

INDIAN CHRONICLE

29 June, 2025 Sunday | Volume No:13| Issue No:117 Pages: 8+8

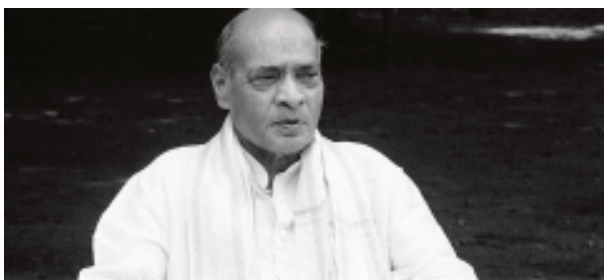
www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹ 3

PwDs of all categories can submit applications till July 5

Hyderabad, June 28 : The Department for Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Transgender Prsons/Telangana Vikalangula Cooperative Corporation is inviting applications from the eligible PwDs for providing Aids & Appliances. The last date was fixed for submission of applications is June 18, 2025. The last date was extended up to June 27, 2025. However, the above said date is extended till July 5, 2025 for receiving applications from the PwDs in the State. Hence, the PwDs of all categories in the State are informed to submit the applications through <https://tgobmms.cgg.gov.in>. The web portal is kept open for submission of applications till July 5, 2025 by the eligible PwDs.

Modi lauds former PM P.V. Narasimha Rao for 'effective leadership' in crucial phase



GNS News Agency, June 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday (June 28, 2025) paid tributes to former prime minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary, saying India is grateful to him for his "effective leadership" during a crucial phase of its development trajectory. Narasimha Rao's premiership during 1991-96 is considered the most defining period in the country's economic journey as, with India facing a serious balance of payment crisis, he unshackled the state control on economy and opened it to private players. This paved the way for a long era of growth better than what was seen in the past. P.V. Narasimha Rao was given the country's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna, posthumously by the Modi government last year.

Singareni accident insurance scheme is a model for nation: Bhatti

Hyderabad, June 28 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu handed over an accident insurance cheque of Rs.1.20 crore to the family of a Singareni employee. As part of the free accident insurance scheme being implemented in Singareni following the directions of the State Government, the Deputy Chief Minister handed over a cheque for Rs.1.20 crore to the family of a worker who recently lost his life in an accident. The event took place on Saturday at Mahatma Jyotirao Phule Praja Bhavan, where Bhatti Vikramarka presented the cheque to Latha, the wife of the deceased worker Pendri Ranjith Kumar, who worked as a support man in the Ramagundam-1 Area of Singareni. Pendri Ranjith Kumar had a salary account in the State Bank of India and recently passed away in a road accident. Following the nomination made by the deceased, an insurance amount of Rs.1.20 crore has been paid to his wife, Latha, under the accident insurance scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the Rs.1.20 crore accident insurance scheme being implemented in Singareni should serve as a model not only for public sector undertakings, but also for all states across the country. He said the scheme was introduced to ensure financial security for the families of workers in the event of unforeseen accidents so that they do not fall into distress. The Deputy Chief Minister also assured that compassionate appointment papers would be provided soon to the deceased worker's family. Principal Secretary of the Energy department Naveen Mittal, Singareni CMD N. Balam, REDCO Vice Chairperson and MD Aneela, SBI DGM Neelakshi Singh, Regional Manager Suresh Kumar, Executive Director (Coal Movement) S.D.M. Subhani and other officials participated in the programme.

Harish Rao demands govt give two lakh jobs, release fee reimbursement dues

Hyderabad, June 28 : Former minister Harish Rao today met the students and unemployed people at Telangana Bhavan in the city. After the meeting, he spoke at a media conference. He urged the unemployed youth from Osmania University and various districts to come and support the Chalo Secretariat program. He said the BRS party would fight inside and outside the assembly until all the promises made by the Revanth Reddy government were implemented. Harish Rao said the BRS party would stand by the students and unemployed people. He said the BRS party and former CM KCR had worked hard to amend the President's orders and ensure that 95% of jobs go to local people. He said the BRS government had given 162,000 jobs. He alleged that the Revanth Reddy government was doing Goebbels' propaganda against their government. He said Revanth Reddy released the job calendar in the assembly only when they questioned him strongly. Harish Rao alleged that the State government that announced the job calendar immediately adjourned the assembly and ran away without discussing it in the House. He criticized that the notifications were not given as mentioned in the job calendar. He reminded that the job calendar said the vacant posts would be filled in all departments like SPDCL, Forest, Group services, DSC, Police, But so far, not a single notification had been released by it. He was furious that this was a fake calendar. Harish Rao criticized that the Mega DSC had become a fake DSC. He also said the students and unemployed people had been waiting for the job notifications for months and added that even after 20 months, the Revanth government had not given the job notifications.

PM Modi interacts with astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla

GNS News Agency, June 28

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has interacted with Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who is aboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of the Axiom-4 mission, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said on Saturday.

Group Captain Shukla created history on Wednesday (June 25, 2025) by embarking on a journey to the ISS as part of a commercial mission operated by Axiom



Space, along with three other astronauts. This marks the first space journey by an Indian astronaut in 41 years

since Rakesh Sharma flew aboard a Russian spacecraft. After the launch of the Axiom-4 mission on

Wednesday (June 25, 2025), Mr. Modi, in a post on X, said, "We welcome the successful launch of the Space Mission carrying astronauts from India, Hungary, Poland and the US. The Indian Astronaut, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla is on the way to become the first Indian to go to International Space Station.

He carries with him the wishes, hopes and aspirations of 1.4 billion Indians. Wish him and other astronauts all the success!"

Leaders pay tributes to PV Narasimha Rao on birth anniversary

Hyderabad, June 28 Leaders cutting across the party lines in Telangana on Friday paid rich tributes to former prime minister late P V Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy paid tributes to the portrait of PV Narasimha Rao at his residence here on Saturday. On the occasion, he remembered the services of PV and praised for his invaluable services to the country as a polyglot, writer and father of economic reforms. Revanth Reddy said that PV's role in leading the country on the path of progress was invaluable. Chief Minister's Advisor Vem Narender Reddy, Tungaturthi MLA Mandula Samel, Sathupalli



MLA Matta Ragamayi, Tourism Corporation Chairman Patel Ramesh Reddy also paid tributes to the late former prime minister.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and

Konda Surekha and Congress senior leader V Hanumantha Rao paid tributes to PV Narasimha Rao at PV Ghat on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka said that PV, as Prime Minister and Chief Minister,

brought many reforms in various sectors and reminded that with economic reforms, India had become a strong economic power in the world.

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar said the PV Narasimha Rao Memorial in Wangara village will be completed before the birth anniversary. The Minister praised PV for bringing many economic reforms in India and becoming a guide for the entire world. He stated that PV's services in the country's economic sector are unforgettable. On the other hand, Minister for Labour and Mines Dr. G. Vivek Venkataswamy also remembered former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and paid tributes to him.

CS inaugurates National HRD Network's new office in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, June 28 Chief Secretary K Ramakrishna Rao inaugurated the National HRD Network's new office in Banjara Hills on Saturday. The National HRD Network (NHRDN) has set up its state-of-the-art facilities in the office and this modern facility marks an important milestone in NHRDN's unwavering commitment to advancing human resource development across the country, exemplifying its dedication to fostering excellence, innovation, and sustainable growth. This ambitious project, spearheaded by the Hyderabad Chapter, is envisioned as a central hub for leadership development, professional certification programs, and skill enhancement initiatives. It has been meticulously designed to serve as a collaborative space, promoting dialogue, continuous learning, and the exchange of best practices among HR professionals from various sectors. This new facility is a testament to our collective vision for a stronger human capital foundation in India," stated Dr. Vipul Singh, President of the NHRDN Hyderabad Chapter. "It will serve as a dynamic ecosystem for HR professionals, fostering



knowledge sharing and skill enhancement that is critical for today's evolving workforce. We are poised to make a significant contribution to the professional growth of HR practitioners, particularly here in Hyderabad," he added.

Article 370 opposed Ambedkar's one Constitution vision; says CJI Gavai



GNS News Agency, June 28

Nagpur: Chief Justice of India B R Gavai on Saturday said Dr B R Ambedkar envisioned one Constitution for the country to keep it united and never favoured the idea of a separate constitution for a state. Speaking at the inauguration of the Constitution Preamble Park here, the CJI said the Supreme Court drew inspiration from Dr Ambedkar's vision of a united India under a single constitution while upholding the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370 that

granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir. Gavai was part of a five-judge Constitution bench, headed by then Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, that unanimously upheld the Centre's decision to abrogate Article 370, which bestowed special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. "When Article 370 was challenged, it came before us, and when the hearing was underway, I recalled Dr Babasaheb's words that one Constitution is suited for a country... If we want to keep the country united, we need only one Constitution," he said, while addressing the gathering in Marathi. On August 5, 2019, the Centre decided to strip Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and divide it into two Union Territories. Gavai said Dr Ambedkar had been criticised, saying the Constitution provides for too much federalism, and in times of war, the country may not remain united. However, he had responded, saying the Constitution would suit all the challenges and keep the nation united, the CJI said. "See the situation in the neighbouring countries, be it Pakistan, Bangladesh or Sri Lanka. Whenever our country faces challenges, it has remained united," Gavai said. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said he was happy that CJI Gavai inaugurated the Constitution Preamble Park and unveiled a statue of Dr Ambedkar. Freedom, equality and brotherhood were Dr Ambedkar's valuable gift to the country in the form of the Constitution, he said.

Journalists' accreditation cards' validity extended

Hyderabad, June 28 : The Special Commissioner of the State Information & Public Relations Department CH Priyanka today issued orders extending the accreditation cards (identity card) validity of working journalists in the State for another three months. The accreditation cards will expire on the 30th of this month. The officials of the State Information & Public Relations Department stated that this period was being extended for another three months due to various reasons. To this extent, the Collectors of the respective districts and the RTC officials have already been informed about the extension of the accreditation card period from July 1, 2025 to September 31, 2025.

New State BJP presidents will be elected on July 1



Hyderabad, June 28 The BJP's organizational election process has accelerated. The party leadership has intensified its efforts to elect new presidents for the Telugu States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The election process for both the States has been completed almost simultaneously and the stage has been set for announcing the new leaders on July 1.

The Party leadership has announced the election schedule to this effect. The party, in a statement stated that a notification would be issued on Sunday (June 29) for the election of the Telangana BJP State president. Nominations will be received from aspiring candidates on June 30. The election process will be held on July 1. The process of the election has also started in AP. A notification for the election of the BJP State president has been issued in Andhra Pradesh. The party leadership has ordered that this process be completed in just three days. These details were revealed by the party's State election officer and Rajya Sabha member Paka Satyanarayana at a media conference in Vijayawada. He said the nominations would be accepted on June 30 and the deadline for withdrawal of nominations will be by the evening of the same day. He clarified that the process of electing a new party president will be completed by July 1.

BRS Chief condoles demise of Journalist Swetcha Votarkar



Hyderabad: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) president K Chandrashekar Rao on Saturday expressed deep sorrow over the tragic demise of Swetcha Votarkar, a journalist and poet known for her contributions to the Telangana movement. In a statement, Rao described Swetcha's untimely death as a profound loss and highlighted her growth as a socially conscious poet and journalist. He extended his heartfelt condolences to her family, particularly noting the grief of her parents, Shankar and Sridevi, who were active participants in the Telangana statehood movement.

District Collector Emphasizes Holistic Development — Urges Students to Focus on Education and Well-being



"“PS Ashokan” Indian Chronicle “Manthani Rural, June 28: “In a surprise inspection, Peddapalli District Collector Sri Koya Sri Harsha IAS visited the Minority Residential School in Ramayyapalli village, Manthani Mandal, and underscored the need for students to prioritize both academic excellence and physical well-being. “During the visit, the Collector meticulously examined the dormitory facilities, kitchen area, and reviewed the progress of the Junior College construction works. He also inspected the food stock, including rice and vegetables, appreciating the staff for maintaining hygienic and orderly conditions. “The Collector engaged in an interactive session with the students, posing thoughtful questions about the quality of instruction, nutritional standards of hostel meals, availability of basic amenities, and overall sanitation practices.” “Education is a powerful tool for transformation. With sincere effort and the right guidance, students can shape successful and meaningful futures,” the Collector affirmed.”

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India has done well by not signing the SCO joint statement

By not signing a tendentious joint statement at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meet, India has made it clear that it will never allow Pakistan and its supporters to peddle their narrative at international forums. The draft statement did not have any reference to the Pahalgalam terror attack in which 26 innocent lives were lost, but it did mention the Jaffar Express hijacking in Pakistan in March. Addressing the SCO gathering, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh spoke about the Pahalgalam attack and the ensuing Operation Sindoor. He articulated Delhi's stand on terrorism in unambiguous terms: "Peace and prosperity cannot co-exist with terrorism and proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in the hands of non-state actors and terror groups. Dealing with these challenges requires decisive action... Some countries use cross-border terrorism as an instrument of policy and provide shelter to terrorists. There should be no place for such double standards. SCO should not hesitate to criticise such nations." The double standards continue because China, the wannabe superpower, keeps supporting and abetting Pakistan to chafe and fret India by whatever means possible, including jihad.

Over the decades, China has provided Pakistan with military hardware, financial bailouts, nuclear assistance, and diplomatic cover on the world stage. This is not born out of altruism or ideological affinity—neither exists—but of a deliberate maneuver to keep India perpetually engaged in regional skirmishes, border tensions, and security concerns, thereby slowing down its strategic and economic ascent. Beijing's strategy is part of a broader geopolitical playbook often referred to as the 'String of Pearls' or the policy of 'encirclement.'

A request was submitted to Minister Seethakka requesting to make Bodu Mandal.



“Bhadradi Kothagudem, June 27, Indian Chronicle: Tekulapalli Mandal Youth Congress Vice President Chiluvu Chandra Shekhar on Friday submitted a request to Telangana State Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Minister Seethakka requesting to link Bodu village in Tekulapalli Mandal and 12 surrounding gram panchayats and establish it as Bodu Mandal headquarters. Later, he said that it is very troublesome for farmers to go to Tekulapalli, the mandal headquarters, which is 22 kilometers away, to obtain caste, income, and residence certificates and land title certificates. He said that injustice was done in Bodu when new mandals were formed in the past in Telangana State. Requests were submitted to the RTO, MPDO, Tahsildar, ZPTC, and MPP many times to establish Bodu Mandal headquarters. After holding a dharna in front of the RDO office and submitting a petition, they did us injustice by not setting up a center in Bodu Mandal at that time, promising to set up a center. They again requested Panchayat Raj Minister Seethakka to take the initiative and set up a center in Bodu mandal as the Bodu mandal center. The minister said that he responded positively.

PV was best social reformer: Bhatti

Hyderabad, June 28 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao was the best social reformer who laid the foundations for an egalitarian society by implementing land reforms in Telangana as Chief Minister, following the initiatives of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Speaking to the media on Saturday after paying floral tributes at PV Ghat on Necklace Road, he said it is a matter of great pride that the former Prime Minister, Bharat Ratna awardee, and architect of economic reforms was born in our state.

He highlighted that PV brought in several reforms as a Minister, Chief Minister, Union Minister and later as Prime Minister, which immensely benefitted society. As the country's first Human Resource Development Minister, PV laid the groundwork for democratic values by advocating for a uniform system of education for all, Bhatti recalled. He noted that when PV took charge as Prime Minister, the country was facing economic and political crises. Despite many challenges, PV brought stability and strength to the nation's political and economic systems. Bhatti Vikramarka freed the nation's gold reserves that were pledged and turned India into a globally strong economy through his economic reforms. He added that during Congress rule, over 24 lakh acres of land were distributed to the poor. However, in the last ten years, those who governed the state caused great hardship to the poor through the Dharani portal and allowed land encroachments. The Deputy Chief Minister criticised the previous administration for undermining the land rights of the poor. To reclaim and restore the lands that were once distributed, the current state government has introduced the Bhoobharati Act to protect the existence and rights of the underprivileged, he explained. Bhatti Vikramarka affirmed that the People's Government and the Congress party are fully committed to following PV Narasimha Rao's path without deviation and paid rich tributes on the occasion of PV's birth anniversary.

Congress Village President Joins BJP, Inspired by PM Modi's Visionary Leadership.



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“June,28““In a significant political development, Shri Mulukalla Srinivas, the Village Committee President of the Congress Party from Parikipally village in Kataram Mandal, officially joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today.““Motivated by the dynamic leadership and transformative developmental initiatives spearheaded by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Srinivas embraced the BJP's ideology and vision for a progressive India. He was warmly welcomed into the party fold by BJP State Leader Shri Challa Narayana Reddy, who ceremoniously draped him with the party's saffron scarf.““

The induction event witnessed the active participation of several prominent BJP leaders, including Mandal President Shri Page Ranjith, former Mandal President Shri Bhaskar Reddy, Shri Durgam Tirupati, Shri Srisailam Yadav, Shri Bandi Ramesh, Shri Rajayya, Dr. Shafi, among others. Their presence added significance to the occasion and underscored the growing strength and appeal of the BJP at the grassroots level.““The event marked yet another example of the BJP's expanding influence, as leaders across party lines continue to express their faith in the party's mission of inclusive growth, national unity, and good governance.

TUDA chairman seeks support from district collector per urban development..



“June 28 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator““Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) Chairman, Dollars Diwakar Reddy, met with the District Collector, Sri Venkateshwar, today to request comprehensive support for the development activities of the urban authority.““The Chairman paid a courtesy visit to the Collector at the Collectorate on Saturday, where he presented a bouquet and a shawl as a mark of respect.““During their discussion, Mr. Reddy briefed the Collector on the ongoing development projects within the TUDA limits. He empha-



sized that TUDA is in the process of finalizing plans to create essential infrastructure in villages and rural areas across all constituencies under its purview. He also noted that efforts are underway to secure the necessary financial resources to fund these ambitious projects.““Responding to the request, District Collector Sri Venkateshwar assured the TUDA Chairman of his full assistance and cooperation for the development of TUDA.““The meeting highlighted the collaborative efforts between TUDA and the district administration to promote planned and sustainable urban growth in the Tirupati region.

Manthani to Emerge as a Model Constituency Through Strategic Development: Minister D. Sridhar Babu.“



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani,June 28.“““Telangana State Minister for IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu emphasized the need for a strategic, planned, and inclusive approach to the holistic development of the Manthani Assembly Constituency.““The Minister, along with District Collector Sri Koya Sri Harsha, convened a high-level review meeting with officials from four mandals at Shiva Kiran Gardens, Manthani. Officials from various departments including Electricity, Civil Supplies, Singareni Collieries, Health, Irrigation, Education, Rural Development, National Highways Land Acquisition, and Mission Bhagiratha participated and presented progress reports.““Key Directives Issued by the Minister:““ Fertilizer and Seed Availability:“The Minister clarified that fertilizers and seeds are available in sufficient quantities. He appealed to farmers not to panic over false rumours and assured uninterrupted supply.““ Electricity Infrastructure:“To meet future peak electricity demands, the Minister directed officials to establish new substations and additional power lines. He instructed immediate foundation laying at Gangadevipalli and proposed the setup of a 132 KV substation at Machupeta.““He further ordered rectification of voltage fluctuations in Manthani town and emphasized village-wise issue resolution over the next three months.““ Civil Supplies & Pilot Project:“The Minister announced the issuance of 1,417 new ration cards, covering 12,559 beneficiaries, and emphasized timely distribution to all eligible families.““He proposed a pilot initiative to establish a mini-supermarket adjacent to a ration shop, enhancing access to daily essentials.““ Healthcare Services:“Expressing concern over the frequent referral of patients from Manthani Area Hospital to other centers, the Minister issued firm orders to treat patients locally. He mandated the implementation of biometric attendance and announced a dedicated hospital performance review next month.““He also instructed the DMHO to monitor the progress of sub-center constructions, ensure availability of medical equipment, and report issues directly to the Collector.““Drinking Water Supply:“To ensure stable potable water supply, proposals were requested within a week for the revival of old water supply systems alongside Mission Bhagiratha. The Minister urged the examination of restoration possibilities for defunct rural water schemes.““Irrigation & Canal Works:“He ordered immediate desilting of SRSP canals, to be completed on a war-footing within one month,



and advised integrating these tasks regularly under MGNREGS.““Pending DPRs of irrigation projects must be finalized, with simultaneous processing of forest clearances. He stressed that farmers with podu land titles should not be harassed, and no unauthorized deforestation should take place.““?? Transportation Development:“The Minister suggested 10-day trial runs for new rural bus routes and revealed that modernization works for Manthani Bus Stand will soon begin, with the Transport Minister laying the foundation stone shortly.““?? Indiramma Housing - Material Price Control:“Officials were advised to monitor and regulate the prices of cement, steel, and bricks, engaging with traders through mandal-level price regulation committees to prevent exploitation.““?? Departmental Progress Reports:“The Minister directed that status reports on works sanctioned under ACDP, Panchayat Raj, and Roads & Buildings Departments be prepared and submitted within one week.““Collector's Remarks:““District Collector Sri Koya Sri Harsha stated that in Sundilla village, an enjoyment survey was conducted for compensation to eligible beneficiaries of Singareni mining lease lands. A Gram Sabha was held to ensure only rightful beneficiaries receive compensation.““Compensation will be disbursed within a week to 52 eligible farmers, and 80% of awards related to National Highway land acquisition have been passed, with payments to follow shortly.““Welfare Cheque Distribution:““Earlier, the Minister distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and CMRF cheques worth approximately 24 crore to beneficiaries from Ramagiri, Mutharam, and Manthani mandals.““Participants:““The program witnessed participation from RDO Sri Suresh, senior officials from various departments, elected public representatives, and local leaders.““Issued by:“Office of the Minister for IT, Industries & Legislative Affairs“Government of Telangana

TPCC chief pays tributes to PV Narasimha Rao

Hyderabad, June 28 On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, we pay tributes TPCC president & MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said.

He said P.V. Narasimha Rao was not just a politician, but a distinguished scholar — a polyglot, poet, author, journalist, and translator with immense knowledge. He was a true embodiment of simplicity and statesmanship. The services rendered by P.V. Narasimha Rao to the nation and the Congress Party are unforgettable. His legacy must be remembered as a source of inspiration for future generations. The economic reforms initiated by him are the foundation on which India is moving towards becoming a 5 trillion-dollar economy today. Full credit for this progress goes to P.V. Narasimha Rao. He introduced several innovative reforms in the education sector. It was during his tenure that Navodaya Vidyalayas were established, paving the way for quality education for lakhs of students, he added.

Decisive Action Initiated Against Non-RNI Publications Circulating Misleading Content.



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“June,28““The Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) has issued categorical and uncompromising directives to the State Departments of Information and Public Relations to take stringent measures against the proliferation of unauthorized and unregistered publications — especially those lacking valid RNI (Registrar of Newspapers for India) registration and TEL numbers.““These directives follow growing concerns over non-accredited media entities disseminating fabricated, speculative, and agenda-driven narratives, particularly via PDF-based journals and social media channels, thereby misinforming and misleading the public.““Manipulative Media Practices Under National Surveillance.““The move was catalyzed by a formal grievance submitted to the PRGI by senior journalist Sri S. Narahari Nageshwara Prasad of Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, highlighting the widespread circulation of fictitious and unsubstantiated reports by pseudo-publications across the Telugu states.““After a meticulous examination of the representations, the PRGI has resolved to initiate a systematic purge of non-compliant publications. It observed that several of these outlets have been engaging in deliberate misinformation campaigns, often portraying distorted facts about central and state governments, while exploiting constitutional freedoms in an unethical manner.““Official Gazette Notification and Mandatory Compliance““Through its recent notification, the PRGI has declared that any publication operating without statutory registration under the RNI Act shall not be deemed authentic or legitimate for public communication. It further warned that any propagation of counterfeit news or defamatory content by such entities will attract legal prosecution under applicable media and cyber laws.““Additionally, all publications are now mandated to adhere to **

Spandana Model School Students Excel with Top Ranks in SEMS Olympiad



— A Moment of Pride!“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani,June,28.““Students of 8 Incline Colony Spandana Model School have brought immense pride to the institution by securing top ranks in the prestigious SEMS Olympiad Foundation Examinations conducted in March 2025.““The results, which were announced last week, revealed outstanding performances by three of our bright students:““T. Vyshnavi (Class X) secured State 2nd Rank““K. Prasastha Sri (Class VIII) secured State 4th Rank““P. Ashwin also secured State 4th Rank““In recognition of their remarkable achievements, the students were felicitated today at a grand function held at Sundarayya Vignana Bhavan, Bagh Lingampally, Hyderabad. They were honoured with appreciation mementos and cash awards.““The awards were presented by SEMS Foundation Chairman Shri Arukala Ramchandra Reddy Garu, along with Mohan Reddy Garu.““From Spandana Model School, the event was graced

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under the instructions of my client Sri Nidadavolu Venkata Durgarao S/o Ramajogeeswara Rao, Age: 56 Years, Occ: Business, R/o H.No. 12-1-27/1, Market Road, Bhadrachalam Town & Mandal, Bhadradi Kothagudem District-507111 it is informed to all the public that, My client lost his original Document i.e. AGPA vide Doc No. 13136/2003 SRO Uppal, R.R. District on 13-06-2025 at Bhadrachalam. Thereby it is informed to the public at large that, any kind of transactions undertaken by anyone using the above document does not carry any rights not biding upon my client. Dt. 27-06-2025

M.V. Prasada Rao
Advocate
Bhadrachalam-507111
Cell No. 9550272897

Minister Sridhar Babu Pays Glowing Tributes to Former Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao on His Birth Anniversary



“PS Ashokan”Indian Chronicle“Manthani, June 28”“On the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna nominee and former Prime Minister Sri P. V. Narasimha Rao, Telangana Minister for IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu paid floral tributes at the late leader’s portrait, commemorating his immense contributions to India’s political and economic landscape.”“The tribute ceremony was held in Manthani, the birthplace of Sri Narasimha Rao, who is revered as a national icon, statesman, and reformist intellectual. The Minister garlanded the portrait and offered heartfelt respects, highlighting PV’s towering legacy as the first Telugu-speaking Prime Minister of India, a polyglot scholar fluent in over 10 languages, and the visionary architect of India’s landmark economic liberalization in the early 1990s.”“PV’s Enduring Legacy Lauded”“Speaking on the occasion, Minister Sridhar Babu described Sri Narasimha Rao as a symbol of intellectual depth, administrative acumen, and political foresight who not only steered India through a major economic crisis but also laid the foundation for the modern Indian economy.”“> “Sri PV Narasimha Rao was not just a son of Telangana, but a son of India, whose courage to

embrace bold reforms changed the trajectory of our nation. His leadership opened India’s economy to the world and enabled the growth story we are witnessing today,” said the Minister.”“The Minister recalled that Sri Narasimha Rao’s statesmanship spanned across literature, law, governance, and international diplomacy. He was not only a proficient administrator but also a scholar, writer, and thinker, whose contributions continue to inspire generations.”

“Call to Establish PV’s Ideals in Public Life”“Minister Sridhar Babu urged youth and public servants to draw inspiration from Sri Narasimha Rao’s life, and to emulate his values of discipline, vision, and silent determination. He stressed the need to incorporate PV’s progressive ideas in public policy and educational reforms in Telangana and across the nation.”“He also reiterated the Government of Telangana’s commitment to preserve and promote the memory of PV Narasimha Rao by supporting cultural and educational initiatives in his name.”“The commemorative event was attended by public representatives, officials, intellectuals, and local citizens who joined in paying homage to one of India’s greatest statesmen.

Distinguished Tax Professional Rangi Nagesh Honoured for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Tax Law



“PS Ashokan “Indian Chronicle”“Hyderabad, June 28.”“Veteran tax consultant and former President of the Telangana Tax Practitioners Association (TTPA), Sri Rangi Nagesh, a proud native of Manthani, was felicitated with high honours during the 54th Annual General Meeting of the Telangana and Andhra Pradesh Tax Bar Association, held in Hyderabad on Saturday.”“Addressing the august gathering, Association President Sri Hitesh Jain praised Sri Rangi Nagesh’s exemplary services and unwavering dedi-

cation to the tax profession.”“> “Sri Nagesh has served the TTPA and AITFP with unmatched commitment and integrity. He is known for his inclusive leadership style, clear legal insight, and his ability to offer precise and practical solutions to complex issues,” he stated.”“The dignitaries who graced the occasion and spoke in appreciation included:”“Sri Hitesh Jain – President”“Sri Vemula Chandrasekhar – General Secretary”“Sri Ashish Joshi – Treasurer”“Sri Kabra – Vice President”“Sri Ramana Reddy – Joint Secretary”“In recognition of his remarkable services, Sri Rangi Nagesh was ceremoniously honoured by the office bearers of both TTPA and AITFP. The tribute was a gesture of gratitude for his decades-long service, steadfast professionalism, and inspiration to the tax law fraternity.”“Khammam District President Sri Ulliboyina Saidulu also paid glowing tribute, stating:”“> “Sri Rangi Nagesh’s contributions to TTPA and AITFP are not only commendable but also worthy of permanent remembrance. He remains a guiding force and role model for practitioners across the state.”“The meeting also witnessed the announcement of new office bearers for the 2025–26 term, where:”“Sri Nemmani Someshwar was elected as Treasurer”“Sri Ajay Wahle as Joint Secretary of TTPA”“The event served as a heartfelt acknowledgment of Sri Rangi Nagesh’s legacy, whose lifelong commitment to the profession continues to elevate standards and inspire future generations in the realm of taxation and law.

Disha Book launch garners powerful voices for justice & Reform at T-Hub

Hyderabad, June 28 : The launch of Disha, a thought-provoking new novel by legal expert and social reformer Dr Ddharaniikota Ssuyodhan, took place with success on Friday at T-Hub, Hyderabad, bringing together an esteemed gathering of intellectuals, artists, bureaucrats, and civil society members. The event was graced by prominent personalities, who reflected on the urgent need to question institutional failures and advocate for justice through both art and activism.

Actress Hebah Patel, widely admired for her bold and impactful performances, captivated the audience with her words on the importance of storytelling as a catalyst for social change. She lauded Disha for amplifying the voice of women in uniform and inspiring courage. Padma Shri Awardee Dr Manjula Anagani, a renowned gynaecologist and women’s health advocate, praised the book’s honest portrayal of the challenges women face within rigid sys-

tems. “It is literature like this that helps shape a more conscious, sensitive society,” she said.

Kannan Parameshwaran, noted speaker and strategic advisor, spoke on the importance of ethics in public leadership and praised Disha for addressing deep-rooted dilemmas faced by law enforcement officials, adding depth to the discourse. Girija Shankar, IAS, (Retd), former Principal Secretary of Andhra Pradesh and also present P. Venkata Rami Reddy, IAS (Retd.). Dr Ddharaniikota Ssuyodhan, the author of Disha, shared the inspiration behind the book, stating: “Disha is not just a fictional story—it is a reflection of many real lives. It is about questioning what is considered lawful when justice remains elusive. It is dedicated to those who raise their voice when silence becomes complicity.” The event featured a ceremonial unveiling of the book, an excerpt reading by the author, and a panel discussion on the themes of justice, gender, and governance.

SCR GM conducts Safety Review Meeting concerning Train operations



Hyderabad, June 28 Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway (SCR), conducted a comprehensive safety review meeting today at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. The session focused on enhancing train safety and punctuality, particularly in view of the on-going monsoon season. Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, along with Principal Heads of Departments and Divisional Railway Managers (DRMs) from Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur, and Nanded Divisions, participated in the meeting.

The General Manager emphasized the strict implementation of safety protocols during the monsoon. He instructed officials to intensify patrolling at vulnerable locations such as tracks, bridges, and areas prone to heavy rainfall. He also directed DRMs to ensure the reliable functioning of signalling systems to prevent operational disruptions. During the review, Arun Kumar Jain discussed a recent incident involving a vehicle entering the tracks at a

level crossing between Shankarpally and Nagulapally stations. He called for enhanced safety measures at level crossings, urging staff to remain vigilant and report such incidents promptly to higher authorities. He instructed the officials to conduct awareness campaign on trespassing at the Level Crossings over the Zone. The General Manager advised that the deployment of additional RPF and track patrolling personnel to monitor and deter miscreant activities. Thorough inspection of safety-related assets to ensure passenger security and adherence to standard operating procedures at all level crossing gates across the zone, he added. Shri Arun Kumar Jain reiterated the importance of proactive and coordinated efforts to maintain safe and uninterrupted train operations, especially during adverse weather conditions.

Admissions date extended for Fashion Technology & Interior Design

Hyderabad, June 28 (NSS): Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) has extended the last date for submission of online application forms for admissions into merit based Fashion Technology & Interior Design programmes upto July 09, 2025. The Certificate, Diploma and B.Sc. programme in Fashion Technology.

MLA Talasani demands GHMC to withdraw decision to change Annapurna canteen name

Hyderabad, June 28 : Sanatnagar BRS Party MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav has strongly condemned the re-naming of Annapurna canteens after the former PM Indira Gandhi by GHMC. The BRS party corporators under the leadership of MLA Talasani staged a protest at the GHMC office.

Speaking on the occasion, Talasani Srinivas Yadav said many people come to the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad. “We have started the Annapurna canteen scheme under the leadership of former CM KCR to provide full meals to such people. It is learnt that the Congress government has decided to change the name of the Annapurna canteens. If there is an intention to change the name, a GHMC council meeting should be convened and a decision should be taken as per the approval of the majority of

the members,”said Talasani Srinivas Yadav. Stating that the Congress party has given many promises to the people, he asked it to give the six guarantees any name it wanted and added that they would have no objection to such a move. “Changing the name of the Annapurna canteens is not a good method. We have continued the name of former CM Rajasekhara Reddy, who brought Arogya Sri scheme. When we say Annapurna, Ammavaru comes to mind. If the State government has an intention to change the name of Annapurna, we demand that a discussion and voting be held in the council meeting. Today, the PJR flyover is being opened and who built it.? It is the habit of the Congress party to make a fool of itself,” he said. Talasani warned that if the name change decision is not withdrawn, they would stage a large-scale agitation.

TV anchor Swetcha commits suicide under duress



Hyderabad, June 28 : Prominent Telugu news TV anchor Swetcha Votarkar committed suicidal by hanging herself at her residence in Jawahar Nagar of Gandhi Nagar in the city on Friday night under suspicious circumstances. The police have registered a suspicious death case and are investigating the matter. Many suspicions are being ex-

pressed about the death of Swetcha. The police have registered the suspicious death case on the complaint of her parents.

Meanwhile, her father Shankar has made sensational comments on the death of Swetcha. He has accused a person named Purnachander of being responsible for the death of his daughter. He expressed his grief that Purnachander had been staying with his daughter for the last three years. He alleged that his daughter committed suicide due to his harassment. He said Purnachander had been following his daughter for three years forcing to get marry him. The postmortem of Swetcha’s body has been completed at the Gandhi Mortuary. Her body was later shifted to Parsigutta in Ramnagar for performing her last rites. BRS party leaders and leaders of various public organizations, who reached the Gandhi hospital Mortuary consoled Swetcha’s father. In such grief, her family members donated her eyes. The eyes were collected by Gandhi hospital doctors.

Konda Murali appears before Congress party’s Disciplinary Committee

Hyderabad, June 28 Former MLC and senior Congress leader Konda Murali presented himself before the Congress party’s Disciplinary Committee and provided an explanation on Saturday.

Leaders from the former Warangal district, including several MLAs, MLCs, and prominent party figures, recently filed a complaint with the party’s higher-ups against Minister Konda Surekha and her spouse, former MLC Konda Murali. They accused the couple of acting independently, failing to collaborate with other party members, and marginalising them in decision-making processes. The leaders called on AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud to initiate disciplinary measures. Subsequently, the Disciplinary Committee issued a notice to Konda Murali, requesting clarification regarding the situation. In response to the notice, Konda Murali, accompanied by a significant number

of supporters, went to Gandhi Bhavan and submitted a six-page letter to the chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, MP Mallu Ravi. Later, speaking to the media, Konda Murali mentioned that he had clarified his remarks to Mallu Ravi. “I have respect for leaders in the Congress party. Please don’t interpret my comments about certain leaders too seriously. It is well known whether I am a strong or weak individual. I simply urged the leaders to support the party workers. Revanth Reddy should return as Chief Minister. We have been advocating for the welfare of BCs for four decades. We all aspire to see Rahul Gandhi become Prime Minister,” he stated. Meanwhile, Mallu Ravi, Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, indicated that Konda Murali had provided a written explanation, and the issue would be reviewed with party officials, including TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, and AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan, before arriving at a decision.

KTR, Eatala pay tributes to former PM PV

Hyderabad, June 28 : Former minister and BRS party working president KTR today paid tribute to former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao on his birth anniversary on social media. He said Bharat Ratna PV Narasimha Rao was a reformer, a multilingual scholar, a poet, an economist, a statesman, and a lifelong student. He praised PV as a great intellectual, who brought economic reforms as the Prime Minister of India and rescued the country from a major crisis. He said PV was a great man, who handed over his own land to the government and initiated key land reforms in the country.

He recalled that the KCR government had organized the centenary celebrations of PV Narasimha Rao, who laid the foundation for Gurukul Vidyalayas and made invaluable contributions to the education sector, in a grand manner. He said the State Veterinary University was named after PV, Necklace Road was named as PV Marg, and a tall statue of PV was installed. He said the BRS government had also sent a resolution to the Centre to give Bharat Ratna to PV Narasimha Rao. He said PV’s daughter Surabhi Vani Devi was honoured with the post of MLC by his party. He said PV, the producer of new India, was born on the soil of Telangana State. On the occasion of PV Narasimha Rao’s

birth anniversary, KTR tweeted that he would like to pay tribute to him. On the other hand, MP Etala Rajender paid tribute to PV Narasimha Rao at PV Ghat. He said PV was a resident of Huzurabad and rose to prominence and became the Prime Minister of the country. “Today, we are celebrating his 104th birth anniversary with great pomp and show across Telangana. Our village is under his parliamentary constituency. People used to tell stories about him back then. He worked in the Telangana Armed Peasant Movement. When he was the Chief Minister here, he set up residential schools and produced IAS and IPS officers. When he was the Union HRD Minister at the Centre, it was PV who set up Navodaya Vidyalayas. He was the one, who made foreign policy stand tall on the world map. When he became the Prime Minister of the country, he brought liberalization and globalization at a time when the country was worried about what would happen to it due to many economic difficulties. He put the Indian economy on the path of development. He paved the way for our country’s economic situation to reach this level today. His life is a great message for the political system and leaders. We pay tribute to him on the occasion of PV Narasimha Rao’s birth anniversary,” Rajender said.

Training session on monsoon preparedness conducted

Hyderabad, June 28 The Telangana Integrated Command and Control Centre (TGICCC), under the supervision of its Director V.B. Kemalssan Reddy, IPS, (Retd), conducted a comprehensive training session on monsoon preparedness for all nominated Joint Action Teams (JATs). The session was held at the Auditorium, Tower-C, TGICCC Towers, Banjara Hills, on June 20. The training was attended by 485 members, including in-charge officers and personnel from various departments, Traffic Police, TGSPDCL, HMWS&SB, GHMC and HYDRRA. The focus of the session was on coordinated response to monsoon-related challenges, especially the management of 141 pre-identified water logging points within the GHMC limits. Key responsibilities discussed during the session included clearing of rainwater and debris, sewerage management, removal of fallen trees, restoration of electricity, road repairs, and traffic regulation during heavy rainfall incidents by minimizing response time and to ensure public safety in co-ordination with key departments. The JATs will be linked to TGICCC through MONSOON JAT TGICCC (WhatsApp group) and its sophisticated communication network of control room (8712674000), social media, etc.

Prominent speakers at the event included K. Pushpa, Superintendent of Police, TGICCC; Major Sahil Randhawa, Shourya Chakra, Telangana & Andhra Sub Area Headquarters, Damodhar Singh, Dy Commandant, NDRF, and motivational speaker Pradeep. The speakers emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination, adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and proactive ownership in disaster response. Participants were urged to address the shortcomings observed during the

previous monsoon season and to ensure efficient preparedness and response mechanisms this year.

TGICCC remains committed to enhancing the city’s disaster management capabilities through continuous training and collaboration with all stakeholders. This session was conducted followed by a high-level meeting on “Monsoon Preparedness held on May 26, 2025 with all the HoDs of Fire Services, Revenue, GHMC, HYDRRA, TGSPDCL, Medical & Health, IMD, SDRF, HMWS&SB and Tr Commissionerates Police officials.

Dattatraya pays tribute to late PV

Hyderabad, June 28 (NSS): Bandaru Dattatraya Governor of Haryana paid his humble tribute to former Prime Minister Bharat Ratna Late PV Narasimha Rao on occasion of his Birth Anniversary on June 28, 2025 at Haryana Raj Bhavan, Chandigarh.

Dattatraya said under his leadership, India embarked on a path of significant economic transformation, moving away from the socialist policies of the past and towards a market-driven economy. Late Shri PV Narasimha Rao’s leadership, who also served as Chief Minister of erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, extended beyond economics. He also managed India’s political landscape during a period of significant challenges.

Faculty crisis deepens in Telangana’s teaching hospitals despite recruitment efforts



GNS News Agency, June 28

Hyderabad: It’s not just Professors, the State-run teaching hospitals in Hyderabad and peripheral areas are also struggling due to a severe shortage of Assistant Professors, who are vital for bedside patient care. This shortage is severely impacting not only medical education but also patient care in government hospitals, a point that was raised on multiple occasions during the National Medical Commission (NMC) inspecting teams’ visit. The health department has hoped to plug the faculty shortage by transferring senior Professors to districts. However, the strict oversight of NMC inspecting teams and the threat to cancel existing MBBS medical seats have now forced the State government to seriously consider undertaking recruitment,

senior doctors on Friday said.

For the past one year or so, junior doctors and senior residents have been consistently demanding that the State government immediately begin recruiting Assistant Professors for peripheral hospitals.“Every year, approximately 1,100 postgraduate (PG) doctors complete their training in Telangana. However, due to irregular in job notifications, many are forced to seek employment in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra,” says Dr K Brahmeshwar, president of the Healthcare Reforms Doctors Association (HRDA).In the past, the health department had attempted to fill 1,450 Assistant Professor posts across 26 new Government colleges. “You need to address the core issues that contribute to the chronic shortage. The compensation packages offered in government teaching hospitals often don’t match what a doctor can potentially earn in the private sector. Unless attractive future prospects are provided, talent cannot be retained,” a senior doctor said.The junior doctors’ association, on its part, has been raising the issue of undertaking recruitment of doctors at mid and low level and emphasizing the importance of retaining talent.“Frequent revision of stipends and strengthening of faculty positions in medical colleges to ensure better working conditions and training facilities, have been a long pending demand for us. On Thursday we met the Health Minister, and he has assured us to take-up the issue with the Chief Minister,” Dr Ajay Kumar, general secretary, Telangana Junior Doctors Association (TJUDA), said.

‘Cannot go on like this’: Punjab-Rajasthan tussle over Gang Canal water escalates as MLAs continue stir, meet Governor Kataria

GNS News Agency, June 28

The long-standing issue of water-sharing through the Gang Canal has snowballed into a political and inter-state flashpoint as Congress MLAs in Rajasthan launched an indefinite sit-in protest and chain hunger strike on Monday in Sriganganagar district, which borders Punjab’s Fazilka district. The protest, backed by local farmers, is being spear-headed by the Kisan Sangharsh Morcha with the active involvement of Karanpur Congress MLA Rupinder Singh Kooner and other Opposition leaders.

The protesters have accused both the BJP-led Rajasthan government and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)-led Punjab government of negligence. “The protest is not just against Punjab. It is also against our own BJP government in Rajasthan, which has failed to represent farmers’ interests effectively. Punjab is playing ‘gimmicks’ and denying our rightful share of water,” Kuldeep Indora, Congress MP from Sriganganagar, told The Indian Express.Indora said, “Rajasthan and Punjab share water from the Gang Canal, sourced from the Harike Barrage on the Sutlej River. As per the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), both states were allocated 2,500 cusecs each for June 2025. But until June 10, Rajasthan was receiving just 600–700 cusecs. We objected, and the share was later increased to 1,800 cusecs, and finally to 2,000 cusecs from June 18. Still, we are not getting the full 100 per cent share.”He added, “It cannot go on like this, where Punjab arbitrarily increases or decreases the flow. We demand our rightful share — not a drop more, not a drop less. The Centre must intervene as BBMB is under its control.”

The hunger strike began with MLA Rupinder Kooner who was later joined by Raisinghnagar MLA Sohan Lal Nayak. MP Indora is also set to join the chain hunger strike from 6 pm on Friday to 6 pm on Saturday. “The chain hunger strike is being observed for 24 hours by each person, starting from 6 pm onwards,” said Kooner.Farmers claim the ongoing shortfall has crippled irrigation and delayed sowing of cotton and cottonseed, putting thousands of livelihoods at risk. Protesters have also raised concerns about water theft by Punjab farmers along the route of the canal from Harike to Sriganganagar, a problem allegedly ignored by both governments.In a significant development, Gurveer Singh Brar, the BJP MLA from Sadulshahar, which falls in Sriganganagar district, met Punjab Governor Gulab Chand



Kataria at the Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh on Thursday and raised the matter. The legislator also submitted a memorandum requesting immediate release of Rajasthan’s allocated share.Brar stated that even though the BBMB has allocated 2,500 cusecs to Rajasthan, “Punjab is not releasing the full amount. Water levels in the Gang Canal have been continuously falling, putting farmers in distress. While the Rajasthan government has taken up the matter repeatedly, the supply has improved, but still remains insufficient.”Following Brar’s intervention, the Punjab Governor reportedly issued directions to Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and the chief secretary to resolve the issue urgently. “With the Governor’s positive intervention, I am hopeful that this sensitive issue will be resolved soon and farmers will get relief,” the MLA added.

ICommissioned in 1927 by Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner, the Gang Canal is one of India’s oldest irrigation projects. Originally constructed to bring water from the Sutlej River (via the Harike Barrage in Punjab’s Ferozepur) to the arid lands of northern Rajasthan, especially Sriganganagar and Hanumangarh, the canal stretches over 450 km, with 215 km being within Rajasthan.The canal irrigates nearly 3.5 to 4 lakh hectares of fields and supports crucial crops such as cotton, wheat, mustard, and sugarcane. The water-sharing is governed by interstate agreements, monitored by BBMB, which is under central jurisdiction. With a designated capacity of 2,500 cusecs, the Gang Canal is a lifeline for farmers in a region which gets scarce rainfall.However, recent disruptions in the water supply have reignited the debate over interstate water rights, political accountability, and the need for intervention from the central government to ensure fair distribution of essential resources.

After viral video prompts inspection, Delhi Metro says no snake found in ladies’ coach



GNS News Agency, June 28

delhi metro, ladies coach, snake rumor, indian expressThe train was halted at Akshardham Metro station, evacuated, and sent to the depot for detailed checks. After a video showing passengers shouting after reportedly spotting a snake inside a coach went viral, the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) Friday said a baby lizard was found during inspection. The video, which was widely shared Thursday evening on Instagram, led to claims that a snake had been seen in a Delhi Metro ladies’ coach. The video shows women passengers shouting, and lifting their legs to keep them above the floor. The passengers could also be seen jumping onto the seats.When someone asks why everyone is scared, a passenger claims there is a cobra in the coach. Another passenger can be heard telling someone to knock on the driver’s door and ask him to stop the metro. However, DMRC said while no snake was visible in the footage, it took swift action once an alert was received from passengers. The train was halted at Akshardham Metro station, evacuated, and sent to the depot for detailed checks.“Although the snake is not visible in the video, it is being purportedly claimed that a snake was spotted in a ladies’ coach. Immediate action was taken upon receiving the alert,” Anuj Dayal, Principal Executive Director (Corporate Communications), DMRC, said.“Despite a meticulous check of the train footage and the coach at the depot by the concerned team, no snake was found. However, a baby lizard was spotted during the inspection,” Dayal said.He said DMRC prioritises passenger safety and that standard op-

erating procedures were followed to ensure there was no threat. “We urge passengers to remain vigilant and report any such concerns to our staff for prompt action,” he added.

SPPU is Maharashtra’s top-ranked university, secures 566th rank globally

The Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) has secured the 566th position in the recently released Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2026. QS evaluated over 8,500 universities globally, and its rankings encompass more than 1,500 universities. A total of 54 Indian universities found a spot in the rankings. SPPU is the top-ranked university in Maharashtra, and notched up the second position among public state universities in India.QS rankings involve the evaluation of universities based on five parameters with different weightage: Research and Discovery, Employability and Outcomes, Global Engagement, Learning Experience, and Sustainability. For the 2026 rankings, International Student Diversity has also been introduced as an unweighted indicator. SPPU has received a high score in the ‘Research and Discovery’ parameter due to a higher ranking in ‘Citations per Faculty’, which has shown a 124-point increase when compared to the previous year, despite a reduction in the number of faculty this year.The university has a high ‘Global Engagement’ score due to a higher ranking in ‘International Research Network’, and a high ‘Learning Experience’ score due to its performance in the ‘Faculty Student Ratio’ segment. The ‘Employment Outcomes’ score has also shown a 130-point increase over the 2025 rankings. Calculations based on these parameters have given the university a score of 29.3 out of 100.Moving forward, we remain firmly committed to further enhancing the quality of teaching, research, and global engagement in alignment with the transformative vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020...

Ganesha devotees vs historic lake: PIL in NGT to urge authorities to protect Dhamapur lake in Maharashtra



GNS News Agency, June 28

A PIL was filed at the NGT on June 10 against the immersion of idols and washing of utensils and clothes in Dhamapur lake, and to urge authorities to take greater ownership.A PIL was filed at the NGT on June 10 against the immersion of idols and washing of utensils and clothes in Dhamapur lake, and to urge authorities to take greater ownership.

More than 500 years ago, in the lush forests of Sindhudurga district, two villages, Dhamapur and Kalse, came together and constructed an earthen dam, creating a water reservoir that acted as a flood mitigation measure. The Dhamapur lake, which is a World Heritage Irrigation structure of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, is now under threat from immersed Ganesha idols. A public interest litigation (PIL) was filed at the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in Pune on June 10 against the immersion of idols and washing of utensils and clothes in Dhamapur lake, and to urge authorities to take greater ownership.“If you take a bird’s eye view of Dhamapur village, you will see that there is a Karli creek on one side and a plateau on the other. The region receives heavy rainfall, around 3,000 mm, and we can understand that there would have been flooding in those days. The earthen dam was built to stop the water flow, and a huge lake was created. After creating the lake, the villagers realised that the water could be channelled through the farm fields and then connected to the Karli creek. We see that the dynamics of this engineering were compatible with the biodiversity and ecosystem,” said Sachin Desai of the University of Life, a centre for sustainable livelihood and lifelong learning run by Syamantak Trust in Dhamapur.

He further said that the canal that winds from the field is connected to the creek. “So, the salinity of the creek water is reduced because fresh water continuously flows into it from the field,” Desai added.Around 15 years ago, the Syamantak Trust realised that the dynamics of the lake were not well-known among the local people, largely due to migration. “We saw that they were constructing a skywalk inside the lake. This was something abnormal, and a stu-

By year-end, new cable-stayed Belasis Bridge likely to ease traffic between Nagpada, Tardeo

GNS News Agency, June 28

Belasis Bridge is one of the oldest east-west bridges in the city and is located in a congested area in south Mumbai. One of the key road over bridges (ROB) in south Mumbai, the old bridge was built in 1893. The earlier structure was a conventional ROB that was found to be structurally unstable in 2018. Following this, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation mooted the proposal to demolish the bridge, and this was done in June last year.Once the new bridge becomes operational, it will ease traffic movement in areas like Tardeo, Mahalaxmi and Byculla, allowing seamless vehicular movement. The travel time between Nagpada and Tardeo will also come down to 5-7 minutes, which otherwise takes more than 20 minutes during peak hours.

The new bridge will be cable-stayed with six vehicular lanes – three times more than the existing structure – to allow more vehicles to pass at a given time. Underneath the bridge, an additional underpass will be built to facilitate citizens’ movement.At present, construction work on the new bridge is underway, and civic authorities said that civil works have reached the halfway mark.Mumbai-Belasis-Bridge The earlier deadline for this bridge was set in June 2026, however, at the start of this year, this target was preponed to November 2025. The overall cost of the bridge



has been pegged at Rs 110 crore, with the BMC paying Rs 70 crore, while the balance Rs 40 crore is being paid by the railways. The BMC has completed more than 65 per cent of the foundation work and is expecting to open the structure by the end of this year.“The primary reason why we are opting for cable-stayed bridges is to ensure that the project is completed at the earliest. The earlier deadline for this bridge was set in June 2026, however, at the start of this year, this target was preponed to November 2025, and we are eyeing to meet the target,” Abhijit Bangar, Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects), said.

How BMC is planning to tackle waterlogging in Mumbai



GNS News Agency, June 28

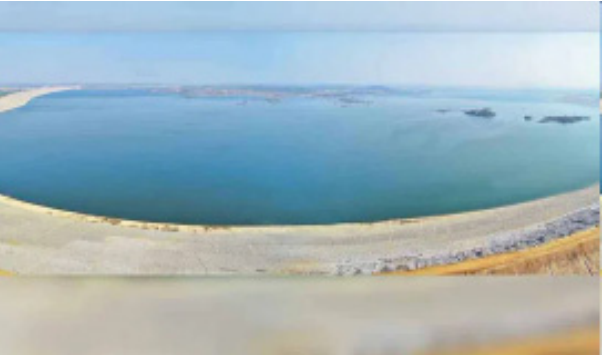
BMC, waterlogging, IoT sensors, dewatering pumps, MumbaiThis year, the BMC has installed 514 pumps across locations in the island city as well as the suburbs. With the May 26 flooding serving as a wake-up call, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is set to install Internet of Things (IoT) sensors on the dewatering pumps being set up in low-lying areas in the island city. Every year, ahead of the monsoon, the civic body identifies low-lying areas and installs dewatering pumps there. This year, the BMC has installed 514 pumps across locations in the island city as well as the suburbs.These pumps channel out the accumulated water from a particular area to the nearby drainage outlets and creeks.On May 26, following a heavy spell of rain, Mumbai almost came to a standstill due to waterlogging.Civic officials attributed this to the non-functionality of a majority of the water pumps.“Last year, in one such incident at Mumbai’s Chunabhatti, we saw that despite pumps being installed in a particular area, there was huge flooding. Later, during our investigation, we found out that the pumps were fully ready, but the contractor responsible for operating the pumps did not turn them on, and this led to severe waterlogging in the area. Therefore, as a preventive measure against such incidents, we are installing sensors in the dewatering pumps,” Abhijit Bangar, Additional Municipal Commissioner, Projects, told The IoT sensors will be motion-based and will be installed on the belts of the

pumps.These belts record a high-speed motion whenever a pump is turned on, and the sensors will be able to detect when a pump is switched on from the motion of the belt.Close to the pump, a receptor will be placed by the civic authorities, which will record the signals sent by the sensor.This receptor will transmit the recorded data from the sensor, which will have IoT chips in it, and transmit the data to the civic body’s war room.“The sensors are motion-based devices. They will record the time when the pump is switched on and will transmit information about the entire duration for which the pump operates. So, for example, if rainfall starts at 11 am, we can clearly identify when the operator has switched on the pump and whether he did that on time. Any delay in operation will be caught as a result...these pumps will also increase accountability amongst the contractors,” Bangar added.Officials said that by the end of this week, sensors will be installed in as many as 100 pumps and by the end of the next few weeks, the numbers will be augmented.

IRCTC announces ‘Divya Dakshin Yatra with Jyotirlinga’ tour from Secunderabad

GNS News Agency, June 28Hyderabad: The IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation) has announced the tour ‘Divya Dakshin Yatra with Jyotirlinga’ starting from Secunderabad railway station on July 19.The train will cover Arunachalam Temple in Tiruvannamalai, Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameswaram, Meenakshi Amman Temple in Madurai, Rock memorial, Kumari Amman Temple in Kanyakumari, Shri Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Trivandrum, Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Trichy and Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur.

How Mallanna Sagar, Kaleshwaram’s largest reservoir irrigated 12 lakh acres, lifted Manjeera river



GNS News Agency, June 28

Siddipet: Mallanna Sagar reservoir, the largest reservoir constructed under the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP), near Thoguta in Siddipet district, had become a key component in Telangana’s ambitious irrigation and water supply plan.Mallanna Sagar played a crucial role in KLIP’s integrated water network, as it supplied water to Kondapochamma Sagar, Gandhamalla, Baswapur and Singur reservoirs, reviving the Manjeera river system, and provided 30 TMCft of water for Hyderabad’s drinking and industrial needs.

While the reservoir directly irrigated 1.65 lakh acres, it also helped stabilise irrigation across 12 lakh acres, including its own command area. It supported numerous minor

irrigation tanks across Siddipet, Medak, Sangareddy, Yadadri-Bhongir and Rajanna Sircilla districts.Constructed at an elevation of 550 metres above sea level, water had been pumped into Mallanna Sagar from Ranganayaka Sagar using eight pumps. The project included two major canals, Dubbak Canal and Ramayampet Canal, which carried water to agricultural lands in Siddipet, Medak and Rajanna Sircilla districts. While the main canal works were completed, the construction of distributary canals was still in progress.

The irrigation department had proposed to fill nearly 400 minor irrigation tanks under the project. However, due to pending canal work, only 170 tanks were filled during the last Yasangi season. Despite this, water was supplied to 40,000 acres and released into Kudavelly Vagu, Haldi Vagu and other streams, leading to improved groundwater levels across the ayacut.Since its inauguration in 2022, Mallanna Sagar had impounded 19.50 TMCft of water in 2024. Authorities aimed to impound 30 TMCft this year, although the current storage stood at 10.37 TMCft against a full capacity of 50 TMCft. Water lifting operations were scheduled to begin in August, once the Godavari started flowing, with irrigation releases to follow.Likewise, Ranganayaka Sagar at Chandlapur in Siddipet had a command area of 50,000 acres and a storage capacity of 3 TMCft. Konda Pochamma Sagar, built near Markook, had a capacity of 15 TMCft and served 2.85 lakh acres directly and indirectly. At present, it held 5 TMCft of water.

How the Kaleshwaram project boosted fish and prawn production in Telangana

GNS News Agency, June 28

Hyderabad: Telangana witnessed a remarkable surge in fish and prawn production between 2014–15 and 2023–24, particularly after the commissioning of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) in 2019. The fisheries sector, once underutilised, had emerged as a significant contributor to rural livelihoods and State revenue. With the third-largest inland water spread in the country, covering 5.73 lakh sq km across tanks, lakes, and reservoirs, Telangana ranked fifth in inland fish production nationally.

Fish output rose from 1.93 lakh tonnes in 2016–17 to 4.39 lakh tonnes in 2023–24, marking a growth of 127 per cent. The value of fish production nearly tripled during this period—from Rs 2,111 crore to Rs 6,514 crore. Prawn production also recorded a 98 per cent jump, from 5,189 tonnes in 2016–17 to 16,532 tonnes in 2023–24, while its value grew from Rs 142 crore to Rs 545 crore.The turnaround began in 2017–18, when the Telangana government launched large-scale releases of fishlings and shrimp seed into water bodies. Fish production spiked to 2.62 lakh tonnes that year and continued its upward trajectory, aided by the increased water availability due to KLIP. Water pumped into tanks and reservoirs through KLIP helped boost aquatic cultivation.The number of fishlings released rose sharply



from 27.85 crore in 2016–17 to 85.6 crore in 2023–24, across more than 26,000 water bodies. Around 10 crore shrimp seedlings were released in 2023–24 alone.Fishermen Co-operative Societies across the State benefited significantly, with higher incomes and increasing memberships reflecting the success of targeted government interventions and sustained water resource development. However, the sector had recently seen setbacks, with a decline in water availability and reduced support for fishing and shrimp seed releases under the Congress regime, affecting overall production.

‘Alarming situation’, says HC on 10 deaths per day in Mumbai local train system; suggests use of automatic doors



GNS News Agency, June 28

Expressing deep concern over the “alarming and disturbing situation” of fatalities on Mumbai’s suburban railway system, with nearly 10 deaths occurring daily, the Bombay High Court Friday suggested that the railways consider installing automatically closing doors on local trains to prevent commuters from falling off.The court said that the “unfortunate” Mumbra train accident reported earlier this month, in which five commuters lost their lives after falling off overcrowded trains, should not have happened. It pointed out that as per an earlier response by the railways, nearly 3,588 deaths took place on the Central Railway (CR) and Western Railway (WR) suburban systems in 2024, and said that measures taken so far are insufficient.The high court was hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by one Yatin Jadhav, a daily commuter who raised concerns over the high rate of fatalities in the second busiest suburban railway system in the world and sought the formation of an expert panel to recommend measures to eliminate deaths due to untoward incidents.Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh, representing the Centre, informed the division bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Sandeep V Marne that the railways have a high-level monitoring committee which has a “zero death mission” in place, and a multi-disciplinary committee headed by a senior divisional safety officer has now been formed to examine what led to the accident in Mumbai.

The court then directed the concerned committees to consider the suggestions by the petitioner, represented by senior advocate Rohan Shah and advocate Surabhi Prabhudesai, and place their recommendations on record within three weeks, along with the timelines within which such measures can be implemented.“What disturbs us is that in 2024, 3,588 deaths took place on CR and WR, which averages to 10 deaths per day. So every day, 10 Mumbaikars die while travelling on the train. And these numbers of deaths are due to falling down from a train, (being) hit by a pole or (due to) gap between the footboards and the platform. This is an alarming situation. This is your data. Though you (railways) have projected that there is a reduction of deaths by 46 per cent compared to 2009, it is still not sufficient,” Justice Marne remarked orally.CJ Aradhe added, “(This Mumbra incident) should not have happened. But, obviously, these measures which you (railways) have taken are not sufficient... The local train (doors) should not be open so that there is no scope for overcrowding. You should provide automatic doors which close. Why can’t you do that to achieve your goal? This is one of the suggestions as a layperson. We are not experts in rail safety, but prob-

ably this may be one of the major suggestions of the committee.”In August last year, the railways informed the high court that over 45,000 lives were lost in the suburban railway system in over 15 years.

ASG Singh submitted that railway authorities were taking steps under its “zero death mission”, including construction of boundary walls and fencing walls near the tracks, along with partitions between tracks to avoid trespassing and crossing, besides removing some stalls on platforms which become overcrowded, and said the authorities will continue to take further steps.He further submitted that while the authorities are taking steps to improve the system, there are constraints as they can construct such walls or fences only during late-night hours as trains cannot be halted, else the entire city will come to a standstill.Singh added that the multidisciplinary committee examining the causes of the Mumbra incident shall soon suggest remedial measures, which will be produced before the court along with timelines to implement them.

What’s in a name: Delhi Police try to detain wrong Rahul, apologise for mix-up later

GNS News Agency, June 28

Delhi policeThe police, the goof-up happened on Thursday after they received information about a man named Rahul, accused of duping people on the pretext of giving them a job as an accountant. Looking for a man accused of defrauding people in the garb of giving jobs, three Delhi Police officials from the cyber cell wing in Shahdara district ended up questioning a journalist by the same name, and according to police, a similar face as that of the accused they were looking for.The Delhi Police have now said that they have apologised to the man, Rahul Saha, and his wife, Ayantika Pal, also a journalist, and refuted the claims of ‘daylight kidnapping’ on her X handle.According to the police, the goof-up happened on Thursday after they received information about a man named Rahul, accused of duping people on the pretext of giving them a job as an accountant.“A team comprising Sub-Inspector Ritu Dangi, Head Constable Harender, and Constable Amit went to Bahadurgarh in search of the accused, Rahul. Based on the location of the mobile phone, the accused was in Noida Sector 38. The team staff reached a petrol pump, where a person who looked like the accused was in a car with his wife, and the name of the person was also Rahul,” a senior police official said.The police then asked the complainant for an ID, after which an argument ensued between the couple and the police officials, a video of which has been shared on social media.In a purported video of the incident, SI Ritu is seen asking the couple to show their IDs. The couple then step out of the car, and one of the officers holds Rahul by hand, leading him towards a white SUV. An officer then asks whether his name is Rahul and if he is from Haryana. Ayantika replies that he is from West Bengal and his name is Rahul Saha, and he works in a media company

‘We no longer have any association with Anmol Bishnoi’: fresh audio shows rift between Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar



GNS News Agency, June 28

A purported audio clip has further revealed a rift between two of India’s most notorious gangsters — Lawrence Bishnoi, who is lodged in Gujarat’s Sabarmati Jail, and his once-close aide Goldy Brar.Sources recently told The Indian Express that Central intelligence agencies and state police have said Bishnoi and Brar have parted ways after Bishnoi got upset with Brar and Azerbaijan-based gangster Rohit Godara over their handling of his brother Anmol’s case in the US.Central intelligence agencies received information that Brar and Godara did not help Anmol file the required bail bond. Anmol was later released but with an ankle bracelet tracker,” a source said.Lawrence Bishnoi’s brother was arrested by US immigration authorities in November last year for allegedly travelling with fake documents.The latest clip, purportedly released by Goldy Brar and going viral on social media, further suggests the two are no longer on the same page, despite having previously claimed responsibility for the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala.The Punjab Police said they are looking into the audio’s authenticity. “Goldy Brar is booked in several terror-related cases. We are examining the audio. But it won’t matter what he says. Law will take its own course,” said a Punjab Police officer.

In the 2-minute 40-second audio, Goldy Brar is allegedly heard claiming responsibility for a June 17 shooting

CAQM seeks innovative ideas, tech solutions to combat air pollution in Delhi-NCR

GNS News Agency, June 28

Delhi-Air-PollutionUnder Sections 12(2)(vi) and 12(6)(c)(iii) of the CAQM Act, the Commission is empowered and mandated to carry out research and development on air pollution. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in NCR and Adjoining Areas has issued a request for proposals (RFP) inviting scientists, researchers, academicians, non-government organisations, community-based organisations, consortia or individuals to submit innovative ideas and technological solutions for the prevention, control and abatement of air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Proposals must be coordinated by an academic, research or scientific institution recognised by the Government of India, and are to be submitted by July 31, 2025. Eligibility for submission is confined to scientists or experts working through government-recognised institutions; non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, consortia and individuals must submit their proposals via such institutions.Under Sections 12(2)(vi) and 12(6)(c)(iii) of the CAQM Act, the Commission is empowered and mandated to carry out research and development on air pollution. In line with this mandate, the RFP has outlined a series of thematic areas on which applicants should focus. These include both exhaust and non-exhaust vehicular emissions; industrial emissions such as those from thermal power plants; dust generated by construction, demolition, roads and open areas; agricultural stubble burning; municipal solid waste, open-burning and biomass-burning; household emissions; dispersed sources; and the identifi-



cation and mitigation of pollution hotspots.

The proposals must also encompass the development and assessment of the most effective policies, technologies, products, and processes for the abatement of air pollution across these sectors. The projects will receive financial support for a maximum duration of three years, under both recurring heads (for items such as personnel and consumables) and non-recurring heads (for capital equipment and infrastructure). Budget details and a clear three-year work plan should be included in each submission, the Commission stated.The submissions will be evaluated by the Project Evaluation and Appraisal Committee constituted by the Commission, with a focus on outputs and outcomes and criteria, including implementability, replicability, and scalability, it said.

Delhi Police unveil emblems for Finger Print Bureau and Bomb Disposal Squad

GNS News Agency, June 28

The Delhi Police Thursday unveiled the official emblems of the Finger Print Bureau (FPB) and the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) to honour the two units.According to Delhi Police officers, these emblems will be prominently displayed on official jackets and documents. The unveiling ceremony, held at the Police Headquarters, was led by Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora in the presence of senior officers.According to police officers, both FPB and BDS are the backbone of Delhi Police’s forensic and tactical operations.“They are elite units of Delhi Police and have remained instrumental in solving several crimes and the arrest of criminals, and ensuring public safety,” said Devesh Srivastava, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime).Established in 1983, the Finger Print Bureau operates under the Delhi Police Crime Branch and is instrumental in forensic crime investigations.With a database of over five lakh criminals, the Bureau uses techniques like powder and UV light to match crime scene fingerprints with stored data, said police officials.

Officers said modern software systems such as Automated Fingerprint and Palmprint Identification System (AFPIS), National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS), and Computerised Remote Identification of Suspects (CRIS) have significantly enhanced the capabilities of the Finger Print Bureau.Since the nationwide launch of NAFIS in 2022 by Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the



system has led to the identification and arrest of numerous offenders through crime scene prints, they added.Equally critical is the Bomb Disposal Squad, founded in 2002, which handles bomb threats, suspicious packages, and explosive devices across Delhi’s crowded and sensitive locations.BDS and its counterpart, the Bomb Detection Team (BDT), conduct 24x7 surveillance, sanitise venues for VIP visits, and are equipped with state-of-the-art technology.Trained alongside the National Security Guard (NSG), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), and DPA, these teams use vapour detectors, sniffer dogs, and other advanced tools for anti-sabotage checks and rapid response.

GHR Infra announces launch of ‘The Cascades Neopolis’ project

Hyderabad: GHR Lakshmi Urbanblocks Infra, a joint venture by the promoters of GHR Infra, Lakshmi Infra, and Urbanblocks Realty, announced the launch of ‘The Cascades Neopolis,’ a Rs 3169 crore luxury residential project that is set to redefine opulent living in Hyderabad.This project, with its five 63-storey towers and 217m in height, is poised to become an iconic landmark (with targeted handover to buyers by March 2030), offering a blend of contemporary design, sustainable living, and smart home automation, a press release said.

Located in Neopolis, the project spans a sprawling 7.34

acres and will feature 1,189 3BHK and 4BHK apartments, ranging from a spacious 2,560 sq ft to 4,825 sq ft, alongside 10 exclusive triplex penthouses with private pools on Level 54. With 7 levels of parking ensuring ample space for residents, ground- and sky-level amenities, the project will be meticulously crafted to address the increasing demand for luxury and smart living spaces that prioritise holistic wellness and environmental responsibility, the release added.Karteesh Reddy M, Designated Partner, GHR Lakshmi Urbanblocks Infra LLP (representing GHR Infra), said, “The Cascades Neopolis is designed to go beyond luxury living by focusing on holistic wellness.

Iran says no nuclear talks under Israeli fire, Trump considers options



JERUSALEM/DUBAI/WASHINGTON,GNS News Agency, June 28 - Iran said on Friday it would not discuss the future of its nuclear programme while under attack by Israel, as Europe tried to coax Tehran back into negotiations and the United States considers whether to get involved in the conflict.A week after it began attacking Iran, Israel's military said it had carried out new strikes on dozens of military targets overnight, including missile production sites and a research organisation involved in nuclear weapons development in Tehran.

The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Iran launched at least one new barrage of missiles early on Friday, striking near residential apartments, office buildings and industrial facilities in the southern city of Beersheba.The White House said on Thursday that President Donald Trump would decide on "whether or not to go" with U.S. involvement in the conflict in the next two weeks, citing the possibility of negotiations involving Iran in the near future.Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Friday there was no room for negotiations with Israel's superpower ally the United States "until Israeli aggression stops".But he was due to meet European foreign ministers in Geneva later on Friday for talks at which Europe hopes to establish a path back to diplomacy over Iran's nuclear programme.Two diplomats said before the meeting involving France, Britain, Germany and the European Union's foreign policy chief that Araqchi would be told the U.S. is still open to direct talks. Expectations for a breakthrough are low, diplomats say.Israel began attacking Iran last Friday, saying its long-time enemy was on the verge of developing nuclear weapons. Iran, which says its nuclear programme is only for peaceful purposes, retaliated with missile and drone strikes on Israel.Israel is widely assumed to possess nuclear weapons. It neither confirms nor denies this.Israeli air attacks have killed 639 people in Iran, according to the Human Rights Activists News Agency, a U.S.-based human rights organisation that tracks Iran. The dead include the military's top echelon and nuclear scientists.Israel has said at least

two dozen Israeli civilians have been killed in Iranian missile attacks.Reuters could not independently verify the death toll from either side. Details of casualties in the latest strikes were not immediately known.

Both sides say they are attacking military and defence-related targets, but civilians have also been caught in the crossfire and each has accused the other of hitting hospitals.An Iranian news website said a drone had struck an apartment in a residential building in central Tehran on Friday, but did not give details.Israel's strikes on Iran's nuclear installations so far pose only limited risks of contamination, experts say. But they warn that any attack on the nuclear power station at Bushehr could cause a nuclear disaster.Israel says it is determined to destroy Iran's nuclear capabilities but that it wants to avoid any nuclear disaster in a region that is inhabited by tens of millions of people and produces much of the world's oil.

The meeting in Geneva was due to start on Friday afternoon. The Swiss city is where an initial accord was struck in 2013 to curb Iran's nuclear programme in return for sanctions being lifted. A comprehensive deal followed in 2015.Trump pulled the U.S. out of the agreement in 2018. A new series of talks between Iran and the U.S. collapsed when Israel launched what it called Operation Rising Lion against Iran's nuclear facilities and ballistic capabilities on June 12.Trump has alternated between threatening Tehran and urging it to resume nuclear talks. His special envoy to the region, Steve Witkoff, has spoken to Araqchi several times since last week, sources say.The Middle East has been on edge since the Palestinian militant group Hamas attacked it in October of 2023, triggering the Gaza war, and Israel has been fighting on several fronts against Iran's regional allies.Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz warned on Friday of further action against Iranian ally Hezbollah, a day after the Lebanese militant group suggested it would come to Iran's aid.Western and regional officials say Israel is trying to shatter the government of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Thursday "the downfall of the regime ... may be a result, but it's up to the Iranian people to rise for their freedom."Iranian opposition groups think their time may be near, but activists involved in previous protests say they are unwilling to unleash mass unrest with their nation under attack, and Iranian authorities have cracked down hard on dissent."How are people supposed to pour into the streets? In such horrifying circumstances, people are solely focused on saving themselves, their families, their compatriots, and even their pets," said Atena Daemi, a prominent activist who spent six years in prison before leaving Iran.Reporting by Alexander Cornwell, Parisa Hafezi and Trevor Hunnicutt; Writing by Andy Sullivan, Saad Sayeed and Michael Georgy; Editing by Howard Goller, Stephen Coates and Timothy Heritage

US court lets Trump keep control of California National Guard for now

WASHINGTON,GNS News Agency, June 28 - A U.S. appeals court let Donald Trump retain control on Thursday of California's National Guard while the state's Democratic governor proceeds with a lawsuit challenging the Republican president's use of the troops to quell protests in Los Angeles.Trump's decision to send troops into Los Angeles prompted a national debate about the use of the military on U.S. soil and inflamed political tension in the country's second-most-populous city.The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

On Thursday, a three-judge panel of the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals extended its pause on U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer's June 12 ruling that Trump had unlawfully called the National Guard into federal service.Trump probably acted within his authority, the panel said, adding that his administration probably complied with the requirement to coordinate with Governor Gavin Newsom, and even if it did not, he had no authority to veto Trump's directive."And although we hold that the president likely has authority to federalize the National Guard, nothing in our decision addresses the nature of the activities in which the federalized National Guard may engage," it wrote in its opinion.Newsom could still challenge the use of the National Guard and U.S. Marines under other laws, including the bar on using troops in domestic law enforcement, it added.The governor could raise those issues at a court hearing on Friday in front of Breyer, it said.In a post on X after the decision, Newsom vowed to pursue his challenge."The president is not a king and is not above the law," he said. "We will press forward with our challenge to President Trump's authoritarian use of U.s. military soldiers against our citizens."Trump hailed the decision in a post on Truth Social.

"This is a great decision for our country and we will continue to protect and defend law-abiding Americans," he said."This is much bigger than Gavin, because all over the United States, if our cities, and our people, need protection, we are the ones to give it to them should state and local police be unable, for whatever reason, to get the job done."Breyer's ruling was issued in a lawsuit against Trump's action brought by Newsom.

Breyer ruled that Trump violated a U.S. law governing a president's ability to take control of a state's National Guard by failing to coordinate with the governor.It also found that the conditions set out under the statute to allow this move, such as a rebellion against federal authority, did not exist.Breyer ordered Trump to return control of California's National Guard to Newsom. Hours after Breyer acted, the 9th Circuit panel had put the judge's move on hold temporarily. Amid protests and turmoil in Los Angeles over Trump's immigration raids, the president on June 7 took control of California's National Guard and deployed 4,000 troops against Newsom's wishes.Trump also ordered 700 U.S. Marines to the city after sending in the National Guard. Breyer has not yet ruled on the legality of the Marine Corps mobilization.

At a court hearing on Tuesday on whether to extend the pause on Breyer's decision, members of the 9th Circuit panel questioned lawyers for California and the Trump administration on what role, if any, courts should have in reviewing Trump's authority to deploy the troops.The law sets out three conditions by which a president can federalize state National Guard forces, including an invasion, a "rebellion or danger of a rebellion" against the government or a situation in which the U.S. government is unable with regular forces to execute the country's laws.The appeals court said the final condition had probably been met because protesters hurled items at immigration authorities' vehicles, used trash dumpster as battering rams, threw Molotov cocktails and vandalized property, frustrating law enforcement.The Justice Department has said once the president determines



that an emergency exists that warrants the use of the National Guard, no court or state governor can review that decision. The appeals court rejected that argument. The protests in Los Angeles ran for more than a week before they ebbed, leading Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to lift a curfew she had imposed.In its June 9 lawsuit California said Trump's deployment of the National Guard and the Marines violated the state's sovereignty and U.S. laws that forbid federal troops from participating in civilian law enforcement.The Trump administration has denied that troops are engaging in law enforcement, saying they are instead protecting federal buildings and personnel, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.The 9th Circuit panel is comprised of two judges appointed by Trump during his first term and one appointee of Democratic former President Joe Biden.Reporting by Dietrich Knauth in New York and Kanishka Singh in Washington, Additional reporting by Kanjyik Ghosh and Gursimran Kaur Mehar; Editing by Alexia Garamfalvi and Clarence Fernandez

One killed, 14 injured in overnight Russian attack on Ukraine's Odesa

GNS News Agency, June 28

KYIV, June 20 (Reuters) - One person was killed and at least 14 were injured when Russian drones attacked the Ukrainian Black Sea city of Odesa overnight, damaging high-rise buildings and railway infrastructure, local authorities and prosecutors said on Friday.Odesa is Ukraine's largest Black Sea port, key for imports and exports, and has been under constant missile and drone attacks by Russia since the war began.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.



"Despite the active work of air defence forces, there is damage to civilian infrastructure, including residential buildings, a higher education institution, a gas pipeline and private cars," local governor Oleh Kiper said on Telegram messenger.Kiper released photos of burning houses and charred high-rise buildings.Local emergencies service said that during the attack there were at least 10 drone strikes on residential buildings, causing massive fires.

Thai PM faces call to step down to avert coalition revolt



BANGKOK, GNS News Agency, June 28 Thailand's embattled Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra was facing the prospect of losing her government's majority on Friday as a vital coalition partner looked set to demand her resignation after just 10 months in power.Paetongtarn, the politically inexperienced daughter of divisive tycoon and former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, is fighting fires on multiple fronts, struggling to breathe life into a stagnant economy facing steep U.S. tariffs and under pressure to take a tougher stand on a territorial row with Cambodia that has seen their troops mobilise at the border.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

The United Thai Nation party, the second-largest partner in her alliance, will demand Paetongtarn, 38, step down as a condition for it to remain in the Pheu Thai Party-led coalition, two UTN sources told Reuters, requesting anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to media."If she doesn't resign, the party would leave the government," one source said. "We want the party leader to tell the PM as a courtesy."Though Paetongtarn received a boost on Friday with another coalition partner, the Democrat Party, pledging its support, Thailand's youngest premier is still in an untenable position, with her majority hinging on UTN staying in the alliance following Wednesday's exit by the larger Bhumjaithai Party.UTN has not said when it will announce its position.

Asked about its decision, UTN spokesperson Akaradej Wongpitakroj declined to provide details. "We have to wait for the party leader to inform the prime minister first," he said.weakened for a fifth consecutive session on Friday and was on course to log its worst week since late February.Paetongtarn's battle to stay in power demonstrates the declining strength of Pheu Thai, the populist juggernaut of the billionaire Shinawatra family that has dominated Thai elections since 2001, enduring military coups and court rulings that have toppled multiple governments and prime ministers.But Paetongtarn is facing domestic anger and the prospect of an internal revolt over Wednesday's embarrassing leak of a phone call between her and Cambodia's influential former leader Hun Sen - once seen as a Shinawatra family ally - which her critics say posed a threat to Thailand's sovereignty and integrity.During the conversation, Paetongtarn called for a peaceful resolution of the border dispute and disparaged an outspoken Thai army general who she said "just wants to look cool", a red line in a country where the military has a high profile and significant political clout.

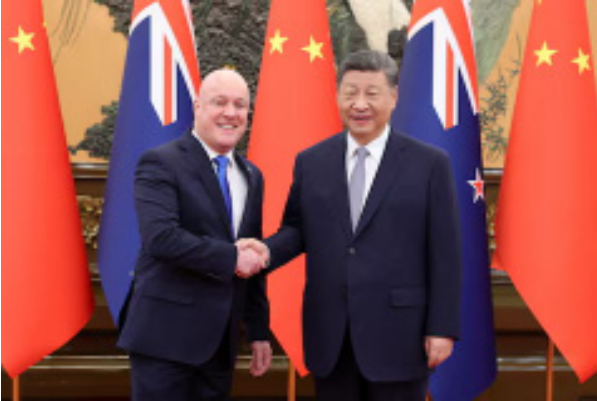
Political activists met on Friday to schedule a major protest in Bangkok starting on June 28 to demand Paetongtarn resign and coalition partners leave the government. Those included groups with a history of crippling rallies against Shinawatra administrations.Paetongtarn has not commented on the turmoil in her government and has tried to present a united front on the Cambodia issue, appearing on Thursday alongside military chiefs and vowing to defend sovereignty.The premier will make a morale-boosting visit to military units at the Cambodia border on Friday, where she is due to meet Lieutenant General Boonsin Padklang, the regional commander whom she criticised in the leaked call.Paetongtarn's options for staying in power are limited unless her allies can succeed in behind-the-scenes horse-trading to keep her alliance from crumbling.A snap election could damage Pheu Thai at a time of dwindling popularity and play into the hands of the progressive opposition People's Party, the largest force in parliament.Two Pheu Thai sources told Reuters the party is confident Paetongtarn can avoid resigning or dissolving parliament and her government is considering a major cabinet reshuffle to fill vacant positions.

Leaders of China, New Zealand discuss trade, Pacific security

GNS News Agency, June 28

BEIJING/SYDNEY, June 20 (Reuters) - The leaders of China and New Zealand discussed on Friday the role of trade in boosting ties, while New Zealand also pressed its interests for peace and security in the Pacific, government statements showed.President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Christopher Luxon met in the capital's Great Hall of the People as China's influence grows in the Pacific, challenging the traditionally stronger security foothold many Western nations have had there. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.On his first visit to China since taking office in November 2023, Luxon discussed the need for stability, less tension in the Indo-Pacific and New Zealand's "enduring support for Pacific-led priorities", his government said in a statement.Luxon's meeting with the leader of New Zealand's biggest trade partner was "constructive", he said in a post on X."We discussed the depth of the New Zealand-China relationship - from trade and people-to-people ties to our shared global responsibilities," he said. "In a complex world, open dialogue is more important than ever."

The remarks came after New Zealand aired concerns this year when Cook Islands, with which it has constitutional ties, signed pacts with China without first consulting it, including one for cooperation on the economy, infrastructure and seabed mining.Luxon also backed up the role of the Pacific Islands Forum, an inter-government body seeking to foster cooperation among Oceanic countries and territories.Without making specific reference to any issue, Xi called for both countries to seek common ground and view differences "accurately", state news agency Xinhua said."There are no historical grudges or conflicts of interest between China and New Zealand, so we should respect each other, seek common ground," Xi told Luxon, it said, adding that both must accurately look at and tackle disagreements.During his four-day visit to the commercial hub of Shanghai and the capital, Beijing, Luxon has championed an agenda of boosting business, travel and educa-



tion for New Zealand.MORE BUSINESSXi also talked about deepening trade and investment ties, as well as scope to work on science and technology, climate change response and infrastructure along with education exchanges - echoing most of Luxon's goals.Luxon documented his meetings on Instagram, posting video messages to fellow citizens reinforcing his mission of getting "money into your back pocket".He clinched travel-related pacts and pushed New Zealand's tertiary education as well as its exports of meat, a key item of trade with China after dairy.

Its exports to China were NZ\$20.85 billion (\$12.51 billion) in 2024, comprising goods worth NZ\$17.75 billion and services of NZ\$3.1 billion, the foreign ministry said on its website.Chinese tourists are New Zealand's third-largest group of international visitors, though official data show their numbers are still nearly a fifth lower than in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.China Eastern Airlines will launch more flights with New Zealand from December, the New Zealand government said on Wednesday.Days before the visit, New Zealand unveiled a 12-month trial of visa waivers from November for Chinese passport holders arriving from Australia with valid visas from its neighbour.

Australia deploys military assets to safeguard citizens amid Middle East crisis



GNS News Agency, June 28

Canberra: The Australian government has deployed military assets to the Middle East amid escalating tensions to help evacuate its citizens from Iran and Israel. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has positioned personnel and aircraft in the region as part of contingency plans should the currently closed airspace reopen. "We are sending defence assets to help Australians. They are not there for combat," Foreign Affairs Minister Penny Wong said while addressing reporters in South Australia. In a further move to support the evacuation efforts, a crisis response team from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) is being dispatched to Azerbaijan. This team will assist Australians who manage to leave Iran without direct government aid. As of Friday, more than 2,000 Australian citizens in Iran and 1,200 in Israel have registered with DFAT

for evacuation assistance. Wong strongly urged any Australian able to leave Iran safely to do so immediately, advising those who cannot or choose not to, to shelter in place.Amid the deteriorating security situation, the Australian government has suspended operations at its embassy in Tehran and ordered the departure of all officials and their dependents from Iran. However, the country's Ambassador to Iran will remain in the region to coordinate and support the response to the crisis, supported further by consular staff scheduled for deployment to Azerbaijan.In a related development, Italy has opted to maintain operations at its embassies in both Tehran and Tel Aviv while organizing charter flights for Italian nationals wishing to leave the conflict zones. Meanwhile, the Israel Defence Forces announced that it had carried out a series of overnight airstrikes in Tehran targeting sites linked to Iran's missile and nuclear weapons programmes.

Interstate drug peddling racket busted, drug worth Rs 50 lakh seized

Hyderabad: The Rachakonda Special Operations Team along with the local police busted an interstate drug peddling racket and arrested four persons and seized 166 kg of marijuana worth Rs 50 lakh, a car and mobile phones, altogether worth Rs 65 lakh in Hayathnagar on Friday. Yurajn Sadve, Sagar Gajanan and Amol Narayan Borde, all from Maharashtra.According to the police, Vikas Baban Salve who wanted to make easy money by peddling drugs contacted Maik alias Rahul, the main drug source from Odisha."Vikas observed that many construction and daily wage worker from Maharashtra were into drug consumption, particularly marijuana in its various forms. This inspired him to devise a plan with his friends to make quick money by selling marijuana.,,

A liberal arts degree is worth much more than realised



We are all too familiar with the recession of 2008 and its subsequent impact on the decline of the humanities and more generally, the liberal arts, in North America and Europe. In the context of the ‘existential crisis’ facing classic liberal arts programmes, questions have often centred on their relevance and whether they offer tangible ‘real-world’ skills, resulting in a diverse range of outstanding career outcomes. An article in The New Yorker, The end of the English major, published in 2023 argued that traditional liberal arts study has become the ‘quaint province of a privileged elite, comprising students who do not expect a return on their investment and can afford to spend time on unremunerative pursuits’.

The ‘getting a job’ concernAs a result, liberal arts degrees face increasing criticism in policy discussions for failing to equip students with the knowledge and the skills valued in the labour market, often leading to inadequate financial returns on their educational investments. Given the discursive link between higher education and job prospects, domain-specific experts and counsellors advise aspiring high school graduates to pursue degrees in business, finance and economics, in order to secure jobs. The statistics are striking: in 1966, 14% of all college graduates in the United States were majors in the humanities (central to the liberal arts); by 2010, that figure dropped by half to only 7%. The discourse is not simply limited to the low likelihood of finding jobs after a liberal arts degree, but also suggests that associated majors are concerned only with abstract ideas. This might have something to do with the context within which liberal arts emerged in early modern Europe, as a means of avoiding manual labour or working with hands. A liberal arts education that combined humanities with science was thought to produce a ‘thinking’ individual. In many ways, the idea of a liberal arts education seems antithetical to expectations of regional development that involves some technical training and knowledge. Despite its beginning, liberal arts have evolved in practice to be so much more.

Liberal arts enable students to comprehend those things that quite literally make us human. The skills that they cultivate in reasoning and critical thinking are every bit as important to future success in the workplace as learning to code, calculate, or raise capital. To paraphrase the longest serving President of Harvard University, Charles Eliot, a liberal arts education teaches a student a little bit of everything, and a great deal of one thing. Given such a powerful approach to generating scholars possessed of all-round disciplinary, and indeed, life skills, it appears peculiar that anyone would want to quibble with the exciting possibilities of such an outcome. Let us also note that while liberal arts is experiencing a decline in North America, it has seen a re-emergence in Europe and shows no sign of abating. Only five years ago, the University of Nottingham, U.K., opened a new liberal arts programme, promising that this new initiative will enable students to explore what it means to be human. Today more than 20 universities in the U.K. offer some form of liberal arts and sciences programme.

Indians need to share contraceptive responsibility

In 1952, India pioneered a national programme for family planning, whose focus has since changed — from improving maternal and child health to stabilising the population. As this programme evolved, so too did permanent methods of contraception.During 1966-70, about 80.5% of all sterilisation procedures in India were vasectomies. This percentage declined every year due to changing policies that, together with other factors, placed less and less of an emphasis on vasectomies. The five rounds of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS) also show the use of male sterilisation, especially in the last three decades, to be steadily decreasing in all States. In fact, the vasectomies percentage remained constant at around 0.3% in NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5.

Gender and the disparity This trend goes against Section 4.8 of the National Health Policy 2017, which aimed to increase the fraction of male sterilisations to at least 30%. Even today, India is far from meeting this target. Official data also show a large disparity between the rates of female and male sterilisation — 37.9% and 0.3%, respectively. Such huge differences indicate that women continue to bear virtually all of the burden of sterilisation, which in turn poses a challenge for India to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 5 — “gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls by 2030” — among others.In one attempt to bridge this gap, the world observes Vasectomy Day on the third Friday of November (it was on November 15 this year). In 2017, India observed a ‘vasectomy fortnight’ as well. The initiative is to revitalise the procedure by increasing awareness, generating demand among men, and debunking misconceptions. In the end, the goal is for people already looking for contraceptives as well as those who would if they knew about safe options to consider vasectomies more favourably.But for these concerted efforts, policies still overlook multiple issues on the ground, keeping them ineffective and allowing the gap between male and female sterilisation rates to persist.The ground reality, solutionsFor example, two of the three writers of this article surveyed a village in Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, Maharashtra, in March 2024 as part of a field exercise. The women said sterilisation was their responsibility and that the men do not believe they need to have vasectomies. Most of them also expressed a belief that men should not be “burdened” by it because they already work hard to make ends meet, and that undergoing the procedure could rob the men of their day’s wages, worsening their hardship.These women were also unaware of the Indian government’s cash incentives to those who undergo vasectomies to offset the loss of wages. In fact, many studies in India have suggested that illiteracy, male egos, misconceptions about its impact on libido, and family opposition have led to the poor acceptance of vasectomies. Many men are not aware of their role in ensuring the safe passage of reproductive years in the lives of their female partners. The unavailability of skilled providers has aggravated the situation, especially in rural areas. To make matters worse, many

For some, this re-emergence has arisen partly as a corrective to the region’s more recent over-specialisation in education.Towards the east, a decade ago, in Hong Kong, a major educational overhaul saw numerous institutions move from a British-style three-year degree model to a U.S.-style four-year model, with the aim of incorporating the greater breadth evident in a ‘liberal arts’ approach. This compromise between the full breadth of a liberal arts degree and the specialised approach of a traditional British-style bachelor has also been taken up in other parts of Asia, where liberal arts is often seen as a component of a specialised degree, rather than being offered as a degree in its own right. The idea is that specialised education can be supplemented with a humanistic approach to produce a well-rounded individual who practises critical thinking.

The world versus IndiaSo, as an international phenomenon, the promotion of liberal arts education emerged within countries usually as a combination of indigenous educational reform movements and inchoate transnational advocacy networks. Of course, now there is universal consensus that liberal education prepares students well for life in a globalised, multicultural, society — one that makes them more aware of a variety of cultures and the need to communicate effectively across cultural differences; teaches them to evaluate new ideas with evidence; and formulate opinions, not make assumptions. Today’s students also want an education that will address their desires for justice, service and self-expression, while equally wanting to develop the non-cognitive skills that will allow them to be successful in a globally competitive job market.India offers an intriguing case in point. For a nation where higher education has traditionally focused on professional courses, including engineering and medicine, the last couple of decades has witnessed a sudden interest in liberal arts education. Businesses, non-governmental organisations, and government entities increasingly recognise that a discipline-specific technical education alone is not sufficient for the wholesome growth of the country’s economy and society. ‘Soft skills’, which can be honed through a classical liberal arts education, are crucial in this context. While the rapid development of liberal arts in India has been welcomed by several, others ask — and, quite rightly — whether students will get jobs after liberal arts training; whether liberal arts is suitable for a developing country; whether critical thinking skills help students solve India’s societal problems — poverty, hunger, caste, and class inequalities.Preparing students to be global citizens

Even for parents without the experience of studying for a degree, it does not take too much imagination to produce a ‘usefulness’ argument in favour of encouraging their children to take a scientific or technological subject. Even pure science holds out the prospect of a practical application one day. But for the liberal arts, the arguments are much more nuanced. The liberal arts impart the so-called soft skills associated with how to think for yourself, how to research and find things out for yourself, and how to communicate the results to other people. And there is a lot of truth in this. It is for these reasons that the new generation of liberal arts institutions in the country pioneered a model of education that appeals to several stakeholders. Employers highlight the communication skills and the creativity that liberal arts students bring to their workplaces and praise their ability to engage with multidisciplinary teams for effective problem-solving and creative thinking.The technique of threading different kinds of content, conversations, and curriculum is the genius of the faculty in liberal arts institutions, who curate and incorporate the best of substance and knowledge in terms of interdisciplinary and experiential learning, the use of technology, and mentorship to attract young minds towards the best educational experience and to prepare them to be global citizens.



trained community health workers themselves know little about no-scalpel vasectomies.As things stand, with increasing awareness of gender equality and rights, it is certainly possible to build a society in which male sterilisation is accepted as normative through proper and timely course correction.As a first step, sensitisation should begin during early adolescence in schools, where awareness programmes and monitored peer-group discussions can lay the foundation for accepting sterilisation as a shared responsibility. Sustained social and behaviour change communication initiatives will be instrumental in debunking myths around and destigmatising vasectomies. Vasectomy is a safe and simple procedure compared to tubectomy, the corresponding surgical procedure for women involving their fallopian tubes.Second, these information, education and communication activities should be supplemented with greater conditional cash incentives for vasectomies with the goal to improve male participation.A study in Maharashtra in 2019 showed that more men in rural tribal areas opted for vasectomies after being offered a conditional cash incentive. Madhya Pradesh’s move in 2022 to increase this incentive by 50% is appreciable in this light.An international comparisonThird, India should draw from the lessons from other countries that have increased vasectomy uptake. South Korea has the highest prevalence of the procedure worldwide, and has reported that men are more likely to shoulder contraceptive responsibilities as a result of progressive societal norms and greater gender equality. Similarly, Bhutan has popularised vasectomy among its men by making the procedure socially acceptable, availing good-quality services, and organising government-run vasectomy camps. Brazil increased vasectomy uptake by running awareness campaigns on mass media. The prevalence rate has risen, from 0.8% in the 1980s to 5% in the last decade.Greater public awareness of vasectomies allows both partners in a union to make informed family planning decisions. In tandem, the government must strengthen the national health system to align with policy objectives, invest in training more health professionals to perform the procedure, and promote technical advancements to increase the use of non-scalpel vasectomies.

The Constitution of India, beyond its text



In his book, Founding Mothers of the Indian Republic: Gender Politics of the Framing of the Constitution, Achyut Chetan mentions an interesting anecdote; of a cultural theorist seemingly influenced by the skewed post-structuralist notion of the text telling him that the Constitution is all we have and that there is nothing outside its text. How do you imagine the Constitution beyond its text? What value does a constitution hold beyond its text?As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the enactment of the Constitution of India, these questions prompt us to reflect on its broader significance.Testament to an aspirational citizenship

The text of the Constitution, undoubtedly, holds greater significance. It gives institutions a tool to interpret and implement policy decisions. But the Constitution is not merely a legal document. It represents a living framework that transcends its textual boundaries. It holds the aspirations, struggles, and collective dreams of a diverse nation. Therefore, while the Constitution serves as the foundation of our administrative framework, it is, equally, a testament to aspirational citizenship. But where do we locate the place of citizens while assessing the Constitution?Citizenship is often understood as a concept derived from statutes or the text of the Constitution. However, in the journey of India’s constitutional history, the people themselves have played a pivotal role in shaping and redefining the notion of citizenship beyond what is written in the document. Through various movements, they have actively invoked constitutional principles to challenge inequalities and claim rights and spaces that were historically monopolised by caste and class elites.

For instance, the Dalit movement used the Constitution as a powerful tool to assert its equality and dignity. The Constitution became a site of emancipation and to defy the odd social norms. Article 17 of the Constitution, which abolishes untouchability, became a rallying point for the marginalised communities to fight against caste-based discrimination. Similarly, movements for land reforms, right to education, right to information and even environmental rights

movements have consistently used constitutional provisions to demand inclusivity and justice, thereby expanding the scope of citizenship from a legal status to a lived reality of equality and empowerment.In his book, A People’s Constitution, Professor Rohit De documents compelling stories of individuals who harnessed the Constitution not only to assert their rights but also to place ordinary citizens at the heart of the constitutional discourse. This engagement by ordinary citizens in applying the Constitution to their daily lives persists. Indeed, it has grown even more robust and strategic, empowering them to claim their rightful place in the republic.Dialogue between the Constitution, citizensThe story of the Constitution is the story of its people. Social activist Aruna Roy, in her recent memoir, The Personal is Political, argues that if democracy is by and for the people, the ‘people’ are the mainstream — the power elite and its periphery defined by money and power. Therefore, it is necessary to dismantle this mainstream of ‘power’ and bring those who are at the margin to the centre of our democratic journey. Thus, the purpose of the Constitution would be served. The enactment of the Constitution marked a significant turning point for marginalised groups, including women, minorities, and persons with disabilities. While their direct representation in the Constituent Assembly was minimal, their concerns were thoughtfully discussed and debated, ensuring that the document aimed to be inclusive and accommodative.However, despite these progressive efforts, the Constitution is not without flaws. There have been instances where it has inadvertently become a tool of exclusion.A collective responsibilityAs we commemorate 75 years of its adoption, it is imperative to ensure that the Constitution extends its promise beyond public institutions and into private spheres. This involves empowering citizens to challenge both the authority of a mighty state and the power of private citizens when they act unjustly. The responsibility lies with all of us to not only uphold the Constitution but also to actualise its principles in ways that foster true equality, justice, and dignity for every individual, irrespective of their status or identity.

Abhishek Bachchan asked me if he should eat more to look bigger for I Want To Talk role: Shoojit Sircar

The protagonist of Shoojit Sircar’s latest feature I Want To Talk, Arjun Sen, has just 100 days to live after being diagnosed with laryngeal cancer. Refusing to accept it as fait accompli, a resilient Arjun, played by Abhishek Bachchan, continues to live and lead a full life as a father and a marketing professional. Sircar, who was drawn to this real-life story for its quirkiness despite being poignant, narrates how he navigates his terminal illness and builds a bond with his daughter, Reya. Sircar talks about how he cast Abhishek as the lead, worked on his physicality and what he learnt from his theatre days. :The film is based on the story of my friend Arjun Sen, who has been working in the US for the last 35 years, and his daughter. We started talking about his life in 2020, over Zoom. I found something fascinating about him but I did not know that I was going to make a film about him. These conversations went on till 2021. Then something clicked in my mind and I bounced it off with writer Ritesh Shah. I told Ritesh there was something bizarre and hilarious about him; he was suffering for long and yet could laugh at himself as he went through life-and-death situations. In 2022, we decided to work on a script. That was my motive. I wanted to document his life as well as my understanding of life and death. This was also an exploration of a father-daughter relationship. Somewhere we all — Abhishek, Ritesh and I — connected to the story as fathers. I wanted the audience to relate to what they are going through in their own lives. Arjun’s story made me think about my relationship with my daughter.You can say that Abhishek manipulated me. We were in Melbourne and he took me out for dinner. We were with my producer Ronnie Lahiri and Abhishek



poured his heart out. I had not seen Abhishek like this ever. In my mind, Abhishek was always there while scripting it. Similarly, Irrfan was also there in the mind. Even though he was not there (by then), you end up visualising actors in a role. After Melbourne, when I met Abhishek, he immediately said yes. When I mentioned that I wanted him to have a paunch, he took off his shirt and said, “Dada, this is the paunch I have. You want me to eat more and look bigger?”Was Abhishek eager to act in this film because he connected to the father-daughter story or did he want to challenge himself?

He definitely wanted to work with me. Abhishek never tells me but in conversations, one can feel that he connects to the father-daughter aspect of the film. Agreeing to work on a subject like this and transform himself into the character — as if he disappears into Arjun — was driven by that connection.How did you find your two actors Pearle Dey and Ahilya Bamroo, who play the younger and older roles of Arjun’s daughter, Reya? They look so similar. The casting credit goes to Ronnie who introduced me to Ahilya. She is quite active on Instagram and lives in Puducherry. When we called her, she

was completely taken aback. When we met her in our Mumbai office, I found such rawness and purity in her. She is so effortless in the movie. My friend in Los Angeles helped me find Pearle since we wanted a girl who has an American accent. Abhishek met both of them before the shoot.As Arjun, Abhishek goes through different stages of life and physicality.Since it was shot in the US, we could not break the schedule. We stayed there for three months. In some sequences, we used make-up and prosthetics while in others, we used bodysuits. We combined several elements and processes to get the right look. Let me tell you, Abhishek worked as a good assistant director of mine. Whatever I needed, he ensured it was done. He would say: ‘I will act and assist Shoojit da’. He contributed a lot to get the look right.

You often lean towards characters who are non-mainstream. Do your theatre days influence your choice?Sometimes what drives you is what’s inside you. Arjun gave me a lot of hope and resilience. He is on a journey not to give up. Theatre teaches you every aspect of life. My guru NK Sharma, in Delhi, taught me all that. He respected every job in theatre. If someone is doing costumes, he would

give that person more respect than, maybe, the actors. A lot of scenes, breakdowns and preparations that I do are all from theatre.

What’s the story behind casting Johnny Lever to play the character Johnny?

When we were writing the script, Ritesh wrote the character’s name Johnny. Later, I thought let’s cast Johnny Lever in that role, who is straight-faced and a bit bizarre. I was not sure he would do it. When we met, he said that he is a ‘healer’ and is involved in a lot of social activities. He wanted to be a part of it. He is effortless as an actor.

Do you think movies like I Want To Talk, which are more indie in spirit, have less space today?It may appear less if you compare it with other movies. But Vicky Donor (2012) and Piku (2015) found the right audience. I am confident my producers, Ronnie and Sheel Kumar, will ensure I Want To Talk finds that too.

The humour in the film is understated compared to Piku. Was that deliberate?It is not the kind of film where I can have Piku’s humour. This was more of a satire on life, philosophical humour. It has its restraints. You have to decode it. For some, it will be hilarious. Some others may find it hilarious when they revisit it after a gap.

Role of fortified rice in India's nutritional strategy



India has made remarkable progress in addressing food insecurity, transitioning from severe food shortages to becoming a major food producer. The country now stands as a leading producer of cereals and for the first time in decades, the gross value added from fruits and vegetables has surpassed that of cereals, indicating a diversification in agricultural production. Additionally, India is the largest producer of milk and ranks among the biggest producers of poultry. These achievements, coupled with well-designed and implemented social safety net programs such as the National Food Security Act, which guarantees subsidised cereals to 67% of the population, have significantly reduced food insecurity. However, the focus has now shifted from simply ensuring food availability to improving the quality of the diet consumed. Poor diets lead to both undernutrition and overnutrition. India faces the 'double burden of malnutrition', where both undernutrition and over-nutrition coexist. This is further exacerbated by widespread micronutrient deficiencies, often referred to as 'hidden hunger', which affect both undernourished and overweight or obese individuals. Achieving optimal nutrition requires addressing various factors such as access, affordability, and behaviour changes, ensuring that the population consumes a diverse and nutrient-rich diet. Micronutrients are essential vitamins and minerals (e.g., iron, iodine, vitamin A, and zinc etc) which are crucial for growth and development. Since the human body cannot produce most micronutrients, these must be obtained through the food we eat. Deficiency of these micronutrients, largely due to unbalanced diets, has become a global health issue, affecting nearly five billion people worldwide. In India, micronutrient deficiencies are a major public health concern - with high prevalence of anaemia among women and children being one example. Promoting a diverse, nutrient-rich diet is vital for overall health and well-being

A recent working paper from the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, titled Changes in India's Food Consumption and Policy Implications, analysed Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) for 2022-23 and 2011-12. The findings reveal rising per capita household expenditure nationwide, though disparities remain. Notably, for the first time, food expenditure has fallen below 50% of total spending across states and consumption classes, including the bottom 20%. Consumption of fruits, vegetables, dairy products, meat, eggs, and fish has increased across all states, including among the bottom 20%. However, intake levels remain below recommended amounts for most people. Cereal consumption has decreased across rural and urban areas and among all consumption classes. Despite this, an improvement in the diversity of food consumption was seen, indicating better availability, access, and affordability, likely due to food security programmes that have enabled households to save on cereals and spend more on other food items. The study underlined that despite increased intake of essential vitamins and minerals, the consumption of micronutrients remains inadequate compared to 2011-12. Iron deficiency is particularly concerning, as intake in most states is less than the average requirement. This is worrying because cereals, the major iron source for most of the population, especially the bottom 20%, are consumed less. This downward trend in cereal intake could further reduce dietary iron intake in these households. Anaemia, largely caused by iron deficiency, is also linked to other nutrient deficiencies,

such as folate and vitamin B12. The study found inadequate consumption of these nutrients contributes to the high prevalence of nutritional anaemia in the country.

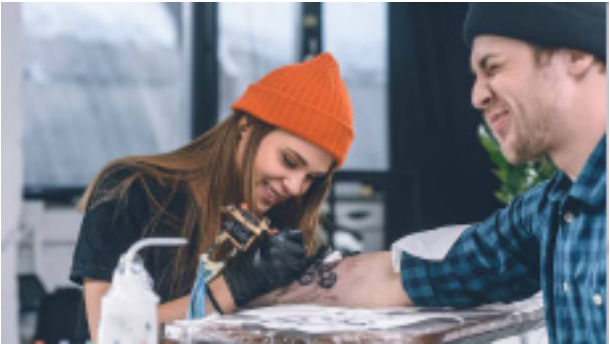
Addressing micronutrient deficiencies requires a clear strategy, including dietary diversification, supplementation for high-risk groups, and fortification of staple foods. These strategies are complementary and often used together. As shown in the HCES, dietary diversity is improving, but reaching the required level may take time. Addressing anaemia has always been a high priority in India. The revamped Anaemia Mukht Bharat programme is comprehensive and includes iron and folic acid supplementation for high-risk groups, behaviour change communication, and fortified foods in social safety-net programmes. As part of the comprehensive strategy to address anaemia, the Government of India has decided to fortify rice with iron, folic acid, and vitamin B12. This decision was made after careful consideration of available options. Rice was chosen as the vehicle for fortification because it is consumed by about 65% of the population and is the dominant cereal distributed through the public distribution system (PDS). Although the efficacy and effectiveness of rice fortification are proven, the government implemented the programme in phases. Large pilots were conducted in 15 districts across 15 states as a learning exercise to ensure the feasibility of integrating fortified rice into the PDS. The cost-effectiveness and evaluation of these pilots was documented. Encouraged by the positive results, the government proceeded to scale-up the distribution of fortified rice nationwide. In addition to fortified rice, nutrient-rich foods like pulses and millets have been included in the PDS in many states as part of efforts to diversify and improve dietary intake. Fortification is not a new concept in India – we have a long history of food fortification, starting in 1953 with the fortification of vanaspathi ghee with vitamin A. One of independent India's significant achievements is salt iodisation, which has nearly eliminated goitre and cretinism. Studies on iron, folate, and vitamin B12-fortified rice have shown positive results in addressing anaemia. For example, a United Nations World Food Programme study in Odisha and Uttar Pradesh demonstrated a decrease in anaemia among children and women who received fortified rice through the PDS and school meals. Similarly, a study in Gujarat noted improved haemoglobin levels, reduced anaemia prevalence, and better cognitive performance among schoolchildren who consumed fortified rice. These studies not only show the biological impact but also prove that fortified rice can be easily integrated into the existing public distribution system. While a diversified diet should ideally provide necessary nutrients, unfortunately, this is not always the case due to factors, like availability, access, affordability, and food habits. Despite efforts to encourage people to diversify their diets, it is essential to ensure that they consume optimal levels of micronutrients. Public health authorities have formulated a combination of strategies to meet the nutrient requirements of the population, including rice fortification programme. The strategy should be viewed as part of a broader strategy to address dietary gaps in iron, folate, and vitamin B12, rather than a standalone solution. These measures, combined with disease control efforts such as improved water, hygiene, and sanitation, are likely to result in a much faster reduction in anaemia among women and children.

How to choose a tattoo you'll never regret

Many people compare getting their first tattoo to having their first cup of coffee—once you try it, there's no turning back, and soon you'll want more. But unlike a cup of coffee, a tattoo is permanent, and that brings with it a significant commitment. You'll see that ink on your body every single day, so you need to make sure you truly love it. For some, though, that connection fades. What once felt deeply personal can quickly turn into a source of regret. A tattoo that was once a symbol of a moment or a trend can start to feel like a burden, and over time, the charm can wear off. When that happens, the only option seems to be to remove it, and even that process can be painful. So, is it possible to get a tattoo you'll never regret? The answer might be more complex than you think, but it's worth considering before you make that permanent decision.

Why do people get inked?

"The psychology behind getting a tattoo varies widely from person to person and is also influenced by cultural, emotional or individual preferences. Most people get tattoos for the aesthetic appeal or for the love of art or culture. But there are also individuals who get tattoos based on self-expression, which can be emotional expression, social connection and belonging, an impulsive decision, or even a symbol of transformation," Lokesh Verma, founder of Devilz Tattoo, tells India Today. Adding to this, Prashant Yaduvanshi, founder of Shaman Ink, mentions that for some, tattoos serve as a coping mechanism or a symbolic representation of personal growth, healing, or significant life events. "Ultimately, tattoos reflect a person's unique journey, with their meaning and purpose as individual as the person wearing them," he says. The right spot According to Verma, people usually prefer the forearm and side of the wrist for a tattoo because these areas are less painful and offer a smaller surface area for smaller tattoos. Meanwhile, Yaduvanshi feels that tattoo placement and design are highly subjective, but some areas are more popular than others.



Common placements include the forearm, upper sleeve, and back, as these offer ample space and relatively low pain levels. As for designs, many people opt for minimalist symbols, floral motifs, meaningful quotes, or geometric patterns. He states that the choice ultimately depends on personal style, body shape, and the significance of the tattoo.

Choosing the right placement for your tattoo is crucial (Photo: Getty Images)

Should it be visible to you?

"The idea that people should get tattoos in places they can't see often is subjective and depends on personal preference and psychological reasoning," shares Lokesh Verma. While many prefer tattoos in open areas, some people do not, and the reason may be to avoid overexposure, which could lead to boredom or reduce emotional intensity, or even for reasons related to professional and social acceptance. Yaduvanshi agrees and says that the idea that tattoos should be placed where they aren't visible often comes from the belief that one might grow bored with them over time. However, this couldn't be further from the truth for most individuals, as tattoos often serve as cherished reminders, symbols of self-expression, or personal stories

Sewer gas deaths: the science behind fatalities and protective gear

In July 2025, the Government informed the Rajya Sabha that 377 people had died between 2019 and 2023, while they were involved in the hazardous task of cleaning sewer and septic tanks. Just a few years ago in Chennai, at a prominent mall, a worker lost his life while cleaning a septic tank -- and this is despite manual scavenging being banned in the country. Ironically, two national surveys (in 2013 and 2018) claimed that manual scavenging no longer existed in India. The challenge therefore, lies in identifying manual scavengers, as their work is often informal employment or outsourced contracts. While there is undeniable socio-pathic negligence with regard to this practice, the conversation often focuses solely on its sociological aspects. It is also critical however, to understand how sewer gases are formed, their impact on the human body, and the mechanisms of fatality and consequences of exposure to these gases.

What is sewer gas?

Sewer gas is a generic name for a mixture of toxic and non-toxic gases. Sewer gases are formed through the microbial decomposition of organic matter in anaerobic or oxygen-deprived environments. Organic waste serves as the fuel for bacterial activity, breaking down into harmful gases such as hydrogen sulfide (H2S), methane (CH4), ammonia (NH3), carbon dioxide (CO2), and carbon monoxide (CO). H2S is produced when sulphate-reducing bacteria break down sulphates in organic matter. Methanogenic bacteria generate methane and are odourless but highly flammable, posing a risk of explosions. Ammonia is formed from nitrogenous waste and can cause severe irritation to the respiratory system. Carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide arise from organic matter degradation and incomplete combustion. H2S is the most hazardous sewer gas. In nature, it originates from volcanic eruptions, hot springs, and the decay of organic matter in environments like swamps, marshes, and coal pits. Industrially, H2S is prevalent in sectors such as oil and gas refining, mining, tanning, pulp and paper processing, rayon manufacturing, and wastewater treatment. The formation of sewer gases, especially H2S, depends on a high concentration of organic waste, long and thick sewer pipes with little airflow, stagnant water, acidic environments and warm temperatures. H2S is infamous for its distinct rotten egg odour, a warning signal at low concentrations (<0.03 ppm). However, this warning mechanism fails due to olfactory fatigue at dangerously high levels (>100 ppm). When a human being is exposed to elevated concentrations of H2S, the gas paralyses the olfactory nerve, disabling a person's ability to detect its smell. This is why workers, even if initially alerted by the odour, may suddenly stop noticing it as they inhale more of the gas.

The effect of H2S on humans In sewer pipelines, the H2S concentration can vary depending on the conditions. However, levels capable of causing death are common in poorly-ventilated and stagnant systems. H2S concentrations in such environments can range from 100 ppm to over 1000 ppm. At concentrations above 100 ppm, the gas, apart from paralysing the olfactory nerve, can cause severe eye and respiratory irritation. When levels exceed 500 ppm, exposure can result in rapid loss of consciousness and respiratory distress within minutes. At concentrations greater than 1000 ppm, H2S can lead to immediate respiratory arrest and death due to its ability to block cellular oxygen utilisation. At high concentrations, the gas disrupts cellular respiration by inhibiting enzymes in the cytochrome oxidase pathway, depriving cells of oxygen despite the body's abil-



ity to breathe. This can lead to dizziness, loss of consciousness, and collapse within moments. For workers exposed to such high levels, the progression from alertness to unconsciousness is rapid, resulting in death. Imagine your body as a car, with oxygen as the petrol powering its engine. Inside the car, the fuel system is self-contained—the tank (lungs) have the petrol and pipelines (blood vessels) deliver it. The engine (cells) use it to produce energy through an ignition system. The cytochrome oxidase pathway acts like this ignition, helping cells use oxygen effectively. When hydrogen sulfide enters the body, it clogs this ignition system, preventing the engine from burning the fuel. Even though the car has petrol, it can't run. Hydrogen sulfide stops cells from using oxygen, causing the body to "stall" and shut down.

At low concentrations, hydrogen sulfide and ammonia irritate the respiratory system, causing symptoms like coughing, wheezing, and strained breathing. Prolonged exposure, even at low levels, can lead to long-term lung damage, putting workers at risk of chronic respiratory illnesses. H2S and carbon monoxide also affect the nervous system, causing headaches, dizziness, confusion, and, over time, issues like memory loss and cognitive decline. Ammonia and other acidic substances in sewer gases irritate the eyes, leading to redness, watering, and discomfort. Meanwhile, prolonged skin contact with contaminated sewer water often causes rashes and dermatitis. The importance of safety gear Many sanitation workers in South Asia enter poorly-ventilated sewer systems without adequate training or protective equipment. In developed nations, stringent safety measures protect sewer workers from exposure to toxic gases. Advanced ventilation systems ensure fresh air circulation, minimising the buildup of hazardous gases. Portable multi-gas detectors monitor air quality in real-time, alerting workers to unsafe conditions. Workers are equipped with self-contained breathing apparatuses (SCBA) and chemical-resistant suits to protect them against gas exposure. Robotics and automation have further transformed sewer maintenance. In the movie The Shawshank Redemption, Andy Dufresne crawled through 500 yards of sewage to escape from a U.S. prison in the 1940s. That scene set nearly 80 years ago, portrayed the triumph of resilience and hope as Andy emerged alive, unscathed, and free to rebuild his life. In the United States, even then, sewer systems weren't the deadly gas chambers they could have been. Fast forward to 2024, and the reality in South Asia is depressing. Even today, sewer lines in this part of the world remain death traps, filled with lethal gases like hydrogen sulfide, turning them into execution chambers. Workers sent into these pipelines don't crawl toward freedom like Dufresne did, but are pulled out as lifeless bodies, victims

Rising to the challenge: what we need to do for a future without AIDS

In 1986, when Suniti Solomon diagnosed the first cases of HIV in India, the nation was unprepared for the scale of the crisis to come. Her groundbreaking work not only placed India on the global HIV map but also inspired a generation of caregivers, researchers, and policymakers. Solomon's vision materialised as YRGCARE in Chennai, an organisation that blended compassion with cutting-edge science to address the HIV epidemic. Today, YRGCARE is still engaged in tackling the changing landscape of HIV in India. There continue to be many challenges, though treatment modalities have come a long way. Some of the key challenges are:

Stigma continues to deter many from seeking diagnosis and treatment. In rural and urban India alike, misconceptions about HIV, exacerbated by social and cultural biases, lead to delayed care. The rise of digital misinformation further complicates efforts, requiring robust awareness campaigns tailored to counter these challenges. Access to healthcare remains a challenge, again. While India's ART program is one of the largest globally, disparities in access persist. Rural populations, marginalised communities, and women often face logistical and financial barriers to accessing healthcare. Expanding differentiated care models like community-based ART delivery and telemedicine can help close these gaps.

As the very important task of spreading awareness continues, traditional awareness campaigns must be reimagined to reach younger populations and high-risk groups. Introducing pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) offers new possibilities, but widespread adoption in the country requires increased awareness, affordability, and accessibility. Virtual interventions are the big game changers in this area, due to their reach across the younger population in the current internet era. This has to be fully leveraged through innovative approaches specific to HIV care continuum. It is also very important to integrate HIV and broader health systems. As HIV increasingly intersects with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, integrating HIV care into primary healthcare systems is crucial. This holistic approach ensures comprehensive care and long-term sustainability, addressing co-morbidities while advancing the fight against HIV.

Achieving viral suppression remains the ultimate goal. This involves ensuring treatment adherence, monitoring viral load effectively, and providing mental health support to people living with HIV. Empowering individuals with consistent care and community-driven solutions can reduce transmission rates and improve their quality of life. YRGCARE, in observance of World AIDS Day 2024, and to remind people that HIV continues to be an infection that should not be ignored, has displayed the red ribbon in three prominent locations in Chennai. This initiative is a powerful awareness symbol, encouraging citizens to reflect on the epidemic and its ongoing impact. Suniti Solomon believed in the power of hope and humanity to drive progress. She once said, "Hope is our greatest ally in the fight against HIV." YRGCARE continues to build partnerships with governments, civil society, and global organisations to end the AIDS epidemic. Despite the many health crises the world has faced across timelines, including the recent COVID-19



pandemic, HIV continues to be a relentless challenge. Having claimed over 40 million lives globally, HIV remains not only a public health issue but also a profoundly personal burden for the individuals infected and those in their lives who are affected. Its impact resonates through families, communities, and systems, demanding persistent focus and innovation.

Socio-economic factors influence dementia risk and recovery, study finds

New Delhi: Not just genes, a new study has found that socio-economic factors such as education, occupation and wealth can also impact the likelihood of developing cognitive impairment or dementia in later life and whether a person is likely to recover. By estimating the time spent in each cognitive state and the likelihood of transitions to neuro-cognitive disorders such as cognitive impairment and dementia, the researchers from University College London (UCL) were able to gain a comprehensive understanding of how socioeconomic factors impact the progression of a person's disorder, as well as the duration spent within each cognitive state over time. Lead author Aswathikitty Gireesh from UCL Epidemiology and Health Care said that it is possible that education and intellectually demanding jobs provide more mental stimulation and help to build a stronger brain reserve to help protect individuals against cognitive impairment and dementia.

The study, published in the journal Scientific Reports, highlights the critical role of wealth, education, and occupation not only in reducing the risk of transitioning from mild cognitive impairment to dementia but also in increasing the likelihood of reversing cognitive impairment to a healthy cognitive state, which is promising, said senior author Dr Dorina Cadar from UCL Department of Behavioural Science and Health and Brighton and Sussex Medical School. The researchers tracked how people moved between various states: healthy, mild cognitive impairment and dementia. They also considered the possibility of reversals, where individuals improved from a mild cognitive impairment state to a healthy one.

US Senate clears GENIUS Act: What the draft stablecoin regulation means for the global crypto landscape



The US Senate passed the GENIUS Act Bill on Wednesday with a vote of 68-30 in a major boost for stablecoins — reserve-backed cryptocurrencies that have received an impetus from the Donald Trump administration in America. The next stage for the GENIUS Act will be passage in the US House of Representatives, where members have readied their own version of a stablecoin regulation bill, the STABLE Act. Challenges notwithstanding, the GENIUS Act’s passage in the US Senate led to a surge in the price of crypto exchange operator Circle. According to exchange data, Circle Internet Group’s share price was up 33.82 per cent at market closing on Wednesday. In pre-market activity, Circle’s share price was up another 24.75 per cent to \$211.87 apiece at 1:35 pm IST on Friday. US markets were closed on Thursday for the Juneteenth 2025 National Independence Day.

Stablecoins, or commodity-backed cryptocurrencies, have witnessed a surge in market capitalisation to \$251.7 billion so far in 2025, marking a 22 per cent rise this year, Reuters reported on Wednesday, citing industry data. The passage of the GENIUS Act Bill in the US Senate is backed by multiple actions taken by the administration of US President Donald Trump — from the announcement of a strategic crypto reserve to the promotion of cryptocurrency sympathiser Paul S Atkins as chairperson of the US markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission. Trump’s family interests in cryptocurrency are well known and were mentioned in the Senate discussions after the tabling of the GENIUS Act. In the run-up to the passage of the GENIUS Act bill in the US Senate, US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a social media post on X that “stablecoins could grow into a \$3.7 trillion market by the end of the decade”. Recent reporting projects that stablecoins could grow into a \$3.7 trillion market by the end of the decade. That scenario becomes more likely with passage of the GENIUS Act. A thriving stablecoin ecosystem will drive demand from the private sector for US Treasuries, which back... In a podcast clip posted on his X page, Bessent said crypto is unlikely to pose a threat to the US dollar stating that “stablecoins could reinforce dollar supremacy, because stablecoins can end up being one of the largest buyers of US Treasuries... T-bills.”

Elaborating on how this may work, Bessent gave the example of how “all of a sudden if you are using a stablecoin in Nigeria backed by the USD, you don’t actually have to have dollars it’s on your phone, you can transact (using dollar-backed stablecoins)...” Crypto is not a threat to the dollar. In fact, stablecoins can reinforce dollar supremacy. Digital assets are one of the most important phenomena in the world right now, yet they have been ignored by national governments for far too long. “There’s a very good chance that crypto is actually one of the things that locks in dollar supremacy,” Bessent added. The Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for U.S. Stablecoins (GENIUS) Act was passed by the US Senate on Wednesday with a 68-30 vote. The bill sets guardrails for stablecoins with proposals for compliance to ensure prevention of money laundering, full backing of cryptocurrencies by reserves and monthly audits. CNBC reported. The GENIUS Act will be tabled next in the US Representatives House which has its own version of the stablecoin regulation bill, the STABLE Act.

The Stablecoin Transparency and Accountability for a Better Ledger Economy (STABLE) Act places oversight of stablecoins, or reserve backed cryptocurrency under the purview of the Office of the Comptroller the Currency in the US, similar to the GENIUS Act. However, STABLE Act differs from the GENIUS Act in terms of limiting reserve backing requirements to a clutch of assets such as US Treasuries apart from restricting who can issue stablecoins, ac-

AAIB to decide where to analyse black boxes of crashed Air India plane after assessing ‘technical, safety, security’ considerations

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) will take a call on where the black boxes of the crashed AI flight 171 will be decoded after assessing all technical, safety, and security considerations, the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) said Thursday, indicating that a decision is yet to be taken on whether the data recorders will be analysed in India or will be sent abroad. The ministry’s remarks came amid reports and speculation that the black box — flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder — may be sent to the US as AAIB’s black box lab may not be fully equipped to handle damaged units.

“It has been reported in certain media outlets that the CVR/DFDR (cockpit voice recorder/digital flight data recorder) from the ill-fated AI171 flight is being sent abroad for retrieval and analysis. The decision regarding the location for decoding the flight recorders will be taken by the AAIB after due assessment of all technical, safety, and security considerations. The Ministry of Civil Aviation urges all stakeholders to refrain from speculation on such sensitive matters and to allow the investigative process to proceed with the seriousness and professionalism it warrants,” MoCA said in a release. “The AAIB investigation is progressing steadily with all necessary support from local authorities and agencies. Key recovery work, including site documentation and evidence collection, has been completed, and further analysis is now underway,” MoCA said, giving an update on the probe. Boeing 787 aircraft have two combined black box sets, each with the joint functions of CVR and DFDR. According to industry insiders, the combined black box is called an Enhanced Airborne Flight Recorder (EAFR), and regulations require two units to be located in the aircraft — one at the front and one at the aft, or rear section — for redundancy, in case one unit is significantly damaged or never recovered. The first EAFR was recovered on June 13 from the crash site in Ahmedabad while the second was recovered on June 16. The government has so far not commented on the extent of damage to the black boxes. Sources indicated that deliberations are underway on whether to send the units to the National Trans-

cording to Jeff Reundlet, head of accounting strategy at Crypto, provider of ledger services for cryptocurrencies. However, the STABLE Act bill may not go far enough, according to a paper written by partners at the law firm Orrick. While the bill aims to create a single regulatory framework for prospective issuers, and excludes payment stablecoins from federal securities laws, it may allow state regulators the power to monitor which stablecoins may be supported by exchanges of licensed intermediaries, wrote Nathaniel Reisenburg, managing associate, and Joseph Perkins and Ignacio Sandoval, partners at Orrick. US President Donald Trump took to his social media platform Truth Social after the US Senate passed the GENIUS Act bill, stating it “going to make America the UNDISPUTED Leader in Digital Assets — Nobody will do it better, it is pure GENIUS!”

“Digital Assets are the future, and our Nation is going to own it. We are talking about MASSIVE Investment, and Big Innovation,” Trump added. In his podcast interview, Bessent reiterated the Trump administration’s commitment to digital assets, while adding that “because there are so many other things that happen around digital assets... it’s one of the most important phenomenons happening around us in the world and the US just ignored it (under the Biden administration).” Trump reversed his stance on crypto assets from his first term, and even released his own namecoin to burnish his credentials as a backer of virtual digital assets. Cryptocurrency backers also contributed generously — around \$20 million — into electing what is considered a pro-crypto Congress during the 2024 cycle, CNBC reported. In a recent declaration, Trump disclosed earnings of over \$600 million from interests including crypto, golf clubs, and licensing deals apart from other ventures. According to the public disclosure, the US President has earned an estimated \$320 million from his \$TRUMP memecoin. Trump also pulled in \$400 million from the World Liberty Financial platform for cryptocurrencies which is backed by his children. The US President earned \$57.35 million from the sale of digital tokens at WLF. He also reportedly held over 15 billion governance tokens in WLF. Other crypto ventures related to Trump include exchange traded funds held via Truth Social’s crypto vertical Truth.Fi, and crypto mining firm American Bitcoin, CNBC reported. Hacker group Gonjeshke Darande, Persian for ‘Predatory Sparrow’, with potential links to Israel, wiped off \$90 million from Iran’s largest crypto exchange Nobitex, Reuters reported, citing a Telegram post by the group. The attack was confirmed in the app by Nobitex, according to the report.

Hackers wiped the exchange clean of a range of digital coins from Bitcoin to Ethereum and Dogecoin, said Andrew Fierman, head of national security intelligence at Chainalysis, the news wire reported. Last month, Trump family-linked WLF inked a pact with the Pakistan Crypto Council to boost cryptocurrency adoption in the country, days after it agreed to a ceasefire with India in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, which was launched by New Delhi to target terror camps across the border in response to a terror attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir which killed 26 Indian tourists.

Apart from these instances of cryptocurrencies playing a key role in diplomacy as well as hostilities, digital tokens are also being used to reinforce the US dollar’s supremacy, as pointed out by Bessent above. By formalising stablecoin issuance, backed by the dollar, the US is seemingly hedging its bets in a world where key economies are switching to commodities such as gold as they intend to de-risk their holdings from USD-related volatility. The US sanctions on Russia in the aftermath of the declaration of war on Ukraine involved the freezing of Russian foreign exchange worth \$300 billion, triggering a risk-off approach among countries across the world. In 2023, Russian President Vladimir Putin gave a call for de-dollarisation, urging the BRICS grouping to promote settlements in national currencies and expand bank-to-bank cooperation. Trump warned the BRICS against such a move which could potentially hurt the dollar. In a statement in February Trump boasted he had warned BRICS nations of desisting from de-dollarisation or face outsized tariffs. The stablecoin route is expected to enervise the dollar by promoting the use of cryptocurrency pegged to the greenback. It remains to be seen whether this will be adopted across the globe.

portation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Laboratory in the US for data extraction and analysis, or perform the exercise at the AAIB’s new black box lab in Delhi. The NTSB is already assisting the AAIB in the probe since Boeing, an American company, was the aircraft manufacturer.

“It will depend on the condition. The investigators will have to ascertain the absolute integrity of the black boxes, and if they are confident about it, they would like to analyse them at the new lab instead of sending it to an overseas facility,” a source had earlier told “The new (AAIB) lab is a world-class facility but there are highly specialised labs in a few countries that may be superior. If the investigators feel that the DFDR or the CVR are not in a state that the AAIB lab can handle, or if the extent of data analysis that they require for the probe is beyond its capability, then they might decide to send it to an even more advanced facility, most likely in the US as the aircraft involved was a Boeing plane,” said another source, adding that if the units are sent abroad an AAIB team will accompany them to ensure their “safety, security, and integrity.” The DFDR records flight data on numerous parameters of aircraft operations, while the CVR records the flight crew’s voices, as well as other sounds inside the cockpit, including engine noise, stall warnings, landing gear extension and retraction, and other clicks and pops. Communications with air traffic control, automated radio weather briefings, and conversation between the pilots and ground or cabin crew are also recorded. The new AAIB lab, built with the support of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and inaugurated in April, has enhanced the agency’s ability to repair damaged black boxes, retrieve data, and conduct thorough analyses of accidents with high accuracy. Earlier, a black box lab under the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was being used by the AAIB, but the facility was old and lacked a few key capabilities needed for thorough and accurate data retrieval and analysis, said a source. This was one of the reasons a number of black boxes from aircraft in serious accidents were sent to overseas labs, said a source.

Which routines are favourites of top doctors? ‘These give stamina to stand in OT for 8 hours’



A nine-hour surgery, emergency and bleeding on the table, anxious patients spilling out of the OPD and a dying patient’s relative clinging on to hope — doctors have a tough time holding on to so many lifelines and processing collective anxiety. Little wonder then that a 2021 study showed that 75 per cent of doctors in India were under severe stress. And if there is one solution that takes care of both their physical and mental well-being without eating into their schedule, it is yoga. As a neurosurgeon, I have to be on my feet for about seven to eight hours at a stretch. And since there’s little focus on ergonomics in neurosurgery, the operating room environment and surgical techniques aren’t designed to minimise physical strain. So I cannot imagine any day without my morning yoga, which keeps my knee joints stable and my spine supple. In fact, if I go without yoga for a week, I get a neck pain so severe that I have to be on pain relievers and muscle relaxants.

Since I have to bend over the patient, twist my torso and assume awkward postures for an extended time period, my lumbar spine gets stressed. Certain surgical instruments and procedures require repetitive hand and wrist movements. Brain surgeries are particularly demanding as they require the surgeon to look through the endoscope continuously without moving and simultaneously keeping their arms extended to use tools like drills and retractors. Such surgeries strain the muscles and tendons in my neck and back. More than physical strain, I need to focus sharp, something that pranayama helps me with. I give myself an hour every day for my exercise routines, five times a week. I do yoga at least thrice a week, more if I am not lined up for early morning surgery. But I do it in combination with cardio exercises and strength training. Yoga itself can be considered a form of strength training. I begin my routine with 10-15 minutes of yoga and then 45 minutes of other drills. In the evenings, I play badminton to unwind. I do eight to 10 sets of surya namaskar daily. I usually follow it up with the cobra pose or Bhujangasana, which opens up the shoulder blades, neck and collar bones. It improves circulation, lung function, massages and regulates the adrenal and thyroid glands. The table top pose, or Bharmanasana, is another of my favourites as it strengthens the wrists, arms, shoulders and core while stretching and lengthening the spine. Additionally, it can improve posture, balance and focus while relieving stress. The cow pose or Bitilasana is a good spine arch routine that straightens the spine, improves abdominal and diaphragmatic breathing capabilities and opens up stiff shoulders.

US FDA approves HIV prevention drug: Why is this a breakthrough?

The Lenacapavir injection — sold as Yeztugo by pharmaceutical giant Gilead — was approved based on the results of two Phase 3 trials that showed 99.9% of individuals remained HIV negative with the two shots taken annually. The Lenacapavir injection — sold as Yeztugo by pharmaceutical giant Gilead — was approved based on the results of two Phase 3 trials that showed 99.9% of individuals remained HIV negative with the two shots taken annually. (Representative/A twice-yearly injectable drug for the prevention of HIV infection has been approved by the United States’ Food and Drug Administration. With better compliance expected — instead of daily pills on a shot every two months that people have to take at the moment — it is one of the most anticipated developments in the field of HIV prevention.

The Lenacapavir injection — sold as Yeztugo by pharmaceutical giant Gilead — was approved based on the results of two Phase 3 trials that showed 99.9% of individuals remained HIV negative with the two shots taken annually. “FDA approval ... paves the way for WHO prequalification, which can accelerate national regulatory approvals ... and procurement by donor agencies like the Global Fund... Lenacapavir’s discreet, long-acting formulation may help overcome key barriers such as daily pill burden, frequent clinic visits and stigma associated with HIV prevention,” the World Health Organization (WHO) said.

What is Lenacapavir? Lenacapavir is an anti-retroviral medication that can be used to treat as well as prevent HIV. As Sunlenca, it is used in combination with other antiretroviral drugs for the treatment of people who have been on pills for a very long time and are resistant to multiple drugs. As Yeztugo, it is a pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) to prevent the infection. The drug works by binding with the HIV capsid — a protein shell that protects the virus’ genetic material. It then disrupts crucial steps needed for the virus to replicate and infect new cells.

What is PrEP? PrEP or pre-exposure prophylaxis is a drug or injectable meant to prevent HIV infection in people at a higher risk of contracting the disease. These medicines can reduce the risk of acquiring HIV infection through sexual activity by 99% and through injection drug use by 74%. At present, there are several types of PrEP available — pills such as Truvada or Descovy, Dapivirine vaginal ring and the injectable Cabotegravir that has to be taken every two months. It is important to be tested for HIV before taking PrEP. While these medicines are also used in the treatment of HIV, they are prescribed in combination with other antiretrovirals. Given alone to a patient with HIV, they might develop resistance to the drugs. PrEP is usually recommended for people living with an HIV positive partner, those who frequently change partners, those who have sex with people with unknown HIV status, those who work in the sex industry, and those who use injectable drugs. Medicines for post exposure prophylaxis are also available to be used as an emergency measure in cases such as inadvertent exposure in a hospital setting, after condom failure, or during sexual assault.

Is PrEP available in India? While generic versions of the PrEP pills are approved in India — Cabotegravir injection is also available through a sub-licensing contract — they are not widely used. This is mainly owing to the cost of the medicines and the fact that they are not yet part of the country’s national programme,

I have made yoga a part of my patient recovery protocol. Convalescents who need screws to stabilise the spine and help bones heal are recommended yoga after three months. Those without screws can take it up in six weeks. Yoga is best for them in strengthening their core. I try to do yoga at least four times a week and combine it with my cardio and strength training. Surya namaskar is my all-in-one routine and helps me when I am travelling and find limited windows to exercise. In fact, yoga has many stretches that can rival those of Pilates. But it doesn’t require gadgets. Whatever happens, I never give up on pranayama. Breath exercises are good for metabolism. They help lower cortisol levels and keep me calm, so that my decision-making is more judicious. Laparoscopic surgery strains your shoulders and neck muscles. But as a robotic surgeon sitting at a console, where both my neck and hands are flexed and I need to operate the joystick for every precise movement, pressure builds up in my elbows and wrists. Sometimes you need to take quick action, so your hands need to be flexible and agile. Only yoga poses allow wrist-focused stretches, rotations and fingertip grips. I prescribe yoga to all my patients, particularly recently diagnosed ones, so that they can retain their positivity and body confidence. For those in chemotherapy, yoga helps increase their strength and muscle mass so that they can complete their cycles.

One hour, six days a week. That’s my yoga routine, no matter how busy my OPD is. It improves my mood, sleep quality and sense of satiety. It helps me develop a positive attitude, relieving stress and fatigue. At one time I was into stress eating. With yoga, my craving for snacking has gone down. I sleep well now. I started practising yoga consistently since last year and have lost 13 kg. When I started out, it was tough to get into the flow. Being overweight, stretching was not easy. But in just a month, I could feel my body loosen up, become flexible and full of energy. Apart from pranayama, my favourites include Tadasana, Chakrasana, Sarvangasana, Halasana, Bhujangasana and Dhanurasana, all of which strengthen the core, firm up the abdomen, reduce anxiety and improve organ functions. In fact, after I noticed the fat-busting effects of yoga,

I wrote a thesis on the efficacy of yoga in improving fatty liver. We found that yoga with dietary calorie restriction is not inferior to exercise with dietary calorie restriction. In fact, we were able to control liver inflammation and fibrosis in our test subjects within six months. As a doctor, I have developed an Obesity Yoga Protocol for patients, which consists of a series of asanas, pranayama and meditation, along with dietary and lifestyle interventions. We also have a Y-Break protocol at PGI of about five to seven minutes, where healthcare workers do a specific set of relaxation techniques during lunch or tea break. That helps us jump right back in. I have been practising yoga for the last five years, 6 am to 7 am, five days a week. Two days I reserve for other intense exercises. Surya namaskara can be a full body workout when you do it at a faster pace. Other than that I do a lot of forward-bending asanas because they improve flexibility, stretch the spine and hamstrings, massage abdominal organs and can help relieve back pain and stiffness. These also reduce stress and improve digestion.



which already provides life-long treatment to all who have been diagnosed with HIV. The new injectable will cost USD 28,218 annually, remaining out of reach for many. Even in the US, usage remains low. Only 36% of the 1.2 million people who would have benefited from the medicine were prescribed it.

What’s difference between food poisoning, gastro?

If you’ve got a dodgy tummy, diarrhoea and have been vomiting, it’s easy to blame a “tummy bug” or “off food.” But which is it? Gastro or food poisoning? What’s the difference anyway?

What’s gastroenteritis? Gastroenteritis, or gastro for short, is a gut infection caused by a virus, bacterium or other microbe. The gut is teeming with cells including healthy microbes and the cells lining the gut. But when viruses, bacteria and other microbes start to invade your gut, they colonise, build up in large numbers and eventually cause the cells lining the gut to inflame. The “-itis” at the end of gastroenteritis means inflammation. Gastroenteritis is extremely common. So where do these gastro-causing microbes come from? Eating contaminated food is often the source. However you can acquire these microbes in other ways. For example, if you touch a surface where someone sick from viral gastroenteritis had vomited on, that virus could transfer to your hands. And if your hands touched your mouth, you in turn could contract viral gastroenteritis.

What’s food poisoning? Food poisoning refers to getting sick from eating food contaminated with chemicals, microbes or toxins. For example if you ate food contaminated with insecticides or methyl alcohol (methanol) that would count as food poisoning. If you ate puffer fish or poisonous mushrooms that would count too. But food poisoning doesn’t include the effects of eating a food you’re allergic to. The vast majority of food poisonings are as a result of food contaminated by microbes and their toxins. When you eat or drink them it’s like a missile strike. The toxins in particular can rapidly cause inflammation and damage the lining of the gut. To add to the confusion, food poisoning is often referred to as foodborne gastroenteritis.

How can we tell the two apart? Both gastroenteritis and food poisoning have symptoms such as diarrhoea, vomiting, nausea, abdominal cramps, fever and headaches. But these symptoms can come on in different ways.

Indian junior archers enter five finals at Asia Cup Stage 2



GNS News Agency, June 28

Singapore: Indian junior archers continued their dominating run by storming into five team finals at the Asia Cup Stage 2 here on Thursday. The Indian men's recurve team, seeded second, defeated Bangladesh 5-1 in a one-sided semifinal to set up a summit clash with third seeds Japan. The trio of Vishnu Choudhary, Paras Hooda and Juyel Sarkar dominated from the outset, taking the opening set 55-48.

Although the second set was tied at 55-55, the Indians bounced back strongly against their fifth-seeded opponents, dropping just one point in the third set to win it 59-56 and

seal the issue. In the recurve mixed team event, Vaishnavi Pawar and Vishnu Choudhary defeated Singapore's Tabitha Ern Lin Yeo and Yue Long Li 5-3 to enter the final. The Indian pair won the first set 37-35, tied the second 37-all, and lost the third 36-38 to make it 3-3. But Pawar and Choudhary held their nerves to close out the match with a commanding 38-34 win in the final set. India also assured themselves of a medal in the compound men's team event after the trio of Kushal Dalal, Ganesh Thirumuru and Mihir Apar edged past fifth-seeded Australia in a tense semifinal decided by a shoot-off (30-29) after both teams were tied at 232 after four sets. The top-seeded Indian compound women's team comprising Shanmukhi Budde, Tejal Salve and Tanishka Thokal defeated fourth-seeded Kazakhstan 230-229 in a nail-biting semifinal to ensure another medal. They will meet Malaysia in the final. The top-seeded Indian compound mixed team pairing of Shanmukhi and Kushal also confirmed another medal by defeating Indonesia's Nurisa Dian Ashrifah and Prima Wisnu Wardhana 155-154 in a nail-biting semifinal. They will face third-seeded Kazakhstan in the final. However, there was heartbreak for the Indian women's recurve team. Seeded fifth, the trio of Vaishnavi Pawar, Kirti, and Tamanna lost a thrilling quarterfinal to fourth seeds Japan 4-5 (26-28) in the shoot-off after a five-set battle. They lost the opening set 47-49 and slumped further after man-aging only 34 in the second set to Japan's 55. But the Indians showed great resilience to take the third set 55-53

International experience fueling Indian rugby talent on and off the field

GNS News Agency, June 28

Hyderabad: As the GMR Rugby Premier League (RPL) is well underway, the impact of international experience on Indian players is becoming increasingly evident not just on the scoreboard, but in locker rooms, training sessions, and team camaraderie. For Bengaluru Bravehearts' Prashant Singh who won the player of the match award in their 12-7 win over Mumbai Dreamers, the biggest learnings from international players have been beyond the tactics, tries and tackles.

"Motivation, discipline and how to keep the team together both, on and off the field. I have learnt all this from the international players. They find the perfect balance between working hard and having fun, which I feel is very crucial in terms of the energy in the locker room." "There is no age limit to learn. The older we get, the more we learn. I believe we Indians need to learn from the foreign players and keep moving forward," he added. Although the statistics are dominated by the international stars, Prashant has had a brilliant campaign so far and is fifth in terms of overall tackles with 10 to his name. He is also the second highest Indian behind Muhammed Jasim of Chennai Bulls who has made 12 tackles so far. Prashant is also delighted with the cultural shift around the sport in India and believes rugby will be famous in almost the entire country with the upcoming seasons. He shared, "Before GMR RPL, people didn't even know what rugby was, they used to call it 'ragbi' or 'ragdi'! Now, half the country knows what it is, and the rest will know soon. The more you support us, the more this game will grow." On the other side, Hyderabad Heroes captain Manu Moreno, a seasoned international star, is equally upbeat about what he's seeing from his Indian teammates. "All of them are very motivated. They all are giving their 100%, so it's been an easy job for me as captain. We are building really good relationships here,"

'I took advantage of goalkeeper's mistake': Messi explains brilliant free-kick winner for Inter Miami against Porto

GNS News Agency, June 28

Lionel Messi after scoring Inter Milan's second goal against Porto during Club World Cup Group A match. (AP) Lionel Messi after scoring Inter Milan's second goal against Porto during Club World Cup Group A match. Lionel Messi starred with a free kick as Inter Miami beat Porto 2-1 in their FIFA Club World Cup match at the Mercedes-Benz Stadium on Thursday (Friday morning in India) to stay second in the Group A standings. Messi scored a 54th-minute free kick to give Inter Miami a 2-1 lead before Porto opened the scoring in the eighth minute. Samu Aghehowa scored a penalty, but Telasco Segovia scored in the 47th minute for the equaliser for Inter Miami. Inter Miami captain Messi said he is happy with the win but rues the goalless draw against Al Ahly.

"It's a great joy. A lot of effort went into it, and we worked very well. I'm very happy. We were left with a bitter taste after the first match. We thought we could have won it," he said after the match. The Argentine maestro found the top corner with a second-half set-piece to clinch a victory for the MLS side and give it a strong chance of progressing from Group A. Inter Miami and Palmeiras have four points each after the Brazilian side beat Al Ahly 2-0 earlier on — the Egyptians, like Porto, have one point. Explaining the thought behind his kick, which gave Miami the decisive lead,



Hyderabad Heroes' young defender Javed Hussain has been in the spotlight amongst Indians for his valuable contributions. He is joint-fourth with three tries scored and has registered fifteen points for his side, the highest by any Indian so far in the tournament. "I am particularly impressed by Javed. He's small but he's tackling everyone, he's making tries, it's good for him and for us" Manu highlighted. The first match of the evening will see the Bengaluru Bravehearts face off against the Chennai Bulls. The Bravehearts will look to win crucial points and close in on the top-two teams in the standings, while Chennai will be hoping to shake off their last drawn game and go back to their winning ways in the second fixture, the Kalinga Black Tigers take on the Delhi Redz side. After their win in the last game against the Dreamers, the Redz will be hoping to build on the momentum and register more points on board. The Black Tigers meanwhile, are still searching for consistency and will be eager to deliver a solid performance. The final clash of the night features the Mumbai Dreamers going up against the Hyderabad Heroes. The Dreamers will be eyeing their first win, but they face a tough test against the Heroes who have won all three of their games so far.



Messi said, "(In the free kick) I took advantage of the space left by the goalkeeper, who was standing still and not covering his post. I tried to score there." Messi believes the change in mindset of Inter Miami players worked in this game, but accepts their last group game against Palmeiras will be difficult. "The other day (there were) nerves from a lot of young guys playing in such a significant competition. We've changed. We're going to compete, try to play our game. Today we were the inferior team, but we have our weapons. Next up is Palmeiras, which is a big club in the world. It's going to be another very difficult game."



ries in England is always very special," he added. Rahane, who had led an injury plagued India side to a memorable series win against Australia in 2020-21, said that new skipper Shubman Gill will do well both as a batter and a skipper. Gill was appointed captain after Rohit Sharma retired from the longest format last month. "I think it's going to be a challenging task for Shubman because in Test cricket I always believe you have to be proactive as a captain.

'We're not friends': Lionel Messi on how relationship with Cristiano Ronaldo is based on mutual respect



GNS News Agency, June 28

Lionel Messi Cristiano Ronaldo Lionel Messi said that while he had a tremendous amount of respect for eternal rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the two superstars were not exactly friends. Argentine superstar Lionel Messi said that while he had a tremendous amount of respect for eternal rival Cristiano Ronaldo, the two superstars were not exactly friends. Messi said that this was not due to some kind of personal animosity but was down to the simple fact that the two superstars don't spend time together with their paths rarely crossing. "I have a lot of respect and admiration for Cristiano Ronaldo and for the career he's had and continues to have, because he's still competing at the highest

level," Messi told DSports.

"The competition with him was on the pitch. Each of us wanted to do the best for our team. Obviously, as always, everything stayed on the field. Off the pitch, we are two normal people. We're not friends obviously because we don't spend time together, but we've always treated each other with a lot of respect," he added. A few weeks ago, Ronaldo had also said that he had nothing but respect for Messi. "I have affection for Messi, although we have been rivals for many years. As I have said in several interviews, we were on stage for 15 years. I translated for him at the galas. I have affection for him because he always respected me a lot," Ronaldo had said ahead of Portugal's game against Spain in the Nations League final. On Friday, Messi's stunning free kick secured Inter Miami a 2-1 win over Porto in their Club World Cup Group A clash, marking the first time a CONCACAF team has defeated a European side in an official FIFA tournament. The Argentine great was pivotal as the Major League Soccer side bounced back from their disappointing goalless draw against Egyptian side Al Ahly in their opening match. Inter Miami's win over Porto boosts their chances of a deep run in a tournament designed to pit champion clubs from across the globe against one another. The competition is taking place in 12 stadiums across the United States.

How KL Rahul, Ben Stokes warmed up with Extreme Cricket challenge: Batting on moving truck & floating barge, striking targets stuck on rickshaw tops

GNS News Agency, June 28

KL Rahul Ben Stokes Extreme Cricket The India-England was still a month away, when Rahul and Stokes undertook a Red Bull Extreme cricket challenge that included range-hitting from a moving truck and precision striking on targets batting on a floating barge on a Mumbai lake. (Credit: Aliasgar Bharmal/Red Bull India) Weeks before KL Rahul and Ben Stokes face off in the Tendulkar-Anderson Trophy, the two batting talents went head to head in a spot of Extreme Cricket. The India-England was still a month away, when Rahul and Stokes undertook a Red Bull Extreme cricket challenge that included range-hitting from a moving truck and precision striking on targets batting on a floating barge on a Mumbai lake.

The defensive abilities of both the key members of their respective sides were also tested against bowling machines, which they both named Bumrah for the variety in exploring onto the stumps. Moving targets suspended from drones and mounted on auto rickshaws (tum tuk for Stokes), completed the extreme batting challenge. The first challenge saw Rahul batting on a glacially moving open trailer to complete an aggregate 500 metres in a limited number of chances on an empty road stretch. His maximum travelled 110 metre. Stokes's equivalent was batting from a floating barge with 6 buoys rings signalling target zones to land ball into. He managed a few as Naser Hussain provided ani-



mated commentary. The second challenge had 4 temporary rooms constructed with balls spitting out bowling machines. Rahul's challenge was to guess 'where' from of the 4 slots the ball would emerge from, while Stokes' needed to wait and bide his time for a 'when', as the delivery suddenly fetched up. In Room 3, Rahul was up against a pitch made of different zones – Wood plank (dead bounce), dust Bowl (slow and low), chaos mat (entirely unpredictable) and marble slab (fast kick bounce). The goal was to not get Out. While Stokes' had to bat with operatic shrieking music blared into his ear. On the final challenge, the two took turns on an open field hitting long aiming at auto rickshaw mounted bullseye targets.

Why are India, England players wearing black armbands on Day 1 of ENG vs IND Test at Headingley?



Indian team had worn black armband and observed one minute of silence ahead of the national anthem on Day 1 of ENG vs IND Test. (AP) Indian team had worn black armband and observed one minute of silence ahead of the national anthem on Day 1 of ENG vs IND Test. (AP)

The Indian cricket team and England players wore black armbands on Friday when they came out for the national anthem before the start of Day 1 of the first Test at Headingley in Leeds, as a tribute and mark of respect for those who lost their lives in the Air India plane crash last week in Ahmedabad. The players from both teams also observed a minute of silence prior to the respective national anthems. An Air India flight from Ahmedabad bound for London Gatwick Airport crashed shortly after takeoff, killing 241 people and leaving only one survivor. There were 242 pas-

sengers and crew aboard. According to the official passenger list, there were 169 Indians, 53 from the United Kingdom, seven Portuguese, and one Canadian. Earlier, players from the South African and Australian teams also wore black armbands and observed a minute of silence during their World Test Championship final. On Friday, Tamil Nadu sensation Sai Sudharsan also marked his Test debut. Sudharsan was seen receiving the Test cap from Cheteshwar Pujara in a team huddle ahead of the toss that went in Ben Stokes' favour, with England opting to bowl first. Sudharsan is the 317th man to receive the India Test cap and will likely mark his first innings as India's new No. 3 in the line-up. The left-hander's batting technique received several plaudits after a record-breaking IPL 2025 season, where he finished as the highest run-getter with 759 runs. Sudharsan has previously featured in two County stints with Surrey in 2023 and 2024, averaging 35. In his last outing for the side, Sudharsan cracked his maiden First-Class century in English conditions, while batting at No. 6. Overall, the 23-year-old averages 39.93 for 1957 runs in 29 FC outings since his debut in 2022. Joining Sudharsan in the XI is Karun Nair, making his comeback to the Test fold for his first appearance in eight years since his last match against Australia in March 2017 in Dharamsala. Nair made waves on the domestic circuit this season, including his career-best Ranji Trophy season, ending with a title triumph in Vidarbha. The 33-year-old shone in the knockout matches, slamming three centuries, including a century in the final against Kerala.

Win-loss percentage, stats & track record before Shubman Gill's 2025 ENG tour

GNS News Agency, June 28

Indian cricket team captain Shubman Gill with teammates during a practice session ahead of the first Test cricket match against England, at Headingley, Leeds, Thursday, June 19, 2025. (ICC via PTI Photo) Indian cricket team captain Shubman Gill with teammates during a practice session ahead of the first Test cricket match against England, at Headingley, Leeds, Thursday,

Indian captains in England, win-loss record: Newly anointed Indian Test captain Shubman Gill will face perhaps his biggest challenge in his very first tour as India is all set to play England in a five-match Test series starting from Friday, with the Headingley in Leeds. Gill was made the Test captain after Rohit Sharma announced that he would hang up his boots in this format. The development was then succeeded by the shock retirement of one of the greatest players of this generation, Virat Kohli. The void left by these two batting greats will be a tough one to fill, as India have gone on with young talents to face mighty England. India holds a poor record in Tests in England. Out of 67 Tests between the two nations in England, India have only managed to win just nine of them. Gill will be the 18th Indian to lead his side in England.

Before Gill, 17 different players have led the Indian side in England, with only six of them leading the side to a win. CK Nayudu was the first Indian captain to tour England. Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni (both nine Tests) have captained



India for the most time in England. Under Kohli, India have won three Tests, the highest under any Indian skipper. 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev holds the best winning percentage among any Indian captains in England. Under Kapil, India won two out of three Tests, resulting in a win percentage of 66.66. Among all six Indian captains who have won a Test in England, Dhoni has the worst winning percentage of just 11.11. Under Dhoni, India have lost eight out of nine Tests there. The Indian side has only won three series in England. The first one came under Ajit Wadekar in 1971, when India beat England 1-0 in the three-match Test series. In 1986, India handed England a 2-0 defeat in a three-match series under Kapil before winning their last series on England's soil in 2007 under Rahul Dravid.

Kuberaa movie review: Dhanush, Nagarjuna shine bright in Sekhar Kammula’s mindful ‘massy’ film



Kuberaa Movie Review, Rating and Release: From the very outset, Kuberaa was going to be defined by the choices made by writer-director Sekhar Kammula. The decision to tell a story starkly different from his trademark intimate and subdued style, for starters, caught everyone's attention ahead of the release. The move to lend that story a considerably larger canvas than before became another defining facet of the film, as did the promotional tour he embarked on to discuss it. Amidst all this, the spotlight was always going to be on Kammula's storytelling approach — and how he would “adjust” his perspective for an endeavour of this scale.

Yet, with Kuberaa now in theatres, the film doesn't feel entirely removed from what the filmmaker has done before. Although it tackles the sophisticated subject of corporate power-play and its apathetic worldview, the intricate manner in which the narrative unfolds remains resonant with Kammula's past work. It carries his refreshing treatment of everyday people, their true-to-life essence, his simplicity — and also the signature quality of treating audiences with dignity and not doubting their intelligence. Take, for instance, how Dhanush's homeless character, Deva, is etched. Without diving into too much detail, the film traces how a destitute man is drawn into the world of the ultra-rich before he rises to the occasion and begins to control the game. This trope is familiar territory in cinema, and while Kammula uses it to his advantage, he refrains from going overboard with Deva's heroism. Deva (thanks to Dhanush's measured performance) is meek, functionally illiterate, and ill-equipped in every conceivable way — but the film doesn't force him to act implausibly against his nature during pivotal moments.

The same applies to how Akkineni Nagarjuna and Rashmika Mandanna's roles are handled. Nagarjuna plays a high-level fixer for a corporate conglomerate (run by Jim Sarbh's cold-blooded Neeraj Mithra and his father), while Mandanna plays Sameera, a commoner girl (comically

dealing with life's many struggles. Kuberaa understands the importance of these archetypes, but also takes care to humanise them and draw the viewer into their world. The choice of locations (the film is largely set in Mumbai), the dialogues penned by Kammula and Chaithanya Pingali (also the co-writer), and the overall tone of the performances greatly support the film's emotional core. At the same time, Kuberaa is keenly aware of being a 'pan-Indian' project, and carries a strange duality throughout its 182-minute runtime. As in Anand (2004), Godavari (2006), and Fidaa (2017), there is space allotted for natural and emotionally grounded moments which mostly play out between Deva and Sameera. Simultaneously, however, nearly every scene is packed with an intent to continually raise the stakes, which makes the narrative feel uncharacteristically high-pitched for a Sekhar Kammula film. The filmmaker, known for his restraint (and occasional cheesiness) even in heightened drama, doesn't mind dialling up the sentimentality here — and it's clear this too is a conscious choice to match the film's scale. One conspicuous shift in Kuberaa is Devi Sri Prasad's background score, which veers sharply from the “gentleness” of someone like Mickey J Meyer. The film is heavily underscored, and the music becomes overbearing — even manipulative — at times. Niketh Bommireddy's cinematography is serviceable, while Karthika Srinivas' editing does well to hold the dense screenplay together. Still, the burden of juggling multiple responsibilities occasionally gets the better of the film. The first half hits the ground running and efficiently stacks a range of moments — the way Nagarjuna's Deepak kickstarts the story, the way Deva and Sameera stumble into the fray, and the intricate world of Benami banking, business moguls, politicians and capitalists (with Sarbh's character anchoring much of it) — all of it is well-organised and absorbing. In contrast, the second half begins to meander, searching for the perfect moment to land its final punch. Kuberaa wears its bleeding heart on its sleeve for the marginalised, and while several scenes are effective, a few others feel repetitive and yank the pacing. On one hand, they stretch the runtime beyond a threshold and test the viewer's patience. On the other, they dilute the sprightly momentum the film had built — a momentum that could have benefited from tighter reins in the final act. If the bloated duration of the film could be overlooked, Kuberaa stands apart from all the cacophony around as a one-of-a-kind ‘mass’ experience. It could have used a more deft hand, yes — but it remains a rare film that asks difficult questions of its audience, and then trusts them to sit with the discomfort. Most importantly, it features a filmmaker orchestrating his cast with discernment. The actors — Dhanush, most notably — are all committed, and none of them overstep their boundaries. Watch the film to witness how a storyteller takes on power machinery with softness.

Diana Penty says she has been in a live-in relationship for 12 years with boyfriend Harsh Sagar, marriage is not important to them: ‘In my head, I am...’

Actor Diana Penty has been in a long-term relationship with her boyfriend, diamond merchant Harsh Sagar. While the couple has been dating each other since more than a decade and living together in Mumbai, they don't feel the urgency to tie the knot. In a recent interview, Diana opened up about her decision and spoke about the preconceived notion that models are promiscuous. During a conversation with Hauterfly, the actor shared her thoughts about marriage, revealing that they and their families are in no rush. “Yes, I am not single. I will not go on a rooftop and shout about it, but my partner and I have been together for 12 years, and we've known each other for 22 years, which is half of my life. So even though I am not married, in my head I am. It's the same thing because you're respecting the relationship in the same way,” she said.

“Both our families are very chill, they respect what we have. Both sides say that our happiness is most important. So, there's been no pressure of marriage. We live together. We have a dog together. Everybody knows we are together, there's no rush really. It's pretty much like being married, it's just that it's not on paper. But, that makes no difference to me or to him,” she added.

Diana, who began her modelling career in 2005 before making her acting debut in Cocktail (2012), also reacted to the common assumption that models are promiscuous. She said in a furious tone, “I don't know where these perceptions come from. We are all human beings at the end of the day. Human beings who have certain principles, morals, ethics, their own set of how they have been brought up, what they are comfortable with and what not. Each to its own.” The actor added, “Everybody is different, everyone has their own personalities. It's not basis your profession, it's basis who you are. You respect everybody for who they are. Just because one person is a certain way, doesn't mean



that everyone who is doing the same job is that certain way. That's like saying all directors are the same. There's one director who has a certain personality and does a few promiscuous things, so all directors do that. No! Everybody is different.” When asked if any inappropriate advances have been made towards her during her modelling career, she replied, “I have always right from the beginning set my boundaries and made it very clear. That's a part of who I am, I don't generally let people in my space easily. That's maybe because I am an only child.”

Suriya’s new film announces title as ‘Karuppu’

Chennai: The makers of director RJ Balaji's eagerly awaited action thriller, featuring actor Suriya in the lead, on Friday announced the title of the film as ‘Karuppu’. Taking to its X timeline, Dream Warrior Pictures, the production house producing the film, wrote, “With pride and excitement, we present the title of #Suriya45: ‘KARUPPU’. A name that embodies the soul of our story, shaped by heart, spirit, and purpose. Actor Suriya also shared the title on his X timeline and wished the film's director, RJ Balaji, a happy birthday. He wrote, “Here's our #Karuppu for you..! Wishing you all happiness @RJ_Balaji.”

Actress Trisha plays the female lead in this film, which will also feature Malayalam actors Indrans, Sshivada, Swasika and Tamil actors Yogi Babu and cinematographer and actor Natty in pivotal roles. The film has music by young music sensation Sai Abhyankkar, and cinematography by GK Vishnu, the very same cinematographer who impressed with his work in films like Vijay's ‘Bigil’, ‘Jawan’ and ‘Mersal’. R Kalaivanan will be the editor of this film, which will have Vikram Mor choreographing stunts for the film and Arun Venjaramoodu as art director. It may be recalled that actor and director RJ Balaji, who is also a well-known commentator, had chosen not to be a part of the commentary team for this year's IPL because of directing this film.



When Johny Lever called Govinda a ‘madman’ who juggled 5–6 films in one day: ‘He would fall sick...’



Anyone who grew up in the 90s will likely agree, when it comes to comedy, no one could touch Govinda. At one point in his career, the actor was at the very peak of both creativity and stardom. Almost everything he touched turned to gold. During this golden era, he starred in numerous comedy films, many of them helmed by director David Dhawan. He also frequently shared the screen with fellow legends of the genre like Kader Khan

and Johny Lever. In an old interview with Wild Films India, Lever reminisced about working with Govinda and shared high praise for his unmatched dedication and timing in comedy.

Johny Lever said, “Govinda works like a madman. When he works... he works with incredible intensity. He immerses himself in his work so deeply, I don't know where he gets that energy from. Comedy itself is such hard work, and in one day he used to shoot for 5–6 films, giving 2–3 hours to each. There was a time like that—doing comedy amidst such chaos. And not just comedy, but dancing too. The man would get exhausted... he would fall sick. I used to visit him at home, sometimes he had typhoid, sometimes something else. But he would bounce back, return to work, shoot fight scenes, everything. He's extremely hardworking.” He added, “I always enjoyed working with him. Among all the actors who do comedy, in my opinion, among all the stars, Govinda has the best timing. Akshay (Kumar) has recently polished his comic timing too... but Govinda is on another level.” When asked about their best collaborations, Johny Lever cited Deewana Mastana and Joru Ka Ghulam as standout films. He also recalled how exhausting the schedule used to be on set, sharing that Govinda would sometimes take breaks between takes just to recover his energy and come back recharged.

Priyanka Chopra’s daughter Malti Marie calls dad Nick Jonas, his brothers Kevin and Joe the ‘doughnut brothers’: ‘She is funny and she knows it’



Actor Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas have been the ‘it’ couple of both Bollywood and Hollywood, with sensational appearances on red carpet events, celebrating each other's cultures and festivals, while juggling their extremely busy and engaging careers. The two welcomed their daughter, Malti Marie Chopra, back in 2022, and she has been the star of both their social media accounts ever since. In a recent interview, Priyanka Chopra talked about the upcoming film Heads Of State and her daughter Malti in detail.

While appearing on The Tonight Show, Priyanka told Jimmy Fallon that Malti has grown into a child with varied interests and a great sense of humour. Priyanka said, “She is precocious and funny, and she knows that she is funny, so that's even better. This has been an amazing season for us; Nick has been on Broadway, and I am shooting in India. Malti has been making friends in school, and her schedule is even crazier than mine. Kids these days do so much, and they have so many classes, and

she wants to socialise with other babies.”

Talking about her daughter's interests and music taste, Priyanka talked about Malti's favourite Disney movies and how she still isn't quite aware that her father is a pop star. “Moana has been her favourite all this time, and she will wear that Moana outfit all day, and APT is her favourite song. She hasn't been able to identify her dad's music, but she actually calls her dad and his brothers the Doughnut Brothers”. Nick, who recently appeared on the Broadway show The Last Five Years, began his career as part of the pop group The Jonas Brothers, along with his brothers Joe and Kevin. Earlier in an interview to Access Hollywood, Priyanka had talked about how she hopes her daughter takes after her and said, “I hope her relationship with me will be outside of my job. I do think that I hope, when she sees the trajectory of the choices I've made over time, she is proud of my choices.” Priyanka is gearing up for the release of Heads Of State, where she will be playing a top MI6 agent tasked with protecting the British Prime Minister and the American President, played by Idris Elba and John Cena, respectively.

Golden age star, who worked with Sanjeev Kumar, Uttam Kumar, didn’t appear in public for 36 years on a holy man’s suggestion; rejected Raj Kapoor’s ‘personality’

Hollywood actor Great Garbo was one of the biggest stars of the silent films in the 1920s and 1930s. But once she left the movies, she retired from public life and turned into a recluse. No one knew why and people often wondered what prompted a star of her stature to live a lonely life, despite having many fans around the world. Closer home, actor Suchitra Sen went through something similar when she decided to lead a secluded life in the city of Kolkata, where she was widely known and loved. In her heyday, Suchitra was known as Paro from Dilip Kumar-starrer Devdas, the protagonist of Gulzar's Aandhi (who was compared to former PM Indira Gandhi), and her on-screen camaraderie with Uttam Kumar was often compared to the chemistry between Raj Kapoor and Nargis. Suchitra primarily worked in Bengali films but she reached a wider audience when she appeared in Hindi films, although she only appeared in a handful of them. But, after her last release in 1978, Pranay Pasha, Suchitra took a retirement from public appearances fully. Many have wondered why she chose to live as a recluse and while some suggest that she never wanted anyone to see her grow old, some have also theorised that there was a deep sadness within her that she did not wish to share with the world.

Suchitra was one of the highest paid female actors of her time but as per author Gopal Krishna Roy, who wrote four books on her life, she turned her back on living in a regular society after a holy man told her to do so. Roy shared, in a 2014 chat with NDTV, that after Pranay Pasha flopped, Suchitra was deeply upset about it and headed to Ramakrishna Mission's headquarters near Kolkata. She met a holy man named Bharat Maharaj there and wept for hours. “I later heard she sat at his feet and wept and wept,” he said and added, “And Bharat Maharaj told her, ‘Ma, ghridho, lobh koro na, don't be greedy. And that, I think, Mrs Sen translated into her own life by becoming a recluse.”

Director Buddhadeb Dasgupta, who was an admirer of the actor, told Mint in 2014 that Suchitra, perhaps, wanted



to “remain beautiful for her fans.” “Maybe, she wanted to remain beautiful for her fans and I see a likeness to Greta Garbo. What surprises me is that she didn't react to anything that happened around the world. Had Satyajit Ray got her to act in his proposed film Debi Chaudhurani maybe we would have seen a different Suchitra Sen, more so because Ray had the ability to get the best acting out of his characters. Maybe she wanted to remain a matinee idol. She did strong, women-centric roles and directors would shape the characters like that. But to be a great actor, you have to come out of that,” he said. Suchitra was one of the few actors who was offered the chance to work with Ray, and chose not to take it and she did something similar with Raj Kapoor as well. With Ray, when he offered her Debi Chaudhurani, she couldn't commit because he wanted to block a bunch of her dates. She couldn't do that as it would hamper her schedule and the other commitments she had made. Unfortunately, they never got a chance to work together again. In the case of Raj Kapoor, she refused to work with him because she “did not like his personality.”