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Two killed, two injured as car rams stationary truck in Jogulamba Gadwal

Alampur: Tragedy struck a family when their car rammed into a stationary truck on National Highway 44 near Kodandapur village in Jogulamba Gadwal district on Friday morning, police said. The truck which developed some mechanical problem was parked on the highway connecting Kurnool and Hyderabad. The ill-fated Kia car was also on its way from Kurnool to Hyderabad and rammed into the parked truck from behind. There were four passengers in the car – Venkata Babji, his wife Sravani, daughters Sai Charitra and Lakshmi. The impact was so powerful that Sravani and Sai Charitra died on the spot while the other two were critically injured.

Enemy which begged for mercy must not be in illusion, Op Sindoor not over: PM in Kanpur



GNS News Agency, May 30

Kanpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Friday that India will respond with full force if any act of terrorism is carried out on its soil and also spotlighted three principles emerging as India's strategy in the fight against terror, after the Operation Sindoor. Addressing a large public gathering in Kanpur, PM Modi said, "I reiterate that the enemy who was pleading during the Operation Sindoor should not be under any illusion. It is not over yet." The Prime Minister added that after Operation

Sindoor, India has clearly laid out three principles in its fight against terror.

"India will give a befitting reply to every terrorist attack – the timing, method and terms of response will be decided by our forces. India will no longer be afraid and tolerate nuclear blackmailing by Pakistan. And, lastly, India will look at the master of terror and government that patronises terror -- with the same eye," he said. "Pakistan's design of state and non-state actor won't work anymore," the Prime Minister said, in a stern warning. PM Modi also spoke about Kanpur's son Shubham Dwivedi becoming a victim of barbaric terror attack in Pahalgam and how the entire nation was united in sharing the grief, pain and anger of his wife and nation's daughter Aishnya.

PM Modi also said that the Operation Sindoor has shown the power of India's indigenous and Made in India weapons to the world. "Our Indian weapons and the Brahmos missile entered the enemy's territory and wreaked havoc. Blasts were carried out where the targets were decided. We have got this strength from the resolve of self-reliant India," he added. Earlier, the Prime Minister met the wife of slain businessman Shubham Dwivedi and told her that the entire nation was standing with her and family in such a difficult moment.

No escape for Maoists if enters Telangana, says Kothagudem SP, 17 naxals surrender to police

GNS News Agency, May 30

Kothagudem: As many as 17 cadres of CPI (Maoist) party surrendered to the district police and CRPF officials here on Friday. Speaking to the media Superintendent of Police B Rohith Raju informed that two area committee members, four party members and 11 militia members were among the surrendered. They surrendered after being attracted to the welfare measures under 'Operation Cheyutha', he said.

In this year as many as 282 Maoists of various ranks surrendered to Kothagudem district police. One divisional committee member, 13 area committee members/PPCMs, 32 party members, 105 militia members, 33 RPC members, Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Mazdoor Sangathan (DAKMS)/KMS, 30 CNMs and 21 GRD members were among them, the SP noted. Rohith Raju said that Maoists were moving on Telangana-Chhattisgarh borders and residents of border villages should not cooperate with them 'at any cost'. If the villagers notice any Maoist movements they should immediately inform the police. Recently Mulugu police received such information from the villagers and arrested 20 Maoist cadres besides seizing 12 weapons. None of the Maoists could escape from State police if they entered Telangana territory, the SP noted. Encounters that took



place in 2024 and this year at different places including Karregutta was an example for that. Telangana people have lost trust in outdated ideology of Maoists and the State could never be a shelter zone for Maoists, he asserted. The surrendered Maoists were being given suitable reward and assistance to live a normal life. All underground cadres should lay down their arms and join mainstream life to live peacefully, the SP added. CRPF official Preetha, Bhadrachalam ASP Vikrant Singh Kumar and others were present.

Operation Sindoor is not just a military action but India's frontal assault against terrorism, says Rajnath



GNS News Agency, May 30

Pakistan needs to understand clearly that the "dangerous game" of terrorism that it has been playing since Independence against India is over, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Friday

In an interaction with naval warriors on board the aircraft carrier INS Vikrant off Goa, Mr. Singh sent a stern warning to Islamabad, saying India will not hesitate to use the methods to deal with terrorism that Pakistan cannot even think of. "Operation Sindoor is not just a military action but India's frontal assault against terrorism," he said. "We will use every method against terrorism that Pakistan can think

of, but we will not hesitate to use those methods also which Pakistan cannot even think of," he said. The Defence Minister said it would be in Pakistan's interest to uproot "nurseries of terrorism" operating on its soil. "Anti-India activities are being carried out openly from Pakistani soil. India is completely free to carry out any kind of operation against terrorists, both on this side and the other side of the border and sea," he said. "Today, the whole world is acknowledging India's right to protect its citizens against terrorism. Today, no power in the world can stop India from doing this work," he said.

Mr. Singh also hailed Indian Navy's role during Operation Sindoor. "The Indian Navy has impressed every Indian with its silent service. By remaining silent, the Indian Navy succeeded in keeping the Pakistani army tied down," he said. "When the Indian Air Force destroyed terror bases on Pakistani soil, the Indian Navy's aggressive deployment in Arabian Sea confined Pakistani Navy to its own shores," he said. On the overall operation, he said "our strike was so powerful that Pakistan began pleading with entire world to stop India." In just a short span of time, we demolished Pakistan's terrorist bases and its intentions, he said adding the speed, depth and clarity with which our armed forces acted were remarkable. "Operation Sindoor not only sent a clear message to terrorists but also to their patrons, who nurture them," he added. "On our own terms, we halted our military actions," the Defence Minister said.

BRS condemns CM Revanth Reddy's remarks politicising Operation Sindoor

GNS News Agency, May 30

Hyderabad: BRS leader Ravula Sridhar Reddy criticized Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for his irresponsible remarks on the Indian Army during the Congress's Jai Hind Yatra, warning against dragging the armed forces into political rhetoric. He found fault with Revanth Reddy for questioning the Indian military's might, to please the Congress high command. Addressing a press meet at Telangana Bhavan on Friday, Sridhar Reddy said Revanth Reddy claiming that POK (Pak-Occupied Kashmir) would have been merged with India, if Rahul Gandhi was the Prime Minister, is a joke. He reminded that it was Congress that

is responsible for the Kashmir issue in the first place.

"Fake patriotism must be called out. The entire nation must stand with the armed forces. The Chief Minister making such statements are detrimental to the national security," he said. He reminded that Rahul Gandhi is not even giving appointments to the Chief Minister, despite 30 trips to Delhi.

Responding to a question, Sridhar Reddy ruled out the merger of BRS with the BJP, dismissing speculations as baseless. He asserted that he BRS is strong and committed to Telangana, under leadership of K Chandrashekhar Rao.

IndiGo to start direct flights to 10 international destinations, including London, Athens

New Delhi: IndiGo will start direct flights to a total of 10 international destinations, including London and Athens, in the current financial year, its CEO Pieter Elbers said on Friday. Other destinations include Amsterdam (the Netherlands), Manchester (the UK), Copenhagen (Denmark), Siem Reap (Cambodia) and four places in Central Asia. There is an enormous opportunity in Indian aviation where rising demand is supported by infrastructure expansion, Elbers said at a briefing in the national capital. IndiGo will start operating direct flights from Mumbai to Manchester and Amsterdam with the leased Boeing 787-9 aircraft in July, and the services to the UK city will also mark the airline's long-haul debut.

Destroying 118 enemy posts in three days proves BSF's professional excellence: HM Amit Shah



GNS News Agency, May 30

Jammu: Union Home Minister Amit Shah praised the Border Security Force (BSF) on Friday, saying that destroying 118 enemy posts in just three days proves the bravery, courage and professional excellence of the force. Addressing the BSF jawans in Poonch district, Amit Shah lauded the BSF for its resolute response to Pakistani aggression earlier this month and said that over 118 enemy posts were destroyed and damaged in retaliatory action along the Jammu frontier by the BSF. Amit Shah said the BSF guarding the International Border (IB) in J&K had dismantled the enemy's surveillance network, dealing a serious blow that would take them years to repair.

The Union Home Minister, during his two-day visit, reviewed the security situation, Amarnath Yatra preparedness and interacted with victims of Pakistani shelling in Poonch district. "When Pakistan responded to our anti-terror operations by attacking our borders and civilian areas, it was the BSF jawans of the Jammu Frontier who retaliated by destroying and damaging over 118 posts," he said. He pointed out that the BSF dismantled the enemy's entire surveillance system piece by piece, a system that will take them four to five years to rebuild. "BSF Director General told me that Pakistan has suffered the biggest blow to its com-

munication systems and surveillance equipment, rendering them incapable of waging a full-fledged information-based war for quite some time," the Home Minister said. Praising the BSF's readiness even during times of relative peace, Shah said their intelligence enabled precise pre-emptive action, which proves that even during peacetime, they kept a vigilant eye.

"Based on your accurate intelligence, a precise counter-strategy was prepared well in advance. When the opportunity arose, you implemented it with success. Such bravery only emerges when there is pride in the nation, a sense of patriotism in the heart, and a passion for supreme sacrifice. That is when such outcomes are possible," said Shah. He added that the BSF continues to serve as India's first line of defence, operating across deserts, mountains, forests, and rugged terrains with unwavering dedication. "Whenever there is any kind of attack on India's borders, organised or unorganised, covert or overt, the first to bear the brunt are our BSF jawans, but they never pause to consider where the boundary lies," he said. Reflecting on his travel to Poonch despite inclement weather, Shah said he was determined to meet the jawans personally. "I came to Poonch to visit and share the grief of the damage done to gurdwaras, temples, mosques, and civilian populations. I was told the weather was not favourable. Still, I decided that I would go by road and return only after meeting the jawans posted at the border," he said. The Home Minister said that God was gracious, the weather cleared up, and he had the opportunity to meet them. The Union Home Minister expressed gratitude to the BSF troopers on behalf of the government and the citizens of India. "The cheer for BSF is as loud as for the Army, and that is a matter of great pride for all of us," he said.

The Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated that the valour and sacrifices of BSF jawans have earned national admiration and stand as a symbol of India's enduring resolve towards security.

IMD declares red alert for 8 districts

GNS News Agency, May 30

With heavy rainfall continuing to batter Kerala districts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Friday (May 30, 2025) upgraded the rainfall alert level for the State by putting eight districts on red alert for extremely heavy rainfall (above 20 cm in a 24-hour period). The alert level was scaled up in the 1 p.m. weather update by the IMD's Meteorological Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha, Kottayam, Ernakulam, Idukki, Thrissur, Kannur and Kasaragod are on red alert. All the remaining six districts are on orange alert for isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall. As of now, indications are that rainfall is likely to taper off in most districts after Saturday (May 31). Only isolated heavy rainfall is expected in all 14 districts on Saturday. Some of the northern districts also likely to receive isolated heavy rainfall till at least June 3, according to the latest update. In the past one week, the Kerala and Mahe region have received rainfall in 'large excess,' the IMD has said. According to an extended range forecast issued by the IMD for the coming two weeks, the region received 287.1 mm against 52.1 which is normal for the one-week period, a departure of 451%. The southwest monsoon had set in over Kerala on May 24 against the



normal date of June 1. In IMD parlance 'large excess' is rainfall in excess of 60% of the normal for a given period. "All districts in Kerala received large excess rainfall. Lakshadweep and Mahe also received large excess rainfall," the IMD said. Meanwhile, the deep depression over West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts is likely to weaken gradually into a depression during the next 12 hours and into a well-marked low pressure area during the subsequent 24 hours.

CJI Gavai administers oath of office to three Supreme Court judges



GNS News Agency, May 30

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) B.R. Gavai on Friday administered the oath of office to three new judges of the Supreme Court. Justices N.V. Anjaria, Vijay Bishnoi and Atul S. Chandurkar took oath as apex court judges after the Centre on Thursday cleared their appointment to the Supreme Court.

The top court Collegium, headed by CJI Gavai, on Monday forwarded its recommendations to the Centre. "The Supreme Court Collegium in its meeting held on 26th May, 2025 has recommended elevation of the following Chief Justices / Judge of the High Courts, as Judges in the Supreme Court: (i) Mr. Justice N.V. Anjaria, Chief Justice, High Court of Karnataka, (PHC: High Court of Gujarat) (ii) Mr. Justice Vijay Bishnoi, Chief Justice, Gauhati High Court, (PHC: Rajasthan High Court) (iii) Mr. Justice A.S. Chandurkar Judge, High Court of Bombay," said a statement uploaded on the website of the apex court. Acting swiftly on the SC Collegium's recommendations, Union Minister of State (I/C) for Law & Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, in a post on social media platform X on Thursday said the President, after consultation with the CJI, was pleased to appoint Justices N.V. Anjaria, Vijay Bishnoi and Atul S.

Chandurkar as apex court judges. Justice Anjaria was elevated as Additional Judge of the Gujarat High Court in November 2011, and in September 2023, he was confirmed as a permanent Judge. He took oath as the Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court on February 25 last year. Justice Bishnoi, the present Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, was appointed as Additional Judge of the Rajasthan High Court in January 2013 and took oath as a permanent Judge of the Rajasthan High Court in January 2015. Justice Atul S. Chandurkar was elevated as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court in June 2013. As per the existing Memorandum of Procedure (MoP), the CJI, along with the four senior-most SC judges, commonly known as the Collegium, forwards its recommendation to the Centre to fill up the vacancies in the top court.

Kamal Haasan refuses to apologise amid Kannada row

GNS News Agency, May 30

Chennai: Actor-politician Kamal Haasan, who stoked a controversy by his "Kannada was born out of Tamil remark," on Friday yet again declined to apologise and said he believed in law and justice and his love for Karnataka was true.

He claimed that the alleged warning by pro-Kannada groups threatening to boycott his film if does not apologise for his remark, was not new and that he has been threatened in the past. "This is a democratic country. I believe in law and justice. I believe love will always triumph. My love for Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala is true. Nobody will suspect it except those who have an agenda. I have been threatened before. If I am wrong, I will apologise. If I am not, then I won't," Haasan told reporters outside Anna Arivalayam, the DMK state headquarters, here.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Govt must address issue of falling net FDI urgently

There is a conundrum that no policy maker or economist has been able to explain, let alone solve: India, despite being the fastest growing major economy, is not able to attract investment, especially foreign direct investments (FDI). The conundrum became more painful last week as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) published data showing that net FDI dropped 96.5 per cent in 2024-25. Net FDI in the previous fiscal year amounted to \$353 million, the lowest on record, compared with \$10 billion in 2023-24.

This sharp downturn is as inexplicable as it is disconcerting. Inexplicable because, on the whole, India has been doing well on almost all macro-indicators: the fiscal and revenue deficits have been going down; infrastructure building is continuing; inflation is low; there is political stability. And disconcerting because money is not coming in.

Conventional wisdom suggests that robust economic growth should inspire confidence among foreign investors, prompting them to invest in industries, infrastructure, technology, and services. However, that correlation appears to be weakening in India's case. Several underlying factors may be contributing to this paradox. First, policy unpredictability remains a deterrent for long-term foreign investors. While India has made significant strides in improving the ease of doing business, concerns remain over bureaucratic hurdles, regulatory overreach, and shifting tax policies. Second, geopolitical tensions and an increasingly protectionist global environment may also be influencing investor decisions. As companies de-risk their supply chains and capital allocations, India might not yet present the certainty or competitiveness that global investors demand.

Tilting Grinder Donated to Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple



"May 29, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanur received a generous donation on Thursday. N. Ramakrishna Rao from Hyderabad donated a 20-liter capacity tilting grinder to the temple. The donation was handed over to the Temple

Deputy EO, P. Harindranath. This new grinder will be utilized in the Ammavari Prasadam Potu (kitchen) for preparing offerings. Superintendent Ramesh and Senior Temple Archaka Babu Swamy, among others, were present during the donation ceremony.

Kaleshwaram Temple Records Impressive 1.36 Crore Hundi Revenue



PS Ashokan "Indian Chronicle" Manthani May 29. "The revered Kaleshwaram Temple has amassed an impressive income of ₹1,36,28,099 through hundi offerings over a span of 64 days, which included the auspicious 12-day Saraswathi Pushkaralu, according to Ms. Nandana Kavitha, the Officer-in-Charge of Hundi Supervision. "The meticulous counting process was conducted under the supervision of Executive Officer Mr. S. Mahesh and Assistant Commissioner Ms. R. Sunitha. The temple's consolidated revenue comprises multiple streams: ₹1,71,000 from pilgrim accommodation, ₹1,23,000 from Vedic rituals and homams, ₹5,60,000 from special entry (seegra

darshanam) tickets." ₹1,38,36,552 from the sale of prasadam, ₹1,36,28,099 from hundi donations. "This brings the total income to a commendable ₹2,83,18,651. "In addition to cash offerings, the temple also received 15 grams of assorted gold and 1,750 grams of assorted silver, reflecting the deep devotion of the visiting pilgrims. "The revenue counting was attended by Temple Superintendent Mr. Burri Srinivas along with members of the Pushkaralu Utsava Committee. Robust security arrangements were effectively managed under the leadership of Kaleshwaram Sub-Inspector Mr. Tamasha Reddy, with the support of the local police personnel.

White Gold Showroom Grandly Inaugurated in Tirupati * * * * MLA Arani Srinivasulu Attends as Chief Guest* * *



"May 30, Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator White Gold Sales Head, Mithun Shetty, stated that individuals looking to convert gold into cash should contact White Gold. The company's third showroom in Andhra Pradesh was inaugurated today in Tirupati. "The White Gold office, located opposite Smart Bazaar on Tirupati Air Bypass Road, was formally inaugurated on Friday by local MLA Arani Srinivasulu. Company representatives extended a grand welcome to the MLA. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA emphasized the significant utility of gold loan institutions for public needs and urged people to make good use of White Gold's services. "Sales Head Mithun Shetty and Sales Manager Salma highlighted that White Gold spe-



cializes in purchasing old and unused gold ornaments. They assured that the entire process would be completed within just 30 minutes, with immediate cash disbursement. They mentioned that White Gold, which began its journey in Bengaluru in 2017, is expanding step by step. Following requests from the people of Telugu states, showrooms have now been opened in Vijayawada, Guntur, and Tirupati. "They stated that the company's objective is to provide a respectful and easy method for those wishing to sell gold during financial needs. They also confirmed the use of advanced technology to ensure the highest level of trust in the payment process. Company staff were present at the inauguration ceremony.

KT Rama Rao showcases Telangana as global growth model at Bridge India Week 2025 in London

GNS News Agency, May 30

Hyderabad: Despite being in the opposition, BRS working president KT Rama Rao made a strong pitch for investments in India, especially in progressive States like Telangana, calling it a "fine balance between development and welfare." He projected Telangana as a global case study in sustainable growth, innovation and inclusive governance. "We have shown the world that remarkable transformation is possible with visionary leadership and people-centric policies," he said, delivering the keynote address on 'Why Telangana Matters: Steady Growth and Navigating the Global Economic Landscape' at the prestigious Bridge India Week 2025 conference in London on Friday. Rama Rao explained Telangana's rise from 12th to first in per capita income within a decade, marking a 156 per cent increase. He attributed this to the BRS government's balanced approach between development and welfare under former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao's leadership. "No other State has achieved this scale of inclusive progress in independent India," he said.

He cited the Kaleshwaram project, calling it India's answer to China's Three Gorges Dam, as a feat of engineering and political will, completed in just three years with full compliance and rehabilitation. "It now irrigates 45 lakh acres seasonally," he said. Calling Telangana an innovation-driven economy, he said under Mission Bhagiratha, it became the first State to ensure safe drinking water to every household using surface water, a milestone still unachieved elsewhere in India. The BRS working president showcased Hyderabad's emergence as a tech hub, with global giants such as Google, Amazon and Microsoft establishing their largest campuses outside the US. "From 3.2 lakh IT jobs in 2014, we grew to 10 lakh jobs and quadrupled IT exports to Rs 2.41 lakh crore by 2023," he added. Through the TS-iPASS system, Telangana approved 28,000 industrial units and attracted Rs 3.5 lakh crore in investments, creating 24 lakh jobs. "This is governance driven by policy, not personality. It is about minimum government and maximum governance," he asserted, urging investors to explore Telangana for its proven, business-friendly ecosystem.



Projects Telangana as global case study in sustainable growth, innovation and inclusive governance

MG Astor becomes India's Only Mid-Size SUV to Offer 10" Infotainment & Panoramic Sunroof Under INR 12.5 Lakh



Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India, today announced that its MY2025 Astor 'Blockbuster SUV' is now India's only 1.5L mid-size SUV to offer a large 10" Infotainment display and a Panoramic Sunroof under INR 12.5 Lakh (Ex-Showroom). JSW MG Motor India offers the 10" Infotainment display as standard across the Astor's entire variant lineup, while the Panoramic Sunroof is offered from the 'Shine' trim, recently introduced with the MY2025 Edition. The MG Astor is also the only vehicle in the 1.5L Mid-SUV Automatic segment to offer wireless charging feature under INR 15 Lakh, with its "Sharp Pro" trim. In addition to this, it also offers heated ORVMs - a segment-first feature among ICE vehicles, offered on the Astor.

These segment-first and best-in-class features reaffirm the brand's commitment towards its customers, blending exciting performance, sophistication, technology and innovation all in one package. MG Motor India recently announced a bold new stance for its Astor, as the 'Blockbuster SUV'. The MY2025 Edition introduced two new variants - Shine and Select, both packed with a host of features and technology. The Blockbuster SUV is offered with a starting price of INR 11.30 Lakhs (Ex-Showroom) and is available with VTI-TECH engine and 1.5L MT & CVT powertrains.

"The Blockbuster SUV" comes with over 50 Safety features, with premium interiors and panoramic sunroof elevating the memorable driving experience to a new level of comfort. With a host of advanced features paired with pleasurable driving experience, MG Astor also offers 14 Advanced Driver Assistance Systems (ADAS) features.

MG Astor also comes with Ventilated Seats in the front row, Wireless Charger, Wireless Android Auto & Apple Car Play, and Auto-dimming IRVM for additional security and convenience, along with an updated i-SMART 2.0 with Advanced User Interface for a holistic driving experience and 80+ connected features for a seamless and convenient driving experience. Among its standout features is the JIO Voice Recognition system, enabling advanced voice commands for Weather, Cricket updates, Calculator, Clock, Date/Day information, Horoscope, Dictionary, News and knowledge. The Anti-Theft feature, coupled with Digital Key functionality, ensures security even without a network connection.

LEGACY, Bacardi's first-ever made-in-India whisky, wins global acclaim including Gold at the prestigious World Whiskies Awards 2025

Hyderabad: In a landmark moment for Indian spirits, LEGACY — Bacardi's first-ever made-in-India premium whisky — has been awarded Gold in the Blended Whisky category at the prestigious World Whiskies Awards 2025. With these accolades, LEGACY becomes India's newest premium expression to command global recognition, marking a defining achievement for the homegrown whisky landscape. Elegant, contemporary, and crafted with finesse, LEGACY is not just a new whisky — it's a lifestyle statement that embodies modern Indian sophistication and global aspiration. (LEGACY is not just a debut put from whisky perspective like it's not just a whisky but a lifestyle statement etc. — it's a statement.) Crafted in India with a bold vision and uncompromising quality, LEGACY is a distinctive blend of Indian and Scottish malts with Indian grains, offering a rich, refined profile that has captured the attention of whisky connoisseurs around the world. These awards not only put LEGACY on the global map but also underlines Bacardi's growing influence in the world of premium whisky-making. Launched less than three years ago, LEGACY has swiftly emerged as a frontrunner in the premium whisky segment. It continues to gain traction across India and is winning over consumers with its impeccably smooth and perfectly balanced profile. More than just a spirit, LEGACY is a celebration of Indian craftsmanship — a rich, nuanced expression that bridges timeless heritage with modern sophistication. The World Whiskies Awards is one of the most prestigious and rigorous global competitions in the spirits world. Judged annually by a panel of leading industry experts, critics, and tastemakers, the awards honour the finest whiskies across categories and geographies. A Gold award on this platform is a genuine testament to excellence because each entry is evaluated on a thorough 100-point scale with a focus on aromatics, flavor, complexity, and finish. This win is further complemented by a Silver at the Asia Spirits Masters 2025, hosted by The Drinks Business Asia — reinforcing LEGACY's growing acclaim on the international stage. Mahesh Kanchan, Marketing Director - India & Neighboring Countries, Bacardi India says, "We are immensely proud of LEGACY's Gold win at the World Whiskies Awards 2025 and Silver at the Asia Spirits Masters 2025 — a landmark moment that affirms our vision of placing Indian whisky on the global map. This recognition is a powerful validation of our commitment to crafting world-class spirits that are bold, distinctive, and deeply rooted in Indian heritage. As we continue to push boundaries, innovate, and scale, LEGACY leads the way in shaping a new narrative for Indian whisky — one of pride, purpose, and global potential."

Tractor plunges into well, driver drowns in Telangana's Jagtial

Jagtial: In a tragic incident, a tractor driver drowned when the vehicle plunged into an agricultural well in Mallapur mandal on Friday. The incident occurred while the driver was tilling the land with a tractor.

"Special Law" Needed in Agency Areas: ATA State President Kalluri Jaya Babu



""""BHUKYA RANJITH NAIK""INDIAN CHRONICLE""BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM, MAY 30: ""Kalluri Jaya Babu, State President of the Adivasi Teachers' Association (ATA), stated that a "special law" should be enacted for agency areas. He was speaking as the chief guest at a meeting organized on Friday at Rajupeta Colony, Bhadrachalam, under the leadership of Kalam Satyanarayana, District Organizing Secretary of the Adivasi Teachers' Association. He called the instructions issued by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu to government officials to bring a "special law" similar to Go.ms.no:3 for job appointments in the Fifth Schedule areas a good omen. Similarly, he demanded that Telangana Chief Minister Enumula Revanth Reddy also direct government officials to convene a Tribal Advisory Council meeting to draft a "special law" for providing employment to Adivasis in local cadres within the Fifth Schedule areas, in accordance with the National Education Policy 1986 and

2020. He urged the Tribal Advisory Council to pass a resolution for this special law and get it approved by the State Assembly. He also demanded that the state government immediately announce DA and PRC for employees and teachers, show special initiative for the upgradation process of Grade-2 Language Pandits and Physical Education Teachers working in the Tribal Welfare Department, sanction and recruit teaching and non-teaching staff posts for upgraded converted Ashram schools, and clear applied GPF and TSGLI loans. The program was attended by ATA State Secretary Komaram Nagayya, Karam Gandhi, Korsa Chittibabu, Bhadrachalam Mandal President & General Secretary Resu Venkateswarlu, Sodi Sridevi, Vasam Adinarayana (Dummugudem Mandal ATA President), Sodi Rambabu, Mess Vasanth Rao, Vattam Srinivasa Rao, Matta Venkateswarlu, Jagidi Venkateswara Rao, Soyam Ramesh Babu, Pennabali Ramesh, Savalam Vasanth Rao, Gundi Chalapathi Rao, and others.

(17) Cadre Members of the Proscribed Maoist Party Surrender: District SP Rohit Raj



""""BHUKYA RANJITH NAIK""INDIAN CHRONICLE""BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM, MAY 30: ""District SP Rohit Raj announced that seventeen (17) members of the proscribed Maoist party, including two (2) ACMs, four (4) Party Members, and eleven (11) Militia Members, have joined the mainstream. These individuals decided to abandon Naxalism and lead peaceful lives with their families after learning about the facilities provided by the Telangana State Government and the Police Department through the "Operation Cheyuta" program, which is being conducted by the Bhadradi Kothagudem District Police and the 81st & 141st CRPF Battalion officials for the development and welfare of tribal people. From January 2025 until now, a total of 282 Maoist cadre members have joined the mainstream, including these 17, in various capacities: 1 DVCM, 13 ACMs, 32 PMs, 105 Militia Members, 33 RPC Members, 47 DAKMS/KAMs, 30 CNM Members, and 21 GRD Members. They have received appropriate rehabilitation facilities. Currently, the movement of CPI (Maoist) armed cadres is concentrated in the border areas of Telangana and Chhattisgarh states. The people in these border villages should under no circumstances cooperate with Maoist cadres. If any information about Maoists is known, it should be immediately reported to the nearest police station or to senior district officials. It was through such public information that twenty (20) armed cadre members were recently arrested in Mulugu District, and twelve (12) weapons were also seized. ""Prevention is Better Than

Cure: ""The Police Department, on behalf of the Telangana Government, will immediately provide appropriate rewards to the underground armed Maoist cadres who join the mainstream. Necessary long-term rehabilitation measures will also be taken with the cooperation of the Chhattisgarh Government and Police Department. If Maoist underground armed cadres move into the Telangana region, no cadre member will be able to escape the legal actions taken by the police department. An example of this is the recent encounters in various areas, including Karreguttalu, in 2024, where a total of thirty-one (31) Maoists lost their valuable lives. Telangana can never be a haven for them. The people here are very enlightened; the time for them to consider outdated and impractical ideologies is long past. Maoists must now realize that prevention is better than "Davorevo." Our experiential suggestion is that underground cadre members, along with their assisting militia and RPC members, should voluntarily come forward and join the mainstream to lead a peaceful life with their family members. The Bhadradi Kothagudem District Police, under the guidance of the Telangana Police Department, will work to provide them with the necessary rehabilitation facilities for their development. ""In this meeting, along with District SP Rohit Raju IPS, Kothagudem Additional SP (Operations) G. Narendar, Bhadrachalam ASP Vikrant Kumar Singh IPS, 141 Bn Additional Commandant Preetha, 81 Bn Additional Commandant Ravi Sharma, SB Inspector Srinivas, Cherla CI Raju Varma, RI Operations Ravi, and others participated.

Three more teams to power India AI mission



GNS News Agency, May 30

New Delhi: After Sarvam AI, India on Friday selected three more teams — Soket AI, Gan AI, Gnani AI — for building indigenous artificial intelligence foundation models. In line with its global AI ambitions — a comprehensive plan that entails enhanced AI infrastructure and local language model development — India has also announced availability of 16,000 more GPUs that would take the compute facility available to startups and researchers here to 34,000.

IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said significant progress has been made on India AI Mission, with focus on democratisation of technology. The compute facility supercharged with 34,000 GPUs will enable India to develop AI ecosystem in a big way, he said. Three more teams — Soket AI, Gan AI, Gnani AI — have been selected for build-

ing indigenous artificial intelligence foundation models. "I would like to make some mentions about the three teams that have been selected today. Like Sarvam, these three teams also have a very big target ahead of them. Which-ever sector they focus on, they must be among the top five in the world," Vaishnaw said.

Put simply, foundation models in generative AI are large, pre-trained models that form the base for a variety of AI applications. In April this year, Sarvam AI was selected to build India's first indigenous AI foundational model, marking a milestone in the country's AI innovation ecosystem. Soket AI will develop open source 120 billion parameters foundation model optimised for the country's linguistic diversity targeting sectors such as defence, healthcare, and education. Gan AI will create 70 billion parameters of multilingual foundation model targeting capabilities to surpass the current global leader. Gnani AI will build a 14 billion parameter Voice AI foundation model delivering multilingual real-time speech processing with advanced reasoning capabilities. Ganesh Gopalan, Co-Founder and CEO of Gnani.ai, said in a statement: "We are honoured to be selected under the IndiaAI Mission to develop large language models that truly represent India's linguistic diversity. At Gnani.ai, our mission has always been to make technology more inclusive and accessible". Gopalan further said Gnani.ai is keen to "lead the way in developing voice-to-voice large language models for India and the world, because we believe transformative AI must speak the language of the people it serves".

Godavari river pollution in Telangana: NGT issues notice to central, state pollution boards

GNS News Agency, May 30

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has sought a reply from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and others in a matter regarding the alleged severe pollution in the Godavari river, particularly in Telangana, caused by unchecked discharge of industrial effluents and untreated sewage. The green body was hearing a matter where it had taken suo motu (on its own) cognisance of a media report, which claimed that pollution levels in Telangana's stretch of the Godavari river had reached a critical point, with districts such as Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Khammam being the worst affected. "News items further state that in places like Bhadrachalam, the river water has turned black and emits a foul odour, making it unfit for human use," said a bench of NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A. Senthil Vel in an order dated May 29.

"Furthermore, the news item reports that Maharashtra's 300 km stretch of the Godavari, from Nashik to Paithan, is experiencing extremely high organic pollution, with elevated BOD levels that threaten aquatic life," the order added. The bench noted the report, as per which "heavy metal contamination in Aurangabad and Paithan has resulted in excessive levels of iron, zinc, nickel and copper, rendering the water unsafe for consumption" and that "the pollution crisis" was intensifying in "Andhra Pradesh, particularly from Rajamahendravaram to the Dowleswaram



Barrage, identified as one of the most polluted segments of any river in India."

"The news item states that agricultural runoff, including fertilizers and pesticides from fields near Nashik and Nanded, flows directly into the river without any filtration," the bench said. The report revealed "substantial issues" regarding compliance with environmental norms, it said. The bench impleaded as respondents or parties the member secretaries of the CPCB and Telangana State Pollution Control Board and the chairman of Godavari River Management Board. "Issue notice to the above respondents for filing their response/reply," it said posting the matter before its southern bench in Chennai on August 1.

Indian tourist mauled by tiger in Thailand while taking selfie, sparks outcry over wildlife tourism

GNS News Agency, May 30

Hyderabad: An Indian tourist was attacked by a tiger in Phuket at Tiger Kingdom while he was trying to click a selfie with the animal. This unexpected and very distressing occurrence was caught on camera and widely circulated, raising very serious concerns about the ethics and safety of wildlife tourism.

The video depicts the tourist walking beside the tiger and thereafter crouching to pose for a photograph. Then a trainer is seen trying to use his stick to control the animal. Suddenly, once the control was lost, the tiger sprung on the man and attacked him savagely. While the tourist's fate remains unknown, the authorities and the park management have remained silent on the matter. This incident has again placed the matter concerning the welfare of captive wild animals used in tourism activities in the limelight. Critics feel that these kinds of establishments commonly put their animals under some kind of sedation to impress the sightseers with an aura of docility, thereby concealing the quite erratic and instinctive nature of these endangered animals. Lots of wildlife activists are demanding regulations and a fresh look at these tourism notions.

Several Internet users posted personal experiences



and warnings in comments to the video, lamp lighting dangers in close interactions with wild animals. Some say the tiger could have been annoyed by the man repeatedly touching it in sensitive areas; some condemn these kinds of scenarios where big cats are used for photo ops. Amid international condemnation, a lot of pressure is mounting upon Thai authorities and tourism operators to put in place due concerns about safety, ethics, and respect for wildlife in tourist experiences. Apparently an Indian man attacked by a tiger in Thailand.

Khammam police crack down on fake seeds racket; nine arrested

GNS News Agency, May 30

Khammam: In a crack-down on fake seeds racket, Khammam Commissionerate police raided bases of three gangs that were manufacturing fake seeds like a cottage industry. Speaking to the media at Enkoor on Friday, Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt said that police had seized 560 kg of fake seeds worth Rs 14 lakh in three separate cases and nine persons were arrested. Investigation into the cases would continue. As per government orders, stringent measures were being taken to ensure that farmers get quality seeds. If anyone tries to cheat farmers by duping them with fake seeds in the name of famous brands, they would be punished, he warned.

Farmers should also be vigilant while buying seeds and should not fall prey to cheaters by buying from unknown people at low prices. Some middlemen were forming gangs; cheating farmers by promising to give them seeds for low



price and they were kept under surveillance. If anyone comes across sale of fake seeds, they should immediately inform mandal agriculture officer or the local police. There would be constant monitoring by task force teams to ensure that fake seeds were not sold in the market, Dutt said. During the raids, it was found that the local gangs operating in Enkoor and Kallur mandals were procuring fake seeds

from different places in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. After processing the seeds using rizobin, the gangs packed those seeds using labels of brands like Arunodaya, Advance 555, Pallavi Seeds and others, the CP explained. Rizobin is a biofertilizer used to improve the growth of legumes by fixing nitrogen in the soil. Police seized a large quantity of empty packets, weighing machines and several

litres of rizobin chemical from the accused. Ummaneni Nares, Annem Lakshminarayana, Guguloth Gopi, V Ramesh, Tamballa Naveen, D Ramesh, Gajula Narasimha Rao, Cherlapalli Shalivahana and Poleti Koteswara Rao were the accused arrested. Two accused, Venigandala Srihari Rao of Himam Nagar in Enkoor mandal and Venigandla Ravi of Bapatla in AP are absconding.

GDP growth in India slows to 6.5% in 2024-25, slowest since the pandemic

GNS News Agency, May 30

While a significant uptick in economic activity in the fourth quarter of financial year 2024-25 pushed GDP growth for the full year to 6.5%, as per the provisional estimates for 2024-25 released by the government on Friday (May 30, 2025), this is the slowest since the pandemic year 2020-21. As per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, real GDP growth in Q4 of 2024-25 accelerated to 7.4%, the fastest quarterly growth in the year. Quarterly GDP growth stood at 6.4% in Q3. Nevertheless, growth in Q4 of 2024-25 was slower than the 8.4% seen in the fourth quarter of the previous financial year. Chief Economic Advisor V. Anantha Nageswaran, in a press briefing following the release of the data, sought to downplay the post-COVID slowdown in the Indian economy, saying that India has held its own in a "growth-scarce" global environment. "If you look at India's growth differential in real terms, India's growth rate differential in comparison to the average growth rate of advanced economies was on the lower side during the 'boom era' between 2003 and 2010," Mr. Nageswaran explained. "The growth differential post-COVID is higher than the growth differential in the 'boom era'." "In other words, in a growth-scarce environment, post-COVID and despite the rising uncertainties due to political

conflicts and trade tensions, India is holding up its growth numbers better than many advanced economies," he added. The agriculture sector continued its strong performance in Q4, leading to a relatively strong showing for the full year. The 'Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry & Fishing' sector grew 5.4% in Q4 of the year, up from 0.9% in Q4 of 2023-24. This helped propel the full year's growth for the sector to 4.6% in the full year 2024-25, up from 2.7% in 2023-24.

The manufacturing sector's growth stood at 4.8% in Q4 of FY25, the second fastest quarterly growth in the year, on a high base of 11.3% in Q4 of the previous year. The sector grew 4.5% in the full financial year 2024-25, down from 12.3% in 2023-24. The construction sector returned to double-digit growth of 10.8% in the fourth quarter, the fastest in the year, and faster than the 8.7% seen in Q4 of 2023-24. The sector's full-year growth stood at 9.4% in 2024-25, down from 10.4% in 2023-24. Growth in the tertiary sector — a composite of all the services sectors — stood at 7.3% in Q4, in line with the growth in Q2 (7.2%) and Q3 (7.4%). Growth in Q4, however, was slower than the 7.8% seen in the fourth quarter of 2023-24. In the full year 2024-25, the tertiary sector grew at 7.2%, lower than the 9% in the previous year.

West Bengal Police send notice to 15 teachers over clashes, agitation continues outside Bikash Bhavan



GNS News Agency,May 30

The Bidhannagar North police have sent a notice to 15 teachers protesting in front of Bikash Bhavan in Kolkata’s Salt Lake and summoned them for allegedly damaging government property and obstructing public servants from performing their duties during the violent clashes on Thursday. Teachers under the banner of Jogya Shikshak Shikshika Adhikar Mancha (JSSAM) have been protesting their job losses with a sit-in outside Bikash Bhavan, the headquarters of the state education department. This was after the Supreme Court in April annulled the appointments of over 25,000 teaching and non-teaching staff recruited through the 2016 West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) examinations.Arпита Sengupta, a teacher with seven years of experience at a school in Purba Burdwan, was seen sitting on the footpath, checking answer sheets of Class 8 students from her school. Speaking to media personnel, she said, “I have 120 answer papers. The Supreme Court has stated that we have our jobs until December 31, so I have a responsibility towards my students. That is why I am sitting here in protest against the injustice done to us, but I will not do an injustice to my students, so I am checking their papers.”She further said, “We had faith in the government, but they have let us down. Later, we discovered that the government did not provide accurate information in court, which has led to our suffering. We don’t want to be on the streets; we want to return to the classroom.”Moumita Halidar, another teacher, suffered a brain stroke in 2022 after the birth of her child. She is unable to do anything be-

yond teaching. Her husband Prosenjit Das comes to the protest site every day to demand justice for his wife. Speaking to the media, he said, “My wife had a brain stroke. The only thing she can do is sit and teach. She cannot handle the pressure of studying and taking exams.”

On Saturday, Mayor Firhad Hakim lashed out at the teachers’ movement, stating that the people protesting on the roads are primarily those looking for media attention. He said, “The Supreme Court’s verdict can only be changed at the Supreme Court itself; protesting in front of Bikash Bhavan will not alter it. Blocking roads and preventing people from entering offices to go home is harassment. This is drama, not protest.”

His comment drew further criticism from the protesting teachers. Chinmoy Mondol, one of the representatives of the teachers’ protest, told the Indian Express, “We have witnessed a lot of drama from these leaders as well. If we were the ones putting on a show, would we be sitting on the streets and enduring such inhumane treatment from the police? Our demand is to have our jobs reinstated with dignity.”

The police summons to the teachers, a copy of which is with The Indian Express, stated that if they do not appear before the Bidhannagar North police station before May 21, they are liable for arrest under Section 35(6) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS).A senior police officer from the Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate, speaking to the Indian Express, stated that a total of 21 police personnel were injured during the incident. “One officer, Bhawan Das from the Barrackpore police force, suffered a fractured nose and broken teeth. The police’s primary objective was to bring those inside Bikash Bhawan outside safely,” said the officer. The police filed a suo motu case over the clashes. The officer said if any person trapped inside during the protests files a complaint, it will be investigated. He also said that the protesting teachers threw bricks and bottles, and forensic reports will be examined to determine whether the injuries were caused by the lathi charge or the items hurled during the protests.Chinmoy Mondol told the Indian Express, “Individual notices have been sent via WhatsApp, and more will follow.

Suspected cow smugglers mow down cop in UP’s Jaunpur; 1 killed, two injured in firing

GNS News Agency,May 30

At Barghat police station, where former cattle smuggling convicts are asked not to ever return to illegal activities. Anand Mohan JAAccording to the police, on the night of May 14–15, the alleged cow smugglers rammed their vehicle into Sub-Inspector Pratima Singh in Jaunpur, intending to kill her. A suspected cow smuggler was killed and his two associates were injured in an exchange of fire with police after they allegedly rammed their pickup van into a head constable in Uttar Pradesh’s Jaunpur district late Saturday night.

Head Constable Durgesh Kumar Singh, who sustained serious injuries, died during treatment, said Jaunpur Superintendent of Police (SP) Kaustubh.The suspected cow smuggler who died was identified as Salman, a resident of Jaunpur, while his associates Narendra Yadav and Golu Yadav are undergoing treatment at a hospital. Their three more associates — Rahul Yadav, Raju Yadav and Azad Yadav — managed to escape, the police claimed.According to the police, the same gang rammed their vehicle into Paraganj police outpost incharge Sub-Inspector Pratima Singh on the night of May 14, with an intention to kill her. Singh was seriously injured and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Varanasi. A vehicle checking drive was launched to trace the pickup van involved in the attack. The police said on Saturday evening, a police team at the Khujji



crossing signalled a pickup vehicle heading towards Varanasi to stop. However, the pickup sped and struck Head Constable Durgesh Kumar Singh when he tried to stop them. Durgesh was rushed to a hospital in Varanasi, where he later died.A police team pursued the assailants and found their vehicle abandoned at Tala Bela village in Varanasi district, officials said. They, however, learnt that the assailants were returning to Jaunpur on two motorcycles.The assailants were traced to the Chandwak area of Jaunpur, where they opened fire at the police team when signalled to stop, said an official.During the exchange of fire, Salman was shot in the chest while Narendra Yadav and Golu Yadav were injured.Police teams have been deployed to arrest the absconding suspects, it is learnt.

No college admission for these students in Telangana



GNS News Agency, May 30

Hyderabad: Beginning this year, even topping entrance examinations, including the Telangana Engineering, Agriculture and Pharmacy Common Entrance Test (TG EAPCET), will not help students from Andhra Pradesh (AP) and other States secure a seat in colleges in the State.With new admission rules coming into effect from the academic year 2025-26, AP students, including TG EAPCET 2025 engineering stream topper Palla Bharath Chandra and third ranker P Hema Sai Surya Karthik and candidates from other States cannot secure admission in engineering and other professional colleges in Telangana.

This comes, as the Higher Education Department recently issued an order mandating 85 per cent of the seats be reserved for Telangana locals (Osmania University area) from academic year 2025-26.The remaining 15 per cent of seats will come under the unreserved category. Candidates declared as locals of OU area are eligible for unreserved category seats. Further, children of parents, who resided in the State for 10 years, Central government employees and university staff, are also eligible for admissions under the unreserved category.

The order was issued as the 10-year common admissions between Telangana and AP as laid down in the AP Reorganisation Act 2014 ended this academic year i.e. 2024-25. Due to common admissions, Telangana colleges reserved 85 per cent of seats for locals and remaining 15 percent for AP students. The same was followed by the AP. This rule enabled around 3,500 to 4,000 AP students to join engineering colleges under 15 per cent quota every year.Now, to claim Telangana local nativity, candidates should have studied four consecutive years out of seven years from Class VI to XII in the State. For instance, those students who studied from Classes VI to IX or Classes IX to XII are considered locals.After completing schooling in

their native State, several AP students pursue their intermediate in Hyderabad. Given this rule, they will not be eligible for admission in Telangana. In addition, as there is no 15 per cent quota for AP students, Telangana students who secure rank under 10,000 in TG EAPCET are expected to get admissions in top engineering colleges.No clarity on admissions into UG engineering programmes

Nearly two week into declaration of TG EAPCET, there is no clarity on the schedule for admissions into undergraduate engineering programmes.Last year, the schedule was announced on May 24 and registrations commenced on June 27. However, this year, the delay in schedule announcement, according to sources, is due to the All India Council for Technical Education delay in giving a nod to private engineering colleges. In addition, there is no clarity on the fee structure in the private engineering colleges.

The Telangana Admission and Fee Regulatory Committee, which has taken up engineering fee revision exercise for the three year block period commencing academic year 2025-26, is yet to finalise the fee.According to sources, during the recent committee meeting, a few government officials expressed their displeasure over steep fee hikes in certain engineering colleges. The TARFC was asked to redo the fee fixation process for several colleges where there was abnormal fee hike, sources said.

Hyd-based Dr Reddy's gets 2 observations from USFDA for Telangana API plant

New Delhi: Dr Reddy’s Laboratories has received a Form 483 with two observations after the US health regulator inspected its API manufacturing plant in Telangana.The US Food & Drug Administration (USFDA) completed a GMP inspection at the company’s API (active pharmaceutical ingredients) manufacturing facility (CTO-5) in Miryalaguda, Telangana, the Hyderabad-based drug maker said in a late evening filing The USFDA inspected the plant from May 19 to May 24, 2025, it added. “We have been issued a Form 483 with 2 observations, which we will address within the stipulated timeline,” Dr Reddy’s Laboratories said.As per USFDA, Form 483 is issued to a firm’s management after an inspection when the investigator has observed any conditions that may constitute violations of the Food Drug and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act and related Acts

Punjab and Haryana High Court pulls up Bajwa Developers for poor amenities at New Sunny Enclave



GNS News Agency,May 30

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has ordered firm action against Bajwa Developers Ltd. for failing to meet basic infrastructure commitments in a mega housing project in New Sunny Enclave, Kharar. The court has also directed the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA) and Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) to resolve the electricity supply issues faced by residents.The order, passed earlier this week by Justice Sureshwar Thakur, came in a batch of six connected petitions filed between 2021 and 2023. The petitions were filed by the New Sunny Enclave Residents Social Welfare Association and several individual homeowners, who alleged that the developer had failed to comply with previous court directions and sought that the authorities take over the project.

A key issue in the case was the developer’s failure to comply with the terms of a No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by PSPCL in 2017. In an affidavit filed by Taranjeet Singh, Senior Executive Engineer at PSPCL, the court was told: “The Developer has failed to comply with the terms of the aforementioned No Objection Certificate (NOC)... Furthermore, the Developer has not applied for a new/revised NOC to date.”Due to this non-compliance, permanent electricity connections have not been provided to many homes in the area. During a site inspection in March 2025, PSPCL found that six 500 KVA transformers had been erected without official seals and that work on high and low tension lines

was still in progress.Justice Thakur observed that the existing infrastructure was already overloaded. “Unless additional land for installation of the requisite infrastructure is released in favour of PSPCL.... electricity connections may not be amenable to become released,” the order stated.

The court referred to records indicating that two acres of land owned by Bajwa Developers remain unsold. It directed that this land be used to set up the required power infrastructure for the colony. Further, the land and plots hypothecated by Bajwa Developers with GMADA will now be auctioned by the district collector within one month of the order to raise funds for pending works.In a major move, the court handed over responsibility for completing all basic amenities—both external and internal development works—to a team headed by the Chief Secretary of Punjab, along with two auditors from the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), Chandigarh. The team has been tasked with surveying the colony to assess the extent and cost of unfinished work. All the basic amenities that were originally to be provided by Bajwa Developers, as per the licence issued to them, will now be completed by this committee.

The court noted that GMADA and PSPCL were responsible for ensuring infrastructure under the NOC issued in 2017. “As per Clause 3 and Clause 4 of the issued NOC... GMADA was responsible for bearing all costs associated with the 66 kV Grid Sub-station, 66 KV Transmission Line, 11 KV Line, and related infrastructure.”

However, the court pointed out that neither GMADA nor the developer had provided the required land for these installations.The petitioners were represented by advocates Deepak Goyat, Ashwani Talwar, and Rakesh Dhiman. Senior advocates Anu Chatrath (for GMADA and PSPCL) and Baltej Singh Sidhu (for Bajwa Developers) appeared for the respondents.The ruling is being seen as a relief for hundreds of residents who have faced prolonged delays and unreliable services. PSPCL has said it will provide permanent electricity connections “as and when revised NOC is sought by the Builder, and the terms and conditions incorporated in the said NOC are complied with”.

Sanjay Raut slams Centre’s decision to send all-party delegation abroad over Operation Sindoor, says key Opposition parties not consulted

GNS News Agency,May 30

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut Sunday attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the Centre’s decision to send a 51-member all-party delegation abroad in the wake of Operation Sindoor.Dismissing the move as a mere “baraat (wedding procession)”, Raut questioned both its timing and purpose.He also urged the INDIA bloc to stay away from the delegation and boycott it.“There was absolutely no need for this delegation,” Raut said, accusing the BJP of turning a serious national security issue into a political spectacle. “Instead of building consensus, the government is handpicking MPs, ignoring Opposition voices. This is not diplomacy – it’s a show,” he added.

Raut alleged that key Opposition parties – including Shiv Sena (UBT), Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party, and RJD – were not consulted, despite having significant representation in Parliament. “If this was truly an all-party delegation, every party should have been included,” Raut said.

Criticising the government for ‘sidestepping’ Parliament, he added, “The Opposition demanded a special session on Kashmir and Operation Sindoor. That never hap-



pened. First hold the session, then talk about delegations.”Raut also raised concerns about the delegation’s objective. “Why are MPs being sent abroad? Is the government trying to internationalise the issue? Even during wars, leaders like Netanyahu, Zelensky, or Putin haven’t sent delegations overseas. What are we trying to prove?” Raut asked.Notably, Raut’s own party colleague, Priyanka Chaturvedi, is part of the delegation, which is being led by BJP MP Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Shinde tables resolution at NDA meeting lauding the success of ‘Operation Sindoor’

GNS News Agency, May 30

eknath shindeWhile presenting the resolution, Shinde said, “Operation Sindoor is not just a military operation, it is a symbol of India’s national resolve. Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji, India is facing every challenge with fearless determination.”Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde tabled a resolution congratulating the unprecedented success of ‘Operation Sindoor’ at a meeting of chief ministers of the National Democratic Alliance held in New Delhi The resolution commended the valiant actions of the country’s defence forces and the decisive, courageous and nation-first leadership of Narendra Modi. The resolution received unanimous support from leaders of all NDA constituent parties present at the meeting.The resolution highlighted the exemplary bravery, strategic military precision and unwavering dedication to the nation demonstrated by the defence forces during ‘Operation Sindoor.’ It conveyed a strong and unequivocal message on cross-border terrorism.The NDA government’s steadfast commitment to India’s sovereignty and national security was reiterated.The historic reforms under the leadership of Modi for defence forces—including One Rank One Pension, indigenisation, infrastructure development along the borders, and modernization were discussed. Most importantly the resolution outlined the endorsement of a new national narrative: “India will respond to any terrorist attack decisively—and strictly on India’s terms.”While presenting the resolution, Shinde said, “Operation Sindoor is not just a military



operation, it is a symbol of India’s national resolve. Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji, India is facing every challenge with fearless determination.”The world needs to hear this loud and clear—whoever dares to provoke India will be wiped out, he asserted.“The strength of our defence forces is the impenetrable shield protecting the nation,” he said.The meeting was chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, BJP national president J P Nadda, along with chief ministers, deputy chief ministers of NDA-ruled states, and leaders of constituent parties in attendance.He termed the resolution as a symbol of the NDA’s united commitment to national security and its unshakable faith in the leadership of Modi.

Sabitha Indra Reddy demands probe into Miss England's harassment allegations

GNS News Agency, May 30

Hyderabad: Former Minister and senior BRS MLA P Sabitha Indra Reddy has demanded an immediate inquiry into the serious allegations made by Miss England Milla Magee, who exited the Miss World pageant midway, citing harassment during her stay in Hyderabad. She also urged both the National Women Commission and the State Women Commission to intervene and initiate necessary action.

In a statement, Sabitha Indra Reddy said the Congress government has brought shame to Telangana and India on an international stage. Referring to Milla Magee’s claims that she was pressured to “please middle-aged men” and “treated like a prostitute,” she said the government must come clean on who was responsible for the alleged misconduct. Controversy rocks Miss World pageant in Hyderabad, as Miss England walks out saying she was ‘made to feel like a prostitute’

“This is not just an accusation just against the



organisers. It’s a matter of national dignity, since the pageant is being held in our State capital under the supervision of the government,” the former Home Minister said. She emphasised the need to ascertain who harassed the contestants and tried to exploit them.

'Pahalgam attack was done to create fear psychosis, destroy tourism and create religious discord', says EAM Jaishankar in Berlin



GNS News Agency, May 30

Berlin: Reiterating India's zero-tolerance for terrorism, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar has said that the Pahalgam terror attack was meant to create fear psychosis in the minds of people, destroy tourism economy flourishing in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir as well as create a religious discord between communities living in the country. EAM Jaishankar made the remarks while speaking at the DGAP's Centre for Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and technology. He also added that no country in the world has approves of terrorism but rather condemned it. The EAM said that Germany also condemned the Pahalgam terror attack and said that India only targeted terrorists headquarters and training centres emanating from its neighbouring country Pakistan and the latter has used terrorism as a state-sponsored policy to pressurise India.

Germany recognises India's right to defend itself against terrorism, EAM Jaishankar said. India has zero tolerance for terrorism and will never give in to nuclear blackmail, he added on Friday after briefing Germany's top leadership on the new approach to combating cross-border terror backed by Pakistan. EAM Jaishankar signalled there will be no room for third-party mediation in India's dealings with Pakistan while addressing a news conference with his German counterpart, Johann Wadepuhl in Berlin. He shared his remarks on how India and Germany can upgrade their ties as the two countries mark 25 years of their strategic partnership. He offered suggestions on collaboration in several areas to take the ties ahead. He said, "To be here early in the tenure of this government, so that we really lose no time in forging a pathway towards taking after 25 years to look at the next 25 years and see where we can take our relationship." Listing down the challenges which the modern world has brought forth, such as the chips war, climate change, poverty, damage done by the Covid pandemic, among others. The EAM expressed confidence in the India-Germany ties to face them. He said, "The global picture is very challenging... for that I would argue that the partnership between India and Germany, and India and the European Union, of which Germany is a crucial and invaluable member, has acquired an importance and a salience much more than it has had before."

Sharing his engagements in Germany, the EAM noted that the time is ripe to think about the next 25 years and how we can fully realise the potential of India-Germany ties. Sharing his thoughts on what can be done to upgrade

the relationship, EAM listed down areas of collaboration. The first area he highlighted was "A good start would be defence and security. We've had sort of an off and on relationship here. There have been times decades ago when there were actually active defence ties between us. Then for whatever reason, there's a certain conservatism about taking it forward. But I have seen that in the last few years, once again, there is a realisation in both countries that there is something that we have to offer to each other. And the defence and security of both countries would be very much stronger through our cooperation. And we see this reflected. We see this reflected in exercises in the visits of German ships to the Indo-Pacific and to Indian ports. We see it reflected in enhanced export licensing practices, in discussions whether there can be further technology and equipment collaboration between our countries."

The second area he brought to attention was talent and mobility to meet demand and demographics. He highlighted that India's demographic curve is in the right place to fashion a global workforce. The third area was technology and digital AI, and the fourth area being sustainability and green growth. He expressed optimism for trade ties to grow between the two countries and an Free Trade Agreement with the EU would help in that regard.

He also shared the snippets from the event in a post on X. "A good interaction @dgapev this evening. Spoke about India and Germany coming closer to promote global stability, security and prosperity. Discussed new opportunities in the bilateral relationship, as well as with the European Union. Preparing for a stronger partnership in a multipolar world." Earlier on Friday morning, EAM Jaishankar also conveyed to Chancellor Friedrich Merz India's appreciation for Germany's solidarity at the time when the country was responding to the Pahalgam attack. "India has zero tolerance for terrorism. India will never give in to nuclear blackmail. And India will deal with Pakistan purely bilaterally," EAM Jaishankar said. "There should be no confusion in any quarter in that regard." Wadepuhl said Germany was "appalled by the brutal terrorist attack" at Pahalgam last month and had "condemned this attack on civilians in the strongest terms". He added: "Germany will support any fight against terrorism. Terrorism must never have a place anywhere in the world and this is why we will support everyone who has to fight terrorism." EAM Jaishankar said he spoke to Wadepuhl on May 7, the day Operation Sindoor was launched to target terrorist infrastructure on Pakistani soil, and said India values Germany's understanding that "every nation has a right to defend itself against terrorism". Defence and security was a key part of the talks between the two Foreign Ministers, and EAM Jaishankar emphasised Germany's importance as an important partner. Wadepuhl said the two countries share the joint goal of maintaining the rules-based world order. "India has a very special importance as a strong actor in security policy in a strategically important region," Wadepuhl said. EAM Jaishankar, who is on a three-nation tour of Europe that has already taken him to the Netherlands and Denmark, met members of the German Bundestag or Parliament on Thursday and discussed "India's firm commitment of combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations".

Kolkata hospital holds awareness campaign against drug abuse for govt officials

GNS News Agency, May 30

In an attempt to address the alarming rise in drug abuse and associated substance use disorders, the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at the Institute of Psychiatry – Centre of Excellence (IPGMR – SSKM Hospital), under the West Bengal government, has collaborated with the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. They organised six detailed capacity building programmes throughout West Bengal in April 2025. "These programmes were strategically designed to raise awareness, enhance knowledge, and develop effective prevention strategies among a diverse group of stakeholders, including correctional officers, police personnel, mental health professionals, social workers, educators, and community leaders," said Mayank Kumar, assistant professor at the Institute.

"Our aim was to create a stronger, more coordinated response to substance abuse at multiple societal levels." The April sessions were conducted across police academies, correctional facilities, and the Narcotics Control Bureau. They featured engaging, audience-specific modules and training. Activities such as peer leadership development, inclusive discussions, and moving performances—such as the street play Nahi Nahi Bhoi at Dum Dum Central Correctional Home—brought attention to the social, psychological, and economic factors underlying addiction. These formats aimed to help participants understand the value of early action, community involvement, and the need to reduce stigma. The initiative provided practical guidance on fostering drug-free workplaces and empowering participants to support individuals recovering from substance use. The major aims were to raise awareness, oversee rehabilita-



tion centres, and collaborate with mental health professionals for comprehensive care. The campaign's recommendations included rolling out similar initiatives nationwide, applying harm reduction approaches, increasing budget allocations, and establishing addiction treatment facilities in every hospital and correctional setting.

"This initiative saw an overwhelming response with 602 participants—far beyond the target—engaging in sessions on early intervention, counselling, legal frameworks, and community strategies," Kumar said. "Renowned experts from institutions like NIMHANS, TISS, and CIP Ranchi enriched the sessions, offering critical insights into the needs of vulnerable groups, including adolescents, women, LGBTQIA+ individuals, and marginalised communities," he said. The programme concluded with strong calls for continuous public sensitisation, policy-level changes, and culturally relevant interventions. The emphasis was clear: shift from punitive practices to compassionate, community-centric strategies.



councillor who recently joined the BJP. Additionally, sources revealed that the party is also considering fielding an industrialist as a surprise candidate. On the other hand, the SAD has fielded a new face – Parupkar Singh Ghuman, a senior advocate and former president of the District Bar Association, Ludhiana. The Congress has nominated Bharat Bhushan Ashu, a former cabinet minister, while the AAP announced Rajia Sabha MP Sanjeev Arora as its candidate back in March. Arora has already been actively campaigning in the constituency. Congress and SAD candidates have also launched their campaigns,

Delhi shoe factory worker gets 20-year rigorous imprisonment for sexual abuse of minor girl



GNS News Agency, May 30

Delhi After four years of trial, evidence gathering and submission of a chargesheet, the accused was finally convicted, with his DNA profiling proving to be the final nail in the coffin. A Delhi court has sentenced a shoe factory worker to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for sexually abusing a minor girl, four years after he was arrested for the crime, the Delhi Police have said. According to the police, the crime happened in February 2021, when the eight-year-old girl was on the rooftop of her building.

"A complaint was received in which the complainant, the mother of the girl, stated that when her daughter had

gone to the rooftop to collect clothes, the accused also came to the rooftop and gagged her to prevent her from making any noise. At that time, no one else was present, and it was dark. Taking advantage of the situation, he sexually assaulted her daughter," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Outer) Sachin Sharma said. The convict, then a 19-year-old, lived in a room adjacent to the complainant's family in the building. The police immediately apprehended him and filed a case under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act at the local police station. After four years of trial, evidence gathering and submission of a chargesheet, the accused was finally convicted, with his DNA profiling proving to be the final nail in the coffin. Additional Sessions Judge Babita Puniya of Tis Hazari Court in the West district convicted the accused and sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, along with a fine of Rs 5,000," DCP Sharma said. Meanwhile, crime data shared by the Delhi Police shows that rape cases registered were 370 between January 1 to March 31 in 2025, down by 18.68 per cent compared to the same period in 2024, when it was 455. In 2023, the number of cases was 422 in the same period. Molestation cases for the first three months of 2025 also saw a dip of 14.63 per cent to 379 compared to 2024, when it was 444, and 30.71 per cent compared to 2023, when it was 547.

15 Maharashtra districts lack cabinet representation; three have four ministers each

GNS News Agency, May 30

The recent cabinet expansion in Maharashtra, which led to the induction of senior NCP leader Chhagan Bhujbal as a minister, has been seen as a politically expedient move. The government brought him in as an OBC face to appeal to the larger OBC community ahead of the upcoming municipal (corporation) elections across the state. While caste dynamics continue to influence ministerial appointments, Maharashtra suffers from significant regional disparities in terms of equitable power sharing. Out of the state's 36 districts, 15 have no representation in the cabinet. The unrepresented districts are: Akola, Amravati, Bhandara, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli, Gondia, Washim, Hingoli, Jalna, Nanded, Nandurbar, Dharashiv, Palghar, Sangli, and Solapur.

The most underrepresented region is Vidarbha, where seven out of 11 districts lack ministerial representation. This is followed by Marathwada, where three out of eight districts have no cabinet ministers. In north Maharashtra, two of the five districts are unrepresented. Similarly, in western Maharashtra, two of the five districts lack ministers. In the Konkan region, which includes the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, only one of the seven districts lacks representation. According to existing rules, the total number of ministers in any state council must not exceed 15 per cent of the total strength of the legislative Assembly. With a 288-member Assembly, Maharashtra can have a maximum of 43 ministers. Currently, apart from the chief minister and two deputy chief ministers, there are 33 cabinet ministers and six ministers of state, bringing the total to 42. The districts with the highest cabinet representation are Nashik, Satara, and Pune, each having four ministers. Satara is represented by Shambhuraj Desai, Shivendraraje Bhosale, Jaykumar Gore, and Makarand Patil. Nashik has Chhagan Bhujbal, Dada Bhuse, Narhari Zirwal, and Manikrao Kokate. Pune is represented by Ajit Pawar, Chandrakant Patil, Dattatray Bharane, and Madhuri Misal. Nagpur has three ministers in the state cabinet: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Chandrashekhar Bawankule,



and Ashish Jaiswal. It is followed by Thane, which is represented by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Ganesh Naik, and Pratap Sarnaik. Jalgaon also has three ministers: Girish Mahajan, Gulabrao Patil, and Sanjay Sawkare. Similarly, Yavatmal is represented by Sanjay Rathod, Ashok Uike, and Indranil Naik.

The districts with two ministers each are Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, represented by Atul Save and Sanjay Shirsat; Kolhapur, with Hasan Mushrif and Prakash Abitkar; Raigad, represented by Aditi Tatkare and Bharat Gogawale; and Ratnagiri, with Uday Samant and Yogesh Kadam. The districts with only one minister each are Ahmednagar with Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Beed with Pankaja Munde; Mumbai City with Mangalprabhat Lodha; Mumbai Suburban with Ashish Shelar; Dhule with Jaykumar Rawal; Latur with Babasaheb Patil; Sindhudurg with Nitesh Rane; Buldhana with Akash Fundkar; Wardha with Pankaj Bhoirav and Parbhani with Meghna Bordikar. States like Maharashtra have significant geographic and economic diversity across regions. Without regional balance in cabinet appointments, certain areas may receive disproportionate development benefits while others remain neglected. When certain regions are left out of cabinet positions repeatedly, it can lead to a sense of political exclusion and neglect. This has historically fuelled regional unrest and demands for separate statehood, including the one for Vidarbha.

'Don't know when bulldozer will come and demolish our house': Okhla village residents spend sleepless nights after receiving eviction notice

GNS News Agency, May 30

On Thursday, around 500 families of a village in Delhi's Okhla, near the Uttar Pradesh border, woke up to find two things — a red cross painted on the walls of their homes and a notice saying their houses were illegal and asking them to vacate in 15 days. The notice issued in Hindi read, "This is to inform the general public that in Village Okhla, at Khasra Number 277 (Khizar Baba Colony, Muradi Road), Delhi, land belonging to the Irrigation Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh has been illegally encroached upon, and permanent houses and shops etc have been constructed. Remove these illegally constructed houses and shops within 15 days. Otherwise, in the event of any damage/harm, you will be solely responsible." It was signed by the Zileadar Pratham, Head, Works Section, Agra Canal, Okhla. Mohammad Danish, 40, an employee with a retail outlet, who has been staying in the area for almost 30 years, was outraged. "Remove the house in 15 days, they have told us. Where will we go?" He lives in a 10x10 room, on the ground floor of the three-storey building with his wife Shahnaz and two children, Tamanna, 10, and Sikander, 2.

Danish said he was at work when he got a call from his wife about the notice. "It must have been around 10 am when they came and pasted the notices," Shahnaz recalled. Danish said on Thursday, around 1 pm, the elders in the locality called for a meeting. "They collected all the documents (Aadhaar cards and land records) from us and have hired a lawyer demanding a stay on the order. We will go to the civil court in Saket," he said. Mohammad Asif, 30, another resident, asserted that they cannot protest now. "The time is not right. Whatever we can do is only possible through legal means."

Recalling his childhood, Asif said that he was born here. "It was pretty much a forest then. The home that I stay in belonged to my grandfather, Dada Malla." Another resident, who did not wish to be named, and lives in a single-room, dimly lit house on the second floor of a three-storey building, said, "The ground floor was built around 50 years ago, and then, over the next 20–25 years, more floors were added. Nobody ever gave us any notice before this." "We have been asked not to talk about it. The court will decide now," he said through his half-opened door.

Today, most of these structures are in a dilapidated condition with filth covering the lanes. Residents have rented a portion of their houses to shops and other people in the area. Mohammad Zubair, 60, has also been served a notice on his three-storey structure, which houses a cloth shop. "Four people, Mohammad Javed, Mohammad Babbu, Dada Malla and Kali Jaitun, had won a case [related to the occupation of the land] against the UP Irrigation Department in the Saket court," he claimed. "The UP Irrigation Department



has no claim. Our houses are built on the boundaries of the Okhla village. It was 'lal dore ki zameen'... where cows and buffalo would graze. Then... our relatives bought the land and started staying here," Zubair added. A small grocery store owner, requesting anonymity, said they are now living in fear. "We have not been able to sleep at night. We do not know when a bulldozer will come and demolish our house. We have been here for years. Mai toh bachpan se pachpan ka ho gya (I was born here and now I'm 55)."

Woman tests positive for Covid-19 in Mohali; authorities say no cause for panic

Covid Officials have urged the public to remain vigilant and adhere to Covid-appropriate behaviour.

Mohali reported its first Covid-19 case in recent times, where a woman from Yamunanagar, Haryana, has tested positive at the Fortis Hospital. The woman reportedly travelled to a city to participate in a satsang and tested positive during routine hospital procedures.

Dr Harmandeep Kaur Brar, District Epidemiologist and Nodal Officer, has confirmed and assured the public that the situation is under control. She also added that all necessary precautions and safety protocols have been put in place, and there is no need for panic. Mohali health authorities have begun contact tracing and are closely monitoring those who may have come in contact with the patient. "We are following standard procedures to ensure the safety of the community," said Dr Brar.

Doctors at Fortis Hospital have reported that the woman is in stable condition and is likely to be discharged within a day or two.

IMF confirms Pakistan funding issue didn’t come up for voting



GNS News Agency, May 30

The International Monetary Fund has officially confirmed that the May 9, 2025, decision by its Executive Board to provide additional funds to Pakistan did not come up for a vote and was instead a unanimous decision. India abstained from this unanimous decision, citing Pakistan's "poor track record" in utilising such funds. The IMF's statement, made as part of a press conference by its director of communications Julie Kozack in Washington on May 22, 2025, confirms the May 10, 2025 report by The Hindu which explained that the matter did not come up for a vote because it was a continuation of an earlier agreement, and was not a fresh loan.

The IMF board on May 9 approved a total of \$2.4 billion in funding to Pakistan — \$1 billion as part of a larger \$7 billion Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and an additional \$1.4 billion under a Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF). has also learnt that, in the run up to this decision, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and other officials of the government went to considerable lengths to try to garner support over the issue of funding to Pakistan. However, since there was no vote, the loan was still granted.

India will also send a dossier to terror financing watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) before its plenary meeting in June to push for the re-inclusion of Pakistan in its 'grey list' of countries that are subject to increased scrutiny. It will also lobby with the World Bank to prevent it from providing Pakistan additional funding. During her press conference, Ms. Kozack explained that the IMF Executive Board approved Pakistan's EFF program in September 2024 and the first review was planned for the first quarter of 2025. In keeping with that timeline, the IMF staff and the Pakistan authorities on March 25 reached a staff-level agreement following that first review.

"That agreement, that staff-level agreement, was then presented to our Executive Board, and our Executive Board completed the review on May 9," Ms. Kozack said. "As a result of the completion of that review, Pakistan received

the disbursement at that time."She further emphasised that the Executive Board, while conducting such reviews, looks at whether the program is on track, whether the conditions under the programme have been met, and whether any policy changes are needed to bring the programme back on track. "And in the case of Pakistan, our Board found that Pakistan had indeed met all of the targets," Ms. Kozack explained. "It had made progress on some of the reforms, and for that reason, the Board went ahead and approved the programme."She added that, in general, IMF Board decisions are taken by consensus, and in this case, "there was a sufficient consensus at the Board" to allow the Board to decide to move forward and complete Pakistan's review. According to government sources, India tried very hard to sensitise the IMF and its members about how the timing of the fund release, coming just a few weeks after the Pahalgam terror attack and two days after India's response in the form of Operation Sindoor, was problematic. "The Finance Minister spoke to the IMF managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, before she left for Milan (May 4) for the ADB meet," a government official aware of the developments told. "During the call, she informed the MD that India is not against developmental assistance to any country, but that the timing for such funding was not right due to the border tensions," the official added.

Another source added that India also pointed out that the IMF's own data showed a strong correlation between when the IMF releases funds to Pakistan, and when Pakistan increases its defence spending. "Pakistan's arms imports increased dramatically from 1980 to 2023 by over 20% on average in the years when it received IMF disbursements in comparison to years when it did not receive the same," the source explained. Apart from speaking to the IMF MD on the phone, Ms. Sitharaman also met the finance ministers of Germany, Italy, and France in person in Milan and spoke to them about the Pakistan issue, it has been learnt.

In addition, Indian ambassadors in various IMF member countries, including in the U.S., appealed to the respective finance ministries or treasury departments. Several future actions are also underway. "India will send a dossier to the FATF about including Pakistan in the terror grey list again," the first government official said. "In 2022, Pakistan was removed from the list and one of the conditions was that it would enact an anti-terror law. That law hasn't come, so the FATF itself has enough reason to put Pakistan back on the list. India's dossier will add to this."The FATF will hold its plenary meeting in June. In addition, the World Bank is likely to discuss in June a \$20 billion funding package for Pakistan, which, too, India will "strongly oppose", the official said.

South Africa’s Police Minister says Trump ‘twisted’ facts to push genocide claims

GNS News Agency, May 30

South Africa's top law enforcement official said on Friday (May 23, 2025) that U.S. President Donald Trump wrongly claimed that a video he showed in the Oval Office was of burial sites for more than 1,000 white farmers and he "twisted" the facts to push a false narrative about mass killings of white people in his country. Police Minister Senzo Mchunu was talking about a video clip that was played during the meeting between Mr. Trump and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the White House on Wednesday (May 21, 2025) that showed an aerial view of a rural road with lines of white crosses erected on either side.

"Now this is very bad," Mr. Trump said as he referred to the clip that was part of a longer video that was played in the meeting. "These are burial sites, right here. Burial sites, over a thousand, of white farmers, and those cars are lined up to pay love on a Sunday morning."Mr. Mchunu said the crosses did not mark graves or burial sites, but were a temporary memorial put up in 2020 to protest the killings of all farmers across South Africa. They were put up during a funeral procession for a white couple who were killed in a robbery on their farm, Mr. Mchunu said. Trump ambushes Ramaphosa with 'White Genocide' video in Oval office

A son of the couple who were killed and a local community member who took part in the procession also said the crosses do not represent burial sites and were taken down after the protest. South Africa struggles with extremely high levels of violent crime, although farm killings make up a small percentage of the country's overall homicides. Both white and Black farmers are attacked, and sometimes killed, and the government has condemned the violence against both groups. Whites make up around 7% of South Africa's 62 million people but generally still have a much better standard of living than the Black majority more than 30 years after the end of the apartheid system of racial segregation. Whites make up the majority of the country's wealthier commercial farmers.



Mr. Mchunu said Mr. Trump's false claims that the crosses represented more than 1,000 burial sites was part of his "genocide story" — referring to the U.S. president's baseless allegations in recent weeks that there is a widespread campaign in South Africa to kill white farmers and take their land that he has said amounts to a genocide. "They are not graves. They don't represent graves," Mr. Mchunu said regarding the video that has become prominent on social media since it was shown in the White House. "And it was unfortunate that those facts got twisted to fit a false narrative about crime in South Africa." "We have respect for the president of the United States," Mr. Mchunu added. "But we have no respect for his genocide story whatsoever." The White House, when asked about Mr. Mchunu's remarks, pointed back to press secretary Karoline Leavitt's comments a day earlier at her briefing, when she said that "the video showed crosses that represent the dead bodies of people who were racially persecuted by their government." Of the more than 5,700 homicides in South Africa from January through March, six occurred on farms and, of those, one victim was white, said Mchunu. "In principle, we do not categorise people by race, but in the context of claims of genocide of white people, we need to unpack the killings in this category," he said.

U.K.'s Chagos Islands deal risks entrenching exile of some islanders: rights group

GNS News Agency, May 30

Human Rights Watch said on Friday the U.K. government's deal to hand over the Chagos Islands to Mauritius could "entrench" the exile of Chagossians from the archipelago's biggest island. While the agreement "may result in some Chagossians returning to some islands... it also appears to entrench their exile from Diego Garcia, the largest island," said Clive Baldwin of the New York-based rights group. The group described the forcible displacement of the "entire Chagossian indigenous people, mostly to Mauritius, for a U.S. military base on the island of Diego Garcia" as an "ongoing colonial crime against humanity". British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on Thursday announced an agreement to give the remote Indian Ocean archipelago to Mauritius in exchange for control of a crucial U.S.-U.K. military base on Diego Garcia island.

The deal, first touted in autumn last year, will see Britain pay its former colony £101 million (\$136 million) annually for 99 years to lease the facility, Mr. Starmer said. As part of the agreement, Mauritius will be able to resettle Chagossian islanders, expelled from the archipelago by Britain in the 1960s, to all of its over 50 islands, apart from Diego Garcia. Under the deal, the British government will set up a £40-million (\$54 million) trust fund for the 10,000-strong Chagossian diaspora.

The agreement was announced with a slight delay after a last-minute injunction was granted to Chagos Islands-born British national Bertrice Pompe. In court documents



Pompe laid out concerns that under the deal Mauritius would be responsible for resettling the islanders. She said Chagossians had suffered decades of "discrimination" at the hands of Mauritius, "including in relation to distribution of financial support intended for Chagossians", according to the court documents. Pompe said she had been living in exile since being "forcibly removed from the Chagos Islands by the British authorities between 1967 and 1973". Of the around 2,000 Chagos inhabitants who were expelled by the UK, many ended up in destitution in Mauritius, she said.

Britain retained control of the Chagos Islands after Mauritius gained independence in the 1960s — evicting thousands of Chagos islanders to allow the U.S. to build the strategic military base. The islanders have since then mounted several legal claims for compensation in British courts, while Mauritius brought its claims over the islands to international courts.

Federal judge blocks Trump administration from barring foreign student enrollment at Harvard



GNS News Agency, May 30

A federal judge on Friday (May 23, 2025) blocked the Trump administration from cutting off Harvard's enrolment of foreign students, an action the Ivy League school decried as unconstitutional retaliation for defying the White House's political demands. In its lawsuit filed earlier Friday (May 23, 2025) in federal court in Boston, Harvard said the government's action violates the First Amendment and will have an "immediate and devastating effect for Harvard and more than 7,000 visa holders."

"With the stroke of a pen, the government has sought to erase a quarter of Harvard's student body, international students who contribute significantly to the University and its mission," Harvard said in its suit. "Without its international students, Harvard is not Harvard." The ruling from U.S. District Judge Allison Burroughs puts the sanction against Harvard on hold, pending the lawsuit.

The Trump administration move has thrown the campus into disarray days before graduation, Harvard said in the suit. International students who run labs, teach courses, assist professors and participate in Harvard sports are now left deciding whether to transfer or risk losing legal status to stay in the country, according to the filing. The impact would be heaviest at graduate schools such as the Harvard Kennedy School, where about half the student body comes from abroad, and Harvard Business School, which is about one-third international. Along with the impact on current students, the move would block thousands of students who were planning to come for summer and fall classes. Harvard said it immediately puts the school at a disadvantage as it competes for the world's top students. Even if it regains the ability to host students, "future applicants may shy away from applying out of fear of further reprisals from the government," the suit said.

If the government's action stands, Harvard said, the university would be unable to offer admission to new international students for at least the next two academic years. Schools that have that certification withdrawn by the federal government are ineligible to reapply until one year afterward, Harvard said. Harvard enrolls almost 6,800 foreign

students at its campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Most are graduate students, and they come from more than 100 countries. The Department of Homeland Security announced the action Thursday (May 22, 2025), accusing Harvard of creating an unsafe campus environment by allowing "anti-American, pro-terrorist agitators" to assault Jewish students on campus. It also accused Harvard of coordinating with the Chinese Communist Party, contending the school had hosted and trained members of a Chinese paramilitary group as recently as 2024.

Harvard President Alan Garber earlier this month said the university has made changes to its governance over the past year and a half, including a broad strategy to combat antisemitism. He said Harvard would not budge on its "its core, legally-protected principles" over fears of retaliation. Harvard has said it will respond at a later time to allegations first raised by House Republicans about coordination with the Chinese Communist Party. Lawrence Summers, a former Harvard president and U.S. treasury secretary, wrote on X that the decision would mean losing key people, "some small fraction of whom are going to go on to be Prime Ministers of countries who've now been turned into enemies of the United States." He said the administration's action "is madness."

The threat to Harvard's international enrollment stems from an April 16 request from Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem, who demanded that Harvard provide information about foreign students that might implicate them in violence or protests that could lead to their deportation. Harvard says it provided "thousands of data points" in response to Ms. Noem's April 16 demand. Her letter on Thursday (May 22, 2025) said Harvard failed to satisfy her request but the school said she failed to provide any further explanation. "It makes generalized statements about campus environment and 'anti-Americanism,' again without articulating any rational link between those statements and the decision to retaliate against international students," the suit said. Harvard's lawsuit said the administration violated the government's own regulations for withdrawing a school's certification.

The government can and does remove colleges from the Student Exchange and Visitor Program, making them ineligible to host foreign students on their campus. However, it's usually for administrative reasons outlined in law, such as failing to maintain accreditation, lacking proper facilities for classes, or failing to employ qualified professional personnel. Ms. Noem said Harvard can regain its ability to host foreign students if it produces a trove of records on foreign students within 72 hours. Her updated request demands all records, including audio or video footage, of foreign students participating in protests or dangerous activity on campus. The lawsuit is separate from the university's earlier one challenging more than \$2 billion in federal cuts imposed by the Republican administration.

Ceasefire with India is holding, we are fully committed to it: Pakistan Foreign Office

GNS News Agency, May 30

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson Shafqat Ali Khan on Friday (May 23, 2025) said that the ceasefire with India was holding and "we are fully committed to it". The Foreign Office spokesman, during the weekly briefing, said Pakistan is committed to make this ceasefire hold and de-escalation to succeed and then engagement to lead to stability and resolution of issues. Mr. Khan also said that the two militaries have a channel of communication through the Directors General of Military Operations, through which they are working for de-escalation, in terms of the movement of troops.

He said Pakistan remains committed to the ceasefire announced on May 10 and lately, both sides have taken steps for de-escalation and return of stability. To a question about the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty, he said that Pakistan was sticking to its principled position that there is no provision in the Indus Waters Treaty which can allow for suspension or abrogation of the treaty unilaterally. He said that Pakistan's position on the Indus Waters Treaty was very clear that "we will continue to work to ensure that Pakistan continues to receive the rightful share of its waters". He also said that Pakistan has never closed the Kartarpur Corridor despite recent hostilities with India and alleged that the Indian side is not allowing pilgrims to avail the pilgrimage facility since May 7. On Afghanistan To a question about Afghanistan, he said after consultations with all



relevant ministries, Pakistan would decide when and how to upgrade diplomatic relations with Afghanistan. "The two governments are in touch with each other at multiple levels. I want to further highlight that just because the embassies are not working at the ambassadorial level, it does not mean that our diplomatic interaction is impaired in any way. We have very robust interactions going on with the Afghan side," he said. India, on May 7, destroyed nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under Operation Sindoor after the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed. Following the Indian action, Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9 and 10. The Indian forces launched a fierce counter-attack on several Pakistani military installations.

Israel has only authorised a 'teaspoon' of aid for Gaza, U.N. chief says

GNS News Agency, May 30

United Nations chief Antonio Guterres on Friday (May 23, 2025) said Israel has only authorised for Gaza what "amounts to a teaspoon of aid when a flood of assistance is required" and again signalled that the UN won't take part in a new U.S.-backed distribution plan. "Without rapid, reliable, safe and sustained aid access, more people will die — and the long-term consequences on the entire population will be profound," Mr. Guterres told reporters.

Israel says about 300 trucks of aid have entered Gaza via the Kerem Shalom crossing since it lifted an 11-week blockade on Gaza on Monday, but Mr. Guterres said that so far, only about a third of those truckloads have been transported from the crossing to warehouses within Gaza due to insecurity. Meanwhile, at least 60 people were killed by Israeli strikes across Gaza in a 24-hour period, Gaza's health ministry said Friday, as Israel pressed ahead with its military offensive and let in minimal aid to the strip. The dead included 10 people in the southern city of Khan Younis, four in the central town of Deir al-Balah and nine in the Jabaliya refugee camp in the north, according to the Nasser, Al-Aqsa and Al-Ahli hospitals where the bodies were brought. The strikes that lasted into Friday morning came a day after Israeli tanks and drones attacked a hospital in northern Gaza, igniting fires and causing extensive damage, Palestinian hospital officials said on Thursday. Videos taken by a health official at Al-Awda Hospital show walls blown away and thick black smoke billowing wreckage.

Israel has allowed aid deliveries by the UN and other aid groups to briefly resume until a new U.S.-backed distribution model — run by the newly created Gaza Humanitarian Foundation — is up and running by the end of the month. The U.N. says the plan is not impartial or neutral, and that it will not be involved. Israel said its blockade had been aimed in part at stopping Palestinian militants Hamas from diverting and seizing aid supplies. Hamas has denied stealing aid. The GHF plan involves using private security contractors to transport aid to so-called secure hubs for distribu-



tion by civilian humanitarian teams. "The United Nations has been clear: We will not take part in any scheme that fails to respect international law and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality," Mr. Guterres said. The U.N. and its partners have a plan to get the aid needed into Gaza, he said. "The supplies — 160,000 pallets, enough to fill nearly 9,000 trucks — are waiting," Mr. Guterres said. "This is my appeal for life-saving aid for the long-suffering people of Gaza: Let's do it right. And let's do it right away."

Telangana set to welcome early monsoons

Hyderabad: The Southwest Monsoons are knocking on Telangana's doors, having arrived in Kerala on May 24, a full eight days ahead of their usual June 1 start. Due to the early onset, the IMD-New Delhi on Sunday afternoon said the monsoons have already pushed into parts of Karnataka, Goa and Maharashtra.

On its part, IMD-Hyderabad on Sunday afternoon, issued a heavy rainfall warning to multiple districts of Telangana for the next five days till May 30.

Why solo trips are essential, even when you have a partner or kids



Travelling solo might seem odd when you have a partner, but it offers unique benefits that strengthen both your relationship and personal growth. Travelling solo might seem odd when you have a partner but it has its own benefits.

Happily married with two kids and always vacationing as a family.Does this sound like your story? Then keep reading.You’ve probably heard people say, “It was so much fun when I was single, but things have changed now that I’m married and have kids.”For many, once a relationship deepens or a family grows, self-care quietly takes a backseat. Prioritising others’ needs and happiness often becomes the default - even if it means sacrificing something that once brought you immense joy. Solo travel is often one of the first casualties.Society doesn’t make it any easier. The moment you mention travelling alone post-marriage or post-kids, the raised eyebrows and unsolicited comments begin. “How can you enjoy yourself alone?” or “Won’t you feel guilty leaving your kids behind?” These are just a couple of the judgemental remarks people endure.But pause for a moment and think: Are you holding yourself back because of societal expectations or fear of how your family might cope without you? If so, it’s time you needed some changes.Suppressing your passion - especially something as fulfilling as solo travel - does no good. Neglecting what you love only takes a toll on your mental well-being, and in the long run, this can affect your relationships too.

Why is it important to travel solo? An Indian household typical when a girl just randomly asks her parents – can I visit Goa with my college friends, please? Or let’s say she asks – I am going on a solo trip to Himachal Pradesh. Could you lend me some money? The cliché response would be – shaadi ke baad jahaan jana hai jao, not before!And then, after some years, when that girl finally gets married – she has a so-called “permanent travelling partner” for life. So, when is it her time to go and explore the world solo? More than men, it’s women who often

have to give up on their aspirations and hobbies. However, irrespective of your relationship status, gender, or profession, everyone should travel solo, and experts highly recommend it.Absy Sam, a counselling psychologist from Mumbai, tells India Today, that travelling solo allows people to explore their preferences, dislikes, goals, and visions for life. It cultivates a sense of autonomy and freedom that is crucial for personal growth.

“In the Indian context, where societal norms often emphasise the collective ‘we’ system, marriage or relationships are frequently associated with a sense of responsibility. A solo trip, therefore, becomes a form of self-care, helping you nurture your individuality while still existing as a partner to someone else,” she adds.Travelling solo allows people to explore their preferences, dislikes, goals, and visions for life.Ruchi Ruuh, a Delhi-based relationship counsellor, says, that in relationships, solo travelling helps maintain a sense of self that is often crucial for a healthy dynamic.

“Healthy relationships are built on a concept called differentiation, which simply means that you celebrate being individuals while coming together to be a couple. With solo travel, people can experience and understand their personalities better,” she notes.Boosting mental healthSolo travel can work wonders for mental health. It breaks the monotony, reduces stress, and fosters new perspectives. Absy Sam mentions how Indian women, in particular, can feel empowered through solo trips, reclaiming agency over their lives.“It’s about independence and self-reliance, giving women a sense of empowerment,” she statesStrengthening trust and spaceTaking a solo trip doesn’t mean distancing yourself from your partner; it strengthens trust. “Solo travel challenges partners to respect each other’s need for autonomy while creating security in the relationship,” says Ruuh.Sam adds that it nurtures “me time”, promoting a healthy emotional space. This mutual understanding of personal boundaries strengthens the partnership.However, not all partners are comfortable with the idea of solo travel. Sam advises open communication, explaining the purpose of the trip and its benefits.“Some partners may resist due to insecurity or fear of losing control. Address these concerns with empathy and clarity,” she suggests. This approach helps maintain understanding and trust.

Solo travel with children at homeHaving kids doesn’t mean you should give up solo trips. Ruuh recommends involving family or hiring help during your absence and starting with shorter, nearby trips. Sam believes that solo travel sets an example for children about the importance of self-care. “Parents taking time for themselves return refreshed and better equipped to handle family responsibilities,” she says.Practical tips for balancing solo and couple tripsBalancing solo trips and couple vacations requires thoughtful planning. Ruuh and Sam share these tips:Plan in advance: Alternate solo trips with a couple vacations.

Pilates vs weight training: Which one helps you lose weight faster?

Pilates enhances flexibility, balance, and core strength, while weight training builds muscle and boosts metabolism.If there’s one thing Bollywood icons like Kareena Kapoor Khan, Alia Bhatt, and Janhvi Kapoor all have in common in their fitness routines, it isn’t a magical elixir for their youth and glamour - it’s their dedication to Pilates.In the past few years, Pilates has become quite the buzzword in the fitness industry. Though in India, it is gaining prominence now, Bollywood celebs have been obsessed with pilates for some time now.But if you’re not aware, let us give you a crash course.

What exactly is Pilates? Pilates is a form of low-impact exercise that focusses on strengthening muscles and improving flexibility, balance, and posture.“The practice emphasises controlled movements, core strength, and proper alignment,” says Dr Vipul Lunawat, a fitness expert and the founder-director of the Institute of Sports Science and Technology of Pune.

Pilates has become the Bollywood favorite. Photo: InstagramDr Lunawat says that there are a few core principles of Pilates, like:1. Concentration: Mindful engagement with each movement.2. Control: Precision and mastery of your body’s movements.3. Centering: Focus on your core, often referred to as the “powerhouse”.4. Flow: Smooth, continuous movements.5. Precision: Attention to detail in form and technique.6. Breathing: Proper breath control to enhance movement and relaxation.From World War I to celeb favoriteMeenal Pathak, tells India Today that Pilates was developed by Joseph Pilates in the early 20th century during World War I as a method to rehabilitate injured soldiers and dancers.“Today, it has become particularly relevant because of our sedentary lifestyles, poor posture, and long sitting hours, which often lead to issues like wrist pain, shoulder pain, and joint discomfort,” says Meenal.

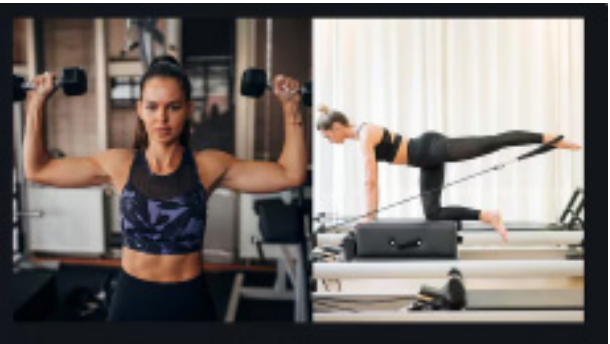
According to her, Pilates is highly effective (for both men and women) for addressing these problems as it, focuses on improving mobility and flexibility, alongside other benefits. It works wonders for posture, core strength, and spinal health. Pilates is all about strengthening, lengthening, and protecting your spine, which makes it an excellent choice.Now, there are two ways of doing Pilates: mat Pilates (which is done with very minimal or no equipment) and the more famous and preferred one by celebs is the other type - which uses a machine called reformer.This reformer Pilates has not only made quite a buzz on social media, as they are preferred by not only Bollywood celebs but by also influencers.

According to Meenal, “Mat Pilates is a fantastic way to start. It allows you to build strength and learn proper alignment without any tools. Small props like resistance bands can enhance the workout, but they’re not essential.”For those who want more variety, reformer Pilates uses machines with springs and straps to add resistance. Abhishek Bhaduria, Head Coach at MultiFit, notes, “The essence of Pilates lies in core engagement, and that can be achieved with or without equipment.”

Weight training and Pilates: which can help you lose weight faster?

Now, the question of the hour is, if you are trying to lose weight, which one can help to reach the goal faster, and which one should you prefer? We spoke to experts, and let’s have a look at both of them in depth.

1. Calorie burn Weight training: A single high-intensity session burns more calories than Pilates and induces the afterburn effect (EPOC), where the body continues to burn calories post-workout Pilates: While it generally burns fewer calories, advanced Pilates sessions incorporating faster transitions or reformer machines can boost calorie expenditure.2. Muscle building and metabolism Weight training: Builds lean



“The practice emphasises controlled movements, core strength, and proper alignment,” says Dr Vipul Lunawat, a fitness expert and the founder-director of the Institute of Sports Science and Technology of Pune.

muscle, increasing resting metabolic rate (RMR) for long-term calorie burn Pilates: Tones muscles and enhances functional strength, but its impact on RMR is less significant.Abhishek says, “Pilates excels in improving flexibility, balance, and core strength, making it an excellent choice for those seeking low-impact exercise or rehabilitation. Weight training, on the other hand, is ideal for building muscle mass and boosting metabolism. Ultimately, the best choice depends on individual goals and preferences.”

3. Functional benefits Pilates: Excels in flexibility, balance, and posture, reducing injury risk. As Dr Lunawat, explains, “Pilates is crucial for mobility and flexibility, which are often overlooked in traditional strength training but are vital for long-term health and injury prevention. Weight training: Improves bone density and overall strength, which is essential for physical resilience and metabolism.Finally, as Jashan Bhumkar, fitness enthusiast, notes, “Both have their merits, but if Pilates motivates you to stay active, it’s just as effective in the long term.”Which is faster for weight loss?In simple terms, weight training has the edge for rapid weight loss, largely due to its calorie-burning potential and metabolic benefits. A 2019 study in the Journal of Strength and Conditioning Research found that resistance training significantly improves body composition by reducing fat while preserving lean muscle.Dr Lunawat adds, “A combination of weight training and a calorie-controlled diet is ideal for quicker results. But Pilates can play a complementary role, improving mobility and aiding recovery.”Meenal says, “If your goal is to lose weight, you need to create a calorie deficit. Pilates tones and builds functional strength, but adding weight training will help preserve muscle mass.”

Why not combine the two?For maximum benefits, a balanced routine combining Pilates and weight training is ideal.Dr Lunawat advises, “Strength training is crucial for athletes, but ensuring optimal flexibility and mobility is equally important to enhance performance and prevent injuries.”For example, your weekly routine could include: 3 sessions of weight training to build muscle and boost metabolism2 sessions of Pilates for recovery, flexibility, and functional strengthThe final worChoosing between Pilates and weight training depends on your fitness goals For rapid weight loss and muscle gain, weight training is more effective For improved posture, flexibility, and a balanced body, Pilates is invaluable.However, the ultimate solution lies in integration. As Dr Lunawat says, “Fitness is not about choosing one over the other. It’s about finding the balance that works best for you. Both Pilates and weight training have unique benefits, and together they can create a complete fitness regime.”So, whether you’re perfecting your deadlift or nailing a roll-up, remember: consistency and enjoyment are the cornerstones of a sustainable fitness journey!

Mocha Mousse, Pantone Colour of the Year 2025: The India edit



For the Indian palette, Mocha Mousse is a perfect match! Whether in your wardrobe, home interiors, or makeup, the Pantone Colour of the Year 2025 effortlessly adds a luxe twist to your style.tara dutaria, deepika padukone, kiara advani, mocha mousseRich, indulgent, elegant, simple, and luxurious—Mocha Mousse, the Pantone Colour of the Year 2025, embodies all of these qualities and more. On December 5, the Pantone Color Institute declared Mocha Mousse—a warm, rich brown hue, instantly reminiscent of chocolate, coffee, or a delectable dessert—as the reigning colour for 2025.The colour is an extension of quiet luxury, the global zeitgeist trend that has soared higher and higher over the past three years since its inception. The shade also aligns with game-changing celebrity brands like Kim Kardashian’s SKIMS and Hailey Bieber’s Rhode. Sophisticated elegance is the common theme that shines through.With its sophisticated and earthy elegance, Mocha Mousse can stand alone but also serves as a versatile base for both minimalist and richly detailed designs. For the Indian palette, it’s a perfect match! Whether in your wardrobe, home interiors, or makeup, Mocha Mousse effortlessly adds a luxe twist to your style.Mocha Mousse in your fashion game

Versatility is Mocha Mousse’s strongest suit. It can easily make its way into your wedding trousseau, a beach holiday, or even a boardroom meeting. Indian celebrities have already rocked this unconventional hue in a plethora of silhouettes.Deepika Padukone styled a mousse-coloured sweater vest over an oversized shirt and brown-hued trousers. Actress Tara Sutaria looked fabulous in an all-brown blazer set with an added retro charm of a scarf. Sultry bodycon dresses have been favourites, especially for holidays, among divas like Janhvi Kapoor, Jacqueline Fernandez, and Ananya Panday.Tara Sutaria, Deepika Padukone and Ananya Panday in Mocha Mousse-coloured outfits. Mocha Mousse is both a summer and a winter colour and can be styled throughout the year.

“In winter, it pairs beautifully with cashmere and richer tones like rust and deep browns for a cozy, luxurious feel. In warmer months, it looks stunning with lighter pieces—think a mocha skirt with a crisp white shirt or a satin blouse with tailored trousers,” says Delhi-based designer Shasha Gaba.“In Indian fashion, ‘Mocha Mousse’ has incredible potential. It can elevate contemporary bridal looks, work beautifully with intricate embroidery, or even enhance fusion wear. It’s a versatile shade that blends tradition and modernity effortlessly,” says fashion designer Varun Chakkilam.A monotone Mocha Mousse look can never fail you. Be it a simplistic satin saree worn by Shilpa Shetty or an embellished creation that Kiara Advani once rocked, there is no dearth of inspiration. While a dazzling brown lehenga

swathed in sequins can be the best bet for a sangeet night, you can also take a Mocha Mousse-coloured lehenga to the mandap. Chakkilam suggests pairing it with jewel tones to create a dramatic contrast using statement accessories.Khushi Kapoor, Kiara Advani and Sonam Kapoor in Mocha Mousse-hued outfits.Here are a few bonus tips from Kkhushi Sahai, founder of label Kay-Kay, to style Mocha Mousse this winter: For a chic and cosy vibe, pair it with tonal accents—something like a buttery suede jacket layered over a soft cashmere sweater and leather boots Try layering—a chunky knit over a sheer silk skirt or leather trousers would create a beautiful contrast of structure and softness.If you’re aiming for something timeless, go monochromatic. A head-to-toe Mocha Mousse ensemble, perhaps in a mix of linen, chiffon, or velvet, looks incredibly polished and elegant.Mocha Mousse in your makeupBeauty experts say Mocha Mousse is a fabulous colour for Indian skin tones, especially for eye makeup. Again, the versatility shines with how it complements both Indian and Western fashion sensibilities.“You can tone it up and down for the eye glam – it will work wonderfully with hues like darker shades of brown, sunset orange, and copper gold,” says Bindya Talluri, beauty content creator and founder of Bindt Beauty.

Mocha Mousse makeup ft. Janhvi Kapoor and Sobhita DhulipalaWhile nude lips are a classic choice for many, Mocha Mousse-colored lipstick may not be the best fit for everyone. “Due to its cooler undertones, Mocha Mousse might not complement darker complexions as a lipstick,” says Bindya. Othrwise, do try ombre lips using this hue.“To use Mocha Mousse in makeup, start by applying it as a base eyeshadow for a warm, neutral look. For a more defined eye, layer it with deeper browns or golds to create dimension and a smoldering effect. This colour also works great for soft, winged eyeliner or to add subtle depth to your lower lash line,” suggests Sabhyata Bali, Founder and CEO of Zygos Beauty.Home decorWarm, cozy, and luxurious, Mocha Mousse exudes a blend of vibes that you would want your home to emit. It is already a staple in many Indian homes, especially those with a minimalist aesthetic.“For us Indians, it’s the colour of mitti, so it naturally evokes a sense of warmth and comfort,” says Nyishi Parekh Patel, director of Architecture & Hospitality, Splendour Living.“While Mocha Mousse is commonly used in furniture upholstery, it can also be incorporated into your home through wallpaper or accent walls. Even in smaller homes, it can work wonders as an accent color. Add warmth with compact furniture or accessories like throw pillows, blankets, and rugs. This thoughtful approach will bring coziness to your space without overwhelming it,” suggests Paveela Bali, CEO and founder of Studio by Paveela.

Single, not lonely! Modern Indians are changing the way people look at singles

Unlike how society views them – with pitiful eyes – modern Indian singles certainly don’t need that ‘saving’ and ‘help’.indian man happily singleIntentional singlehood comes with a long list of benefits, and young Indian adults are leveraging that. These are the words new-age singles use to describe themselves. And why not? They are single by choice, not by circumstance. Oh, and they are making the most of their singlehood too – growing personally and professionally.Unlike how society views them – with pitiful eyes – modern singles certainly don’t need that ‘saving’ and ‘help.’“I will help you find the one.” “Why don’t you download Bumble?” “Let me plan a blind date for you.” “Do you want me to speak to an astrologer for you?” “Doesn’t it get lonely at times?” If you’re still saying these things to your single friend, sorry to break it to you, but you’re living in a bubble—the outdated belief that being single is a problem to be fixed.Take Umang Prasad, for instance—a 30-year-old IT professional who relocated from Mumbai to Abu Dhabi earlier this year. He has used his single time to get closer to achieving his dreams. He took up a plethora of courses, completed his online master’s degree, and gained expertise in his professional field - all while working full-time jobs.“The good part of being single is that you have enough time to improve yourself and gain independence. However, how we use that time and space defines the course of our lives. As for me, I’ve focused on my life goals, enhanced my professional expertise, and pursued further studies while managing full-time jobs.” Umang tells India Today.“I wouldn’t say that people in relationships cannot excel or thrive, but in my view, being single allows you to explore the world, improve mentally, physically, and financially, and achieve your goals during your peak years—without the added stress of a relationship or being a source of stress for someone else,” he adds.Being single allows you to explore the world, improve mentally, physically, and financially, and achieve your goals during your peak years.Umang also admits that being single helped him build stronger emotional independence and resilience.“It isn’t that I have become ‘ruthless’ or ‘cold-blooded,’ but it made me more responsible as I learned to control my actions. It also offered me more time in life, and this, apart from helping me in my stud-

ies, has brought me closer to spirituality because my life is not encapsulated or within a boundary. I got more time to sit alone and introspect. My horizon for connecting with people is not limited—I get to interact with a lot of people in my free time, and this also helps me become more empathetic towards others and understand life better,” he shares. The ample benefitsThis is the story of individuals who are single by choice, and there is a growing inclination toward this shift.“Singlehood, whether temporary or permanent, offers unique opportunities for self-discovery, personal growth, and individual achievement. Many singles develop exceptional emotional resilience, strong decision-making capabilities, and self-reliance – qualities that serve them well throughout life,” says Dr Chandni Tugnait, a psychotherapist, life & business coach, and founder-director of Gateway of HealingFor Maitrayee Sen, a Ph.D. student, being single for the past five years has been a conscious choice to avoid distractions and focus on her career. She is happy and satisfied with that.“I’ve been single for five years, and during this time, I’ve grown professionally and personally. Being single has allowed me to focus entirely on my career without having to balance someone else’s needs or expectations. That said, I’m not opposed to relationships—I go on dates and meet people, but I haven’t found someone I truly connect with yet,” she tells India Today.For her, the intent is clear – she is not chasing any timeline or giving into the pressure of marrying before turning a certain age. She is currently single, and happy.“People who are happy in their relationships generally don’t think being with someone is a bad thing, and I feel the same – I am happy being single,” she says. Having a great support system in the form of friends, family and cousins helps too.Experts say the rise of individualism and self-love in the last few years has fuelled this shift in being ‘happily single.’“Psychological studies show that a strong sense of individuality and self-awareness can lead to increased resilience, better emotional regulation, and higher life satisfaction. The traditional dependence on relationships as the sole source of happiness is now shifting, with people seeking happiness within themselves or through meaningful connections,” says Ruchi Ruuh, a relationship counsellor based in Delhi.

The vlogger who is being called a spy



On her YouTube channel, 'Travel With JO', Jyoti Rani describes herself as a "Nomadic Leo Girl", "Wanderer Haryanvi+Punjabi", and "a modern girl with old fashioned ideas". Nationally, she is now known as the woman who has been arrested on charges of espionage by the Hissar Police.Jyoti, a 34-year-old vlogger, has more than 480 videos on her channel and 3.97 lakh subscribers. Shot in different parts of India, her videos show her interacting with locals and providing travel and food recommendations. Some of her videos have also been shot in other countries, including Indonesia, Bhutan, China, and Pakistan.But in Haryana's Hissar district, there is little proof of the adventurous life that Jyoti has led so far, or of the fame she enjoys online. Jyoti lives with her father Harish Kumar (58) and uncle Khushal Chand (65) in New Agarsen Extension area, a noisy neighbourhood inhabited mostly by retired government employees, businessmen, and ex-servicemen. Inside her cluttered and poorly lit bedroom in the 500 square feet house, paint is peeling off the walls. A framed poster of the popular American television sitcom, Friends, hangs from one wall. Another poster next to it reads, "Peene Ke Hai Chaar Din (There are only four days to drink)". There are also garlanded photos of her grandparents.Neighbours say they barely know Jyoti. Savitri, who lives next door, says, "Jyoti mostly stayed outside this house. We saw her once in six months on the terrace. Since there were no women in the house, we didn't interact with them."

Virender Narwal, another neighbour, says he learned about Jyoti's arrest through his relative who called him after watching the news on television. "The family mostly stays indoors," he says.On May 16, the Hissar Police registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Jyoti under Sections 3 and 5 (penalties for spying; and wrongful communication of information) of the Official Secrets Act, 1923, and Section 152 (criminalises actions that endanger the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2024. Since then, the number of subscribers on Jyoti's YouTube channel has gone up by 16,000.It was Jyoti's videos from Pakistan that brought her under the official radar, according to the police. Jyoti's most popular video from the neighbouring country is titled 'Indian girl in Pakistan – Wagah Border to Panja Sahib via Lahore'. Posted in April last year, it has 1.3 crore views and over 1.10 lakh 'likes'. In another video, also posted last year, Jyoti is seen attending an Iftar party at the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. It mentions that she was invited by the Embassy a year ago.Jyoti's alleged closeness to officials of the Pakistan High Commission, sponsored visits to the country, and her presence at social gatherings in Pakistan attended by that country's elite all raised eyebrows in India. The Hissar Police believe that Jyoti was lured by the Pakistani intelligence with money, a luxurious lifestyle, and the prospect of establishing high-profile connections.Hissar Superintendent of Police, Shashank Kumar Sawan, who is overseeing the investigation, says Jyoti was on the radar of the central agencies, including the National Investigation Agency (NIA), for a long time before her arrest.A video grab from a vlog posted on Jyoti's YouTube channel, 'Travel with JO', shows her in Lahore, Pakistan. Photo: 'Travel with Jo' on YouTubeA video grab from a vlog posted on Jyoti's YouTube channel, 'Travel with JO', shows her in Lahore, Pakistan.

"Her travels led investigation agencies to suspect that she was being groomed as an asset by intelligence operatives in Pakistan," he says. "We are investigating why she met them and what information was shared with them. The Pakistan intelligence officials were trying to reach out to other YouTube influencers through her."Shashank adds that Jyoti visited Pakistan as well as Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir before terrorists killed 26 tourists on April 22 at Baisaran valley. The attack led to an escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan. "We are trying to find out whether there are links between her visits and the attack," he says.

However, the police say since Jyoti did not have any direct access to sensitive information related to defence and the military, there is no evidence yet to suggest that she shared secret details with Pakistani intelligence officials. They also admit that there is no evidence of her being in contact with any terrorist organisation. The police's suspicions about Jyoti also seem to stem from Hissar's strategic location — the district, situated around 160 kilometres west of Delhi, has a military cantonment and an airport. Significantly, the Sirsa Air Force Base lies one and a half hours away from Hissar by road."So any small piece of information shared by Jyoti with the Pakistani officials could be of significance to them," says Shashank. The police expect the forensic examination report of her mobile phones and laptops to throw more light on the "nature of the information shared by her with Pakistani intelligence officials".The reel and the realDuring Partition, Jyoti's family came to India from Multan in Pakistan and settled in Faridkot in Punjab, says Harish. Later, they moved to Hissar. Harish divorced his wife when Jyoti was a teenager. Khushal Chand, who retired as a foreman from the Haryana Electricity Board, also divorced his wife 10 years ago and moved in with Harish and Jyoti.

Jyoti graduated with a degree in the arts from Hissar's Fateh Chand College for Women. Harish, who polishes furniture for a living, says though a good student, Jyoti was reluctant to pursue higher education. She worked as a receptionist at a coaching institute and a teacher at a primary school in the neighbourhood before moving to Delhi in search of better opportunities. Harish, a school dropout, claims that he knew nothing about his daughter's job in Delhi apart from the fact she earned ₹15,000-16,000 a month. He says he mostly stays at home due to his failing health and survives on his brother's pension of ₹20,000.

A view of Jyoti Rani's house in New Agarsen Extension area, a noisy neighbourhood in Hissar. When Jyoti lost her job during the COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdown,

she returned to her father and uncle. She told her father that she wanted to make 'reels' and asked him to buy her a laptop. He bought her one for ₹1 lakh, he says.

Harish says whenever Jyoti was at home, she would be busy editing 'reels'. "But she hardly stayed with us in Hissar. She would tell me that she was going to Delhi and would return after a few days or even weeks. None of her friends came home. I had no idea that she had been to Pakistan or any other country for that matter," he adds.Harish also claims he had no idea what she was posting online. "I have a basic phone. I didn't know what she was doing until the police reached our doorstep on May 15," he says.

That morning, half a dozen police personnel, including two women, barged into the house and headed straight to Jyoti's room. Harish watched in shock as they left with his daughter, her laptop, and their mobile phones half an hour later.Jyoti returned home late that evening, but did not say a word. "She ate, brushed her teeth, and went to sleep. The next morning, she went to the police station on her scooter. Then the police returned in the early hours of Saturday (May 17) and took away her passport," he says in a seemingly well-rehearsed manner, as he has recalled the events of that day several times to the TV reporters who have been thronging his house.Harish also complains about the unwanted attention. He says, "These journalists have made me ill. I don't get time to eat. I can't sleep. I have a fever too." A bottle of syrup to treat indigestion and gastric troubles lies at his bedside.Jyoti Rani's father, Harish Kumar, says he had no idea what his daughter was posting online.Jyoti Rani's father, Harish Kumar, says he had no idea what his daughter was posting online.

The FIR registered on May 16 states that Jyoti met Ehsan-Ur-Rahim alias Danish, an official at the Pakistan High Commission, in 2023 when she went to the Commission seeking a visa. The two of them stayed in touch over the phone. Jyoti later visited Pakistan twice. There she met Danish's acquaintance Ali Ahwan, who arranged for her stay and travel in the country. Ali introduced her to two men — Shakir and Rana Shabaz. Jyoti stored Shakir's mobile number under the name Jat Randhawa. "She stayed in touch with these Pakistani nationals over WhatsApp, Snapchat, and Telegram and shared anti-national details with them. She also met Danish several times. She was found in touch with Pakistan intelligence operatives," reads the FIR.The police have also detained for questioning Harkirat Singh, a resident of Ajrana village in Haryana's Kurukshetra district, who works at a gurdwara. They suspect that he introduced Jyoti to Danish. The Pakistani official has since been declared persona non-grata by the Indian External Affairs Ministry and told to leave the country.

Harish has not met Jyoti since her arrest and refuses to believe what the police and media are saying. "I met her briefly when I went to hand over a photocopy of her Aadhaar card after her arrest. She said she was fine and would return home soon," he says. He wants to hire a lawyer but has no idea how to go about it. "How much do they charge? ₹20,000 or ₹50,000?" Lawyers say they have not taken up her case in the fear of being labelled 'anti-national' for representing a "spy". A Hissar court has appointed a government lawyer to represent Jyoti. On May 22, the court extended Jyoti's police remand by four days.Casting the net widerWith the police widening their investigation, other social media content creators and travel vloggers have come under the scanner.

Following a review meeting with the Chief Minister Nayab Saini on May 20, Haryana Home Secretary Sumita Mishra said, "There was a discussion regarding Pakistan-backed operatives in the meeting. This action is not over and will continue. More YouTube channels in Haryana are being probed. We have special cells to monitor social media. Action is being taken against sleeper cells that have links with Pakistan."Besides Jyoti, the Haryana Police have arrested two youth from Nuh and one each from Kaithal and Panipat on charges of spying and endangering the sovereignty, integrity and unity of the country.Odisha-based YouTuber Priyanka Senapati, also known for her travel videos, is being investigated in the case. The Puri Police in Odisha say they are examining the financial transactions "of all family members of the woman who came in contact with Malhotra (Jyoti Rani)".Though the police are yet to find any evidence to suggest that Jyoti has access to any sensitive information or terror links, Shashank says social media influencers could play a pivotal role in creating a narrative that favours Pakistan and counters the Indian government's stand.

One of Jyoti's live videos, 'My views on Pahalgam Kashmir', streamed three weeks ago, garnered around 80,000 views. While calling for Hindu-Muslim unity and criticising terrorism, Jyoti stopped short of blaming Pakistan for the attack. "We should not blame any country or Kashmiris for this... terrorist organisations should be condemned... not any particular religion and any particular country... if anyone has supported those terrorists, we are responsible and our government is responsible because there was a security lapse," she said in the live video.Navneet Rajan Wasan, former Special Director, NIA, says public opinion holds significance when two nations are "at war" and that the "subtle" messaging by social media influencers can help create a narrative in favour of or against governments. "Spreading a narrative which is against the government's official position could harm our interests," he says.

Telangana farmers fear urea shortages amid brisk Kharif preparations

Hyderabad: As Telangana farmers gear up for the Kharif sowing season, concerns over urea shortages loom large, threatening to disrupt their agricultural plans. Despite the State's growing prominence as a key agricultural hub, producing paddy, cotton, chilli and horticultural crops, farmers are often struggling with inadequate fertilizer supplies due to periodic shortages.

Urea, a nitrogen-based fertilizer crucial for paddy cultivation, plays a vital role in boosting yields and improving grain quality. Typically, farmers apply around 100 kilograms of urea per acre of paddy at specific growth stages to maximize productivity. Fears of shortages, especially during peak sowing seasons, are fueling uncertainty among cultivators.

Telangana's Kharif sowing area for 2025 is projected to be 1.52 crore acres, with paddy cultivation expected to cover 66 lakh acres, representing over one-third of the total Kharif acreage. The increase in paddy production is largely driven by the hope of favourable monsoons, despite looming concerns over water availability. Farmers are increasingly opting for superfine paddy varieties, which command higher market prices compared to coarse grains.Growing concerns over fertilizer supplyWith early rains arriving and sowing operations likely to commence sooner than expected, farmers across the state are scrambling to secure urea supplies. Many cultivators in northern districts are procuring fertilizers from friends and relatives in neighboring states, fearing shortages. Despite the presence of domestic urea production hubs like Ramagundam, local farmers are also worried.

To win over foreign students, India must fix the post-study employment gap



India's ambitious and well-articulated goal of attracting 500,000 foreign students to its universities is beset by operational and structural inadequacies as well as a dearth of excellent placement chances in the nation's industrial sector. Still, India is undoubtedly of interest to international students.According to research in the American Journal of Multidisciplinary Research and Development, reasons for choosing to study in India include the chance to learn in an academic setting where English is the primary language, as well as the affordability of tuition and living costs. The promise of cultural immersion and the availability of a variety of academic programmes are also important draws.

The 'Study in India' campaign, launched officially in 2018 to establish India as a major international center for higher education, was administered by the Ministry of Education and carried out by EdCIL (India) Limited. It sought to draw foreign students to Indian colleges by providing top-notch instruction at reasonable prices. But after almost five years, it's clear that intent is insufficient on its own.The numbers are self-evident. According to figures from the Ministry of Education, India hosted less than 47,000 international students in 2023. Even if there are some examples of institutional advancement, structural and operational inefficiencies plague the larger ecosystem. For the record, a majority of international students are from nearby countries like Nepal, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, and the UAE, and others. Rwanda, Nigeria, Sudan, and other eastern African countries make up a respectable portion.

Internationally speaking U.S., Canada, and the U.K. together account for almost 40% of the worldwide international student flow. France, Australia, and Germany are the most alluring study abroad locations in comparison to the big three. China today has around 200,000 international students.The Study in India programme is an interdepartmental endeavor to establish a clear path for international students to apply to and be admitted into India's most prestigious universities while offering them all the social and cultural assistance they need. Some top-ranked U.S. and Australian Universities are already talking about setting up campuses in India. It remains to be seen if these campuses can attract international students in the way Study in India seeks to grow.However, the aforementioned AGMRD report lists several important obstacles, including excessive bureaucracy, safety worries, language problems, and doubts about academic quality. Students have identified a lack of support services, poor campus facilities, and inconsistent English education as the main barriers to their learning and integration.

Ways to attract studentsToday, not many companies in India offer competitive remuneration that is comparable to what students in the U.S. or Europe would have received. R. Subrahmanyan, a former Secretary in the Indian government, says, "Why do students travel abroad to further their education? It encompasses more than just an institution's calibre or the degree it offers. Crucially, it is for well-paying jobs that are commensurate with the level of study, time, and money a student spends on their higher education."According to him, this basically suggests that working in India after completing your studies is not seen as a desirable option. According to student comments, delays and communication gaps persist even after the establishment of a dedicated portal. Furthermore, even though colleges have been invited to take part in the programme, many of them are ill-equipped or unmotivated to offer a globally competitive academic and cultural environment.This stands in stark contrast to successful international education destinations such as the United States, the United Kingdom, Australia, and even up-and-coming hubs like Malaysia and the United Arab Emirates. These nations offer international students comprehensive orientation, mentorship,

and alumni support services in addition to strong infrastructure and highly regarded universities.Even when it is reasonably priced, India's existing product frequently lacks the ecology needed for long-term reputation-building and retention. Despite the government's best efforts, such as bilateral education agreements and scholarship programmes, these structural weaknesses have not been sufficiently addressed. Better execution is what's needed.First and foremost, India needs to implement a cohesive, well-thought-out foreign marketing plan that not only advertises its colleges but also presents a hospitable and uniform image throughout the world. In this narrative-building effort, embassies, Indian cultural centers, and alumni living abroad can all be quite important.Starting with a 'Semester in India' is one of the calibrated methods to make studying in India a reality. This calls for an institute-to-institution collaboration in which the curriculum is exchanged and students from both sides have the chance to study in India for a semester, notes Mr. Subrahmanyan.And, indeed, online learning is a fantastic strategy to draw international students to Indian universities, particularly when combined with institutions like IITs and IIMs. An online programme from the top institute with a chance of immersive learning for a week or more, including exposure to Indian culture and society, is a great proposition. This needs structured and scalable protocols.A streamlined and time-bound visa and admissions procedure is crucial, according to those participating in Study in India. For international student admissions, establishing a single-window clearance process might greatly reduce wait times and improve the entire experience. By hiring the top industries that can provide competitive compensation packages for qualified international students, we can create a more reliable work visa system that pays well. Third, support networks and academic quality need to be strengthened. Universities must make investments in language labs, infrastructure, and cultural acculturation initiatives. This is an area where some of the best private universities are performing well.Classroom diversity and academic rigour will be enhanced by providing professors with cross-cultural teaching training and encouraging international cooperation. Lastly, safety must be given top priority as it is an unavoidable component of international movement. Building trust will be greatly aided by gender-sensitive campus programs, grievance redressal procedures, and visible safety measures.

Benefits of Indian educationA few months ago, writing in a newspaper from Delhi, Sachin Jain, an expert on international student, gave a strategic idea: presently, there are currently 400,000 GRE test takers from 190 countries. If we focus on the GRE test takers from West Asia, North Africa, Central Asia, and Southeast Asia—countries that are closer to India and where there is a desire for and appreciation of Indian higher education—we can simply begin pitching Indian institutions and their programmes.Cost and other considerations appear to favor India as we examine its potential to become a global center for education. India addresses many of the worldwide challenges faced by conventional study abroad markets, such as the lack of post-study employment possibilities, the cap on student visas, and the rising cost of living. India has a competitive edge over more conventional travel locations like the U.S., U.K., Australia, or Canada in terms of tuition costs, housing costs, post-study employment prospects, and even cultural experiences.In sum, the Study in India programme has genuine promise. India has the potential to play a significant role in the global education scene because of its extensive English-speaking population, centuries-old academic traditions, and expanding economy. However, by tackling the major systemic problems and placing the needs of the students at the forefront of the reform process, can be a great way forward.

Is this the endgame for the Maoists?

The recent killing Nambala Kesahava Rao (70) alias Basavaraju alias Ganganna in the Abujhmadh area of Chhattisgarh, has hit the banned CPI(Maoist) very hard. Getting Basavaraju, the general secretary of the party, at his headquarters, especially when he was guarded by his special protection force, which is referred to as Company no. 7, comes as a huge surprise for the left wing extremists.

They are already on the backfoot with the ongoing operations by the security forces at Karregutta in Chhattisgarh, as part of operation Kagor and Black Forest and now the elimination of their top most leader, is the biggest blow that the security forces could give to the LWE, ever since they had launched their offensive.But would the killing of Basavaraju, be termed as the 'Endgame' for the Maoist? Going by their brief six-decade existence, it may not be so.An activist from Left parties holds a placard with the picture of Nambala Keshava Rao, General secretary of the Communist Party of India (Maoist), during a protest in Hyderabad.In early 1990s, after the unified Andhra Pradesh government had launched the counter offensive with the formation of the elite anti-Naxal force the Greyhounds, the Maoists then referred to as CPI (ML) PWG (People's War Group), were reduced to just one single dalam. But they regrouped and bounced back to own up the formation of a 'liberated zone' in Chhattisgarh.But as per security analysts, things in the 1990s were different and now the entire scenario has reversed.It was the Greyhounds that had pushed the Maoists from Andhra Pradesh to Chhattisgarh and Odisha and then the police force in these states were not equipped to handle the level of guerilla warfare unleashed by the Maoists.Now, not only Telangana and Andhra have the well trained Greyhounds, who are touted to be one of

best in jungle guerilla warfare, all LWE-affected states such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha, have trained special forces to beat the extremists at their own game.Maharashtra has C-60, Odisha has SOG (Special Operations Group), and Chhattisgarh has the CRPF CoBRA and the DRG (District Reserve Guards).

At least 26 Naxalites killed in encounter in Chhattisgarh More than 26 Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in the forests along the border of Narayanpur-Bijapur districts in Chhattisgarh, officials said on Wednesday. A 'supporter' of police was killed and a police jawan was injured in the gunfight, they said.Now all the forces are not only in possession of superior firepower, they are well trained, we have strengthened our intelligence network, we have high-end technological support and the most importantly we work as a team, which includes intelligence sharing, across the States, said a senior police officer from Andhra Pradesh.In fact, it was Andhra Pradesh Police that had shared vital information about Basavaraju's location to the Chhattisgarh police, before the operation.Reaching the elusiveBasavaraju, has been elusive for the last five decades. He was never arrested since he had joined the active movement. Reaching him was not an easy task, as he was protected by at least a three layer protection ring.Sources say that apart from intelligence inputs from various sources and AP Police in particular, the members of DRG unit who undertook the operation had played a key role.Many in the DRG personnel were former surrendered Maoists from that region and they were well aware of the terrain and his hideouts. Moreover, a few months ago, a couple of Maoists from Basavaraju's close circles, including from Company 7 had surrendered. There is an indication that they could have led the forces, said a senior officer engaged in anti-Maoist operations.

Why left-arm spin is the biggest epidemic to strike Indian batsmen since 2020?



How the small but rich Indian American community votes — and why

Between 2013 and the end of 2018 when India racked up 10 consecutive home series wins with a solitary Test defeat, the batters averaged 41.55 in 438 combined innings. There was also a higher grade of 50-plus scores for Indian batters, with 41 centuries and 66 50s while losing 363 wickets to bowlers. The Indians were least troubled by left-arm spinners, who only accumulated 15.9 per cent (58) of the total wickets at a trifling 81.1 strike rate. Since 2019, India have been infested by left-arm spin attacks, conceding 122 of their 348 wickets to the club. Once a nominal challenge, left-arm spin has evolved to become the most potent bowling class to deflate India in India. The left-armers have improved their strike rate by a resounding margin to 59.3, bettering right-arm pace (66.1) and spin (64.5). Virat Kohli's six back-foot dismissals against SLA bowlers at home since 2020 (Screengrabs) Virat Kohli's six back-foot dismissals against SLA bowlers at home since 2020 (Screengrabs) Jaffer believes that left-arm spinners have evolved in probing right-handers around the bat. "The left-armers' angle poses more problems. They generally bowl stump-to-stump and batters can read the spin wrong. They challenge both the outside and inside edges plus lbws and bowled dismissals come into contention. Against off-spinners on turners, you can get away with the outside-edge plus the impact can be outside off-stump," Jaffer explains. Five of the top 10 match-bowling figures from visiting teams in India this century have been credited to left-arm spinners, three of which have cropped up within the last three years. The two-time WTC finalists have attempted to curb this specific threat in their backyard by slotting in three left-handers – Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja – in the top seven. But the staggering dips of their right-handed stars are an unabating concern. The over-dependence on training against side-arm throwers has deteriorated the defences, feels Jaffer. "The batters play side-armers a lot more to prepare for the 140-plus deliveries. They don't even face that many bowlers in training and I don't think they play spin as much compared to before. The nature of the game is to attack and I don't think today's batters focus on the defensive game that much. That probably is the issue. The first thing that comes to their mind is to attack and that can sometimes be your downfall," observes Jaffer. Rohit has fallen the most (13) to left-arm spin since 2020, with Kohli (11) and Gill (11) following suit. The out-of-favour Cheteshwar Pujara was nearly flawless countering the left-armers on the back foot and with his typical advances down the surface but fell seven times on the front foot in this phase, two more than his entire career haul between 2010-18. Shreyas Iyer was briefly favoured for his superior game against spin in the middle-order. But the Mumbaier was toppled by left-arm spin nine times in only 17 meetings before other setbacks deprived him of a spot. Even the young Sarfaraz Khan has found the initiation tricky, with three of his five sub-20 dismissals occurring at the hands of the left-armers. It was exaggerated sharply when Santner extracted Sarfaraz's off-stump on his fourth delivery during the 359-run chase in Pune. The deterioration is particularly diabolical for Rohit and Kohli at a time when left-arm spinners have become a staple presence in front-line Ranji Trophy XIs. In Jadeja, Axar and Kuldeep, healthy competition is alive even within the national set-up. Jaffer, though, does not believe playing domestic red-ball games will help them with a necessary fix. "They have played so much that they can work on the flaws on their own." After the Mumbai Test, India will only return for red-ball rigours back home next October. An unwritten spin-batting gauntlet will await India's supremos, should they opt to stay put and help rebuild a coveted home record from scratch.

How the small but rich Indian American community votes — and why

Roughly 47% respondents in IAAS 2024 identified as Democrats, down from 56% in the 2020 edition of the survey. The percentage of respondents identifying as Independents rose from 22% to 26%, and those identifying as Republican rose from 15% to 21%. The survey found that 57% of respondents lean Democratic, 27% lean Republican, and 14% are “true” Independents. Using this metric, the share



The 2020 IAAS did not find a notable difference in voting intention among men and women; this year, however, a stark gender gap has emerged. About 67% of Indian American women respondents in IAAS 2024 said they intended to vote for Harris, and only 22% said Trump; these numbers for male Indian Americans were 53% and 39% respectively.

RTO staff undertake 'padayatra' in Nagole, urge vehicle drivers to follow road safety rules



Hyderabad: A padayatra seeking to educate the vehicle drivers about aspects of road safety, wearing helmet by motorists and using seat belt while driving a car was conducted at Nagole on .The padayatra was conducted as part of Road Safety Month to spread message on road safety and the need for motorists to be careful to avoid road accidents. Messages on following traffic rules and provisions of Motor Vehicle Act apart from the importance of not driving under the influence of alcohol were also spread during the event.

India takes over Japan to become the fourth-largest economy: NITI Aayog CEO



India overtakes Japan to become the fourth largest economy in the world, Aayog CEO BVR Subrahmanyam has said. Subrahmanyam says the overall geopolitical and economic environment is favourable to India. “We are the fourth largest economy as I speak. We are a USD 4 trillion economy as I speak,” he said. Citing International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, Subrahmanyam said, India today is larger than Japan. Till 2024, India was the fifth-largest economy in the world. “It is only the US, China and Germany which are larger than India, and if we stick to what is being planned and what is being thought through, in 2.5-3 years, we will be the third largest economy,” Subrahmanyam said.

The IMF, in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report released in April had said that India is expected to be the fourth largest economy in the world with a GDP of USD 4.19 trillion in 2025, ahead of Japan. India’s nominal GDP for 2025 (FY26) is expected to be USD 4.187 billion, marginally more than the likely GDP of Japan, which is estimated at USD 4.187 billion, the IMF had said. According to IMF data, India’s per capita income has doubled from USD

1,438 in 2013-14 to USD 2,880 in 2025. The IMF in its WEO report also said the Indian economy is projected to grow at 6.2 per cent in 2025-26, slower than the earlier estimated rate of 6.5 per cent, due to escalated trade tensions and global uncertainty. “For India, the growth outlook is relatively more stable at 6.2 per cent in 2025, supported by private consumption, particularly in rural areas,” the IMF had said. According to the report, the global growth is projected at 2.8 per cent in 2025, lower by 0.5 percentage points than estimated earlier. In 2026, the global economy is estimated to grow at 3 per cent.

NITI Aayog’s approach paper titled “Viksit Rajya For Viksit Bharat @ 2047” said from being considered a part of the ‘fragile five’ economies of the world, India rose to become the top five economies of the world in just a decade. The World Bank defines high-income countries as those whose annual per capita income is more than USD 14,005 (2024- 25). India has the potential and aims to be a high-income country by 2047. The approach paper said a Viksit Bharat @ 2047 will be a USD 30 trillion economy. “It will have all the attributes of a developed country with a per capita income that is comparable to the high-income countries of the world today,” the paper said. According to the paper, in order to achieve the goal of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, an overall framework for strategic interventions and reforms based on six key building blocks, with a total of 26 themes covered across all the building blocks, has been identified. The six key building blocks are: Macro-Economic Goals and Strategy; Empowered Citizens; A Thriving and Sustainable Economy; Technology and Innovation Leadership; A Global Leader, Vishwa Bandhu; Enabling factors — Governance, Security and Justice delivery.

‘Market is growing... we need to raise surveillance and enforcement actions,’ says Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey

As markets have remained choppy amid US President Donald Trump’s tariff war and geopolitical concerns including an armed conflict between India and Pakistan, the new chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Tuhin Kanta Pandey said that faith and conviction in the Indian markets is fairly strong from the domestic retail, mutual fund as well as the institutional levels. “On April 2, when the US announced reciprocal trade tariffs, we were the least affected and we were the fastest to recover,” he said in an interview. The first issue is that we have demonstrated a lot of resilience in the Indian markets. This is a time when there has been a change... the new administration and then April (US) tariff orders. So, practically, from March 1 onwards, there has been a lot of activity and volatility, in terms of policy. I think the markets have held up fairly well in India. The way Indian markets handled April 2 when it (US reciprocal tariffs) was announced, we were the least affected and we were the fastest to recover.

The market is now fairly counterbalanced by FPIs (foreign portfolio investors) and domestic institutional investors (DIIIs). From the domestic retail, mutual fund as well as the institutional levels, I think faith and conviction in the Indian markets is fairly strong.

Indian markets, I would say, have been very resilient in these (uncertain times). Resilience also means that even that day (when armed conflict broke between India and Pakistan) when we were expecting turmoil, there were no extraordinary margin calls. There was, of course, a decline in the market, but then it recovered. While we were keeping it (markets) under watch, there were no extraordinary movements, the settlements were smooth, people could come in and exit with no difficulty, and there was no panic. This is a sign of the maturity of Indian markets. In my opinion, ease of entry and ease of exit are two sides of the same coin. If you have an ease of exit, it also ensures ease of re-entry. Secondly, regarding the buffers — if large calls are taken, then do you have (enough) buffers in place? In terms of margin money, we ensure that nobody is playing with client funds. That is a very big security if you are investing as your funds are secure. We also do not allow anybody to play with client securities. This gives retail investors a confidence that their securities and money are safe with them.

There was an issue of conflict of interest within Sebi in the recent past. When you announced some measures, you also mentioned that you will make this conflict of interest public. How far has it progressed?

I had promised that we will set up a committee and a (high-level) committee has been constituted. They are already working quite hard and they have meetings and they are taking inputs. So in the next three months they will have the report.

Do you think Sebi’s image took a dent, which led you to form this committee and that too for the board members?

I thought that narrative is there, so we have to address it. My issue was that let us address the narrative head-on. If you have a problem, in the sense that there are some questions, then we need to answer, but more in a system way. It cannot be sporadic. So, when I came here, we said we need to address (conflict of interest). I found that actually the issue required addressing, because there was also a lot of need and confusion here. In terms of conflict of interest, whenever you see the 2008 document that we had for the chairman and the board, and then there are employee regulations. I found there were virtually no public disclosures. So, some public disclosure may be there, may be of assets, may be of property, at least that’s the minimal expectation. They were also not there. The conflict of interest in SEBI’s case is much wider. It’s a very difficult concept... virtually the listed companies are everywhere. If Sebi officers are working, then where should they recuse and where should they not recuse? If you say that my cousin’s son and others are working or employed somewhere, I will not write orders. Is it okay? So you have to be really defining and clearly saying where the recusal will come, how the recusal will be recorded, and how the recusal will be maintained. Therefore, what we suggested is (to) let an independent committee, with eminent, well-meaning people and lots of experience from different sides, have a look at it and suggest a framework. This framework then will come to the board and our board will take a view, and we will implement that framework. It will help... not only Sebi, but will also really put to rest this narrative that — we have something to hide. What we have to hide, we should hide in a manner, which is actually sort of mandated — means while you are investigating, you have to be hiding and you have to reveal only when your investigation is complete. But in terms of conflicts also, what is to be reported, what is not to be reported, to whom (it is) to be reported, how (it) is to be reported — this framework needs clarity. Otherwise, there will be confusion.

Which areas in the market require regulatory changes?



This has to be worked out with industry and concerned participants. So, different departments in Sebi are engaged with different interlocutors. Normally, they have committees, associations of different kinds, and also investor associations. There could be a difference between the large and small brokers also. They are taking up larger consultations. Wherever these points will be identified, they will work out on the time frame in which they can be handled, in terms of simplification. It is time to take a relook. Some of the regulations have already been changed and modified, but many of them have not been. It is an active process which is going on.

There have been concerns raised on market manipulation, especially in the small-cap segment. What is Sebi doing to address it?

The market is growing and it has grown quite a lot. We need to accordingly increase our surveillance and enforcement actions. These have been strengthened a lot. If you see the capacity which we had five or 10 years back, it has now increased considerably, both in terms of tools and manpower. The workforce that we are hiring is young and quite technologically savvy. If you really look at some of the Sebi’s orders, you will find that a great deal of investigative work has gone into it, because we have to eventually prove to the court that we have caught it and this is the manipulation that is there. I would say that enforcement, surveillance and analysis will become our focus areas.

When you do a wider analysis, you will find the kind of people who are doing it (manipulations). Something can come as complaint-based and something can emanate from alerts. If we are trying to do things analytically, we can get a lot of alerts, and from those alerts we can do further analysis, which means that we do not have to wait for any complaint. We can ourselves look into what is happening, like if there is any ‘pump and dump’ case going on. I think we need to keep on developing a risk-based system.

Sebi is now re-examining F&O norms. Which are the areas that need review?

We are watchful of the data. This (F&O segment) is one area which we have now taken up as an activity. We will be constantly watching and analysing the data in terms of what is happening in the market. In the weekly options on the expiry day, there was a kind of extreme activity happening — just before the expiry or on the expiry day. It was almost akin to some kind of betting. Certain sanitisation measures such as terms of size of the contract, margins, and even restricting the number of expiry days in a week, were taken. These were part of the consultation papers and we have received a lot of comments. We have had discussion on this and we will take new measures based on the inputs.

When will the T+0 settlement (trades are settled on the same day) cycle be fully implemented?

People are asking how we have managed T+1 (settlement cycle). We did it first and the US followed. Many countries do not have T+1 cycle. The T+0 was not intended to be mandatory. Technology has been tested in some respects, but in order to take it further, we must also ensure that the largest number of participants must be comfortable and you have to ensure that everyone comes in. FPIs have to come in, and they should be comfortable too.

There are time zone issues, and there is also an issue of moving the money at the right time. If you want everything on the same day, then the level of preparation for every participant has to be of that order where everyone is comfortable. For us to move from T+2 to T+1, it has taken almost a year in bits and pieces. So, we are giving it a little pause, at this moment, on proceeding from T+1 to T+0. Let us stabilise T+1. It (T+0) is not mandatory and very few people are using it.

Are you using artificial intelligence (AI) to upgrade your system?

Yes, we do. AI is both a strength for us as well as a threat to our system. We have to see how AI will also make our markets vulnerable. AI also gives us a tremendous amount of facility and we are using it. We are able to process IPO documents much faster because AI is being used.

New Covid-19 subvariant detected in India: Here’s what you should know



As various states report a surge in cases of Covid-19, at least one sample of a new subvariant, NB.1.8.1, has been detected in India. This was collected and sequenced in April. The sample has been submitted to India’s Covid-19 genome sequencing consortium INSACOG from Tamil Nadu. Most of the Sar-CoV-2 samples sequenced in India over the last couple of weeks were BA.2 and JN.1 variants. Recent media reports have highlighted an increase in Covid-19 cases in Singapore and Hong Kong in the last few weeks. As per the preliminary information available, the cases are mostly mild, not associated with unusual severity or mortality.

What is NB.1.8.1?

The World Health Organisation’s Technical Advisory Group on Virus Evolution has designated the Sars-CoV-2 variant NB.1.8.1 as ‘Variant Under Monitoring’ — a variant with significant changes in virus characteristics but whose epidemiological impact remains unclear. The variant is derived from a recombinant ancestor XDV.1.5.1, with the earliest samples reported from January 22, 2025. This variant carries six mutations in the spike protein as compared to

the currently circulating LP 8.1 and eight mutations as compared to JN.1. Some of these mutations are known to be linked to increased affinity to the human receptors which could increase its transmission, and a reduction in neutralisation, which could result in the virus evading existing immunity more effectively. As of May 18, there were 518 NB.1.8.1 sequences submitted to the global Covid-19 genome sequence database from 22 countries, representing 10.7 per cent of the globally available sequences.

Do we need to worry?

“This is also a sub-lineage of the Omicron variant and does not appear to be lethal. So far, there is no sign that NB.1.8.1 causes more severe illness than previous strains. But it binds to human cells faster. Early research from China suggests the variant binds more effectively to human cells, which could make it more contagious than its predecessors. Hence it is more easily transmissible,” says Dr Jatin Ahuja, infectious disease specialist at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, Delhi. Although we do not have a specific vaccine for this sub-variant, he says, the Omicron wave not too long ago can give us some protection. “Past infection can still trigger memory T cells which can sense the similarity of the virus and can limit disease severity,” says Dr Ahuja. Symptoms too are similar like sore throat, cough and fever, all akin to symptoms of flu-like illnesses. Just rest, hydrate yourself, self-isolate and take antivirals. Those with co-morbidities need to mask up and be more hygiene-conscious.

How prepared is India?

The Director General of Health Services (DGHS) has found the current Covid-19 situation in India to be under control. Almost all of the cases so far have been mild, with no hospitalization required. A robust system for surveillance of respiratory viral illnesses, including Covid-19, also exists in the country through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) and ICMR. The Health Ministry remains vigilant and proactive in monitoring the situation closely.

Piano man Billy Joel’s rare brain disorder: Why we need to watch these symptoms in those above 60

Singer-songwriter Billy Joel has said he has been diagnosed with a neurological condition that prevents him from performing for some time. He is suffering from normal pressure hydrocephalus (NPH), where the fluids inside your brain cavities are overproduced, cannot be absorbed and accumulate over time. This is a medical malady that is both under-recognised and frequently misinterpreted. Joel has cited disturbances in balance, hearing and vision.

What Is Normal Pressure Hydrocephalus?

At first glance, the term normal pressure hydrocephalus appears oxymoronic — how can a condition characterised by fluid accumulation in the brain occur under “normal” pressure? Your body makes just enough cerebro-spinal fluid (CSF) that nourishes the brain and spinal cord and can be absorbed. Here CSF is in excess and cannot be absorbed by the body. Hence it settles in the ventricles or chambers of the brain, enlarging them and compressing adjacent brain tissue. Yet the pressure within the skull remains seemingly within normal limits, thus eluding easy detection.

What about symptoms?

The condition manifests through a triad of symptoms that are as disruptive as they are subtle:

Gait disturbances, often mistaken for clumsiness or frailty;

Cognitive impairment, echoing the early murmurings of dementia;

Urinary incontinence, a loss of bladder control.

Most patients have trouble walking, develop balance problems and have falls. They complain of forgetfulness, confusion, depression and cannot follow questions.

What causes normal pressure hydrocephalus?

The normal flow of CSF throughout the brain and spinal cord gets blocked. This could be because of past injuries or bleeding, infection, brain tumor, or surgery. The extra fluid and pressure can lead to brain damage over time.

Why diagnosis is difficult?

CBSE’s sugar boards in schools: How menu change without fast food can curb Type 2 diabetes in children

This is a story of two 12-year-old food addicts, separated by geographies but united by their food choices. A boy in Kochi ordered burgers and fries twice a day, alternating between McDonald’s and KFC for variety. His counterpart in Delhi lived on carbohydrates exclusively, beginning with cheeseburger buns for breakfast, albeit homemade, rice and rajma at school lunch, sub-sandwiches as filler snacks, chocolate chip cookies or pastries for hungry bites and cheesy pastas for dinner. All of these were interspersed with Coke cans or energy drinks. Both of them gained weight and were diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, a condition where the sugar-regulating hormone insulin is not enough to keep blood sugar levels in range. Both boys had built addictive behaviours because of unchecked and indulgent food habits in their early years without a commensurate increase in physical activity and sticking to desk-bound routines given their academic pressure. A 2023 report by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) found the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes in the 10 to 19 age group as almost two per cent. In metropolitan areas, this figure was as high as 3–4 per cent.

How much sugar is your child having? How much sugar is your child having?

That’s why the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has mandated the establishment of sugar boards in affiliated schools to modify children’s habit-forming behaviour from the very beginning. As part of this effort, schools will remove high-sugar, high-fat items like sodas, chocolates and pastries from the canteen and come up with healthier menus. They will also help build awareness on calorie-dense foods and their health impacts.

THE BEGINNING OF AN ADDICTION The Kochi boy was introduced to fast food during twice-a-week outings. This turned to one meal every day and soon multiple meals a day. “When his parents came to me, their child’s food addiction was akin to a drug. That’s what processed, packaged, high sugar, high salt and high fat food does. He would shout, cry and break things around the house, compelling his parents to keep some frozen fries and burgers in the fridge. In fact, they moved back from the Middle East to

Kerala to curb his addiction,” says Dr Jothydev Kesavadev, founder and chairman of Jothydev’s Diabetes Research Centre in Kerala. The child now suffers from obesity, Type 2 diabetes and liver disease. “While these conditions can be managed with medication, we have to address the underlying problem of food addiction. Just diet correction won’t help, this child has to be counselled,” says Dr Jothydev.

Extreme cases may need paediatric doses of newer anti-obesity drugs like semaglutide. The expanded label now includes semaglutide’s use in adolescents 12 years or older, who have a very high body mass index (BMI). Its use is advised along with a reduced-calorie meal plan and increased physical activity. “These drugs can address the craving for energy-dense foods. Due to their action on the hypothalamus, these drugs are now thought to be effective in addressing several types of addictions,” says Dr Jothydev. The key, however, is to prevent the condition instead of treating it once it happens. The CBSE noted a significant increase in Type-2 diabetes among children over the past decade, adding that sugar constitutes 13 per cent of the daily calorie intake of children between the ages of four and 10 years and 15 per cent for those between the ages of 11 and 18 years. This is much higher than the recommended five per cent. Schools are getting proactive too. “We have more than 120 doctor-parents and I have roped them in to help with plans to lower sugar in children’s diets. We are teaching children about the glycemic index — a measure of how quickly food raises blood sugar — of different food items. We are telling them how they can replace certain high sugar or high carbohydrate items from their diet. For example, they can have shikanji instead of Coke or energy drinks, they can replace their roti at night with millets,” says Sudha Acharya, principal, ITL Public School, Dwarka, Delhi. Before the summer vacations, the school is even teaching children how to plan their weekly meals and maintain a chart of what they are eating. “This is an effort to take healthy eating habits home. Because if the family is having chole bhature, the child is likely to,” she says. Acharya has made sure that the school canteen serves healthy options only. “It does not serve cold drinks, fried snacks such as samosa or aloo bonda.

We suffered in Asian Cup, says Sandesh Jhingan



GNS News Agency, May 30

Hyderabad: It's no secret that the March FIFA window left a sour taste in the mouths of the Indian men's national team players and head coach Manolo Márquez. While the wait for a first win in 16 months came to an end against the Maldives, defender Sandesh Jhingan admitted that the goalless draw with Bangladesh was a substandard start to the Asian Cup Qualifiers.

The next challenge on the road to Saudi Arabia 2027 is Hong Kong, a side led by former Bengaluru FC coach Ashley Westwood. India had beaten Hong Kong 4-0 in

Kolkata during the qualifiers for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, with Jhingan playing the full 90 minutes. "Ashley is there now, and he brings his own system. He was with Bengaluru FC and also did well with Afghanistan. But the team has changed a lot, and a new coach coming in makes a lot of difference," centre-back Jhingan said. "We keep preparing for that and want to impose our system and style on the game. Team bonding is something which, I can assure you, will never be an issue for us. We are in it together," he said.

It was the first time since June 2023 that India kept two clean sheets in a row. That's one side of the picture. For Jhingan, the bigger picture is that clean sheets are not enough, and only victory can satisfy the Blue Tigers. "If my boys up front are not scoring and I just go in the dressing room and start bashing them for that, it would be the most stupid thing I could do," he said. "The three tournaments – SAFF Championship, Intercontinental Cup and the Tri-Nation Series – tell us that our squad has the potential. We suffered in the last Asian Cup, and I accept that, and I'll be the first one to put my hand up," he said. "I remember when I joined the national team back in 2013 and debuted in 2015, we were ranked 173. I don't think many people had hopes for us. We've had many moments like this since then, but we made it to two consecutive Asian Cups for the first time ever," Jhingan said.

Srikanth Kidambi after runner-up finish at Malaysia Masters: 'Feels special to be back on podium, just want to keep myself happy'

Srikanth Kidambi said on Sunday that for someone who had been quite used to finishing on podiums earlier in his career, it felt special to finally end a long wait as he capped a remarkable campaign with a runner-up finish at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament on Sunday. Srikanth went down in straight games to China's world No. 4 Li Shi Feng in the men's singles final and admitted it wasn't the level he wanted to be at for the title clash. The 32-year-old, who charted a long road back from injuries and missed opportunities, made his first BWF World Tour final in six years, starting from the qualifiers and riding a resurgent wave all the way to the title clash. However, the former world No. 1 was erratic and struggled to break through the second-seeded Li's solid defence and was unable to convert openings, eventually losing in 11-21 9-21 in 36 minutes. Here's what Srikanth had to tell BWF media after finishing a fine week and returning to the podium as the runner-up:

What is your headline from this week?

Pretty good week. It's my third tournament also (in this swing). Played decently well in the first two as well but couldn't really win those matches. But pretty happy with the way how it went so far (in Malaysia). Not exactly the way I wanted to be today but still I think he played really well. You do realise you're one of the more romantic stories to have come out of this. People are very happy to see you back, including umpires. Where have you been and what's this return about?

I know, my chair umpire was also asking where have you been! I didn't know people really missed me. But yeah, very happy to be back again. And obviously, I fell during the Singapore Open last year, and then I had to take a little off time. But then again, it got a little extended, more than I thought. And then I also got married last year in November. So that's another break. I started again from January. It's



always tough when you're coming back from an injury and also from break. And then, when you haven't really played too many matches it's not easy to come directly and play the tournament. It took some time. I think the positive of everything is that I'm feeling better physically. So I just want to continue from here.

What's this hunt about? What are you after?

I'm just very happy to be back playing again. I just want to keep myself happy, that's it.

And when you look at this silver, when you were standing on the podium, just general thoughts and emotions?

Yeah, obviously again, it's been a while. There was a point in my career where I was pretty used to being standing there and then it's been a while. So to be back again on the podium really feels special. Yeah. So basically, again going back in 2001 when Gopi bhैया had won that All England title, I kind of started imagining myself playing on the centre court with only lights projecting on the centre court. I've always dreamt of it. And it's always good to be playing such matches and again, unless you reach finals, it doesn't really happen. So I'm very happy to be again playing like that.

'People in charge seem to forget what the player has done...': KL Rahul on challenge of 'proving myself all the time'



GNS News Agency, May 30

KL Rahul admitted it was a challenge to prove himself across roles and formats for India. (BCCI) KL Rahul admitted it was a challenge to prove himself across roles and formats for India. (BCCI) Nearly 15 months after his and India's ODI World Cup final heartbreak in Ahmedabad, KL Rahul was at the heart of a momentous Champions Trophy in Dubai as the Men in Blue ended the 50-over title jinx after 12 years.

After starting with a crucial cameo in India's semi-final victory over Australia, Rahul candidly expressed the frustrations of having to consistently prove his detractors wrong while adjusting to multiple roles, ranging from an opener to middle-order bat and wicket-keeper across formats within months. "Whenever I perform well in a series and then take a break from the ODI circuit, I always face questions upon my return after 4-5 months. People wonder if I'll even make the playing XI or where I'll fit into the team. It makes me think at times, 'What more can I do?' But no matter where I've been asked to play, I've always given my best, and I believe I've executed my role to the best of my ability," Rahul said in the post-match press conference then. Speaking in a Sky Sports interview with former England captain, Nasser Hussain, Rahul opened up on the challenge of having to prove himself over and over again. The Karnataka batter also said he found it challenging that



the people in charge of making decisions tend to forget his contributions across the board.

"I don't mind proving myself all the time. That's how any sport is – to always perform in every tournament. That's the case with international cricketers anywhere in the world. But that's not the hard part – it's the people who make the decisions who seem to forget what the player has done in the recent tournament. It has been the challenge for me," he said in an interview for Sky Sports. The 33-year-old felt that the comments might be the same again when he returns to the ODI team in August when India will play three matches in Bangladesh.

"The next ODI tournament might be after five months because it's going to be a long English Test summer and you see people writing and commenting 'we need to look for players who can play the 2027 World Cup or the World Cup after that.' But it's not just a challenge for me but every cricketer goes through it. I got a bit emotional during the press conference (after Champions Trophy semifinal) and said that," he further added. The IPL 2025 season with Delhi Capitals has been no different for Rahul as he juggled between being a middle-order keeper-bat as well as stop-gap measure as an opener. Rahul racked up his fifth IPL century opening the batting in his second outing in the slot and tallied 539 runs at a near-150 strike rate for the season.

'If I get an opportunity to represent the country, nothing like it': Cheteshwar Pujara



GNS News Agency, May 30

Cheteshwar Pujara India test team Cheteshwar Pujara vice captain of India batting during day two of the 2nd test match between India and New Zealand held at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on the 4th December 2021.

The experienced Cheteshwar Pujara said that he still dreams to be a part of the Indian Test team but stated that he does not have any regrets over his career. "I won't mind if I get an opportunity (to play for India again), but definitely, yes, at this stage I am someone who likes to be at present," Pujara said during an online interaction organised by Sony Sports Network. "If I get an opportunity to represent the country, nothing like it, that will be the best thing. But at the same

time I am someone who is at peace, who likes to be in the present and carry on doing what I do. The career so far has been fantastic, I don't have any regrets," he added.

The 37-year-old last played a Test match for India during the World Test Championship (WTC) final against Australia in June, 2023. He has 7195 runs from 103 Tests at an average of 43.60. "I enjoy my cricket, so as long as I am enjoying my cricket, I will carry on. I do practice, I do work on my fitness. Whatever happens next is something which I can't control but I always control the things which I can, which is to enjoy the game as long as I am playing, whether at domestic level, club game or county cricket," he added. The veteran batter also talked about the challenges new India Test skipper Shubman Gill will play when India travel to England for a 5-match Test series next month.

"When you go abroad as a captain, whether you are young or matured, it will be challenging. To start off in England, it won't be easy for Shubman but it's a great opportunity for a young player. If he leads well in England it will boost his confidence. The reason he has been given the responsibility ahead of Jasprit Bumrah is because we are hearing that Bumrah will not be able to play all five Test matches," Pujara said. "So if Shubman has been given the responsibility, the team management and selectors are thinking that he could lead the team for a long time," he added.

Shubman Gill banks on Rohit-Kohli-Ashwin blueprint to conquer England in new Test captaincy era

GNS News Agency, May 30

The Indian red-ball cricket officially moved to a new era with the announcement of Shubman Gill as the new captain in the Test format on Saturday. The 25-year-old's first assignment will be a stern task to lead India for a five-match Test tour of England, where his deputy will be wicketkeeper batter Rishabh Pant. Gill said getting India's captaincy has been "overwhelming", but it is a dream-come-true moment for him. "It is definitely a bit overwhelming. As a young kid, when anyone starts playing cricket, they want to play for India — and not just play for India, but play Test cricket for India for a very long time," said Gill in a video released by the BCCI. "I'm looking forward to this exciting opportunity. And I think the series, the upcoming series in England, is going to be a very exciting one. I believe in leading by example, not just by performance, but also off the field by discipline and hard work," he added.

Speaking on what captaincy means to him and how he sees this challenge. He said, "As a captain, a leader should be able to know when to step in, but also when to give space to the players, because everyone has kind of had a different life and grown up differently. Everyone has a different personality. So a good leader should always be able to know what makes his players perform at their best



or achieve the best outcome." Gill also said that former Indian Test captains Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had "very contrasting styles" of leadership. However, the two stalwarts, along with spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, have given the Indian team the "blueprint to win" Test series away from home. "(The) guys like Rohit bhai, Virat bhai and Ashwin bhai... they have given us a blueprint on how to tour away from home and win matches and series. Yes, it's one thing to be able to deliver and execute, but because we have that blueprint, we know how to tour away from home and win matches and series," he said.

'I want to get back in the T20 team and the World Cup is in my mind': KL Rahul

GNS News Agency, May 30

India batter KL Rahul said that he has an eye on the upcoming T20 World Cup set to take place in India and Sri Lanka next year after missing out on lifting the trophy with the national team at Barbados in 2024. Rahul has had a decent IPL season, having scored 539 but couldn't help Delhi Capitals qualify for the playoffs. If you have seen how my career has gone, I don't think I really had a choice or I have never been a player to speak with the selectors and sit with the captain and tell the captain that this is what I want to do. I just want to be in the team and whatever challenge is thrown at me, I have found that's better for me to adapt to rather than me trying to sit and think about what I need to do. When the role is given to me and the coaches and the captain and the selectors tell me that look this is what we are expecting for you, may be No.5, maybe No. 6, open the batting. Yeah, that sort of gives me a clarity and then I work around my game," Rahul said in a Sky Sports interview with former England skipper Nasser Hussain.

"Yes, I want to get back in the T20 team and the World Cup is in my mind, but for now it's just trying to enjoy how I'm playing right now," he added. Speaking in the same interview, Rahul opened up on the challenge of having to prove himself over and over again. The Karnataka batter also said he found it challenging that the people in charge of making decisions tend to forget his contributions across the board.



"I don't mind proving myself all the time. That's how any sport is – to always perform in every tournament. That's the case with international cricketers anywhere in the world. But that's not the hard part – it's the people who make the decisions who seem to forget what the player has done in the recent tournament. It has been the challenge for me," he said. "I don't mind proving myself all the time. That's how any sport is – to always perform in every tournament. That's the case with international cricketers anywhere in the world. But that's not the hard part – it's the people who make the decisions who seem to forget what the player has done in the recent tournament. It has been the challenge for me," he said.

All you need to know about Last Chance Qualifier — final qualification path for chess at Esports World Cup 2025

GNS News Agency, May 30

The 'Last Chance Qualifier' LCQ — the final qualification path for chess at the Esports World Cup (EWC) — has been announced recently, as the DreamHack Dallas 2025 event will act as the LCQ, filling up the last four spots for the EWC 2025. The DreamHack festival, set to happen from May 23 to 23 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Centre in Dallas, is an open-to-all event where any professional or amateur player can participate and confirm their spot for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia's capital city, where the EWC 2025 will take place.

Earlier, 12 players were finalised in the EWC roster for chess through the two-leg Champions Chess Tour 2025. Five-time world champion and world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen, world No. 3 and popular Twitch and YouTube streamer Hikaru Nakamura and reigning co-world blitz champion Ian Nepomniachtchi qualified for EWC after finishing in the top three of CCT's first event, the Chessable Masters, which was played in February. Nine other players, including India's Arjun Erigaisi — the only player from this country — confirmed their spots through the second leg of CCT, the Chess.com Classic 2025.

R. Praggnanandhaa missed out on qualification just by a whisker, and alongside him, players like Aravindh Chithambaram and Nihal Sarin — both of whom signed with an Indian Esports organisation, S8UL — and current world champion D. Gukesh might try their luck to qualify for the lucrative EWC through the LCQ. The EWC will offer prize money of \$1.5 million (12.8 cr) with a time control set to be



R. Praggnanandhaa missed out on qualification just by a whisker, and alongside him, players like Aravindh Chithambaram and Nihal Sarin — both of whom signed with an Indian Esports organisation, S8UL — and current world champion D. Gukesh might try their luck to qualify for the lucrative EWC through the LCQ.

10 minutes for the entire game with no increment (10+0).

What is the Esports World Cup?

The Esports World Cup brings together top esports clubs across 24 popular titles. EWC 2025 will run in Riyadh from July 7 to August 24, featuring chess as an online event for the first time. The inaugural 2024 edition spanned eight weeks, while the 2025 event will be history's largest multi-title esports tournament with 2,000+ players, 200+ teams, and a \$70 million (~602 crore) prize pool.

Ace movie review: Vijay Sethupathi, Rukmini Vasanth's crime comedy is yet another disaster that uses Yogi Babu as the butt of tasteless jokes



Ace movie review: Coincidences happen; they can be nice and fun too, particularly in crime and action comedies. But relying solely on coincidences at almost every juncture is simply convenient and lazy writing. Writer-director Arumuga Kumar's Ace proves exactly that.

From the moment Vijay Sethupathi's character lands in Malaysia, his life becomes a series of conveniently crafted "coincidences". Immediately after stepping out of the airport, Arivu (Yogi Babu) appears before him 'out of the blue'. In an extremely clichéd moment, Arivu asks him if he is Bolt Kannan, claiming "this is what he would look like" and then proceeds to rattle off all sorts of details about Kannan. For someone who is definitely not Bolt Kannan but is in dire need of a disguise, this is just too convenient to pass up. Without asking for any ID or proof (and that too in this era), Arivu confirms that he is Kannan and takes him to live in a neighbourhood largely inhabited by Tamils. The real Bolt Kannan was summoned to Malaysia to work as a chef at a food joint run by Arivu's love interest, Kalpana (Divya Pillai), and thus Vijay's character conveniently lands a job as well. Totally coincidental.

In his new neighbourhood, he meets a pretty young woman, Rukmini Vasanth, in an eponymous role, and they, of course, have a rocky start. Nonetheless, he immediately develops feelings for her. Then, they keep running into each other, not just in their locality, but in other parts of the city too, as if someone is scripting their story and desperately wants them to keep meeting so they can eventually fall in love. The coincidences keep stacking up. At the exact moment when Rukmini wants some people to be beaten up, Kannan appears and does the job, completely altering her opinion of him. And before long, she falls for him; totally coincidental, especially considering the film offers no proper explanation for her change of heart. All we're shown is the two of them talking and laughing, with a song, "Urugudhu Urugudhu," playing in the background. I thought such unimaginative storytelling was a thing of the past. Clearly not. As if these weren't enough, both Kalpana and Rukmini are facing conveniently timed financial crises. Kalpana needs a large sum to settle a bank debt tied to her food joint, while Rukmini needs a huge amount to escape the clutches of her ruthless stepfather, police officer Raja Dorai (portrayed extremely poorly by Babloo Prithiveeraj). But fret not; Kannan is here to save the day. A pro poker player, he tries to make money through gambling. However, his plan backfires (probably one of the few times things don't go his way), and he ends up just as deeply in debt to mafia don Dharma (a decent BS Avinash). Desperate, he robs a bank. And yes, the heist is just as casually written as it sounds —

'Gucci goes desi': Alia Bhatt stuns in brand's first-ever saree at Cannes 2025 closing ceremony

Alia Bhatt gave us a couture moment at Cannes on Saturday, wearing Gucci's first-ever saree. After turning heads at two Met Galas, her Cannes debut was long overdue, and she made the most of her two days in the French Riviera. From the Schiaparelli floral-detailed mermaid-cut gown to the Armani Privé Fall 2025 look, Alia's looks made global headlines. On May 24, as the 78th Cannes Film Festival came to a close, the Heart of Stone actor arrived draped in silver mesh fabric, adorned with Swarovski crystals and featuring Gucci's signature GG logo.

For the closing ceremony, Alia Bhatt was joined by celebrities like Halle Berry, Payal Kapadia, Jeremy Strong and Dieudo Hamadi, among others. The Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani star chose a lehenga-style drape from the Italian luxury house that took a bold step in blending Indian tradition with their signature style for the final look. Unlike a traditional saree, the outfit didn't have any pleats and was drenched in small Swarovski crystals stitched to the side and centre. She paired the look with a matching deep-neck blouse and a figure-hugging skirt in a nude hue. The matching dupatta, draped over her shoulder, was spread to the side, adding drama. Unlike her previous two looks, this time her makeup was bolder, with winged eyeliner, dewy cheeks, and a nude lip. She sealed the look with a Chopard diamond necklace and let her hair flow freely.

Earlier in the day, Alia Bhatt showcased some major vintage glamour in a mustard yellow Gucci outfit, slaying French fashion with an old Hollywood vibe. She dropped a string of photos on her Instagram handle, captioning the mood with emojis. To complete the look, Alia added a matching cropped jacket, floral printed silk scarf and a pair of sun-

Jennifer Lopez is proud the way her career has shaped up

Los Angeles: Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez is looking back at her illustrious career and feels extremely "proud" of the same. The 55-year-old star, who has enjoyed huge success in the music and film industries, has been reflecting on her career arc ahead of hosting the American Music Awards, reports 'Female First UK'.

Jennifer told 'People' magazine, "Everything feels like I just did it. I remember the moments. I remember getting dressed for them. I remember things people said when we were walking to the stage afterwards." "So it's all these amazing core memories of my life that when you look back on them, I don't know that I get emotional, but I get like, 'Wow'. Happy. I've been doing this and I'm proud of that".

As per 'Female First UK', Jennifer recently sat down to watch some of her old performances, and the chart-topping star was struck by how much she's developed as an artist. The 'Jenny from the Block' hitmaker is also relishing

rushed and completely devoid of tension or planning. Meanwhile, Kannan also wins a jackpot worth nearly the same amount he stole; just imagine the level of coincidences that happen in his life.

However, the police soon get some clues regarding the robber and commence a probe. From that point on, while the sheer level of convenience and coincidences starts to taper off and a few obstacles come Kannan's way, things don't improve significantly. Kumar continues to take the easy routes, throwing in some half-baked thriller elements too, thereby ruining even the slight potential this part of the narrative had. Although Ace had the potential to be a thrilling and fun crime comedy, the intrigue at its core is completely undermined by Kumar's extremely lazy writing. Laden with overused tropes and painfully clichéd jokes, Ace is not only poorly constructed but even more poorly executed, ultimately turning the film into a complete trainwreck. Another major drawback of the film is its unnecessary subplots, particularly the one involving Raja Dorai. While we repeatedly see him blackmailing a young woman with her sex tape, one would naturally expect this aspect or her character to play a more significant role in the larger narrative. But no; she is simply reduced to a background presence with no meaningful development or resolution.

Also, how much longer will Tamil cinema continue to recycle the same tasteless jokes at Yogi Babu's expense? In this film, he's portrayed as a sanitation worker, and no, the makers' intentions don't appear noble. This becomes clear in the way the film attempts to extract humour from Arivu's job. On top of that, the movie also relies heavily on tired 'jokes' about his appearance. To mock someone whose skin tone and body type reflect a large segment of the Dravidian population is not only tone-deaf but also deeply offensive and regressive. Meanwhile, as conversations around the disturbing age gap between Kamal Haasan and Trisha Krishnan in the upcoming Thug Life continue, Ace falls into a similar trap by pairing a 28-year-old Rukmini opposite a 47-year-old Vijay Sethupathi. While their romance is handled with a certain degree of grace and the two do share charming on-screen chemistry, the age difference is impossible to ignore. It begs the question: was there really no alternative to pairing these two actors, if not for the entrenched patriarchal mindset that male leads are "ageless", while their female counterparts are not? The makers could have easily chosen an age-appropriate casting by retaining just one of them; the fact that they didn't speaks volumes.

Amidst all its issues, what works in Ace's favour is the adorable chemistry between the lead cast. Vijay Sethupathi and Yogi Babu are a delight to watch, making one wish for a better film that does justice to their dynamic. Vijay and Rukmini's interactions also bring a certain warmth and spark to the screen. While none of the performances are particularly remarkable, especially considering these actors have delivered far stronger work in the past, they do their best with what they've been given. Karan B Rawat's cinematography, Justin Prabhakaran's enchanting music and Sam CS's exceptional background score also contribute to keeping the film from becoming a complete disaster.

Ace movie cast: Vijay Sethupathi, Rukmini Vasanth, Yogi Babu

Ace movie director: Arumuga Kumar

Ace movie rating: 1.5 stars



glasses. For the day, she opted for yet another minimal makeup look styled by Rhea Kapoor.

In between her two big Cannes Red Carpet appearances, Alia also attended a L'Oréal event as their brand ambassador, honouring the women's voice initiative. She wore a strapless black strapless gown by Armani Privé, with a bejewelled neckline and matching headpiece. Her hair pulled back, with no accessories and just a diamond ring, it was elegant and clean. After keeping her Cannes arrival a secret until the last moment, Alia Bhatt stunned in a mermaid-style gown from Schiaparelli's Spring 2025 Couture collection on May 23. The off-shoulder dress featured a sweetheart neckline, intricate floral detailing, and a corset-style bodice. She kept her makeup soft and her hair pulled back in a neat bun, accessorising only with pearl earrings and a diamond ring.

the challenge of hosting the American Music Awards. She said, "We were just looking at it to see the progression of the stuff that we've done. I don't know, it's just a very important part of my musical career and life. It was created as an answer, kind of, to the Grammys, which was voted by an academy, and this was really about the fans. And I think that's what makes it special, is that the fans vote for these awards and tell you, 'This is music we love from the year.'"

Jennifer previously insisted that she doesn't judge herself by commercial success. The singer explained that she isn't worried at all by her critics. Speaking to IndieWire, Jennifer explained, "There's going to be things that are huge commercial successes, and there's going to be things that are super critically acclaimed, and then there's going to be mixed things, and then there are going to be things that people don't like. But at the end of the day, none of that matters as an artist".

When Twinkle Khanna said 'my whole life is a joke' and called herself an unserious person: 'A lot of funny things happen to me'



Actor-turned-author Twinkle Khanna has long been known for her wit and sharp sense of humour. While many today can't help but chuckle at Twinkle's funny takes on everyday life, her charm and humour were just as present during her time as an actor in the film industry. An old clip of Twinkle has resurfaced, in which she calls her life "a joke" and describes herself as an "unserious" person.

Speaking to Lehren once, Twinkle opened up about

Hansal Mehta on Mukul Dev: 'Behind the laughter and bravado was a man struggling to reconcile with...'

Filmmaker Hansal Mehta on Sunday posted an emotional tribute for his friend Mukul Dev, remembering him as a "devastatingly handsome" artist who gave him the story for the 2017 critical hit Omerta. Dev, best known for his roles in films such as Son of Sardaar, Yamla Pagla Deewana and Jai Ho, passed away on Friday night in New Delhi due to ailing health, said his brother Rahul Dev. The actor's last rites were performed in the national capital.

In a heartfelt Instagram post, Hansal Mehta wrote, "As the weight of this loss settles in, I realise there's still so much more I want to say about my friend Mukul." "I will miss Mukul deeply. His booming laughter at our inside jokes, his unmatched gift for storytelling, that unmistakable voice... He acted in two of my unreleased films and a TV show—somehow in the shadows of it all, we became very close. We bonded over booze, broken hearts, and the foolish hope that things would one day make sense. For years, we were gym buddies, pushing each other through reps and regrets," he added. Describing Mukul Dev as someone whose charm could "light up a stadium", Hansal Mehta said he had all the makings of a successful film star. A former model, Dev made his acting debut with the 1996 movie Dastak opposite another newcomer, 1994 Miss Universe crown winner Sushmita Sen.

"He had what most people only dream of: a dream launch, big directors, prominent co-stars. He had the look, the talent, the pedigree. But his career became a collection of missed opportunities and near breakthroughs. A story of what could've been. A string of 'what ifs'. "And I think those what ifs chipped away at his spirit. Slowly, quietly, they filled him with a sense of defeat and resignation—an ache that often found its only solace in booze. Behind the laughter and bravado was a man struggling to reconcile with the dreams that eluded him," he added. Hansal Mehta said Mukul Dev was a "gifted writer" and added that the actor gave him the story of Omerta back in 2003. The 2017 movie featured Rajkumar Rao as British-born Pakistani terror-

Aishwarya Rai calls daughter Aaradhya Bachchan 'my baby' ahead of her Cannes red carpet walk: 'Here we go again'

Aishwarya Rai stunned everyone with her red carpet looks at the 78th Cannes film festival. On the second day, the actor donned a custom Gaurav Gupta black gown. And now, the designer has posted a glimpse of Aishwarya, all set to walk the red carpet. In one of the videos, Aishwarya can be seen coming out of her hotel room and walking in the hallway with her daughter Aaradhya Bachchan and team. Giving flying kisses to the designer, she says, "Gaurav, GG," as he replies, "Hey, you look really beautiful." Aaradhya also gives Aishwarya a subtle kiss an inch away from her face to avoid spoiling her makeup as the actor says, "And my baby, here we go again!"

Sharing the carousel on his Instagram handle, Gaurav Gupta wrote in the caption, "Since you all wanted more... She truly is the ultimate beauty. The true woman. Ethereal, Eternal, Enchanting. There is that something special always to Aishwarya Rai Bachchan @aishwaryaraibachchan_arb. The Queen of Cannes is here!! In custom @gauravguptaofficial at 78th Cannes Film Festival. @lorealparis @chopard. Styled by @alliaandnayaab Placement by @boseh1."

Apart from Cannes, Aaradhya often accompanies her mother on various work trips and frequently attends other red-carpet events with her. In an interview with Firstpost, Aishwarya opened up about taking her daughter along and said, "I take her with me everywhere so she is a part of my multi-tasking life. I keep it as real for her as possible, and very normal. Now she is in school like any normal girl. But even when she was a toddler, I'd take her to the play-park to be with other children. It becomes difficult in Mumbai. But when I'm travelling, I take her out to the park. Even there, there are people who recognise us. But they are normal parents and children. Aaradhya has to have a normal life. I've explained to her that is my life and now she's part of it. So she's comfortable in it." She added, "It didn't just

her fondness for doing more comedy films, as she enjoys bringing that side of her personality to the big screen. She said, "I like comedy because in real life I am not a very serious person. I am clumsy and bumbling around, so yeah, I think my whole life is a joke. So I like doing comedy. A lot of funny things happen to me, or I at least look at them in a funny way, so I like to portray that side of me. I also look like a delicate person, but I am not. I am very tough."

In an earlier interaction with Divya Jain, Twinkle also spoke about her parents — veteran actors Dimple Kapadia and Rajesh Khanna — not letting her follow her own path and instead encouraging her to pursue a career in acting. "Like many people here, I'm sure, whatever their parents did... if they had a mithai shop, you became a mithaiwala. It was as simple as that. My parents were very keen, my mother was very keen. I had applied for my CA entrance exam, because that's what I wanted to do, strangely. And my mother told me, 'This is the only time that you can become an actress, and later you can do what you like.' "Twinkle's career in films was short-lived. She made her debut with Barsaat in 1995 and went on to star in films like Jab Pyaar Kisise Hota Hai, International Khiladi, Baadshah, Mela, and more. Her last film was Love Ke Liye Kuch Bhi Karega, which was released in 2001. After quitting acting, Twinkle turned to writing and authored several bestselling books, including Mrs Funnybones, The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad, Pyjamas Are Forgiving, and Welcome to Paradise. Though she bid adieu to acting, Twinkle continued her association with cinema by producing films featuring her husband, actor Akshay Kumar. These include Pad Man, Khiladi 786 and Patiala House.



ist Omar Saeed Sheikh, who was freed in exchange for passengers of a hijacked Indian Airlines plane in 1999 and was later accused of killing journalist Daniel Pearl. "I remember the joy in his voice when the film was finally made, the pride when he saw it with festival audiences, and that infectious excitement when his name came up in the writing credits.

"Every time we spoke, he'd chuckle and say, 'Hansie, kya film banayi yaar. International. Soch bhi nahi sakta tha ki aisi film mein I'd have a writing credit. This is so good for me.' That credit made him feel seen. Respected. Validated. I just wish we had done more together," Mehta said. Recalling their last conversation, the filmmaker said it was filled with their trademark banter and a "fake Feroz Khan accent" that they used between them. "But behind the laughter, I sensed something heavier—a quiet sadness, an air of disappointment, a kind of loneliness he never really shared. Go well, my beautiful, broken, brilliant friend. Phir Milenge," he concluded the post.



In one of the videos, Aishwarya can be seen coming out of her hotel room and walking in the hallway with her daughter Aaradhya Bachchan and team. Giving flying kisses to the designer, she says, "Gaurav, GG," as he replies,

happen. One has to work on it, channel all energies into keeping it all real and normal for Aaradhya. I am glad I took time off to work on looking after her. When people meet Aaradhya, they say she's such a normal child. That's my reward as a mother."