

Two girls drown in farm well in Asifabad

Kumram Bheem Asifabad: Two girls drowned in a farm well at Govarhetti hamlet in Thatipelli village on Friday. Their bodies were fished out from the well. Police said that Boyar Laxmi (13), daughter of Vishwanth and Shinde Hansika (11), daughter of Vijay met a watery grave when they were attending nature call. The well was dug in a farm belonging to Mangala for irrigating her chilli crop.

Hansika drowned when she ventured to rescue Laxmi who slipped and fell in the trench. Manisha, mother of Laxmi lodged a complaint with the police. A case was registered.



Northeast transformed from backward frontier region to growth front-runner: PM Modi



GNS News Agency,May 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday gave a clarion call to India Inc. to reap the first mover advantage for investing in the northeast states as the region has been transformed, in the last 11 years, from a backward “frontier region to a growth front-runner.”Addressing the Rising North East Investors Summit in the national capital, PM Modi said the government’s policy had accorded priority in development to the northeast, as a result of which the region has now come to the centre stage of India’s growth story.He highlighted that as part of this policy, Union Cabinet ministers had visited the northeast states more than 700 times, and he also had made a night stay mandatory for them during their visit.

This enabled the Centre to get a first-hand feel of the ground reality and the aspirations of the people in drawing up the strategy for development, he explained.The development of the northeast is not only a brick and mortar story reflected in the massive infrastructure development of the region, but also an “emotional connect” which has resulted in the remarkable growth in the region, he remarked.PM Modi said the infrastructure revolution in the northeast has

now transformed the long-time backward region into a land of opportunity.The PM highlighted that more than 11,000 km of highways, hundreds of km of railway lines and the development of waterways formed part of this infrastructure development that has increased connectivity in the region. Besides, the large number of mobile towers providing 4G and 5G connectivity and a 1600 km pipeline gas grid have been constructed in the state.This infrastructure is the backbone that industry can now use to take the development further, as there is now adequate power, highways and logistics in the region.He also highlighted that peace has returned to the region as over 10,000 youths have given up guns to come back to the mainstream, as the government has followed a zero tolerance policy towards terrorism and violence.PM Modi also pointed out that the Centre had invested more than Rs 21,000 crore in the education system in the region in schools, medical colleges, IITs and technical institutes. As a result, skilled manpower was now available for industry.The two-day summit, scheduled for May 23-24, is designed to project the North Eastern Region (NER) as a dynamic and emerging investment destination. The event aims to attract both global and domestic investors by presenting the region’s untapped economic potential and fostering collaboration between key stakeholders, investors, industry leaders, and policymakers.The summit marks the culmination of a series of strategic pre-summit engagements undertaken by the Central government with the active participation of all eight northeastern states. These included high-level roadshows, state roundtables, the Ambassadors’ Meet, and sessions with bilateral chambers of commerce.Roadshows leading up to the summit were successfully held in major Indian cities, including Mumbai, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, and New Delhi, to generate momentum and investor interest in the region.

Operation Sindoor showed terror in India fully sponsored by Pakistan: Amit Shah

GNS News Agency,May 23

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday (May 23, 2025) said Operation Sindoor has exposed the fact that terrorism in India is fully Pakistan sponsored.Delivering the Rustamji Memorial Lecture organised by the Border Security Force (BSF) on the occasion of its 22nd investiture ceremony, he also said that the border guarding force has proved its mettle during Operation Sindoor and did not allow nefarious Pakistani activities.“Operation Sindoor has exposed that terrorism in India is absolutely Pakistan sponsored,” he said.The Union Home Minister said the Indian armed forces first hit the terror bases in Pakistan but it was the Pakistan Army that responded by trying to attack India.“We launched Operation Sindoor and destroyed nine terrorist camps. It is important to note that we didn’t target the Pakistan Army installations, civilians or air base,” he said.

“We targeted the terrorists, but Pakistan took it on itself and proved that it was Pakistan sponsored terrorism,” Mr. Shah said.Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Border Security Force (BSF) Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, Home Secretary Govind Mohan and others stand during the national anthem at the BSF Investiture Ceremony and Rustamji Memorial Lecture, in New Delhi, “They dared to target our civilians but couldn’t succeed in front of our air defence system. In response to which, we targeted their air base and introduced our striking capability to them,” the Home Minister said.He said in 2014, the BJP government was formed and an attack was made on the soldiers in Uri.“We did a surgical strike. After that, the Pulwama attack happened. In reply to which, we did an air strike. Now, in Pahalgam, innocent tourists were killed after asking about their religion. Operation Sindoor was the reply to it. The world is appreciating us for this. I salute the



Army,” 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.Hailing the role played by the BSF in securing the country, Mr. Shah said the force is a great example of how one can overcome all difficulties on the basis of patriotism and become the best force in the world.‘Bangladesh shouldn’t forget BSF’s role in its creation’

Referring to the BSF’s role in guarding international borders, including with Bangladesh, Mr. Shah said the neighbouring country should not forget the big role played by the BSF in its creation.He said on behalf of the entire nation, he salutes more than 2,000 border guards who have made the supreme sacrifice while fearlessly walking the path of their duty with the spirit of supreme sacrifice from 1965 to 2025.K F Rustamji was the founding father and the first director general of the BSF, which was raised in 1965. It is now the world’s largest border guarding force with about 2.75 lakh personnel tasked to guard Indian borders with Pakistan on the west and Bangladesh on the east.

HYDRAA clears encroachments in Jubilee Hills, reclaims park land worth Rs 200 crore



GNS News Agency,May 23

The Hyderabad Disaster Response and Assets Protection Agency (HYDRAA) on Friday said that it has cleared illegal constructions that encroached upon the nala and park road near Peddamma Gudi on Road No 41 in Jubilee Hills in the city. This demolition has opened up access to a park spanning approximately 2 acres.The individual had not only encroached upon the government land, but was also earning a revenue of approximately Rs 10 lakh per month from the land parcel.

“Two acres of park land or nala land worth more

than Rs 200 crores is reclaimed. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has decided to develop a good park on this land very soon,” said HYDRAA Commissioner A V Ranganath.According to a HYDRAA, the encroacher, a tenant, had rented a house and illegally occupied government and public land surrounding the property without the owner’s knowledge. This individual was operating hotels and hostels by encroaching upon the road and nala, collecting an estimated ₹10 lakh by way of rent monthly, the statement said.HYDRAA had previously issued notices to the tenant regarding the illegal structures. However, the tenant approached the court challenging the notices. The court, however, ruled that the tenant had no rights over these constructions and criticised the illegal encroachment of the road and nala. Following the court’s orders, the structures built by encroaching on the nala and road were demolished.The Telangana government set up HYDRAA last year with a jurisdiction in Hyderabad and surrounding urban local bodies primarily to address the increasing urban challenges faced by the city, particularly concerning disaster management and protection of public assets from illegal encroachments.Recently, on May 8, the first HYDRAA police station at the B-Block of the Buddha Bhavan in Secunderabad was inaugurated by Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy.

Manikonda RTA earns Rs. 46.10 lakh through sale of fancy numbers

Hyderabad: In a recent auction, the Telangana Regional Transport Authority (RTA) raised an impressive Rs 46.10 lakh through the sale of fancy vehicle number plates at the Manikonda office on Thursday.According to RTA officials, several high-value numbers fetched substantial amounts during the registration number auctions.Among the top bids, the highest was for the number plate ‘TG 07 AA 9999,’ which went for a staggering Rs 15,01,999 and was claimed by Sophus Infra Company. The other bids for a fancy number plate auction in Hyderabad included ‘TG 07 AB 0009’ for Rs 8,10,000 claimed by Epitome Projects and ‘TG 07 AB 0099’ sold for Rs 2,75,000 to Lead Space.

Revanth hands Indiramma houses distribution to NIMZ displaced to Jagga Reddy, who holds no position in govt



GNS News Agency,May 23

Sangareddy: Chief Minister, A Revanth Reddy’s decision to hand over the responsibility of handing over Indiramma houses to the displaced under the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) to Congress leader T Jagga Reddy drew flak from all sections since he holds no position in the government.Addressing the public meeting in Zaheerabad on Friday, the Chief Minister announced that he had vested the responsibility of distributing

housing scheme benefits to Jagga Reddy. The announcement left even the Congress leaders from Zaheerabad in shock. Though there was SETWIN Chairman Giridhar Reddy, Zaheerabad MP Suresh Shetkar, and other leaders, Revanth handed the responsibility to the former Sangareddy MLA.

Jagga Reddy had no association with the event, Zaheerabad Congress, in the past. Revanth Reddy had even directed Collector, Valuru Kranthi, and other officials to follow the directions of Jagga Reddy in implementing the scheme. Over 5,600 farmers of the Zaheerabad area were displaced under the NIMZ, and they had lost 12,500 acres to the project.Meanwhile, the people of Sangareddy district were disappointed as the Chief Minister did not announce the Sangameshwara Lift Irrigation Project (SLIP) and Basaveshwara Lift Irrigation Project (BLIP). BRS Zaheerabad MLA, K Manik Rao, presented a representation to the Chief Minister requesting him to grant funds for these two projects, but he got no assurance from the Chief Minister. Revanth Reddy even failed to make any statement on the enhancement of the R&R package to be displaced under NIMZ, RRR, and other projects.

Revanth Reddy’s secret meetings with MLAs spark rift in Telangana Congress

GNS News Agency,May 23

Hyderabad: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy’s confidential meetings with MLAs from Nagarkurnool and Mahabubnagar have deepened divisions within the Telangana Congress cabinet, raising concerns among senior leaders excluded from the discussions.In recent weeks, the Chief Minister held closed-door meetings without involving senior leaders, ministers, or close aides. The secrecy has sparked questions about the intent and timing of these discussions.

Upon assuming power, the Telangana Congress appointed district-in-charge ministers to oversee “Praja Palana” activities, welfare, and development programs in the state’s erstwhile districts. While the Chief Minister’s meetings with MLAs were welcomed, the lack of transparency raised concerns. Invitations were sent to MLAs just hours before the meetings, leaving MPs, district-in-charge ministers, senior leaders, and TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud uninformed.“If these meetings aim to strengthen the party, district-in-charge ministers should be involved and aware of the proceedings,” a senior leader from Gandhi Bhavan remarked, questioning why key figures were excluded.The Chief Minister had promised one-on-one meetings with MLAs to improve their constituency performance. However, senior leaders argue that excluding dis-



trict-in-charge ministers and party veterans undermines this goal and risks creating apprehensions among the party cadre.Meanwhile, AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan has been conducting constituency-wise meetings at Gandhi Bhavan, involving senior leaders and ministers. The Chief Minister’s parallel meetings have raised concerns about the message being sent to the AICC and party workers, especially with local body elections approaching.Some leaders fear that sidelining senior figures could further strain party unity, potentially impacting the Congress’s preparations for upcoming electoral challenges.

Theatre commanders to look after ‘force application’, Service Chiefs ‘force generation’



GNS News Agency,May 23

In an indication of the structure of the proposed restructuring of the Indian armed forces into Integrated Theatre Commands (ITC), Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan stated that the theatre commanders will be responsible for force application or the operational aspects while the Service Chiefs will look after the functions of ‘Raise, Train and Sustain.’“The concept of establishing theatre commands is to create two parallel and complementary streams for ‘Force Application’ and ‘Force Generation’. The Force Application component will become the responsibility of a theatre commander, whereas Service Chiefs, in their transformed role will be responsible for what is colloquially called the ‘Raise, Train and Sustain (RTS) function’. In other words, the service chiefs will preside over the Force Generation, an equally important aspect,” Gen Chauhan wrote in the book he authored ‘Ready, Relevant and Resurgent: A Blueprint for the Transformation of India’s Military’ that was released on Thursday.

Recalling that it has been 22 months since he was appointed as the country’s second CDS, Gen Chauhan noted that one of the tasks entrusted to the CDS has been to facilitate the restructuring of military commands for the optimal utilisation of resources and bring about jointness and integration in operations.

This, he wrote, will be visibly manifested in the establishment of joint operational structures at various levels and echelons and this switch will be one of the “most revolutionary” changes attempted by the Indian armed forces in the post-independence era. “The creation of the Theatre Commands is the beginning of this change and will kick-start start next generation of reforms in the armed forces.”In

this regard, Gen Chauhan stated that an essential prerequisite for the establishment of theatre commands is a high degree of jointness amongst the three Services and physical integration of several processes, activities and essential infrastructure.“The structural transformation at the apex level will usher in conceptual, sotrinal and cultural changes,” he wrote stating it will also trigger cascading organisational changes at Headquarters and establishments at lower levels which will come with its own set of challenges. The acceptability of the change will only happen once officers at all levels are aware of the impending changes, he added.The mandate of the CDS is to ensure ‘jointness’ of the three services in operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance and the top priority is the reorganisation of the armed forces geography-centric ITC.The effort got delayed due to lack of consensus between the Services and was stalled by the death of the first CDS Gen Bipin Rawat, and then the delay in the appointment of his successor. The process got back on track after Gen Chauhan took over as the CDS. The formation of ITC has also been included by the BJP in its

4 Maoists killed, weapons seized following exchange of fire with Gadchiroli police, CRPF

GNS News Agency,May 23

Four Maoists were killed on the Maharashtra-Chhattisgarh border in a joint operation by the Gadchiroli police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on Friday. A few weapons and related paraphernalia were also seized.

The operation, led by M Ramesh, Additional Superintendent of Police, Administration, and 12 C-60 parties (300 personnel) along with a component of the CRPF, was launched on Thursday afternoon from Kawande and Nelgunda towards the bank of Indravati amid heavy rain. C-60 is a special commando unit of the Maharashtra Police formed to deal with Maoists.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Operation Sindoor — Battle of hashtags, half-truths

The dust has barely settled on Operation Sindoor, and yet, the real battle appears to be unfolding in headlines, hashtags and half-truths. India's deep-penetration strikes on terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan between May 7 and 10, culminating in the destruction of Lahore's air defence system, marked a significant military operation and an even more profound moment of strategic recalibration. But in today's hyper-mediated world, battlefield victories can be diluted, distorted or drowned out by a powder war — the war of narratives.

Launched in the wake of a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir, which claimed the lives of 26 tourists, Operation Sindoor was aimed squarely at the roots of terror targeting infrastructure and leadership hubs of groups like Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). India's strikes reached deep into Pakistani territory, successfully hitting high-value locations such as the Markaz Subhan Allah in Bahawalpur and Markaz Taiba in Muridke. Yet, international media coverage of these strategic victories remained curiously muted. A ceasefire was declared on May 10. However, India clarified that while conventional operations had halted, its anti-terror missions under the banner of Operation Sindoor would persist.

One of the more disquieting aspects of the conflict was Pakistan's deployment of Chinese-made fighter jets and missile systems alongside Turkish drones, reportedly operated with direct assistance from Turkish technicians. These weapons were used not just in counter-strikes on military sites but, disturbingly, in attacks that targeted Indian civilian areas. New Delhi has taken a strong diplomatic stance against Turkey's involvement, and rightly so.

Sri Anjaneya Swamy – The Beacon of Strength and Devotion“–

Hanuman Jayanti Celebrated with Grandeur and Devotion“– Temples Overflow with Devotees in Spiritual Fervor.““



PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani May,23““Sri Hanuman Jayanti, a sacred festival dedicated to the birth of Lord Anjaneya, is traditionally observed twice a year, each commemoration steeped in profound reverence and faith. The first is celebrated on the Dashami tithi of Vaishakha month, and the second on the Purnima of Chaitra month, believed to be the divine day when Goddess Sita granted Hanuman the boon of eternal life (Chiranjivita).““Sri Anjaneya Swamy, the mighty son of Anjani Devi and Kesari, born through the grace of Vayu Deva, is revered as the ultimate symbol of devotion, strength, courage, and unwavering faith. As the most loyal servant of Lord Rama, he accomplished what no one else could—he discovered the whereabouts of Sita Devi and conveyed her message, playing a crucial role in the Ramayana. He is venerated as one of the Saptachiranjivis, the seven immortals, and is lovingly called the deity who responds instantly to the heartfelt cries of his devotees.““Lord Hanuman is worshipped far and wide, cutting across all boundaries of language, caste, and region. It is remarkable that almost every village in India houses a temple dedicated to this divine protector. Known for his ability to remove fear, grant strength, and resolve life's gravest challenges, Anjaneya Swamy stands as a living embodiment of divine grace.““

The Tantric scriptures prescribe a sacred and simple method for Hanuman worship. It is believed that devotees who perform this puja with sincerity will have all righteous desires fulfilled. The ritual involves beginning the worship on Tuesdays, Saturdays, or on spiritually significant days like Punarvasu Nakshatram or Dashami tithi.““The practice includes offering one black gram (minumulu) seed at the feet, head, or flagstaff (Dwajasthambam) of the deity for 41 days, while chanting “Om Ham Hanumate Namah” or the Sri Rama Nama, and performing 11 circumambulations (pradakshinas). After a second cycle of 41 days, the seeds are to be immersed in a river. According to ancient belief, this sacred act fulfills all genuine wishes.““Anjaneya Temples Adorned with Devotion and Splendor““

In Manthani town, temples reverberated with divine chants and devotional hymns as hundreds of devotees gathered from early dawn. Prominent temples such as those near Thammi Cheruvu Katta, Ravula Cheruvu Katta, Pencheruvu Katta, Vaagu Gadda, and the revered Sri Balaveera Hanuman Temple in Boyinapet village, as well as the Anjaneya temple on the banks of the Godavari River, witnessed a sea of devotees.““By 4:00 AM, the temples were vibrant with spiritual enthusiasm. Devotees lined up for darshan, offering flowers, prayers, and heartfelt bhakti to Anjaneya Swamy. The atmosphere was transformed into a sanctified space filled with devotion, discipline, and divine presence, truly reflecting the glory of the Lord who is ever-ready to bless and protect his devotees.

Exicom Launches Harmony Direct 2.0, Redefining Reliability and Efficiency in EV Charging



Hyderabad :Exicom, one of India's leading EV charging and critical power solutions provider, announced the launch of Harmony Direct 2.0, its next-generation DC fast charger, purpose-engineered for rock-solid reliability, smarter station economics, and superior user experience. The product was unveiled in 2.0 - a power packed- industry event organised by Exicom. Designed to tackle critical adoption barriers head- on, Harmony Direct 2.0 marks a pivotal advancement in India's EV infrastructure journey.

At the heart of Harmony Direct 2.0 lies Harmony OS, India's first indigenously developed charger operating system. Harmony OS puts intelligence at the core, automating charger-to-car-to-cloud interactions for unmatched control, customization and confidence. The charger is uniquely equipped with sensor-based diagnostics and the AI- enabled

Harmony Connect for remote charger management, drastically minimizing downtime and maximizing station reliability.“Reliability and trust are central to accelerating EV adoption in India,” said Anant Nahata, Managing Director and CEO, Exicom. “With Harmony Direct 2.0, we’ve engineered a product that transcends traditional charging solutions, and sets a new standard for infrastructure robustness, operational economics, and intuitive user experience. This product reflects our deep understanding of both global technology trends and local market demands, solidifying our commitment to India’s EV ecosystem.”

Highlighting the technology further, Anshuman Divyanshu, CEO, EVSE Business, Exicom, added, “Harmony Direct 2.0 is meticulously crafted to deliver exceptional efficiency and operational intelligence, bringing in attributes that that matter the most for charge point and fleet operators. This product will help them scale with confidence.”Harmony Direct 2.0 introduces groundbreaking efficiency through dynamic load sharing between plugs. Through smart power handling, the charger also tackles the issue of reactive losses, thus significantly reducing energy costs. Additionally, it debuts the peerless Harmony Net technology, and enables intelligent real-time power sharing across multiple chargers, that enhances flexibility and scalability for charge point operators. Additionally, its multi-stack charging functionality takes smart charging to the next level, enabling multiple nuanced logics. Built around user convenience, it features an intuitive, smartphone-like user interface coupled with ergonomic cable and connector design, ensuring effortless handling for all users, including fleet operators and individual EV drivers.

Where Speed Meets Prestige – Catch the Monaco Grand Prix in Pure Motorsport Royalty Live on Tata Play FanCode Sports!

Hyderabad:Welcome to the race where speed meets style, and rubber burns just as brightly as diamonds sparkle! The Monaco Grand Prix isn't just another date on the Formula 1 calendar—it's the crown jewel and also the 75th year of the race's official debut, making it special for reasons more than one . Held on the winding streets of Monte Carlo, this legendary race blends high-octane racing with A-listers as well as jaw-dropping coastal views. Whether you're here for the wheel-to-wheel drama, the cinematic skyline, the thrill of witnessing history unfold on hairpin turns, or just soak in some glitz and glamour of the most celebrated celebs, F1 Monaco 2025 is your unmissable pit stop. And with Tata Play Value Added Service – FanCode Sports bringing you front-row coverage, there's no excuse not to tune in for the ultimate fusion of adrenaline, opulence, and motorsport glory.

Fast & Furious: Monaco Drift

It's narrow, it's twisty, and it's merciless -Monaco's track is a street-racing spectacle. The Circuit de Monaco pushes drivers to their absolute limits, leaving zero room for error. It's the ultimate test of driver skill – blink and you're in the barriers. These turbocharged engines turn into absolute beasts and promise the most exhilarating experience to all motorsport enthusiasts across the globe. Expect daring overtakes, dramatic crashes, and edge-of-your-seat moments from the first lap to the last.

History on Every Turn

F1 fanatics swear by this circuit and we couldn't agree more, Monaco isn't just a race, it's a legend. From Ayrton

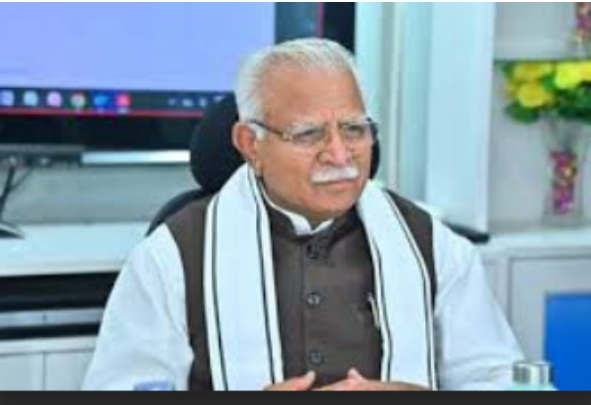


Senna's six wins to Schumacher's calculated magic, the track is a living museum of motorsport glory. Monaco is famously hard to overtake in — so when someone does pull off a daring move, it's an instant highlight-reel moment. If you like tension, risk, and edge-of-your-sofa action, this is your race. Each tunnel, and hairpin is soaked in legacy – promising to add a fresh chapter to this timeless tale.

The “Hometown Hero” Pressure Cooker

What's more dramatic than racing in Monaco? Racing in Monaco as a local hero with a home crowd holding their breath at every corner. All eyes are on Charles Leclerc, Monaco's very own prince of the paddock. Watching him take on the streets he grew up around adds a layer of emotion and epicness you won't find anywhere else. It's about legacy, heartbreak, redemption, and an entire city cheering for their boy

Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal Calls for Smarter, Sustainable, and Financially Viable Power Sector



The Regional Conference for the Southern Region States/ UTs was held on 23rd May in Bengaluru under the chairmanship of Shri Manohar Lal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs. The meeting was also attended by Shri Shripad Naik, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri K. J. George (Hon'ble Minister of Energy, Karnataka), Shri Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu (Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister, Telangana), Shri S. S. Sivasankar (Hon'ble Electricity Minister, Tamil Nadu), Shri A. Namassivayam (Hon'ble Electricity Minister, Puducherry) and Shri Gottipati Ravi Kumar, (Hon'ble Energy Minister, Andhra Pradesh) through video conferencing. The meeting saw the participation of the Union Power Secretary, Secretaries (Power/ Energy) of participating States/ UTs, CMDs of Central and State Power Utilities, and senior officers from the Ministry of Power.

Secretary (Power), Government of India (Gol) highlighted that it is crucial to ensure necessary power generation capacity tie-ups as per the resource adequacy plan for upto FY2035 so as to meet future power demand. It is also imperative to make necessary arrangements for development of inter-state and intra-state transmission capacities through various financing models available including Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB), Regulated Tariff Mechanism (RTM), budgetary support or monetization of existing assets. Further, the States should make all efforts for securing the power sector infrastructure, including the transmission grid and distribution systems, against cyber security concerns and should implement necessary cyber security protocols for the same. In addition, States to also work towards ensuring financial viability of distribution utilities.Hon'ble Energy Minister, Karnataka in his address welcomed the guests and highlighted the key steps taken by the State towards improving the quality and reliability of power supply across the State. He thanked Hon'ble Union Minister for his visit to Bengaluru for having regional power sector review of southern States. It was remarked that the State would make all out efforts for over all improvement in the power sector of the country. He also requested for sup-

port of Central Government on various issues concerning the State including for the distribution and transmission infrastructure works.

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy in his address highlighted that the progress made in power sector in the past few years has given a strong foundation but going forward there is a need to work on the issues of financial viability and resource adequacy, which also include developing the transmission network. Hon Minister asked for urgently executing PM-KUSUM works and for signing up PPAs for the same within next 7 months. Further, Hon Minister assured States that the Central Government is actively working on suggestions and feedback received from the States in this regard.Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal in his address underlined the importance of a future-ready, modern, and financially viable power sector to fuel the country's growth. He outlined the importance of continuous cooperation and coordination between Central and the State Governments in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047.He further remarked that such regional conferences would help in identifying specific challenges and possible solutions. He mentioned about the importance of encouraging energy-conscious behaviour and using energy-efficient appliances for energy sustainability. Further, he directed States and MoP for conducting regional level workshops and training programmes for addressing cyber security aspects of the power system.Hon'ble Minister laid emphasis on ensuring resource adequacy and necessary power generation capacity tie-ups. States should, while meeting their resource adequacy plan, also work on having adequate power generation mix including addition of nuclear generation capacity.Further, the States should work towards resolving the Intra-State transmission sector challenges, including RoW issues. He asked States for adoption of guidelines issued by Central Government in this regard. He also highlighted that to develop the infrastructure the States should leverage the scheme announced in Union Budget 2025-26 including the scheme of Rs. 1.5 lakh crore interest-free loan to States for 50-year for infrastructure development.He urged all States to submit proposals for third phase of the Green Energy Corridor (GEC-III). He remarked that States should promote renewable energy coupled with storage solutions so as to have energy reliability and to collectively meet India's international climate commitments under the UNFCCC.Hon'ble Minister mentioned that the distribution sector is most critical link in the power sector value chain. However, it faces challenges due to poor tariff structures, sub-optimal billing and collection, and delayed payments of Government department dues and subsidies. It is essential to reduce the AT&C losses and the gap between Average Cost of Supply and Average Revenue.He asked States to engage with the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERCs) for cost-reflective tariffs and timely issuance of tariff and true-up orders.

Canon India celebrates progress powered by technology in latest India #CANwithCanon campaign



Hyderabad:Canon India unveiled its latest digital campaign India #CANwithCanon, shining a light on how technology is deeply embedded in the lives of Indians across the country. The campaign film follows Canon Ambassador Abbas Baig as he captures real-life stories of everyday people using Canon's technology to drive progress, celebrating not just innovation, but its impact and how technology make a difference.

India #CANwithCanon campaign showcases how simple, accessible technology is creating meaningful change in diverse places. The film highlights how Canon's vast portfolio of innovative products and solutions are empowering people from all walks of life – From MNCs and Corporates to a neighbourhood entrepreneur boosting the productivity and efficiency of his business with a Multi-Function Device, students designing projects at home with advanced printers, to architectural studios bringing blueprints to life with large-format printers, the campaign showcases real stories of ambition and achievement. It also shows how Canon's surveillance solutions help create safer spaces, reiterating its role in India's development journey.

Speaking on the campaign, Mr. C. Sukumaran, Senior Director, Product & Communication, Canon India said, “Today, technology is no longer confined to select spaces – it exists in every aspect of daily life, from narrow streets to corporates, commercial spaces and more. Through this campaign, we celebrate the real stories of progress that unfold when innovation reaches every corner of the country. At Canon, we remain deeply committed to driving this inclusive growth by delivering an extensive portfolio of imaging technology that adapts to the evolving needs of our customers and empowers them to succeed.”

Building on the I #CANwithCanon campaign, which showcased how Canon's solutions have empowered individuals and businesses, India #CANwithCanon reinforces Canon's commitment to democratising technology and supporting India's digital transformation. By making technology accessible, Canon is not just enabling smarter work and creativity, but fuelling dreams, celebrating innovation, and empowering a nation.

OPPO Launches New A5x 5G 4+128GB Variant – Featuring Flagship Design, 6000mAh Battery, and Military-Grade Durability



Hyderabad:OPPO India strengthens its commitment to durable, dependable smartphones with the launch of the OPPO A5x 5G—bringing trusted performance and robust build quality to the A Series. Engineered for everyday resilience, the A5x 5G inherits OPPO's legacy of durable design with IP 65 rating, offering enhanced water resistance and improved protection against everyday dust exposure, making it ideal for unpredictable environments. Coupled with a sturdy frame that stands up to daily wear and tear, a long-lasting battery, immersive display, and a sleek yet tough exterior, the A5x 5G redefines value in its category. This launch further reinforces OPPO's vision of democratizing durability, style, and performance for a wider set of consumers across India.Priced at INR 13,999 for the 4GB+128GB variant, the OPPO A5x 5G will be available from 25th May 2025 onwards across Amazon, Flipkart, OPPO Store, and mainline retail outlets, in two colour options – Midnight Blue and Laser White. Customers can enjoy ₹1000 instant cashback and 3 months of no-cost EMI from SBI Card, IDFC FIRST Bank, Bank of Baroda, Federal Bank, and DBS Bank—making this 5G powerhouse even more accessible. All basic paper-finance offers will also be available with all leading financiers, ensuring flexible and convenient purchase options for a wider range of consumers.The OPPO A5x 5G is designed to deliver a flagship-inspired experience featuring a premium textured deco module, high-strength alloy frame, and IP65-rated water and dust resistance for all-round durability. Built for resilience, its 360° Armour Body is backed by reinforced glass and military-grade shock resistance. Powering users through the day is a massive 6,000mAh battery with 45W fast charging and 5-year battery health assurance. Entertainment and multitasking run smoothly thanks to the MediaTek Dimensity 6300 processor, 120Hz ultra-bright display, and 36-month fluency certification. The camera system includes a 32MP AI-powered rear sensor with features like Dual-View Video and AI-enhanced imaging tools. With Trinity Engine and advanced AI capabilities like AI Eraser 2.0, Reflection Remover, and Smart Image Matting 2.0, the A5x 5G brings flagship-level intelligence and convenience to everyday life

DC&HS Dr. Sridhar Conducts Inspection at Manthani Government Hospital.““



PS Ashokan"Indian Chronicle"Manthani May,23" In accordance with the directives issued by District Collector Sri Koya Sriharsha, the District Coordinator of Hospital Services (DC&HS), Dr. Sridhar, undertook a comprehensive inspection of the Government Area Hospital and the Maternal and Child Health Centre in Manthani. "During the visit, Dr. Sridhar reviewed the attendance registers of medical officers and auxiliary staff. Show-cause notices were issued to those who were found to be absent without authorization." He instructed the healthcare personnel to

maintain professional decorum, exhibit respectful behavior towards patients, and provide attentive and high-quality medical care. He also announced the forthcoming implementation of a biometric attendance system to enhance transparency and discipline within the institution. "Furthermore, Dr. Sridhar underscored the necessity of delivering prompt and uninterrupted medical services, particularly to emergency and obstetric cases. Given the prevailing heavy rainfall, he directed that ambulances and 102 emergency response vehicles be kept in a state of readiness to address any exigencies.

MLA Dr. Tellam Venkatrao distributed CM Relief Fund checks.



"Ranjith Naik Bhukya, Bhadrachalam, May 23 (Indian Chronicle)"On Friday, Bhadrachalam MLA Dr. Tellam Venkatrao distributed CM Relief Fund checks at his camp office. The recipients were individuals from various villages in Charla and Venkatapuram mandals who had received treatment in private hospitals for illnesses and applied to

the CMRF. The beneficiaries who received checks were Irfa and Adilakshmi from Charla Mandal: \$36,000, Bogatha Samatha from Venkatapuram Mandal: \$34,000, CH. Lakshmi Narsu \$17,500, Korsa, Nandini: \$15,000, K. Sudhanya: \$15,000. Mandal leaders, party workers, former public representatives, Youth Congress leaders, and others participated in the program.

Headmasters are the pillars of the government education sector : Collector Jitesh V. Patil““



"Ranjith Naik Bhukya, Bhadrachalam, May 23 (Indian Chronicle)" emphasized that headmasters play a crucial role in upholding the government education system. He advised them to serve as school leaders, providing academic guidance to teachers, maintaining a positive attitude towards students, and "developing into true leaders in delivering quality education to children. Speaking after visiting the ongoing four-day in-service training program for headmasters at the District Education and Training Center in Kothagudem, he stated that there is nothing that headmasters cannot achieve if they work wholeheartedly. ". He urged them to increase community participation in schools and contribute to providing quality education to children. Earlier, while visiting the biology teachers' training camp at the Zilla

Parishad High School, Old Palwancha, he stressed that biology teachers play a vital role in protecting this planet, which is suitable for human habitation. He urged them to move beyond the misconception that studying biology only leads to a career as a doctor and, instead, to explore many innovative courses. He asked them to take on the primary responsibility of providing essential natural food products to humanity through plants. He exhorted them to utilize the concepts learned in the training in the classroom to provide high-quality education to students. The program was attended by District Academic Monitoring Officer A. Nagarajasekhar, Biology Training Center In-charge A. Padmalatha, State Observer Srihari, resource persons, and teachers.

Paul Raj's death anniversary was lavishly celebrated.“



"Ranjith Naik Bhukya, Bhadrachalam, May 23 (Indian Chronicle)"Former Vemur MLA and founder of Paul Raj Engineering College, the death anniversary of the late Dr. Paul Raj was celebrated in a grand manner at the local St. Paul's Church. Initially, members of the Good Samaritan Evangelical Lutheran Society founded by him decorated his grave with flowers and offered prayers according to Christian tradition. Later, a memorial service was held in the church chapel under the chairmanship of Reverend Radha Manjari, the president of the church. The church ad-

ministration officer Abraham, Paul Raj's son, and chairman of Paul Raj Educational Institutions Somarauthu Srinivasa Rao participated in the program and paid tributes. Speaking on the occasion, they said, "He was a great man who provided technical education in the tribal area." "He made immense efforts in spreading the word of Jesus Christ everywhere in Manyam."

"The true tribute to him is to follow the path he has set." Timothy, Ramesh, Joseph, Ramesh, pastors, and church members participated in this program

Youth in the tribal areas of the district should be at the forefront in all fields: District SP Rohit Raj ““



"Ranjith Naik Bhukya, Bhadrachalam, May 23 (Indian Chronicle)"Under the directives of District SP Rohit Raju IPS, the Police Department is undertaking various programs for the tribal people residing in the tribal and Maoist-affected areas of the district, as well as for migrant tribal youth in the plain areas. As part of this initiative, today, with the support of Dammapeta police, 12 young men from Poosukunta, a Konda Reddi village in Dammapeta Mandal, were issued driving licenses. These license copies were handed over to them by SP Rohit Raju IPS himself at the SP office today. On this occasion, the SP stated that the police department will support youth in tribal and agency areas in every

possible way. He mentioned that programs such as organizing sports competitions and providing coaching to encourage them to secure jobs would be undertaken. He noted that many young people in agency areas fall prey to alcohol addiction, drive vehicles, and lose their lives in road accidents. He also pointed out that many are caught by police during vehicle checks without even having driving licenses. The SP announced that the police department would facilitate obtaining driving licenses for youth residing in agency areas under the jurisdiction of all police stations in the district. Subsequently, he inquired about the village issues from the youth of Poosukunta. Dammapeta SI Sai Kishore Reddy participated in this program.

Blue Ocean Study Abroad and Immigration services Mohammed Moinuddin

"Founder & CEO,""Kondapur May 23 Indian Chronicle In 2012, I set out with a simple yet powerful mission—to help people unlock global opportunities through expert, reliable guidance. After spending time in the United States, I returned with a vision and first-hand understanding of the challenges people face when trying to study or settle abroad. That's when I founded Blue Ocean Study Abroad and Immigration. I didn't just want to start another consultancy; I wanted to create a platform where dreams could be shaped with trust, transparency, and genuine support. "Starting small, I worked tirelessly to ensure every client who came to us felt heard, understood, and empowered. Over time, as we built a reputation for delivering results, Blue Ocean grew—not just in size, but in impact. Our services evolved to meet the needs of every type of traveler, student, and immigrant. Today, we proudly offer: "Visit Visas for individuals and families wanting to explore new countries" "Student Visas and University Admissions to help students find their perfect academic path abroad" "Permanent Residency guidance for those looking to settle in a new country for the long term" "Application Filling support to ensure every detail is correct and complete" "Flight Ticket Bookings for a seamless transition from planning to takeoff" "Complete Immigration Services tailored to each individual's goals and background" "With each service, my team and I strive to make the process stress-free, personal, and results-oriented. We've helped thousands of people realize their dream of studying, traveling, or living abroad. Every success fuels our passion even more. A proud moment in this journey came just yesterday—we celebrated the official inauguration of our new office. It was a meaningful milestone, surrounded by well-wishers and partners who have supported our growth and shared in our vision. This new beginning symbolizes not only our expansion but also our renewed commitment to serve with even greater impact. "Leading Blue Ocean has been one of the most fulfilling chapters of my life. I've seen firsthand how the right guidance can change lives—and that's exactly what we're



here to provide. From the moment a client walks in to the day they land in their destination country, we're with them every step of the way. Looking back, I'm proud of what we've built. But more than that, I'm excited for what lies ahead. Because at Blue Ocean, we're not just offering services—we're building futures." Mohammed Moinuddin "Founder & CEO, Blue Ocean Study Abroad and Immigration

llegations by Putta Madhu Are Baseless““Peddapalli District Minority Cell Warns Putta Madhu to Change His Attitude.

"PS Ashokan"Indian Chronicle"Manthani May,23" The leaders of the Peddapalli District Minority Cell have condemned the allegations made by former ZP Chairman Putta Madhukar, calling them baseless. On Friday, a meeting of the District Minority Cell was held in Manthani town under the leadership of State General Secretary of the Minority Cell, Jameel Ahmad. "During the meeting, Peddapalli District President of the Minority Cell, Akbar Ali, and Jameel Ahmad strongly criticized the way Putta Madhukar spoke. They described his comments at Thursday's press meet in Kaleshwaram as strange and inappropriate. They stated that when the people of Manthani gave him a chance to serve as an MLA, he misused the opportunity by engaging in corruption and amassing wealth worth crores, instead of serving the people. They accused him of intimidating and provoking attacks on those who stood in his way. "They emphasized that political criticism should remain political and not turn personal. They condemned Madhukar's personal remarks against IAS officer and Principal Secretary of the Endowments Department, Shailaja Ramaiyer, calling them inappropriate. They strongly warned him to stop making false allegations, stating that if he doesn't change his behavior, the entire minority community will be forced to intervene in his personal life. "They pointed out that former MLA Chandru Patla Ram Reddy never made personal remarks about his opponents and restricted his criticisms to political matters. They urged Putta Madhu to learn from such leaders and attain some wisdom. "They added that the government has allocated substantial funds for the Saraswati Pushkaralu and is organizing the event on a grand scale. Lakhs of devotees are taking part in the sacred ritual. Unable to digest the developmental activities undertaken during the Pushkaralu, Madhu has resorted to derogatory comments. They warned that such baseless and slanderous remarks, along with misleading social media propaganda, would not be tolerated. "SC Cell District President Shyam Sundar, Congress Party District Secretary Janagama



Narsinga Rao, SC Cell Manthani Division President Manthani Satyam, Former Market Committee Chairman Azeem Khan, Minority Town President Ejaz, Mutharam Mandal Minority President Wajid Pasha, Wasiuddin, Yandi Vali, Yandi Nazeer, Mahboob, International Award Winner Khaja Moynuddin, Khaja Mazaruddin, and other minority brothers participated in the meeting.

Air India announces network-wide sale on tickets; Fares start at Rs. 1199 on domestic routes

GNS News Agency, May 23

Hyderabad: Air India has rolled out a network-wide promotional sale, offering unmatched all-inclusive fares across its extensive domestic and international route network. During the promotional sale, one-way fares on domestic routes start from Rs.1,199, and round-trip fares on international routes start from Rs.11,969.

76 phones returned to rightful owners in New Delhi police district



GNS News Agency,May 23

The bulk of the recoveries came from the Kartavya Path police station, where 38 phones were tracked and returned. Tughlak Road followed with 10 recoveries, while Tilak Marg accounted for seven. Other contributions included four phones each from Chanakyapuri and South Avenue, three each from Barakhamba Road, North Avenue, and Connaught Place, two from Mandir Marg, and one each from Parliament Street and the Cyber police station.

The operation relied heavily on the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal, which enables the police to block, trace, and recover lost or stolen mobile phones using their unique IMEI numbers.

By leveraging this technology alongside traditional policing methods, the teams were able to locate devices from various areas and return them to their rightful owners, the police said. In February this year, the Delhi Police's metro wing returned 201 phones to their owners. According to the police, cell phone thefts account for over 80 per cent of all crimes reported in the Delhi Metro, often orchestrated by organised criminal networks that swiftly dispose of or sell stolen devices. In the 20 days it took to complete the operation, 32 dedicated teams had travelled across 16 states – from Kerala to Jammu and Kashmir, and Meghalaya to Gujarat – tracking stolen phones and arresting culprits. The police also set up a Court Facilitation Unit (CFU) to work directly with judicial magistrates. "The CFU helped streamline the process by enabling virtual appearances for complainants, thereby eliminating the need for physical court visits.

Furthermore, the police ensured that victims were not burdened by legal fees, which had previously acted as a deterrent to seeking justice. Upon securing the necessary release orders, the Reconnecting Unit would ensure the return of recovered mobile phones – either at police stations or, where feasible, delivered directly via courier to the rightful owner's residence," Hareshwar Swami, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi Metro, had told The Indian Express in February.

Human rights panel takes suo motu notice of water crisis in Mohali housing colony

GNS News Agency,May 23

The Punjab State and Chandigarh (UT) Human Rights Commission Sunday took suo motu cognisance of the water crisis at the Punjab Police Housing Colony in Sector 62, Mohali. Acting on a news report published in The Indian Express titled "120 families in Punjab have tough time without water for four days", the Commission has called for a detailed report from the authorities concerned. The Commission, led by Chairperson Justice Sant Parkash, noted: "A severe water crisis has paralysed daily life at Punjab Police Housing Colony in Sector 62, with more than 120 families comprising roughly 500 to 600 people... struggling without water for the past four days." The crisis, it observed, stems from "the colony's decades-old water supply pipeline, which has suffered multiple leaks and damage."



was damaged during nearby road construction.

While Executive Engineer Michael from the Water Supply Department said the pipeline had been repaired and tankers were being sent regularly, residents maintained that the supply remained inconsistent and insufficient. In its order, the Human Rights Commission has directed the Chief Engineer, Department of Water Supply and Sanitation, Punjab, and the Commissioner, Municipal Corporation Mohali, to file a report a week before the next hearing. "A copy of the order, along with a copy of the news item, be sent... through e-mail and by post for compliance," the Commission said. The matter is scheduled to be heard on July 2. The Commission's suo motu action comes amid a broader pattern of water-related complaints in Mohali, where several areas have reported low pressure and irregular supply in recent weeks.

Sunil Reddy Decries Government Apathy During Manthani Bus Stand Inspection.

“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani May,23“Chandrupatla Sunil Reddy, former BJP District President, conducted an on-site inspection of the Manthani Bus Stand on Friday, voicing strong criticism over the lack of essential infrastructure and preparedness during the Saraswati P u s h k a r a l u festivities.““During his visit, Reddy engaged with distressed passengers and condemned the government's gross negligence in ensuring even rudimentary amenities. He highlighted the collapse of a makeshift tent intended for pilgrims en route to Kaleshwaram, which, compounded by relentless rainfall, had left the premises submerged and chaotic.““He accused local officials of complacency, noting their inaction despite evident public discomfort. “It is appalling



that, during such a spiritually significant event, the administration has failed to provide the most fundamental facilities,” he remarked. “Immediate intervention is necessary—not only to safeguard the wellbeing of devotees but to restore public faith in governance.““Reddy urged

the government to deploy additional buses from neighboring districts to mitigate commuter congestion and ensure seamless transport services. He also called for urgent upgrades to sanitation, shelter, and crowd management infrastructure.““Accompanying him during the visit were BJP

District Spokesperson Potharaveni Kranti Kumar, Mandal President Viraboina Rajender, Town President Sabbani Santosh, Town General Secretary Samala Ashok, OBC Mandal President Repaka Shankar, along with local leaders Vishnu, Shankar, Santosh, and Jetty Shankar.

Present Plans for Konda Reddi Tribal Families to Build Indiramma Homes: Project Officer B. Rahul“

““Ranjith Naik Bhukya, Bhadrachalam, May 23 (Indian Chronicle)““ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul has directed concerned MPDOs to prepare and submit proposals for the construction of Indiramma Homes under the PM Janman scheme to fulfill the dream of owning a home for Konda Reddi tribal families residing in remote, dense forest areas within the ITDA's jurisdiction. On Friday, he held a special meeting with MPDOs and Panchayat Secretaries from Konda Reddi villages in Dammapeta and Ashwaraopeta mandals at the Conference Hall of the Bhadradi Kothagudem District Collectorate office. During the meeting, he provided several instructions, emphasizing the need for prompt submission of proposals for residential homes for Konda Reddi tribal families living in isolated hill and forest areas, as requested under the PM Janman scheme. He instructed the relevant MPDOs and Panchayat Secretaries to conduct a door-to-door survey using a mobile app for Konda Reddi tribal families in seven Konda Reddi tribal village habitations in Ashwaraopeta mandal and in Poosukunta village in Dammapeta mandal. He stressed that they must ensure every eligible Konda Reddi tribal family is registered online via the mobile app so that everyone receives residential homes through the PM Janman scheme. He urged the MPDOs and Panchayat Secretaries to take



special responsibility for this initiative and announced that the mobile app survey program would commence on Saturday. The meeting was attended by ITDA Assistant Project Officer (General) David Raj, along with the MPDOs and Panchayat Secretaries from Ashwaraopeta and Dammapeta.

Building owner booked after 3 killed in wall collapse at Delhi’s Paharganj



GNS News Agency,May 23

The Delhi Police have booked the owner of an under-construction building after its wall collapsed, killing three people at Arakashan Road in Paharganj Saturday evening. The wall collapsed at the basement site of a hotel following heavy rainfall. The police said the incident was reported via a PCR call at 6.20 pm. Upon arriving at the site, police and rescue teams found that the wall had collapsed, as the structure had weakened due to ongoing construction activities.

The deceased were identified as Prabhu, 65, the contractor overseeing the construction; Niranjana, 40, a construction worker; and Roshan, 35, another worker at the site. Prabhu was reportedly leading the basement construction project, with Niranjana and Roshan working under him. In another wall collapse, a 35-year-old man died and his co-worker was injured while doing welding work in Outer North Delhi. DCP (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan said police received information regarding a wall collapse in Prahladpur. The victims, Ashok and Sumit, 36, were taken to Maharishi Valmiki Hospital, where Ashok was declared dead on arrival. These wall collapse incidents happened barely a month after a building in Northeast Delhi's Dayalpur collapsed following a dust storm in the early hours of April 19. The collapse killed 11 people, of whom eight were members of the family of a 2020 Northeast Delhi riots victim. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta had then ordered a probe into the incident, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences to those who lost their loved ones and announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs 50,000 each, he had said in a post on X. President Droupadi Murmu had also expressed her condolences to all the affected families. Delhi minister Kapil Mishra and local MLA Mohan Singh Bisht had also visited the site. "All these colonies are unauthorised. We will act against the MCD officials who cleared these houses," Mishra had said.

Teenager stabbed to death after argument over DJ songs in Delhi’s Mahendra Park, 4 minors apprehended

GNS News Agency,May 23

The Delhi Police said they have apprehended four minor boys for allegedly stabbing an 18-year-old youth after an altercation over DJ songs in the Mahendra Park area. According to the police, a call was received at the Mahender Park police station on Saturday from BJRM Hospital about a medico-legal case of a stabbing incident.

"It was reported that one Bheem Sen was admitted to BJRM Hospital by his friend after sustaining injuries during a physical altercation," DCP (North West) Bhisham Singh said. A resident of the Badhola village, Sen succumbed to the two stab injuries, the police said. Investigation revealed that on Friday night, he got into an argument with an accused minor over playing DJ and the choice of songs during an event in the locality. The accused felt humiliated and planned revenge, the police said.

"In an act of revenge, on Saturday, he, along with his three friends, attacked Bheem Sen with a knife with the intent to kill. The accused and his friends have been apprehended," DCP Singh said.

The body of Sen is preserved at the BJRM mortuary, and a case has been registered at the Mahendra Park police station.



Efforts are currently underway to recover the weapon used in the commission of the crime. The crime team and forensic teams have already inspected the area. The children in conflict of law (CCLs) were apprehended," DCP Singh said. Meanwhile, crime data given by the Delhi Police showed that 107 cases of murder were reported between January 1 and March 31 in 2025, a slight uptick from 105 in 2024 during the same period, but lower than 2023, when it was 115. Attempt to murder cases, though, went down by 17.24 per cent to 168 as compared to 203 in 2024.

NIT Warangal Achieves Strong Placements Outcomes, Highest package of 64.3 Lakhs“



“Warangal, May 23 (Indian Chronicle):““NIT Warangal Achieves Strong Placements Outcomes Amidst Challenging Market Conditions, 79.7% of the students placed, Highest package of 64.3 Lakhs offered to Somil Maldhani; 290+ companies visited campus this year. The institute has maintained and improved its placement performance, demonstrating remarkable institutional resilience and the strong industry-readiness of its students. This year, a total of 1,508 students registered for placements, including 791 undergraduates and 717 postgraduates. Out of these, 1,201 students secured job offers—679 from undergraduate programs and 522 from postgraduate programs—resulting in an impressive overall placement rate of 79.7%, a clear improvement from last year's 76%. Notably, the undergraduate placement rate stood at 85.8%, while the postgraduate placement rate reached 72.8%, despite the constrained job market. "The highest package of ₹64.3 LPA, secured by Somil Maldhani (Roll No. 21ECBOA72), who was placed as a Software Development Engineer in one of the software company. The average Cost to Company (CTC) across all placements was ₹14.35 LPA, Undergraduate students averaged a CTC of ₹16.00 LPA, and postgraduate students averaged ₹12.20 LPA. For the first time, structured efforts were made to facilitate PhD placements, with six doctoral scholars successfully placed at an average CTC of ₹9.00 LPA." Reflecting on the achievements of the placement season, Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director, NIT Warangal remarked, "This year's success is not just about numbers—it's a story of resilience, strategic foresight, and our collective determination to prepare students for the real world. In a difficult market, our students outshone many with their skill, adaptability, and professionalism. Our efforts in expanding training, improving industry linkages, and diversifying placement opportunities have truly paid off. To further strengthen students' technical and practical exposure, CCPD collaborated with academic departments to



organize industrial visits and educational tours. These initiatives allowed students to gain firsthand insights into real-world industry practices, bridging the gap between classroom learning and practical application. He congratulates the entire placements team and wishes the students the best in their careers. "The Centre for Career Planning and Development (CCPD) played a pivotal role in this success by launching a comprehensive Pre-Placement Training Program designed to boost students' employability. A range of focused workshops and training sessions were conducted throughout the year, covering areas such as effective communication, problem-solving, mastering corporate transitions, mock group discussions, company-specific interview prep, case study and guesstimate techniques, and awareness programs on international career opportunities. This holistic training approach not only helped students prepare for interviews but also enhanced their confidence and workplace readiness," said Prof. P. Hari Krishna, Head, Centre for Career Planning and DeveOutcomes.

Telangana RERA fines builder Rs. 14.9 lakh for failing to register ‘Aura Velimala’ project

GNS News Agency,May 23

Hyderabad: The Telangana Real Estate Regulatory Authority has imposed a penalty of Rs.14,91,958 on Bhuvanteza Infrastructures and Chekka Bhagyalaxmi holding them responsible for non-registration of the project 'Aura Velimala Phase – 1' in Velimala village of Sangareddy district. The Authority decision came in the wake of complainants submitting that they entered into un-registered Agreements of Sale with the two respondents for the purchase of a flat in the project named 'Aura (VELIMALA)'. As per the agreement, the possession of the flat was to be handed over by December 2023, however, the construction of the project had been significantly delayed and as of June 2024, the project was only 20% completed. The complainants said they made several attempts to communicate with the respondents regarding the delay, yet there was no response or have been provided vague and non-committal responses. The delay in possession has caused severe financial hardship as they were burdened with paying both the rent for current residence and the EMI for the home loan taken for this flat, the complainants said. The Authority also directed the respondent to take steps to file an application for registration of the Project – "Aura Velimala Phase – 1" before it in accordance with Section 4 of the Act, 2016 and the Rules thereunder with immediate effect and till the registration is granted.

Military Digest I People of Punjab rise to the occasion in Op Sindoor



GNS News Agency, May 23

The fields of Punjab are no stranger to battles from time immemorial. From the Greeks to the Turks and Afghans, successive generations of residents of the state have fought foreign invaders in various shapes and forms. In the post-Independence period, the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pak wars saw pitched battles take place at many places along the border in the undivided Ferozepur, Amritsar, and Gurdaspur districts.

However, the short, sharp Indo-Pak conflict during Operation Sindoor brought a new dimension of warfare to the residents of the state. And that was the aerial attack through drones, rockets, and missiles. Accustomed to the hexacopter drones which bring drugs, illegal arms, and ammunition from Pakistan to India, the residents witnessed military grade drones which were seen and intercepted at various places. For a state which has been unaccustomed to such hostilities for the last 54 years, for the initial day or two, there was a general lack of awareness among the district administrations on methods and modalities of black-outs, sirens, and other restrictions. However, everyone learnt the rules very quickly, and the people rallied around the administrative machinery and followed all instructions

dutifully. This correspondent was witness to the matter-of-fact manner in which residents of Pathankot and areas around it went about their business, and even shutting down everything and confining themselves at home when air raid sirens were blowing every few minutes due to the enemy drones.

A village near Pathankot, Damtal, which actually falls in Himachal Pradesh, was struck by three Pakistani projectiles in a matter of a few seconds. These fell in an uninhabited part of the village, and though the resultant blasts caused some structural damage to the houses due to shock waves, there was no damage or loss of life due to the explosives in the projectiles. Far from running away from fear of rockets and missiles, people of villages where the debris of such intercepted Pakistani munitions fell were quick to take matters into their own hands and physically removed these exploded or unexploded ordnance to a safe distance. While this was a foolhardy thing to do and the district administrations were quick to warn people not to touch these items since they may still cause harm, it in a way displayed the courage and utter lack of fear in those villagers. While initially there were reports that some villagers had vacated their homes in a border district, the majority stayed put where they were and refused to move to safer areas. Border villagers spoken to in the Amritsar district said they have chosen to stay put and look after their homes and domestic animals. So, while the Guru Granth Sahib in border Gurdwaras was relocated to safer areas in the hinterland, the villagers themselves were prepared to see through the hostilities between India and Pakistan in a stoic manner. Gurdaspur MP Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa moved around from village to village when the hostilities were at their peak, and also stayed put in Pathankot when the drone attacks were at their worst. Randhawa now plans to write to the prime minister seeking a special economic package for Punjab as well as border districts, as they have to face the brunt of Pakistani misadventures. As the country marks the 60th anniversary of the 1965 war later this year, it is heartening to see that the spirit of steadfastness shown by Punjabis during that turbulent period six decades ago has been repeated again in Operation Sindoor.

Sansad Ratna Awards 2025: Maharashtra leads with 7 MPs among 17 awardees

GNS News Agency, May 23

Seven Members of Parliament (MPs) from Maharashtra are among the top 17 MPs from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha who have been nominated to receive the prestigious Sansad Ratna Awards 2025. Two parliamentary committees have also been nominated for the award. Supriya Sule, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) MP from Baramati Lok Sabha constituency; Shrirang Barne, three-time MP from Pune's Maval Lok Sabha Constituency; Rajya Sabha MP Medha Kulkarni; Congress MP Varsha Gaikwad; Smita Uday Wagh (BJP); Arvind Ganpat Sawant (Shiv Sena UBT); and Naresh Ganpat Mhaske (Shiv Sena), are the awardees from Maharashtra. The Sansad Ratna Awards were instituted in 2010 by Prime Point Foundation and the eMagazine PreSense, following the suggestion of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Hansraj Gangaram Ahir was the first recipient of the award. As of 2024, 125 awards have been presented across 14 award ceremonies, recognising individual parliamentarians and parliamentary standing committees. Under the Individual category, Maharashtra has bagged seven awards; Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Rajasthan have won two awards each; whereas Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Assam have bagged one award each.

There are four special awards by the Chairman of the Jury Committee, recognising "Outstanding and Consistent Contribution to Parliamentary Democracy". Sule, Barne, Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP, Odisha), and N K Premachandran (RSP, Kerala) will receive special awards for their contribution to parliamentary democracy. These four MPs were top performers during the 16th and 17th Lok Sabha terms and have continued their top performance in the 18th Lok Sabha also. The nominations were made by the Jury Committee, chaired by Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC).

The Awards will be presented during the 15th edition of the Sansad Ratna Awards ceremony, scheduled for the last week of July in New Delhi. K Srinivasan, Founder and Chairman, Prime Point Foundation, told The Indian Express that the Jury Committee – comprising distinguished Award-winning parliamentarians and representatives of civil society – nominates the awardees based on performance data. "This data is sourced from the official records of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretariats, as well as PRS Legislative Research. Performance indicators include the number of initiated debates, private members' bills introduced, and questions raised," Srinivasan said.

He also observed that it was remarkable that there was a high number of MPs from Maharashtra. "Though they belong to different political parties, what stands out and com-



mands respect is their unified voice when it comes to the progress of Maharashtra. Almost every year, the contingent from Maharashtra is the largest among the Sansad Ratna awardees," Srinivasan said. Priyadarshini Rahul, Chairperson, Sansad Ratna Awards Committee, said that for the past 15 years, they have been presenting the awards and are committed to the belief that the parliamentary system is the best form of governance. "We continue to stand firmly by it. When we conduct our analysis and see the emergence of new and promising members, it strengthens our faith that the nation is in good hands," Priyadarshini said. "In fact, it is a moment of pride that all the women MPs nominated this time are from Maharashtra, and for the first time, a woman MP, Smita Uday Wagh, has won for the overall performance across the country," she added. When contacted, three-time MP Shrirang Barne from Pune's Maval Lok Sabha constituency attributed his nomination for the Sansad Ratna award to the love and support he has received from people. "I have been able to raise important questions in Parliament and have maintained a 95 per cent attendance while fulfilling my responsibilities. I am extremely grateful and honoured to have been nominated for this recognition," Barne told Praveen Patel and Ravindra Kishan Shukla alias Ravi Kishan (both BJP) from Uttar Pradesh, Dr Nishikant Dubey and Bidyut Baran Mahato (both BJP) from Jharkhand, P P Chaudhary and Madan Rathore (both BJP) from Rajasthan, C N Annadurai (DMK) from Tamil Nadu, and Dilip Saikia (BJP, Assam) are among the other awardees. Two standing committees have also been chosen for their performance based on their reports presented to Parliament. This includes the Standing Committee on Finance, chaired by Bhartruhari Mahtab (BJP, Odisha), and Standing Committee on Agriculture, chaired by Dr Charanjit Singh Channi (Congress, Punjab). When contacted, Dr Channi said that "this was a very good initiative, and serves as an important source of motivation and encouragement for our Members of Parliament."

Aptitude tests for Class 9 admission to Delhi's School of Specialised Excellence on May 26 and 27

GNS News Agency, May 23

Signalling yet again a phased shift towards the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Delhi government's Directorate of Education has provided detailed instructions for Class 9 students seeking entry into the Schools of Specialised Excellence (SOSEs) in the 2025-26 academic session. This marks a departure from the Delhi Board of Secondary Education (DBSE) structure, which has been the foundation of SOSEs since their inception in 2021. According to a circular, Class 9 admissions will be determined through aptitude tests that the directorate plans to conduct on May 26 and 27. The tests are tailored for different streams—STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) and AFPS (Armed Forces Preparatory School) specialisations on the first day, and humanities, performing and visual arts (PVA), and HE21CS (High-end 21st century skills) on the second day.

The aptitude tests will assess a range of cognitive abilities pertinent to each specialisation. The STEM and AFPS aptitude test will consist of 100 multiple-choice questions divided into four sections: language & comprehension (20 questions), mental ability (20 questions), mathematics (30 questions), and science (30 questions). The duration of this test is three hours, with negative marking applicable for incorrect responses. Similarly, the Humanities, PVA, and HE21CS aptitude tests will also be conducted over three hours, comprising 100 multiple-choice questions spread

across five sections: reading comprehension & language ability (25 questions), logical and analytical reasoning (20 questions), quantitative aptitude and numerical ability (20 questions), social and emotional aptitude (15 questions), and creative and innovative thinking (20 questions). Negative marking will apply to this test as well. Eligible students can download their admit cards from May 21 onwards from the directorate's website. According to the circular, detailed guidelines regarding exam centres and roll numbers, among other things, will be made available online. The process requires students to log in using their registration ID and password on the SOSE admission portal, after which the admit cards can be accessed and printed. The directorate has scheduled an online orientation session on May 23 at 11 am for all centre superintendents, heads of schools, and exam coordinators involved in the examination process. Lead facilitators and heads of schools of designated test centres have been made responsible for the smooth conduct during test days. This arrives amid widespread confusion and concern among students, parents, and educators. SOSEs were launched in 2021 under the DBSE to offer skill-based, specialised education aligned with the National Education Policy 2020. However, the directorate recently announced that from this academic year, Class 9 students would transition to the CBSE curriculum, while Classes 10 to 12 would continue under DBSE for now. A senior directorate official said detailed guidelines for Classes 10 to 12 would be released in due course but that for now,

See where Kumartuli's Durga idols are destined for globally, four months ahead of the festival



GNS News Agency, May 23

The artisan lanes of Kolkata's Kumartuli, renowned for their exquisite craftsmanship of Durga idols, are abuzz with early activity as international shipments have commenced as early as May—four months ahead of Durga Puja 2025, which falls in late September.

Orders have poured in from various parts of the world, with consignments to be sent to Texas, Florida, New Jersey, and Orlando in the United States; Toronto in Canada;

Melbourne in Australia; Dubai in the UAE; and European cities such as Paris, Rome, Berlin, Warsaw, and Moscow. As per artisans, global demand for handcrafted Durga idols has surged significantly, prompting them to begin exports well in advance to meet logistical timelines and customs requirements. "There has been a 10 per cent increase in international orders compared to last year. I have received an order of 16 Durga idols for export, with Dubai being a new destination on my list. The Durga idol for Dubai was dispatched in the first half of May," said Mintu Paul, a veteran artisan of Kumartuli. Kaushik Ghosh of Joy Durga Bhandar added, "A Durga idol from my studio was dispatched to Moscow last week, and another will be dispatched next week to Melbourne."

The early onset of global exports, beginning in May, is because of a strategic shift in the idol-making and dispatch timeline. Due to the rising demand from abroad and the need to accommodate long-distance shipping requirements, the idols are being dispatched early. To withstand the challenges of long-distance transportation, the idols are crafted in fibreglass instead of conventional clay and straw. "Fibreglass offers greater resilience and longevity, ensuring that the intricate artistry remains intact upon arrival," an artisan said. "To meet quality and timing expectations, we begin the sculpting and painting work as early as March, with exports commencing from May," said Subal Paul, another artisan deeply involved in this year's preparations.

‘Attack on academic freedom’: Ashoka University body condemns arrest of professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad over Op Sindoor remarks

GNS News Agency, May 23

Reacting to the arrest of Ali Khan Mahmudabad, a professor at the Sonapat-based Ashoka University, a student of the private university Sunday said Mahmudabad "has always been honest inside and outside the classroom. He's never hidden his views." "He's originally from Lucknow and keeps going up and down between Delhi and Lucknow, but he's always been dedicated to his students and his work," the student added.

Ali Khan Mahmudabad, the head of the Department of Political Science at Ashoka University, was arrested by the Haryana Police in Delhi on Sunday, just days after he was served a show-cause notice over his social media remarks on Operation Sindoor. The arrest has triggered condemnation from across India's academic community. The Haryana State Commission for Women, which issued the notice on May 12, alleged that Mahmudabad's comments "disparaged women officers in the Indian Armed Forces" and promoted "communal disharmony." Police sources told The Indian Express that a First Information Report was registered based on a complaint by a BJP leader, though the specific charges have not yet been officially disclosed. In an internal email circulated Sunday afternoon, the Committee for Academic Freedom (CAF) at Ashoka University called the arrest "disproportionate punishment made on flimsy grounds," and "a fundamental attack on academic freedom."

"Prof Mahmudabad's statements on social media and elsewhere express a deep respect for the Indian armed forces, including women officers, while calling for peace and rationality," the CAF stated. "This is a clear curtailment of his freedom as an academic and public intellectual..." We call upon Ashoka University to publicly stand by Prof Mahmudabad," it added. Official sources at Ashoka University told this publication, "We have been made aware that Prof. Ali Khan Mahmudabad has been taken into police custody earlier today. We are in the process of ascertaining details of the case. The university will continue to cooperate with the police and local authorities in the investigation, fully." A statement dated May 16, endorsed by over 1,000 members of the academic community, demanded that the Commission withdraw the notice and issue an apology. "From a bare reading of his original posts, it is clear that Prof. Khan praised the strategic restraint of the armed forces... Far from being misogynist or anti-national, Prof. Khan's posts are driven by a clear moral vision of what being a good citizen means," the statement read. The state-



ment added that Mahmudabad's arrest was part of a "wider climate of hostility" toward public intellectuals and academics engaging in dissent or critique. "It is preposterous that even praising the army, while criticising those who clamour for war, can now invite such harassment and censorship..." The Commission has shown how constitutionally protected freedom of speech continues to be under threat from forces that seek to spread hatred and destabilise India," the statement further said. Mahmudabad has been a faculty member at Ashoka University since 2016, said student sources, and is widely recognised for his academic and public engagement on religious identity, political culture, and democracy in South Asia and the Middle East. A Cambridge-educated scholar, he earned his PhD researching Muslim identity formation in North India between 1850 and 1950, with a focus on the musha'irah (poetic symposium) and evolving notions of watan (homeland). He has also written on transnational Shi'a networks, studied Arabic in Damascus, and conducted fieldwork across Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Yemen. Mahmudabad holds a double major in History and Political Science from Amherst College (USA) and is fluent in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu. He has been a regular contributor to newspapers and magazines in English and Urdu, and has participated in public debates on issues ranging from minority rights and nationalism to the role of religion in democracy and national security. The controversy began with two social media posts on May 8 and 11, in which Mahmudabad reflected on the media optics surrounding Operation Sindoor. He acknowledged the significance of women officers – Colonel Sofia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh – leading the military briefing, but added that such optics would be "hypocrisy" if not backed by actual structural change for women across the Armed forces and public institutions.

Work while you wait: Mumbai Central to have Railways' first digital lounge, check out its features here

GNS News Agency, May 23

Western Railway will soon open India's first digital lounge, which will be a complete co-working facility at the Mumbai Central railway station. This initiative is part of a broader effort by the Railways to enhance station infrastructure and provide modern amenities to commuters. The lounge, designed to meet airport standards, will be conveniently located between food plazas and platforms, making it an efficient place for travellers waiting for long-distance trains.

The lounge will be created in a 1,712 sq ft empty space and will combine shared workstations and enclosed cubicles. It will be air-conditioned and provided with high-speed internet, power charging points, comfortable seating, printing and scanning facilities and light refreshments via vending machines. The place will also have conference rooms and meeting facilities for organising small professional or social functions. According to officials, the lounge is an attempt to cater to the new generation and help them utilise their waiting time for work purposes. "The facility is being developed keeping in mind the digital generation who prefer working on the go and would utilise their waiting time for productive purposes," said Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer, Western Railway. Meant to seat 20 to 50 passengers at a time, the lounge will be available to both train travellers and the general public. The officials said that it will likely function on an hourly fee system under a private partnership model. Western Railway expects to earn about Rs 50 lakh per annum just from the Mumbai Central lounge, with combined revenue potential from equivalent lounges in the region at Rs 2.71 crore. This digital lounge initiative is the Railways' new thrust for innovation in line with national ambitions such as Digital India. The idea is to make railway stations the city centres of comprehensive services, other than transport.

As part of the Rs 947 crore Station Improvement



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Project by Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation, identical digital lounges have been planned at other important locations such as Andheri, Goregaon, Borivali, Bandra Terminus, and other locations. "After this lounge is successful, we also plan to extend it to other railway stations on the western railway as it gains popularity," added the spokesperson. Mumbai Central will be the pilot site, with construction and furnishing to be done by a private contractor. The idea brings contemporary workspaces into transit areas and provides a pragmatic solution for professionals, business travellers, and regular commuters who need workspaces in transit. "The project also maximises non-fare revenue for Indian Railways by making efficient use of underutilised station space," said Abhishek. The lounge is expected to open to the public in the coming months, offering a seamless blend of mobility and productivity at one of Mumbai's busiest railway terminals.

Defence, trade and geopolitics on the cards at U.K.’s ‘reset’ summit with EU



GNS News Agency,May 23

U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer will host the first U.K.-EU Summit since Brexit, as the Labour government attempts to “reset” ties with the bloc, some nine years after the U.K. left the EU. The two sides, which will meet in London on Monday (May 19, 2025), are expected to announce a defence and security pact, agreements related to trade and a joint statement on the geopolitical situation.In its mes-saging, Downing Street has linked the expected trade an-nouncements with the last week’s comprehensive U.K.-India trade deal and U.K.-US framework trade agreement. However, the trade outcomes for Monday are expected to be smaller in scope, focusing on a few sectors.

“First India, then the United States – in the last two weeks alone that’s jobs saved, faster growth and wages rising. More money in the pockets of British working people, achieved through striking deals not striking poses,” Mr. Starmer said in a statement.A stronger relationship U.K.-EU relationship, which Monday’s summit is hoping to achieve, would be “good for our jobs, good for our bills and good for our borders”, he said. The summit is being held against the backdrop of heightened geopolitical uncertainty, including signs of a changing relationship between Wash-

ington and its European allies.

Several impasses remained at the 11th hour before Monday’s summit. One challenging issue has been fishing rights. France -one of the most influential EU members - has wanted an agreement to maintain current levels of access to British fishing waters extended for the long-term (the current agreement ends in June 2026), rather than re-quiring annual negotiation. Other issues being hammered out include, as per reports, a sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) agreement and a veterinary deal. Alignment on agri-cultural rules was a sensitive issues in the run-up to Brexit and the E.U. has wanted the U.K. to align itself to future changes in EU SPS rules as part of the current negotia-tions.

Monday (May 19, 2025) is also likely to see a selec-tive easing of mobility rules between the EU and the U.K. for some professionals. The sides are reportedly still work-ing out a youth mobility scheme, which the EU has been keen on.Migration and mobility are sensitive issues and have occupied headlines in recent days, following the strong performance of Reform U.K., a nativist part, in local polls earlier this month. The Labour government’s positions on migration have consequently hardened; Downing Street recently announced its intention to tighten residency require-ments and close or restrict certain visa routes.The Prime Minister defended the talks around youth mobility, telling The Times on Friday that the scheme under discussion with the EU was not tantamount to “freedom of movement”. Ending free movement for EU nationals was one of the core arguments for those who championed Brexit.On defence, the U.K. is seeking access for its companies to a new •150 billion EU defence loan scheme. The U.K. and the E.U. have been cooperating closely on Ukraine, with Mr Starmer host-ing European leaders in London, in March, to work out a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine.

Clean and lean Japan

During my visit to Japan on a family holiday, I was astounded by two features. The first was the pristine clean-liness across the country. As we travelled through big cit-ies and rural areas, public spaces such as parks, markets and train stations and along the seashores, river fronts, ponds and even roadside canals, nowhere did we find any litter; not even a bottle, can, or piece of paper. Surprisingly, when we wanted to dispose of some coffee cups, we just could not locate a trash can. We had no option other than to shove the paper cups in our backpacks.

How does the whole of Japan stay squeaky clean? As we travelled further, we realised that cleanliness has been achieved through a strong civic sense in every indi-vidual and social norms ingrained as part of the cultural iden-tity. No one eats or drinks while walking on the road or us-ing public transport. Shops that sell snacks request their customers to take the food away and not eat on their pre-mises. In only very few places did we find trash cans that were labelled: plastics, PET bottles, bottles and cans, and combustible garbage. Such segregation is practised in houses, shops and everywhere. Trash neatly packed in white see-through plastic bags is kept on the roadsides and collected by the municipal staff. In most countries, waste disposal is done through land filling, but in Japan with a lim-ited land area, combustible garbage is put in incinerators, with special measures to reduce the release of toxins in the air.“Reduce, reuse, and recycle”, the common slogan for minimising plastic waste is well known, though not widely practised. I was fascinated to learn about furoshiki, a tradi-tional Japanese method of cloth-folding to gift-wrap and make bags. It eliminates the need for paper, plastic, tape, and ribbons.

The second aspect that fascinated me was the toilets. The Japanese have combined the best practices of the East and West. It was really an awe-inspiring moment to find, on entering a toilet, a clean and dry floor, the lights getting switched on and the lid opening, automatically. The warm seat and gurgling sound as from a pool lent a feeling of calm. Toilets everywhere in Japan were clean, functioning and adequately stocked. Before the 2020 Olympics, renowned architects were commissioned to build unique public toilets in Tokyo. One such was the transparent glass toilet near the Yoyogi Park. On locking the door from inside, the glass



would turn opaque! The Olympics were postponed due to pandemic and later held without spectators. But the Tokyo Toilet Project was shown to the world through a movie, Perfect Days. The protagonist who played the role of a toi-let cleaner won the Cannes award for the Best Actor.

A penchant for perfection in everything, considerate behaviour, and no PDA (Public Display of Affection) prac-tised by the Japanese were quite amazing. In the 1990s, I was exposed to Total Quality Management that had helped the Japanese to improve their production after the Second World War. TQM started in a steel plant in Jamshedpur, and was implemented in the health sector and town divi-sion also. We memorised the 5Ss: sort, set in order, shine, standardise, and sustain, translated from the Japanese words Seiri, Seiton, Seiso, Seiketsu, and Shitsuke. But see-ing the larger picture of an entire country kept clean through discipline, with social norms as the driving force was re-markable, though an impossible aspiration for elsewhere.

Cleanliness in Japan is rooted in culture. Japan’s old-est religion, Shinto is based on worship of nature and the relationship between humans, nature, and the gods. There is no supreme deity in Shinto and no single founder. Shinto believes in religious pluralism, polytheism, and maintaining harmony with nature. Most Japanese are Shintoist, Bud-dhist or both. As we visited some Shinto shrines and walked through the orange-colored torii gates, my husband won-dered, half-whispering, “We don’t know who is the God of the Japanese. Nonetheless, the country is doing great. Let’s pray and act towards cleanliness and prosperity for us too.”

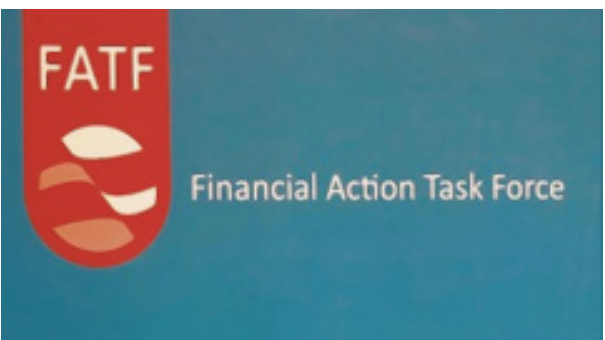
IMF imposes 11 new conditions on Pakistan, warns it against risks to bailout programme: Report

The new conditions imposed on Pakistan include the parliamentary approval of a new ?17.6 trillion budget, an increase in the debt servicing surcharge on electricity bills and lifting restrictions on import of more than three-year-old used cars. Tribune newspaper said the Staff Level report, which the IMF released on Saturday (May 18, 2025), also said that “rising tensions between India and Pakistan, if sustained or deteriorate further, could heighten risks to the fiscal, external and reform goals of the programme”.The report further stated that tensions between Pakistan and India have risen significantly over the past two weeks, but so far, the market reaction has been modest, with the stock market retaining most of its recent gains and spreads wid-ening moderately.The IMF report has shown the defence budget for the next fiscal year at ?2.414 trillion, which is higher by ?252 billion or 12%.Compared to the IMF’s pro-jection, the government has indicated allocating over ?2.5 trillion or an 18% higher budget, after confrontation with India early this month.India carried out precision strikes un-der “Operation Sindoor” on terror infrastructure early on May 7 in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people.India and Pakistan reached an understand-ing on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.It has imposed the new condition of securing “parliamentary approval of the fiscal year 2026 budget in line with the IMF staff agreement to meet programme targets by end-June 2025”.The IMF report has shown the total size of the federal budget at ?17.6 trillion, including ?1.07 trillion for development spending.A new condition has also been imposed on the provinces where the four federating units will implement the new Agri-culture Income Tax laws through a comprehensive plan, including the establishment of an operational platform for processing returns, taxpayer identification and registration, a communication campaign, and a compliance improve-ment plan.According to the third new condition, the govern-ment will publish a governance action plan based on the recommendations of the Governance Diagnostic Assess-ment by the IMF.The purpose of the report is to publicly identify reform measures to address critical governance vulnerabilities.Another new condition states that the gov-ernment will prepare and publish a plan outlining the government’s post-2027 financial sector strategy, outlining



the institutional and regulatory environment from 2028 onwards.In the energy sector, four new conditions have been introduced. The government will issue notifications of the annual electricity tariff rebasing by July 1st of this year to maintain energy tariffs at cost recovery levels.It will also issue a notification of the semi-annual gas tariff adjustment to maintain energy tariffs at cost recovery levels by Febru-ary 15, 2026, according to the report.Parliament will also adopt legislation to make the captive power levy ordinance permanent by the end of this month, according to the IMF. The government has increased the cost for the industries to force them to shift to the national electricity grid.Parliament will also adopt legislation to remove the maximum ?3.21 per unit cap on the debt service surcharge, which is tanta-mount to punishing honest electricity consumers to pay for the inefficiency of the power sector.The IMF and the World Bank dictated that wrong energy policies are causing the accumulation of the circular debt in addition to the government’s bad governance. The deadline to remove the cap is the end of June, according to the report.The IMF has also imposed a condition that Pakistan will prepare a plan based on the assessment conducted to fully phase out all incentives in relation to Special Technology Zones and other industrial parks and zones by 2035. The report has to be prepared by the end of this year.Finally, in a consumer-friendly condition, the IMF has asked Pakistan to submit to the Parliament all required legislation for lifting all quantita-tive restrictions on the commercial importation of used motor vehicles (initially only for vehicles less than five years old by the end of July. Currently.

India to apprise FATF of the latest evidence on terror infrastructure in Pakistan



GNS News Agency,May 23

The Indian authorities are planning to apprise the Fi-nancial Action Task Force (FATF) of the latest evidence related to the terror bases in Pakistan that were destroyed by the defence forces during the precision attacks as part of Operation Sindoor, in the aftermath of the Pahalgam ter-ror attack.“Although the decision making in the FATF is based on technical compliance of its anti-money laund-ering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CTF) recom-mendations, which is evaluated through the measures taken by the country concerned and on-ground verification, the gruesome killings in Pahalgam have necessitated the shar-ing of information about the existing terror infrastructure in Pakistan with the international watchdog,” said a govern-ment official.In the coming days, the official said, India is expected to highlight, at all the international forums, the lat-

est evidence about the patronage being given by the Paki-stani State machinery to banned terrorist organisations.

The FATF Plenary had removed Pakistan from the Grey List in October 2022, albeit with the reminder that Pakistan will continue to work with the Asia Pacific Group (APG) to further improve its AML/CFT system.The last time the FATF had placed Pakistan on its Grey List was in June 2018. It found several strategic deficiencies with respect to the AML and CFT recommendations. Pakistan was told to implement the action plan, which included demonstration of effective action against United Nations-designated terror outfits, individuals and their associates in terms of financial sanctions, asset seizures, investigation, prosecution, and convictions.

However, owing to its failure to implement all the ac-tion points fully, Pakistan was again retained on the Grey List on October 21, 2021. The FATF Plenary noted that it had completed 26 of the 27 action items in its 2018 plan. The one remaining issue was about continuing to demon-strate that the terror financing investigations and prosecu-tions targeted senior functionaries and commanders of UN-designated terror outfits.Earlier, in response to the additional deficiencies flagged in Pakistan’s 2019 APG Mutual Eval-uation Report in June 2021, it had given further commitment to address them. Pakistan was put on the Grey List for the first time in 2008, then removed in 2009, and again it was brought under increased monitoring from 2012 to 2015. Greylisting by the FATF is said to limit a country’s access to international loans.

Why is there variation in India’s fertility rates? | Explained

The story so far: The Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report of 2021, released by the Office of the Registrar General of India recently, showed that India has maintained its Total Fertility Rate (TFR) at 2.0 — the same as reported in 2020. While the national average for TFR has remained the same, there is a wide regional varia-tion in TFR data for States and Union Territories (UTs) re-ported independently.

Which State saw highest TFR?

The highest TFR was recorded in Bihar at 3.0 and the lowest was reported for West Bengal and Delhi at 1.4. The data went on to reveal that in the decade between 2009-11 and 2019-21, TFR has been on an overall decline, in States, and nationally, albeit at different rates.

What does TFR measure?

The SRS report calculates TFR to measure the num-ber of children each woman in India is expected to have throughout her reproductive age, which the survey defines between 15 and 49 years. According to the report, this value is derived from other indicators for fertility — more specifi-cally age-specific fertility rates put together through a for-mula. Age-specific fertility rates measure the number of children women of a particular age range are expected to have.This data is gathered as part of the SRS survey, which is the largest demographic survey conducted by India to measure various fertility and mortality indicators annually. The SRS 2021 survey was conducted across 8,842 sample units in all the States and UTs, and compiles data gathered from a sample size of about 84 lakh people.

What do fertility indicators record?

Within fertility indicators, the SRS report broadly mea-sures the Crude Birth Rate (CBR), Sex Ratio at Birth, Gen-eral Fertility Rate, Age-Specific Fertility Rate, and Total Fertility Rate, among other indicators. Crude Birth Rate measures number of live births per 1,000 people in the popu-lation, and General Fertility Rate measures live births per 1,000 women of reproductive age (15-49 years). The sur-veys also measure another indicator — Gross Reproduc-tion Rate, which reflects the number of daughters a woman is expected to have, and who will, in turn, bear children. The report further notes that the TFR of India at 2.0 has come down below the replacement level of 2.1. The replace-ment level TFR is measured as the number of children each woman should have for each generation to replace the pre-vious generation’s population. According to the TFR data for 2021, just six States had TFR above the replacement level of 2.1. These were Bihar (3.0), Madhya Pradesh (2.6), Jharkhand (2.3), Uttar Pradesh (2.7), Chhattisgarh (2.2),

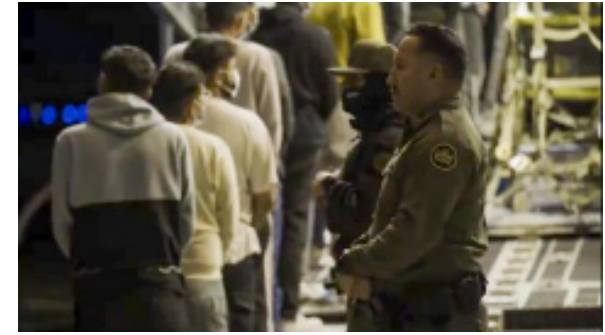


and Rajasthan (2.4). All other States had reported a TFR at or below the replacement level.According to the SRS re-port, India’s CBR is at 19.3 for 2021, which has declined at a rate of 1.12% every year from 2016 onwards. While all bigger States and UTs across the country are reporting a declining CBR, Uttarakhand was the only outlier, reporting a slight increase in CBR from 2016. Among the States and UTs, the rate of decline in CBR is highest for Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Delhi, where the CBR is declining at almost twice the rate of the national average.

How do experts read fertility data?

Based on a reading of the numbers, Professor Praveen K. Pathak of Jawaharlal Nehru University’s Centre for the Study of Regional Development, explains, “It clearly tells us TFR has come down below replacement levels and there are remarkable differences in data of States.” He says there is a “clear indication” that in southern States and some States in the north, which are doing socio-economically well, the TFR is “far below” the replacement level, whereas States like Bihar, U.P., and M.P. are reporting much higher TFRs. “The reason being that some of these States still need hu-man development policies, greater female education, and improving healthcare policy action. There are about six to seven States, bigger ones, where these issues persist,” he said.But moving on to the States where TFR has come down below the replacement level, Prof. Pathak cautioned that they might have their own set of challenges. He cited Sikkim, for instance, where the TFR is below 1, which is equivalent to South Korea’s. “It is a reality that in many parts, people simply do not want kids. It may be because of changing family structure, opportunity cost for parents, and increas-ing stresses associated with caregiving.” While the States with higher TFR need to tailor policies on human develop-ment that can bring them closer to the replacement level, the States reporting lower TFR have a “different set of chal-lenges altogether”, Prof. Pathak explained.

U.S. Embassy in India warns people staying beyond their authorised period to face deportation or ban on travelling to U.S.



GNS News Agency,May 23

The U.S. Embassy in India warned that people who stay in the U.S. beyond their authorised period of stay will face deportation or a permanent ban on travelling to the U.S. in the future.In a post shared on X, the U.S. Embassy in India stated, “If you remain in the United States beyond your authorized period of stay, you could be deported and could face a permanent ban on traveling to the United States in the future.”

On Friday, a Federal Appeals court refused to allow the Trump administration to restart deporting migrants to nations other than their own without prior notice or the op-portunity to seek protection from persecution or torture, CNN reported.The U.S. First Circuit Court of Appeals rejected the Trump administration’s request to block a lower court decision halting the policy. The court’s decision comes amid rising concerns over reported plans to send migrants to Libya, a country criticised for the mistreatment of detain-ees and ongoing civil unrest.The appellate panel voiced several “concerns” about letting the government resume the policy, among them “the irreparable harm that will result from wrongful removals in this context.” Earlier in March, the U.S. District Judge Brian Murphy stopped the Trump administration from deporting migrants to nations other than

their own without prior written notice and a chance to con-test the removal from the U.S., CNN reported.Earlier in April, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem reminded all foreign nationals present in the country for over 30 days that the deadline to register under the Alien Registration Act is April 11.

The law requires all foreign nationals in the United States for more than 30 days to register with the federal government. Failure to register is considered a crime, pun-ishable by fines, imprisonment, or both.Kristi Noem said, “President Trump and I have a clear message for those in our country illegally: leave now. If you leave now, you may have the opportunity to return and enjoy our freedom and live the American dream.”“The Trump administration will enforce all our immigration laws—we will not pick and choose which laws we will enforce. We must know who is in our country for the safety and security of our homeland and all Americans,” she added.On January 20, U.S. President Donald Trump signed Executive Order 14159, Protecting the American People Against Invasion, directing the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to restore order and accountability to the immigration system. This includes implementing the Alien Registration Act.

Two held for smuggling gold dust in wax at Mumbai airport

According to a statement, in the first case, one indi-vidual working in a lounge at the airport was intercepted when he was crossing over to the departure area. The cus-toms officials recovered six pouches containing gold dust in wax form, weighing 2,800 grams, valued at Rs 2.48 crore from his inner wear. The gold was apparently handed over to him by a transit passenger, the statement said, adding that the person was arrested.

Britain, Canada, France warn Israel over 'egregious' Gaza tactics



"We are committed to recognising a Palestinian state as a contribution to achieving a two-state solution and are prepared to work with others to this end," the statement says. The leaders of Britain, France and Canada on Monday (May 19, 2025) condemned Israel's "egregious actions" in Gaza and warned of joint action if it did not halt a heightened military offensive in the Palestinian territory.

But Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hit back at British Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, saying their joint statement was a "huge prize" for Hamas in the Gaza war. Mr. Starmer, Mr. Macron and Mr. Carney slammed Israel's blocking of aid and comments by ministers in Netanyahu's government who have threatened the mass displacement of Palestinians. "We will not stand by while the Netanyahu government pursues these egregious actions. If Israel does not cease the renewed military offensive and lift its restrictions on humanitarian aid, we will take further concrete actions in response," the leaders said.

My joint statement with @Keir_Starmer and @EmmanuelMacron on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank: They did not say what action could be taken but added: "We are committed to recognising a Palestinian state as a contribution to achieving a two-state solution and are prepared to work with others to this end." The statement coin-

In the wake of crisis, the need for bipartisanship

The terrorist attack in Pahalgam, on April 22, 2025 has once again shaken our collective conscience, reminding us of the fragility of peace in a region long burdened by the weight of history. As India grieves the loss of innocent lives and strengthens its resolve against terror, we must also recognise the critical importance of bipartisanship — both in shaping our response and in ensuring that national security does not become another theatre for political posturing.

There is a distressing pattern that emerges whenever India faces a crisis of this nature: political parties, instead of closing ranks in defence of the nation, often resort to scoring points — weaponising grief for electoral advantage rather than forging a unified front. We saw this after the Pulwama attack in 2019, where swift retaliatory action became intertwined with campaign narratives. That was perhaps inevitable, since the general election was only weeks away from being called, and the national discourse swiftly veered from security imperatives to domestic politicking. But there is no doubt that this cycle weakens our ability to formulate a cohesive and long-term strategy, one that can fortify our defences without compromising our democratic integrity.

The challenge before us is clear: terrorism is a scourge that demands a decisive, well-coordinated response, not knee-jerk reactions shaped by party ideologies. Whether dealing with counter-terror operations, diplomatic negotiations, or intelligence reforms, decisions must be made collectively, informed by strategic foresight rather than short-term gains. National security is too vital an issue to be circumscribed by party affiliations; it must transcend ideological divides. Take, for instance, the Kargil conflict of 1999 — a moment when India, despite political differences between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party and Opposition Congress, stood together in defence of the nation. The war effort saw bipartisan cooperation, ensuring that security strategies were aligned with national interests rather than partisan agendas. The Opposition, led by Congress President Sonia Gandhi, largely supported the government's military response. She praised the armed forces, stating: "The bravery of our soldiers in Kargil has made every Indian proud. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten." Similarly, when India conducted surgical strikes in 2016 in response to the Uri terror attack, it was done with clear messaging — demonstrating strength without overstepping into prolonged conflict — and the nation was united in applauding the action across political lines.

Recent global history is replete with examples of bipartisanship across political divides in response to terrorism in various democracies. Following the September 11 attacks, both parties in the United States recognised the need for a more unified approach to national security, and a bipartisan effort ensured a swift and coordinated response to terrorism. After the terrorist attack on two mosques in Christchurch in 2019, then New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern led a bipartisan effort to reform gun laws. Within weeks, the government passed legislation banning military-style semi-automatic weapons, with support from both major parties. More recently, after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, bipartisan support emerged across Western Europe for military aid to Kyiv and sanctions against Russia. Traditionally neutral countries such as Sweden and Finland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), with broad political consensus across party lines. These examples highlight how, despite political differences, nations can unite in times of crisis to prioritise security, unity and effective action. Should Pahalgam and its aftermath be any different?

When I first became Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, I declared that "there is no such thing as a Congress foreign policy and a BJP foreign policy; there is only Indian foreign policy, and Indian national interests." I was reminded of a famous episode of Indian diplomatic history in 1994, when Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao picked Opposition Leader (and then Chairman of the External Affairs Committee) Atal Bihari Vajpayee to lead the Indian delegation to present India's case on Kashmir, and counter Pakistan's falsehoods, at a United Nations session in Geneva. The Congress Minister of State for External Affairs, Salman Khurshid, was named as A.B. Vajpayee's deputy. Later, as Prime Minister, A.B. Vajpayee recalled with amusement just how bewildered the Pakistani governing class was at seeing an Opposition leader representing his nation's interests at such a prestigious forum, and at such a crucial moment. But such, he concluded, is our "vichitra loktantra" — as clamorous and chaotic as it is miraculous and mesmerising. Sadly, this episode has not been repeated in the last three decades, as our politics has turned ever more rancorous and bitter.

cided with a joint demand by 22 countries -- including Britain, France and Canada -- for Israel to immediately "allow a full resumption of aid into Gaza", noting that the territory's population "faces starvation". Israel has kept Gaza in a total aid blockade since March 2, but announced on Monday it would allow in a limited number of supply trucks. Netanyahu said the limited aid access was because "images of mass starvation" in Gaza could hurt the legitimacy of his country's war. The British-French-Canada statement said Israel's "denial of essential humanitarian assistance to the civilian population is unacceptable and risks breaching international humanitarian law". It also slammed "abhorrent language used recently by members of the Israeli government, threatening that, in their despair at the destruction of Gaza, civilians will start to relocate". The leaders said that "permanent forced displacement is a breach of international humanitarian law". "By asking Israel to end a defensive war for our survival before Hamas terrorists on our border are destroyed and by demanding a Palestinian state, the leaders in London, Ottawa and Paris are offering a huge prize for the genocidal attack on Israel on October 7 while inviting more such atrocities," he said, referring to the Hamas attacks in 2023 that set off the war. Netanyahu said "all European leaders" should follow U.S. President Donald Trump's example in supporting Israel.

"The war can end tomorrow if the remaining hostages are released, Hamas lays down its arms, its murderous leaders are exiled and Gaza is demilitarised. No nation can be expected to accept anything less and Israel certainly won't," Netanyahu declared. "This is a war of civilisation over barbarism. Israel will continue to defend itself by just means until total victory is achieved." Israel's military has stepped up an offensive in Gaza as part of its prolonged response to Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack that resulted in the deaths of 1,218 people on the Israeli side, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official figures. Gaza's health ministry said on Monday at least 3,340 people have been killed since Israel resumed strikes on March 18, taking the war's overall toll to 53,486.



There is very little mutual respect and friendship on display between the ruling party and the Opposition. The core assumption of democratic politics is supposed to be that both sides understand that the other is as committed to the national interest as itself, even if they disagree on how best to ensure the nation's well-being. In that sense the two sides are not enemies but adversaries. But that assumption has yielded to a bitter polarisation in recent years. One could, of course, argue that this is merely a natural consequence of the pushes and pulls that are inevitable in a democratic polity. But the Indian discourse has taken on extreme hues that imperil any possibility of consensus. The Overton's Window of political mobilisation (in other words, what is considered acceptable in the political arena) has become more vengeful, driven by resentment and an obsession to expiate past wrongs. And social media has emerged as an important tool for divisive discourse, through which the political benefits of this polarisation are reaped. From public debates to dinner-table conversations, the greys have given way to Manichaean blacks and whites. The result is that in recent years, political discourse on security has frequently devolved into blame games, sidestepping the actual need for strategic recalibration. India's relationship with Pakistan, though complex and fraught, requires clarity. There can be no ambiguity in condemning acts of terror; the line between national security and political point-scoring is not a thin one. It is in India's interest to unite in the response to terror, because a perception of division at home always emboldens the enemy. Inflammatory rhetoric, though politically expedient, serves no substantive purpose. If India is to emerge as a responsible power, it must ensure that its politics is mature, that the nation always comes ahead of party interests, and that its diplomacy walks in step with defence preparedness — balancing deterrence with restraint, security with stability, and democratic politics with national unity. Need for a non-partisan security doctrine What India needs today is a structured national security doctrine that remains insulated from electoral cycles — one that provides a clear vision on counter-terrorism, intelligence-sharing, and strategic deterrence without becoming a tool for political one-upmanship. Policies regarding defence, zero-tolerance of terror, the security of the homeland, regional strategy and global diplomacy, must be formulated with bipartisan consensus, ensuring that they remain consistent, regardless of which party is in power. True political leadership demands statesmanship over populism, clarity over chaos. If our lawmakers recognise this imperative, they will understand that safeguarding India's security is not a party matter but a collective responsibility. In moments of grief and crisis, let bipartisanship be the force that unites us — not just in words, but in action. The promise of a secure, stable, and resilient India depends on it. Shashi Tharoor is a fourth-term Member of Parliament (Congress), Lok Sabha, for Thiruvananthapuram, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs, and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 27 books, including 'The Battle of Belonging: On Nationalism, Patriotism, and what it Means to Be Indian'.

Theft of hard disks reported at Raj Bhavan in Hyd

Hyderabad: A theft of hard disks was reported at the high security Raj Bhavan, the official residence of the Telangana Governor in the city, creating a stir. Four hard disks were stolen from the Sudharma Bhavan in Raj Bhavan. The Raj Bhavan officials, who learnt about it after recently examining the CCTV footage on the premises, have lodged a complaint with the Punjagutta police. The police immediately registered a case and started an investigation. As per available information, Srinivas, a computer hardware engineer working in outsourcing who was reportedly involved in the theft was arrested.

The workings of an atomiser and its myriad applications



All of us have had this experience at some point: you wake up, find out you're late for a class or meeting, clean up, put on some nice clothes, and run. When you finally get to where you need to be, you're sweating. You pull out a small deodorant bottle from your bag, give yourself a spray, and you're set. Wasn't that handy? The spray nozzle, also known as an atomiser, is a nifty piece of technology that creates a mist of particles from a liquid on demand. Liquids are easier to store whereas a spray spreads better. Thus some enterprising engineers invented the atomiser to allow you, and in fact many industries in the world, to make the best of both worlds.

What is an atomiser?

An atomiser is a device that creates a spray. A spray is in turn a collection of drops that disperses as gas. There are different kinds of atomisers based on the kind of spray required. Since there are many hundreds of scenarios where sprays are required — including injecting fuel into internal combustion engines, manufacturing steel, and to irrigate gardens and quench small fires — atomisers are also expected to have different abilities. Some simple ways in which sprays differ are in the drop size, spray pattern, and angle of application. There are at least two ways to measure spray drop sizes: by the drops' average surface area or average volume. Some use a statistical figure called the Relative Span Factor (RSF). It denotes the distribution of drop sizes as a ratio of the size difference between the largest and smallest drops to the median size. If the RSF is close to 1, it means the spray is close to being very evenly sized. There are also many ways to measure the drop sizes. For example, the greater the angle at which light is scattered by a drop, the smaller it is. So scientists can shine a laser light at a spray and assess drop sizes using a detector to record the scattered light. Spray pattern refers to the distribution of the spray's drops once they hit the target surface. While the spray on a deodorant may want to deliver drops to a wide area on skin, a spray in a coal mine may need to deliver a ring of drops spreading in a conical shape through the air to quickly trap as many coal-dust particles as possible (devices that can achieve the latter are good at preventing clogging and can create sprays at low pressure.) Similarly, the angle of application matters to keep a spray from striking surfaces that shouldn't be sprayed or, conversely, to cover a given area as efficiently as possible.

How does an atomiser work?

There are many applications, so there are many atomisers. Perhaps the one mechanism they all share is that they create sprays by blowing up some liquid. In one

What India can learn from U.S. academic freedom crisis: When politics enters the classroom

With conservative State governments in the United States enacting policies that opponents claim jeopardize academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and intellectual diversity, American colleges have recently turned into arenas for ideological conflict. Although freedom of thought and inquiry have long been defended by the U.S. as essential components of its higher education system, that basic foundation is currently in jeopardy. This incident serves as a frightening reminder to Indian administrators, students, and policy intellectuals of how readily university integrity can be undermined by politicization. Laws that limit the teaching of subjects like race, gender, and sexuality in schools have been passed in a number of conservative-led U.S. states, including Florida, Texas, and Tennessee. These laws, which were framed as attempts to shield kids from political indoctrination, have caused: Critical Race Theory (CRT) being prohibited in public institutions; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) offices being dismantled; and control of course content and library resources. Many educators are concerned about this top-down management because they perceive it as an open attack on their freedom to teach and conduct research. There are also requests to restrict or do away with tenure systems, which are a cornerstone of academic freedom. The theory known as Critical Race Theory (CRT), which was created in American law schools throughout the 1970s and 1980s, essentially explains how racism is ingrained in institutions, legal systems, and public policy rather than being limited to individual opinions. The key underlying concepts are: Racism is systemic; it is not limited to individual prejudice but is ingrained in institutions, laws, and structures. Race is socially manufactured; it is not biologically based; rather, it is a social construct used for control and classification. Privilege and power are important: Who gains from current structures? CRT poses challenging queries regarding inequality and justice. To fully tell the tale of law and history, the voices of the underprivileged must be heard. Intersectionality: When race coexists with other identities such as gender, class, or disability, particular difficulties might arise. Affirmative action, housing laws, education inequalities, and police reform are just a few of the topics that are examined utilizing CRT. It promotes critical thinking about history, equity, and how we formulate laws to create a society that is more inclusive. Although CRT is mostly taught in academic institutions, it has recently become politicized, particularly in the U.S., with detractors saying it sows discord. Advocates claim it makes it possible to have frank discussions on justice, history, and racism. Advocates of these regulations contend that liberal ideology have taken over universities, turning them into echo chambers. They think that more balanced, ideologically diverse learning environments will result from eliminating some types of content and regaining control over the curriculum. But rather than promoting conversation, the methods used to achieve this goal frequently entail stifling it. Some conservative leaders have publicly expressed hostility against prestigious universities. Donald Trump has questioned the worth of an Ivy League education and referred to American universities as "radical left indoctrination centers." Florida Governor Ron DeSantis said that "education is not about imposing ideology" but rather "about pursuing truth" in his criticism of the New College of Florida and his doubts about Harvard's ideological neutrality. These remarks reveal a deeper hostility for academic institutions that are viewed as strongholds of progressive ideas.

The Harvard conflict The difficulties are further exem-

simple implementation, liquid flowing through a wider channel is suddenly forced into a much narrower channel. A sufficiently high pressure drop will cause the liquid to break up into small drops. If the narrower channel has a notched opening at the other end, the spray emerges as a flat fan — of the kind used in spray painting. If the narrower channel opens after a short distance to an upward ramp, the fluid hits the ramp in a sheet and then shatters into drops — an output that's useful when a thin coating is required, like an insecticide on a plant. Another design called a pressure-swirl atomiser works similarly to when you're cradling a glass of chai in your hand. To help it cool, you might move the glass with your hand such that the liquid swirls inside, flowing more along the sides than in the centre. The atomiser does the same thing while allowing air to push through at the centre, keeping the fluid flowing along the walls. As gravity pulls the fluid down, a small opening allows it to flow out in a conical pattern. More complicated designs cater to specific applications. For example, an atomiser can also deliver an aerosol — which is a spray where the drops are so small (typically 10 µm or smaller) that they can stay airborne for many hours instead of settling down. To do this the shear, or tearing, force acting on the liquid at the liquid-gas interface should be much higher than in, say, an atomiser used to spray cleaning liquid on a household surface. Pressure-swirl atomisers can achieve this if the liquid is already at high pressure when entering the swirling chamber. Other techniques include ultrasonic nebulisation, where high-frequency vibrations induced on the liquid surface can cause small drops to break off, and air-assisted atomisers, where compressed air rips through the liquid as it flows out.

Where are atomisers used?

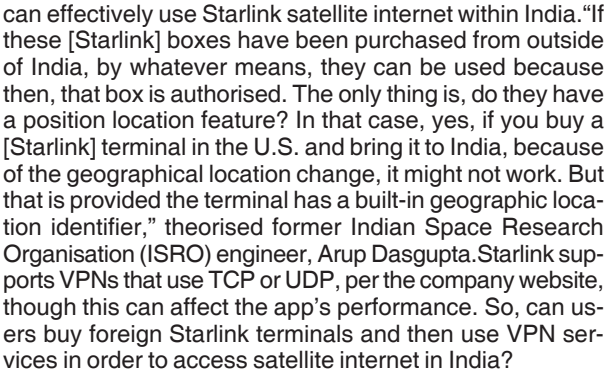
Aside from the applications mentioned thus far, atomisers are used everywhere where a liquid needs to be distributed in a specific and efficient way across a surface or through a space. In power plants, coolants are sprayed on spinning turbine blades and lubricants are often sprayed on machines with high-contact moving parts — in both cases to prevent heat build-up. A method called spray drying is used to make milk powder by creating a spray and passing it through hot gas to quickly dry it. In the automobile and aerospace sectors, fuel injectors spray pressurised fuel into engines. Firefighters' only option for putting out fires involving flammable solids is often foam sprays. In addition to pesticides and fertilizers, farmers use spray-based irrigation systems when planting in soils that have poor percolation. Atomisers are ubiquitous in medicine: nasal sprays deliver drugs to the lungs, pain-relief sprays can quickly soothe aching muscles, antiseptics are sprayed on wounds, and disinfectants are used to keep air and hospital surfaces clean. In the early days of COVID-19 pandemic, there was some confusion over how far the virus could spread by air, leaving many scientists trying to model the pathogen as an aerosol. Climate scientists also study aerosols because of their cooling effects in the atmosphere, to subtract them and estimate the actual level of warming. Within a household itself, atomisers serve cooking oils, mirror cleaners, and fragrances for hair and perfumes. In the end, let's not forget the humble deodorant itself that allows people to be around each other despite India's increasingly hot summers without stuffing their noses.

What India can learn from U.S. academic freedom crisis: When politics enters the classroom



plified by the recent impasse between the U.S. Department of Education and Harvard University, one of the most respected Ivy League universities. Following the 2023 Hamas-Israel crisis, a number of Harvard student organizations made contentious remarks that infuriated donors and the general public. The Department of Education launched a civil rights inquiry into Harvard amid claims that the university was encouraging antisemitism. Although this action was purportedly taken for campus safety, it was widely perceived as pressure with political motivations. Opponents cautioned that these inquiries might be used as instruments of ideological control, using federal supervision as a weapon to threaten organizations that don't fit the prevailing political narratives. India's higher education system is about to undergo a significant change. There is a major drive for increased autonomy, interdisciplinary learning, and international research collaboration with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. However, the U.S. case serves as a caution: Autonomy is brittle. It is difficult to get back once lost: Indian universities, especially public ones, frequently have to balance academic independence with governmental supervision. The danger of political ideology controlling curricula is not only intellectual homogenization but also a deterioration in research quality, international recognition, and student readiness. Politicization over pedagogy: The goal of education changes from inquiry to indoctrination when political narratives begin to influence curricula. It is discouraged for faculty to question prevailing views. Diverse worldviews and critical thinking are not presented to students. Additionally, the university stops being a forum for free discussion. This risk is not fictitious. We have already witnessed attempts in India to marginalize specific academic disciplines, remove inconvenient viewpoints, and rewrite history texts. The decline of academic freedom may resemble the American experience if these trends continue unchecked. Stakeholders in Indian higher education need to be proactive. They need to redouble their effort to boost institutional oversight to safeguard academic freedom; encourage scholarly organizations, not political appointees, to create curricula; encourage critical thinking instead than memorization; preserve research freedom and tenure. Students also play a part. Students' conversations, not simply faculty arguments, should include awareness of and participation in academic freedom problems. India needs to learn from other countries' mistakes if it hopes to establish top-notch colleges and establish itself as a global center of knowledge. The story of American institutions becoming politicized serves as a warning. Ensuring that the next generation of Indian leaders, scientists, artists, and thinkers are educated in settings that encourage truth, complexity, and free discussion is equally as important as protecting academic freedom.

Shock and awe in the world of Jatra



“It depends on the internals of the Starlink hardware,” Dasgupta explained. To help visualise how Starlink stops users in prohibited regions from accessing its satellite internet, Dasgupta used the analogy of a set-top box that does not let TV watchers access some channels while others who have access can watch these channels. Musk in February this year also strongly trashed news reports claiming that Starlink devices were being sold to Russia, and later explained on X that Starlink satellites would not close the link in Russia. However, this did not allay concerns of Starlink being used by the Russian military in occupied regions of Ukraine. With regards to seized Starlink devices, Dasgupta pointed out that by tracking the unique identification code of the Starlink terminal, it might be possible to find the buyer. However, this too could prove difficult due to dummy organisations or shadow companies obfuscating the trail of likely illegal buyers. In essence, more information is needed from SpaceX and Musk to understand how the company ensures that Starlink satellite internet does not reach the countries yet to allow Starlink, while enabling service for neighbouring countries or waters that do allow Starlink service. The Hindu was also able to download the Starlink app from the Google Play Store in India and go through the set-up process up to the point a plugged-in Starlink device was needed. The app may collect users’ approximate and precise locations for functionality reasons but these are optional, per the app’s profile. This is in stark contrast to banned apps like TikTok, which are unavailable on the app store.

International borders are not solid and it is not easy to refine satellite internet coverage to such a precise degree that service is activated or halted exactly in line with a nation's border. An additional complication is that many international borders are contested or unclear, while satellites moving above them are continuously transmitting encrypted signals. This encryption stops satellites from being hacked by militants or other malicious actors trying to intercept the service. The key question is whether militants in Manipur

India strictly regulates and restricts the use of satellite-based communication devices, even by Indian civilians and citizens in conflict-free zones. Everyday gadget users within the country would have noticed that even key satellite-based emergency features on premium phones that are easily available for users overseas are not enabled for use in India. Under section 6 of the Indian Wireless Act and Section 20 of the Indian Telegraph Act, the use of thuraya/iridium satellite phones is illegal in the country. Indian embassies worldwide warn both Indian and foreign travellers that they cannot carry satellite phones into the country and may face confiscation of the devices and legal action if they do so without official permission. These restrictions are in place largely to combat militancy and terrorism. In 2022, Indian officials reported that evidence of iridium satellite phone usage was discovered in the Kashmir Valley. Starlink is currently trying to enter the Indian market, but finds itself in competition with billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance. The latest discovery of the Starlink hardware in Manipur could further affect SpaceX's entry, due to doubts over its compliance with Indian regulations and possible misuse by

Google's GenCast uses ensemble forecasting too but the options in the ensemble come from an AI model rather than an NWP. Engineers at Google trained this AI model on 40 years of reanalysis data, from 1979 to 2019. According to the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), "Reanalysis data provide the most complete picture currently possible of past weather and climate. They are a blend of observations with past short-range weather forecasts rerun with modern weather forecasting models." GenCast was trained in two steps: step I in 3.5 days and step II in 1.5 days, both with 32 TPU v5 instances. 'TPU' is short for 'tensor processing unit', an integrated circuit Google developed to run machine-learning models, sold via Google Cloud. In December 2023, Google Cloud launched a TPU called v5p: it contains 8,960 chips interconnected with a bandwidth of 4,800 Gbps/chip, and costs \$4.2 per chip-hour on demand. Just like ChatGPT is good at identifying what the next word in an unfinished sentence could be, GenCast is good at guessing what the weather will be in the next moment given the weather until some

On December 12, past midnight in Mancheswar, a village on the outskirts of the State capital Bhubaneswar, a young man lay on stage on a bed of shattered glass under the glare of multi-coloured lights. A large rock was placed on his chest. Suddenly, another actor began hammering the boulder. Despite the sharp glass shards that could have caused serious cuts and wounds, the man who was lying down remained stoic and unscathed. The audience, seated in a sprawling makeshift enclosure, watched in awe. Jatra is usually performed on an open-air stage with the audience seated on all sides. A Jatra performance at Lalab village in Ganjam district of south Odisha. Jatra is usually performed on an open-air stage with the audience seated on all sides. A Jatra performance at Lalab village in Ganjam district of south Odisha. | Photo Credit: Biswaranjan Rout

As the act unfolded, two young women, standing atop massive truck tyres lifted by a group of performers, waved the national flag. The audience rose to their feet. While the actors were to perform a play with social themes, acrobatics and stunts dominated the night and kept everyone spellbound. "Stunts and 'item numbers' have grown in Jatras because the audience wants it. We have no choice but to match the expectations of people," said Jagannath Bhol, a choreographer of the Rangamal theatre group, based in Bhubaneswar. In both Lalaba and Mancheswar, the troupes use shock and awe as methods to reinvent themselves and remain relevant. This often happens at the expense of traditional storytelling formats. "Over the last two decades, TV and films have transformed the entertainment landscape. Today, people can enjoy movies, shows, or dance performances in their living rooms at their convenience. In contrast, Jatra demands an audience that is willing to stay engaged throughout the night. Tsaid Sashidhar Patra, who has been a Jatra hopper for 40 years. "The younger generation, even in rural areas, is increasingly absorbed in [Instagram] Reels. So, Jatra has no option but to reinvent itself to sustain the audience's interest." While Lalaba, a village of 1,400 families of mostly farmers and migrant labourers, is not economically affluent, it is culturally rich. Lalaba takes pride in its theatre group, Rama Bhakta Maruti, which boasts 70-80 active members at any given time. Since 1992, the group has been performing the Ramayana in Lalaba and neighbouring villages. Not just Lalaba; hundreds of villages across Ganjam have theatre groups that are dedicated to performing the Ramayana. Year after year, the residents of these villages watch the annual play with

The traditional staging of the Ramayana in Ganjam villages has undergone an incredible transformation in the last 15 years. Mythological storytelling has taken a back seat and there is an increased emphasis on sensual dances, acrobatics, gymnastics, and comedy. It is not just that characters, especially demons and monkeys, often perform dramatic stunts, such as playing with cobras, lifting goats on stage, and killing chickens; the plays also give modern twists to iconic moments in the epic. Jatra performers said Sita sometimes makes her entrance in the bucket of an earthmover or Ravana's kidnapping of Sita occasionally involves bullets fired in the air instead of a chariot. Across India, Sita is generally portrayed as the 'ideal' wife and a soft-spoken woman, but in Ganjam, she sometimes breaks into a frenzied freestyle dance, challenging the Sita on another stage to match her moves, much to the delight of the audience. Santosh Khuntia, 50, who has played the role of Kaikeyi in Ralaba for over three decades, reflected on the evolution of the epic. "I have seen how the Ramayana has changed on stage. Purists might disapprove, but these reinventions are necessary to keep the people engaged," he said. Subrat Kumar Mishra, the manager of Rangamahala, a professional Jatra troupe based in Bhubaneswar, travels across districts with what he calls his "mini-world". The troupe requires five trucks and two buses to transport equipment, including lights and sound systems, and a diverse team of artists from one location to another. Seated on a cot behind the Jatra pandal in Mancheswar, Mishra discussed the stiff competition his troupe faces in generating revenue and sustaining the interest of the audience. The performance is meticulously structured to appeal to a wide range of viewers, he said. "The first two hours are dedicated to devotional songs, followed by an episode on Hanuman. Then we play Odia and Hindi film music. Men perform stunts and women wear short costumes and dance. All this caters to people of all age groups," he said. But not everyone supports these changes. Basant Dalai, a 60-year-old resident of Ralaba, said, "I don't subscribe to today's Ramayana. I stopped watching these shows long ago." Similarly, in Birkampur village of Ganjam, Sakaleswar Roul, popularly known as the "Ramayana director", has remained steadfast in his traditional approach to staging the epic. "Over the past 40 years, I have directed 27 theatre groups. I have never felt the need to use such distasteful measures to maintain interest," he said. Even though Ramayana performances are staged over several days, the community's enthusiasm has never waned, added Roul. "People take turns staying near the stage, and at no point does the audience count drop to below 250, even between 3 a.m. and 6 a.m. By morning, the crowd quickly returns," he said. Though actors move around villages for seven months a year for rehearsals and performances, they don't receive any remuneration. Most of them are farmers or daily wage earners who enjoy Jatra and perform to uphold the pride of the village. The income generated from Ramayana performances is given to the village fund and is used to support various cultural activities. "For us, this is a passion, not a profession," Roul said. From the sidelines to centre stage While female dance troupes are roped in to perform as actors change clothes during a performance, women in villages don't have any roles in the Ramayana plays. But this is not the case in Bhubaneswar. Rangamahala boasts a significant number of female artists and dancers who perform in front of large crowds. They are undeterred even when they hear lewd remarks. In the past, women who did Jatra performances were often looked down upon.

‘A goalpost never talks back, it just listens... I’ve been guarding it for 24 years, it’s a great bond’

PR Sreejesh, who retired from international hockey after back-to-back medals at the Olympics, looks back at his career and ahead to his journey as a mentor and coach. The session was moderated by Vinayakk Mohanarangan, Senior Assistant Editor/Vinayakk Mohanarangan: Manpreet Singh once said that a goalpost is like a friend to you. Tell us about that friendship.Goalkeeping is like a different game you are playing on the hockey field. The outfield players don't have time to think or reflect; they just play, forgetting their mistakes. But goalkeeping is different because you have time to overthink about your mistakes or saves. Both are not good. It became a relationship because the best part is that a goalpost never talks back; it just listens. It's a place to vent frustrations. Talking to the goalpost helps control my emotions, forming a routine, and a friendly relationship. After guarding that post for 24 years, it's a great bond between the goalkeeper and the goalpost.Vinayakk Mohanarangan: Before your last match, the bronze medal playoff against Spain at the Olympics, you spent time sitting on the backboard in the goal in an empty stadium. What were those moments like for you?

It was emotional. I started hockey in 2000 as a little kid in a sports school, not on a big stage. Playing for 24 years and knowing it was my last match as an international player, I wanted to let those emotions go. In an hour, I was going to get ready, warm up. I didn't want the emotions to hold me back once the match started. As I sat there, memories of my journey flashed in my mind. I reminded myself that my playing career was over, and I needed to focus on my business. It's my laptop wallpaper now, a reminder that 'Sree, your career as a player is over'.PR Sreejesh at Idea Exchange: 'A goalpost never talks back, it just listens... I've been guarding it for 24 years, it's a great bond'

Vinayakk Mohanarangan: Was there regret that you were playing a bronze medal match and not the gold?

That's for sure, this time the entire team felt we deserved to be in the finals. But it's not about who deserves it; it's about who wins. Some days, you play well but lose. Germany converted opportunities and we didn't.PR Sreejesh at Idea Exchange: 'A goalpost never talks back, it just listens... I've been guarding it for 24 years, it's a great bond' Olympic medalist and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.

Vinayakk Mohanarangan: Does goalkeeping feel like a lonely pursuit?

Not just hockey, in any game, you see, people celebrate scoring. But as a goalkeeper, I can make 10 saves but don't get to celebrate, because if I concede a goal, people may say I over-celebrated. So, I hold my emotions. Whenever I save a goal, I just wait for the next challenge. What happens with the forwards and drag flickers? In 10 penalty corners, we may score three goals. But they get to celebrate those three moments. What happens when I save 10 balls and then one goal is conceded? Look at the reactions. That's why we say it's a thankless job. The ones you concede are what everyone remembers. On Language differences | In team sports, communication and relationships are crucial. But goalkeeping is different. Whether you speak Tamil or Hindi, it doesn't matter; you hit, I save, I'm on the team. My skills kept me there

Nihal Koshie: Could you talk about the love story with your childhood sweetheart Aneeshya and her support for you?

When I left home at 12 to join GV Raja Sports School, I got homesick, so my best friends were teachers. Coaches used to be harsh, but teachers pampered us. I was a decent student, always in the top three, so it was easy to be a teacher's pet. Then Aneeshya joined the school in 9th grade. She was a good athlete but was a buddhijeevi as we say in Malayalam, a bookworm. When I got 38-40 marks, it was top of the class, but she came and scored 49, 50. Teachers began telling me to study like her (laughs).We didn't get along at first. That's how love stories start, right? In 10th grade, I got selected for the national under-16 camp and began missing classes. So as it usually happens, I relied on the best student for notes. That's how we started talking. Study sessions brought us closer, and we became best friends. She then left the school, returned to her hometown, and we exchanged letters for two years. For my 16th birthday, she wrote me 16 letters (smiles). Whenever I needed her, she was there. She was there to take care of my parents, our two kids, for everything. I think where I am today is because of all their sacrifices.Nihal Koshie: After nearly quitting the sport, you finish with two Olympic medals. After my marriage in 2013, I told my wife I would quit in 2016. That was the first promise. Then I said, after 2016, I'll stay four more years and quit in 2020. The Corona pandemic happened, so this plan got postponed. Instead of 2020, the Olympics happened in 2021. So I thought, okay, I'll play in 2021 and then quit. Then came in the laalach of a sportsperson, the greedy mind (smiles). In 2022, we had the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games. After playing in Tokyo 2021, I was at the peak of my career, with people praising me. So, in that flow, I could have played those tournaments. I decided to retire in 2022. But then, due to Covid, the Asian Games were also postponed by one more year to 2023. Again, the greedy mind took over. I played the 2022 Commonwealth Games and won a silver medal. Then I thought, one more year for the Asian Games, I can play that. We won a gold medal. Then I told myself, just nine more months before the next Olympics. So that's how it happened. It wasn't planned. Things fell into place, and I just went through with that flow.PR Sreejesh at Idea Exchange: 'A goalpost never talks back, it just listens... I've been guarding it for 24 years, it's a great bond' Vinayakk Mohanarangan of in conversation with former India hockey captain, Olympic medalist and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh

Vinayakk Mohanarangan: Did the same thought occur to you in Paris?

See, in my life, I've never seen a hockey player take a grand retirement. That idea struck me. Why does everyone have to retire after getting a call from the association saying they are no longer with the team? I felt like I played this game for 24 years at the top level with people recognising me, youngsters following me, and European players acknowledging and respecting me. I wanted to set an example for my team, when you are at the top of your game, you need to say goodbye from there. Before the Olympics, I spoke with my coach. Everyone said I could announce my retirement after the Olympics, but I said no. I wanted to announce it beforehand to avoid emotional distress during the tournament. Otherwise, I'd be counting down matches. I decided to announce it early so I could play all the matches with a fresh mind, treating each one as its own. Like that line in the Milkhha Singh movie when he is told it could be his last race and he says, 'Daudunga bhi waise hi'.

Tushar Bhaduri: When you joined the Indian side, most players were from north India. Was it hard to deal with cultural and language differences, food habits?

There are two parts to it. Language is an issue, food is an issue, culture is an issue. You don't have friends. Those are the negatives. But as a player, I focused on the positives. I am getting a place to sleep, food, and training. Coming from Kerala to get training on AstroTurf was a bonus.



And thankfully, as a goalkeeper, I didn't really need to talk to anyone (smiles). I felt I didn't need relationships to be part of the team. In team sports, communication and relationships are crucial. But goalkeeping is different. Whether you speak Tamil or Hindi, it doesn't matter; you hit, I save and then I'm there on the team. That was a plus for me as a South Indian, a non-Hindi speaker. My skills kept me in the team. Some players lose chances on the national team due to language or cultural barriers. So for my long career, a reason was my position as a goalkeeper. On goalkeeping | I can make 10 saves but don't get to celebrate... I hold my emotions. Whenever I save a goal, I just wait for the next challenge... it's a thankless job. The ones you concede are what everyone remembers

Tushar Bhaduri: Do hockey goalkeepers need a special personality to succeed?

You need to save the balls to stay in the game, you need courage to stop those balls. For example, in cricket, if a bouncer comes, a batsman has the chance to duck. But in hockey, if the ball is coming towards my helmet, I can't flinch. You have to have that level of craziness. Otherwise, you can't face a 150 kph or 160 kph ball, to stop it with your body, stick, pads or helmet.PR Sreejesh at Idea Exchange: 'A goalpost never talks back, it just listens... I've been guarding it for 24 years, it's a great bond'

Vinayakk Mohanarangan: Have you decided on your coaching philosophy? After having worried about clean sheets all through your career, will it be an all-out attack?

No, my policy is 1-0, I'm happy with that. But keeping the zero is crucial. You can score 10 goals, but if you can't maintain that zero, it's an issue. We Indians are skilled at attacking hockey. However, in modern hockey, defence is crucial. Craig (Fulton) often says defence wins championships. We won a final 5-3, but I wasn't happy. At 5-0, I'd be happy, but at 5-3, there's a concern. Conceding a goal suggests we are lacking somewhere.

Vinayakk Mohanarangan: Do you remember when you decided to be a coach or mentor?

My thought process was clear way before. When I joined GV Raja Sports School, I knew after playing hockey, I wanted to pursue further studies to become a professor and coach. Coaching has always been a passion, but I wasn't clear when to start. I have been in the system for a long time, I've seen many coaches come and go. In India, there aren't many local coaches. The senior teams have foreign coaches and trainers. So, who takes care of our culture and people? Someone needs to step up. When Hockey India approached me, I thought, "This is the time". I need to give something back to hockey since I've made my living from this sport.I decided to give it a try. If I'm good, that's great. If not, at least I tried. I might not be an excellent coach, but I'm trying. Otherwise, I'm learning and I will go back to my hometown and work at the grassroots level. I'm happy to even train school, village or district teams. I just want to teach kids, and not just kids at the top level. Teaching is my passion. So I've got this opportunity, and I'm using it. I always tell my peers that they should train kids. We have enough knowledge about this game, and we need to pass it on to younger generations.

On Hockey India League | India's domestic hockey level is not great, that's where HIL could take us to a different level. It's a platform where you get the opportunity to play alongside the best in the country or internationally.Vinayakk Mohanarangan: When you decided to take up the junior team head coach position, what were the conversations with your family like? To be back at it so soon after retirement.They sacrificed everything for me. If I said I was going back, it would be quite hard. So I asked, "Are you willing to move with me to Bangalore?" For players, it is hard to move. But as a coach, I'll get quarters where we can accommodate the family, and the kids can go to school. Then my parents said yes. My wife agreed, and I even asked my kids if they wanted to leave school or study here. They said they were okay with going to Bangalore. So when they said yes, I agreed. It was a big decision for us.

Anil Sasi: The pace at which hockey is played has increased with the introduction of AstroTurf and rolling substitutions, making it faster. However, the number of field goals has decreased. How do you see that?

Technology helps us prevent field goals. We have video analysis software to analyse each player. For example, say that the Indian hockey team attacks 25 times from the right side, 10 from the left side, and 5 from the centre. The opposition then knows our strong side, blocking our right side. That's what happens individually as well. With video analysis, they do individual coding to identify strengths and weaknesses. But we now score more goals through penalty corners. We find loopholes or gaps where we can score in areas of weakness. Coaches are now interested in a mix of European defensive styles and counter-attacks that we are known for.PR Sreejesh at Idea Exchange: 'A goalpost never talks back, it just listens... I've been guarding it for 24 years, it's a great bond' Olympic medalist and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh.

Anil Sasi: Historically, countries like Spain, Belgium and Argentina were not known for hockey. What can we learn from their rise in the last decade?

Their club system matches junior or senior international levels, so young players in club tournaments are equivalent to international players. Our domestic-level hockey isn't up to that standard. That's the drawback. We keep Indian players in camps for 250-300 days a year. If we send kids to domestic hockey, their performance goes down.another factor in India before was removing underperforming players from the team. However, what Australia and Belgium have done recently is maintain a group of around 40 to 50 players for at least 15 years, strengthening the bond among them. They understand each other well. In 2021, the average games for the Belgium players were around 230 or 240.

What are the new interception rules and safeguards? | Explained

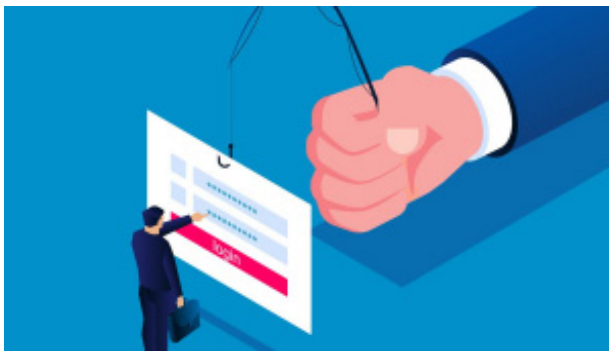
The story so far: The Union Government, on December 6, notified the Telecommunications (Procedures and Safeguards for Lawful Interception of Messages) Rules, 2024 which empower some enforcement and security agencies to intercept phone messages under certain conditions. These rules supersede Rule 419A of the Indian Telegraph Rules, 1951.

What do the new rules state?

The new rules authorise the Union Home Secretary and the Secretary to the State government in-charge of the Home Department as the competent authority to order the interception of any message or class of messages. An officer not below the rank of a Joint Secretary to the Union Government, may also issue such order of interception in 'unavoidable circumstances' (without defining such circumstances). The Central Government may also authorise any law enforcement or security agency to intercept messages for reasons specified under Section 20(2) of the Telecommunications Act, 2023.'In remote areas or for operational reasons', the head or the second senior most officer of the authorised agency at the central level, and head or the second senior most officer of the authorised agency (not below the rank of IG Police) at the State level may also issue an order of interception, but the officer will have to submit such an order to the competent authority within three working days of the date of its issuance. If such order is not confirmed by the competent authority within seven working days from the date of issue, such interception shall henceforth cease. The rules also mandate the destruction of records relating to interception every six months by the authorised agency and review committee (unless required for functional requirements or court directions).

How are the new rules different?

First, the condition of interception by authorised agencies only in 'emergent cases', has been relaxed. Interception by authorised agencies is now possible if it is not feasible for the competent authority to issue orders in 'remote areas or for operational reasons'. Second, under Rule 419A, there was no limit for the number of IGP rank officers at the State level who could be authorised for interception. But now,



in addition to the head of the authorised agency, only (one) the second senior most officer can be authorised for interception. Third, in case the interception order by an authorised agency is not confirmed within seven days, any messages intercepted shall not be used for any purpose, including as evidence in court.The Indian Telegraph Act of 1885 had provided the Union Government to make rules for 'the precautions to be taken for preventing the improper interception or disclosure of messages', but no such safeguards were framed for a long time. The safeguards and procedure of interception under Rule 419A were notified only in March, 2007, consequent to the directions issued by the Supreme Court in People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUBL) versus. Union of India and Another in 1996. The Supreme Court, in this case, not only elaborated the terms 'public emergency or in the interest of the public safety', but also held that the right to privacy cannot be curtailed arbitrarily without laying down safeguards which are just, fair and reasonable.

What are concerns about new rules?

While the pre-requisite of 'emergent cases' for interception by authorised agencies has been relaxed without additional checks, the rules are criticised for not fixing any accountability for the wilful misuse of powers of interception by authorised agencies. The rules are silent about punitive actions if any authorised agency abuses the powers of interception for a period up to seven days, before its confirmation by the competent authority.

How does a speed gun work?



The world of today is a world in motion. People constantly want to get somewhere. The heavens are filling up with satellites, our skies with airplanes and rockets, our seas with ships and submarines, and our land with cars, bikes, and trains. Humans have developed laws, rules, technologies, and subsequently entire industries to make sure all these vehicles move smoothly, without harming humans or each other. A small but significant piece of this picture is the speed gun.

What is a speed gun?

A speed gun is a device to measure the speed of a moving object without having to be in contact with the object. To achieve this, the device bounces electromagnetic radiation of a specific frequency off the object, capturing the reflection and using the Doppler effect to infer the object's speed. Speed guns are electronic, and use complex circuitry to emit the radiation used to make the measurement.These devices are widely used by law enforcement officials to monitor traffic speed, by coaches to gauge the performance of their athletes, and in various other industries in need of accurate motion tracking.

What is the Doppler effect?

The Doppler effect is named for the Austrian physicist Christian Doppler and relies on the simple concept of relative velocity. Say there's a man sitting at the centre of a field blowing a whistle. The sound waves move out in a circular, concentric pattern with the whistle at the centre, and evenly spread out. A woman standing at the edge of the field will receive these waves at frequent intervals — as and when the waves' crests reach her. (Since sound waves move at 343 m/s in air, human ears can't hear the gaps.)Each wave has a frequency and a wavelength. A higher frequency produces a higher pitch and vice versa.Now, say the whistling man is moving around the field on a buggy. If the buggy is moving towards the woman, the waves in front of the vehicle become bunched up. In other words, from the woman's perspective, the waves would have acquired both the speed of the buggy in addition to the speed of the sound wave. Thus the waves will reach the woman more frequently, and she will perceive a higher pitch. (For the same reason, the sound will have a lower pitch in a direction behind the buggy.)This is why, when a train moves into a station, people on the platform will hear the horn blowing at a higher pitch than when the train is leaving the station. This effect is the Doppler effect.

The speed gun was originally developed during World War II for military use and applies the effect using radio waves rather than sound waves. A speed gun has a radio transmitter and a receiver. The transmitter emits radio waves, which the person holding the speed gun can direct at an object. The receiver collects the waves reflected by the object back in the direction of the speed gun.If the object is approaching the speed gun, the frequency of the returning waves will be slightly higher than that of the transmitted waves. A simple computer in the gun can deduce the object's speed based on this difference.

How are the speed and the effect linked?

All electromagnetic waves have a fixed speed — equal to the speed of light in that medium. In vacuum, this value is denoted c: 299,792,458 m/s. Any change in the frequency the speed gun detects directly corresponds to the Doppler

shift caused by the object's motion. This principle is powerful because it allows the speed gun to work accurately over a wide range of distances and velocities without being affected by air resistance.A speed gun can calculate the speed of a moving object by multiplying the difference (between received and emitted frequencies) with c and dividing by the emitted frequency times 2.This relationship shows how the difference is directly proportional to the speed of the object: the faster it moves, the more pronounced the difference will be. In other words, the only condition is that the object should be moving much slower than the speed of light — which is the case in most, if not all, practical applications of the speed gun.

Do speed guns have shortcomings?

The technology to emit radio waves is ubiquitous today. The principle is simple: when an antenna is excited by an alternating current with a radio-wave frequency, it emits radio waves. Radio-wave frequency is in the range of 30 Hz to 300 billion Hz.For a long time, the equipment to produce the waves was bulky. This changed when scientists invented transistors in the 1940s. Electronic circuits built using transistors considerably simplified the process of producing radio waves and also made the transmitters much smaller.However, radio waves have intrinsic shortcomings that transmitters can't fully adjust for. For example, radio waves diverge as they move through the air. If an antenna is 5 cm long, the waves it emits will diverge by 22° to either side, producing a beam that is 44° wide overall.Such a beam could strike more than one moving vehicle and produce inaccurate speed readings.A continuous-wave radar — which emits radio waves and tracks their reflections continuously — may also produce readings due to multiple vehicles.Engineers have developed systems to compensate for these errors but the resulting setups have been more sophisticated and more expensive.For such reasons, LIDAR speed guns have been replacing radar counterparts. The name is short for 'light detection and ranging'. LIDAR uses laser light instead of radio waves; the gun's operation is otherwise similar. Laser light has very low divergence and thus offers better targeting.

New EV brand 'Youdha' autorickshaws launched by Lohia Auto

Mumbai: Lohia Auto on Monday announced the launch of EV brand 'Youdha' as part of its Rs 20-crore expansion plans and said it looks to manufacture and sell 3 lakh electric vehicles under the brand by 2027.

The initial product portfolio of 'Youdha' includes passenger and cargo segment electric three-wheelers, the company said.

With this portfolio, the new brand aims to cater to the diverse needs of the electric three-wheeler segment, Lohia Auto said."With 'Youdha', we are not just creating electric three-wheelers; we are empowering India's real warriors. Our mission is to honour those who work tirelessly for their families, achieve their dreams, and move forward with unwavering determination," said Ayush Lohia, CEO of Youdha.

RBI revises rules for investment in Alternative Investment Funds



Alternative Investment FundsInvestments up to 5 per cent of a scheme's corpus will not face additional restrictions (Archive)The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised draft guidelines for investments by regulated entities (REs) in Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs), aiming to enhance oversight and prevent potential misuse.Key proposals in-

clude capping a single RE's contribution to an AIF scheme at 10 per cent and limiting collective RE investments to 15 per cent in a single scheme.

Investments up to 5 per cent of a scheme's corpus will not face additional restrictions. However, if an RE's investment exceeds 5 per cent and the AIF has downstream debt exposure to a borrower linked to the RE (excluding equity shares and certain convertible instruments), the RE must make a 100 per cent provision for its proportionate exposure. These guidelines are designed to mitigate risks and ensure prudent investment practices.Jyoti Prakash Gadia, managing director at Resurgent India, said the proposed revised guidelines of the RBI on AIF are intended to bring the regulatory compliance of the RBI directions in alignment those issued by Sebi on the subject. Taking into account the more robust and comprehensive structure provided under the SEBI guidelines, there was a scope and need for bringing in some relaxations

'Critical lapses occurred': Road Ministry expands oversight on NH works executed by States

NH workersThe new directive has significantly increased the role for the ministry's regional officers (ROs) in the project lifecycle, from bid preparation to managing legal disputes.

Citing "critical lapses" that occurred due to lack of due diligence, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued new directives to enhance oversight on National Highway (NH) works carried out by state public works departments and road construction departments (PWDs/RCDs).The new directive has significantly increased the role for the ministry's regional officers (ROs) in the project lifecycle, from bid preparation to managing legal disputes. Along with National Highways Authority of India (NHA) and National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. (NHIDCL), state PWDs/RCDs are other key agencies who implement road projects for MoRTH."It has come to the notice of the Ministry that in several projects pertaining to NH works implemented by State PWDs/RCDs, critical lapses have occurred due to lack of due diligence...Such lack of due diligence has led to unnecessary contractual disputes, legal complexities and financial liabilities for the central government," states the circular dated May 16, 2025.

"It has also been observed that ROs are sometimes neither consulted nor involved during the bidding process or while defending contractual disputes before Arbitration Tribunals or Courts, wherein such disputes are dealt with mechanically often without adequately safeguarding the interest of the central government or aligning with the Ministry's



position," reads the letter further.Taking note of the situation, the ministry said that for all NH project works (including those costing less than Rs. 100 crore but excluding maintenance works), the bid documents prepared by state PWDs/RCDs must undergo thorough scrutiny by the concerned RO prior to the finalisation of bids.ROs will examine the bid documents for any anomalies, inconsistencies or deficiencies, particularly with respect to quantities, schedules, specifications, and contract conditions."It is imperative that ROs remain actively involved in all legal contractual disputes adjudication processes including arbitration matters related to NH works. State PWDs/RCDs shall not pursue such matters independently without consultation with ROs," said the Ministry.A senior official of MoRTH said that a detailed guideline will soon be issued by the Ministry in this regard. The Ministry also permitted ROs may engage legal expert from NHAI-empanelled law firms for advice and support.

Sebi tightens norms for internal audit mechanism at MIIs

To further strengthen the governance mechanism at stock exchanges, clearing corporations and depositories, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), on Monday, tightened the norms for internal audit and the composition of audit committees of market infrastructure institutions (MIIs)."The audit committee of the MII shall not consist of any executive director (including the managing director) of the MII," Sebi said in the revised norms.

Though a managing director will not be a part of the audit committee, the key management personnel (KMPs), including the (MD) can be invited to attend the meeting of the audit committee with permission of the chairman of the committee but will not have the right to vote.The auditors of the MII and the KMPs will have a right to be heard in the meetings of the audit committee when it considers the auditor's report but they will not have the right to vote.The audit committee's role involves approval of related party transactions, scrutiny of financial statements, evaluation of internal financial controls and risk management systems.The regulator has asked all MIIs to conduct an internal audit of all functions and activities such as critical operations, regulatory, compliance, risk management, investor grievances and business development at least once



in a financial year.The internal auditor of the MII will be an independent audit firm, which will report only to the audit committee.The observations of the internal auditor will be sent to the respective head of departments (HoDs) for their comments in a time bound manner. After incorporating comments of the HoDs, the internal auditor will share the final report with the audit committee.The internal auditor of the MII will appraise the audit committee, at least once in every six months within 60 days from the end of September and March, on critical issues concerning the MII, in the absence of the management.

Power demand in May dips slightly as weather brings relief to grid managers

In January, the NLDC had flagged May and June as "high-risk months" for power shortages, warning that unmet electricity demand could reach 15-20 GW, particularly during non-solar hours.In January, the NLDC had flagged May and June as "high-risk months" for power shortages, warning that unmet electricity demand could reach 15-20 GW, particularly during non-solar hours.Power demand in the first half of May remained subdued as thunderstorms and rain tempered temperatures in India, with peak demand reaching 231 gigawatts (GW) between May 1 and 17—slightly below the 233 GW recorded in the same period last year.

Forecasts of continued light rain and winds through May are expected to ease pressure on grid managers, who had anticipated significant shortages amid record demand.India consumed 82.1 billion units (BU) of electricity between May 1 and 17, slightly below the 83.8 BU recorded during the same period last year, according to data from the National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC).Peak demand this year was 231 GW on May 15, while the lowest—202 GW—was met on May 7. In comparison, peak demand last year touched 233 GW on May 6, with the lowest at 207 GW on May 12. Last year's peak demand of 250 GW was recorded on May 31.The subdued demand follows a modest 2.3 per cent year-on-year growth in April, attributed to a high base effect, according to ICRA.

In January, the NLDC had flagged May and June as "high-risk months" for power shortages, warning that unmet electricity demand could reach 15-20 GW, particularly during non-solar hours. However, rains and thunderstorms have kept temperatures low, which in turn has eased air-conditioner use and helped keep the power supply situation manageable so far."In May, we've been quite comfortable in terms of power availability and prices. The average market price for the first 13–14 days has been around Rs 4.40 per unit," Rohit Bajaj, joint managing director at the Indian Energy Exchange (IEX), said."In fact, we've even seen prices dip to Rs 3 on some days, especially after sudden rains. On May 4, for instance, the price dropped to Rs 3.11. There were several days when prices stayed below Rs 4," Bajaj added.

With low demand, the grid is also relying less on ther-



Power demand in the first half of May remained subdued as thunderstorms and rain tempered temperatures in India, with peak demand reaching 231 gigawatts (GW) between May 1 and 17—slightly below the 233 GW recorded in the same period last year.

mal-based capacities compared to last year. The share of electricity generated from coal has been around 71 per cent in May so far, compared to 74 per cent last year. As a result, the share of wind and solar has increased from around 10 to 14 per cent."Green energy is definitely rising. We've seen strong participation, and on a year-on-year basis, volumes have nearly doubled. A significant amount of solar power is coming in during the daytime," Bajaj said.Compared to a modest 4.2 per cent growth in power demand in 2024–25—attributed to an unfavorable base and a slowdown in economic activity—ICRA expects demand to rise by 5.5–6 per cent in 2025-26. However, a favorable monsoon could temper this growth. Peak demand for 2025-26 is projected to reach 270 GW.Aggam Walia is a Correspondent at The Indian Express, reporting on power, renewables, and mining. His work unpacks intricate ties between corporations, government, and policy, often relying on documents sourced via the RTI Act. Off the beat, he enjoys running through Delhi's parks and forests, walking to places, and cooking pasta. .

Decoded: The 'ancient fitness method' believed to be a 'big belly killer'



Losing belly fat is a top priority for many people. While one's diet and lifestyle play a significant role, simple exercises like the Vajra twist can also help you cut belly fat, claimed Yong Cun, a Tai Chi practitioner. "Ancient fitness method – Vajra twist big belly killer. 30 each time," he wrote on Instagram.How to do: Come down on your knees while keeping them hip-width apart. Slowly lean backward and place the right hand on the left heel and the left hand on the right heel or in the middle of each leg.

Is there any benefit? There are several reasons why belly fat accumulates, including poor diet, stress, and inactivity. "The vajra twist is the perfect exercise to improve strength, burn calories, and strengthen your core. Twists and bends help eliminate stubborn stomach fat and tone and flatten the stomach. You will also be engaging your core continually, which will help you lose belly fat and strengthen your abs," said yoga trainer

Mansi Gulati.Gulati shared that it strengthens muscles, improves digestion, massages, detoxifies, and nourishes the organs. However, she emphasised that one exercise can't turn your health around.Concurred neurologist Dr Sudhir Kumar, Apollo Hospitals, Hyderabad, adding that the vajra twist is one of the several good exercises for strengthening abdominal muscles. "However, it is not a big belly killer exercise, as claimed," said Dr Kumar.

Other exercises that help reduce belly fat are planks, leg raises, burpees, mountain climbers, crunches, Russian twists, and bicycle crunches. "30-45 minutes of cardio exercises (such as running, brisk walking, swimming, or cycling) on 4-5 days a week also helps reduce abdominal adiposity. High-intensity interval training (HIIT) is also effective in reducing belly fat," said Dr Kumar.Any form of exercise like jumping, twisting, skipping, running, jogging etc is generally helpful in blood glucose reduction, noted Dr R M Anjana, managing director, Dr Mohan's Diabetes Specialties Centre. "Muscle utilization of the glucose makes use of blood glucose as muscle consumes/burns glucose with the help of oxygen in the process, and over time with weight training, the muscle expands, and the big muscles consume more glucose with increased flow of blood during these periods of exercise," said Dr. Anjana.

In addition to exercise, diet plays a crucial role in reducing belly fat. "Cutting down on carbohydrates and optimising protein intake effectively reduce belly fat. Avoiding sugar, sweets, sugary drinks, and alcohol is important for a person trying to lose belly fat," said Dr Kumar.

'Before this, we lived in a small house right across the street': Take a look inside Hrithik Roshan's family home



Walking into the Roshan family home, you're immediately struck by how personal and comforting the space feels. It's elegant, yes—with its chandeliers, jewel-toned sofas and thoughtfully chosen interiors—but there's also a softness, a lived-in warmth that tells you this house isn't just about style. It's about family.In a recent video tour, Sunaina Roshan, sister of actor Hrithik Roshan, offered a rare glimpse into their Mumbai home and spoke from the heart about what the house means to her.

"For me, home means family. And for me, family means togetherness, love—unconditional love and support. That is what family means to me."The house has been theirs since the early 2000s, a step up from the modest home they once lived in just across the street."We moved into this house around 2001 or 2002—it's been about 24 or 25 years now. Before this, we lived in a small house right across the street. That was the first house dad bought after renting for so long, so it had a lot of emotional value. It was small and cozy, and the rooms were so close that we always interacted—it was a real joint family home."

When it came to their current home's interiors, everyone had a part to play. "I planned my own bedroom. But it

was mom, dad and Suzanne who did most of the house. We're simple people and wanted to keep it minimal, not flashy. I really believe your house reflects who you are."The dining table—always a focal point in Indian homes—holds years of memories. Sunaina shares how food has been a big part of their lives."I used to be a foodie—let me put it that way. Dad still is, and so is my nephew. My mom always jokes that if my brother wasn't an actor, he'd be in the Guinness Book of Records as the fattest man—he loves food that much!"From quiet dinners to lively parties, the home has seen it all. Especially their father, filmmaker Rakesh Roshan, who is deeply proud of the space. "He's very house-proud. He'll always say, 'There should be a picture here, and another one there.' He entertains his friends near the bar—that's his zone."The house even includes a dedicated card room, a favourite hangout for Mr Roshan and his long-time friends. "He's been playing with the same group of friends for over 40–45 years now. It's more about bonding than cards."As for Sunaina, she loves interiors—but prefers small updates. "I love playing with colours, changing my upholstery every five or six years. I don't have the patience to paint walls or break stuff anymore!"

Can glycerine help you get rid of bad breath?

It is common to have a bad or pungent breath after eating onion or garlic. But is there a tried and tested remedy to quickly counter it? We went on a (Internet) search for one, and as always social media had a solution.According to kitchen and home guide Manju Mittal, all you need to do is to swish a mix of glycerine and water in your mouth. "In lukewarm water, add glycerine. Mix it. Now, swish it in your mouth and throw it out properly," suggested Mittal.

Does it work? Onions and garlic have a strong smell because they contain specific sulfur-containing compounds. When these ingredients are chopped or peeled for cooking purposes, allium – a type of enzyme is released. It further converts compounds like amino acids sulfoxide into sulfenic acid. "These acids are the main suspects in generating a strong, pungent smell, which can be bothersome and unpleasant for some," said Riya Desai, senior dietitian, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road.Glycerin has glycerol, a compound that is a colourless and odourless liquid with a sweet taste. "Glycerin helps to keep the mouth moisturised as it is a humectant and can withhold water and in return keep the mouth healthy. It also helps prevent bacterial growth and improve gum health. Glycerine-based mouthwashes or toothpaste can be very helpful," said Desai.However, Dr Shabana Parveen, clinical nutritionist at Artemis Hospital Gurgaon, stressed that the use of glycerine mixed with water as a remedy is less conventional than other known methods. Chewing sugar-free gum can stimulate saliva production, which helps wash away food particles and bacteria.One should exercise caution while gargling with glycerin water, as mistakenly ingesting glycerin can cause gastrointestinal problems like diarrhea, bloating, gas, and stomach pain. "Glycerin can be beneficial, but might not be suitable for all," said Desai.Instead, one should brush their teeth for a minimum of two minutes, floss properly, or even gargle with mouthwash to eliminate the strong odour.Dr Parveen said drinking plenty of water helps keep the mouth moist and



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washes away food particles, thus eliminating bad breath."If you are bothered by acidic or bad breath caused by onions or garlic, then avoid eating them frequently or not at all. Having bad breath after eating strong-smelling foods is normal and should not be taken that seriously," said Desai.

HYDERABAD: Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant, who is having a forgetful IPL so far, said that his team fell short by at least 10 runs short after his team lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad at home to be knocked out of the championship on Monday night. "It couldn't be the best season for us," Pant said. "Getting into the tournament we knew a lot of gaps were there because of injuries. We decided we won't talk about that, but it became difficult to close out those gaps," Pant said in the post-match briefing. Pant was seemingly referring to the prolonged absence of several core players. "The way we planned the auction, if we had the same bowling [attack], the story would be different," the Lucknow captain said. "At the same time, this is cricket, things can happen. Sometimes they go your way, sometimes they don't. Need to take pride in the way we're playing. Need to look at the positives other than discussing more on the negative side," he said. "There's enough fire-power in the batting," Pant said. "That's the biggest positive. Even the bowlers, they were bowling in good areas but they were patchy, a little bit. We were trying to make the best of it," he said.

Kavita Krishnamurthy: ‘Dubbing for Lataji was the best learning phase of my life’



Tu Hi Re, the simmering centrepiece of Mani Ratnam’s Bombay, which just completed 30 years, has travelled well. A low, hesitant invocation, it moves towards a crescendo and hits high notes of a kind — ones that playback singer Kavita Krishnamurthy, 67, cites as music’s non-existent “Z scale”.

In the long arc of Krishnamurthy’s five-decade career, the duet with Hariharan, was neither her debut nor her most-decorated song. Yet, it has stood the test of time. Just like so many others in the singer’s oeuvre of over 25,000 songs across languages. From the sultry romp of Hawa hawai (Mr. India, 1987) to the intimate Pyar hua chupke se (1942: A Love Story, 1994), the playful Ankhone ki gustakhiyaan (Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam, 1999) the powerful Dola re (Devdas, 2002) — her duet with Shreya Ghoshal — to her graceful renditions of Tagore songs and other devotional bhajans, Krishnamurthy’s diverse journey has chronicled India’s streaming soundscape. The artiste will mark her golden jubilee in Hindi film music next year — her first Hindi song was a version of Lata Mangeshkar’s Aayega aanevala in the Shabana Azmi-starrer Kadambari (1976), but her career as a playback singer began at least half a decade earlier. “The first time I sang in a film was in Bengali (Shriman Prithviraj, 1971), and it was a duet with Lataji,” she says over a video conversation with . Krishnamurthy was just 16 at the time. “But so many years later, music continues to give me a great sense of purpose,” she says.

While Bollywood gave her recognition, it is the Bengali music industry that is responsible not just for her foundation in music, but for also giving Krishnamurthy her name. Born as Sharada Krishnamurthy in a Tamil family that lived in government housing near Kali Bari on Mandir Marg in Delhi, life for Krishnamurthy revolved around “Rabindra sangeet, Durga Puja, food and adda”. Her early exposure to music came from her mother, a Lata acolyte who’d sometimes get so engrossed in her melodies on the radio that “rice would burn in the kitchen”. Formal learning began when her maternal aunt, Protima Bhattacharya, insisted that she learn Rabindra sangeet, eventually taking her to Mumbai to pursue a singing career. She was 14 when she enrolled in St Xavier’s College and met Ranu Mukherjee, daughter of composer Hemant Kumar, under whose baton Krishnamurthy made her Bengali debut. It was Kumar who insisted she needed a new name after she had to clarify to a concert audience that she wasn’t the then musical sensation Sharada Rajan. Kumar told her aunt, “Cholbe na. (This won’t work). You’ll need a new name.” And thus, Sharada Krishnamurthy

Priyadarshi Pulikonda: ‘I love playing the vulnerable man on screen’

Priyadarshi Pulikonda’s recently released legal drama Court: State Vs. A Nobody is currently the talk of the town. The film, which dwells on the intricacies of a young romance getting entangled in legal drama, sees the 35-year-old play junior advocate Surya Teja. The Hyderabad-based actor admittedly has a knack for lesser-known stories. Malleshham (2019), which follows the life and work of the titular Padma Shri-winning entrepreneur and weaver from rural Telangana, is an example. While he is known for his comic timing in films like Jathi Ratnalu (2021), it is the vulnerability that he brings to his characters — Gajula Saayilu in Balagam or Surya Teja in Court — which has made him an emerging face from the Telugu filmscape. In this interview, Priyadarshi speaks about his journey as an actor, what excites him and why vulnerability is his greatest strength. Excerpts from a conversation:

I was a curious child and was drawn to moving images. I was seven or eight when I watched Sagara Sangamam (1983). When you see a great film, it makes you feel powerful. That film made me want to be an actor. Learning cinema at the University of Hyderabad helped. I think people who don’t come from the film fraternity should learn how films are made and how they work. I later joined a company that did visual effects for Telugu films, which was a refresher course for me. I came into films when digital filmmaking was nascent. At the time, people were making films by renting a Rs 2,000 camera that gave a feature film-like output.

How do you choose your roles?

There is no definitive process. Films like Malleshham (2019) or Pelli Choopulu (2016) spoke the language of youngsters. I relate to such stories. Essentially, if a story strikes a chord, I will take it up.

In your films, you embody the boy next door image. Is that a conscious choice?

You always want to be the boy next door. That is where the quality of being relatable comes from. I love playing the vulnerable man on screen.

What is it about playing vulnerable men that attracts you?

Their representation in cinema is limited. These are the men who are fighting their own battles just by living their lives. My struggles as an artiste have made me a vulnerable person. As an artiste, you always hold a mirror to yourself and the world. So, playing such characters is satisfying.

In Malleshham and Balagam, your characters come from rural Telangana. Is playing characters from the region important to you?

was rechristened Kavita. “I think the name proved lucky for me,” says the Padma Shri awardee.

It was around this time that family friend and neighbour, ad man and Guru Dutt’s brother Vijay Dutt, asked her to sing jingles which helped pay for expenses in Mumbai. One thing led to another and Krishnamurthy plunged headfirst into the advertising world that had mavericks like Ashok Patki and Vanraj Bhatia at the helm. The result was iconic ads for Vicco Turmeric and Nirma that are still etched in memory. Her precision stood out. “Jingles are done in many languages, so it helped with diction as well as sticking to the rhythm,” says Krishnamurthy, who went on to explore playback in several Indian languages. Her first original solo was in Kannada in Girish Karnad’s Ondanodu Kaladalli.

She also got help from Hema Malini’s mother, Jaya Chakravathy, who was close to her aunt and introduced her to composer duo Laxmikant-Pyarelal. Krishnamurthy’s first assignment: to dub for Lata Mangeshkar. These were scratches — reference tracks — for Mangeshkar. “When I’d record then, there was a lot of tension in the studio and you couldn’t make a mistake since you were singing with a big orchestra and musicians like Shivji and Hariji (Pt Shiv Kumar Sharma and Pt Hari Prasad Chaurasia) were often a part of these. If you made a mistake, the whole song had to be redone. The musicians always had other recordings to get to,” she says. “But dubbing for Lataji was the best learning phase of my life. Her range was much higher, so to hit those high notes, my voice opened up. And when that song came on the market, I could see her improvisations and learn from them.”

The learnings evidently came in handy more than she realised. About Hawa hawai, she says: “Going by its scale, I think it was meant for Ashaji (Bhosle). When I saw the opening lyrics, I asked how was I to sing those words. But they said, ‘Likhiye, chee ho wa honolulu’, and I just followed. I wasn’t worried. I knew it would be sung again.” But Laxmikant told her they were keeping her version. “I told them a word was wrongly sung. They said Sridevi has lip synched it and it is wonderful.” From AR Rahman, with whom she’s recorded some of her finest pieces, she learnt how technology can be used well. “He is a gentle music director. You go on the mic, sing something, sometimes repeat a line 10 times like I did in K sera sera, and come back home. But when that song comes on the market, I am always surprised. That said, tech will never replace the soul in music. We talk of AI, but it can’t give people empathy. But when used intelligently, and I am hoping Rahman will use it in an optimal way, it can sound fantastic,” she says.

Krishnamurthy’s self-effacing approach only amplified her credibility. She went on to sing popular numbers like Tumse milkar (Parinda, 1989), Aaj main upar (Khamoshi: The Musical, 1996), Pyar hua (1942: A Love Story), Mera piya ghar aaya (Yaraana, 1996), K sera sera (Pukaar, 2000) and Ishq bina (Taali, 1999). She won four Filmfare awards, although a National Award is yet to come her way. “My entire focus then was to just work and do my best. That has stood me in good stead. I had no avariciousness of being number one. I didn’t long for money and I didn’t want fame. I hardly went to the parties and didn’t like dressing up. I was a complete antithesis of everything that Bollywood wanted. But I am glad that I was allowed to be myself and work with legends like RD Burman, Khyam saab and Laxmikant-Pyarelalji, whose only demand from me was to work hard. And I did work hard,” she says. Our conversation is set in a time when Pakistani musicians are being removed from apps like Spotify and bans are being called for in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. Krishnamurthy says that it is time to be a nationalist and support the nation but that shouldn’t turn our shared cultural heritage into disdain for artistes. “I have always received love from the people of Pakistan. Our films are so vastly appreciated there. They adore Rafi saab and Lataji. And, we adore the music of Mehdi Hassan saab, Ghulam Ali, Noorjehanji and Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan and will keep doing so,” says Krishnamurthy.



The Telangana identity is important to me. Growing up in Hyderabad and following writers who come from the hinterland help me portray such characters. People like Venu Yeldandi from Sircilla and Tarun Bhaskar from Warangal inspire me. Besides that, it feels nice to speak the dialect.

Court is a leap. You play an urban advocate. How did that happen?

I met the writer (Ram Jagadeesh) when I was working on a different project. We got talking about the intricacies of the POCSSO Act. I think when stories are personal, they get creative and more empowering. Jagadeesh had one such story which he developed into an amazing legal drama. There was a certain integrity to my character.

The Telugu film industry is known for its big budget films. Is there space for niche low-budget films? Would you want to do an RRR (2022)?

Earlier, the perception was that low-budget films have no star-value but that is slowly changing, as the story becomes the star. When we look at Court, the returns it has brought was purely because it was a rooted, personal film. For the film industry to thrive, we need all kinds of cinema — big- and low-budget films. I do want to be part of a film like RRR, but I need to be deserving enough to do so. The practical aspect is whether I will be able to pull the weight of such a film in terms of revenue, considering I come from the indie scene. I do not want my producers to go back with losses. But, RRR, yes, some day.

Rapper Werenoi, France’s biggest-selling music artist in recent years, dies at age 31



Rapper Werenoi, France’s biggest-selling music artist in recent years, has died at the age of 31, his producer and record company said. The artist, whose real name was Jérémy Bana Owona, was the number 1 album seller in France in 2023 and 2024 according to the ranking of the National Union of Phonographic Industry, which includes in-store and e-commerce sales as well as plays on stream-

ing services.

“It’s with immense sadness that we’ve learned of Werenoi’s passing,” his record company Believe said on Instagram. “All our thoughts are with his family, loved ones, his team and everyone who knew him.” “Rest in peace my brother, I love you,” his producer Babs posted on X. French media report Werenoi died early Saturday in a Paris hospital. The cause of his death has not been made public.

Werenoi first became known to the French public in 2021 when he posted his song “Guadalajara” on YouTube and it was viewed hundreds of thousand times. He released three albums, “Carré” in 2023, “Pyramide” the next year and “Diamant Noir” last month, making him one of the biggest names in French rap. Several French rappers posted tributes on social media. French-Malian pop star Aya Nakamura, who featured on his second album, wrote: “Rest in peace my dude. A news that saddens me and courage to the loved ones especially.” “He made a difference for the quality of his songs, his melodies and his punchlines,” singer Pascal Obispo, who had accompanied Werenoi on the piano at a 2023 Paris concert, told French newspaper Le Parisien.

RGV claims Indian filmmakers treat audiences as ‘dumb’, blames this for lack of films like Mission Impossible The Final Reckoning here: ‘We make movies like...’

RGV has slammed Indian filmmakers for not pushing creative boundaries and of producing intellectually inferior films under the assumption that our audiences are “dumb”. Ram Gopal Varma recently shared his excitement on social media after watching Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning.

Unfiltered and outspoken: these are two words that best describe ace filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma (often referred to by his initials RGV). One of the most influential figures in Indian cinema since the 1990s, RGV has directed both critically acclaimed and commercially successful films across multiple languages. He has also never shied away from speaking his mind, especially when it comes to cinema, whether he’s praising or criticising films.

Now, the legendary filmmaker has stepped forward, slamming Indian filmmakers for not pushing creative boundaries and producing intellectually inferior films under the assumption that our audiences are “dumb”. He cited this as a reason why Indian cinema struggles to create films on par with international blockbusters like director Christopher McQuarrie’s Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning (2025). On Saturday, RGV had shared his excitement on social media after watching the latest Tom Cruise film, calling it the “best” instalment in the Mission: Impossible franchise.

Only in SCREEN | Mission: Impossible – The Final Reckoning, in all its exhaustive and bloated messiness, stands as a tribute to the myth of Tom Cruise

Taking to X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday, RGV wrote, “The difference between them (western filmmakers) and us is, they assume the audience to be intelligent and push their intelligence further up, by making films like Mission Impossible: The Final Reckoning. On the contrary, we as-



sume the audience to be dumb and we push their dumbness further down in the hope of even reaching the dumbest of the audience by making films like _____.” He, however, refrained from naming any specific film, leaving it up to the audience to draw their own conclusions. Featuring Tom Cruise, Hayley Atwell, Ving Rhames, Simon Pegg, Henry Czerny and Angela Bassett reprising their roles from the previous films, The Final Reckoning is the eighth instalment in the franchise and a direct sequel to Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One (2023). In her review of the movie, SCREEN’s Shalini Langer wrote: “The film is an ode to Tom Cruise. In its numerous flashbacks to the previous MI films, it underlines the times Ethan Hunt saved the world, and honours the people he loved and lost.”

Rajeev Masand recalls spotting Ranbir Kapoor at airport without an entourage, says he avoids celebrity culture: ‘He stands in queues, eats alone at cafés’

GNS News Agency, May 23

Ranbir Kapoor continues to enjoy immense fan following and star power despite not having a PR team or any social media presence. Former journalist Rajeev Masand recalled being surprised to see Ranbir Kapoor standing quietly in a queue at an airport, alone. Amid ongoing debates around the massive expenses associated with actors’ entourage, Ranbir Kapoor often stands out as a rare exception among major stars. Unlike most of his contemporaries, Ranbir has neither employed a PR team nor public social media accounts. He manages his own schedule and yet continues to enjoy an immense fan following and star power — despite going against the norms of celebrity culture.

In a recent interaction, former journalist Rajeev Masand, who now serves as the COO of the Dharma Cornerstone Agency, shed light on Ranbir Kapoor’s habit of walking around without an entourage. Speaking on IndiaTV ShowBiz, Rajeev said, “I think it is who he is,” highlighting how Ranbir consciously avoids the typical celebrity practice of being constantly surrounded by a team. Sharing an anecdote about him, Rajeev recalled being surprised to see the actor standing quietly in a queue at an airport, alone. “I was standing in a queue at an airport and I saw Ranbir standing there alone. It’s not a sight that you see of actors; they are never alone. I asked him, ‘Where is your team?’ He said, ‘What team?’ This might sound strange to common people, but I would like to tell them that actors don’t stand alone; they have an army of people. Then he stepped outside the airport, and he had someone waiting for him out-



side, but he was all alone at the airport.”

Rajeev further shared that several filmmakers have expressed similar sentiments about the Barfi actor. “I have heard from filmmakers that when they would break for lunch while shooting abroad, they would find him eating food alone at some cafe. That’s the mark of an intelligent actor. It stems from the fact that he thinks that he needs to be in touch with the real world to be able to play those characters authentically,” he added. Ranbir himself has previously opened up about his decision to avoid social media. During an earlier media interaction, he explained, “I agree that through social media, you have a reach to the larger audience, but I don’t miss it and I am fine being away from it. Never say never, maybe tomorrow, I will come, but right now, I am happy being away from it.”

‘Karaali’ Launched with Grand Pooja Ceremony, Naveen Chandra to Lead in Unique Action Drama

Hyderabad: The much-anticipated film ‘Karaali’ was launched with a grand pooja ceremony on Sunday under the banner of Vikrant Film Creations. Presented by Mandalapu Pravallika and produced by Mandalapu Shivakrishna, the film marks his debut production venture. Directed by Rakesh Potta, the movie features Naveen Chandra, Raashi Singh, and Kajal Choudhary in lead roles. The launch event was graced by several notable guests, including renowned producer Sahu Garapati and actor Raja Ravindra. Sahu Garapati officially handed over the script to the film unit, clapped the board for the muhūrta

shot, while Gorantla Ravikumar, head of Sriharshini Educational Institutions, and Tumati Narasimha Reddy, Managing Director of Yaspire Spaces, switched on the camera. A media interaction followed the ceremonial proceedings. Speaking at the event, versatile actor Naveen Chandra said, “When new people come with fresh ideas, it takes courageous producers like Shiva garu to step forward and make films. Just as the title ‘Karaali’ is unique and different, the movie will be equally fresh. It’s a different action drama that I haven’t done before. Kajal Choudhary’s recent film ‘Anaganaga’ is impressing everyone. We have a great team for our movie.