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Jupally meets victims of adulterated toddy

Hyderabad, July 9 Minister for Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Wednesday visited Gandhi and NIMS hospitals to meet with the individuals who became seriously ill after consuming adulterated toddy from the toddy compounds in the Kukatpally area of Hyderabad. The victims have been identified as Tulsiram (47), Bojjayya (55), and Narayamma (65).The Minister checked on the victims' health and requested that the doctors provide appropriate treatment until they fully recover.

It has been reported that 19 people fell ill after ingesting the adulterated toddy on Tuesday, prompting locals to transport them to NIMS and Gandhi hospitals for immediate care. Unfortunately, on Wednesday, three of the patients passed away as their conditions worsened during treatment.

TTD TO USE TECHNOLOGY FOR TIMELY DARSHAN – EO

Tirumala, July 9 TTD Executive Officer J. Syamala Rao emphasized the need to utilize technology to ensure devotees get timely darshan of Sri Venkateswara Swamy. In a virtual meeting held on Tuesday with TCS representatives and TTD IT officials, along with Additional EO Ch. Venkayya Chowdary, the EO stressed enhancing darshan systems for different queues like Sarva Darshan, Special Entry Darshan, and Divya Darshan. He directed officials to adopt QR codes and facial recognition for faster verification of pilgrims, replacing manual checks and also highlighted the need to educate devotees to report at their allocated time slots to avoid delays and improve crowd management.

PM arrives in Namibia to enhance bilateral ties



GNS News Agency, July 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Namibia on Wednesday (July 9, 2025) on the final leg of his five-nation visit, during which he will hold bilateral talks with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah. This is the first visit of Prime Minister Modi to Namibia and the third ever Prime Ministerial visit from India to the country. India seeks to boost bilateral cooperation with Namibia, which is a "valued and trusted partner" in Africa, Mr. Modi said as he arrived in Windhoek. The Prime Minister was received by Selma Ashipala-Musavyi, Minister of International Relations and Trade of Namibia, at the airport. He was accorded a traditional welcome on his arrival.

Mr. Modi is visiting Namibia at the invitation of President Nandi-Ndaitwah, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a press release in New Delhi ahead of Mr. Modi's five-nation tour to Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil and Namibia. During his visit, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral talks with President Nandi-Ndaitwah. The Prime Minister will also pay homage to the Founding Father and first President of Namibia, late Dr Sam Nujoma. "Landed in Windhoek a short while ago. Namibia is a valued and trusted African partner with whom we seek to boost bilateral cooperation. Looking forward to meeting President Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah and addressing the Namibian Parliament today," Mr. Modi posted on X. He is also expected to deliver an address at the Parliament of Namibia. The visit of the Prime Minister is a reiteration of India's multi-faceted and deep-rooted historical ties with Namibia, the MEA had said.

'Meet the Minister' program organized at Gandhi Bhavan



Hyderabad, July 9 : Minister Vivek today said it was natural to have issues among the party leaders over assembly constituencies in the State and suggested that everyone should work together for the development of the party. The minister, who received the requests of the people at the 'Meet the Minister' program organized at Gandhi Bhavan in Hyderabad, spoke to the officials of the relevant departments and resolved some of the problems on the spot. Speaking to mediapersons on the occasion, the minister criticized the previous BRS regime and added that the people did not have the opportunity to talk to the ministers for the last 10 years in the BRS party's rule, but made it clear that there was an opportunity for the people to meet the ministers openly in the Congress party's rule. He reminded that there was police protection during the BRS regime and added that their government had not filed any cases against anyone till now. He reminded that the previous BRS government lifted the famous dharna chowk, but their government gave an opportunity to hold dharnas to all people. He said the Congress party would provide democratic governance.

BJP should end anti-labour policies: Kavitha supports Bharat Bandh

Hyderabad, July 9 : Telangana Jagruti president and BRS party MLC Kalvakuntla Kavitha has demanded that the Central government should stop amending labour laws and added that the BJP government at the Centre should end anti-labour policies. She announced support for the Bharat Bandh program organized by 10 Central trade unions to protest the anti-labour policies being adopted by the Central government. She reminded that the BRS party also supported the Bharat Bandh program. Speaking on Wednesday, MLC Kavitha said she was angry that the rights of the workers were being taken away since the BJP came to power at the Centre in 2014. She especially criticized that the social security of the workers had been left to chance. She accused the BJP government at the Centre of only giving relief to capitalists and industrialists. She said unfortunately, since 2014, the Central government had amended the labour laws many times and opened the door to backdoor policies.

Revanth Reddy delegation meets Nadda on interrupted supply of Urea

New Delhi, July 9 Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers Jagat Prakash Nadda met a delegation led by Chief Minister of Telangana A. Revanth Reddy yesterday. They discussed the availability of fertilizers in Telangana. Chief Minister requested for uninterrupted supply of urea for the months of July and August to cater to the peak Kharif season. Nadda assured Telangana Chief Minister of all support to meet the genuine demand of the farmers of the State and instructed the officials of Department of Fertilizers to ensure supplies as per requirement. The Union Minister also expressed concern about the excess consumption of Urea in the State



which is detrimental to long-term health of soil. Rabi-2024-25 saw 21% excess sales of Urea compared to Rabi 2023-24. Similarly, Kharif 2025 so far has witnessed excess consumption of 12.4% compared to

and promotes sustainable and balanced use of fertilizers, alternate fertilizers, organic & natural farming. He also requested State government officials to take action against diversion of urea to non-agricultural uses and ensure equitable distribution of fertilizers among the various districts of the State government.

The meeting was attended by MP Mallu Ravi; MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy; Special Representative of Government of Telangana in New Delhi A.P. Jithender Reddy and officials from Department of Fertilizers, Government of India and Department of Agriculture, Government of Telangana.

DMF meant to benefit local people: Kishan Reddy

New Delhi, July 9 Union Minister for Coal & Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday said DMF was set up in 2015 as part of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana. He said the main objective of the District Mineral Foundation (DMF) was to benefit the local people, who derive their income from natural resources. "It is a pleasure to organize this program on the occasion of the completion of a decade of DMF. Currently, there are 646 DMFs across the country. Through these, we have deposited a total of Rs 1 lakh crore in it. About Rs 90,000 crore have been sanctioned for various development works," he added. While addressing a gathering at the DMF workshop held in Delhi, he called upon people to make the mineral sector very strong towards achieving a developed India by 2047. Reddy said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was working hard to improve diplomatic relations with the world to achieve self-reliance in the mineral sector and added that he was touring countries like Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia to explain the importance of the mineral sector.

"The BRICS summit also discussed strengthening the global mineral supply chain. We recently launched the Critical Minerals Trust with the United States. Also, as part of self-reliance, we are making the coal and minerals sectors more powerful. We have already created a record by producing 1 billion tons of coal. We are working towards achieving self-sufficiency in coal in the future without relying on imports. We have reduced coal imports significantly. At the same time, we are giving great importance to environmental protection and the welfare of locals near the mines. The DMFs are not only engaged in mining activities, but are also working to provide welfare to the local people in a constructive manner. Today,



India has not only become the fourth largest economy in the world, but is also happy to be ranked fourth in income equality. India is moving forward, competing with powerful countries like America, China, G-7, and G-20. From 2011 to 2023, 17.1 crore poor people in the country have come out of extreme poverty. All this has happened because of the inclusive development programs brought by Prime Minister Modi in the last 11 years. DMF is a great example of cooperative federalism. Through DMF, the central and state governments are bringing about remarkable changes at the field level," he said. Reddy revealed that they have brought the DMF Jaljeevan Mission, Ayushman Bharat, and PM Housing schemes and added that they were also committed to tracking the status of the projects and increasing transparency while noting structure development.

Harish slams CM Revanth for failing to provide quality mid-day meals to students



Hyderabad, July 9 BRS MLA and former minister T. Harish Rao criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday, accusing him of neglecting school children in the state while making lofty promises about Vision 2047. In a release here on Wednesday, Harish Rao condemned the Congress government for its disregard for the education sector within just 20 months and its failure to provide mid-day meals to students according to the established menu.

The BRS MLA stated that students in government schools are now left hungry or forced to eat only Sambar or a mixture of chili powder and oil due to unpaid mid-day meal bills that have been overdue for over three months. He emphasised that the government's indifference has resulted in students not receiving the nutritious meals they are supposed to have. "It's absurd for a Chief Minister who fails to provide proper meals for children to talk about a bright future," Harish Rao said. The former minister raised concerns over the lack of an active Education Minister in the Congress cabinet, pointing out that the department seems neglected as the Chief Minister focuses on trips to Delhi and political distractions. He called for an urgent evaluation of the education department and the disbursement of outstanding mid-day meal payments to prevent students from going

hungry. "While the Chief Minister promotes the idea of unified schools and vocational universities, his inattention has resulted in a loss of faith in government schools and has damaged the reputation of Gurukul residential schools," Harish Rao added.

All government school students will be given 'Modi Kits' soon : Bandi sanjay

Karimnagar, July 9 Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar today kickstarted the cycle distribution program to the tenth class students at Ambedkar Stadium. Bandi Sanjay, who himself purchased a total of 20,000 bicycles, started the program to distribute them in phases. Initially, the bicycles were distributed to all students studying in the tenth grade in the government schools in Karimnagar town. Along with Bandi Sanjay, Teacher constituency MLC Malka Komaraiah, District Collector Pamela Satpati, City Police Commissioner Ghaus Alam, Additional Collector Ashwini, Municipal Commissioner Praful Desai, former MLA Bodge Shobha, BJP Karimnagar and Sircilla district presidents Gangadi Krishna Reddy, Reddaboyina Gopi, former mayors D. Shankar, Sunil Rao, former deputy mayor Guggilla Ramesh, RDO, DEO and many other officials were present at this program. Speaking on the occasion, Bandi Sanjay said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had always inspired them to constantly stand by the people and serve the society and added that he was following in his footsteps and helping people as much as he can. "The Karimnagar District Collector gave the idea of distributing these bicycles.

Telangana rapidly emerging as a vibrant urban state : Bhatti



Hyderabad, July 9 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that Telangana, with a high number of urban centers, is progressing rapidly as an urban state and a center for modernity and advancement. He was speaking as the chief guest at the CFO Conclave organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at a private hotel in Somajiguda, Hyderabad on Wednesday.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted that the success of the Outer Ring Road is evident, and under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Regional Ring Road is being developed as a prestigious infrastructure project. He explained that the construction of the Regional Ring Road will lead to the development of various industrial clusters including pharma, IT, housing, agriculture, and handlooms. The Deputy Chief Minister emphasised that Hyderabad is attracting investments from across the globe. Just like the Thames in London, the Telangana government is undertaking the Musi River Rejuvenation Project as a prestigious initiative to restore the river through Hyderabad city, he said. Bhatti Vikramarka described Hyderabad and Telangana as investment paradises. He pointed out that Telangana offers skilled labour at relatively lower costs than other states, along with a pleasant climate, pollution-free environment, and uninterrupted 24-hour quality power supply—all of which are attracting investors. Deputy Chief Minister stated that the government has transformed 100 ITIs across the State into advanced technology centers, with the aim of developing a skilled workforce. Hyderabad currently consists of Hyderabad, Secunderabad, and Cyberabad—soon, a fourth zone, the Future City, will also be operational. He mentioned that global investors are showing interest in setting up industries in this upcoming city. The Deputy Chief Minister stressed that industrialists are key to the state's development, employment generation, and wealth creation. He said the State government treats industrialists as part of its family and urged them to partner in ushering change in the state.

AI technology for vehicle fitness assessments: Ponnam

Hyderabad, July 9 : In an effort to enhance services for the people, the State government is implementing various reforms in the transport sector and introducing AI technology for vehicle fitness assessments, said Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar.

The passing out parade for Assistant Motor Vehicle Inspectors (AMVIs) took place at the Telangana Police Academy on Wednesday, with Minister Ponnam Prabhakar serving as the chief guest for the event honouring 96 AMVIs. He received a salute from the graduating trainees. During his address, the Minister emphasized the government's commitment to prioritizing electric, CNG, and LPG vehicles in Hyderabad to help reduce pollution. He also noted that steps are being taken to fill several important roles in the Transport department, aiming to create job opportunities for unemployed youth. A cashless treatment system has been introduced for victims of road accidents nationwide. Preventive measures should be adopted to reduce the occurrence of road accidents. At the same time, more than 300 people who are already on duty should be given training for two months. We must enhance the reputation of our villages by adhering to discipline. Efforts should be made to educate the rural people about laws and judicial regulations in the transport department. The newly appointed officers should be a role model in the country," Ponnam Prabhakar said. The event was attended by Special Chief Secretary Vikas Raj, Director of the RBVRR Telangana Police Academy Abhilasha Bisthi, Transport Commissioner Surendra Mohan, Joint Transport Commissioners, and officials from both the Transport and Police departments. (

SP obstructs YS Jagan from meeting injured party worker

Tadepalli, July 9 Former chief minister and YSRCP president Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy was stopped by police officials near Bangarupalem when he tried to step out of his convoy to meet an injured party worker. YS Jagan attempted to get down from his vehicle after learning that YSRCP workers had been manhandled by police at the location.

He wished to personally meet and console a worker, who was reportedly injured during the clash. However, the district SP intervened and prevented YS Jagan from stepping out of the convoy. Despite YS Jagan's insistence, the SP did not allow him to meet the injured worker. He was eventually allowed to re-enter the convoy and continue his route.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

We want government jobs, but not government services

In India, a strange paradox governs our everyday reality: we avoid almost everything run by the government, except a government job. Families shy away from government hospitals, public schools, and transport services. But the moment someone in the family secures a government position, even a low-ranking one, the mood shifts. Sweets are distributed, social media status updates are posted, and one phrase echoes across households: "Now life is settled."

Government hospitals are often treated as the last resort. Even in urban centres, most people prefer to pay for private clinics, despite free and sometimes competent care being available at public hospitals. The reason? Perception. While public hospitals house experienced doctors, and are often better equipped than assumed, they remain crowded, bureaucratic, and under-trusted.

The same is true for public education. In rural settings, parents prefer low-cost private schools with less-qualified teachers, simply because they offer better optics, discipline, or English-medium instruction. According to studies, most government school teachers do not send their children to the schools they work in. This reveals something more than infrastructure issues — it points to a fundamental lack of belief in the very system they are paid to uphold.

Strangely, while we mistrust government services, we place immense value on government employment. When a child becomes a constable, revenue officer, railway clerk, or teacher, it is considered a milestone. In States like Telangana, lakhs of people apply for Group-IV posts that offer modest salaries. Applicants include engineers, MBAs, and postgraduates.

Deepak Subramanya shines in 'Mr Rani', a whirlwind comedy about identity and dreams, premiering July 11 on Lionsgate Play

Hyderabad: An outrageous transformation takes centre stage in Mr Rani, a gender-bending comedy that explores identity, gender, and ambition in the world of performance and art infused with a comedic twist. Donning a new avatar, Deepak Subramanya plays Raja, a struggling actor trapped in an engineering job and burdened by parental expectations until a twist of fate lands him in an audition for a female role. To his own astonishment, Raja lands the part and overnight, he becomes a national sensation as 'Rani'. What follows is a wildly funny and unexpectedly heartfelt story of ambition, self-discovery, and the hilarious consequences of living a double life.

Directed by Madhu Chandra, Mr Rani blends laugh-out loud moments, high-stakes secrecy, and emotional depth. Beneath the glamour lies a heartfelt story about chasing dreams, navigating identity, and discovering the courage to be yourself—even in someone else's shoes. Catch the exclusive premiere of this laugh-out-loud comedy on Lionsgate Play, this July 11, available in Tamil, Kannada, Telugu and Malayalam.

Talking about the film and his character, lead actor Deepak Subramanya said, "What really stood out for me about Mr Rani was how unique and unpredictable the story is. It's not just a comedy, it's a much deeper story that touches on ambition, identity, and the pressures many of us deal with. What I loved is that the film doesn't just play it safe, it challenges how we think about success and self expression, all wrapped with humour and sheer passion for the craft. Playing Raja was both challenging and refreshing, especially as he navigates fame in such an unconventional way. There's a lot of humor, but also moments that make you reflect. That balance is what makes the film special and I hope the audience enjoy watching it on Lionsgate Play"

Job Fair on July 11 - District Employment Officer Madhavi.



“Khammam Bureau, July 09, Indian Chronicle.” District Employment Officer N Madhavi announced on Wednesday that a job fair will be conducted on Friday, July 11 at 10:00 AM at the Model Career Centre (Government ITI, Tekulapalli), Khammam. The fair is intended to provide job opportunities for unemployed men and women with degree qualifications in Khammam district. Reliance Nippon Life Insurance Company, a private sector company, is recruiting for the post of Relationship Manager. Selected candidates will receive a salary ranging from 20,000 to 50,000. The job fair is being held to fill a total of 25 vacancies. The officer also advised that interested candidates should attend the job fair with xerox copies of their educational certificates.

New Era of Automotive Luxury: MG SELECT inaugurates its First Experience Centre in India



Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India introduces new-age automotive luxury with MG SELECT, inaugurates its first experience centre in Thane, India. Based on the philosophy of 'Reimagining Luxury', the MG SELECT Experience Centres will offer sensorial experiences, personalised services, iconic product lineup blended with new age luxury, innovation, and sustainability to car buyers in India. Anurag Mehrotra, Managing Director, JSW MG Motor India, said, "Luxury consumption in India has grown exponentially in the recent years, with MG SELECT we aim to further create a niche for the luxury car buyers by redefining and elevating the car ownership journey. Our vision of redefining the Indian luxury automotive landscape aligns with our dealer

partners and together we will create newer benchmarks by offering technologically advanced products and exclusive experiences." Inspired by spatial expression of art galleries, the MG SELECT Experience Centres are designed with sublime, earthy and infinite white spaces, each showroom exudes a surreal space that evokes clarity and seamless flow. With a focus on exclusivity where less is more, the car takes centre stage as a piece of sculptural art immersing the car buyers. With this, the luxury brand will inaugurate 14 centres in 13 key cities including Thane by the end of Q3 of CY 2025. MG Cyberster – the world's fastest MG, and the MG M9 – the Presidential Limousine, will be up on display for enthusiasts to explore up close. About JSW MG Motor India

SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with a presence in over 100 countries and JSW Group (India's leading conglomerate with interests across B2B and B2C sectors) formed a joint venture - JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. in 2023. The joint venture aims to build a smart and sustainable automotive ecosystem while continuing to stay focused on developing a diverse portfolio of vehicles to give car buyers better access to advanced technologies and futuristic products with attractive value propositions. JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. is committed to introducing world-class technology, strengthening the manufacturing landscape, best of innovation across its business operations, and generating significant employment opportunities through extensive localization.

"Why Everyone's Obsessed With Olives Right Now (And You Should Be Too)"



Hyderabad: Move over avocado, olives are having a moment. From lazy brunch boards to home-cooked weekday dinners, India's kitchens are discovering the versatile, punchy charm of olives — and it's not just

foodies who are paying attention. Restaurants, health coaches, Instagram chefs, and even your neighborhood grocery stores are doubling down on olives like never before. But why? And what's fueling the obsession? Let's break it down. Here are 6 reasons why olives are becoming the breakout ingredient of 2025

1. Snacking got smarter

We're all craving that 4 PM fix, but we're done with guilt. Enter olives — salty, filling, and weirdly addictive. Whether you pop them plain or pair them with cheese, they're the grown-up snack we never knew we needed. Fragata's new Green Pitted Olives are ready-to-eat straight from the jar. Think less processed junk, more Mediterranean chill.

2. From pizza topping

to pantry staple

Five years ago, you'd spot olives only at pizzerias. Now? They're sitting next to your masalas and pickles. From pasta and pulao to hummus wraps and tandoori platters, a spoonful of Olives adds instant bite and flair.

3. Health, but make it delicious

Olives are rich in antioxidants and healthy fats — but unlike some health fads, they actually taste good. Fitness influencers are swapping their processed protein bars for olives, and home cooks are tossing them into salads, couscous bowls, and even dosas.

4. Gen Z's new aesthetic obsession

Let's be honest: food's not just about taste anymore — it's about how it looks on

your feed. A single olive garnish can turn boring into bougie.

5. Olive oil is the new kitchen essential

Gone are the days when olive oil was just for salad dressings. Fragata's Extra Virgin Olive Oil is now used for shallow frying, roasting, baking — even baby food! Its light, nutty aroma and clean finish are making it a favourite for Indian households that want both flavour and function.

6. The bar snack revolution

Move over peanuts. High-end bars and restaurants are serving spiced olives, olive tapenade, and olive-stuffed martinis. Marinated Cocktail Olives are becoming a staple at events and house parties. They're bold, boozy, and surprisingly budget-friendly.

“Stronger 2030” - Evolution of Group Strategy and upgraded Financial Targets 2030



Hyderabad: Daimler Truck Holding AG (Daimler Truck) hosts its Capital Market Day 2025 at the Truck Manufacturing Plant in Cleveland, North Carolina, USA, presenting a comprehensive strategic and financial outlook under the theme “Stronger 2030”. The production facility, where Daimler Truck North America produces its flagship Freightliner Cascadia and Western Star 47X and 49X models, was selected to highlight the pivotal role of the Company's U.S. operations as an integral part of its global strategy.

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Board of Management: Karin Rådström, President & CEO (Chairwoman) www.daimlertruck.com Karl Deppen, Andreas Gorbach, Jürgen Hartwig, John O'Leary, Achim Puchert, Eva Scherer At the Capital Market Day, Daimler Truck presents its evolved Group strategy which is anchored in five strategic pillars to drive higher profitability and increased resilience. Following this strategy, Daimler Truck sets ambitious financial targets for 2030. The Company aims to achieve an adjusted return on sales (adj. ROS) of more than 12% in its Industrial Business (IB). Furthermore, the Group will continue its shareholder-oriented capital allocation strategy and has announced a new up to €2 billion share buyback program over two years, expected to start in the second half of 2025. Karin Rådström, President & CEO of Daimler Truck: “At Daimler Truck, we are proud to work for all who keep the world moving. And we want to build the best truck and bus company - for our customers,

our employees and our shareholders. We have the strategy in place, and we are establishing the performance culture to achieve this ambition. When we do it right, it brings us to a profitability of more than 12% return on sales by 2030.”

Auto drivers who participated in the nationwide general strike.



“Khammam Bureau, July 09, Indian Chronicle.” It is well known that national trade unions, independent federations and state-level labor unions gave a call for a nationwide strike on July 9. A large number of workers actively participated in this strike. The demand was to repeal Section 106(1)(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which imposes harsh punishments on transport drivers up to 10 years of imprisonment and a 7 lakh fine. Additionally, they demanded the banning of companies like Rapido, Ola, and Uber that operate two wheeler transport services, arguing that justice must be done for auto drivers. Leaders who participated in this movement included INTUC Parliament President Palvoncha Krishna,

61%1 millennials & Gen Z prefer to invest in Health Insurance: HDFC ERGO 'Exploring Gen Z and Millennials mindset towards insurance' survey



Hyderabad: HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, India's leading private sector General Insurer, unveils the findings of 'Exploring Gen Z and Millennials mindset towards insurance', a custom survey commissioned by HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company and conducted by NielsenIQ (NIQ), the leader in consumer intelligence. The survey has been conducted with 2200 respondents in 17 Tier 1 & Tier 2 cities across India. While Tier 1 are cities with population 1 lakh and above Tier 2 are cities with population between 50,000 and less than 1 lakh.

The survey highlights the mindset, attitudes and consideration of Gen Z and Millennials towards health insurance. Out of 1400 surveyed, 61% millennials and Gen Z prefer to invest in health insurance. Commenting on the survey, Anuj Tyagi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, HDFC ERGO General Insurance said, "The Gen Z and Millennials contribute to more than 50% of India's population, as compared to the world average of 47%, thus making it a vital force in shaping the country's economy. This sect of population is in fact reshaping the insurance industry and pushing the insurers like us to rethink the way we offer customer experience. Their key expectations include transparency in processes, digital ecosystem with quick TATs, and hyper-personalised services. At HDFC ERGO, we believe in building meaningful interventions for our customers to make insurance a part of their everyday lives. This survey reinforces our mission to empower the next generation with insurance that's relevant, accessible, and responsive to their evolving needs." Factors driving the purchase of Health Insurance

Rising medical inflation puts a strain on individuals and families. A health insurance policy is therefore no longer a luxury but a necessity which helps in financial security and ensures peace of mind. Here, the study sheds light on the evolving consumer needs for health insurance and highlights the significant differences on how Gen Z and Millennials approach health insurance. Among 1400 surveyed, 37% consumers claim rising medical costs and need for protection against immediate medical expenses, as a driver for proactive financial planning, while 36% consumers invest in health insurance for additional wellness benefits such as health check-ups. Further out of 1400 respondents, 48% expect quick and responsive customer service while 47% are looking for access to educational resources in terms of service and support from the Insurance providers.

Tata Motors & Dolby Bring Dolby Atmos to Harrier.ev, Redefining In-Car Entertainment Experience



Hyderabad: Tata Motors and Dolby Laboratories, Inc. (NYSE: DLB), a leader in immersive entertainment experiences, announced that Tata Motors will bring the Dolby Atmos® experience to Harrier.ev — India's most powerful Homegrown SUV. This collaboration expands Dolby Atmos' reach in the Indian automotive market, enhancing in-car entertainment and setting a new benchmark for premium in-car audio. Dolby Atmos is a completely new way to create and experience music that delivers artistic expression at its fullest capacity. Forging a deeper connection between artists and their fans, Dolby Atmos goes beyond ordinary listening experiences by putting listeners inside their favourite song, revealing every detail with unparalleled clarity and depth.

As the Indian EV industry grows, the demand for premium in-car experiences continues to rise. With Dolby Atmos, the Harrier.ev will offer a breathtaking multidimensional sound experience, making the car journey more engaging and memorable. Harrier.ev owners and their passengers will be able to experience their favourite songs and podcasts available in Dolby Atmos from built-in compatible applications like Gaana and Audible through the Arcade.ev app store, integrated into the infotainment system on the Harrier.ev. Karan Grover, Senior Director, Commercial Partnerships - IMEA, Dolby Laboratories, said, "At Dolby, we are committed to transforming in-car entertainment by working closely with OEM partners to bring premium audio experiences to consumers. Our goal is to make every trip more than just a drive but an amazing auditory journey that brings users to the center of the entertainment they love. By combining Dolby Atmos with Tata Motors' drive for excellence, we're redefining how entertainment is experienced on the road with richer and more dynamic sound that moves all around you. As we deepen our presence in India's automotive space, we will continue to push boundaries of the in-car audio experience, ensuring exceptional entertainment on the go."

Young Women in Andhra Pradesh Experiencing Rise in Overactive Bladder Cases by 2025

Hyderabad: A growing number of young women in Andhra Pradesh are being diagnosed with Overactive Bladder (OAB), a condition marked by sudden, uncontrollable urges to urinate, often resulting in urge incontinence. Recent data suggests that 33% of women presenting with urinary incontinence are experiencing OAB-related symptoms, with 15% suffering severe cases that disrupt their social and emotional well-being. This trend is especially concerning among women aged 21 to 30, where past studies have already recorded 20.14% prevalence of stress urinary incontinence. As Andhra Pradesh's population continues to urbanize and lifestyle patterns shift, specialists are calling attention to the urgent need for early diagnosis, targeted intervention, and specialized care infrastructure to address this burden.

Dr. A. Harsha Vardhan, MCh Urologist based in Kakinada, emphasized the need to break the silence around bladder health in younger populations. "There is a common misconception that urinary issues only affect the elderly, but we are increasingly seeing young, otherwise healthy women struggling with Overactive Bladder. Many of them endure symptoms in silence, believing it is a passing issue or too embarrassing to discuss—even with a doctor. What they don't realize is that OAB is a medical condition with effective treatment options. Early diagnosis is crucial, as it can prevent worsening symptoms and reduce the psycho-

logical toll that often accompanies chronic bladder issues. We must foster a culture where women feel comfortable seeking help and where healthcare systems are equipped to respond with empathy and expertise."

The multifactorial causes of OAB—ranging from neurological, lifestyle, and pelvic floor dysfunction—demand a comprehensive approach to care. Despite growing cases, awareness remains low, and many women normalize the condition or delay seeking care due to social embarrassment. Experts warn that if left unaddressed, the prevalence may rise sharply by 2025, further straining limited urological resources in the region. Research from national sources indicates that urge incontinence due to OAB makes up a significant share of total urinary incontinence cases, affecting both physical and emotional health. Healthcare professionals are urging policymakers to fund more awareness campaigns, especially in Tier 2 and 3 cities like Kakinada, and to establish dedicated pelvic floor rehabilitation programs for younger populations. These efforts could reduce long-term complications, prevent progression, and empower women to seek timely care without hesitation. As awareness grows and the clinical understanding of urinary incontinence in young women deepens, Andhra Pradesh must prioritize the silent but significant issue of Overactive Bladder—before the statistics outpace the solutions.

Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan and Shia Council Designate Charminar as Symbolic Venue for 2025 Bibi ka Alam Procession: A New Era of Inclusivity and Modern Aspirations



Hyderabad: In a significant move reflecting a blend of tradition and modernity, the Shia Council, with the agreement and consent of Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan—recognized

as the IX Nizam of the Asaf Jahs by the royal clan—has officially chosen the iconic Charminar as the venue for the 2025 Bibi ka Alam procession. This landmark decision underscores the Charminar's role as a historical emblem of Hyderabad's plural culture and timeless spiritual legacy.

Constructed by the secular Qutb Shahi dynasty, the Charminar stands as a testament to the rich architectural heritage and inclusive spirit of Hyderabad. Once seen as a focal point of exclusivity, it is now embraced as a venue that is accessible to all, aligning with the evolving values of modern society. Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan emphasizes his commitment to facilitating the seamless integration of his extended royal family into contemporary democratic India. He aims to represent and secure justice for them under current Indian law while ensuring that the traditions of the Nizam era evolve to meet modern aspirations and inclusivity. The Bibi ka Alam procession, rooted in the Qutb Shahi tradition, is the largest Muslim gathering in the city and showcases the union of community heritage and spiritual expression. Historically patronized by the secular Nizams, including the revered Mir Osman Ali Khan—who honored the Alam with priceless jewels—this event signifies a rich legacy that is set to enter a new chapter under the leadership of Nawab Raunaq Yar Khan.

TUDA's development plans: "TUDA Aims for Comprehensive Development Inspired by Amaravati, Prioritizes Basic Amenities



July 9 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator "Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) Chairman Dollars Diwakar Reddy announced ambitious plans for the holistic development of the TUDA region, drawing inspiration from the rapid construction of the capital city, Amaravati, within the CRDA limits. He emphasized TUDA's commitment to providing essential infrastructure like roads, drinking water, and drainage systems to every village under its purview. "Speaking at an awareness session for over 1,100 Panchayat Secretaries, MPDOs, and officials from 4 municipalities and 9 constituencies held at Kachapi Auditorium in Tirupati, Mr. Diwakar Reddy stated that he took charge as TUDA Chairman with the aim of contributing to the state's development, aligning with the efforts of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Minister Lokesh Babu. He criticized previous administrations for mismanaging TUDA and asserted that he is now working to bring the organization back on track. "This awareness session, the first of its kind in the state's history, focused on layout approvals, building construction permissions, and their implementation within the TUDA jurisdiction. The event was attended by TUDA Vice Chairman and District Joint Collector Shubham Bansal, District Trainee Collector Sandeep Raghuvanshi, Divisional Panchayat Officer Suresh Naidu, Municipal Deputy City Planner Mahaboob Khan, and TUDA Secretary Srikanth. "During the session, TUDA City Planning Officer Devi Kumari delivered a detailed presentation on identifying illegal layouts, granting permissions, and building construction approvals. She also clarified doubts raised by the Panchayat Secretaries. "Mr. Diwakar Reddy highlighted Tirupati's global prominence as a pilgrimage destination, welcoming millions of devotees daily. He assured



that TUDA would ensure all necessary facilities for a peaceful and pleasant visit. He stressed that illegal layouts contribute to increased crime rates and cause difficulties for people who purchase land in such areas. He urged Panchayat Secretaries to understand TUDA's rules and regulations regarding layout and building permissions to contribute to its development. He also emphasized the crucial role of Panchayat Secretaries in the development of villages, mandals, and districts, assuring them that their status would be protected. "TUDA Vice Chairman Shubham Bansal echoed the importance of Panchayat Secretaries in rural development, urging them to thoroughly understand and implement government orders. He also committed to bridging any communication gaps between TUDA and the Panchayat Secretaries to foster collaborative development.

Water bill msgs confuse consumers!!

Hyderabad, July 9 : Two types of messages from the Hyderabad Metro Water supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), regarding water bill, are creating confusion among the citizens. One message cautioned the consumers about Cyber fraud, saying that the Board does not send WhatsApp Messages. APK files or links related to bill payment or disconnection notices. "If you receive such messages from unverified source, do not install any APK file. Kindly report such incidents to the Cyber crime Helpline at 1930", the message says.

National Sanskrit University VC Prof. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy Attends All India Vice-Chancellor's Conference



July 9 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator "Professor G.S.R. Krishnamurthy, Vice-Chancellor of the National Sanskrit University (NSU), participated in the All India Vice-Chancellor's Conference held yesterday and today at the Satyasaigrama, Satyasaipremamrutam Auditorium in Muddenahalli, Karnataka. "The conference focused on strategies for university development, advancing the education system, and strengthening universities as hubs for research and innovation. A key objective dis-



cussed was for all universities to work towards establishing India as a "Vishwa Guru" (world leader in knowledge). "During the conference, Professor Krishnamurthy affirmed NSU's commitment to contributing to university development in line with the goals and principles outlined. He stated that NSU would work to promote the Sanskrit language and bring the Indian knowledge tradition closer to society by setting and achieving various specific objectives.

National Sanskrit University Inaugurates Bridge Course for New PG Students



July 9 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator "National Sanskrit University (NSU) in Tirupati today inaugurated a week-long Bridge Course for newly admitted postgraduate (PG) students. The program, designed to provide comprehensive instruction across various subjects, commenced at the Chelikani Ananda Sabha Bhavan within the university premises. "The inauguration ceremony was graced by Prof. Rajanikant Shukla, Dean of Academics, as the chief guest, and Prof. V. Vishnu Bhattacharyulu, Dean of the School of Darshanas, as the guest of honor. They lit the traditional lamp to officially launch the course. "Speaking at the event, Prof. Rajanikant Shukla explained that the week-long program would offer an introductory overview of the Sanskrit language and various scientific aspects embedded within Sanskrit literature to stu-



dents from all PG departments. He emphasized that this bridge course would enable students to gain a concise yet comprehensive understanding of different disciplines.

"Following this, Prof. V. Vishnu Bhattacharyulu highlighted that NSU offers PG courses in over 14 disciplines. He reiterated that this bridge course would provide students with a brief, introductory insight into all these fields. "The program was well-organized by Prof. Pankaj Kumar Vyas, Head of the Vyakarana Department, who served as the coordinator. Dr. Yashasvi, Assistant Professor in the Vyakarana Department, acted as the additional coordinator, ensuring the smooth execution of the event. The coordinators advised all new students to make the most of this valuable opportunity.

Venkat Royal's Birthday Celebrations Grandly Held in Tiruchanur



July 9 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator "Janasena Tirupati Rural President Venkat Royal's birthday celebrations were a grand success, marked by a successful Annadanam (food donation) program held today in Tiruchanur. The event was graced by Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad and Uka Vijay Kumar as chief guests, adding to the festivities. "On the occasion of Janasena Tirupati Rural President Venkat Royal's birthday, an Annadanam was organized in front of the Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanur, Chandragiri constituency. Approximately 300 people were served.

Dr. Pasupuleti Hariprasad, who is the Chairman of the Andhra Pradesh Handicrafts Development Corporation and the United Chittoor District Janasena President, along with senior TDP leader Uka Vijay Kumar, attended as chief guests, making the event a success. "Following the Annadanam, a large cake was cut at Venkat Royal's residence, where celebrations continued with coalition leaders from the constituency. The event saw the participation of Janasena district leaders Hema Kumar, Anand, Chinna



Royal, Kalapa Ravi, along with key TDP leaders Almineni Madhu, Vemuri Madhu, Ganapathi Naidu, Tiruchanur village committee president Kishore Reddy, Tiruchanur TDP leaders Munirathnam, Ramana Royal, Hari Ram Reddy, and Venkat Royal's friends, Janasena leaders, and party workers.

MLA Koram Kanakaiah Inspects Bugga Vagu Beautification Works.

Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, July 9, Indian Chronicle: "Under the leadership of MLA Koram Kanakaiah, the long-pending cleaning and beautification of Bugga Vagu, which flows through the heart of Yellandu town, is finally set to be completed with an expenditure of 4 crore rupees. "As the rainy season approaches, in order to prevent water from entering nearby houses, avoid the collapse of dwellings, and protect against any disasters from rainwater, Yellandu MLA Koram Kanakaiah along with former Municipal Chairman Dammalapati Venkateswara Rao on Tuesday commenced the Bugga Vagu cleaning works using excavators. "On Wednesday, the second day, MLA Koram also inspected the Bugga Vagu works and instructed officials and contractors to complete them swiftly. Concrete side walls are planned to be constructed along both banks of Bugga Vagu. "Along the banks, flowering plants will be planted, and a walking track will be developed. To prevent stagnant water inside Bugga Vagu from turning foul, the municipal staff will regularly monitor it, and the governing body is reportedly preparing plans accordingly. "People have expressed that it would be good if electrical decorative lighting is arranged on one side of the Bugga Vagu walking track. "It is also learned that after some time, works including a check dam inside Bugga Vagu with an estimated cost



of around 9 crore rupees will be undertaken. These works will further enhance the beauty of Yellandu town. "Under the leadership of MLA Koram Kanakaiah, town residents are expressing happiness that more funds are being brought in for the urban development of Yellandu constituency. "In this program, former Yellandu Municipal Chairman Dammalapati Venkateswara Rao, Market Committee Chairman Banoth Rambabu, former Mandal Parishad Vice Chairman Mandala Ramu, senior town leaders and former municipal ward councillor Madugu Sambamurthy, Bolla Suryam, Chilla Srinivas, former fourth ward councillor Ajam, Town SI Srinivas Reddy, social media activist Narendra, and others participated.

If the labor codes are not repealed, another struggle is inevitable.”““

Rajender is the district president of CITU.



““July 9 Indian Chronicle..kumram bheem Asifabad district““A rally and a nationwide protest were held in the district headquarters of Kumuram Bheem Asifabad under the auspices of CITU. Speaking on the occasion, J Rajender, CITU District President, said that the BJP government at the center is trying hard to repeal 29 labor laws that the working class has achieved with many sacrifices and struggles for a century and bring them into 4 labor codes

and implement them. If these codes are implemented, the formation of labor unions and labor rights will be taken away. The daily wage increase and the collective bargaining power of workers will be weakened. There will be no guarantee of job security and employment. The Congress government in Telangana state has brought G.I. No. 282, which increases the working hours of workers, should be withdrawn immediately. They demanded that the labor codes that push them into slavery be repealed.”KVPS District Secretary Dinakar, DYFI District Secretary Karthik, AITUC District Secretary Bogue Upender, AITUC District President Diwakar, TAG A District President Malasri, CITU District Vice President Srikanth Aidwa, District Assistant Secretary Nandi Padma, Vanitha Rajeshwari, ASHA Union District President Swaroopa Sunil, Construction Workers' Association District President Balakishan, IKP VOA Association District President Buddha Midday Lunch Union District Secretary Maya Matla Raju, Sammayya Naveen and workers from various sectors participated..

MLA Koram Kanakaiah Leads Vanamahotsavam, Urges Citizens to Plant Fruit and Shade-Giving Trees

“““Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, July 9, Indian Chronicle:“As part of the Telangana State Government's prestigious Vanamahotsavam initiative, Yellandu MLA Koram Kanakaiah participated in a large-scale tree plantation drive held on Wednesday at Rompedu village, Yellandu mandal. The event was organized in collaboration with the Forest Department, local officials, and enthusiastic participation from students and residents.““Speaking on the occasion, MLA Koram Kanakaiah emphasized the importance of planting shade-giving and fruit-bearing trees. He called on every household to plant such trees in front of their homes and take personal responsibility for their protection and care until they fully grow and bear fruit.“> “Greenery is the path to a healthier, safer environment. Every citizen must contribute to this effort,” said MLA Kanakaiah.“““The MLA highlighted the commitment of the Congress-led Telangana government under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, which has set an ambitious goal of planting 18 crore saplings across the state. He encouraged citizens and officials alike to achieve 100% participation in the plantation program and contribute to the protection of the ecosystem.““He also noted that greenery is the key to preventing environmental degrada-



tion and building a healthy society for future generations.““Participants in the event included: Yellandu Agricultural Market Committee Chairman Banothu Rambabu, Former Vice Chairman of Yellandu Mandal Parishad Mandala Ramu, Yellandu Congress Party Mandal President Puli Saidulu, Yellandu DSP Chandrabhanu, SI Srinivas Reddy, Forest Department Officers FDO Karunakar Chari, FRO Chalapati Rao, Forest Department staff, students, village elders, and party cadre, among others.

Cherukuri Madhushekar Elected as Single Window Chairman



““July 9 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema coordinator““Cherukuri Madhushekar, following his election as Single Window Chairman, paid a courtesy visit to Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani. During the meeting, Madhushekar honored MLA Nani with a shawl and a bouquet of flowers, expressing his special gratitude. He also extended his particular thanks to TDP Tirupati Rural President Eshwar Reddy.“On this occasion, Pulivarthi Nani advised



Madhushekar to provide support and cooperation to everyone, transcending party lines. Accompanying Madhushekar were PAX committee members, including Janasena leader Chiranjeevi from Pathakalva, and Mohan Reddy from Mundlavundi village.

CARE Hospitals introduces India’s most advanced AI-Powered Robotic surgery system

Hyderabad, July 9: In a ground-breaking move towards the future of precision medicine, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City, on Wednesday introduced the AI-powered Stryker Mako Robotic System, marking a new era in robotic joint replacement surgeries in Telangana. The cutting-edge technology was inaugurated by Arekapudi Gandhi, MLA, Serilingampally along with Varun Khanna, Group Managing Director of QCIL. The event witnessed participation from key dignitaries including Dr Nikhil Mathur, Group Chief of Medical Services, Shalabh Dang, Group Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, CARE Hospitals; Manu Kandpal, BU Director, Stryker, India and leading orthopaedic surgeons from CARE Hospitals, Dr Gottemukkala Ashok Raju, Dr Vasudeva Juvvadi, Dr Jagan Mohan Reddy and Dr Sharath Babu along with leadership of CARE, senior doctors and hospital staff.

The MACO Robo brings a new level of precision and personalization in joint replacement procedures, marking a significant advancement in surgical outcomes and faster patient recovery. This initiative underscores CARE Hospitals' commitment to adopting innovative, patient-first technologies. The Stryker Mako Robotic System, integrated with Artificial Intelligence, enhances surgical accuracy by enabling real-time decision-making, personalized surgical planning, and precision execution. This advanced system is particularly effective in total knee, partial knee and hip replacement surgeries, resulting in faster recovery, minimal post-op pain, and improved long-term outcomes. With this new addition, CARE Hospitals, Hitech City strengthens its position as a leader in robotic-assisted surgeries, reaffirming its mission to deliver world-class, technology-driven healthcare to all.

We won’t demolish Fatima college as it is providing free education to 10,000 girls: Hydra

Hyderabad, July 9 : The Hydra has given clarity on MIM floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi’s Fatima College, which was built in Salakam Cheruvu lands in Hyderabad. It has made it clear that it was not taking any action against the college because it was a college meant for the poor students and providing free education to them.

Hydra has responded on delay in the demolition of the Fatima College belonging to Akbaruddin Owaisi. “Now everyone is asking why Akbar Owaisi owned Fatima Col-

lege was not being demolished? Since the college was built in the FTL area, we said we would try to remove it in the last September. This institution is running from KG to PG for the poor Muslim women. No fees are charged in this college. More than 10,000 young girls to young women are studying in this college. The poor Muslim women are being freed from backwardness by way of education. No action is being taken against the college because it is working for the poor.

CFOs are navigators of Corporate destiny & Growth

Hyderabad, July 9 : Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Telangana organized the 7th edition of the CFO Conclave 2025 with the theme “Navigating Uncertainty, Unlocking Growth” on Wednesday. The CFO Conclave had high-impact sessions focusing on Boardroom Dynamics: From Insight to Impact, From Ledgers to Algorithms: Rewiring Finance with AI, Chasing Vision: Stories that Inspire, Protecting the Real Asset : Your Health – Insights by a leading Oncologist and Leadership Reflections: Lessons that resonate.

Addressing the inaugural session, Chief Guest Batti Vikramarka Mallu, Deputy Chief Minister & Minister for Finance & Planning, Energy, Government of Telangana said CFOs are navigators of Corporate destiny and expected to be strategists who spot the opportunities, Technologist and risk taker. AI and advanced analytics are unlocking the digital transformation opportunities. Growth should not come at the cost of sustainability. Digital transformation is unlocking efficiencies of various sectors such as manufacturing, life sciences and so on. Telangana’s progressive policies have made magnet for investments in many sectors. True development cannot be measured in economic output but how it benefits the people. The State government embarked on development journey through establishment of around 100 Young India Integrated residential Schools, Ambedkar Knowledge Centres, and also for farmers Rythu Bharosa is being implemented where loans up to Rs 2 Lakh are being waived off for farmers.

Dr B V R Mohan Reddy, Past Chairman, CII – Southern Region & Founder Chairman, Cyient Ltd in his address mentioned that today CFOs are business partners and custodians of ESG. Governance costs are increasing in a drastic manner and all CFOs are expected to possess knowledge about compliances. AI applications are developing rapidly and repeated processes could be automated. AI could support in futuristic planning and forecasts. In today’s

world CFOs need to embrace technology and become cross functional. Through innovation, strengthening governance and long-term value creation CFOs can play a key role in the success of an organization.

R Sivaprasad Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana & Managing Director, Rachamalla Forgings Pvt. Ltd. in his address mentioned that today, finance leadership goes beyond financial expertise. It demands agility, strategic foresight and the courage to lead through volatility. CFOs are at the forefront of building resilient organizations, managing risks, and unlocking new avenues for growth even in uncertain times. Finance leaders must harness technology to strengthen financial decision-making, improve operational efficiency, and drive innovation. By leveraging tools like advanced analytics, automation and machine learning, CFOs can reshape financial processes and build a future-ready finance function. As finance custodians, CFOs are also expected to lead the way in integrating sustainability, ethical governance and ESG principles into their financial strategies. Balancing profitability with purpose is now a key expectation from investors, regulators and society.M V Narasimham, Chairman, CII Telangana Task Force on Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) & CFO, Dr Reddy’s Laboratories Ltd. said that automation should not be driven by only small group people but by all important departments. Dashboards should be updated automatically, and efficient adoption is important. With regulatory frameworks continuously evolving, it is essential for the finance community to stay updated and proactive in ensuring compliance while fostering strong ethical standards and effective risk management across organizations. M Gowtham Reddy, Vice Chairman, CII Telangana & Executive Vice Chairman, Re Sustainability Ltd. in his address said that independent directors see the company through the lens of CFO rather than CEOs. CFOs must continue to lead with foresight and readiness to navigate the unexpected.

Mala community must prepare for another fight: G. Chennaiah

Hyderabad, July 9 : Mala Mahanadu National President G. Chennaiah has called for a successful meeting of Mala Mahanadu state-level leaders scheduled to be held at the Loni Vasavi Club in Lakidikapool of Hyderabad on the 11th of this month to discuss the injustice done to the Malas through SC classification and formulate future action plan. In a statement, he said the Mala community was suffering severely in the education and employment sectors due to the SC classification made by the State government without following the instructions of the Supreme Court and without proper empirical data. Chennaiah demanded that the roster policy prepared by the State government should be revised to ensure that justice was done to the castes in Group 3 along with the Malas and noted that not a single job had been allocated to Group 3 in the recently released noti-

fications. He said it was clear to what extent the government had conspired against the Malas in the issue and added that they should prepare for public struggles while continuing the legal fight over this classification. Later, Mala Mahanadu State President Burgula Venkateshwarlu said by limiting the 15% education job opportunities provided by the Indian Constitution to 5%, the government had deliberately conspired to suppress the Malas by allocating 22 and 41st roster points, Burgula said future action would be taken to protect the rights of Malas. He said in the recently announced Dental Assistant Surgeon jobs, 10 jobs were allocated to SCs, out of which only one post was given to the group-3 communities including the Malas. “Similarly, in Satavahana University, six jobs were announced for the SCs.

Sattva Group unveils ambitious Campus in Vizag

Hyderabad, July 9 Sattva Group, one of India's leading real estate development and consulting firms, has consistently delivered transformative projects across the country since its inception in 1986. Known for redefining Bengaluru's skyline and creating future-ready spaces, the Group's expansive portfolio today includes world-class IT parks, commercial hubs, residential townships, hospitality, and retail developments across major Indian cities.

Andhra Pradesh is positioning itself as a frontrunner for the next wave of investments, especially in Tier 2 cities like Visakhapatnam (Vizag). With its robust infrastructure, skilled talent pool, competitive policies, and forward-thinking governance, the state is fast emerging as a hub for Global Capability Centers (GCCs), IT / ITeS companies, and innovation-driven enterprises. The Government of Andhra Pradesh's emphasis on the "Speed of Doing Business", supported by Real-Time Governance and single-window clearances, is setting a new benchmark in ease and efficiency for industries to thrive.

In alignment with this transformative vision, and following a detailed discussion with Nara Lokesh, Minister for

Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, on July 8, Sattva Group is proud to announce its next marquee development, a 30-acre Sattva Vantage Vizag Campus for Mixed Use development. We deeply appreciate the Minister's proactive leadership, industry-centric vision, and unwavering commitment to making Visakhapatnam a premier IT and innovation hub. With a planned investment of ₹1,500 crore, the project will feature a blend of Grade A office spaces, premium residential developments, and integrated urban infrastructure, all designed to global standards of sustainability and smart living. Once operational, the campus is expected to generate over 25,000 direct employment opportunities, catalysing Vizag's socio-economic transformation. This landmark initiative reaffirms Sattva's dedication to building vibrant communities and creating destinations that reflect innovation, quality, and future-readiness. The Vizag campus will be a cornerstone in shaping the city's rise as a national centre for technology, talent, and inclusive growth. Sattva Group is honoured to contribute to Andhra Pradesh's growth story and is confident that this partnership will unlock new frontiers of development and opportunity in the State. (NSS)

Historic Kotwal Office at Purani Haveli to be inaugurated today

Hyderabad, July 9 : In a proud moment for the city, the historic Kotwal Office at Purani Haveli is set to be officially inaugurated today following a meticulous heritage restoration. The 150-year-old structure, once a pivotal seat of law enforcement in Hyderabad's Old City, was on the verge of demolition after its roof collapsed four years ago. Determined to preserve the city's rich heritage, Hyderabad Police Commissioner CV Anand, IPS, took the initiative to restore the structure. With the generous support of Anil, CMD of Greenko, restoration work began in December 2022. However, the project was halted following Commissioner Anand's transfer in October 2023. Upon his

reappointment as Commissioner in September 2024, the project was revived and pushed forward with renewed commitment.

The restoration was undertaken by Mir Khan of Deccan Terrain Agencies, who was praised for executing the challenging task with precision and care. "This building holds immense historical significance for policing in Hyderabad. I'm pleased that the Kotwal will now have a dignified space to use during visits to the Old City," said CP CV Anand, IPS. The restored Kotwal Office now stands as a proud symbol of Hyderabad's dedication to preserving its cultural and administrative legacy.

Ensure BRS victory in Jubilee Hills by-elections: Harish Rao

Hyderabad, July 9 Former ministers Harish Rao, Talasani Srinivas Yadav, Mahmood Ali, MLC Dasoju Sravan, former MLA P. Vishnuvardhan Reddy, former MLCs Farooq Hussain, Salim, BRS minority leader Sahail today participated in the Greater Hyderabad BRS Party minority wing meeting held at Telangana Bhavan in the city. Speaking on the occasion, he said the entire society was looking towards Jubilee Hills assembly seat by-elections. He criticized that the Congress had not fulfilled any of the promises made during the elections. He claimed that people were angry with the Revanth Reddy government. He said people were ready to teach this government a lesson. On the occasion, Harish Rao called on the BRS party ranks to remind the people of the deception done by the Congress government. "When KCR was there, minorities were happy. Shaadi Mubarak, KCR Kit, minority educational institutions, English medium education was provided to everyone. Moreover, for the first time in the country, Imams and Muezzins of mosques were given honorary salaries.

We gave Ramadan gifts and maintained the self-respect of the Muslim brothers. Congress made many promises in the elections but failed to deliver on them. He said not a single promise had been implemented by the State government so far. He alleged that CM Revanth Reddy brought their party leaders like Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi to convince people on his promises. He reminded that even after the second cabinet expansion, minorities were not given a chance by the CM and added that Mahmood Ali was sworn in as a minister when KCR was sworn in as the Chief Minister. Rao alleged that the Revanth Reddy government demolished the houses of the Muslims in the names of Hydra and Musi rejuvenation project and added that did not even pay compensation for the demolished houses. "Revanth Reddy did not give the poor Muslims new houses but demolished the existing houses. I request everyone to work together and strive for a grand victory for the BRS in Jubilee Hills," said Harish Rao.

Why South Mumbai is recording heavier showers this monsoon season



GNS News Agency, July 9

Since the onset of the southwest monsoon on May 26—its earliest in the past 75 years—Mumbai's island city division has been experiencing very heavy spells of rainfall, even as its suburban district has remained relatively drier. In May, the coastal observatory in Colaba recorded 504 mm of rainfall—making it the station's wettest May in over a century since 1918. Yet again, on June 19, it was the island city division that received record-breaking rain, with the Colaba station clocking in 146 mm within 24 hours, its highest 24-hour rainfall in June since 2023 and second highest in the last seven years. Overall, since May, the Colaba station in the island city has recorded 981 mm of rainfall until Sunday, while the Santacruz observatory has received only 803 mm of rainfall. This is in stark contrast to the average monsoon patterns, during which the Santacruz station in the suburbs registers more wet spells.

According to meteorologists, the southwest monsoon in Mumbai typically kicks off with heavy spells at the tip of South Mumbai in Colaba owing to intense rainfall in Raigad and monsoon winds from that direction. This year too, when the monsoon onset was announced in May, it was the Colaba station that received the heaviest downpour, with some areas like Nariman Point, Byculla, Colaba, and Do Taki, among others, recording over 200 mm of rainfall within a 24-hour window. Speaking to The Indian Express, Athreya Shetty, an independent weather forecaster, said, "When the IMD announced the onset of monsoon on June 26, the winds were aligned in such a way that they pushed more rain to the small stretch of island city while the suburbs and the

further districts such as Thane experienced lesser rainfall." Meanwhile, explaining the heavy showers in the island city division between June 15 – 19, Shetty added, "Even last week, there was an offshore trough which was much more active towards the south central Konkan region and it edged up until the Colaba area. Owing to this, it was observed that Raigad district received very heavy rainfall alongside Colaba in Mumbai, while the suburbs received less rainfall comparatively." However, experts alluded that such heavy spells in the island city are not atypical. In 2024 as well, for instance, Colaba received 507 mm of rainfall in June while Santacruz station received 347 mm.

In the city, rainfall in Mumbai's suburban district is gauged by the IMD's recording station in Santacruz, while the Colaba coastal observatory records the total rainfall in the Mumbai city district. Typically, it is the suburban district that records heavier rainfall. Data furnished by the IMD shows that the suburban Santacruz station receives an average of 542 mm of rainfall in June, while the Colaba station receives 537 mm of rainfall in the month. Overall, the city's Santacruz observatory receives a higher average of 2,318 mm of rainfall during the monsoon season that spans between June and September month, whereas the Colaba station records 2,095 mm of average rainfall. This June, however, the Colaba station has received 477 mm of rainfall— which is over 130 mm above normal — whereas the Santacruz observatory has received relatively less rainfall at 425 mm. Even as observers like Shetty stated that there are no active systems at present, Mumbai will continue to experience spells of moderate to heavy rainfall in the next week. Stating the likelihood of heavy rainfall in isolated pockets, the IMD has placed Mumbai district under a yellow alert between Monday and Thursday, barring Wednesday. Not only Mumbai but the neighbouring districts of Thane, Palghar and Raigad have also been placed under alerts. While a yellow warning has been issued in Thane and Palghar until Thursday, an orange alert has been sounded in Raigad and Ratnagiri districts on Monday and Thursday. As of now, next week looks like the monsoon will run on its own strength with an active system. From Monday, moderate to heavy rainfall will continue.

Patience key in politics, says Sanjay Raut after MNS leader suggests 'minions should not talk' about Thackerays' possible alliance



GNS News Agency, July 9

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday advised Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) leaders to be patient and optimistic amid speculations of a possible alliance between Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray and MNS founder Raj Thackeray. "In politics, one should always be patient and optimistic. Some people still need to be trained in this. Politics does not work by being superficial. When it is a question of Maharashtra's identity, when it is a question of the just rights of the Marathi people, one has to be

patient. No one knows better than me what is going to happen and what is not going to happen. Whoever says anything is like a fool, it does not make sense," the Rajya Sabha MP said.

On Sunday morning, MNS leader Sandeep Deshpande had criticised Raut saying that he should not comment on the alliance. "The leaders of both parties will take a decision on the alliance. The minions should not talk," Deshpande said. Raut responded by saying that earlier people believed that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) would not be formed. "But still, a government of the Congress, NCP and Shiv Sena was formed in Maharashtra. Uddhav Thackeray became the chief minister," he said, advising Deshpande that people coming into politics should study a little before speaking. After dropping hints that the party is preparing to join hands with Raj Thackeray's MNS, Sena (UBT) leaders have expressed optimism regarding the alliance. At a party function held last week, Uddhav said that things will work out as per the wishes of the people of Maharashtra, hinting that matters were moving forward in a positive manner. However, despite the workers of both parties coming together for various occasions, no official meetings have taken place between the two Thackerays yet.

Rajkot Fort in Maharashtra shut again 41 days after Shivaji statue inauguration, ground cave-in sparks safety fears



GNS News Agency, July 9

Barely 41 days after the inauguration of a newly rebuilt 91-foot statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the refurbished Rajkot Fort in Malvan, Sindhudurg district, has once again been shut to the public for urgent repairs. The closure was prompted by a partial cave-in near the statue's platform last week, raising concerns about the structural integrity and safety of the site. The Public Works Department (PWD) has issued a notice stating that the fort will be closed to tourists starting Sunday, with repair work expected to continue for several days.

The damage was visible last week after heavy rains when a large crater emerged on the left side of the pathway around the statue. While the statue itself remains intact, viral videos showing the sunken ground have sparked widespread public criticism. Anil Patil, Collector, Sindhudurg, had attributed the incident to recent heavy rains. Although authorities initially claimed that the issue had been rectified, the decision was later made to suspend public access to carry out comprehensive repairs. The 91-foot bronze statue, depicting the sword-bearing Maratha warrior, was inaugurated on May 11, just eight months after the earlier 35-foot version collapsed in August 2024 amid heavy rainfall and strong winds. That statue was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December 2023. The incident led to the arrests of both the statue's sculptor and its structural consultant amid a political firestorm, prompting the government to build a new structure. Constructed at a cost of Rs 31.75 crore, the new statue was unveiled by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis. However, this second structural failure has revived criticism from Opposition leaders, including former Shiv Sena UBT Kudal MLA Vaibhav Naik. "The state has so far spent over Rs 100 crore on this project, yet the ground around the statue has caved in. This raises serious questions about the quality of construction. Forts built

IAS officer, her husband, and personal security officer booked for attempt to murder in Jalandhar



GNS News Agency, July 9

babita kaler IAS officer Babita Kaler and her husband Stephen Kaler, who live in the upscale Baradari area, reportedly had a dispute with the owners of the adjacent plot over the dumping of soil. An FIR has been registered in the case where a plot owner was shot by the personal security officer (PSO) of IAS officer Babita Kaler on Saturday morning in a posh locality near PIMS Hospital in Jalandhar. The FIR was lodged late Saturday night at Police Station Division No. 7. The FIR names senior IAS officer Babita Kaler, her husband and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Stephen Kaler, and Sukhkan Singh, the PSO provided by the Punjab Government.

The case has been registered under Sections 109 (at-

tempt to murder), 115 (2) (voluntarily causing hurt), and 61 (2) (criminal conspiracy) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and relevant sections of the Arms Act. The victim, Harpreet Singh, suffered a bullet injury in his leg. The police have arrested Sukhkan Singh and taken possession of the weapon used in the incident. A recommendation has also been sent to the police department to suspend Sukhkan Singh. The police will soon present him in court to seek remand for interrogation. Sources said the police were preparing to issue notices to Babita and Stephen Kaler, asking them to join the investigation. Harinder Singh Gill, Assistant Deputy Commissioner of Police, stated they will determine why the shooting occurred — whether it was necessary or done under pressure — during the interrogation. IAS officer Babita Kaler and her husband Stephen Kaler, who live in the upscale Baradari area, reportedly had a dispute with the owners of the adjacent plot over the dumping of soil. During an altercation, Babita Kaler's PSO Sukhkan Singh shot the brother of the plot owner. The bullet was fired using a government-issued firearm. AAP leader Stephen Kaler stated that the people who came to dump soil were asked to speak to the plot owner. He said he facilitated the conversation and then went inside the house. However, during this time, the individuals who had come to dump the soil allegedly began arguing with the PSO and used abusive language. They also reportedly tried to assault him, after which the PSO fired in self-defence.

2 apprehended in Delhi for selling fake Bisleri water bottles; stickers, heater guns seized

GNS News Agency, July 9

Fake stickers, heater guns and borewell water — that's how two men, apprehended on Saturday, were producing fake Bisleri water bottles and selling them to vendors in the open market, the Delhi Police said. The investigators also seized 127 fake Bisleri Stickers, 55 fake Bisleri bottle caps, 387 counterfeit barcodes, and seven heater guns and lighters. On Thursday, representatives of mineral water giant Bisleri paid an unusual visit to the Subhash Nagar police station. Their bottled water was everywhere in the North West Delhi region, reportedly even where they had not supplied it. The police team talked to vendors and, using manual and technical surveillance, got to know about a factory in the Shakarpur area from where a large number of Bisleri bottles were allegedly being supplied.

"The team collected all the necessary information and after verifying the authenticity of the information, conducted raid at the premises in Shakarpur. Two people were apprehended and 20-litre water bottles bearing counterfeit stickers, cap, and barcode of 'BISLERI' were seized along with the heater guns used for pasting the stickers on the bottles," Bhisham Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), North West, said. The two apprehended, Sikander, 30, and



Ashish 19, told the police they were operating the joint together. "They disclosed that the manufacturing unit was established last year and had since been actively engaged in the production of counterfeit Bisleri bottles," DCP Singh said. The accused also told the police about the source of their water supply. A man named Vishal Gupta, allegedly extracted water using illegal boring techniques and sold it to the accused for packaging. Another case was registered against him under sections 5 and 15 of the Environment Protection Act at Subhash Place police station.

'Can't think of any postgraduate who hasn't been absorbed into some industry by end of course': asst prof at SPPU's Department of Foreign Languages

GNS News Agency, July 9

At the Department of Foreign Languages in Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU), learning a new language is no longer just a leisurely pursuit. Over the years, the department has seen a shift in its student profile — from hobbyists to working professionals, students to senior citizens, all looking to boost their employability and global mobility. "The demand keeps changing — some years it's one language, other years it's another," said Dr Nandita Wagle, Assistant Professor, who has been teaching French and is associated with the department since 2013. "During admissions, especially after Class 10 or 12, nearly all languages see demand, except perhaps Russian. However, in Pune, French, German, and Japanese continue to draw the most interest," she added.

The diversity of the department's student body reflects its growing relevance. Wagle mentioned that while most of those undergoing the various courses are students, they also have a substantial number of working professionals; in fact, many of the learners are above 50. "Most professionals join because they view the course as an opportunity to enhance or even reshape their careers," she said. SPPU Wagle explained that language education today is deeply connected with real-world career needs. In 1995, while working with Datapro Infoworld after completing his Computer Engineering from Pune Institute of Computer Technology (PICT), Pramod Karanjkar enrolled in the department's Japanese language part-time course. "I was fortunate to be taught by Dr Hari Damale Sensei, who not only taught us the language but also shared his cultural experiences from Japan. He helped us understand the nuances of the language and the values behind it," Karanjkar said. During his course, he was offered a position as a Bilingual Engineer in the Japan-focused division of Datamatics Ltd. "Within six months, I was interacting with a Japanese client who visited India. Soon after, I flew to Japan for a new project. The education I received, both language and culture, helped me take that leap. I eventually got the opportunity to lead a dedicated Japan Offshore Development Centre in Pune," he added. In the same batch as Karanjkar was Dattatray Sadashiv Warunkar, then in his 40s, who completed all three levels of the Japanese course between 1997 and 1999. He also credited Damale's teaching for shaping his understanding of the Japanese language and values. "We got the chance to interact with many native Japanese speakers who visited the department. Through conversations with them, I learned so much about their discipline, dedication, humility, and above all, their love for their country. These are qualities I think Indian citizens can benefit from adopting," he said.

Warunkar went on to serve as Vice President of the Japanese Language Teachers' Association of Pune (JALTAP) for 15 years after completing the course. He fondly recalled how being in the classroom with younger students gave him a fresh outlook on life. "I loved talking with them. They had so much energy and joy. It inspired me to take life lightly, to laugh more, and live happily. I learned as much from the students around me as I did from the curriculum," he added. The department has adapted its curriculum and teaching methods in step with changing times. "Our courses are updated regularly," Wagle said, adding that "Post-Covid, many classes moved online. We now run hybrid batches. Faculty members are trained in digital teaching tools utilising smart boards, online textbooks, and other resources. Students also have the option of choos-



ing between paper and e-book formats." She explained that language education today is deeply connected with real-world career needs. "Earlier, people came to learn a language out of cultural interest. Today, it's seen as a skill that adds value to any career path," she said, adding that "for many, it opens doors to opportunities abroad, or adds a global edge to their current profession." Teaching and translation are traditional options, but many also work in management, localisation, verification services, or with embassies and consulates," Wagle further said. "With the way the economy has opened up, language learners can find employment in a variety of roles. I can't think of a single postgraduate who hasn't been absorbed into some industry or the other by the end of the course," she added.

Ray of hope for HIV patients, as Hyderabad-based pharma giants secure nod for game-changing HIV drug

Hyderabad: In a ray of hope for HIV patients, particularly for the significant burden in the two-Telugu speaking States of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, several India pharmaceutical companies have secured green light to manufacture Lenacapavir, a ground-breaking drug, administered as injection just twice a year, offering a promising alternative for management of the disease. The HIV drug Lenacapavir, originally developed by Gilead Sciences and marketed as Sunlenca, offers a new weapon in the fight against HIV for Indian patients. They will no longer have to worry about the complexities of taking oral pills and the difficulties in adhering to the strict anti-retroviral therapy. A few days ago, Gilead received USFDA approval for Yeztugo (lenacapavir) for twice-yearly use to reduce the risk of sexually acquired HIV. Gilead has also granted permission to Hyderabad-based Dr Reddy's Laboratories and Hetero Healthcare, Pune-based Emcure Pharmaceuticals and Mylan, through non-exclusive, royalty-free voluntary licensing agreements. Dr Ishwar Gilada, the president Emeritus of the AIDS Society of India (ASI), has been quoted by several news agencies on the significance of this development. "The voluntary licenses give hope that the medicine may cost less than 100 US dollars, which is 0.3 percent of the innovator's cost. India needs to lead from the front for lenacapavir's equitable.

Himachal minister Anirudh Singh booked for ‘assaulting’ NHAI officials hours after building collapses in Shimla



GNS News Agency, July 9

Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj Minister Anirudh Singh was booked on Monday for allegedly assaulting and threatening two officials of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) in Shimla. The alleged incident took place soon after a multi-storeyed building collapsed at Chamyana in Shimla, allegedly due to ongoing four-lane construction work. Leader of Opposition (LoP) and former chief minister Jai Ram Thakur has sought Singh's resignation in the wake of the allegations. "The BJP condemns the minister's attack on NHAI officials. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu should remove Anirudh Singh from his Cabinet. The minister should resign," he said.

‘We all lead strenuous lives. But we need to stop, just for a while, and listen to our bodies’: Dr Rani Bang’s appeal on Doctors’ Day

GNS News Agency, July 9

July 1 is Doctors' Day. On the occasion, Dr Rani Bang, a Padma Shri awardee known for her exceptional contributions to public health in Maharashtra's tribal district of Gadchiroli, reflected on a life-altering experience she had two years ago—she suffered a severe brain stroke that left the right side of her body paralysed. Dr Bang was unconscious for a week, and her family feared the worst— but against the odds, she made a remarkable recovery. As Dr Bang turns 75 this September, the eminent doctor appealed to doctors to take care of their own health. "We all lead strenuous lives. But we need to stop—just for a while—and listen to our bodies," Dr Bang told The Indian Express.

A brain stroke on November 14, 2022, forced her to take a break from her outpatient services. She received emergency care in Nagpur for three weeks, followed by an intensive rehabilitation programme in Mumbai. She continues her physiotherapy at Maa Danteshwari Hospital, run by SEARCH (Society for Education, Action and Research in Community Health) in Chatgaon village, Gadchiroli.

However, within just two months of her illness, Dr Bang resumed her OPD services in January 2024. Every day, she arrives at the hospital exactly at 11 am, assisted by a nurse, and attends her OPD, where Dr Bang typically sees around 30 patients daily, working until 3 pm. She prefers to have her physiotherapy sessions and lunch in the OPD to avoid interruptions and politely declines all invitations during her OPD hours. Her consultation room is lined with a collection of gynaecology books, which she continues to reference regularly. After returning home at 3 pm, she rests and later joins the evening prayer on the SEARCH campus at 6.40 pm, often being the last to leave. Dr Bang admits that the physical rehabilitation process has been of immense importance. "I had put on a lot of weight and was so engrossed in my work that I neglected my health," Dr Bang recalled while she made a strong case for exercise and

How a couple moved to the Himalayas and became one of India’s homestay pioneers

GNS News Agency, July 9

More than two centuries ago, the poet William Blake wrote, "Great things are done when men and mountains meet; this is not done by jostling in the street." In the misty, green landscape of Landour, Uttarakhand, a hotel entrepreneur from a bustling peth area of Pune realises each day that he has taken the right kind of risk to set up a business – and his life – under the gaze of the changeless Himalayas rather than a familiar, fast-moving city. In the process, he has shown that it is possible to marry enterprise with serendipity. Amarjeet Kudle and his wife, fellow hotelier Sunita Kudle, had not wanted to raise their infant daughter in a metropolitan city. They wanted to give her an upbringing rooted in a small and quiet place. The couple was on holiday in Landour, Mussoorie, in November 2009, when they came across "this very beautiful and quaint 106-year-old house" that was available on the block.

The house had been built by a 27-year-old medical missionary during the colonial era. "We didn't have the bandwidth to buy so we shared our vision for the property with the religious organisation that owns it, and they agreed to lease it to us for 33 years," says Amarjeet. "We decided to quit our jobs and move into the mountains, to the Himalayas," he adds. With this property, La Villa Bethany, the Kudles became pioneers; one of the first businesses to register under the Incredible India Homestay Scheme, which the Government of India launched in October 2010. The Kudles wanted to offer a slice of the tranquility that they had found in the hills to visitors from across the world without disrupting the historic charm of Landour.

From its start in May 2011, La Villa Bethany carved out its revenue model as carefully as it refurbished its interiors and fashioned its aesthetics. "We try to attract like-minded people who will respect the environment. They will value the sanctity and privacy of the other guests who are staying, appreciate the surroundings and Landour's history as a convalescent depot for British officers who were suffering from tropical diseases, and be curious about why the town is called the Peanut Butter Capital of India," says Amarjeet. It was a tall order to sustain a fledgling business without opening up to commercial tourists from Delhi and

The First Information Report (FIR) in this regard was lodged at Dhalli police station based on a complaint filed by NHAI manager Achal Jindal. Singh is a Congress MLA from Kasumti and the scion of the erstwhile Koti royal family in the state. The assault reportedly took place near Bhattakuffer in Chamyana where the building collapsed on Monday. Singh had visited the site along with other officials. Jindal claimed that he and site engineer Yogesh Verma were summoned under the pretext of a meeting but were instead assaulted. According to the complaint, "The minister took both of us to a nearby room and started assaulting us in front of others. He hit a water earthen pot on my head, causing bleeding. When my colleague Yogesh Verma tried to intervene, the minister attacked him too. We somehow managed to escape and reached IGMC, Shimla."

Both men were admitted to Indira Gandhi Medical College and Hospital (IGMC) in Shimla. Their medical reports are awaited. A senior police officer associated with the probe said, "We have acted on the complaint. The matter is under investigation, and the medical examination reports will further aid the probe. The FIR was registered last night. Achal Jindal has been discharged from the hospital. Yogesh Verma is still admitted there." The police have registered the case under several sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), including section 121(1) (assault or use of criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging official duty), 126(5) (wrongful restraint or confinement by a public servant or in the course of official proceedings), 132 (voluntarily causing hurt), 352 (assault or criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation, and 3(2) (liability of abettors when the act is committed by several persons in furtherance of common intention). Despite repeated attempts to contact him, the minister was unavailable for comment. Calls and messages to his office remained unanswered.



nutrition. Equally important is mental therapy. "I would read medical books, talk to my patients, listen and understand them. The constant effort is to keep learning," she said. "All this keeps me mentally active and despite the challenges, I have decided to continue my medical practice." Dr Bang also exhorted doctors to provide medical care with honesty, sensitivity, and the highest ethical standards.

"In recent times, we have seen instances where doctors face anger and frustration from patients and their families. I believe the main reason for this is often a breakdown in communication on both sides. I understand that many doctors work in resource-constrained settings, but despite these challenges, it is our responsibility to provide medical care with honesty, sensitivity, and the highest ethical standards," she said. Dr Anand Bang, Joint Director of SEARCH and the elder son of Dr Abhay and Dr Rani Bang, said there was agreement in the family that she should continue her medical practice. "She has always loved it. For the brain, it is important to remain engaged in intellectual and professional work. Despite some physical limitations, her routine life continues as it always has. She also participates in public programmes and remains involved in scientific work," he added.



Amarjeet Kudle and his wife, fellow hotelier Sunita Kudle, set up the homestay, La Villa Bethany, against the green landscape of Landour, Uttarakhand, in May 2011. It became one of the first businesses to register under the Incredible India Homestay Scheme launched in October 2010.

Amritsar, among others. But, the Kudles reached the right people. The niche traveller – including a lot of single women – gravitated towards the Enid Blyton-esque appeal of the property and the bow to JRR Tolkien in The Hobbit Home and Uncle Tom's Cabin in the log cabin. House guests eat at least one meal together at the dining table, where strangers become friends. La Villa Bethany's insistence on solar energy for cooking and heating water and its 80,000 litre capacity of rain water harvesting (that is being increased) strikes a chord with guests. The homestay is not only booked but also winning awards globally. Today, the Kudles has eight homestays in a 25 km radius, such as Purkul, Dhanaulti, and Buranskhanda. When the business started, procurement used to be a challenge but e-commerce has solved that. What remains a task is to get labour in a region where communities are small and people value respect and dignity. "If an entrepreneur develops a reputation for being difficult or hostile, local people would not want to work for you. The mountain teaches you oodles of patience. The thumb rule is that the mountains don't change for you; you have to change for the mountains. You have to give in to their pace; you have to slow down," says Amarjeet. Though he visits Pune regularly, he looks forward to returning. "I am a ghati who got promoted to being a pahadi," he says.

Chaos in Maharashtra Assembly: Congress MLA Nana Patole climbs Speaker’s podium, suspended for a day



GNS News Agency, July 9

Congress MLA Nana Patole was suspended for a day from the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Tuesday after he climbed Speaker Rahul Narwekar's podium amid aggressive protests by the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi MLAs. On the second day of the Monsoon Session, MVA legislators staged a protest against alleged derogatory remarks made by Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate and BJP MLA and former minister Babanrao Lonikar against farmers and demanded an apology from the state government after the Question Hour. Lonikar recently addressed a gathering of farmers in his constituency of Partur in the Jalna district and said those who criticise his party and government should know they are getting "clothes, shoes, mobile, monetary benefits of schemes and money for sowing because of us". Kokate allegedly claimed that farmers used the funds from loan waivers on weddings.

Senior Congress leaders, including Vijay Wadettiwar, Aslam Shaikh, Jyoti Gaikwad, and Patole, approached the Speaker's chair to seek a retraction of Lonikar's remarks and a formal apology from Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis. "Babanrao Lonikar and Agriculture Minister Manikrao Kokate have been continuously insulting farmers. This insult to farmers will not be tolerated. The chief minister must apologise to the farmers in the Assembly. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi may be your father, but he can never be the father of farmers," Patole, a former Maharashtra Assembly speaker, said. Speaker Narwekar warned Patole for using unparliamentary language. Nevertheless, Patole approached the Speaker's chair and began arguing. As the House got chaotic with sloganeering from the Opposition, Speaker Narwekar suspended the proceedings for five minutes in an attempt to restore order. However, when the proceedings resumed, the Opposition began chanting slogans such as "apologise, apologise, apologise to the farmers". Despite repeated warnings from Speaker Narwekar, Patole continued to argue near the Speaker's chair. At this point, CM Fadnavis intervened and demanded an apology from Patole. "Expressing emotions on an issue is one thing, but charging on toward the Speaker is inappropriate. It is as if the Speaker himself is being blamed. We are witnessing this kind of behaviour for the first time in this House. Yes, members have approached the Chair before, but physically charging at the Speaker is not acceptable. Nana Patole himself has served as Speaker. His conduct is not befitting of that position. He should apologise," said Fadnavis. Moments later, Patole once again approached the Well of the House and climbed the Speaker's podium, following which Narwekar ordered his suspension for the remainder of the day. The order triggered a fresh wave of protests, culminating in a walkout by the entire Opposition, which boycotted the rest of the day's proceedings. Speaking to the media later, MVA leaders slammed the government for "insulting the farming community" and accused the ruling BJP of shielding its members who make "irresponsible and inflammatory remarks".

Storage in dams supplying water to Pune reaches 50% after continuous rainfall

GNS News Agency, July 9

Storage in dams supplying water to Pune reaches 50% after continuous rainfall. On Tuesday, the amount of water discharged into the river was increased from 340 cusecs to 1,440 cusecs as the water level rose in the dams following the rain in the catchment area, officials said. After continuous rainfall in the catchment areas of dams upstream of the Mutha river, the four main dams supplying water to Pune city have filled to half their capacity despite the water being released into the river over the last two weeks.

The total storage capacity of the four dams—Khadakwasla, Panshet, Varasgaon, and Temghar—is 29 thousand million cubic feet (TMC). "The good rainfall in June has enabled the increase of storage in the four dams. The water storage is 14.52 TMC, which is around 50 per cent of the total storage capacity," said an officer of the Maharashtra water resources department. On Tuesday, the amount of water discharged into the river was increased from 340 cusecs to 1,440 cusecs as the water level rose in the dams following the rain in the catchment area, officials said. The water storage in the Khadakwasla dam is 1.21 TMC, which is 61.51 per cent of its capacity, while the water storage in



the Varasgaon dam has reached 6.99 TMC—54.50 per cent of its capacity. The water storage in the Panshet dam is 4.96 TMC, which is 46.56 per cent of its capacity. In the Temghar dam, the water storage is 1.36 TMC—36.73 per cent of its capacity. On Monday, the catchment areas of the dams received rainfall of 24 mm (Temghar), 18 mm (Varasgaon), 16 mm (Panshet), and 2 mm (Khadakwasla). The administration expects more rain in July and has put the disaster management system on alert to handle any eventuality, officials said.

MHADA appoints Keystone Realtors to redevelop Sindhi refugee families’ residences at Mumbai’s GTB Nagar

GNS News Agency, July 9

The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) has appointed Keystone Realtors under the Rustonjee Group as the agency for redeveloping 20 residential buildings at GTB Nagar in Mumbai's Sion Koliwada to house Sindhi refugee families who migrated to India during the Partition and their descendants. MHADA Vice-President and CEO Sanjeev Jaiswal transferred the Letter of Intent (LOI) to the realtor on Monday, paving the way for the construction of new buildings on 11.20 acres. Around 1,200 Sindhi families had to shift to temporary accommodation in 2020 after the apartments, which were built in 1958, were declared unsafe by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC).

The buildings were subsequently demolished, and the Maharashtra government approved a redevelopment scheme after repeated pleas by tenant societies, although the land is in private ownership. As per the redevelopment proposal, all 1,200 eligible families will be given a free flat of 635 square feet, with MHADA paying Rs 20,000 monthly rent until they get their possession and pay maintenance expenses for five years after redevelopment. The State Cabinet cleared the proposal on February 14, 2024, and a resolution was issued on February 23, 2024, authorising MHADA to be the Special Planning Authority. "It is for the first time that MHADA is redeveloping on private land as a chosen development agency. A 5-7 member committee of society representatives would be constituted to oversee the



project and MHADA will give complete support so that the rehabilitation is done on time," Jaiswal said, adding that the project shall be carried out under the Development Control and Promotion Regulations (DCPR) Regulation 33(9).

The scheme permits a minimum Floor Space Index (FSI) of 4.5, including a fungible area. MHADA will get 25,700 square metres of the built-up area as housing stock. According to MHADA officials, legal actions in the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court had delayed the project. A final ruling by the Supreme Court in 2024 permitted MHADA to go ahead, establishing a precedent for such future redevelopments. Upon approval from Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in February last year, MHADA moved on the orders to bring the project on track.

Indian Navy contains fire on board Palau-flagged tanker with 14 Indian crew

GNS News Agency, July 9

The Indian Navy contained a fire on board a Palau-flagged tanker in the North Arabian Sea and ensured safety of 14 of the vessel's Indian crew members. The vessel reported a major fire in its engine room while operating approximately 80 nautical miles east of Fujairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). "The Indian Navy undertook a high-risk fire fighting and rescue operation on-board Palau-flagged tanker MT Yi Cheng 6 on June 29 in the North Arabian Sea, successfully stabilising the situation and ensuring the safety of 14 Indian crew members," according to an Indian readout. The Navy deployed its warship INS Tabar to assist the vessel.

"Responding swiftly, INS Tabar proceeded at maximum speed to provide assistance," the Navy said in the readout. It said seven crew members were immediately evacuated to INS Tabar using the ship's boats. "No injuries were reported, and all crew were examined by Tabar's medical team. The remaining crew members, including the master, stayed on board to assist with fire containment," it added. A six-member team of fire fighters from INS Tabar was deployed to contain the fire. "Initial fire fighting efforts from the Indian Naval personnel and ship's crew resulted in



considerable reduction in intensity of the fire with smoke restricted to the engine room," the Navy said. "The fire fighting effort was further reinforced with 13 additional Indian Navy personnel (5 officers and 8 sailors)." "Sustained efforts by the Indian Navy's firefighting team along with crew members have successfully brought the fire under control," it said. The Navy said INS Tabar remains in the vicinity of the vessel for continued support. "The valiant effort of Indian Naval personnel has ensured safety of the ship along with all Indian crew members."

Jaishankar refutes Trump’s claim of using trade to force India-Pakistan ceasefire



GNS News Agency, July 9

New York: With his firsthand account of the talks between New Delhi and Washington, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has dismissed the claims of US President Donald Trump that he used trade to force India and Pakistan to accept a ceasefire.He said on Monday that he was with Prime Minister Narendra Modi when US Vice President JD Vance spoke to him by phone, and there was no linking of trade and ceasefire as far as India was concerned.“I can tell you that I was in the room when Vice President Vance spoke to Prime Minister Modi on the night of May 9, saying that the Pakistanis would launch a very massive assault on India,” he said. “We did not accept certain things,” he said, “and the Prime Minister was impervious to what the Pakistanis were threatening to do.”“On the contrary, he (PM Modi) indicated that there would be a response from us,” he said, giving the chronology of interac-

tions. “The Pakistanis did attack us massively that night, (and) we responded very quickly,” he recalled.

The next contact with Washington was between the EAM and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. “And the next morning, Mr. Rubio called me up and said the Pakistanis were ready to talk,” he said.Pakistan’s Director General of Military Operations, Major General Kashif Abdullah, directly called his Indian counterpart, Lieutenant General Rajiv Ghai, that afternoon to ask for a ceasefire. “So, I can only tell you from my personal experience what happened,” Jaishankar said while speaking at a fireside chat here with Newsweek’s CEO Dev Pragad.

He was asked about Trump’s repeated claims that he used trade to get the neighbours to agree to a ceasefire after the escalation of India’s Operation Sindoor in May.Last Wednesday, at a news conference in The Hague, Trump said again, despite India’s denials, “I ended that with a series of phone calls on trade.” “I said, ‘Look, if you’re gonna go fighting each other ... we’re not doing any trade deal,’” he said. They responded that “You have to do a trade deal,” the US President asserted.Jaishankar said that was not what happened, and diplomacy and trade were not interlinked and operated independently of each other. “I think the trade people are doing what the trade people should be doing, which is negotiate with numbers and lines and products and do their tradeoffs,” he said. “I think they’re very professional and very, very focused,” he added.Operation Sindoor was launched by India against terrorist bases in Pakistan in retaliation for the Pahalgam terrorist attack by The Resistance Front, an outfit linked to Pakistan-supported Lashkar-e-Taiba.

74 killed in Gaza as Israeli forces strike a cafe and fire on people seeking food

GNS News Agency, July 9

Cairo: Israeli forces killed at least 74 people in Gaza on Monday with airstrikes that left 30 dead at a seaside cafe and gunfire that left 23 dead as Palestinians tried to get desperately needed food aid, witnesses and health officials said.One airstrike hit Al-Baqa Cafe in Gaza City when it was crowded with women and children, said Ali Abu Ateila, who was inside.“Without a warning, all of a sudden, a war-plane hit the place, shaking it like an earthquake,” he said.Dozens were wounded, many critically, alongside at least 30 people killed, said Fares Awad, head of the Health Ministry’s emergency and ambulance service in northern Gaza.

Two other strikes on a Gaza City street killed 15 people, according to Shifa Hospital, which received the casualties. A strike on a building killed six people near the town of Zawaida, according to Al-Aqsa hospital. The cafe, one of the few businesses to continue operating during the 20-month war, was a gathering spot for residents seeking internet access and a place to charge their phones. Videos circulating on social media showed bloodied and disfigured bodies on the ground and the wounded being carried away in blankets.Meanwhile, Israeli forces killed 11 people who had been seeking food in southern Gaza, according to witnesses, hospitals, and Gaza’s Health Ministry. Nasser Hospital in the southern city of Khan Younis said it received the bodies of people shot while returning from an aid site associated with the Israeli and US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Fund.It was part of a deadly pattern that has killed more than 500 Palestinians around the chaotic and controversial aid distribution program over the past month.The shootings happened around 3 km from the GHF site in Khan Younis, as Palestinians returned from the site along the only accessible route.Palestinians are often forced to travel long distances to access the GHF hubs in hopes of obtaining aid.Nasser Hospital said an additional person was killed near a GHF hub in the southern city of Rafah. Another person was killed while waiting to receive aid near the Netzarim corridor, which separates northern and southern Gaza, according to Al-Awda hospital.Ten other people were killed at a United Nations aid warehouse in northern Gaza, according to the Health Ministry’s ambulance and emergency service.

One witness, Monzer Hisham Ismail said troops attacked the crowds returning from the GHF hub in Khan Younis. “We were targeted by (the Israeli) artillery,” he said. Yousef Mahmoud Mokheimer was walking with dozens of others when he saw troops in tanks and other vehicles racing toward them. They fired warning shots before firing at the crowds, he said. “They fired at us indiscriminately,” he said, adding that he was shot in a leg, and a man was shot while attempting to rescue him.He said he saw troops detaining six people, including three children. “We don’t know



whether they are still alive,” he said.

The Israeli military said it was reviewing information about the attacks. In the past, the military has said it fires warning shots at people who move suspiciously or get too close to troops including while collecting aid.Israel wants the GHF to replace a system coordinated by the United Nations and international aid groups. Along with the United States, Israel has accused the militant Hamas group of stealing aid and using it to prop up its rule in the enclave.The UN denies there is systematic diversion of aid. The Israeli military said it had recently taken steps to improve organization in the area, including the installation of new fencing and signage and the opening of additional routes to access aid.Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas, accusing the militants of hiding among civilians because they operate in populated areas.The military intensified its bombardment campaign across Gaza City and the nearby Jabaliya refugee camp. On Sunday and Monday, Israel issued widespread evacuation orders for large swaths of northern Gaza. Palestinians reported massive bombing overnight into Monday morning, describing the fresh attacks as a “scorched earth” campaign that targeted mostly empty buildings and civilian infrastructure.

“They destroy whatever left standing ... the sound of bombing hasn’t stopped,” said Mohamed Mahdy, a Gaza City resident who fled his damaged house Monday morning. Awad with the emergency and ambulance services said that most of Gaza City and Jabaliya have become inaccessible and ambulances were unable to respond to distress calls from people trapped in the rubble.The Israeli military said it had taken multiple steps to notify civilians of operations to target Hamas’ military command and control centers in northern Gaza.The war has killed over 56,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Health Ministry. It says more than half of the dead were women and children.The Hamas attack n October 2023 that sparked the war killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took 251 others hostage. Some 50 hostages remain, many of them thought to be dead.

Barcelona records hottest June in over 100 years as heat wave grips Europe

GNS News Agency, July 9

Barcelona has recorded its hottest month of June since records started over a century ago, Spain’s national weather service said.The Can Fabra Observatory, located on a hill overlooking Barcelona, reported an average temperature of 26°C (78 degrees Fahrenheit), breaking records since 1914. The previous hottest average for June was 25.6°C in 2003.The same weather station said that a single-day high of 37.9 C (100 F) for June was recorded on Monday, June 30.

Barcelona is usually spared the worst heat in Spain, thanks to its location between hills and the Mediterranean in Spain’s northeastern corner. But most of the country has been gripped by the first heat wave of the year.Europe burningFrance and the rest of Europe were still in the grips of the first major heat wave this summer with health warnings in effect Tuesday (July 1, 2025), even as conditions began to improve in some parts of the region.Punishing temperatures were forecast to reach 40°C in Paris and to stay unusually high in Belgium and the Netherlands. In contrast, temperatures were falling in Portugal, where no red heat warnings were issued.

In France, the national weather agency Météo-France placed several departments under the highest red alert, with the Paris region particularly hard hit. The heat wave — defined as consecutive days of very high temperature — is expected to intensify Tuesday and more than 1,300 schools were expected to be partially or fully closed, the Education Ministry said.Visitors to the Eiffel Tower without tickets were told to postpone their visits, and the summit of the city’s landmark was closed until Thursday.Farther south, 17 of Italy’s 27 major cities were experiencing a heat wave, according to the Health Ministry.Météo-France also warned of the heightened risk of wildfires due to the drought-stricken



Punishing temperatures were forecast to reach 40°C in Paris and to stay unusually high in Belgium and the Netherlands.

soil, compounded by a lack of rain in June and the recent surge in temperature.Climate experts warn that future summers are likely to be hotter than any recorded to date. By 2100, France could be up to 4°C warmer, with temperatures exceeding 40°C expected every year and extreme heat spikes potentially reaching 50°C. According to Météo-France, the country may face a tenfold increase in the number of heat wave days by 2100.In Portugal, Lisbon was forecast to reach 33°C, typical for this time of the year, though some inland areas could still see peaks of 43°C, according to the national weather agency. June temperature records were broken in two locations in Portugal on June 29.

‘Without subsidies, Elon would have to head back to South Africa’; Trump suggests DOGE look at Musk’s companies to save money



GNS News Agency, July 9

U.S. President Donald Trump suggested on Tuesday (July 1, 2025) that his efficiency Department should take a look at the subsidies that Tesla CEO Elon Musk’s companies have received in order to save the Federal Government “BIG” money.Mr. Trump’s comments come after billionaire Elon Musk renewed his criticism on Monday (June 30) of Mr. Trump’s sweeping tax-cut and spending bill, vowing to unseat lawmakers who backed it after campaigning on limiting government spending.

“Elon may get more subsidy than any human being in history, by far, and without subsidies, Elon would probably have to close up shop and head back home to South Africa. No more Rocket launches, Satellites, or Electric Car Production, and our Country would save a FORTUNE. Perhaps we should have DOGE take a good, hard, look at this? BIG MONEY TO BE SAVED!!!,” Mr. Trump said in a post on Truth Social.In response to Mr. Trump’s post, Mr. Musk, in his own social media platform X, said “I am liter-

ally saying CUT IT ALL. Now.” After weeks of relative silence following a feud with Mr. Trump over the legislation, Mr. Musk rejoined the debate on Saturday as the Senate took up the package, calling it “utterly insane and destructive” in a post on social media platform X.From bros to foes: How a bill drove a wedge between Trump, MuskOn Monday, he ramped up his criticism, saying lawmakers who had campaigned on cutting spending but backed the bill “should hang their heads in shame!”“And they will lose their primary next year if it is the last thing I do on this Earth,” Mr. Musk said.Musk renews call for new political party

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO called again for a new political party, saying the bill’s massive spending indicated “that we live in a one-party country – the PORKY PIG PARTY!”“Time for a new political party that actually cares about the people,” he wrote. Mr. Musk’s criticism of the bill has caused a rift in his relationship with Mr. Trump, marking a dramatic shift after the tech billionaire spent nearly \$300 million on Mr. Trump’s re-election campaign and led the administration’s controversial Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), a federal cost-cutting initiative.

Mr. Musk, the world’s richest man, has argued that the legislation would greatly increase the national debt and erase the savings he says he has achieved through DOGE.It remains unclear how much sway Mr. Musk has over Congress or what effect his opinions might have on the bill’s passage. But Republicans have expressed concern that his on-again, off-again feud with Mr. Trump could hurt their chances to protect their majority in the 2026 mid-term congressional elections.The rift has also led to volatility for Tesla, with shares of the company seeing wild price swings that erased approximately \$150 billion of its market value, though it has since recovered.

Iran-linked hackers threaten to release Trump aides' emails

GNS News Agency, July 9

Iran-linked hackers have threatened to disclose more emails stolen from U.S. President Donald Trump’s circle, after distributing a prior batch to the media ahead of the 2024 U.S. election.In online chats with Reuters on Sunday (June 29, 2025) and Monday (June 30, 2025), the hackers, who go by the pseudonym Robert, said they had roughly 100 gigabytes of emails from the accounts of White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles, Mr. Trump’s lawyer Lindsey Halligan, Mr. Trump’s Adviser Roger Stone and porn star-turned-Mr. Trump antagonist Stormy Daniels.

Robert raised the possibility of selling the material but otherwise did not provide details of their plans. The hackers did not describe the content of the emails.U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi described the intrusion as “an unconscionable cyber-attack.”The White House and the FBI responded with a statement from FBI Director Kash Patel, who said: “Anyone associated with any kind of breach of national security will be fully investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.”Ms. Halligan, Mr. Stone, a representative for Ms. Daniels and the U.S. cyberdefense agency CISA did not respond to requests for comment. Iran’s mission to the United Nations did not return a message seeking comment. Tehran has in the past denied committing cyberespionage.Robert materialized in the final months of the 2024 presidential campaign, when they claimed to have breached the email accounts of several Mr. Trump allies, including Mr. Wiles.The hackers then distributed emails to journalists.

Reuters previously authenticated some of the leaked material, including an email that appeared to document a financial arrangement between Mr. Trump and lawyers representing former presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. - now Mr. Trump’s Health Secretary.Other material included Mr. Trump’s campaign communication about Republican office-seekers and discussion of settlement negotiations with Ms/ Daniels.Although the leaked documents did garner some coverage last year, they did not fundamentally alter the presidential race, which Mr. Trump



won.The U.S. Justice Department in a September 2024 indictment alleged that Iran’s Revolutionary Guards ran the Robert hacking operation. In conversations with Reuters, the hackers declined to address the allegation.After Mr. Trump’s election, Robert told Reuters that no more leaks were planned. As recently as May, the hackers told Reuters, “I am retired, man.” But the group resumed communication after this month’s 12-day air war between Israel and Iran, which was capped by U.S. bombing of Iran’s nuclear sites.In messages this week, Robert said they were organizing a sale of stolen emails and wanted Reuters to “broadcast this matter.”

American Enterprise Institute scholar Frederick Kagan, who has written about Iranian cyberespionage, said Tehran suffered serious damage in the conflict and its spies were likely trying to retaliate in ways that did not draw more U.S. or Israeli action.“A default explanation is that everyone’s been ordered to use all the asymmetric stuff that they can that’s not likely to trigger a resumption of major Israeli/U.S. military activity,” he said. “Leaking a bunch more emails is not likely to do that.”Despite worries that Tehran could unleash digital havoc, Iran’s hackers took a low profile during the conflict. U.S. cyber officials warned on Monday that American companies and critical infrastructure operators might still be in Tehran’s crosshairs.

Over 14 million people could die from U.S. foreign aid cuts: study

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More than 14 million of the world’s most vulnerable people, a third of them small children, could die because of the Trump administration’s dismantling of U.S. foreign aid, research projected on Tuesday (July 1, 2025).The study in the prestigious Lancet journal was published as world and business leaders gather for a U.N. conference in Spain this week hoping to bolster the reeling aid sector.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) had provided over 40% of global humanitarian funding until Donald Trump returned to the White House in January.Two weeks later, Mr. Trump’s then-close advisor—and world’s richest man—Elon Musk boasted of having put the agency “through the woodchipper”.The funding cuts “risk abruptly halting—and even reversing—two decades of progress in health among vulnerable populations,” warned study co-author Davide Rasella, a researcher at the Barcelona Institute for Global Health (ISGlobal).“For many low- and middle-income countries, the resulting shock would be comparable in scale to a global pandemic or a major armed conflict,” he said in a statement.Looking back over data from 133 nations, the international team of researchers estimated that USAID funding had prevented 91 million deaths in developing countries between 2001 and 2021.

They also used modelling to project how funding being slashed by 83%—the figure announced by the U.S. government earlier this year—could affect death rates.The cuts could lead to more than 14 million avoidable deaths by 2030, the projections found. That number included over 4.5 million children under the age of five— or around 700,000 child deaths a year.For comparison, around 10 million soldiers are estimated to have been killed during World War I.Programmes supported by USAID were linked to a 15% decrease in deaths from all causes, the researchers found. For children under five, the drop in deaths was twice as steep at 32%.USAID funding was found to be particularly effective at staving off preventable deaths from disease. There were 65% fewer deaths from HIV/AIDS in countries receiving a high level of support compared to those with little or no USAID funding, the study found. Deaths from malaria and neglected tropical diseases were similarly cut



The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) had provided over 40% of global humanitarian funding until Donald Trump returned to the White House in January

in half.’Time to scale up’

After USAID was gutted, several other major donors including Germany, the U.K. and France followed suit in announcing plans to slash their foreign aid budgets. These aid reductions, particularly in the European Union, could lead to “even more additional deaths in the coming years,” study co-author Caterina Monti of ISGlobal said.But the grim projections for deaths were based on the current amount of pledged aid, so could rapidly come down if the situation changes, the researchers emphasised.Dozens of world leaders are meeting in the Spanish city of Seville this week for the biggest aid conference in a decade. The U.S., however, will not attend.“Now is the time to scale up, not scale back,” Mr. Rasella said.

Before its funding was slashed, USAID represented 0.3% of all U.S. federal spending.“U.S. citizens contribute about 17 cents per day to USAID, around \$64 per year,” said study co-author James Macinko of the University of California, Los Angeles.“I think most people would support continued USAID funding if they knew just how effective such a small contribution can be to saving millions of lives.”

Thirumullaivoyal, a fast-developing suburb, struggles with poor roads and water woes



Sandwiched between Avadi and Ambattur, Thirumullaivoyal — a rapidly developing locality abutting the Chennai-Tiruvallur High Road — grapples with some deep-rooted civic challenges that remain unresolved beneath the surface of its real estate boom.Like several other areas on Chennai's fringes, Thirumullaivoyal, located on the western periphery of the city and falling under the Avadi Municipal Corporation, continues to lack comprehensive underground drainage and water supply systems in some of its residential localities. The lack of infrastructure is reflected in the pathetic state of its vital waterbodies, which cry out for attention.Arafath Eri, which abuts C.T.H. Road on the eastern side and is located amidst residential areas, is a classic example. According to the lake records, the waterbody, which feeds Ambattur lake in the downstream, originally had a water spread area of nearly 61 hectares; it shrunk to 13.02 hectares over the past decades owing to rapid urbanisation and encroachments.

A recent inspection by Minister for Minorities Welfare and Non-Resident Tamils Welfare S.M. Nasar and Tiruvallur Collector M. Prathap has sparked hopes of revival of the lake as a source of groundwater recharge.S. Sundaramurthy, president, Puzhal Eri Arafath Eri Padhukappu Makkal Iyakkam, a citizens' group dedicated to the conservation of lakes, said "the lake was a key resource for drinking and agrarian needs for the neighbourhood until 1980s. Sewage from areas like Manigandapuram and Balaji Nagar get disposed off into open rainwater canals that are linked to the lake. It is also covered with a layer of water hyacinth."Unless the area is covered with an underground drainage scheme and the two sewage treatment plants are put to proper use, the lake would continue to be misused, he said.'Clear encroachments'

Why are allergies on the rise and how can you prevent them?



An allergy is the excessive reaction of our body's immune system to a substance that is harmless for most human beings. Our immune system is our primary protective mechanism against harmful invaders - bacteria, viruses and parasites. This system, developed over millions of years of evolution helps provide adequate protection to our bodies. But sometimes, our immune system may identify a harmless substance as harmful and can react strongly, causing harm to our own bodies. Understanding respiratory allergiesRespiratory allergies are a reaction of our immune system against substances such as pollen, cold air, dander of pet animals, dust mites, exercise, fungal spores etc. Respiratory allergies manifest in mainly three ways: allergic rhinitis, which causes a runny nose and nose blockages; bronchial asthma, which causes cough and breathlessness and allergic conjunctivitis which causes itching, redness and watering of eyes.Rising prevalence

The incidence and prevalence of respiratory allergies have been on the rise over the past century. Changing lifestyles and diets, including the consumption of processed and junk food, bidi and cigarette smoking, exposure to bio-mass fuel smoke, exposure to environmental pollution such as vehicle smoke and exposure to pesticides are some of the major drivers of the increase in respiratory allergies. About 35 million people in India suffer from bronchial asthma, but only 30% get a correct diagnosis. Only a few people develop respiratory allergies due to genetic predisposition; however, obesity is a major risk factor, and in many cases, obesity-related allergies are also difficult to control.Identification and diagnosisPeople with symptoms of respiratory allergies should consult a respiratory physician or an allergy clinic. A comprehensive analysis of the patient's symptoms, history of exposure to trigger factors and history of recurrent symptoms with exposure provides enough clues towards the diagnosis of a respiratory allergy. Many times however, the immune system of a person with a respiratory allergy reacts against a variety of different innocuous stimuli, and so, it becomes difficult to pinpoint one trigger factor causing the person's symptoms. However, simple tests like the skin prick test, blood tests of specific immunoglobulins can help the physician and patient to identify a major trigger factor, for instance, dust mites. A mere positive allergy skin test report though, is not enough to blame a particular antigen or trigger factor -- the rest reports need to be correlated with exposure history and the patient's symptoms by a trained respiratory physician to confirm the diagnosis.Once a particular antigen correlating with a patient's symptoms and exposure is identified, hyposensitisation with immunotherapy can be done for a few antigens. In immunotherapy, the same substance that causes the allergy, is introduced to the patient's body in very low doses, gradually, in the form of a tablet or subcutaneous injection.Most respiratory allergies can be prevented by following few general lifestyle changes such as:Anaphylaxis is a very severe form of an allergic reaction to a variety of substances such as bee stings, medica-

Residents wanted the municipal authorities and the Water Resources Department to clear encroachments and rejuvenate the lake, besides setting up recreational facilities.While the main bund of the Red Hills reservoir, one of the city's major drinking water sources, remains in the spotlight, the rear portion of the lake near Thirumullaivoyal, is not cared for. The boundary of the lake, particularly near the Arikambedu-Thirumullaivoyal junction, is treated like a makeshift dumpyard, complained residents.P. Logeswaran, a resident of Srinagar Colony, said many areas, including Srinagar Colony and Senthil Nagar, are still waiting for water connections despite remitting the deposit amount a decade ago. Even those localities that are covered by the drinking water network have not been receiving adequate water supply. Several people relied on the groundwater source, and localities such as Saraswathi Nagar and M.G.R. Nagar have been waiting for an underground sewer network for many years now.

Though well-connected by public transport and rail links, damaged roads are another issue plaguing Thirumullaivoyal. Residents noted that several areas like Sakthi Nagar, Venkatachalam Nagar, and Saraswathi Nagar lacked blacktopped roads.Chozhambedu Main Road, which is a key stretch connecting traffic from C.T.H. Road to several residential areas of Thirumullaivoyal, including Tamarai Nagar, is riddled with potholes and uneven patches, said Manoharan K., a resident of Venkatachalam Nagar.Listing out the various measures being implemented for the area's development, Amudha Babysekar, Zone 2 chairman, Avadi Municipal Corporation, said a proposal is being prepared to restore Arafath lake as an eco-park on the lines of Paruthipattu lake in Avadi. The lake would be improved with various facilities, such as pavements and a children's play area. It would also serve as a recreational space for residents with several amenities like boat rides.Measures are being taken to ensure the functioning of the two sewage treatment plants in Manikandapuram 9th Street and C.T.H. Road to reduce sewage pollution into Arafath lake. Work to provide underground drainage network is also in progress.Nearly 80% of Thirumullaivoyal has been covered by drinking water lines, and work is in progress to provide connections to the remaining areas. A new overhead tank in Nagammal Nagar would provide water supply to the left-out streets.As for Chozhambedu Main Road, she said, the stretch, which was dug up to execute various infrastructure projects, would be restored in 10 days. Relaying of damaged roads, including in Manikandapuram, is being carried out at a cost of 72 crore.

tions including particular antibiotics, latex, contrast agents used in imaging studies etc. Some people can have anaphylaxis with food items such as peanuts, prawns or mushrooms. During an anaphylaxis episode a person develops severe breathlessness, decrease in blood pressure and swelling of the lips and throat as well as skin lesions. Anaphylaxis is a medical emergency, and the person needs immediate help and treatment. It is very important for the person who had an anaphylaxis reaction to maintain and keep a list of substances he or she is allergic to. Avoidance of exposure to such drugs or food items is the best preventive strategy against anaphylaxis. However, to deal with cases of emergency , doctors sometimes train the patient and relatives to administer ready-prepared injections of epinephrine.Allergic diseases are on the rise. But a healthy life routine, daily exercise, balanced diet, avoiding obesity, taking respiratory vaccines and maintaining a list of substances a person is allergic to and avoiding them are the best strategies to prevent allergic disorders.

Why is the ECI de-listing political parties? | Explained

The story so far: The Election Commission of India (ECI) has initiated steps to de-list 345 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) that have not contested elections in the last six years and whose offices could not be physically located.

What are registered parties?

The right to form an association is a fundamental right guaranteed under Article 19(1)(c) of the Constitution to all citizens. Political parties are an association or body of individuals that can be formed by citizens.Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) lays down the requirements for registration of a political party with the ECI. Any political party that seeks registration should submit a copy of its memorandum/constitution within 30 days of its formation. Such a document should contain a provision that the party shall bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India. It should also bear allegiance to the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy, and uphold the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India. The ECI reviews the memorandum/constitution of the political party to verify that it contains provisions for internal democracy like periodic elections for its office bearers. The ECI thereafter registers them as a RUPP.The RUPPs enjoy the following benefits — (a) tax exemption for donations received under Section 13A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, (b) a common symbol for contesting general elections to the Lok Sabha/State Assemblies, and (c) 20 'star campaigners' during election campaigns.RUPPs are required to maintain the details of individual donors who have donated above 20,000 in a financial year and submit these details to the ECI every year. As per Section 29C of the RP Act, failure to furnish these details will result in losing income tax exemption. The RUPPs under the Income Tax Act, 1961, are further required to accept donations in excess of 20000 only through cheque or bank transfers.What are the issues?

As per ECI notification, there are more than 2,800 RUPPs in India as of May 2025. However, only around 750 of them contested the 2024 general elections. It has resulted in the moniker — 'letter pad parties' — for the rest of the RUPPs. The RP Act does not confer explicit powers on the ECI to de-register any political party if it fails to contest elections, conduct inner-party elections or lodge requisite returns. The Supreme Court in Indian National Congress versus Institute of Social Welfare & Ors (2002) had held that the ECI does not have the power to de-register any political party under the RP Act. It may de-register only under exceptional circumstances such as the registration being obtained by fraud or the political party ceasing to have allegiance to the Indian Constitution or if it is declared unlawful by the Government.

Boeing faces headwinds from crashes and competition



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Earlier this month, a London-bound Air India plane crashed soon after take off in Ahmedabad, killing all but one of the 242 people aboard. This was one of the deadliest disasters involving a passenger aircraft in India in the last two decades. While this was the first Boeing 787 Dreamliner to crash, data shows that this is the latest in a litany of problems that Boeing faces.Only weeks before the crash in Ahmedabad, Boeing had agreed to pay \$1.1 billion in a deal with the U.S. Department of Justice to avoid prosecution over two crashes — one in 2018 and the other in 2019 — involving 737 Max airliners. In total, 346 people died in these incidents. Lawyers of the victims of these crashes criticised the payout deal as "morally repugnant".Boeing's stock prices plummeted after the crash in Ahmedabad, but have recovered since. Data show that Boeing's stock prices had fallen steeply after other crashes as well.The change in Boeing's closing stock prices every day between 2016 and 2025. Boeing's stock prices have fallen steeply after crashes / incidents.

For instance, in October 2018, when Lion Air Flight 610, a Boeing 737 MAX airliner, crashed killing 189 people, the company's stock fell sharply. On March 10, 2019, Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302, a Boeing 737 MAX 8, crashed minutes after take off. The company's stock dropped again — this time more steeply than what Boeing had ever seen.That incident claimed 157 lives. The company also suffered setbacks when its 787 variants were grounded by the U.S. after these accidents, and during the COVID-19 pandemic

Voter verification drive in Bihar: too little time, too many hurdles



GNS News Agency, July 9

The Election Commission of India (ECI) recently issued an order for holding Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls for Bihar. This exercise will then be carried out in all the States. The order is antithetical to the tradition of this august institution. From the first election held in independent India, the ECI has played a heroic role in seeding democracy through active voter enrolment and protection of the right to vote of the disadvantaged.Though the ECI is facing a credibility crisis of late, this initiative is surprisingly radical. And unless it is substantially modified, it will disproportionately disenfranchise the poor and deprived electors irrespective of their party preference. We will leave the thorny questions of legality to the experts and just focus on the scale of the venture and its practicability within the proposed timeline.As per the directive, all individuals who have not been featured in the electoral rolls of 2003 need to prove their citizenship as per the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003, and Rules. Broadly, if the 2003 electoral roll features nearly all individuals who were 18 years or older then, these individuals, now 40 years and older, get a direct entry into the proposed electoral roll. How many then have to go through the hoops?

In 2020, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare published a report, Population Projections for India and States 2011-36. The report estimates the current voting age population of Bihar to be 8.08 crore. About 59% of this population (4.76 crore individuals) is 40 years old and under. The ECI, from July 1 to July 31, requires this staggering number to prove citizenship.In its press note of June 28, the ECI stated that the electorate count in Bihar is 7.9 crore. As per the ECI, as "4.96 crore of the 7.9 crore already have their names in the last intensive revision of electoral rolls" in 2003, just 2.94 crore individuals will need to submit their eligibility documents. This is clearly an oversight. The electoral roll of 2003 for Bihar did have around 4.96 crore individuals. By our calculations from the reports of the Sample Registration System, around 1.1 crore of them are dead. The ECI has taken them off the rolls.

Plus, there is sizeable number of people who have permanently migrated out of Bihar. As per a paper by Pinak Sarkar, Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, deriving from the Census, 93 lakh people permanently migrated out of Bihar between 2001 and 2011. Even if migration has slowed a bit after 2011, an average of 8 lakh out-migrants a year from Bihar in the period 2003-24 would mean a total of 1.76 crore out-migrants.If the share of those over 18 years of age in the 1.76 crore group is the same as the proportion in the Bihar population, this amounts to 94 lakh voters who have migrated out of Bihar permanently. If even one fourth of them remain electors in Bihar, 70 lakh are no longer electors in Bihar and are voting elsewhere in India. The ECI would have taken them off the Bihar electoral rolls.Hence, of the 4.96 crore electors in the 2003 list, if we remove those who are dead and those who have migrated from Bihar permanently, around 3.16 crore electors remain in the present count of Bihar's electorate. These 3.16 crore people who were also on the 2003 list do not need to submit any eligibility documents. The rest of the 4.74 crore indi-

in the 2020-2021 period.Last week, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) criticised Boeing's safety culture for the mid-air blowout of a 737 MAX 9 flight operated by Alaska Airlines in January 2024. It said that Boeing had failed to provide adequate training and oversight to prevent a mid-air cabin panel blowout. The NTSB is now working with India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau to extract data from the black box of the plane that crashed in Ahmedabad. In the ongoing investigation of the incident, no aircraft-related problems have been reported yet.

According to data from the Aviation Safety Network, a high incidence of accidents, as well as a high number of fatalities, involved Boeing-manufactured aircraft between 2019 and 2024. The chart shows the share of fatalities in aviation accidents that occurred between 2019 and 2024, globally.In the last five years, 26.2% of all aviation accidents have involved a Boeing plane. This is much higher than the share of accidents involving other aircraft manufacturers such as Airbus whose revenues mimic those of Boeing.

Also, close to 43% of all fatalities in aviation accidents between 2019 and 2024 involved a Boeing plane. The company is financially struggling now as investors and operators have gravitated towards companies such as Airbus.Fleet statistics from 2023, published by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, show that a majority of India's fleet was manufactured by Airbus. The chart shows the manufacturer-wise share of aircraft owned/leased by various Indian airlines as of 2023.Only 22% of the fleet were manufactured by Boeing. Only some Indian airlines such as SpiceJet and Akasa Air relied more on Boeing.Company reports from Airbus and Boeing show a huge difference in the number of aircraft delivered by the two dominant aircraft manufacturers, globally. The chart shows the number of aircraft delivered globally by Airbus and Boeing.Last year, Airbus delivered 766 aircraft, while Boeing delivered 348. The number of deliveries by Airbus has steadily grown since 2020 as opposed to Boeing's.Parliament data on orders placed by Indian airlines in 2023 and 2024 also suggest an increasing reliance on Airbus. The chart shows the number of orders placed by select Indian airlines to Airbus and Boeing in 2023 and 2024. In the last two years, IndiGo has placed 510 new orders with Airbus. Air India has placed 375 orders with Airbus and 220 with Boeing.

viduals (7.9 crore-3.16 crore) need to submit their documents.This figure is very similar to our 4.76 crore estimate based on population projections. The ECI requires this staggering magnitude to prove its eligibility to vote within a month.

What is this proof of eligibility? The ECI says a copy of one document in a list of 11 needs to be presented. Seems simple? Perhaps for some other State, but certainly not for a document-scarce State such as Bihar. Let us list the 11 documents and look at the data that is publicly available for our demographic of 18-40 years.The first is identity card/pension card of State government/ Central government/ public sector undertaking. As per the 2022 caste census, 20.47 lakh Biharis have government jobs. Fewer than half of them will be from the 18-40 age group and pertain to less than 2% of this group.

The second is an identity card issued before July 1, 1987. This is not applicable.The third is a birth certificate. As per the National Family Health Survey-3, 2.8% of Bihar's population born between 2001 and 2005 possess a birth certificate. Much of our age group of interest was born before 2001, so a negligible proportion possesses this document.The fourth is a passport. Around 2.4% of Bihar's population possess a passport. The share would be higher in the 20-40 age group but would not reach double digits.The fifth is a matriculation certificate. Deriving from the National Family Health Survey-2 and National Family Health Survey-5, around 45-50% of 18-40-year-olds are matriculate. As of 2019-20, there is a 10% point gap overall between male matriculates and female matriculates: females are at a definite disadvantageThe sixth is domicile. In-migrants in Bihar are an insignificant proportion of the population.The seventh is a forest rights certificate. The share of Scheduled Tribes (ST) in Bihar is 1.3%, according to the 2011 Census. Of them, those living in forests form a much lower share.

The eighth is an Other Backward Classes (OBC)/ Scheduled Castes (SC)/ST certificate. Data from the India Human Development Survey-2, analysed by Professor Ashwini Deshpande and Rajesh Ramachandran in The India Forum, notes that around 20% of SCs, 18% of OBCs, and 38% STs had a caste certificate. Considering that almost no upper castes possess caste certificates, around 16% of Biharis possessed a caste certificate in 2011-12 when this survey was conducted.Those eligible individuals who are 30-40 years of age today would already have obtained a caste certificate by 2012 had they wished; even if the rest obtain caste certificates in a higher proportion, overall not more than one in four households are likely to possess this document.The ninth is the National Register of Citizens. This is applicable solely to Assam.

The last is a land/house allotment certificate by the government. There is no data available on land allotment certificates. House allotment certificates seem applicable to government employees availing government housing. No such certificate is given to beneficiaries of schemes such as the Pradhan Mantra Gram Awas Yojana.

Most people without a matriculation certificate are unlikely to apply for a passport, a government job, or a caste certificate. By the ECI's new rule, the matriculation certificate has effectively become the main eligibility proof for voters aged 18 to 40. This shifts us from adult franchise to a system that favours only matriculates. As a result, around 2.4 crore-2.6 crore people who had to leave school due to poverty may now be left out of the voters' list.The final number of people disenfranchised will be even larger than this if we add the over 40-year-olds who have been missed in the 2003 voters' list and those over 40 whose present names don't match with those in the 2003 voting list. These hundreds of lakhs of people will lose their constitutional right to vote not because they are illegal migrants but because they are illegible to a State which lacked the capacity to issue birth certificates, render basic education, or issue caste certificates to the deprived castes. A State cannot penalise so many people for its own shortcomings.This also begs a simple question: if the ECI allows for OBC/SC/ST certificates, why is Aadhaar not allowed if the proof of identity document for a caste certificate is Aadhaar? It should not be that Aadhaar's major flaw is that it is more available — around 9/10th of the Bihar population possess it. Does the ECI believe that it has issued voter cards to non-citizens? Also, why not allow ration cards?

Jungles of Chhattisgarh drenched in red



Under a muted October sky, 31 bodies of alleged Naxals lie in the open in Karli police lines, a sprawling campus in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada town, in the district of the same name. They were gunned down a day ago by security forces in what has been the biggest anti-Naxal operation in the Maoist-affected State, since Chhattisgarh's creation in 2000. The police would later revise the estimate of the number of dead to 38, based on a Naxal statement.

For a scene that reeks of death, there is a strange upbeat chaos: policemen high-five each other, journalists quiz them, there are some clipped voices about the possibility of rain. As the day progresses, the stench gets stronger because the bodies lie in the open. Many of the facilities in the Karli police complex are named after policemen who were killed by Naxals. Now, it is the scene of photo ops with the bodies. From the 1960s, forest-dwelling marginalised communities, mostly tribal, have waged an armed struggle against the state, in a communist-led separatist movement that originated in West Bengal. A policeman says blithely, "Is se bhi bada karenge (We will go even bigger the next time)." This operation was conducted near Thulthuli and Gawadi villages in adjoining Narayanpur district. Here, phone networks are sketchy and only dirt tracks through dense jungles lead to the villages.

Last year, the Bharatiya Janata Party was voted into the State to form the government. This year, the crackdown has been unprecedented: the bodies of 192 people allegedly Maoists — 125 men and 67 women — have been recovered. Up to 762 have been arrested, 745 have surrendered, and 207 weapons seized in 2024 alone. In 2023, there were 20 killings; 30 in 2022, 51 in 2021, and 41 in 2020. In April this year 29 Maoists were gunned down in Kanker district, considered a major anti-Naxal operation — ANO, in police jargon. Earlier this year, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in Naya Raipur, a new township adjoining Chhattisgarh's capital, that Naxalism will be ended in the State by March 2026. The Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P. feels this is realistic. "This year so far has been one of the biggest operational years. Now that the monsoon is over, we will restart operations on a major scale." Behind his confidence is a new strategy: about 190 camps have been set up in Naxal strongholds, ensuring "deeper penetration" in the dense jungles of Bastar, in Chhattisgarh's south, bordering Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra. The camps obstruct Maoist movement and meetings, and disrupt crucial supply routes. Set up in a 7-to-8-kilometre radius of villages, these camps hamper recruitment efforts and weaken their organisational reach. Action and attention

Gawadi village is about 20 km from Orchha block that has a police station and a lone bus stop. Like most villages embedded in forests, it takes at least four hours on a two-wheeler and on foot, to reach. It lies across seven rivulets and muddy, rocky paths. For villagers, even accessing basics such as a ration shop or health facilities could mean a challenging trail that takes a whole day. There is provision for children to study in residential schools in the district headquarters or a development block, but many drop out. Jira Usendi, in his late 20s, is back in Gawadi after working as a labourer in Maharashtra's Nagpur for a few months. He is one of the few who has lived outside the village. "My heart was in the Abujmahad forests," he says. He hopes the violence will end, so that his six-year-old child can have a better future. Usendi is against setting up new camps near the village. "From my childhood, I have heard in ghoutils (tribal youth dormitories run by the community) that if security forces make a base here, they will take our lands away. Also, the police come here and torture us when they question us for having links with Naxals; the Naxalites also torture us." Jira Usendi, a resident of Gawadi village, which is close to the October 4 encounter site, says villagers want a resolution to the conflict but they are often tortured by both police and Naxals. Jira Usendi, a resident of Gawadi village, which is close to the October 4 encounter site, says villagers want a resolution to the conflict but they are often tortured by both police and Naxals. | Photo Credit: Shubhomoy Sikdar

Ramesh, a Jagdalpur-based ex-Maoist, originally from undivided Andhra Pradesh, surrendered in 2000 along with his wife. He is now a gardener in the city's municipal corporation. Previously called Badranna, he says, "The influence of the Maoists is waning, but the government's penetration in the forest will only lead to deforestation and mining. The existing inequality will become worse." There is rudimentary development around the areas of the camps. In some villages there are Jal Jeevan Mission water tanks equipped with solar pumps. The administration and the police say that new camps for security forces will also act as development centres for the villagers, making it easier for them to access basic amenities. These camp sites will turn into hubs for basic healthcare and supplies of daily needs. They also say that it is local support and intelligence they are receiving that has contributed to the crackdown. However, in villages, people still visit Naxal memorials that resemble tomb stones, and there are painted slogans appealing to people to boycott elections. The People's Union for Civil Liberties, founded

by socialist and political leader Jayaprakash Narayan, and the Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan question the scale of operations. They have put out a statement questioning the number of killings, arrests, and surrenders, saying that "the government itself estimates that the number of Maoists is only 1,500..." which would "indicate that Naxalism has been wiped out". Girish Kant Pandey, the principal of a government college in Bemetara district, who is known in Chhattisgarh for his research work on the Maoist conflict, says that while the government's latest approach might prevent Naxalism from spreading, only dialogue can bring about a resolution. "The people being killed are low-rung Maoists. The top leaders are either in jail in different parts of the country or are underground. The government will have to shift all of them to a common jail and then begin talks," he says. He also advocates a surrender policy, involving livelihoods and better living conditions. While one such policy is in the works in Chhattisgarh, details have not been revealed yet.

A senior police officer in Dantewada, a district known for its ancient temples and ponds, talks about the year-long strategy that went into the capture and killing of the alleged Maoists. He cites the term Chakravayuha, the details of which he cannot disclose. He does say that at its core, "It involves assigning a clear role to every person. This keeps the operation organised with a structured form." This has reduced casualties of jawans too. He also cites a technology upgrade, such as the adoption of long-range drones which can survey an area up to 25 km in tree-covered terrain, and send real-time inputs. This year, security forces in Bastar have received sophisticated weapons from the Central Armed Police Forces. He says there is now joint, coordinated action with neighbouring Andhra and Odisha, also a part of the red corridor. In August this year, in a response to a question in Parliament, the Central government said left-wing-extremist (LWE)-affected districts had reduced from 126 across 10 States in 2013 (the year before the BJP government came in for the first time) to 38 districts across nine States, in April 2024. Up to June 2024, LWE violence was reported from 89 police stations across 30 districts.

Sundarraj talks about the locally raised District Reserve Guards, surrendered Naxals who now lead operations, and are familiar with the terrain, and language and customs of the tribes. "To strengthen this expertise, the CRPF has also recruited a dedicated Bastar Battalion, made up of local recruits. Additionally, we have established a jungle warfare training centre in Kanker, where forces undergo rigorous preparation tailored for combat in dense forest environments." Another senior police officer points out that there is now more funding under the Special Central Assistance to support tribal development, and Security Related Expenditure budgets given to combat areas and special States. "Also, there is alignment between the Centre and the State." Previously, the Congress was in power in Chhattisgarh, with the BJP returning in its fourth stint since the State's formation in 2000. "Funds matter because human intelligence is a cost-intensive process. We have seen Maharashtra and Telangana [that also see LWE] benefiting by pumping in additional money," he says. While senior officers are upbeat, even boastful, those closer to the action feel it is difficult to put a date to the end of the Naxal movement that began as a tribal peasant uprising against landlords in 1967, in Naxalbari in West Bengal. A junior officer from one of the affected districts, says, "There are many more challenging areas to reach, in terms of terrain. There, even setting up camps close by may take years." Pandey dismisses the 2026 date, saying such deadlines have been given in the past too. "The problem is multi-pronged and military successes are only a small part of it. The government will need to set up smaller goals, such as by this day we will free up this police station area or this district, and then move accordingly. Otherwise such deadlines are only vague assertions. Encounters may only check their spread," he says. Some encounters have been mired in controversy. In Pidia village, Bijapur district, family members of 12 alleged Maoists killed have vehemently questioned the killings. They have alleged that innocent villagers collecting tendu leaves, for their livelihood, were among those killed by the police. Dantewada-based social activist and lawyer Bela Bhatia had accompanied the family members of some of those killed to the police station to file an FIR, but the police refused to file one. Bhatia is one of the few who still speaks out against the state. Many activists who raised their voices for the tribals earlier are now reluctant, fearing a crackdown. A resident of Lendra village in Bijapur, Somli Kunjam (second from left), whose daughter was killed in an encounter with security forces. A resident of Lendra village in Bijapur, Somli Kunjam (second from left), whose daughter was killed in an encounter with security forces. | Photo Credit: Shubhomoy Sikdar The Pidia encounter was raised by the members of the Opposition Congress in the State Assembly too. There are allegations from other areas too. In Bijapur's Lendra village, Kamli Kunjam, in her early 20s, was shot dead in an encounter on April 2. Her family says she could neither hear nor speak. "My daughter was not a Maoist. She was undergoing medical treatment. I have a son who has the same condition. On the day of the encounter, a group of men came to our house and took Kamli away after ransacking the house. When I protested, they said they would bring her back. The next day we were informed by the police that she was killed," says Somli Kunjam, Kamli's mother. Sundarraj denies all these allegations and says that her presence with other Maoists — there were 12 killed in that encounter — and the recovery of her body with a uniform, established her links with the banned outfit, the Communist Party of India (Maoist), one of several socio-political organisations banned in India. Many alleged Maoists carry rewards on their heads, cumulatively amounting to nearly ₹9.6 crore, a sum most wouldn't have seen in their lifetime.

(21.2 crore). Another 14.8 crore were in China, while 4.2 crore, 3.6 crore and 2.2 crore lived in the US, Pakistan and Brazil, respectively, the researchers found. NCD-RisC is a global network, coordinated by the World Health Organization, of over 1,500 researchers and practitioners providing information on risk factors for non-communicable disease across countries. Further, in 2022, almost one third of the 44.5 crore adults (13.3 crore) with untreated diabetes lived in India. "Our findings suggest there is an increasing share of people with diabetes, especially with untreated diabetes, living in low- and middle-income countries," said author Jean Claude Mbanya, University of Yaounde 1, Cameroon. "Most people with untreated diabetes will not have received a diagnosis, therefore increasing detection of diabetes must be an urgent priority in countries with low levels of treatment," he said.

From Panipat to Balochistan: Tracing the Maratha community's journey through history



In the early 19th century when the British were attempting to expand in the Indian subcontinent, they were faced with just one major regional power capable of destroying their emerging empire — the Marathas. Spread across several small kingdoms, from modern-day Tamil Nadu in the south to Gwalior in the north and Odisha in the east, the Marathas, at one point, were said to have occupied a third of the subcontinent. Though the regime set in place by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj dissipated by the early 1800s, in Maharashtra, the Marathas continue to have a resounding presence. Ever since the birth of Maharashtra in 1960, 12 of the state's 20 chief ministers have been Marathas, including the incumbent Eknath Shinde. Issues related to the Maratha community, including the heavily debated demand for reservation, consistently frame electoral narratives in the state's polls.

In this four-part series, we will take a deep dive into the multi-faceted history of the Marathas and unravel some remarkable and unknown facets of the community's evolution over the centuries. In 2023, Baloch, a Marathi film directed by Prakash Pawar premiered on Amazon Prime. The movie sheds light on a forgotten chapter of history — the Maratha captives taken to Balochistan following the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761. In a more contemporary setting, Karachi-based social media influencers Sameer Kay and Vishal Rajput have been documenting Pakistan's Marathi community, particularly its vibrant Ganapati celebrations. Through their detailed YouTube videos, the duo offer an intimate view into the community's rich traditions, from festive feasts of halwa-puri-modak to the poignant immersion ceremonies. The Marathi-speaking diaspora in Karachi, though significant, is not the first from Maharashtra to have established roots in Pakistan. So who were the earliest settlers? How did they navigate life in a foreign land? And, perhaps most intriguingly, do they still cling to their original identities? The answers reveal a fascinating tapestry of migration, captivity, and resilience. Marathas, Ahmad Shah Durrani, and the battle for control After the death of Emperor Aurangzeb and the decline of the Mughal Empire, the Maratha Confederacy expanded rapidly, posing a threat to Ahmad Shah Durrani's (also known as Ahmad Shah Abdali) Afghan Empire. To counter this, Ahmad Shah launched a campaign, capturing large parts of Punjab and aiming to starve the Maratha forces. In response, the Marathas assembled a large army under Sadashivrao Bhau, who managed to reclaim Delhi. Ahmad Shah sought to trap the Maratha forces in Punjab, cutting off their supplies while moving troops southward. Surrounded by the enemy and starving, Sadashivrao Bhau attempted to break the siege, leading to a confrontation at Panipat in 1761. In part II of his book, Medieval India, historian Satish Chandra observes that "the Bhau would not have been able to prevail over the Abdali, saddled as he was with heavy artillery and womenfolk." He contends that while the Maratha soldiers primarily relied on lances and swords, the Afghan forces held a significant advantage with skilled musketeers equipped with quick-loading flintlock guns and mounted on "swift, well-trained horses." This technological and tactical superiority, combined with internal rivalries within the Maratha ranks, ultimately weakened their forces. The smaller but unified Ahmad Shah army decisively overwhelmed the Marathas.

The third battle of Panipat on January 14, 1761, devastated the Maratha army, ended their ambition to succeed the Mughals, and plunged northwestern India into decades of instability. "The ultimate beneficiaries were not the Maratha sardars and erstwhile Mughal nobles who stood for regionalism, but the English who brought in centralism of a new-kind, the colonial type," notes Chandra.

Narratives of early communities Following the crushing defeat at Panipat, only a few hundred of the Peshwa's army survived, seeking refuge in the jungles of Haryana. Today, they are known as the Rod Marathas, a community of nearly seven to 10 lakh people, spread across Karnal, Rohtak, and Bhiwani. Yet, as history buff and co-author of Travels with Nandighosh Yashwant Marathe writes in his blog, for 22,000 other men, women, and children, fate was far harsher. Captured as prisoners, they were marched to Afghanistan alongside Ahmad Shah's forces. While many women and children were rescued by Sikh warriors during the army's passage through Punjab, Marathe argues that

those who crossed into Balochistan's Dera Bugti region faced a grim future. In the gripping opening of the film Baloch, the narration vividly captures the captives' fear: "Every step was taking them away from their home, with the fear that they would never see it again." In gratitude for his Baloch allies' support, Ahmad Shah 'gifted' the Maratha prisoners to Mir Nasir Khan Noori, the Baloch ruler. However, this was less an act of generosity and more a way to rid himself of exhausted captives under the guise of diplomacy.

The Maratha captives were then divided among the tribes of Bugti, Marri, and Gurchani, among others, forming new communities and blending into Balochistan's social fabric. "The Marathas we are discussing are not spread across Pakistan, but are specifically located in Balochistan. Keeping the group together was a risky decision, which led Nasir Khan to implement the policy of dividing them," says engineer and history enthusiast Sudhir Dandekar. In an interview with indianexpress.com, Abhas Verma, author of Third Battle of Panipat, says, "The Maratha Bugtis in Balochistan are an interesting case of what may be a caste forming even under Islamic rule." "The prisoners of war, including children, were sold into slavery and held captive. The group was also forbidden from owning land and forced to convert to Islam," he says. However, Verma emphasises that these narratives remain largely undocumented due to a lack of research and the sentiments within the Maratha community. "Regardless of their yearning to return," he continues, "the region was hostile, and the distance of return was a long and uncertain journey they could not think of making." Verma's book mentions the story of a Brahman named Narhari Ranalekar, who, after returning from captivity to his home in Paithan (in present-day Aurangabad district in Maharashtra), sought acceptance from the Brahma Sabha, having been forcibly converted to Islam. After much deliberation, the Sabha agreed to welcome him back. In his book Pakistan A Hard Country, British author and journalist Anatol Lieven recounts an encounter with a local Nawabzada Jamil Bugti in Quetta. Lieven was struck by the "small, thin, dark-skinned" servants accompanying Bugti. Upon inquiring, he learned that they were descendants of the Marathas from central India, "captured in war by the Mughal emperors and given to their Bugti troops as slaves in lieu of wages." Despite enduring forced conversions to Islam and harsh conditions in the arid lands of Balochistan, the Marathas displayed remarkable resilience, preserving their cultural identity for over two centuries. Their heritage is still evident in their customs, surnames, and rituals. The Bugti Marathas, for instance, continue to celebrate weddings with haldi ceremonies, Saptapadi rituals, and Marathi traditions such as crossing a rice bowl to enter a new home. Dandekar also highlights the common custom of ear-piercing, which remains prevalent among the Maratha community in Balochistan. "Another instance that comes to mind is the popularity of the Marathi film Ramshastri in the theatres of Quetta, the capital city of Balochistan, during the mid-20th century. The pride the Marathas in Balochistan take in their roots was evident," he says. The Marhatta Qaumii Ittehad, the largest organisation of the Maratha community in Balochistan, garnered significant attention in 2017 when they joined their Indian counterparts in the agitation protests for reservation. The chief, Wadera Din Muhammad Marhatta Bugti, expressed solidarity on a Facebook post, stating, "We fully support the protest in India. We condemn any injustice meted out to the community and agree that there should be a reservation quota for them when it comes to government jobs and education. In Pakistan, the rights of the community have been established. Why can't it be the same in India?" For generations, these Marathas' lives were marked by hardship and displacement. Over time, however, they began to work their way toward prosperity. Today, many have risen to prominent positions in society. Their contributions to agriculture in Balochistan stand as a testament to their endurance. As Dandekar says, "It is thanks to the knowledge and hard work of these Maratha descendants that farming began to flourish in the Baloch region."

Years Later Verma categorises the migration of the Marathi-speaking diaspora to Pakistan into three distinct phases: "After the Battle of Panipat, the other two key events marking the movement of Marathi-speaking groups to Pakistan were the Partition of British India, which caused widespread displacement, and the post-partition migration of merchants from Bombay to Karachi for business purposes." While there were also movements of labourers to Pakistan, most of these were voluntary, starkly contrasting the forced migrations of the early captives to Balochistan. Despite these challenges, the Marathas' resilience endured, and today, the Marhatta Qaumii Ittehad proudly continues to uphold this legacy. Its leaders have, on numerous occasions, expressed their pride and solidarity with the broader Maratha community. Lieven also noted that "there was no sign of Bugti blood in the faces of the Nawabzada's [Maratha] servants." Though officially made equal citizens of Pakistan after 1947, and despite figures like Nawabzada Bugti claiming that "they have merged completely with the Bugti and no one can tell their difference anymore," this group continues to preserve its roots and reclaim its history. Pawar's movie poignantly closes with a line that encapsulates the spirit of the Maratha community: "We have to tell our descendants that the Panipat war was not the last war of Maratha, but the final battle was fought in Balochistan where the Marathas emerged as the winners."

Urban consumers prefer smart snacking over traditional snacks in India: NIQ study

Mumbai: As urban consumers increasingly seek health-oriented products, smart snacking in India has grown 1.2 times faster than traditional snacks, according to a report on Tuesday. About 63 per cent of surveyed consumers seek innovative and healthy snacking options while 50 per cent read ingredient labels to understand nutritional value, according to the report by consumer intelligence company NielsenIQ (NIQ). One in five snacks now has a health connotation in the country. "This segment is growing 1.2 times faster than traditional snacks in terms of value, presenting opportunities for brands to innovate in health-focused products and leverage the consumption trend," said Sonika Gupta, Executive Director, Customer Success' India at NIQ. In consumer tech, the trend toward health-focused products is evident. Fitness wearables experienced a 59 per cent volume growth, while hot air fryers grew by more than 100 per cent, signalling broader health-conscious behaviour.

India's snack and confectionery industry ranks second in market size across Asia-Pacific, is transforming as urban consumers increasingly seek health-oriented products. The rise in lifestyle diseases has driven Indian consumers to opt for snacks that align with their health goals. Study showed that 84 per cent of surveyed urban Indian consumers exercise daily or regularly to keep fit and 48 per cent use a fitness or exercise app.



Smaller, emerging players are challenging established players with competitive offerings, with single-serve packs driving demand and growing 60 per cent faster in smart snacking due to mainstream pricing strategies. The smart snacking segment's growth is fuelled by consumption rates twice that of the general snacks market. The consumption preference is driven by small convenient pack sizes that have demonstrated 60 per cent higher growth compared to traditional small packs in the snacking space. Notably, Smart Snacking has been growing at 16 per cent in terms of value, but recent trends show a slowdown in count of new innovations and product launches, said the report.

How this digital integration plan hopes to replicate UPI’s success in India’s power sector



Picture this: Solar panels on your rooftop generate excess power, which you store in a battery at your neighbour’s home — and draw back in the evening. In return, a payment for renting the battery is instantly transferred from your bank account to your neighbour’s, enabled by a digital public infrastructure (DPI) as seamless as UPI. Now, with the government setting up a task force led by Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani, a digitally integrated future for India’s power sector is beginning to take shape. The proposed India Energy Stack (IES) aims to do for the power sector what Aadhaar did for identity, and UPI for finance. By digitally integrating India’s fragmented power ecosystem — from producers and grid operators to consumers, exchanges, and regulators — the IES will enable peer-to-peer energy trading, support aggregated demand-response programmes amid rising renewable integration, and facilitate smoother compliance with carbon offsetting. The 17-member task force, constituted by the Ministry of Power on June 27, has Nilekani as its chief mentor and is charged with designing and charting a roadmap for the nationwide rollout of the IES — a process expected to take several years.

Why is a DPI-style intervention needed?

In India, electricity is a concurrent subject, meaning both the Union and state governments share responsibility for its governance, which has contributed to a highly fragmented sector, leading to “isolated digital islands rather than an integrated national platform”. This fragmentation, according to a concept brief by New Delhi-based FSR Global — knowledge partner for the IES initiative — “creates significant operational challenges that impede the energy sector’s ability to meet India’s growing energy demands efficiently”. The brief identified four key challenges facing the power sector that the IES could help address. First, there is no unique identifier for consumers, assets, or stakeholders. Second, decision-making is hampered by the lack of access to harmonised, real-time data. Third, those seeking to offer solutions in this space struggle to scale, as they

depend on various proprietary digital platforms. And fourth, there is no interoperability between these digital systems, which prevents cross-regional data sharing and cross-discom transactions. “In other words, the challenges faced by India’s energy sector resemble those faced by the identity and financial sectors prior to the introduction of Aadhaar and UPI. And, just as these DPIs transformed their respective domains, a similar approach can revolutionise the energy sector,” the brief said. Beyond enabling unique identification, full integration, and interoperability, the IES can help unlock an entirely new ecosystem — one where energy fintech, virtual power plants, and peer-to-peer trading can thrive on a standardised, interoperable digital infrastructure.

The possibilities are many. Consumers — and producer-consumers, or prosumers — could instantly buy surplus energy to store in batteries or sell rooftop solar output at peak prices. The IES would deepen the decentralisation of electricity and allow prosumers to manage their assets more actively and efficiently. Grid operators could make far more precise load-balancing and dispatch decisions, while energy producers could reduce curtailment or track carbon offsets using transparent performance data. The utility of IES is based on its ability to maintain the integrity of data, processes, and settlements across the board. A key component of this architecture is the Utility Intelligence Platform (UIP) — a primary application layer built on the IES foundation that would enable all of these services.

The government is positioning the IES as a natural extension of its successful DPI projects like Aadhaar and UPI, evident by the selection of individuals included in the task force. Nilekani, the founding chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), will serve as chief mentor. Ram Sevak Sharma, the first director general of UIDAI, will chair the task force, and Pramod Verma, the chief architect of Aadhaar, returns in the same capacity for this initiative. REC Ltd, a central public sector undertaking, will serve as the programme nodal agency for the IES initiative. The 17-member task force will be supported by five expert working groups — on technology, distribution, system operations, generation, policy and regulation, and markets — comprising 35 members in total. “The Ministry of Power will undertake a 12-month proof of concept (PoC) to validate the India Energy Stack by implementing its foundational building blocks and demonstrating its value through real-world use cases,” the concept brief said. The IES “will be deployed over the coming years”, it added. While concept-proofing may be swift, given India’s prior experience with DPIs, the timely rollout of the IES will hinge on several factors — including cooperation from state utilities, rapid adoption of smart meters and other digital enablers, and the success of trial runs.

ATF price hiked by steep 7.5%, commercial LPG rate cut by Rs 58.5

Jet fuel or ATF price on Friday was hiked by the steepest-ever 14 per cent -- the third straight increase, while the commercial cooking gas rate was cut by Rs 157.5 per cylinder in line with divergent trends in international benchmarks. The increase in ATF price is in line with the spurt in international oil rates that followed Israel’s attack on Iran last month. The price of jet fuel (ATF) was sharply increased by 7.5 per cent on Tuesday, while the cost of LPG used in commercial establishments was reduced by Rs 58.50 per cylinder, reflecting shifts in international benchmark rates.

After three rounds of price cuts, aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was increased by Rs 6,271.5 per kilolitre, or 7.5 per cent, to Rs 89,344.05 per kl in the national capital — home to one of the busiest airports in the country, according to state-owned fuel retailers. The increase amounts to half of the total reduction implemented over three monthly installments since April. ATF price was last reduced by Rs 2,414.25 per kl (2.82 per cent) to Rs 83,072.55 per kl on June 1. Prior to that, rates were cut by 4.4 per cent (Rs 3,954.38 per kl) on May 1 and a steep reduction of 6.15 per cent (Rs 5,870.54 per kl) on April 1. The increase in ATF price is in line with the spurt in international oil rates that followed Israel’s attack on Iran last month. This increase will add to the burden on commercial airlines, for whom fuel makes up for almost 40 per cent of the operating cost. No immediate comments could be obtained from the airlines on the impact of price hike. The ATF price in Mumbai was hiked to Rs 83,549.23 per kl from Rs 77,602.73 per kl, while those in Chennai and Kolkata were increased to Rs 92,526.09 and Rs 92,705.74 per kl, respectively. Rates differ from city to city depending on incidence of local taxes such as VAT. Alongside, oil firms reduced the price of commercial LPG by Rs 58.5 per 19-kg cylinder. Commercial LPG now costs Rs 1,665 in the national capital and Rs



1,616.50 in Mumbai. This is the fourth straight reduction in commercial LPG rates. Prices were last reduced by Rs 24 per 19-kg cylinder on June 1. Prior to that a Rs 14.50 cut on May 1 and a Rs 41 per cylinder reduction was effected on April 1. In all, prices have been cut by Rs 138 per bottle since April. While oil prices have been on the boil, benchmark LPG rates have softened because of low demand during summer months. Prices of ATF and LPG differ from state to state depending on the incidence of local taxes, including VAT. The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at Rs 853 per 14.2-kg cylinder. The price of the domestic LPG was hiked by Rs 50 per cylinder in April. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise prices of ATF and cooking gas on the first of every month based on the average price of benchmark international fuel and foreign exchange rate. Domestic rates of petrol and diesel continue to remain frozen. Rates were cut by Rs 2 per litre in mid-March last year, ahead of the general elections. Petrol costs Rs 94.72 a litre in Delhi, while diesel is priced at Rs 87.62.

Telangana mango farmers face mid-season crisis as prices crash amid oversupply, Chittoor ban

Hyderabad: Telangana’s mango farmers are grappling with a mid-season crisis as a bumper harvest, unseasonal weather and Andhra Pradesh’s ban on mango imports into Chittoor district have led to a steep fall in prices. With an estimated 12 lakh tonnes of mangoes harvested across 3.06 lakh acres, orchards across the State are overflowing with varieties such as Banganapalli, Badami and Totapuri. The surplus, compounded by limited processing infrastructure and restricted market access, has pushed farmers into distress, threatening their livelihoods and casting a shadow over the State’s mango industry.

The situation worsened after Andhra Pradesh imposed restrictions on mango imports from other States into Chittoor, India’s mango processing hub, to protect its own farmers, who are also facing an oversupply crisis. Chittoor’s pulp industries, which process millions of tonnes annually, have been a vital destination for Telangana’s Totapuri mangoes, typically fetching Rs 4 to Rs 6 per kg.

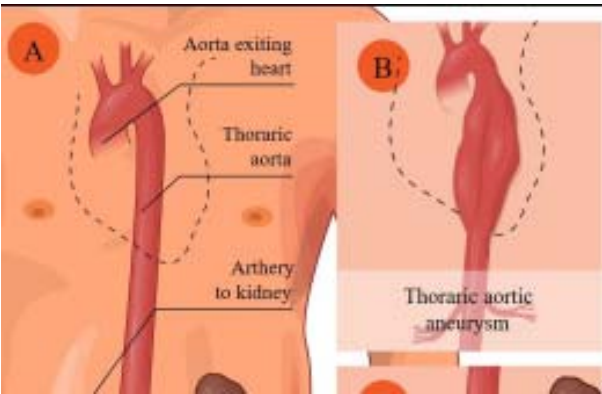
Wholesale prices in Telangana reflect the deepening crisis. As of June 27, mandi rates at the Gaddiannaram fruit market in Hyderabad range from Rs 550 to Rs. 3,300 per quintal (Rs 5.5 to Rs 33 per kg), with an average of Rs 1,825 per quintal (Rs 18.25 per kg). In contrast, the average rate on April 28 was significantly higher at Rs 4,390 per quintal (Rs 43.90 per kg), ranging between Rs 2,350 and Rs 7,000 per quintal. Totapuri, in particular, has seen a steep drop, with prices falling as low as Rs 8 per kg in some markets due to high volume and limited processing demand.

Retail prices, too, highlight the distress. In April, mangoes retailed at around Rs 150 per kg for standard varieties and up to Rs 250 for premium ones, driven by early-season demand and limited supply. Now, prices have dropped



sharply to about Rs 33.62 per kg at Gaddiannaram, largely due to the glut and declining consumer interest in weather-damaged fruit. Erratic weather patterns disrupted flowering and led to premature ripening, resulting in blackened and lower quality fruits that fail to fetch good prices. “My Badami mangoes are selling at Rs 30-40 per kg, barely enough to pay workers,” says K Venkateswar Rao, a farmer from Sathupalli in Khammam district. The lack of adequate processing infrastructure in Telangana is compounding the crisis. Though the State is working on facilities like a Rs 8.43 crore mango processing unit in Jagtial and food parks in locations such as Toopran, equipped with cold storage and irradiation plants, these are insufficient to handle the current volume or meet export norms for markets such as the US, Europe and Japan. The absence of local irradiation and treatment facilities compels farmers to depend on distant centres in Karnataka, inflating logistics costs and hurting their competitive edge.

All you need to know about: aneurysms



It’s a word that has become almost part of casual parlance, but is still perhaps not fully understood by all. An ‘aneurysm’ is something many of us have heard about --- and here is a chance to find out what it is. Read on.

What is an aneurysm?

An aneurysm is a bulge or a ballooning of the wall of a blood vessel. Aneurysms usually occur in arteries. Arteries are the blood vessels that carry oxygenated blood from the heart to other parts of the body. When a section of an artery’s wall becomes weak, the blood pumping through it can cause the wall to expand or bulge out, forming an aneurysm. Aneurysms are not usually painful, and you may not even know you have one. However, if an aneurysm ruptures, it can cause bleeding inside the body, which can be extremely dangerous and may even be life-threatening.

Where do aneurysms occur?

Aneurysms can form in any artery of the body. They can occur in the heart, brain, abdomen, chest, legs, neck, or other parts as well. The most common aneurysm is the aortic aneurysm, which is formed in the aorta, the body’s main and largest artery that carries blood from the heart to the other parts of the body. When an aneurysm forms in the part of the aorta that passes through the abdomen, this is known as an abdominal aortic aneurysm. Similarly, when an aneurysm forms in the upper part of the aorta where it runs through the chest, it is called a thoracic aortic aneurysm. An aneurysm that develops in the blood vessels of the brain is called a cerebral aneurysm. Aneurysms in arteries other than the aorta and brain such as those that form in the blood vessels of the leg, neck or groin are called peripheral aneurysms. Aneurysms can also form in arteries supplying blood to the intestine and spleen.

What causes an aneurysm to form?

The exact causes behind the formation of aneurysms are not fully known. Some may be congenital (present at birth) and some may be caused due to injury or disease. Risk factors for the development of an aneurysm include: being male, being over the age of 60, a family history of

aneurysms, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, tobacco use and elevated fats and cholesterol in the blood.

How common are aneurysms?

There is very little data available about the prevalence of aneurysms in India. A 2024 research paper, ‘Changes in global mortality from aortic aneurysm’ in the Journal of Vascular Surgery found that the number of aortic aneurysm-related deaths “increased from 94,968 in 1990 to 172,427 in 2019, signifying an 81.6% increase, which greatly exceeds the 18.2% increase in all-cause mortality observed over the same time interval.” Examination of age-specific mortality demonstrated that the number of aortic aneurysm deaths markedly correlated with advancing age, the paper said. Globally, it noted, hypertension surpassed smoking as the leading risk factor. According to the Brain Aneurysm Foundation, an organisation based in the United States, there are almost 5,00,000 deaths worldwide each year caused by brain aneurysms, and half the victims are younger than 50. Women are more likely than men to have a brain aneurysm (3:2 ratio). Women, particularly those over the age of 55, have a higher risk of brain aneurysm rupture than men (about 1.5 times the risk).

What are the signs and symptoms?

Aneurysms may form without any symptoms and may only be found during check-ups for other issues. Not all aneurysms rupture. However, if an aneurysm bursts, it is a medical emergency and requires immediate attention. Depending on the location of the aneurysm, the symptoms of its rupturing may vary. These may include, a severe headache, nausea, vomiting, vision changes, dizziness, light-headedness, fatigue, pain in the abdomen, chest or back, difficulty swallowing, a pulsating abdominal mass, rapid heartbeat and loss of consciousness. As some of the symptoms of a ruptured aneurysm may resemble symptoms of other medical conditions, it is important to consult a doctor for an accurate diagnosis.

What is the treatment?

A ruptured aneurysm can cause internal bleeding. An aneurysm can also lead to the formation of a blood clot which can then break off and travel to other parts of the body, potentially blocking blood vessels and causing a stroke. Immediate medical attention is necessary in these cases. Treatment options for aneurysms may take into consideration age and overall health, as well as the location and size of the aneurysm. With unruptured aneurysms, doctors may monitor it closely, with the goal being to prevent its rupture, particularly with smaller ones. Medication to improve blood flow, lower cholesterol and lower blood pressure may be prescribed, alongside recommendations to modify lifestyle factors. Larger aneurysms at risk of bursting may require surgery. There are a number of procedures including open repairs, endovascular repairs and other procedures. It is important to seek medical care if you suspect you have an aneurysm.

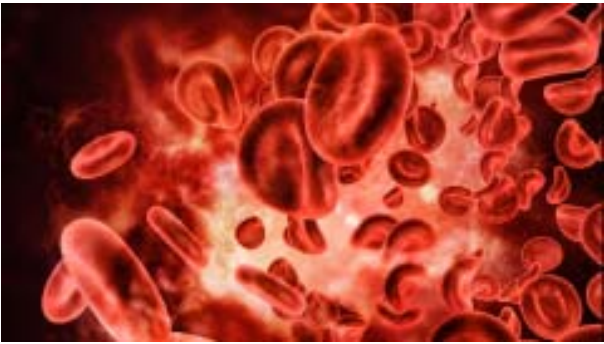
Blood and its components can be transported safely with drones by following guidelines: ICMR study

Blood and its components can be transported safely using drones by following standard guidelines, which can be particularly helpful in ensuring the availability of blood in emergencies across difficult terrains, a recently published study by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) states. Titled ‘Adopting drone technology for blood delivery: A feasibility study to evaluate its efficiency and sustainability’, ICMR’s lead study assesses the impact of drone-based delivery on blood components, comparing their delivery via conventional modes of transportation. The study aims to lay the foundation for successful and sustainable drone-based blood delivery programmes in India.

Drone technology provides opportunities for improvement in the healthcare sector, primarily in remote environments and rural areas, by enabling just-in-time delivery of life-saving medical supplies, the study says. However, the transportation of blood and its components is complicated as they need to be stored at a specified temperature, or else their functionality is adversely affected, for example, the oxygen carrying ability of blood is greatly reduced. Moreover, the risk of bacterial contamination rises if it’s exposed to aseptic conditions or a warm environment. Conversely, blood exposed to extreme lower temperatures may get haemolysed, which could lead to a fatal transfusion reaction.

Maintaining cold chain integrity is essential for compliance and accreditation in the delivery of blood and its components. The study documents the challenges experienced by the team during the drone-based delivery while maintaining the biochemical parameters of blood components.

“During drone-based transportation, the temperature, integrity of blood cells, and other parameters were maintained, while slight changes in few parameters were observed via both [conventional and drone-based] transportation modes. In this study, the drone travelled around 36 kilometres in eight minutes, while the [road transport] van took around 55 minutes to cover the same distance,” Sumit Aggarwal, Scientist and Programme Officer, I-Drone lead and in-charge, ICMR, said. Blood banks and transfusion



services adhere to stringent national and international regulations, and quality standards that mandate strict temperature control throughout the blood supply chain, from collection to transfusion, Dr. Aggarwal said.

“Climatic conditions are crucial since drone transportation and blood biochemicals can be affected by environmental factors. With India’s diverse and distinct topographical variations and geographical spread, the delivery of healthcare supplies faces multiple challenges,” he added. Drone trials in other countries, including Italy and Rwanda, have indicated drones are a viable solution for blood transportation, and do not affect the integrity of blood and its components, in spite of occasional accelerations and decelerations en route, the study says. Obstacles for ground vehicles, including geographical distances, challenging topographical features such as mountains and rivers, poor or underdeveloped road systems, can be overcome with drones as a mode of transportation, another Southeast Asian study has suggested. “Hence, the drone is a potential alternative to explore in tropical countries as a first response vehicle in emergencies. But more scientific evidence is required about the practicality, operational challenges and impact on the quality of blood after transportation via drone,” the ICMR study states. Understanding the operational challenges for the transportation of blood bags via drones is a vital step, the study says.

New technology in Indian market, MRgFUS, offers non-surgical medical intervention for tremors

Dressed in a hospital gown 55-year-old Rohit Kumar (name changed) remembers the ice-cold, sterile, brightly lit Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) room that he walked into early this year at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, West Delhi, seeking treatment for his essential tremors that he has been struggling with for nearly half a decade now.

Essential tremor (ET) is one of the most common neurological disorders affecting around 1% of the general population worldwide. The prevalence increases with age, with approximately 5% of individuals over the age of 60 experiencing it. Essential tremor can present several challenges, primarily due to the rhythmic shaking it causes, which can significantly impact daily life activities. While not life-threatening, the tremors can make simple tasks like writing, eating, and dressing difficult, leading to embarrassment, frustration and social isolation. In advanced stages, it can affect speech and swallowing. Mr. Kumar is among the three patients to have successfully undergone the relatively new Magnetic Resonance-guided Focused Ultrasound (MRgFUS) procedure for his essential tremors at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, the first private hospital in North India offering the treatment.

This technology is currently available in select centres across the country including — Royal Care Super Speciality Hospital in Coimbatore (first to offer the technology), KIMS Hospitals (Telangana), and All India Institute of Medi-

cal Sciences, Delhi (first government hospital). An alternative to more invasive surgical procedures like deep brain stimulation (DBS), MRgFUS intervention is a non-surgical procedure that uses focused ultrasound waves guided by MRI to target brain tissue responsible for tremors in patients with Parkinson’s disease or essential tremor. Currently approved for Essential Tremor (ET) and Tremor-Dominant Parkinson’s Disease (TD-PD), this technique offers new hope for patients whose symptoms significantly disrupt daily life.

This one-time medical intervention costing ₹19-23 lakh has on-table procedure duration of 1 to 3 hours, according to doctors at Sir Ganga Ram which started offering the treatment early this year. The procedure allows physicians to monitor the treatment in real-time, and adjust parameters for optimal safety and efficacy. “In simple terms we can see the tremors subsiding as the ultrasound disrupts the abnormal communication that the brain has been sending to the body affected body organs,” said Anshu Rohatgi, vice-chairperson, neurology, Sir Ganga Ram who has been doing these procedure at the health facility here. Speaking about this technique that has been available in America for over half-a-decade now he added that besides the real-time monitoring, the other benefits include -- no incisions, minimal to no anaesthesia to patients, rapid symptom relief, minimal recovery time (1–2 days) and, one-time treatment with no implants or batteries.

Ravi Shastri tells Shubman Gill to be ‘a little more proactive’, reveals key to India bouncing back in 2nd Test vs England



GNS News Agency, July 9

India lost the first Test despite centuries from Gill, KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant, with the latter hitting one in each innings, and a five-wicket haul for Jasprit Bumrah in the first England essay. (AP/file)India lost the first Test despite centuries from Gill, KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant, with the latter hitting one in each innings, and a five-wicket haul for Jasprit Bumrah in the first England essay. (AP/file)The key to bouncing back from a Test defeat as crushing as the one India suffered at Headingley is to throw the counter-punch immediately, according to former head coach Ravi Shastri. Shubman Gill's Team India were well ahead of England going into the final day of the first Test but the visitors ended up chasing a record target of 371 with five wickets and most of the third session to spare.

India hence lost the match despite centuries from Gill,

KL Rahul, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant, with the latter hitting one in each innings, and a five-wicket haul for Jasprit Bumrah in the first England essay. "The most important thing for India is to throw the counter punch almost immediately. When you lose a Test match like this where you have dominated most of it and then you lose it on the last day with a big chase and full marks to England for keeping their composure and doing that, it will need a lot of character to come to the fore and to bounce back in the series," Shastri told ICC Review.

While it remains to be seen whether Bumrah will play or not in the second Test, which starts on Wednesday, Shastri said that he hopes the fast bowler does as this match is very important in terms of the series. "Now, whether Bumrah plays or doesn't play, one doesn't know. But let's hope he does because this is a very important Test match and all is not lost. It's just you take it one game at a time. It's a five-match series and India will be hoping to bounce back." Shastri added. The first Test at Leeds was also Gill's maiden Test as a captain. Shastri said that while the 25-year-old made some mistakes, they were those that would be seen from a first-time captain. "People say he was a little reactive and it can happen when you're playing your first Test match (as captain) and especially in such good batting conditions with a fast outfield and things can happen in that way. But he would have learnt a lot from that and will want to be a little more proactive when it comes now, which means the bowlers and the fielders will have to give him that support. They have got to know what their role is and get out there and execute it." Shastri concluded.

Amid retirement speculations, Nathan Lyon says he won't quit until he beats India in India

GNS News Agency, July 9

Nathan LyonAustralia's Nathan Lyon chews gum as he walks to his fielding position during the day one of the second cricket test match between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide, Australia. Australia's veteran spinner Nathan Lyon has denied speculations over his immediate retirement from Test cricket. Lyon, who has been Australia's designated song master ever since Mike Hussey retired from Test cricket, passed on the role to wicketkeeper Alex Carey during their recent victory against West Indies in Barbados. It led to speculations that Lyon could announce his retirement any time soon.

But Lyon said he before he hangs up his boots, he would like to be part of an Australian team that wins a Test series in India. "I've always said I want to win away in India. I want to win away in England," Lyon said. "We've got that opportunity in a couple of years' time, but we've also got to take it Test by Test and make sure that we're doing everything here in West Indies right. Then we've got a massive summer at home with the Ashes. But another World Test Championship final would be on my cards for sure."The 37-year-old off-spinner during the Test in Barbados had scribbled a note to Carey stating he would be the new song master of "Under the southern cross". It is a role that is seen prestigious in Australian set up with the likes of Allan Border, Ian Healy, Ricky Ponting, Justin Langer and Hussey being the previous ones to occupy the role after Rod Marsh



started it.

"There's no talk about me retiring or even thoughts coming in my head," Lyon told reporters. "It's more about the team environment, making sure that I get the opportunity to pass it onto someone who I look at and absolutely love and the way he goes about it on and off the field. And I feel like Alex is the perfect candidate. I feel like I've run my race with it, and it's time for someone else to put their touch on," Lyon said ahead of the second Test in Grenada. The role involves leading the team in a rendition of the song 'Under the Southern Cross I Stand,' which famously finishes with the line, 'Australia, you f***king beauty!' The Australian teams have a habit of singing the song at the end of every Test win.

Football: Players' body wants half-time breaks to be 20 minutes



GNS News Agency, July 9

Manchester City's Erling Haaland sprays water onto his face during the Club World Cup round of 16 football match between Manchester City and Al Hilal. (AP Photo)Manchester City's Erling Haaland sprays water onto his face during the Club World Cup round of 16 soccer match between Manchester City and Al Hilal. With the ongoing Fifa Club World Cup witnessing extreme heat conditions, the global players' union has called for the need to extend the half-time breaks to 20 minutes. The Fifpro says the time has come for additional measures to be put in place to protect the players from the exhaustive conditions.

As of now, in tournaments held during the summer, Fifa protocols are in place to have a three-minute cooling break in each half to protect players from hot conditions. And Fifpro's medical director, Dr Vincent Gouttebauge, has said an extended half-time break would provide a necessary additional tool in helping to keep players' core temperatures within their normal range. "A cooling break generally lasts three minutes and they are designed to decrease the [player's] temperature through the use of ice," he said. "But we are lacking the evidence in terms of what is the optimal duration for a cooling break. A half-time of 15 minutes might not be enough to decrease the core temperature. So a lot of research is being done into alternative mitigation strategies and it could be that a half-time of 20 minutes is significant. It has been shown [to work] in the laboratory. Together with the national [players'] union in Portugal, we are going to test this kind of mitigation strategy in August."

At the Club World Cup currently underway in the US, several players and coaches have spoken about the heat factor with the matches being played at 400C. With next year's Fifa World Cup also set to be played during the same period there are concerns about the players well being as the temperatures could be way higher than what it was in Qatar, which hosted the previous World Cup. Fifpro's general secretary, Alex Phillips, said the organisation had been engaging with Fifa over the issue during the past fortnight and that progress had been made. "We are partially happy because Fifa have been quite responsive once the tournament was under way. So they have actually modified how they have been dealing with heat during the matches based on Fifpro's input. "Obviously, it would have been better if that

had happened in advance, but it's better that they have adapted and they've put in place various different mitigation measures. There's additional water around the pitch, towels and so on, and the threshold for the cooling breaks has come down. So there has been a positive reaction from Fifa, which is good. "But going forward, it's not just Fifa. It's any competition organiser staging tournaments in this kind of heat. Their protocols [need to] reflect more of the good practice in Australia, US and other countries that deal with this week after week in their national leagues."The MLS which takes in the US doesn't host any fixtures mid-day in Florida and similarly, Down Under in Australia, there are thresholds to delay or postpone the matches. Most of the compliant have come from European teams, which believe the heat conditions give an edge to South American teams. And Philips said European teams have to get used to the weather as football's packed calendar means there is action right through the 12 months. "I think the evolution we've seen in recent years is basically the football is played 12 months of the year," he said. "So winter, summer, European winter, we're going 12 months a year, unfortunately."

Pat Cash partners with ASE to create 'Cash for Charity'

Hyderabad: Former Wimbledon Champion and Tennis icon Pat Cash has partnered with Abler Sports & Entertainment – ASE (pronounced 'ACE') to co-create 'The Invitational' with 'Cash for Charity' – a unique 'festival of tennis' blending sport, tennis, music, food, lifestyle and popular culture, set to debut in January 2026 in Melbourne, in the lead-up to the Australian Open. The inaugural edition will feature legendary athletes and prominent personalities in a format that will blend on-court action with off-court energy and entertainment. The event will also feature a fundraising initiative – 'Cash for Charity', adding purpose and impact. "The Invitational is about more than tennis. I am proud to bring this to life with ASE, and do it in a way that celebrates the sport while supporting causes that matter," said Pat Cash. Ravi Krishnan, Founder and CEO of ASE, added: "This is what ASE is all about – creating Intellectual Properties that blend creativity and commerce, in collaboration with the right partners. Pat is an Australian legend who is both extraordinary and empathetic. The Invitational will reflect these qualities in combination with elegance and exclusivity, as a unique addition to the Summer of Tennis." Hyderabad: Former Wimbledon Champion and Tennis icon Pat Cash has partnered with Abler Sports & Entertainment – ASE (pronounced 'ACE') to co-create 'The Invitational' with 'Cash for Charity' – a unique 'festival of tennis' blending sport, tennis, music, food, lifestyle and popular culture, set to debut in January 2026 in Melbourne, in the lead-up to the Australian Open. The inaugural edition will feature legendary athletes and prominent personalities in a format that will blend on-court action with off-court energy and entertainment.

Ex-World Champion Vladimir Kramnik, 'the guy with the hammer who thinks everything is a nail'



GNS News Agency, July 9

It's been a long few days in the world of chess. The issue of cheating in the sport is back in the headlines with a former world champion accusing another grandmaster of being up to no good. Courts have been dragged in to adjudicate with one player suing the other for slander. Only, this time around, there's a twist: unlike the Magnus Carlsen vs Hans Niemann incident, where Niemann sued the former world champion for implying that he had cheated, this time around it's former world champion Vladimir Kramnik who is doing both, the accusing and the suing, after dragging grandmaster David Navara to court. This is the latest step taken by Kramnik in his infamous crusade to weed out cheating in online chess, a fight that the Russian seems to have dedicated significant mindscape to over the last couple of years. Kramnik posts data on his X account implying that there was something fishy in the way many grandmasters were competing in online games. It's a fight that has gained Kramnik no admirers, at least not publicly.

The most recent grandmaster to try and coax Kramnik to see the light of reason is Levon Aronian, who's now posted three long emotion-laced posts on X aimed at a man who he calls his "chess parent", each post displaying the delicate tact a hostage negotiator would ideally employ. "Volodya, my friend," Aronian exhorts in one of his posts on X aimed at Kramnik using the Slavic name for Vladimir. "Perhaps my letter will seem disrespectful and inappropriate to you. But my goal is one. Let's reduce the intensity of passions... You think you're saving chess from cheaters. But most of us see you as the guy with the hammer who thinks everything is a nail," Aronian says at one point. Over the course of his three posts, Aronian tries multiple tacts. Telling Kramnik that he's a great champion and amateurs do not deserve the attention he's given them in his YouTube breakdowns ("the king of beasts is engaged in catching mice"). Trying to convince Kramnik how much the world would benefit from an analysis of his own tactics from his world championship duels instead. Reminding the Russian how he was himself bullied by Veselin Topalov and his team, who accused Kramnik of being up to no good because he visited the toilet too many times (an incident known popularly as Toiletgate) during their World Championship battle in 2006. Trying to reason with him by saying that the sport is a family and kin cannot go around suing each other. And finally, telling him that no one who's close to him in the sport thinks what Kramnik is doing is "good and pure". Vladimir Kramnik Former world champion Vladimir Kramnik in conversation with Chess24's Mike Klein during round 9 of the Chess Olympiad in Budapest. (FIDE) "Chess world does not appreciate you enough... I feel the chess world and the new generation need to know about you... about who you are," Aronian writes at one point. "And I want you to remember it as well." There, Aronian praises the Russian for being the "biggest revolutionary when it comes to chess... who challenged every single dogma" in the sport.

That's precisely how chess fans of a certain vintage will remember the Russian. As the man who resuscitated the abandoned Berlin Defence at the 2000 World Champi-

How Fluminense's coach Renato Gauchos stunned Inter Milan with tactical 3-5-2 formation at Club World Cup



GNS News Agency, July 9

Fluminense manager Renato Gauchos, wearing cap, and his players celebrate after Hercules scored their second goal during the Club World Cup soccer match against Inter Milan. (AP Photo) Fluminense manager Renato Gauchos, wearing cap, and his players celebrate after Hercules scored their second goal during the Club World Cup soccer match against Inter Milan. Fluminense manager Renato Gauchos stunned Inter Milan, by subverting their own strategy to defeat them and book a place in the Club World Cup quarter-finals. The Brazilian coach raved about his players and in particular, how they adapted to a rare three-center-back formation.

"We weren't used to playing that way, but over the last three days, I got it into my players' heads that it was possible. We respected the opponent, of course, but we showed everyone that we believed. We faced a top team with far more money than us, but once on the pitch, it's one versus one," Renato said, as reported by Brazilian newspaper O Globo. The 3-5-2 combination has a nice ironic twist to it as it's a staple of Inter Milan over the years. Antonio Conte famously employed it to win the 2020/21 Serie A title and his successor Simone Inzaghi also used it a lot to take Inter to champions league final in 2023.

By deploying three central defenders and a back five, Renato effectively shut down Inter's wing attacks. Ignacio and Freytes played vital roles in protecting Thiago Silva, who led the defensive line. The structure was further bolstered by Bernal's positioning as defensive midfielder. And the zone worked more effectively by Nonato at an advanced midfielder position, where he repeatedly pressed Inter's build-ups. Arias and Cano widened the attack at the wings, while Nonato pushed through the center creating constant pressure. And Inter Milan buckled.

The 3-5-2 tactical block has three centre backs, two wingbacks and three central midfielders and two forwards. The centre back provide a numerical advantage when defending and that extra protection allows the wingbacks to

onship to nullify the attack of Kasparov so completely that the reigning world champion, with a voracious appetite for bulldozing through defences, ended with zero wins. He was the immovable object in front of Kasparov's unstoppable force of an attack. He could fluster Kasparov, the most intimidating man in the sport. Kramnik was built differently. When he first emerged on the global stage at the Manila Olympiad in 1992 rocking long hair, spectacles, a tucked in short-sleeved shirt, the tall Kramnik looked like a rockstar cosplaying as a laboratory assistant. If Kasparov, his predecessor on the world champion's throne, roomed to a game in a Mercedes, Kramnik probably took the bus. He was always outspoken and an independent thinker, even if it meant rubbing people the wrong way. He was never quite taken in by the trappings that come along with being world champion. Like fame or money. What the world thought about him was also never a concern. "For me, what I think of myself is more important than what society thinks. That may sound arrogant, but I have my own views and don't care about the views of the public," Kramnik told the editor of New In Chess magazine before he squared off against Kasparov in 2000. "My approach to chess is different. For most other chess players, chess is purely a sport, for me, it's more of a scientific activity."

It's this ability to stay unmoved by the world's perception of him that helped him retain his title against Topalov when the Bulgarian and his entourage tried to raise questions about his own integrity in the Toiletgate scandal.

It's also what's helping him stay on course with his current allegations of cheating in chess despite the rest of the world disagreeing with him. Before Topalov in 2006, it was the 2000 world championship battle against Kasparov that established Kramnik's place in history. Not just as Kasparov's nemesis or his antithesis. He was Kasparov's kryptonite, a man who would beat the Russian legend, who was actually his mentor at the Botvinnik-Kasparov School, and then shrug it off as no big deal. Unlike others, beating Kasparov was not an achievement for him. "It has always surprised me when people get so hung up about a victory over Kasparov," he once told New In Chess when he was just 21, not even a world champion. "Then it seems as if it happened by accident. I don't believe I defeated Kasparov by accident. The idea that Kasparov is so exceptional is a myth created by journalists."

In the same interview, Kramnik proceeded to go on multiple tirades. There was one rant about chess becoming too commercial. Then, another rant about how the chess players of his generation were playing "substandard" chess. At some point he says that he wasn't a good player, but other players were even worse. Now compare those comments to the ones he made about Gukesh and Ding Liren during last year's world championship, where he excoriated both players for their level of chess. Those criticisms earned him the wrath of the two most populous nations of the world. But for Kramnik, he was probably just measuring both players by the standards he set for himself in his playing days. A few years after that interview about chess becoming too commercial, he finds himself facing Kasparov in that 2000 World Championship where the prize fund is an eye-watering \$2 million. A 24-year-old Kramnik responds to that by declaring that he would have played for free. At another point in his career, when he played Peter Leko in 2004 for the title, Kramnik came under some criticism for playing out short draws. In an interview, it was put to him that the fans would have wanted to see more chess. It was then that he memorably exclaimed: "A painter never asks people what they want to see. He just paints." Even with his chess, as with his opinions and convictions, Kramnik was not playing to the gallery. He was playing chess as he deemed fit. The world may criticise him as a man with a hammer hell-bent on hitting every nail on its head. But there can be no reduction in the intensity of his passions.

attack more without fretting about any defensive responsibility. It's not without risks though as explained by Athletic's Tifo: "Its weakness is space. Without the protection of the fullback, the wide centre backs can be exposed and without unusually athletic and skilful defenders, it becomes unstable." The coach Renato highlighted the group's mentality: "My team gave everything. They stayed focused, dedicated. This group deserves all the credit. And our fans too—what a celebration. People all over Brazil should enjoy this. We're among the final eight, and many didn't believe we could make it." Renato also talked about the disparity between clubs from different continents: "Brazilian football is showing its strength. European clubs have more money and can sign the best players, but on the field, what counts is attitude and commitment. That's what my team showed today."

When Tabraiz Shamsi said "Still 180 short" to Surrey batsmen scoring 1 triple hundred and 3 hundreds

GNS News Agency, July 9

A sprinkling of cheeky humour always resided in South African cricketers, but former spinner Tabraiz Shamsi revived a classic, dating back to Jacques Kallis. When Surrey declared on 820/9 against Durham at the Oval in the County Championship after being put in to bat, Shamsi looking at the scorecard quipped, "Still 180 short."

It was a riff on Kallis saying from the dressing room playing Australia who had notched 434 in an ODI were 20 runs too short. Proteas had chased down the target famously back in the day. Shamsi of course was referring to Surrey being 120 short of a 1000 runs, when famed South African cricket twitter account Werner retorted, "If only Ryan pulled his weight." Ryan Patel batting at No 3 only scored 10 off 22 balls, nicking to the keeper off Raine.

Surrey opener Dom Sibley hit 305 with just 2 sixes striking at 64.21 with 29 fours. Sam Curran at No 4 struck 108, which looked average in comparison to Dan Lawrence's 178 off 149, and Will Jacks' 119 off 94, both over run a ball, before both were dismissed by Hogg. Rory Burns also had 55, but Surrey were a long way off 1000 run score. Some big ticket accounts chipped in. Dale Steyn, remarked, "We'll have a bowl..." a tongue-in-cheek observation on Durham's decision after winning the toss against Surrey.

Bigg Boss 18's Nyrraa Banerji urges balanced roles for men in TV dramas



Mumbai: Television actress Nyrraa Banerji has opened up about the evolving landscape of gender representation on the small screen. While acknowledging the rise of strong female-centric shows, she emphasized the

need for balanced storytelling where both male and female characters are given equal importance. Speaking to IANS, Banerji shared that real narratives must reflect the emotional contributions of both genders, as families and good stories are built on shared experiences.

"Earlier, in films, women were just decorative pieces. Now, in TV, it's reversed—females are leads, and men are in the background. I think both need to be given equal importance. Families are made of couples, and both emotions matter. Even though TV caters more to women, both genders are important. Real storytelling must reflect that." Talking about her latest track 'Main Teri Hoon', Nyrraa revealed what made her say yes to the music video. "The song is sung and written by Ahaan, and the lyrics—"I am yours"—really touched me. I actually heard this track around six months ago and loved it from the beginning, but due to other commitments, I couldn't shoot it immediately. Luckily, when the song came to me again for this video, I was all in! The 'Divya Drishti' actress also opened up about her definition of true love, highlighting the importance of self-love in today's emotionally fragile world. Nyrraa stated, "I believe self-love is the most important thing. People are emotionally fragile these days. You have to keep your mental and physical peace intact. I do love the concept of love and marriage—two people building a life and aging together as best friends. I hope that kind of love still exists." Nyrraa Banerji gained widespread recognition for playing the lead in Star Plus's supernatural drama 'Divya Drishti' and has also made a mark with her appearances in the reality shows "Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 13" and Bigg Boss 18."

Sitaare Zameen Par casting director Tess Joseph on working with Aamir Khan, casting neurodivergent actors: 'He never imposed himself, rare of someone of his stature to...'

Ace casting director Tess Joseph first worked with Aamir Khan on AR Murugadoss' 2008 blockbuster action thriller Ghajini, in the capacity of an Assistant Director. Even in a potboiler like that, Tess remembers Aamir as an explorer. But the actor had the deepest impact on her a year prior to that when he turned director with the coming-of-age classic Taare Zameen Par in 2007. "I watched Taare Zameen Par when I moved away from home for the first time. It answered a lot of questions for me. It connected me back to home and family in ways that were special," recalls Joseph, explaining that the film's influence went even deeper. "I'm slightly dyslexic. I keep flipping numbers and letters, so it was deeply personal for me," she reveals. Little did Tess know that over a decade later, she'd be roped in as the casting director on RS Prasanna's coming-of-age sports comedy Sitaare Zameen Par, the spiritual sequel to Taare Zameen Par, also starring Aamir. In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, she opens up on casting the titular, neurodivergent Sitaare for the film, working with Aamir, and how the success of this film could open more doors for the community. The casting process of Sitaare Zameen Par was quite long. How did you navigate that? When Prasanna, Aamir, me, and the whole team came together, there was one thing that was really aligned: the intention. When that happens, passion and patience take over. You can have a casting process that's long, layered, and led with love. If there was really auditioning, it was us. We were being auditioned by all the parents. After we did the workshops, the parents came to us and said, "Now, we trust you. Now, we see our kids blossoming." So we didn't really build a cast, we built trust.

What was the common trait that you were looking for in each Sitaara?

We started with an open call for any young, enthusiastic person from the neurodivergent community to send us something that they love performing on. Simran, who plays Golukhan, sent us her performing the 'Ek Chutki Sindhoor' monologue (from the 2007 film Om Shanti Om), Aroush (who plays Satbir) sent us a double character Bollywood scene, Rishabh and Vedant (Raju and Bantu respectively) sent us videos of them dancing, and Rishi (Sharmaji) sent us a mime of playing the keyboard. What started as a trickle went on to become a waterfall of tapes, thousands from across the country. We were looking for a spark or a personality. We weren't looking for a character, but just presence. Each actor who came in brought something real and rooted. What united all of them was the joy to perform and try different things. We knew this was a physical film so we needed a certain kind of physicality. But we were never worried about communication because we knew we'd find a way. Their personalities, even their phrases, who they inherently are, have made it to the final cut.

While casting the Sitaare, where all did you look for?

We wrote to institutes, therapists, schools, colleges, and ADAPT (Able Disabled All People Together) across metros and small towns. We also reached out to @bubble.ds, which is a page on Instagram. It was never about geography, but about visibility. So if there was a child in Kerala, Assam, Bihar or Delhi who wanted to be seen, we had to find a way to see them. Gopi (Guddu) is from Kerala, Naman (Hargovind) is from Delhi, and Rishabh is from Bengaluru. It's a cast that truly represents the country.

How involved was Aamir in the casting process?

Aamir was a part of everything. I love how engaged he was. Most production companies won't bring a shortlist down to Mumbai. Here's one that brought in more than who was required to the city so we could do workshops and learn together. He was not only involved, but also present and respectful. He did workshops, saw audition tapes, and gave feedback. What remained the most with me was his trust. He never imposed himself. It's very rare for someone of his stature to say with so much courage, "Go ahead and cast this authentically, I'm here."

When I watched this film, you realize what representation can do. It's not just the Sitaare, but all the kids on screen—whether it's the Nanhe Khiladi, every match, every team—they're all neurodivergent actors. This is when representation isn't a checklist, but a responsibility. I do believe it'll open doors. I'm hopeful, but also watchful because hope has to be followed by habit. We have an audience that's ready, but the question is, are we ready to tell more stories like this? I see Prasanna and Aamir as light-houses who'll really show the way. Sitaare Zameen Par shouldn't be an exception, but the start of a new standard. When we do something, we should do it with care, time,



and authenticity. These should become non-negotiables. Workshopping before we test someone, especially when a community hasn't had access to learning a craft, that's truly elevating for equity rather than equality. You put people at the same level-playing field before you make them play.

Dolly Ahulwalia and Brijendra Kala made for such a lovely pair in the film. How did you cast them?

Aren't they amazing? And aren't they an unlikely couple to see on screen? When you look at them, they should look like a couple you wouldn't traditionally see. I love how 'Sabka Apna Apna Normal' is explored through all these different characters. We were involved in the casting early on. But I have to tip my hat off to Anmol Ahuja and Casting Bay as we passed on the baton to them and they did such an amazing job that you feel like this is what collaboration should look like. From finding Ashish (Sunil), the one missing piece in the Sitaare, to help cast the secondary and tertiary characters, that's all Anmol, Aamir, and Prasanna working together. Like Kareena Kapoor did in Aamir's Laal Singh Chaddha (2022), Genelia D'Souza also auditioned for her part in Sitaare Zameen Par. Do you think this is a health trend of testing even the established actors for leading parts? Aamir loves auditioning! This is the truth. He's always game. This really levels the playing field because this isn't about hierarchy, but harmony and chemistry. Aamir really believes in the story. When he invites established actors to audition, it gives out a very clear message: we're all here to serve the story best. He's very happy to do long auditions. It's a treat also to see someone talk about how he auditions for every film. Many of Aamir's films have boasted of great child actors, from Darshheel Safary in Taare Zameen Par to Zaira Wasim in Dangal (2016) and Secret Superstar (2017).

Adah Sharma suffers nose injury during nunchuck training for upcoming action thriller

Mumbai: Actress Adah Sharma has opened up about suffering a serious nose injury while shooting for her upcoming action thriller. The 'Kerala Story' actress shared the injury occurred during an intense action sequence on set, highlighting the physical demands of the role. A source close to the development revealed that Sharma broke her nose during intense nunchuck training for her upcoming action-packed film. The incident took place during a late-night stunt rehearsal. The insider added that the actress will be seen performing action stunts and sequences like never before in her upcoming thriller. After "Commando 2" and 3, where she had already raised the bar for action, this film promises to take it a notch higher.

Speaking about her injury, Adah Sharma stated, "Pain is temporary. Cinema is forever. Now I really look like an action heroine. The night I got hurt I was shooting for a romantic concept music video the next day so between the romance I was sitting with an ice pack for the swelling and we used loads of makeup to cover it."

Details about Adah's upcoming action film have not been disclosed yet. The 'Bastar: The Naxal Story' actress is also gearing up to play the role of a Devi in a trilingual film, directed by BM Giriraj. She also has "Reeta Sanyal Season 2" in the pipeline. Reportedly, Adah Sharma has also signed a big horror film where she plays the protagonist. The 33-year-old actress had previously spoken about her approach to the character, highlighting her dedication to portraying it in the most realistic and authentic way possible.

Vikrant Massey calls religion 'man-made', reveals leaving the column blank on son Vardaan's birth certificate: 'I will be so heartbroken if I...'



Vikrant Massey has often opened up about how his family doesn't follow any particular religion. The actor, who welcomed his first child, son Vardaan, has now revealed that he and his wife Sheetal left the religion column on his birth certificate blank. During a podcast with Rhea Chakraborty, Vikrant spoke about how he wants his son to have the liberty to choose his own religion. "I think religion is a personal choice. For me, it's a way of life. I think everyone has the right to choose their religion. Mere ghar pe har prakaar ke religion aapko milenge. I think religion is man-made. Mai pooja karta, gurdwara bhi jaata hun, dargah bhi jaata hun (I offer prayers, I go to the gurdwara, and I also visit dargah). I get peace with all of this," he explained.

The actor shared that he has faith and thanks God everyday for all that he has received and for keeping him

safe. He talked about how he doesn't want his son to discriminate against people based on their religion or caste. "On the birth certificate of my baby boy, we left the space for religion blank. So when his birth certificate came from the government, there was no religion stated on it. Toh yeh nahi hai ki sarkaar aapko bolti hai likhna padega (So it's not like the government forces you to write it). It depends on you. The moment we got his birth certificate, I put a dash in the religion column. I will be so heartbroken if I realise my son is treating anyone on the basis of the practices they follow. I am not raising my son that way," he said. Talking about his inter-faith roots in an interview with Sushant Sinha earlier, Vikrant had said, "Our family celebrates everything very proudly. My parents live with me and my wife. My wife is a Rajput Thakur. If you look at it from the point of view of religion, we believe in everything. We go and celebrate Eid at our friends' houses, we celebrate Christmas with dad. Now Gurupurab is coming up so we will celebrate that as well because I believe this is real India." He added, "Even in my extended family, my maasi, who is a Sikh, is married to a Muslim man. My cousin is married to a Gujarati man. I have married a Rajput Thakur, so ours is a secular family. My son's name is Vardaan. We had a naamkaran ceremony for him. We go to a temple. Our house has a temple so there is no one particular religion that is followed."

Vikrant got married to wife Sheetal Thakur in an intimate wedding ceremony in 2022 and were blessed with Vardaan in February 2024. Meanwhile, on the work front, Vikrant Massey will next be seen in Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan, opposite Sanjay Kapoor and Maheep Kapoor's daughter Shanaya Kapoor, set to make her Bollywood debut. The film will hit the theatres on July 11.

When Shefali Jariwala recalled false rumours about her death after Kaanta Laga released: 'People said her brother killed her, she got cancer'

Kaanta Laga girl Shefali Jariwala's sudden death has sent shockwaves in the entire entertainment industry. The actor passed away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 42. Around a year ago, Shefali had opened up about a false rumour of her demise and cancer diagnosis that did rounds when Kaanta Laga released. The iconic 2002 song also led to misinformation that her brother had murdered her. In Paras Chhabra's podcast Abraa Ka Dabra Show on YouTube a year ago, Shefali had revealed how that personal trolling affected her back then. She shared, "I am thick skinned now. I have been in the industry for 20 years now, jo trolling meri Kaanta Laga ke waqt hui thi na. There wasn't social media, that was the real trolling. Back in the days, personal trolling hoti thi. How do you escape that?"

Kaanta Laga was considered way ahead of its time and Shefali Jariwala was a soft target for many people, even her relatives. "When I did that song, it was considered bold. I have seen times when my own relatives said, 'Yeh kya kardia ladki ne, naam kharaab kardiya'. There were rumours that said 'Shefali ke bhai ne usko maar daala'. I don't even have a brother. That was actually trolling. Faceless trolling on social media that happens now doesn't matter to me. Chandigarh mein baitha hua Chintu kya bolta hai, I don't care," she said. Recalling the insensitive rumours, the actor added, "Tattoo kia isne, isko cancer hogaya and yeh marr gayi. It was a national news at that time. News channels had called me. Back then there wasn't no social media, tab ki fan following kuch aur hi hoti thi. Information spreads quickly now. At that time, phones and landlines couldn't stop ringing, 'Arey Shefali Jariwala marr gayi!' That was the funniest thing I heard. Jabki koi tattoo tha bhi nahi. It was only painting in the song. Vo sunke maine tattoo baad mein karva lia tha lekin (She got a tattoo, had cancer and died. It was national news. News channels called me. Back then there wasn't no social media, fan following was different at that time. Information spreads



quickly now. At that time, phones and landlines couldn't stop ringing, 'Arey Shefali Jariwala has died!' That was the funniest thing I heard. I didn't even have a tattoo. It was only painting in the song. I didn't have a tattoo, but got one after the rumour.) After the Bigg Boss 13 fame Shefali Jariwala's death on Friday night, several celebrities have been calling out the 'insensitivity' of the paparazzi and media while covering the death of a public figure. According to reports, she suffered a cardiac arrest due to low blood pressure, as she took anti-ageing pills while fasting.

Abhishek Bachchan calls daughter Aaradhya 'most beautiful woman'; feels embarrassed when Amitabh Bachchan praises him: 'He is 83'



Abhishek Bachchan spoke about his father, superstar Amitabh Bachchan, praising him unabashedly on social media, and called his daughter Aaradhya the 'most beautiful woman'.

Abhishek Bachchan recently completed 25 years in the film industry. While the actor has played many roles in his long career, lately his choice of characters has mostly been of a father or a father-figure. His upcoming film Kaalidhar Laapata also revolves around the same subject. In a recent interaction, Abhishek revealed the reason behind this pattern and also talked about his father and superstar Amitabh Bachchan praising him unabashedly on social media.

In an interaction with The Hollywood Reporter, Abhishek discussed how his character in Kaalidhar Laapata

is about a man who spends his life fulfilling his family's needs, only to realise that he hasn't done anything for himself. Talking about the same, he said, "The theme struck a chord with me, apart from the various layers of the subtext, was that it's never too late to go and try and fulfil a dream that hasn't been fulfilled, and I don't look upon that as a midlife crisis, but there are a lot of us that have sacrificed a lot for our families and finally realise that I've done so much for my family, what about me? I love the simplicity of what he wanted to do."

Abhishek has been able to relate to his recent characters because of his personal life and his equation with his daughter Aaradhya Bachchan. He said, "I don't think I am actively seeking such roles but I have noticed the common thread and I attribute it to the most beautiful woman in the world, my daughter. Artists go through phases in life and when I started with Breathe, then Ludo, Bob, Be Happy, I Wanna Talk, Kaalidhar Laapata—I understood that paternal emotion in those because I was also witnessing and experiencing that in my real life. I don't know if Aaradhya wasn't around whether I'd still be experiencing those emotions or feel them as acutely. They also happened because that relationship spoke to me because I used to experience that with her." "When Hope, I can call him (Amitabh) my fan," Abhishek said as he discussed the praise that he sees his father write on social media about his films and performances. Speaking about Big B, he said, "I think he's an overzealous, emotional father right now, and that's the one thing I love about him. You know, in the initial parts of my career? We never expressed all that. I think he used to feel scared that 'I don't look like you know...'. He is doing a lot of it now. You can't blame him, he is 83." He added, "Most people forget that apart from being the great Amitabh Bachchan, he is also a father." Admitting that he feels embarrassed seeing his father write words of praise for him on social media, he said,