sri Chinmoy Kumar, Regional Director, RBI, Hyderabad, also spoke on the occasion. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Shri Prashant Kumar Bariyar, DGM (FI & SLBC), SBI Telangana.

Mumbai airport, Taj Hotel get bomb threat over Afzal Guru hanging



GNS News Agency, May 22

Mumbai bomb threat, Mumbai police alert, Taj Hotel bomb threat, Mumbai is already on alert after the India-Pakistan tension escalated in the recent days. Security agencies conducted mock drills in many parts of the city. The Mumbai police have received a threat email warning of bomb blasts at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and the iconic Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, claiming that the death sentence for the Parliament attack mastermind Afzal Guru was unjust. The police examined the premises of the two vital establishments and found nothing suspicious.

The city is already on alert after the India-Pakistan tension escalated in the recent days. Security agencies conducted mock drills in many parts of the city. The Mumbai

police have also registered a case against the user of the said email account and are trying to trace the email's digital footprints.

Last week, the disaster control room of the Maharashtra Secretariat and the police had also received an email threat of a bomb blast. The Taj Hotel was targeted by the Pakistan-born Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists on November 26, 2008, in which 167 people were killed and more than 250 were injured. The popular five-star hotel is one of the most iconic hotels in the country and has been on the terrorists' top target list. The hotel has round-the-clock external as well as internal security cover. Mumbai airport is also a sensitive spot that sees a heavy influx of domestic and international passengers daily. The Mumbai police have started an investigation to trace the email sender. The email sender mentioned "unjust hanging of Afzal Guru and Savakku Shankar" as the reason for launching the attack on the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and airport. However, the mention of the execution of Savakku Shankar, a former lower division clerk in the Directorate of Vigilance and Anti-Corruption who gained notoriety for exposing corruption, is factually incorrect. Shankar, is a YouTuber and social activist who recently filed a public interest litigation before the Madras High Court seeking a CBI probe into the alleged illegalities in the implementation of entrepreneurship schemes for manual scavengers.

Probe into Bengaluru gold smuggling case indicates possible links to proclaimed offender in 2013 Delhi airport case

GNS News Agency, May 22

Investigations into a gold smuggling racket involving Kannada actress Ranya Rao alias Harshavardhini Ranya, 33, have revealed possible links between a hawala dealer arrested in the case and a proclaimed offender in a major gold smuggling case detected at the Delhi international airport in 2013. Sources indicated that hawala dealer Sahil Sakariya Jain, 27, who is accused of being the receiver of 49.6 kg of gold worth over Rs 40 crore smuggled from Dubai by the actress from November 2024 to February 2025, is linked to a man who was arrested in 2013 at the Delhi airport for smuggling 36.56 kg of gold in the baggage of a UAE embassy official. On March 11, 2013, a Delhi-based jewellery businessman Komal Jain, aged around 50, was detained at the Indira Gandhi International airport in Delhi on the basis of intelligence gathered by the DRI on his alleged involvement in gold smuggling using an UAE embassy official as a courier. The businessman, who arrived on a flight from Singapore, was found to be in possession of documents for the purchase of over 30 kg of gold jewellery while checks conducted by DRI officials on the baggage of a UAE embassy official who arrived on the same flight revealed the presence of 36.56 kg of gold worth Rs 9.79 crore at the time. The next day, DRI arrested Komal for smuggling gold while the UAE official, who enjoyed diplomatic immunity from arrest, was sent back to Dubai by the UAE authorities. Subsequently, on June 11, 2013, Komal was detained under the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA) on the basis of an order issued by the central government's Department of Revenue. While Komal was held in preventive detention under COFEPOSA, a habeas corpus petition was moved in the Delhi High Court for his release by his son, who identified himself as Sahil Jain. "Petitioner Sahil Jain has approached this Court for issuance of a writ of habeas corpus for release of his father Komal Jain, who has been ordered to be detained and kept in custody in the Central Jail, Tihar by an order dated 11.06.2013 issued under Section 3 (1) of the COFEPOSA Act by the Joint Secretary to the Govt of India," the court noted in a November 13, 2013, order for the release of Komal Jain.



A DRI search at a business unit called Vee Ess Jewellers Pvt Ltd, operated by Komal Jain in New Delhi in 2009, led to the seizure of 41.31 kg of gold jewellery worth Rs 5.57 crore at the time. The DRI had accused Komal and others of a conspiracy to smuggle high-end gold jewellery into India from Dubai, Sharjah and Singapore in the guise of duty-free import of raw materials to an SEZ unit for the manufacture of gold jewellery for exports. The 2009 case against Komal, however, did not sustain in the courts. In the current gold smuggling case in Bengaluru, the DRI has identified Sahil Jain, 27 – who has gold smuggling cases registered against him in Mumbai and Kolkata during 2019-2022 – as a key operative in a larger smuggling network. The agency has stated in court filings that Sahil is part of a "highly sophisticated gold smuggling network" which needs to be further investigated. Ranya Rao, co-accused Telugu actor Virat Konduru alias Tarun Konduru, and Sahil are under detention for a year under COFEPOSA after the Union government issued an order on April 22 for their detention to prevent involvement in further gold smuggling activities. According to DRI sources, Sahil's father (Komal Jain/Mahendra Kumar Jain) is currently not being sought by the agency in the Bengaluru gold smuggling case. Advocate C V Siju, who has been appearing for Sahil Jain in the current gold smuggling case in Bengaluru, said DRI did not question Sahil's father in the Bengaluru case. The Sahil Jain arrested in Bengaluru was also allegedly involved in a major gold smuggling racket operating out of Kolkata in 2019-2020 and was named in a DRI prosecution complaint in Kolkata in 2022, the agency has stated in court.

In the 2019-2020 period, the DRI received intelligence that a smuggling syndicate operating from Kolkata, Mumbai and Raipur was smuggling foreign-marked gold from Bangladesh through the Indo-Bangladesh borders of North 24 Parganas in West Bengal. Based on the intelligence, the DRI carried out operations to recover the smuggled gold and intercepted persons carrying smuggled gold in Kolkata, Raipur and Mumbai, leading to the recovery of 41.64 kg of gold. Initially, one of the gold carriers who was found with 6.98 kg of gold in Mumbai in December 2019 reported that the intended receiver of the gold was Sahil Jain, who was living in Mumbai at the time. Jain was arrested by the DRI and found to be a key player in the smuggling racket. In Bengaluru, the DRI has stated that Sahil Jain was the intended receiver of 14.2 kg of gold valued at Rs 12.56 crore that was found on the person of Ranya on March 3 at the Bengaluru airport on her arrival from Dubai. The smuggling of the 14.2 kg of gold would have resulted in customs duty evasion of Rs 4.83 crore, the DRI has stated.

Prior to Ranya's arrest, the hawala dealer Sahil Jain was involved in receiving 49.6 kg of smuggled gold valued at Rs 40.13 crore from the actress following visits to Dubai between November 2024 to February 2025, the DRI has stated. The hawala dealer has claimed that he only received a commission of Rs 55,000 for every consignment of smuggled gold he received from the actress in Bengaluru and for facilitating the transfer of funds from the sales to Dubai.

SCR's Cyber Cell handles 123 missing phone complaints in a month

GNS News Agency, May 22

Hyderabad: The South Central Railway (SCR) RPF Cyber Cell has received and handled a total of 123 mobile phone missing complaints across the zone in the last one month. The Railway Protection Force has intensified its efforts under 'Operation Amanat' by effectively leveraging digital tools to trace and recover lost mobile phones. Railway officials said access to the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal was granted to the RPF CyberCell in April this year. The RPF is authorized to facilitate the recovery of lost devices only when the incident is reported and registered through 'Rail Madad' app, and no FIR has been lodged by the complainants in the case.

The CEIR portal, developed by the Department of Telecommunications, enables IMEI-based tracking and blocking of lost or stolen devices. However, it is the RPF's dedicated Cyber Cell that has been driving the recovery opera-



tions across the zone. The first complaint was registered from the Vijayawada Division. Since then, the RPF Cyber Cell has handled a total of 123 complaints across the zone. In addition,

Kolkata Corporation drafts rules for uniform standards for conservation, management of heritage structures in city



Kolkata In 1997, the Government of West Bengal formed an expert committee to identify heritage structures within the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) limits. Kolkata city's right architectural legacy stands poised for consistent preservation, as the civic body has recently drafted a set of updated rules to ensure uniform standards for the conservation and management of all listed heritage structures in the city.

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has forwarded the draft guidelines to the West Bengal government for approval so that the architectural relics are conserved through enforceable preservation rules. Experts feel that this step would significantly bring in a comprehensive system to protect the heritage structures dotting Kolkata city de-

spite decades of identification and documentation. Despite having a structured approach, the existing conservation rules and grading system formulated by a team led by historian Prof Barun De had left many buildings vulnerable to alterations, neglect, and demolition. "We have prepared a detailed draft that can truly change the way heritage is preserved in Kolkata. What Kolkata needs now is not just admiration for its past, but commitment to its future. These rules are a start—but only if they're allowed to take effect," said an official from the Heritage Conservation Committee. "But until the government clears it, our hands are tied," he added. Prof Barun De-led subcommittee was tasked with reviewing and refining the list of heritage buildings compiled in 1998, as many entries were found to be either inaccurate, outdated, or lacking historical significance. The revised document grouped 611 buildings under Grade I, which stipulated no structural changes, 197 buildings under Grade IIA that allowed minor additions in open spaces, and 109 structures under Grade IIB that permitted minor modifications under supervision. In 1997, the Government of West Bengal formed an expert committee to identify heritage structures within the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) limits. By 1998, a detailed list was submitted, and the KMC Act was amended to include a section dedicated to heritage protection. Although KMC acknowledged the revised list, the lack of proper regulatory support meant conservation efforts remained largely symbolic.

Delhi HC refuses anticipatory bail to lawyer, says 'all are equal in eyes of law'

GNS News Agency, May 22

Refusing to grant anticipatory bail to a lawyer accused in a road rage incident, the Delhi High Court noted that "all are equal in the eyes of law" and said that granting relief to the accused would "malign the noble profession of advocacy". Justice Girish Kathpalia, dealing with the anticipatory bail plea of the accused advocate Raj Kumar Chaudhary, took note that apart from Chaudhary, the other accused was one Gajraj, president of Bajrang Vahini Dal, both of whom had allegedly assaulted a software professional in a road rage incident, leading to serious injuries to the victim, including head injuries.

In an order on May 15, Justice Kathpalia recorded, "One of the assailants being president of a political organisation and the other being an advocate (the accused/applicant) were responsible members of the society, so must have ensured not to take law in their hands... Granting anticipatory bail in the broad daylight violence of the present nature at a public place would send wrong signals across the society that the aggressor took law in hands and walked free just because he happens to be an advocate. All are equal in the eyes of law and none can be treated as more equal. Such relief, if granted to the accused/applicant would also malign the noble profession of advocacy." Justice



Kathpalia also emphasised that "road rage is not mere road rage", elaborating that "it has wide-ranging ramifications in the form of not just physical injury but the psychological dent caused on the victim". "Quite often, it is seen that road rage leads to loss of human lives as well. The damage caused gets aggrieved when one of the aggressors is a lawyer while the other is a president of a political organization... one has to watch those footages of CCTV to fully understand the magnitude of the broad daylight violence in the public place, committed by the accused/applicant and his brother, both powerful persons of the society," the court said.

What led Chandigarh-based author Khushwant Singh to turn his book 'Maharaja in Denims' into 'India's first AI feature film'



GNS News Agency, May 22

When author and former state information commissioner of Punjab, Khushwant Singh, wrote Maharaja in Denims, it immediately caught Bollywood's attention. And why not? Maharaja in Denims has all the makings of a larger-than-life feature film — a work of fiction that follows the journey of a young boy who believes he is the reincarnation of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, founder of the Sikh Empire.

Through regression therapy, he finds himself transported into key moments in history, including the Partition of 1947, the anti-Sikh riots of 1984, and eventually the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. But when no deal materialised and the book was no longer tied up in any rights agreements, Singh's cousin — tech guru Gurdeep Singh Pall — offered an alternative. Pall, known for his long tenure at Microsoft, most recently as corporate vice-president overseeing business AI projects, suggested they stop pitching the book and instead spend two years turning it into India's first full-length AI-generated feature film. "It's a period drama. The biggest hurdle was the budget — it would have required hundreds of crores. And post-pandemic, it has become increasingly difficult to draw enough people to theatres to justify such an expense," Singh, who is based in Chandigarh, told The Indian Express during his visit to Mumbai for the debut edition of the World Audio Visual Entertainment (WAVES) Summit. "Gurdeep suggested we make it as an AI film, which meant we no longer needed to spend crores on elaborate sets or casting an A-list star as the lead."

In 2023, Pall and Singh co-founded Intelliflicks and set up a team in Chandigarh. "There are seven of us, including Balpreet Kaur, who translated the novel into a script and is also leading the screenplay and direction. The rest are experts in software engineering and AI," said Singh. Using tools such as Runway, Midjourney, and Clink, the team generated the visuals and video content through a combination of prompts and software. Singh played us nearly 10 minutes of footage — the environments and characters, barring a few inconsistencies, looked surprisingly lifelike. "We have already stitched together about 30 minutes of footage. We are targeting a total runtime of around 100 minutes," he said. "We had dubbing artists lend their voices, but cutting-edge lip-sync technology was not publicly available until after the US elections — likely due to concerns over

deepfake manipulation. Continuity was also tricky because the same prompt can yield different results each time. But we have figured out ways to manage that, and when the film releases, you will see how the visuals are hyper-realistic." AI-generated film, Khushwant Singh, Mumbai "Using tools such as Runway, Midjourney, and Clink, the team generated the visuals and video content through a combination of prompts and software," said Khushwant Singh. (AI Generated) Is Singh worried, given that he has invested his own money? He quoted his cousin Pall: "Even if it's not the most entertaining or gripping film, it will still be a breakthrough — India's first AI feature." He added, "Someday, if the Cannes Film Festival introduces a category for AI films, we want India to have a nomination in it."

Bengaluru cab driver who robbed luxury items from unlocked car at Cubbon Park held

GNS News Agency, May 22

Bengaluru-Police-Cab-Driver-Robbery-Case The Bengaluru police tracked down the accused to the Ganesh Block in Mahalaxmi Layout in West Bengaluru on May 13 based on CCTV footage near the crime scene.

A cab driver who robbed luxury items worth Rs 24 lakh from an unlocked car belonging to a morning walker at Bengaluru's Cubbon Park on May 11 has been arrested by the Bengaluru central division police based on analysis of CCTV footage of the incident, the police said on Saturday. The arrested suspect has been identified as Raj Mohammed Mastan, 45, a resident of North Bengaluru.

According to the police, the alleged robbery occurred at the Cubbon Park on May 11 after a morning walker who travelled from Koramangala in south-east Bengaluru left her car near the Queens Road bus stop around 8 am without securing the lock of the car.

When the woman, a professional dancer, returned at around 9 am, she found that a bag she had left behind in the car was missing. In her police complaint, the woman said the bag contained a double-band diamond ring with a solitaire worth 10 lakh, a diamond ring worth 4 lakh, a Rolex watch worth 9 lakh, a Bottega wallet worth 75,000, and AirPods worth 20,000.

The Bengaluru police tracked down the accused to the Ganesh Block in Mahalaxmi Layout in West Bengaluru on May 13 based on CCTV footage near the crime scene. "The person was interrogated and confessed to the crime," the police said. "The accused does not have a prior history of crime. He used the opportunity of seeing the car being parked by the victim without locking to carry out the robbery," Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda said on Friday. It is our request to the public to be wary of valuable goods being stored in cars and to ensure that cars are locked in the event of the car containing valuable items," the commissioner said.

BJP MP Jyotirmay Mahato writes to Calcutta HC, requests it to take suo motu cognisance of 'police brutality' amid teachers' protest



GNS News Agency, May 22

BJP MP Jyotirmay Singh Mahato wrote to the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice on Saturday requesting the court to take suo motu cognisance of the alleged police brutality during the teachers' protest in front of Bikas Bhavan in Kolkata on Thursday. Mahato's letter highlighted "excessive use of force by the police, resulting in severe injuries to numerous teachers, as well as police inaction during attacks on the protesters by certain Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders" amid the protest.

Teachers who lost their jobs following a Supreme Court order over allegations of irregularities in recruitment clashed with police during their protest and broke open the main

gate of Bikash Bhavan, the West Bengal Education Department headquarters in Salt Lake. Over 1,000 sacked teachers, who were allowed to return to schools until December, were staging the sit-in against the School Education Department and the School Service Commission (SSC) for filing a review petition in the apex court, allegedly without consulting them. "The actions of the police appear to have violated several provisions of Indian law, particularly under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and have raised serious concerns about the protection of fundamental rights and the rule of law," the letter stated. Mahato added, "...over 30 teachers sustained critical injuries, including head wounds, broken limbs, eye injuries, and a reported stroke. Reports indicate that the police targeted sensitive areas such as the head and private parts, and male officers manhandled female teachers, dragging them and using foul language, actions that suggest a disproportionate and unwarranted use of force." The MP also alleged that certain TMC leaders actively participated in attacking the protesting teachers and the police present at the scene failed to intervene or protect the teachers from these attacks, acting merely as spectators. Terming it gross dereliction of duty on the part of the police, Mahato said it raised serious questions about the impartiality of law enforcement in West Bengal. Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari visited the protesting teachers at Bikash Bhavan late on Friday evening and assured them of his unconditional support.

How the history of Pune's Khadki is intertwined with that of a 149-year-old church

GNS News Agency, May 22

St Ignatius Church in Pune's Khadki is on the cusp of a significant milestone, reaching 150 years since its current structure was blessed in 1876. The approaching anniversary in 2026 highlights a rich history deeply connected to the socio-political changes of the region. Tracing its journey from a simple chapel to its vital role as a spiritual and communal centre in Khadki, parish priest Father V Louis shares the compelling story of the church.

The story begins with the origin of the town's name. "The name 'Kirkee' comes from the Marathi word khadak, which means rock," says Father Louis. The area gained historical importance due to a battle on November 5, 1817, when 2,800 East India Company soldiers (2,000 Indian and 800 British) under Lieutenant-Colonel Burr defeated the Marathi army of 18,000 cavalry and 8,000 infantry. "This victory," Father Louis notes, "effectively broke the power of Peshwa Bajji Rao II, the last of the Peshwas, and marked the beginning of the final Maratha War, leading to the British annexation of Pune by 1820. Following this, a military cantonment was established in Kirkee." The early Catholic community in this new cantonment was instrumental in establishing the church. "Within this newly established cantonment, there was a notable presence of Irish Catholic soldiers serving in the Company's armies. Soon after, there was an increase in the number of Goan and Tamilian civilians who also settled in the area," says Father Louis. "It is remarkable to note that the initial place of worship, a chapel, was built around the year 1833 through the collective financial contributions of these Catholic soldiers and civilians. At that time, Father Conceicao, who was of Goan origin, served as the visiting chaplain for this growing community. The chapel itself was a simple structure, measuring 81 feet in length and 25 feet in width, and it did not have a steeple," he adds. Historical records from 1872 placed this early chapel near the present All Saints Church. The parish's first permanent leader arrived in January 1847. "For a considerable period in the early years, there was no priest permanently residing in Kirkee," says Father Louis. "Father Conceicao was eventually succeeded by another Goan priest, Father Leitao, who served under the authority of the Vicar Apostolic. Father Leitao officially became the first parish priest of Kirkee in January 1847." Before his appointment, all the vital religious ceremonies such as baptisms, marriages, and burials for the Catholics in Kirkee were recorded at St Patrick's Church in Poona. The very first entry in the official register of the Kirkee parish is the record of the baptism of Elisabeth Jane James on January 24, 1847. In that initial year, only three baptisms were recorded in



Kirkee. To provide a sense of the parish's later growth, the highest number of baptisms recorded in a single year in the Kirkee register was 184, which occurred in 1947. Maintaining the early church structures proved challenging. The Catholic community endured a period of waiting, using a temporary and inadequate space. "While they awaited the construction of their new church, the Catholic congregation was provided with the use of a dilapidated old barracks. This inadequate structure had to serve as their church for a considerable period, until 1876," Father Louis continues. The construction of the new church, approved in 1856, only began in June 1864 due to delays partly caused by the 1857 mutiny. Eventually, the church was completed. "Bishop Meurin blessed the church on January 23, 1876, and dedicated it in honour of the soldier-saint, Ignatius of Loyola. The total cost of this restoration work amounted to approximately Rs 6,000. The government later sanctioned an additional Rs 3,265 in June 1876 to furnish the renovated church," he says. Over the subsequent decades, St Ignatius Church saw further growth and development. A presbytery was built in 1877. Statues and religious items were added over the years through donations and community efforts. Education became a key focus with the establishment of St Joseph's Anglo-Tamil School in 1935 by the Bon Secours Congregation. The parish also navigated sensitive social issues, including a challenge to the burial rights of Indian Christians in government cemeteries, which was eventually resolved after protests.

Bombay HC seeks BMC's reply to plea against 'unhygienic' Tardeo fish market



GNS News Agency, May 22

The Bombay High Court recently sought an affidavit from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in reply to a PIL by residents of housing societies in south Mumbai's Tardeo area, alleging that a new fish market run within the residential area was affecting their health and religious sentiments. The court asked the BMC to ensure hygienic conditions are maintained in the fish market. A bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Makarand S Karnik on May 8 was hearing a PIL by Megha Agarwal, Vikram Jogani, Laxmichand Gala, and Mahendra Jain from Tulsiwadi area in Tardeo.

The petitioners, through advocate Deepa Pohnu, claimed that the fish market, which opened in March this year on the ground floor of the municipal building in the area, did not maintain any hygiene norms and the water with foul odour would come in the basement and compound of the petitioners' housing societies and on the Tulsiwadi Main road. The petitioners also claimed that the runoff water filled the road with "maggots", and while there were three to four stalls in the market at present, there would be 50-50 more stalls in the future. The petitioners argued that the said fish market was in a residential area having over 19 buildings and four temples. The PIL claimed that the market had been "gravely affecting the lives of those living in the locality" and the residents' religious sentiments. The petitioners claimed that the same caused health problems to children, senior citizens and other residents. Moreover, the PIL alleged that

inconvenience was caused to devotees who visit temples, including a Jain temple in the nearby area. The residents also claimed that there were no fixed timings for transporting goods from the fish market, and the said vehicles parked in the narrow lane cause traffic congestion in the vicinity. Advocate Chaitalee Deshpande for the BMC submitted that the civic body would ensure that the fish market was run following the guidelines applicable to BMC-run fish markets. The high court issued notices to the respondents, the state government and the BMC authorities, including its assistant commissioner, markets, and directed them to file affidavits in reply within four weeks, after which it will hear the matter.

Telangana Jagruthi announces key organisational appointments

GNS News Agency, May 22

Hyderabad: Telangana Jagruthi has announced new appointments across different wings of the organisation to strengthen its operations and further its objectives.

The newly appointed convenors are expected to play a vital role in strengthening the organisation and advancing its vision. Their appointments take effect immediately.

The new appointments include Maripelli Madhavi as State convenor of Telangana Jagruthi Women's Federation,

Eduragattu Sampath Goud as State convenor of Telangana Jagruthi Youth Federation, Appala Narendra Yadav as State convenor of Telangana Jagruthi Legal Cell, J Ramu Yadav as State convenor of the Telangana Jagruthi Student Federation and Prakala Manoj Goud as convenor of Telangana Jagruthi Youth Federation (Hyderabad Wing).

Russia demanded Ukraine cede more territory at Turkey talks, Ukrainian source says



ISTANBUL, GNS News Agency, May 22- Russian negotiators at peace talks in Istanbul demanded Ukraine pull its troops out of all the Ukrainian regions claimed by Moscow before they would agree to a ceasefire, a senior Ukrainian official familiar with the talks told Reuters. That demand, along with others the Ukrainian official said were made at Friday's talks, went beyond the terms of a draft peace deal that the United States proposed last month after consultations with Moscow. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. The talks in Istanbul, the first direct contacts between the two sides in three years, ended with agreement for a prisoner exchange but failed to agree to a ceasefire. A Ukrainian source had said on Friday the Russians had made conditions he described as "non-starters", without giving details. At a briefing with reporters on Saturday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was asked about the terms that, according to the Ukrainian official, Moscow put forward, but he declined to comment, saying the discussions need to take place behind closed doors. The

Ukrainian official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to reveal details of the talks, said Russian proposed the following terms for a peace deal: "The withdrawal of Ukrainian troops from the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kherson and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, only after which there can be a ceasefire. The regions are largely or partially controlled by Russian forces, but Ukrainian troops are still fighting to hold on to the remaining parts of the regions. There was no such demand in the draft deal prepared by the United States." International recognition that five parts of Ukraine -- the Crimea peninsula annexed in 2014, as well as the Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions -- are Russian. The U.S. draft had proposed only U.S. de jure recognition for Crimea, and U.S. de facto recognition for Russian-controlled parts of the other regions." Ukraine becomes a neutral state, has no weapons of mass destruction, and Kyiv's allies will not station any of their troops on Ukrainian soil. This demand was absent from the U.S. proposal. "All sides in the conflict renounce their claims to receive compensation for war damages. The U.S. proposal had stipulated that Ukraine receives compensation. According to the Ukrainian official, Russian negotiators transmitted those demands verbally, and did not share any document containing their terms. Ukraine has already said the Russian negotiating position in Istanbul showed it was not serious about peace. Kyiv's European allies are now pressing U.S. President Donald Trump to impose new sanctions on Russia. The head of the Russian delegation at the talks expressed satisfaction with the meeting, and said Moscow was willing to keep talking to Kyiv. The U.S. draft peace proposal from April was prepared after Trump envoy Steve Witkoff flew to Moscow for rounds of talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Kyiv and European allies drafted an alternative proposal, which stated there should be a ceasefire first so negotiations could start, and deferred any discussion of territory until later.

Israeli strikes kill 146 Palestinians in Gaza in 24 hours, local health authorities say

JERUSALEM/CAIRO, GNS News Agency, May 22- Israel's airforce killed at least 146 Palestinians in new attacks on Gaza over the past 24 hours and injured many more, local health authorities said on Saturday, as the country appeared set to press ahead with a new ground offensive. Israeli strikes since Thursday have seen one of the deadliest phases of bombardment since a truce collapsed in March. The latest strikes came as U.S. President Donald Trump ended his Middle East tour on Friday with no apparent progress towards a new ceasefire. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. "Since midnight, we have received 58 martyrs, while a large number of victims remain under the rubble. The situation inside the hospital is catastrophic," said the director of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, Marwan Al-Sultan. Local health authorities said 459 people had been injured in Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours. Israel's military said on Saturday it was conducting extensive strikes and mobilizing troops as part of preparations to expand operations in the Gaza Strip and achieve "operational control" in areas of the Palestinian enclave.

The Gaza health system is barely operational with hospitals hit repeatedly by the Israeli military during the 19-month war and medical supplies drying up as Israel tightened its blockade since March. The escalation, which includes the build-up of armoured forces along the border, is part of the initial stages of 'Operation Gideon's Wagons', which Israel says is aimed at defeating Hamas and getting its hostages back. An Israeli defence official said earlier this month the operation would not be launched before Trump concluded his visit to the Middle East. "We are gradually increasing forces; Hamas remains defiant," the military said on Saturday. United Nations experts warn that famine looms in Gaza after Israel blocked aid deliveries to the strip 76 days ago, with UN aid chief Tom Fletcher asking the Security Council this week if it would act to "prevent genocide".

Trump on Friday acknowledged Gaza's growing hunger crisis and the need for aid deliveries, as international pressure grows on Israel to resume ceasefire talks and end its blockade of Gaza. A U.S.-backed foundation aims to start distributing aid to Gazans by the end of May, using private U.S. security and logistics firms, but the U.N. has said it won't work with the foundation because it is not impartial, neutral or independent.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on May 5 that Israel was planning an expanded, intensive offensive against Hamas as his security cabinet approved plans that



could involve seizing the entire Gaza Strip and controlling aid. On Friday Israel's military ordered Gazans to move south after heavy strikes in the northern town of Beit Lahia and the Jabalia refugee camp. Residents, however, said tanks were advancing towards the southern city of Khan Younis. Israel's declared goal in Gaza is the elimination of the military and governmental capabilities of Hamas, which attacked Israeli communities on October 7, 2023, killing around 1,200 people and seizing about 250 hostages. Its military campaign has devastated the tiny, crowded enclave, pushing nearly all its 2 million inhabitants from their homes and killing more than 53,000 people, according to Gaza health authorities. NBC News reported on Friday, citing five people with knowledge of the matter, that the Trump administration is working on a plan to permanently relocate as many as one million Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to Libya.

Palestinians, including Hamas, and the rival authority of President Mahmoud Abbas reject any displacement of people outside their land. An award nominated Reuters reporter with experience working on high profile, agenda setting stories in a fast paced, real time news environment. Committed to producing fair and accurate stories that give all parties an opportunity to have their say. Currently responsible for covering high impact events in soft commodities and agricultural commodities more broadly, analysing industry trends and uncovering developments that drive the market. In this role, I have produced market moving investigative stories covering topics like commodity trade flows, corporate strategy, farmer poverty, sustainability, climate change and government policy. A senior correspondent with nearly 25 years' experience covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict including several wars and the signing of the first historic peace accord between the two sides.

Ukraine, Europe urge more pressure on Russia after drone kills nine

GNS News Agency, May 22
KYIV, May 17 (Reuters) - Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on Saturday for stronger sanctions on Moscow after a Russian drone killed nine bus passengers in northeastern Ukraine just hours after the two countries held their first peace talks in three years of war. The meeting of Russian and Ukrainian officials in Turkey on Friday failed to broker a temporary ceasefire. It was the first direct dialogue between the two sides since the early months of the war that Russia launched in February 2022. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. Commenting on the drone strike in the Sumy region, Zelenskyy said on X: "All the deceased were civilians. And the Russians could not have failed to understand what kind of vehicle they were targeting. This was a deliberate killing of civilians."

Ukrainian police posted photos of a dark blue passenger van nearly destroyed, with the roof torn off and the windows blown out. "Pressure must be exerted on Russia to stop the killings. Without tougher sanctions, without stronger pressure, Russia will not seek real diplomacy," Zelenskyy said. He said Russia had sent to Istanbul "a weak and unprepared" delegation without a meaningful mandate while real steps were needed to end the war. "We are expecting strong sanctions against Russia from the United States, from Europe, and from all our partners. Diplomacy must start working," Zelenskyy stated. U.S. President Donald Trump, who has been pushing Moscow and Kyiv to hold peace talks, said before the two countries' negotiators met in Istanbul that "nothing could happen" until he had met directly with Russia's President Vladimir Putin. Speaking to Reuters in Pakistan's capital Islamabad on Saturday, British foreign minister David Lammy accused Moscow of obfuscating after the Istanbul talks, which ended in less than



two hours. "Yet again we are seeing obfuscation on the Russian side and unwillingness to get serious about the enduring peace that is now required in Ukraine," Lammy told Reuters in Pakistan's capital Islamabad. "Once again Russia is not serious." "At what point do we say to Putin enough is enough?" French President Emmanuel Macron also said the talks in Istanbul had been fruitless. "Today, what do we have? Nothing. And so I tell you, faced with President Putin's cynicism, I am sure that President Trump, mindful of the credibility of the United States, will react," he said during a joint press conference with Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama. Zelenskyy had challenged Putin earlier in the week to meet him in person, an offer the Russian leader ignored, but according to the Ukrainian delegation in Istanbul this possibility was discussed during Friday's talks. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Saturday that Russia considered such a meeting was possible, but only as a result of work between the two sides to "achieve certain results in the form of agreements". "At the same time, when signing documents that the delegations are to agree upon, the main and fundamental thing for us remains who exactly will sign these documents from the Ukrainian side," Peskov added. Peskov did not elaborate on that remark.

Lammy says UK, US working to ensure enduring India-Pakistan ceasefire, dialogue



GNS News Agency, May 22
ISLAMABAD, May 17 (Reuters) - Britain is working with the U.S. to ensure a ceasefire between India and Pakistan endures and that "confidence-building measures" and dialogue take place, foreign minister David Lammy said on Saturday. Pakistan has said Britain and other countries, in addition to the United States, played a major role in de-escalating the worst fighting in decades between the nuclear-armed South Asian rivals, which erupted last week. A rapid diplomatic effort to broker the ceasefire succeeded on May 10, but diplomats and analysts say it remains fragile. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. "We will continue to work with the United States to ensure that we get an enduring ceasefire, to ensure that dialogue is happening and to work through with Pakistan and India how we can get to confidence and confidence-building measures between the two sides," Lammy told Reuters in Pakistan's

capital Islamabad at the end of a two-day visit. Pakistan and India fired missiles onto each other's territory during weeks of tensions after a deadly attack on tourists in the contested region of Kashmir that New Delhi blames on Islamabad. Pakistan denies involvement. U.S. President Donald Trump said after the ceasefire was struck that talks should take place in a third-country venue but no dates or location for the talks have been announced. "These are two neighbours with a long history but they are two neighbours that have barely been able to speak to one other over this past period, and we want to ensure that we do not see further escalation and that the ceasefire endures," Lammy said.

Asked about India's suspension of the Indus Water Treaty, potentially squeezing Pakistan's water supply, Lammy said: "We would urge all sides to meet their treaty obligations." Delhi said last month it had "put in abeyance" its participation in the 1960 pact, which governs use of the Indus river system, a move Pakistan says it would consider an act of war if it disrupted access to water in the agriculturally dependent nation. Lammy said Britain would also continue to work with Pakistan on countering "terrorism", saying that it is "a terrible blight on this country and its people, and of course on the region." "OBFUSCATION" BY RUSSIA ON UKRAINE Lammy accused Moscow of obfuscating after talks between Ukraine and Russia on a possible ceasefire ended in less than two hours and Trump said "nothing could happen" until he had met directly with Russian President Vladimir Putin. "Yet again we are seeing obfuscation on the Russian side and unwillingness to get serious about the enduring peace that is now required in Ukraine," Lammy said. "Once again Russia is not serious."

Kremlin says Putin could meet Zelenskyy if certain agreements are reached

GNS News Agency, May 22
MOSCOW, The Kremlin said on Saturday that Russian President Vladimir Putin could meet Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy, but only if certain agreements were reached. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov did not specify what agreements would be required from Russia's point of view. Putin and Zelenskyy have not met since December 2019. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

President Zelenskyy had challenged the Kremlin leader to meet him in Turkey this week but Putin instead sent a team of aides and officials to meet Ukrainian negotiators on Friday for the first bilateral, face-to-face talks since March 2022.

Ukraine said it had raised the issue of a Putin-Zelenskyy meeting at the talks. Peskov said Russia considered such a meeting was possible, but only as a result of work between the two sides to "achieve certain results in the form of agreements". He added: "At the same time, when signing documents that the delegations are to agree upon, the main and fundamental thing for us remains who exactly



will sign these documents from the Ukrainian side." Peskov did not elaborate on that remark. Putin has previously challenged Zelenskyy's legitimacy as president because his elected term of office expired last year. Ukraine, under martial law as it defends itself against Russia, has not set a date for a new election.

U.S. considering reality TV competition for citizenship



GNS News Agency, May 22
The United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is considering taking part in a reality TV show in which immigrants would compete for American citizenship, the department confirmed. Asked about the reported idea, DHS responded with a statement that said the pitch "has not received approval or rejection by staff," and that "each proposal undergoes a thorough vetting process prior to denial or approval."

"We need to revive patriotism and civic duty in this country, and we're happy to review out-of-the-box pitches," Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin said in the statement. The Wall Street Journal reported that the proposed show -- which was pitched by a Canadian Ameri-

can named Rob Worsoff -- would see contestants face off to prove they are the most American. "This isn't The Hunger Games for immigrants," the newspaper quoted Worsoff as saying -- a reference to a dystopian novel and subsequent movie about children forced to kill each other in a televised competition for survival. "This is not, 'Hey, if you lose, we are shipping you out on a boat out of the country,'" he said. The Journal reviewed a 36-page slide deck from Worsoff's team about the proposed program, which would see contestants compete in one-hour episodes. This could include a gold rush competition to see who can retrieve the most precious metal from a mine, or one in which contestants would work in teams to assemble the chassis of a Model T car, according to the newspaper. The show would start with an arrival at Ellis Island -- the traditional entrance point for immigrants to the United States -- and would see one contestant eliminated per episode.

The news comes as former reality show star President Donald Trump's administration has moved to end temporary protected status (TPS) for various groups of immigrants it had shielded them from deportation. Federal law permits the government to grant TPS to foreign citizens who cannot safely return home because of war, natural disasters or other "extraordinary" conditions. Since taking office, Trump has sought to strip TPS protections from citizens of countries including Afghanistan, Haiti and Venezuela as part of his broader crackdown on immigration.

Chinese national held for in-flight theft, suspected to be part of global syndicate

A Chinese national, suspected to be a member of an organised global in-flight theft syndicate, has been arrested for allegedly stealing debit and credit cards from fellow passengers during a flight from Hong Kong to New Delhi, police said on The accused, 30-year-old Benlai Pan, was arrested upon arrival at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport on May 14 following complaints from multiple passengers aboard Air India flight AI-315, they said in an official statement.

Pan was travelling with three other Chinese nationals -- 51-year-old Meng Guangyang, 42-year-old Chang Mang, 45-year-old and Liu Jie -- all of whom were detained and questioned, officials said. According to authorities, the group is suspected to be operating together as part of an international in-flight theft racket. "Air India's security team alerted the IGI Airport police about suspicious activities involving four Chinese nationals on the flight. One of the passengers, Prabhat Verma, who was seated at 12C, reported that a credit card had gone missing from his bag," Additional Commissioner of Police (IGI) Usha Ranganani said in an official statement. "Verma also pointed out suspicious behaviour by a passenger seated at 14C, who was ticketed for seat 23C," the statement said. The missing credit card was later recovered from beneath seat 14C, where Pan was found seated, she said. Another passenger, Prashi, reported that her mother's debit card had also gone missing. A third passenger, Nafeez Fatima, provided a video showing Pan allegedly opening overhead bins and rummaging through cabin baggage during the flight, the officer said. During in-



terrogation, Pan confessed that they booked long-haul international transit flights to target sleeping passengers and access unattended cabin luggage. The group spread themselves across the cabin to avoid suspicion and discarded stolen cards after attempting to use them, she added. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the IGI Airport police station, police said. Mobile phones, wallets, and other belongings of the suspects have been seized for forensic examination. International coordination is underway to investigate their possible involvement in similar incidents globally, they further said. While Benlai Pan has been arrested, the roles of his three associates are under scrutiny. Immigration authorities across the country have been alerted, and liaison has been established with embassies and global law enforcement agencies, police added.

Exodus under a blistering sun in Rayalaseema



In Byluppala village of Kurnool district, four-year-old Nandini and five-year-old Harshavardhan scampered around their house, their excited shrieks drowning out their grandmother Malakka Hanumanthamma's gentle reprimand for playing under the blistering summer sun. At 80, Hanumanthamma struggles to care for the two children as well as her ailing husband, Timmaiah, alone, but it can't be helped. Her three sons and daughters-in-law work in Hyderabad as labourers and won't be back until after June, when the monsoon is well under way.

It's the norm in Byluppala, where 40-odd families leave behind their young children and elderly parents every summer to migrate to various parts of the State and beyond in an age-old tradition known as "Suggi", which persists in the parched land of Rayalaseema. The practice is especially prevalent in the drought-prone Adoni and Pathikonda divisions of Kurnool district. "Even I used to migrate, but now I am too old to work, so I stay back in the village with the children," says Hanumanthamma. Nandini and Harshavardhan are the children of Hanumanthamma's youngest son. The money her sons send and the monthly social security pension keep the household afloat, but loneliness is taking a toll on the elderly couple. "I can only hear my sons [over mobile phone], but not see them," she says, in a voice heavy with grief. When unwell, she goes to a nearby Primary Health Centre (PHC). "If I can't even go that far, somebody [neighbours] will take care of me. If I need money, my sons transfer it to someone in the village or the doctor treating me," she adds.

Suggi is driven primarily by Rayalaseema's dependence on rain-fed agriculture. Land, traditionally regarded as the cornerstone of stable life, fails to make an impact here. Hanumathamma's family, too, has a few acres, but her sons can only cultivate it between the monsoon period of June to September, and even that depends on the rainfall. The only crop they can grow is cotton.

"We can only use the variety that requires less water, but the yield is much lower than that of the varieties grown in irrigated areas," she says. While an acre of irrigated field yields cotton worth over ₹1,00,000, the family's rain-fed fields produce just enough to fetch around ₹30,000-₹40,000 an acre, she adds. With jobs lacking, people are forced to

choose between migration and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Scheme (MGNREGS), which pays a modest ₹307 a day but often delays payment by 2-3 months. Project Director (Kurnool), District Water Management Agency (DWMA), P. Venkara Ramanaiah says the agency, which implements MGNREGS in the district, employs one lakh people a day and gives work to whoever comes forward. Though he acknowledged the complaints regarding low wages, he noted that it is fixed by the Centre. A senior official of the agency, who sought anonymity, says that delay happens in the payment of wages because it takes time for the Centre to release payment for the bills of the works executed. Migrant work, on the other hand, pays a person significantly higher than MGNREGS, making Suggi a preferred option for the villagers. Fifty-five-year-old P. Maddileti from Bandimeeda Aghraharam in Gonegandla mandal says they can make a reasonable sum working in chilli fields in Guntur during summer. "The amount depends on the contract. Some farmers engage us for daily wages, while others task us with harvesting chillies from two or three acres. The whole family pitches in to complete the work as early as possible and move on to other fields. On average, a family member earns ₹800-₹1,000 a day," he adds. Years ago, agents used to visit the villages, pick up people and transport them to Guntur, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and even as far as Mumbai. Now, however, people get in touch with farmers directly, and four or five families leave for the work in groups, he points out. A walk through Byluppala village shows the scale of the migration. Most houses are either locked or have only elderly people and young children. "Over half the villagers have migrated," says Malakka Rangamma, another elderly resident in the village with a story similar to that of Hanumanthamma.

Malakka Rangamma standing outside one of the locked house in Byluppala village. The residents have left for Hyderabad in search of jobs. Rangamma's three sons, along with their families, have also migrated to other places.

Malakka Rangamma standing outside one of the locked house in Byluppala village. The residents have left for Hyderabad in search of jobs. Rangamma's three sons, along with their families, have also migrated to other places. J. Basavappa, an old-timer in the same village, says that even someone with 30 acres in these areas has to migrate. "Who would want to leave behind the place they grew up in, their young children and elderly parents and go off to distant lands if they have a choice?" he asks.

Bannur in Aspari mandal looks deserted. Sitting under a large banyan tree is 65-year-old Mangali Venkateswarlu. "I have 10 acres, which deprives me of a social security pension, but the land is useless. Where is the water to cultivate it? Sinking a borewell is futile," he says. Over half the villagers, including his three sons, have migrated to Telangana for work. "Some leave the village soon after Sankranti and return for Ugadi, only to leave again later. This time around, some didn't even turn up for Ugadi," he adds. According to sources, most of the children in these families are enrolled in social welfare residential schools while their parents migrate to far-off places. Because the region doesn't get much rain, Kurnool and other parts of Rayalaseema cannot rely on tanks to ensure year-round water availability. So, when summer peaks, tanks and ponds in the region dry up, leaving families in dire water shortage. In Pathikonda, Adoni and Aspari mandals, people trek kilometres together to fetch water. Motorcycles and push-carts laden with plastic pots filled with water trundling along dusty country roads are a common sight during these months.

Why educational institutions must engage students in community service

Educational institutions are generally built to serve society through teaching, research, and leadership in the communities that they serve. They are morally accountable to create value for society through engaging their students, teachers and resources in the process of social transformation. Nonetheless, community engagement across India is not much seen or practised. This is owing to the enormous pressure on schools and colleges that confines them to routine teaching and learning processes of the subjects and contents in the curriculum.

Why it's important The impulse to get benefits out of mapping educational goals with community engagement is poor among students and educators, despite the repeated attempts from regulatory bodies and governments to ensure their participation in the community's well-being. The National Service Scheme (NSS), a traditional method of connecting students with the community, has been lost due to the coaching culture gaining importance. Students are exhausted from routine learning and coaching and seldom think of others.

Community engagement is a systematic process by which the youth become involved with and constructively contribute their time, energy, and efforts to their environments with a sense of purpose. Students and educational institutions must believe that an issue that affects society impacts their lives in some way and work with public, govern-



ment, and non-government organisations to create sustainable visions for the future. Involving students can help them understand and address issues that affect people's well-being and achieve sustainable outcomes, and equitable decision-making processes that deepen relationships and trust between the educational institutions and communities. What can be done Educational institutions should evolve different approaches for community engagement. Students — individually or with their teachers — can conduct research to ascertain community needs and involve themselves in assessing and developing ideas for inclusive and sustainable development. Students can develop material to educate communities about their socio-economic issues and improve their employment skills. Student volunteers can assist the government's literacy drive and help the public be aware of human and constitutional rights. They can help

small vendors and micro and small-scale entrepreneurs improve their business skills and train the community in energy saving and environment conservation. Much can be done to educate the community to access health insurance schemes of both the state and union governments. Students can also engage with migrant labourers and help them be aware of their health status, and the availability of health facilities in and around their workplace. Educational institutions can offer public access to their libraries free of cost, as is done by many U.S. universities. Community engagement helps students develop empathy, a sense of belonging and empowers them to take action. Research has shown that students who are involved in community activities are able to adapt easily to diversity, develop leadership skills, and engage in critical self-reflection. They become socially responsible, compassionate, and disciplined. Beyond the benefits to indi-

vidual students, such activities offer educational institutions greater acceptance among the public, build goodwill and reputation. The UGC Guidelines for Institutional Development Plan 2024 and Social Responsibility and Community Engagement in India 2.0, 2022, respectively call for aligning academic values with social expectations, ensuring relevance and existence. Nonetheless, a well-tailored manual facilitating community engagement is the need of the hour, to execute programmes in a systematic manner. For successful implementation, the support of managements and teachers is indispensable. Educational institutions should establish an Office of Community Engagement (OCE) to plan and implement impactful activities that bring positive changes and help attain the UN SDGs. The writer is Professor and Principal Faculty of Management Sciences, Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research. sjesiah@gmail.com

Why engineering graduates from tier-2, tier-3 colleges struggle: The skill gap few talk about



When Saif (name changed to protect anonymity) graduated from a private engineering college in Madhya Pradesh, he dreamed of a career in Civil Engineering. Although he had done well in college, scoring high marks and completing a reputable internship, he was unaware of the skills required to get a job. "I was ahead of most of my classmates, but I didn't even know what the 'skills' companies looked for were called," he said.

To secure a job that paid on a par with his IIT or NIT friends, Saif had to upskill through online courses and his master's degree — efforts he believes could have been avoided with better institutional support at the undergraduate level. After completing his Bachelor's, Saif felt compelled to pursue a Master's degree, not by choice, but by necessity; he lacked industry-relevant skills, exposure, and career guidance. He mentioned that the curriculum at his tier-3 college was outdated and disconnected from current market or trend needs. "I realised I had to learn the skills myself this time and not depend on the college," he said. Saif's story isn't an outlier. It is a familiar situation faced by thousands of engineering graduates from tier-2 and tier-3 colleges across India. Despite holding the same degrees as their IIT or NIT counterparts, many find themselves locked out of core industry jobs.

The barriers can be numerous; a lack of practical, up-to-date skills due to rigid or outdated curricula, as Saif mentioned; lack of confidence in expression and communication; or lower motivational levels in students. Alaf Azam Khan, Senior Product Manager at Increff in Bengaluru who has interviewed 1000+ top tier engineering students for his company, noted a sharp difference in student behaviour between pre-COVID and post-COVID batches. "Our company offers Pre Placement Offers early during internships, and we used to invest significant time training interns. But with the batch just after COVID, we had to revoke PPOs because many students lacked initiative and were unwilling to learn or contribute ideas." Siva Prasad, a retired IIT professor, highlights a key challenge that students from tier-3 engineering colleges face during the hiring process is poor communication skills. While many are technically competent, they often struggle to express their ideas clearly during interviews or group discussions.

English or professionalism can be a problem if a student who comes from a rural background joins a tier-3 in an urban or semi-urban college. Thus the lack of fluency in English, hesitation while speaking, and difficulty structuring responses can cause even skilled and talented students to be overlooked in favour of more confident speakers, he added. This communication gap is often the result of limited exposure to soft skill training, internships, and peer-learning (group-learning) opportunities. In many tier-3 institutions, the academic focus tends to be on rote learning and theory, with little emphasis on building confidence, public speaking, or professional etiquette.

Mr. Alaf also mentioned that recruitment drives in India often disproportionately favour students from top-tier engineering institutions, more from NITs in his company's case, as they are significantly polished, confident and even well prepared for interviews. The ecosystem in these premier institutes often includes access to active alumni networks, regular workshops, industry and market exposure, which makes a well-structured environment that gives them a significant edge during placements. Varadarajan Sridharan, an EdTech researcher currently pursuing a Master's at UCL, London, and formerly associated with organisations such as Microsoft, Cognizant, and NTT, says campus placements have increasingly become a public relations tool for the institution rather than a true indicator of academic or professional capability. Many colleges use full-page advertisements to lure students and their families, promising guaranteed jobs at the end of the four-year course. This, he noted, is often presented as a marker of the institution's credibility.

However, the focus in such cases shifts away from building capable, curious learners to merely producing graduates who have to be hand-held to land their first job. In reality, he argued, what is needed today is not just placements but an ecosystem that first nurtures learnability. "If there is a sense of purpose built in students in their early career, then they will learn superfast," he said.

With the current cutbacks on hiring, tier 2 and 3 students are getting squeezed out more. And the cutbacks have affected the top institutions as well. The 364th report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education tabled in March highlights a sharp decline in placements at India's top engineering institutions, including IITs, NITs, and IIITs. Between 2021-22 and 2023-24, 22 of the 23 IITs recorded a drop in placements, with 15 IITs seeing a decline of over 10 percentage points. Imbesat Ahmad, CEO at Filo, instant tutoring platform and an IIT Kharagpur alumni, said that the rise of AI tools has reduced the need for large entry-level teams and AI tools that able to do 10x more work in terms of productivity with just five engineers. "The work which was earlier done by a team of 20+, AI is taking away mediocrity." Shashank Malhotra, Senior Vice President (FRM) at Swiss Re, Bengaluru and an IIT Kanpur alumnus, observed that students, whether in tier-1 or tier-3 colleges, have wide access to study material and online courses, but those in tier-3 often lack proper guidance to pursue these resources effectively. He emphasised that peer and senior groups in the field can foster discussions, both, offline and online, helping students understand how to improve their odds, participate in competitions just to test the waters, and make informed decisions. He added, "The system may well take a long time to improve. Meanwhile, students should focus on the things that are under their control." The advice fits well with Saif's experiences. Poor training and lack of

professional exposure in his undergraduate years pushed him to pursue a Master's degree from Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal in order to stand on equal footing with his peers. He worked on 71+ government projects as a civil engineer for six years.

Today tier 2 and 3 college students can benefit from skilling programs over and beyond the college and the curriculum. Government-led skill development schemes such as PMKVY (Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana) and NASSCOM's FutureSkills initiative, which is a government-industry partnership aimed at reskilling and upskilling India's IT workforce in technologies like AI, cybersecurity, cloud computing, and data science. Simultaneously, edtech platforms like Coursera, NPTEL, Scaler, and UpGrad are transforming how students access knowledge beyond the classroom curriculum. These platforms provide structured learning paths, expert instruction, mentorship, and in some cases, career support.

Some engineering colleges are now beginning to embrace innovation more proactively. Several tier-2 institutions have started setting up incubation cells, inviting startups for placements, and encouraging student-led projects or entrepreneurship. These initiatives can demonstrate that even within conventional academic structures, meaningful change is possible when institutions prioritise experiential learning and industry alignment. At the same time, a few innovative startups and institutions have stepped in to bridge the gap left by traditional colleges. EngineersConnect, a community-driven platform founded in 2022 and recognised by the Ministry of Education, helps engineering students from smaller towns build relevant projects, join hackathons, and network with startups and recruiters. "This is a platform for everyone in the ecosystem like students, from first year to last, alumni, and recruiters," says Bhushan Gaikwad, Founder and CEO of the startup. EngineersConnect is a "discovery and showcase platform for both skills and talent" that offers tools like scoring systems to help students understand where they stand and how they can improve. "This is a platform for everyone in the ecosystem like students, alumni, and recruiters and provide them the opportunities that are often out of reach in traditional college settings," he added. Bhushan experienced this gap firsthand as a student at Wadia College of Engineering. The platform's idea popped up in his mind when he experienced no campus placements, limited mentorship, and a lack of exposure to like-minded people. He noticed his peers and himself in a space where real skills were often overlooked during hiring because they didn't belong to a top college or have high grades.

Masai School, for instance, is a new-age career institute in Bengaluru, that is redefining how technical education is delivered to aspiring professionals from diverse backgrounds especially those without access to tier-1 institutions. Masai's core model is outcome-oriented and based on the principle that students should not have to pay for education there (Pay After Placement (PAP) structure), until they are gainfully employed. With its PAP structure, students pay nothing until they land a job with a minimum salary, making it a low-risk, high-impact option for learners from tier-2 and tier-3 colleges who may not have the financial flexibility. Masai focuses on practical skills with intensive, bootcamp-style courses in Full Stack Web Development, Data Analytics and more. The school's rigorous curriculum prioritises hands-on learning, real-world projects, and professional development, enabling students, even those from non-computer science backgrounds to transition into tech roles.

Govt to develop digital platform for e-filing of documents in trade remedy probes

New Delhi: The government is developing a digital platform to enable the electronic submission of documents in trade remedy investigations with a view to further promoting transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for all stakeholders, an official statement said on Saturday.

These investigations are carried out by the commerce ministry's arm Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR). Since 1995, India has initiated over 1,200 trade remedy investigations and recent interventions have protected domestic sectors, including solar energy and advanced materials, such as solar cells and copper wire rods, from unfairly priced imports and subsidised goods.

"Looking ahead, the government is developing a digital platform to enable the electronic submission of documents in trade remedy investigations," the commerce ministry said in the statement.

The platform is expected to go live soon, offering enhanced transparency, efficiency, and ease of access for all stakeholders, it said. The main objective of the directorate is to protect sensitive sectors against the adverse impact of trade liberalisation, like dumping and subsidies from any exporting country, by way of carrying out investigations in a time-bound manner. The main functions of the DGTR include conducting anti-dumping, anti-subsidy/CVD (countervailing duty), and safeguard investigations. The finance ministry takes the final decision to impose these duties.

‘India willing to cut 100% tariffs; trade deal with Delhi soon’: Donald Trump



India is willing to cut 100 per cent tariffs on American goods, US President Donald Trump claimed once again while saying that a trade deal between New Delhi and Washington is coming soon.In an interview to Fox News, Trump, however, said that he is not in a “rush” for the proposed trade deal.Against the backdrop of the US president’s repeated claim of India offering to drop all tariffs on American goods, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said in New Delhi on Thursday that “any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial”.

Trump again described India as “one of the highest tariff nations in the world.” “They make it almost impossible to do business. Do you know that they’re willing to cut 100

Suez Canal offers 15% discount to cargo ships: Will vessels return to the Red Sea route after US-Houthi ceasefire?

Egypt’s Suez Canal Authority (SCA) is offering a 15 per cent discount from May 15 on transit fee to cargo ships of minimum 130,000 mt capacity, underscoring the impact that the Red Sea security crisis has had on the waterway critical to the shortest maritime route to the Mediterranean Sea and beyond from the Arab Peninsula, North-East Africa, and the Arabian Sea. “The SCA has issued incentives and reductions of 15 per cent on the transit tolls of container ships of 130 thousand tonnes or more in net tonnage (loaded or in ballast) for 90 days,” said Admiral Ossama Rabiee, SCA chairman and MD after a meeting with the Italian Ambassador to Egypt, Michele Quaroni.

Earlier, Rabiee also reached out to 25 major shipping line operators and maritime agencies, urging them to gradually return their vessels to the Suez Canal citing the positive development “towards the return of navigation in the Red Sea”. This came three days after US President Donald Trump announced that Iran-backed Houthi militia had agreed to a ceasefire in the Red Sea. The Houthis maintained that Israel-flagged and -linked ships are not part of the agreement with the US, and they will continue to be targeted .In November 2023, Yemen-based Houthi rebels, backed by Iran, began targeting commercial vessels that they believed were linked to Israel and its key allies in response to its military offensive in Gaza. This crisis prompted the world’s major container lines to divert their ships from the Red Sea route and navigate around the Cape of Good Hope. With much of the cargo movement rerouting away from the Suez Canal, its revenue crashed to around \$4 billion in 2024 from \$10.3 billion in 2023.“This (discount offered) seems to be a move to bring the container ships, also called boxships, back to the Suez Canal. Bulk carriers and tankships were diverted from the Suez Canal, but these boxships were a major source of revenue for the SCA,” said Anil Devli, CEO, Indian National Shipowners Association. With the SCA offering steep discounts and the apparent calm in the Red Sea, even if fragile, the central question is: will vessels return to this key artery of global shipping and trade anytime soon?The Suez Canal accounts for nearly 12-15 per cent of global trade, according to IMF data. Nearly 30 per cent of global container traffic flowed through the Suez Canal before the Houthi attacks began. It is also a key passage for 8-9 per cent of global energy flows.

As of May 11, 2025, Suez Canal’s daily transit trade volume (TTV) stood at 484,137 mt, compared with 1,349,086 mt a year ago, shows data from PortWatch, a live conflict tracker maintained by the IMF and Oxford University. TTV denotes the total volume of goods transported through a shipping route. Daily TTV stood at 11,052,600 mt as of May 11, 2025 at the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, compared with 1,192,116 mt a year ago, according to PortWatch data.According to an analysis by the Federal Reserve Bank of St Louis, ports in East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Central Asia, the Middle East and North Africa witnessed a decline in the amount of trade between October 20, 2023 and January 28, 2024 compared to the year-ago period.

Shipping costs in the Suez Canal region soared 180 per cent during the period under consideration. “As firms reroute shipments, the companies that continue to ship through the Suez Canal are likely raising prices to compensate for the higher risk, as well as to take advantage of the reduced shipping supply,” the Federal Reserve of St Louis said.

Like various other countries, India was also heavily reliant on the Red Sea shipping route for exports to Europe, with nearly 80 per cent of the volumes going through the

per cent of their tariffs for the United States?” Trump said.When asked if the deal with India is coming soon, Trump said, “that’ll come soon. I’m in no rush. Look, everybody wants to make a deal with us.” Then he went on to add: “South Korea wants to make a deal but I’m not going to make deals with everybody. I’m just going to set the limit. I’ll make another some deals. Because I can’t, you can’t meet with that many people. I’ve got 150 countries that want to make deals.” India and the US are holding talks to firm up a trade deal.“These are complicated negotiations. Nothing is decided till everything is. Any trade deal has to be mutually beneficial; it has to work for both countries,” he said.“That would be our expectation from the trade deal.” Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is currently in Washington to assess the progress of negotiations for the proposed trade agreement.

He is expected to hold talks with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer.To boost bilateral trade, India is seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, chemicals, grapes, and bananas in the proposed pact with America.On the other hand, the US wants duty concessions in sectors like certain industrial goods, automobiles (electric vehicles in particular), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, agriculture items such as apples, and tree nuts.



Suez Canal. The shifting of trade flows from the Red Sea to the route around Africa have evidently impacted Indian exporters by denting their margins as they now have to contend with higher freight rates for exports to Europe and beyond. With much of India’s trade dependent on overseas shippers and foreign-flagged commercial vessels, there is little the country can do in the short term to shield itself from the impact of the Red Sea crisis.Well-adjusted to new route, shipping giants may be hesitant

While the Red Sea security crisis hit traffic and revenue for the Suez Canal, it also led to higher shipping costs as vessels go around Africa, extending voyage durations—by 10-14 days—and fuel burn significantly, leading to higher freight rates. The longer voyages also made vessel availability tighter, again having an inflationary impact on freight rates. And for vessels still looking to transit the Red Sea, war risk insurance premiums skyrocketed, making the route unviable for most.To be sure, while freight rates have risen as ships chose to go around the Cape of Good Hope, shipping companies have mostly passed on the cost to the consumers, Devli said. During this time, the SCA’s revenues crashed, while shipping lines were able to navigate the storm reasonably well, with global majors like Maersk reporting growth in revenue and profit on the back of higher freight rates and strong container demand.“The Cape of Good Hope route has resulted in ship owners charging higher freight rates, as shown by the earnings of Danish shipping giant Maersk. The company’s vessels will continue to sail around the Cape of Good Hope since the declaration of a ceasefire was not adequate,” Devli added.

Given that the global shipping lines have adjusted rather well to the new normal of using the longer and safer route around Africa and still protecting—and even growing—their profits, there is little reason for them to return to the Suez Canal route till they are fully confident of the safety of their ships and crew.“Even if the truce is a step in the right direction, I think many players will remain cautious until there’s consistent evidence that navigation is truly safe,” Arturo Regalado, Kpler Insight Senior LNG and Natural Gas Analyst said.

The Red Sea crisis has also hit liquefied natural gas (LNG) flows via Suez Canal which plummeted to 4.15 million tonnes in 2024 from 32.36 million tonnes in 2023 and 34.94 million tonnes in 2022 according to Kpler data. Meanwhile, LNG volumes going via the Cape of Good Hope increased by a little over five-fold from 11.76 million tonnes in 2022 to 59.37 million tonnes in 2024.According to industry watchers, a key factor that is adding to shipping lines’ hesitation is the fact that the Houthis are still likely to target Israel’s ships and those headed for Israeli ports, potentially making the maritime route volatile and unsafe for other vessels in the region when such attacks or counter-attacks are underway.

sometimes in the northern Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh, this subspecies of red deer is also known as Hangul.

5. Pygmy Hog

A visit to Manas National Park of Assam will get you closer to the world’s smallest and rarest wild pig. With a population less than 250, these creatures thrive in wet grasslands and are capable of building their own homes with a roof from scratch.

6. Nilgiri Blue Robin

Also known as Nilgir Sholakilis, this stunning songbird found in Shola forests of the Western Ghats and the hills of Southern India, boasts of bright blue plumage, white belly feathers, and a black tail with an orange tip.

7. Ganges River Dolphin

With a population of 3750 today, they are found in parts of Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Bihar.

8. Andaman Wild Boar

This animal features a dark coat and sturdy build, thriving in dense forests of the Andaman Islands. Having adapted to the island life, it sustains itself on roots, fruits and small invertebrates found in the tropical region

What can gamers do to ensure health and device safety



As we race toward mid-May and temperatures persist in the high 30s and low 40s, it’s the time of year to discuss the best practices for gaming during the summer months. In such inclement weather, a marathon gaming session can be extremely demanding – both on the gaming device and the gamer.This week, we focus on the essentials to ensure your summer gaming sessions are smooth and hassle-free.

When to play?

Early mornings or late evenings in ventilated spaces is the best time because not only is the weather cooler but there is also the chance of a cool breeze making things easier. If you play with the AC on, most times during the day work but I would still recommend not playing between 1-4 pm when the temperature is at its highest.

Where to play?

Despite the stereotypical image of gamers seeking dark places – a dark, cool room is one of the best places to play games. However, with gamers preferring large bright displays and fancy RGB lighting setups it is important to think about how cool one’s gaming space is. Always ensure there is enough space around your gaming device for good air flow. In the case of gaming consoles, if they are

primarily kept in tight enclosures in TV units, bring them out in the summer and give them the breathing room they require.This week, we focus on the essentials to ensure your summer gaming sessions are smooth and hassle-free.Short bursts of time not exceeding 90 minutes at a time is a good way to go. Try and avoid marathon gaming sessions and ensure there is enough time between gaming sessions for the device to cool down. Also make sure to not leave your systems/consoles in rest modes, unplug the power on your laptops, and don’t leave your handhelds in their docks for too long.Onto the more advanced bits in terms of cooling, I would strongly recommend giving your device a thorough clean and using a good blower to get rid of the dust in its many vents. The number of stories I’ve heard where dust accumulation has prevented cooling and led to a device catching fire is simply too many. If you rely on liquid cooling or gel-based cooling mats, make sure to test the system and the liquid that does the actual cooling.If you play on a PC with one of the newer graphics cards (RTX series or Navi/Radeon RX), liquid cooling is a must. For console players, during the day, I recommend some air-conditioning given how small and tight the console designs can be.

If you play on a mobile phone, then my golden rule is: “If it’s hot to the touch, immediately stop playing.” I now extend this rule to gaming handhelds like the Switch, ROG Ally, and MSI Claw as well—always be aware of how hot a screen or the backplate feels.While mobile phones are no longer as poorly optimized or throttled for heat as they once were, the handheld market is still relatively new and requires careful monitoring. No playing while charging the device, whether from a wall charger or a power band.Lastly, always make sure you are well-hydrated and take as many breaks as possible during play sessions to maintain your posture and overall health. Gaming can get intense and very hot, and it can lead to you falling ill. You’re just as likely to get a heat stroke indoors as you are out in the sun if you’re trapped in a warm space for too long.

Pakistan goods in transit via third country being banned

Pakistan goods in transit, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Pakistan, Customs, OPERATION SINDOOR, ceasefire, india Pakistan ceasefire, Pakistan drone strike, drone strike, Pakistan drone strike reponse, drone strike reponse, Army strikes, Army strikes in Pakistan, Army strikes Pakistan terror sites, Indian army, Army strikes PoK, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Pahalgam attack, Pahalgam terror attack, Pahalgam terrorist attack, Pahalgam terrorists, Indian army, india pakistan ties, india pakistan tensions, article 370, Indian army, Abrogation of Article 370, terrorism, terrorist attack, Kashmir attack, Jammu and Kashmir terrorist attack, Jammu and Kashmir, cross-border infiltration, border security, border infiltration, Pahalgam attack, Pahalgam terror attack, Pahalgam terrorist attack, Pahalgam terrorists, Indian army, india pakistan ties, india pakistan tensions, article 370, Indian army, Abrogation of Article 370, terrorism, terrorist attack, Kashmir attack, Jammu and Kashmir terrorist attack, Jammu and Kashmir, cross-border infiltration, border security, border infiltration, Indian express news, current affairsPrior to the May 2 ban, India had already terminated direct trade with Pakistan, marked by the closure of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari on April 24, following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), the anti-smuggling body under the Finance Ministry, has begun blocking in-transit goods originating from Pakistan that are being routed through third countries such as the UAE, a government official told .The increased scrutiny by the Customs authorities follows an immediate government ban on the import and transit of all goods originating in, or exported from, Pakistan, according to a May 2 notification by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in the wake of the Pahalgam terrorist attack.

The official said the government is closely monitoring goods arriving from Pakistan, and even consignments that may have been in transit before the May 2 notification now fall under the scope of the ban. Under normal circumstances, an exception is made for goods already at sea.“Customs are taking action whenever there is suspicion. At a few ports, the DRI has initiated action — for instance, a Pakistani-flagged ship was not allowed to dock. Traders have been reaching out to authorities, claiming trade losses. But a strong notification was necessary to ramp up scrutiny,” the official said.“With regard to goods arriving from third countries, it is sometimes difficult to identify Pakistani-origin goods based solely on rules-of-origin certificates. However, closer scrutiny through labelling verification of-



ten reveals the product’s actual origin,” the official said.

The official said it is suspected that Pakistani dates and dry fruits have been entering India through the UAE, and the matter has been raised with the Emirati government. “The UAE has provided production figures, claiming that it also produces dates and dry fruits. But strict notifications serve as a deterrent, even encouraging other countries to avoid bending the norms,” the official said.Prior to the May 2 ban, India had already terminated direct trade with Pakistan, marked by the closure of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari on April 24, following the Pahalgam terror attack. That move was expected to halt cross-border trade worth Rs 3,886 crore between India and Pakistan.According to estimates by the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), about \$10 billion worth of Indian goods reach Pakistan via trans-shipment hub routes.Tensions between the two countries — particularly after the 2019 Pulwama attack — reduced bilateral trade from Rs 4,370.78 crore in 2018-19 to Rs 2,257.55 crore in 2022-23. However, trade rebounded to Rs 3,886.53 crore in 2023-24, the highest in the past five years. Notably, total cargo movement also declined from 49,102 consignments in 2018-19 to just 3,827 in 2022-23, the data shows.In dollar terms, annual India–Pakistan trade has shrunk to about \$2 billion over the past five years — a small fraction of the \$37 billion trade potential estimated by the World Bank. India’s overall goods trade stands at \$430 billion, while Pakistan’s is approximately \$100 billion.The curbing of trade marks a significant shift from the late 1990s, when India took the initiative to boost bilateral trade by extending Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan in 1996, leading to a surge in trading volumes. However, Pakistan never reciprocated by granting the same status to India. In 2019, India revoked Pakistan’s MFN status following the Pulwama terrorist attack.

Kanpur engineers die after botched hair transplant: What questions should you ask your dermatologist?

Two engineers in Kanpur have died after a botched hair transplant at a private dental clinic, which the police are investigating for employing untrained staff and attempting procedures they were not qualified for. This has raised anxieties about whether hair transplants are safe and an easy option for everybody.Let me say that hair transplants are totally safe if done by skilled and experienced medical practitioners in a well-equipped and clean environment. The process entails relocating healthy hair follicles from a donor site, typically the back of the head, to thinning or balding areas. With precise extraction and minimal scarring, the outcomes have become more natural and enduring.

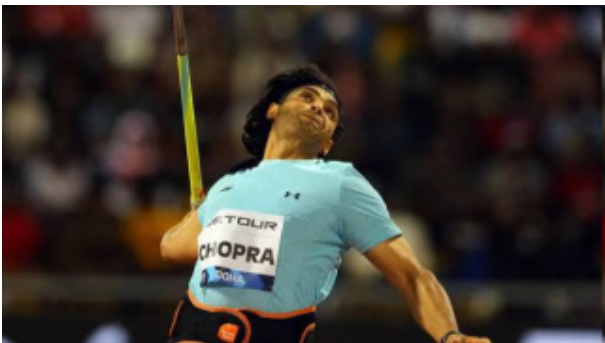
The right clinic and a qualified dermatologist or hair transplant specialist are most important. All pre- and post-operative instructions should be carefully followed by the patients, such as proper hygiene, avoiding alcohol or smoking, and adhering to prescribed medicines.Expectations must also be realistic. Hair transplants enhance looks but are not guaranteed to completely restore the initial density of hair. Recovery is time-consuming, and hair growth generally begins three to four months after surgery.

1) To begin with, they must go through an exhaustive medical screening to exclude any underlying disease like uncontrolled diabetes, heart condition or infection of the scalp that might predispose them to complications. Let your doctor know about blood thinners and medication that you might be on as they interfere with the healing process. You may have to stop these a week or more before the procedure.



2) Avoid alcohol consumption for 72 hours before the surgery. Avoid smoking for at least two weeks before the surgery.3) Wash your hair with the shampoo prescribed by your surgeon the night before the procedure.4) Wear buttoned up shirts or dresses the first few days to avoid brushing against the newly implanted grafts. Wear a cap for sun protection.5) Post procedure, hydrate yourself, sleep on a tilted pillow for a week and apply cold packs at graft sites.1. Ask about the type of hair fall and does your overall physical condition make you a good candidate for transplant or not. All kinds of hair fall do not need a transplant. Besides, you must have those many healthy hair follicles.2. What method will you perform and why? Find out the advantages and disadvantages of each method.3. What will be the risks and complications?

Neeraj Chopra's 90m dream achieved: On 'bittersweet' night, Neeraj hopes it is just the beginning for bigger throws



GNS News Agency, May 22

A wry smile, a shake of the head, and a side embrace with his fellow competitors. There wouldn't be a more muted, low-key celebration to any sporting accomplishment than this, let alone when an athlete joins an exclusive club that only a couple of dozen were a part of before Friday night. Indeed, Neeraj Chopra roared and raised his arms in the trademark fashion as he launched the javelin into Doha's night sky. But that he always does. The difference this time — on this balmy evening with the temperature in the low 30s and very little wind — was that the spear flew and kept flying. By the time it returned to earth, crashing into the other end of the arena, the javelin had travelled the farthest Neeraj — or any other Indian, for that matter — had ever thrown — 90.23m. Three years after coming within 6cm of the 90m mark, Neeraj finally breached the barrier at the Doha leg of the Diamond League on Friday night. The landmark throw came on his third attempt, thus becoming only the 25th javelin thrower to cross the 90m-mark. When the scores flashed on the big screen and were announced in the stadium, Neeraj looked more relieved than happy. That Neeraj would finish in the top two of the Doha leg of the Diamond League was taken for granted. He's done that in every competition since the Tokyo Olympics. The only thing that mattered was if, in the new season, he'd offer something new — in other words, a throw that would cross 90m. With the proverbial monkey now off his back, at least he wouldn't constantly be bombarded with that one question which has haunted him wherever he has gone, sometimes even threatening to overshadow everything else he'd achieved — an Olympic gold? 'That's fine, but what about 90m?' The World Championship title? 'Alright, but when will you throw 90?' An Olympic silver? 'But hey, Arshad Nadeem romped to a gold with a daddy 90!'

All those days, Neeraj painstakingly explained that it was winning that mattered and not the distance. On a night when the distance he coveted became the central focus — ironically, after no one bugged him with the 90m question in the lead-up — Neeraj didn't win. And the irony wasn't lost

on him, and Neeraj called the evening 'bittersweet'. That he did not win the Doha leg of the Diamond League despite the giant throw — Germany's Julian Weber, like Neeraj, breached the 90m-mark for the first time as well; throwing a mammoth 91.06m in his final attempt to finish first — only underscores how crucial it was for the Indian to get this out of the way. Lieutenant Colonel (Honorary) Neeraj Chopra clinches Silver at the Wanda Diamond League in #Doha with a record-breaking throw of 90.23m, surpassing his own National Record and breaching the 90m mark for the first... Add Arshad Nadeem, who had given this competition a miss, to the mix, and it looks increasingly likely that the World Championships podium in Tokyo this year will be decided with 90m-plus throws. Yet, for all the hype, unrelenting obsessing, and desperation over this feat, there was also an element of inevitability to it. Nine months ago, after finishing second at the Paris Olympics, an anguished Neeraj was at pains to convince the world that he had it in him to hurl the spear beyond 90m. All he needed, Neeraj had said at the time, was a body that would support his endeavour and, perhaps, a few technical changes. On the eve of the year's curtain raiser for men's javelin, Neeraj said that the groin injury that had hindered his performances was healed. It meant he did not miss throwing sessions, the block was stronger, and the follow-through, better. The noticeable difference was that his block leg functioned. Earlier, Neeraj used to fall to the ground when releasing the javelin because the block leg wasn't straight enough at that point. Consequently, he wasn't able to put all his force into the javelin. On Friday, he looked in more control, didn't fall over, and the release was smoother than before. And, like Neeraj had said, he gained a few centimetres.

There have been some technical tweaks, too, although the full scope of that is yet to be seen. Neeraj, who has been working with javelin legend and world record holder Jan Zelezny since February, highlighted two areas where the Czech coach suggested tweaks — the trajectory, which Zelezny said was relatively flat, and the fact that the throws landed to the left. Zelezny knows a thing or two about throwing big distances — he has hurled the javelin more than 90m a whopping 52 times in his career. On Friday, he told Neeraj before the competition that a 'big throw' was around the corner. Some of Neeraj's throws on Friday — as well as at a practice meet in South Africa last month — were on a trajectory more towards the centre. When everything falls into place, it would add a few more centimetres, like it happened with Weber, who was just a tad bit better on the night. "Normally, he doesn't come for Diamond Leagues," Neeraj said about Zelezny. "(Before competition) he told me, 'Today is the day'. Even after the 90m throw, he told me, 'You can throw 2-3m more'. (But) It was just the first competition of the year."

Virat Kohli is the swami at the Chinnaswamy: Suresh Raina

GNS News Agency, May 22

As Kolkata Knight Riders take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru, one of the intriguing battles to watch out for is how the RCB talisman Virat Kohli is going to deal with the off-spin of Sunil Narine, who is a master of using variations and bamboozling the batters and has picked up RCB opener four times from 17 innings. However, Kohli has been in good form this season, and former Indian cricketer Suresh Raina is confident that Kohli is playing in rhythm and can deal with Narine. "Virat Kohli is the swami at the Chinnaswamy. He won't be able to dismiss Virat now because he is playing in rhythm. The record you are talking about his four dismissals in 18 years, he might have gotten stuck somewhere," Raina said, speaking on Star Sports.

"However, he is playing 'Virat' knocks now. He is already in the Orange Cap race, and Virat knows how to play him. He is also playing the sweep now. Along with the paddle sweep, he is also playing the slog sweep. He is reading the bowlers well from their hands. It will be important for Virat to look to dominate a little," Raina observed. Raina would also mention that winning the trophy for RCB is the only thing left for Kohli to achieve. "Absolutely, he has retired (from Tests) just now, and will get a different happiness if he wins



RCB the trophy. He is RCB's unbeatable strength. He has got everything in life, just the RCB trophy hasn't come. He will definitely work hard for that. I feel RCB can lift the trophy this year if Virat Kohli plays 'Virat' knocks," he responded. "The other 10 players need to respond to him and stay alongside him. He knows how to read the situation. We have seen his running between the wickets along with his cricketing shots. A different energy will be seen now. He has already gotten a break. A different form will be seen. He has done it in the past, so why not now? He will be even more eager to do it now," Raina observed.

'Man Utd are not good at anything': Former captain Roy Keane blasts Manchester United after 18th Premier League loss



GNS News Agency, May 22

The misery for Manchester United continues with nothing going their way in the Premier League 2024-25 season. On Friday, United were handed a 1-0 loss by Chelsea for their 18th loss of the league, compounding problems for the Ruben Amorim side. With just 39 points from 37 games — one of United's worst performances — the Red Devils sit just two positions above the relegation zone at 16th place. Former Man United captain and now a football pundit, Roy Keane minced no words and thrashed his former club for their abysmal play. A frustrated Keane went on to say United are not good at anything. "You sit up and watch certain teams, and you hang your hat on something. You say they're really technically very good, they're fit, they're brilliant, they're good at set-pieces. You look at United and go, they're not really good at anything," he said. "The fans, even here tonight, I don't think the United fans are angry anymore. It's just an acceptance. Even the manager's interview there, he's accepting where they are. Now, obviously, you have to be realistic, but you still want to show emotion and a bit of anger. I think United fans will be going back up the motorway to Manchester tonight going: 'Oh, that's what we thought would probably happen.' And that's a sad thing to do," he added. United days are gone. United will follow struggling Premier League side Tottenham

Hotspur in the final of the Europa League for a potential Champions League spot. Keane said if United fails to win the Europa League, players will stop wanting to sign for the club. "If they don't win (the Europa League final) next week, I think the days of everyone wanting to go to Manchester United are gone. I don't think there'll be players looking to sign for Manchester United. That's gone, that bit of excitement with the club," he said.

Pro Kabaddi League announces players list

Hyderabad: The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) announced the 'Elite Retained Players', 'Retained Young Players', and 'New Young Players' for Season 12 on Saturday, with the season 12 auction set to take place on May 31 and June 1 in Mumbai. While most franchises have retained their key players, they will also be looking to build stronger units in the upcoming PKL Season 12 Player Auction.

Top players retained by their respective teams include Sunil Kumar and Amirmohammad Zafardanesh (U Mumba), Jaideep Dahiya (Haryana Steelers), Surender Gill (UP Yoddhas), and the Puneri Paltan duo of Aslam Inamdar and Mohit Goyat.

Meanwhile, a total of 83 players were retained across three categories: 25 in the Elite Retained Players (ERP) category, 23 in the Retained Young Players (RYP) category, and 35 in the New Young Players (NYP) category.

500+ players, including notable Indian players like Pawan Sehrawat, Arjun Deshwal, Ashu Malik and PKL 11's top raider Devank Dalal, are set to go under the hammer. Iranian powerhouses Fazel Atrachali and Mohammadreza Shadloui alongside PKL veterans Maninder Singh, and Pardeep Narwal, will also enter the PKL 12 auction.

We want to end the season as champions: Barcelona coach Hansi Flick ahead of Villarreal match



GNS News Agency, May 22

Hansi Flick Barcelona Barcelona head coach Hansi Flick, right, gestures for his players to leave the field at the end of the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Barcelona and Espanyol at Lluís Companys Olympic Stadium in Barcelona, Spain, With Barcelona players celebrating their 28th league title win with an open bus parade on Friday, coach Hansi Flick reminded them that the season was not over and they needed to finish the season on a high. The German had an exceptional first season at the Catalan club winning league title, Copa del Rey and the Spanish Super Cup.

"Yesterday was a day of celebration and rest. A lot of

players went out partying, but whoever can party can work, it's not an excuse. I want to finish the season as we started it," Flick told reporters on Saturday, a day before hosting Villarreal. "It's the last time we play at home and we want to win. We want to end the season as champions. We haven't lost in 2025 (in the league) and we want to keep it that way. It was incredible to see the faces, the passion of the people, how they celebrated. It was fantastic to see. To celebrate year after year would be amazing. Maybe we can do it again next year. We will work for it. It's everyone's title," he said. On Thursday, Flick led Barcelona to a 2-0 win over Espanyol which helped them secure the La Liga title. Unbeaten since late December in domestic competition, Barcelona beat Real Madrid to win the Spanish Super Cup in January and then the Copa del Rey. In his very first season on the Blaugrana dugout, Flick also took Barca to the semi-final of the Champions League, where they lost to Inter Milan in a hard-fought two-legged game by 7-6. Nonetheless, after the terrible 2023-24 season, the former German national and Bayern Munich coach led Barca to greater heights this season. Flick had credited the team atmosphere for Barca's achievements this year. He had said, "The family we've created. Everyone works with passion and knows their role is important. That has helped me enormously in reaching our goals."

Real Madrid complete signing of Dean Huijsen from Bournemouth

GNS News Agency, May 22

Dean Huijsen Real Madrid Bournemouth's Dean Huijsen, left, and Bournemouth's Illya Zabarnyi celebrate at the end of the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Bournemouth at Emirates stadium in London, Saturday, Spanish giants Real Madrid on Saturday revealed the signing of Bournemouth defender Dean Huijsen who signed a deal with the Los Blancos until 2030, making him eligible to play in next month's Club World Cup.

"Real Madrid C. F. and AFC Bournemouth have reached an agreement for the transfer of Dean Huijsen, who will be linked to our club for the next five seasons, from 1 June 2025 to 30 June 2030. At his 20 years of age, Dean Huijsen is already a Spain international and has played in Italy's Serie A with Juventus and Roma, and in the Premier League with Bournemouth. Dean Huijsen has been nominated for Premier League Young Player of the Year 2024-2025," the club announced. Premier League side Bournemouth said Real activated a 50 million pounds (\$66.36 million) release clause to sign the 20-year-old on a five-year deal.

"AFC Bournemouth can confirm that defender Dean Huijsen will join Real Madrid following the conclusion of the 2024/25 season, with the Spanish side having activated a £50 million release clause," the English club said in a statement of their own. Real, keen to have Huijsen for the Club World Cup in the United States, beat several clubs to one



of Europe's most sought-after young players, after his impressive campaign since joining Andoni Iraola's Bournemouth last year from Juventus. The centre back made 34 appearances in all competitions for Bournemouth, scoring three goals. Dutch-born Spain international Huijsen made his debut for Spain against the Netherlands in the Nations League in March. Meanwhile, Real will part ways with current coach Carlo Ancelotti after this season with the Italian set to be the next Brazil national team manager, which was officially announced earlier this week by the Brazilian FA. The 65-year-old has enjoyed four hugely successful years in his second tenure at the Spanish giants but they finished this season without a trophy. Former Real player and outgoing Bayer Leverkusen boss Xabi Alonso is the heavy favourite to replace Ancelotti at the Bernabéu.

Ravi Shastri slams Shubman Gill's critics: People will talk he's not scored runs overseas...see your own record, how much have you done overseas?

GNS News Agency, May 22

Shubman Gill's talent has never been in question since he burst onto the scene in 2020 in the red-ball format. He blitzed with a 91 at the Gabba in his second Test, showing promise for long-term success in the format. But it did not manifest as the more conditions he got exposed to overseas, the more bowlers started to exploit him around the off-stump channel with the incoming delivery, which has affected his performances. With Rohit Sharma retiring from the format, there have been reports circulating about Gill taking the reins, while there have been few in the way category in favour of Gill, there also have been a few in the nay category, pointing at his ordinary record outside India.

"You people will talk he's not scored runs overseas. You know, that topic always comes, not scored runs overseas. Sometimes I tell them, go and see your own record, how much have you done overseas?" Ravi Shastri said on The ICC review Show. "Overseas, overseas, let him play, let him get a run overseas, then he'll score runs. He's a class player. He has a decade of cricket ahead of him for the country. And I'm sure he'll get cracking in one of the tours, he'll make up for all those runs he's not got on earlier." "You groom somebody and I would say Shubman's



looked very good. Give him the opportunity. He's 25, 26 years of age, even give him time. There's Rishabh as well. I think these two are the obvious ones I'm looking at because of their age and they have a decade ahead of them. So, let them learn," said Shastri. Both Pant and Gill have been captaining their respective Indian Premier League franchises for a while. "They've got experience as captains, now, captaining their franchise, and that makes a difference," Shastri noted. "The little I've seen of Shubman looks very interesting. Composed, calm, he has all the qualities."

Rahul Dravid hails Rohit Sharma with hilarious quip after Wankhede stand honour: 'Now I know who to contact'

GNS News Agency, May 22

Rahul Dravid has congratulated Rohit Sharma after the Mumbai Cricket Association named a stand at the Wankhede Stadium after the latter and joked that he now knows who to call whenever he needs tickets for matches at the venue. The stand was unveiled on Friday and Rohit was felicitated in the presence of his family and his Mumbai Indians teammates, among others. "Hey Rohit. Guess you hit so many sixes into those stands that they had to name one after you! But, congratulations. I'm sure as a young boy going into the iconic Wankhede Stadium — truly one of the great stadiums in the world — I'm sure you would have loved to have played there, I'm sure you would have wanted to have some great perfor-



mances there, which you have done. I'm not sure you dreamt about having a stand named after you, but that it has come to that and that you have one named after you, it's a just reward for your contribution to both Mumbai and Indian cricket," said Dravid in a video

shared by the Mumbai Indians on their X handle.

Rohit had started his international career under Dravid, making his debut in an ODI against Ireland on June 23, 2007. Later, Dravid took over as head coach of the Indian team when Rohit was captain and the pair led

the team to the final of the 2023 ODI World Cup before clinching the 2024 T20 World Cup title. The pair also led India to a rare draw in a Test series in South Africa in January 2024. "It's truly well deserved — congratulations! I hope it was a great day with family and friends.

Neetu Chandra opens up on lack of support from men in the film industry



Neetu told IANS, “Generally, men haven’t supported me much. They’ve questioned how I would make it, saying I lacked a background. But I never let go of my own hand. I kept building myself step by step. Earlier, I feared not getting work. But after more than a decade of doing theatre, I don’t feel that fear anymore. If I don’t find something that resonates with me, I create opportunities for myself.” Speaking about her experience of working in Bollywood, Chandra mentioned that she always wanted to do action films.

“Being a martial artist, Hollywood gave me my first opportunity, and I’m grateful. But my roots are in Bollywood. I debuted opposite Akshay Kumar and John Abraham at a very young age. I came to Mumbai when I was about fifteen or sixteen, going from studio to studio with my bag. My first break came through a Parker Pen advertisement directed by Mr. Priyadarshan, who launched me. I’ve always felt thankful to Bollywood—it gave me identity and courage. I’ve learned a lot from failures too. They’ve only made me stronger.”

The actress also reflected on a moment from a few years ago when she made an emotional appeal for more work. She revealed that the decision to speak up did help, and she stands by it with pride. Chandra emphasized that seeking opportunities should never be looked down upon, regardless of one’s experience or standing. “There’s no shame in asking for work,” she said, adding that every artist has the right to approach people for roles they believe in. “No matter what level you’re at, it’s your right as an artist to approach people. I’ve worked with thirteen National Award-winning directors. I ask makers like Priyadarshan or Kumar Mangat for work because I admire their storytelling. Even if they don’t have a project for me right now, they know my dedication and quality. I’ve been getting good work, but meaningful roles take time. I recently returned to set after a break, and it reminded me how much I love this craft,” explained Neetu Chandra.

Mumbai: Actress Neetu Chandra has opened up about the lack of support she received from men in the film industry. In a recent conversation, the actress revealed that despite her consistent efforts and talent, she was often met with doubt and questioned for not having an industry background. Instead of waiting for validation, she chose to build her journey step by step—gaining strength through theatre and creating her own opportunities when none came her way.

If John Abraham wants to save his career, he needs to stop saving damsels in distress first

There is a difference between ambition and delusion. Ambition often depends on one’s means; delusion, on the other hand, hinges on one’s capability. The Diplomat isn’t an ambitious film for barring the brawny John Abraham from lifting a finger. But it’s certainly delusional for thinking of itself as a desi answer to Argo. There is, however, a more unexpected comparison that the movie invites, without realising that it is guilty of committing the same mistakes that it is so confidently calling out. But more on that later. Directed by Shivam Nair, The Diplomat projects itself as a feminist film, but it is actually a tribute to male ego. A dramatically inert distillation of a multi-pronged story, The Diplomat takes a typically Bollywood approach to telling a story about a woman’s emancipation and empowerment. It frames its narrative from the perspective of Abraham’s character, India’s Deputy High Commissioner in Pakistan, JP Singh. But it is actually the story of Uzma Ahmed, an Indian woman played by Sadia Khateeb, who is conned into marrying a Pakistani man named Tahir. They met in Malaysia, where he was working as a taxi driver. A few months into their relationship, Tahir moved back home and invited her to join him there. But he had an ulterior motive.

He picks her up at the Attari-Wagah border, drives her to a remote location in the mountains, and essentially keeps her prisoner in his house. Uzma discovers that Tahir is running some kind of human trafficking operation; there are several other ‘wives’ in the compound that Tahir regularly abuses. Uzma is spared the horror of being sold off to a warlord because she is deemed too old, at age 28. With the help of another prisoner, Uzma is able to contact her friends in Malaysia — we never see her family, for some reason — and is advised to hatch an escape plan. She manipulates Tahir into taking her to the Indian embassy in Islamabad, where she is able to seek refuge and request repatriation. Uzma’s kidnapping unfolds in a flashback, as she tells JP what she went through and waits for him to pull the strings necessary to facilitate her return to India. JP doesn’t judge, but the movie expects you to; it has a character overtly call Uzma foolish for falling into such an obvious trap. But that’s besides the point. The bigger issue with the movie is that it regularly undermines Uzma’s own struggles by presenting her story through JP’s eyes. By doing this, The Diplomat robs her of agency; it retroactively snatches her narrative away from her. What we’re seeing, instead, is JP’s version of events. Abraham doesn’t resort to his typical gung-ho action — there is, however, a car chase — but he certainly plays a saviour figure to a damsel in distress.

Director Shivam Nair seems incapable of understanding that JP Singh isn’t (and shouldn’t be) the protagonist of this story. A real movie would’ve restricted him to being a tertiary character who appears in the final 10 minutes and makes a few phone calls. By projecting him as the hero — quite literally — the movie ignores the trauma that Uzma actually went through. We don’t even get a glimpse of her folks, or of what her life used to be like in India. She exists only to be abused, to be rescued, and to be used as a mascot for the Machiavellian machinations unfolding around her. Heck, even her escape from captivity, the movie implies, was concocted by a man — her friend’s husband. Meanwhile, JP gets a traumatic backstory of his own, and numerous (comedic) interludes where he talks to his young son in India. Why must we know this? Why is this important? Wouldn’t cutting away to Uzma’s worried family be a more responsible use of precious screen time? She constantly needs to be reminded to stand up for herself, to not be afraid of Tahir. She doesn’t come to this realisation herself, but needs to be nudged out of passivity by JP. A ridiculous courtroom scene inexplicably puts him at the front and centre of the frame; at one point, he protectively shields Uzma from an enraged Tahir. Ben Affleck did nothing of the sort in Argo. He satisfied his urge to be super-heroic in a separate movie.

In structure, The Diplomat mimics — of all things — Mad Max: Fury Road. The action masterpiece subverted expectations by revealing that Mad Max is only a facilitator in Furiosa’s story. Like Uzma, she, too, escaped captivity and made a mad dash to safety. But The Diplomat does the opposite; it injects a man into story that he has no authorship over. The movie doesn’t even adhere to its own internal logic. It ends with a scene in which JP jumps behind the wheel of a car and personally drives Uzma to the Indian border as they’re chased by Tahir and his men. Amazed at this tonal shift, you’re left with no choice but to



wonder what sort of diplomacy JP is meant to have displayed at all. If launching into an action scene was always on the table, why didn’t he throw a punch or two at Tahir sooner? The Diplomat falls into the same category as recent films such as Satyaprem Ki Katha, Mr & Mrs Mahi, and the tragically misguided Bawaal. Incidentally, Khateeb, who made such a strong debut in the film Shikara, followed it up with a supporting role in the Akshay Kumar-starrer Raksha Bandhan, which remains one of Hindi cinema’s most egregious examples of ‘fridging’. This when a female character is maimed or murdered in order to serve as motivation for her male counterpart to evolve. And while Uzma doesn’t die, she isn’t allowed to live either. The biggest mistake that The Diplomat makes is revealing the real JP at the end. Whatever disbelief you’d managed to suspend in the previous two hours is immediately undone the second you lay eyes on the nondescript norm-core dad that JP really is. Don’t be surprised if Abraham decides that he should play Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in a future film based on Operation Sindoor. Post Credits Scene is a column in which we dissect new releases every week, with particular focus on context, craft, and characters. Because there’s always something to fixate about once the dust has settled.

Female lead unveiled for Chiranjeevi’s Mega157



Hyderabad: Megastar Chiranjeevi’s next big project, tentatively titled Mega157, was officially launched recently and will go on floors soon. Directed by Anil Ravipudi, the film is aiming for a grand Sankranti 2026 release. Known for his unique promotional style, Anil Ravipudi released a special video to introduce the film’s leading lady, superstar heroine Nayanthara. The video shows her enjoying Chiranjeevi’s songs, practicing dialogues, and reading the script with a smile, ending with the director joining her on screen. This marks Nayanthara’s third collaboration with Chiranjeevi after Sye Raa Narasimha Reddy and Godfather. Ravipudi is said to have written a fresh and powerful role for her. Mega157 is produced by Sahu Garapati under Shine Screens.

Nawazuddin Siddiqui steps into the shoes of a customs officer in his new film, Costao



For someone who was told he is not “hero material”, Nawazuddin Siddiqui has come a long way in the 25 years since he began his career with a small role in Aamir Khan’s Sarfarosh (1999). In his latest film Costao, he plays the titular character, an honest Customs officer accused of corruption. Based on the real-life story of Costao Fernandes, who fought gold-smuggling in the Goa of the ’90s, the ZEE5 original film is Sejal Shah’s directorial debut.

Having already done two biopics – Manto (2018) and Thackeray (2019) – Nawaz was certain what he did not want to do while approaching the character of Costao. He says often biopics are made to please the actual person, with their flaws being conveniently omitted. “We don’t show their mistakes. Moreover, few actors are ready to work in

biopics; you require a different training for that. We either copy (someone) or make them out to be a caricature,” he says. The core of Costao’s story is about maintaining one’s integrity while navigating their professional lives. Has Nawaz ever had to make compromises in the film industry? “Several times. I have done films for money, which I knew weren’t up to the mark. I have also done mass films to create a balance in my filmography,” says the actor who starred in the Emmy-nominated series, Sacred Games (2019).

While Nawaz is not the only one calling out Bollywood on its lack of creativity and poor storytelling in recent times, what also bothers him is the stress on high budgets. “The so-called commercial films are the biggest flops. If 1,000 films are being made, we only remember three or four. For other films, on which crores have been invested, there is no accountability,” says the 50-year-old. The Gangs Of Wasseypur (2012) actor adds, “This hasn’t just affected me, it has impacted Naseer sahab (Naseeruddin Shah), Om Puri, Manoj Bajpayee and Irrfan (Khan) bhai. The whole world says they are great actors but nobody made a 25-crore film with them. A newbie who comes from a film background gets those chances.” Notwithstanding all his frustrations with the Hindi film industry, cinema, for Nawaz, continues to be all about the character: “For me, it is not about the story. I like going deeper into a character’s mind. Aur jitna local hota hai, utna global hota hai (the more local the film, the greater the global appeal). I wish I could do more such films. The focus, however, is still on shock value and flashy things. If this continues, filmmaking will become a rich people’s game and that’s dangerous. People are making 100 crore worth of guns for their films, hummaare 20 crore judd jaayen, poori film ke liye woh bhi bahut badi baat hai (It would be a huge deal if we get a 20 crore budget for a film).”

Rishi Kapoor refused to do Hum Tum because he only had 7 scenes, said ‘Kisi aur se kara lo’, recalls Kunal Kohli

Rishi Kapoor had a long career as a leading man in Hindi movies but around the early 2000s, Rishi started transitioning to playing some character roles. Eventually, the second innings of his career worked well. But initially, he wasn’t into the idea of playing a supporting role. Kunal Kohli, who directed Rishi in Hum Tum, recently shared that Rishi rejected the film at first because he felt that he had a minuscule part in it. Saif Ali Khan and Rani Mukerji played the lead roles in the film.

He shared with Radio Nasha, “When we went to see him, he had not switched to character roles fully. He was still doing lead roles. He said ‘I have nothing to do in the film. I only have seven scenes. Main nahi kar raha. Kisi aur se karva lo (I am not doing it. Ask someone else to do it).’ He sent us away.” But Kunal did not lose hope and told producer Aditya Chopra that he would try again. “Then I talked to him again and I spoke to him about all the scenes individually. He liked every scene. He said, ‘All these scenes are nice, add more of them’. I said, ‘Sir, do you want to hang around in the film, or have a strong impact?’ Then he said, ‘Haan chalo, baat toh theek hai, karte hain (Yes, you are right, let’s do it),’ he recalled, and added, “And from then, we became best friends.” Rishi played the role of Saif’s father in Hum Tum.

In the same chat, Kunal also spoke about Saif’s ‘Tom Cruise look’ in the film and said that the line actually came from a conversation between Saif and his daughter Sara Ali Khan, who was just 10 years old at the time. “I was at



Saif’s house and we were trying different looks and Sara came in. She was just 10 or 12 then. Saif was trying on a wig. She looked at it and said, ‘Ew, what happened to your hair, Abba?’ He said ‘What! It’s my Tom Cruise look,’ he recalled and said that as soon as he heard this line, he declared that he would add it in the film. “Saif was like ‘Which line?’ I said ‘This, it’s my Tom Cruise look,’ Kunal recalled with a laugh. Hum Tum re-released in theatres this weekend.

Kamal Haasan faces off against Silambarasan in this Mani Ratnam gangster drama

The trailer for Mani Ratnam and Kamal Haasan’s much-awaited film, Thug Life, is finally here. The film, also starring actors Silambarasan TR, Trisha Krishnan, marks the reunion of the actor-director duo after nearly four decades. Their last and only collaboration was the 1987 film Nayakan. The makers released the trailer Tamil, Telugu and Hindi trailer at a grand event in Chennai. Co-written by Kamal and Mani Ratnam, the film shows the many avatars of Kamal Haasan. The trailer begins with Kamal Haasan’s voiceover, “You saved my life, you protected me from the Lord of Death. Our two destinies were written as one. You and I are now bound together as one. Till the end.” The trailer then introduces STR’s character with Kamal’s voice continuing to speak in the background. He says, “If I am a lion, you’re the king of the pride.” STR corrects him and says, “Majestic lion.” Kamal agrees, “Yes, your Majesty.” Eventually, Kamal announces STR as his successor.

The twist comes when STR turns against Kamal Haasan. The film also stars Nasser, Trisha, Aishwarya and Mahesh Manjrekar, among others. As the trailer comes to end, Kamal Haasan’s character says, “Death and I have



been playing this game.” Thug Life was first announced in 2022. Jointly produced by Raaj Kamal Films International, Madras Talkies, and Red Giant Movies, the film is Kamal Haasan’s 234th project as a lead actor. The songs and background score for the gangster action drama are composed by AR Rahman. The film’s audio launch event, which was cancelled due to Pahalgaon Terror attack is now rescheduled for May 24. Thug Life is all set to hit the theatres on June 5.

Amit Sadh quit Kai Po Che in a fit of rage because director Abhishek Kapoor was rude to him: ‘I had a violent temper’

While actor Amit Sadh’s first movie, Kai Po Che (2013), wasn’t a big-budget launch that many young actors dream of, he was praised for his talent and the movie is still remembered for having given Amit and his two co-stars, Rajkumar Rao and Sushant Singh Rajput, a grand introduction in mainstream Bollywood. In a new interview, the actor revealed that he’d actually quit the project on day one because he felt insulted by the way director Abhishek Kapoor spoke to him and his co-stars.

Appearing on Cyrus Broacha’s podcast Cyrus Says, Sadh said, “I got Kai Po Che, and we went to the first reading. I think Gattoo (Abhishek Kapoor) got some bad news about a big female star leaving the film, and he was a bit... whatever. So I, Sushant and Rajkumar were reading, and I have an elder brother syndrome, and I am very protective about the people around me, and Gatoto comes up to us and says, ‘What are you guys doing? There is no emotion in this.’ I got really mad and told him that he couldn’t talk to us like that.”

Sadh said that Abhishek’s behaviour annoyed him, and he took the rather rash decision of quitting the film. “I came back home that day, and I decided that I am not going to do this film because Gattoo was rude to us. They tried casting someone else, and it didn’t work out. We bumped into each other a week later, and he asked me if I had other work or even a house or a car. I said no, and he said, ‘Then why did you quit the film?’”

The actor admitted that he was very sensitive early in his career, and it took him some time to get over anger issues. “I had a very bad temper, and I was very violent. The one thing I am proud of is that I met the right people, and I read the right book, and I realised that anger was futile. I found the other way, which is communication.” The actor has talked about the film in the past as well, and said that after the movie’s release, many people compared him to his co-stars, and what they were achieving in the industry.