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Final report of AI plane crash should be definitive

The preliminary report of the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) probing the Air India flight 171 crash has answered only a few of the many questions. The objectivity and credibility of the report is already being questioned, thereby casting a shadow over what should have been an impartial and transparent investigation into one of India's worst aviation accidents in recent years. The AAIB has clearly stated that information in the report is "preliminary and subject to change," and this disclaimer is crucial. It reflects the nature of aviation accident investigations, which often require months of meticulous data gathering, expert analysis, and testing before definitive conclusions can be drawn. Nevertheless, given the high public interest and the gravity of the crash, many had hoped that the preliminary report would at least offer a coherent narrative of what could have happened in the cockpit in the moments leading up to the disaster. One of the most significant findings in the report is the observation that both engine fuel cutoff switches "transitioned from run to cutoff position one after another with a time gap of one second."

This is a vital piece of evidence, as it essentially indicates that both engines stopped receiving fuel in rapid succession, leading to a total loss of thrust. However, the report stops short of explaining why this happened. Did the transition occur due to manual pilot input or a mechanical failure? This critical question remains unanswered, leaving a major gap in understanding the sequence of events that led to the crash. The report rules out a range of common contributing factors such as adverse weather conditions, bird strikes, incorrect aircraft configuration, contaminated fuel, and pre-existing issues with the engines that were known earlier on.

Strict action will be taken against those involved in illegal activities and those who disturb peace and order, if necessary, PD Act District SP Kantilal Patil IPS"



"Kumrambheem (Asifabad) Indian Chronicle. July, 14. Jade Srinivas... "District Police Department keeps special vigil on rowdy sheeters and old criminals. Komaram Bheem Asifabad District SP Shri Kantilal Patil IPS said in a statement today that anyone involved in illegal activities in the district will not be ignored and strict action will be taken against such people. He said that the PD Act has been registered against Gorantla Suresh Babu from Andhra Pradesh state, who has been an accused in several cases of supplying fake seeds in the district for the past few years. Disturbance of public peace and security"of the people and disrupts social stability will be identified and, if necessary, cases will be registered against them under the PD Act (Preventive Detention Act) and action will be taken. He said that the cooperation of the people is very crucial in maintaining peace and security in the district. The SP warned that special vigil will be kept on rowdy- sheeters and old criminals in the district and strict action will be taken against those involved in criminal and illegal activities. The SP urged the people to immediately inform Dial 100 or the local police if any such incidents occur."

BC girls' post- matric hostel should be opened immediately_ Durgam Dinakar KVPS District Secretary"



"Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) "Indian chronicle" Jade Srinivas. July 14. "The BC girls' post- matric hostel, which is being built opposite the old collectorate in the district center, was constructed by the previous government at a cost of Rs 2.9 crore. The construction work has reached the final stage, but so far the work has not been completed and even crazy plants have grown in it. It is unhygienic. The hostel can be used if flooring, plumbing, electricity and paint are added. Due to the incompleteness of this hostel, the BC girls' post- matric hostel continues in Adde Bhavan in Janakapur. The hostel has a target of one hundred students. There are no full facilities as per the target. No more than 42 to 50 students are admitted. More Over, "the government pays a rent of Rs. 18,000 per month. Today, the KVPS District Secretary Durgam Dinkar in the District Collectorate brought it to the attention of District Collector Venkatesh Dotre. Responding to this, the District Collector immediately called the District Officer of the BC Welfare Department and ordered him to inspect the newly constructed post-matric girls' hostel and prepare a report on the required facilities."

— Seven-Day Bhagavata Saptaha Jnana Yajnam Reverberates with Vedic Wisdom and Devotional Fervour.

"PS Ashokan"Indian Chronicle"Manthani, July 12, 2025 | PS Ashokan – Indian Chronicle" "The sacred town of Manthani, renowned for its historical and spiritual legacy, is currently witnessing a resurgence of divine vibrance as the Bhagavata Saptaha Jnana Yajnam, a week-long spiritual symposium, unfolds in an atmosphere of reverence and reflection. "Organised in solemn memory of the late Smt. Mahavadi Sarojini Devi Narasayya, the event is being held at her ancestral home on Tammi Cheruvu Katta Street, drawing scores of devotees and spiritual aspirants from across the region. The yajnam, orchestrated by her sons Mahavadi Sudheer, Satish, and Vijay, stands as a glowing tribute to maternal legacy and cultural continuity. "The spiritual proceedings are being illuminated by the profound oratory and scriptural expositions of Brahmasri Marupaka Satyanarayana Sharma and Brahmasri Kollarapu Venkatarajam, whose eloquent renditions of the Srimad Bhagavatam have enthralled the gathering and nurtured a deep inner awakening among attendees. "Each day, the devotees are being served with alpaaharam (light refresh-

ments) in the afternoons and annadanam (sacred community meals) in the evenings, fulfilling the timeless Indian traditions of hospitality, charity, and shared spiritual nourishment. "A highlight of the seventh day was the grand recital of Sri Mahalakshmi Ashtottara Shatanamavali and Vishnu Sahasranamam, performed in a sanctified ambience, with hundreds of devotees chanting in unison, creating a transcendental experience. The evening resounded with devotional melodies rendered by Mahavadi Sudheer, Vijay, Varahala Sita, Muddu Ramadevi, and Mahavadi Krishnamohan, captivating the audience and elevating the spiritual vibration of the event to sublime heights. "This spiritually charged gathering not only commemorates a noble soul but also reaffirms Manthani's stature as a beacon of Sanatana Dharma — where sacred knowledge, ancestral reverence, and divine devotion converge. "The Bhagavata Saptaha Jnana Yajnam has become more than a memorial — it has transformed into a spiritual renaissance, inspiring a new generation to reconnect with Vedic values and inner piety.

Take welfare schemes to Gadapa Gadapa and work towards winning local bodies""Directing the activists"



"Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav"MLC Dande Vittal""Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) Indian chronicle. July 12. Jade Srinivas. "Take welfare schemes to Gadapa Gadapa and work towards winning local bodies""Directing the activists""Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav"MLC Dande Vittal""Komaram Bheem



Asifabad District DCC President Kokkiral Vishwa Prasad presided over the meeting of the activists organized at Premala Garden in the Asifabad district center. Joint Adilabad district in-charge and Rajya Sabha member Anil Kumar Yadav attended the meeting as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, Joint Adilabad district MLC Dande Vittal said that everyone should work in coordination and move forward towards the goal of winning the Congress in the upcoming local body elections. The development and welfare schemes undertaken by the government in the past one and a half years have been implemented. undertaken by the government in the past one and a half years should be widely taken to the people. In this meeting, Tribal Cooperative Society State Chairman Kotnaka, Tirupati TPCC State Vice President Atram Suguna, Asifabad former MLA Atram Sakku, former MLC Puranam Satish, Asifabad Constituency In-charge Shyam Nayak, Jainur Market Committee Chairman Vishwanath, Kagaz Nagar Market Committee Chairman Siddala Devaiah and Mandal Party Presidents, current and former public representatives, leaders, activists and others participated."

Manthani Immersed in Spiritual Splendour""— Seven-Day Bhagavata Saptaha Jnana Yajnam Reverberates with Vedic Wisdom and Devotional Fervour.



soul but also reaffirms Manthani's stature as a beacon of Sanatana Dharma — where sacred knowledge, ancestral reverence, and divine devotion converge. "The Bhagavata Saptaha Jnana Yajnam has become more than a memorial — it has transformed into a spiritual renaissance, inspiring a new generation to reconnect with Vedic values and inner piety.

Godavari flows steadily. "



"Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, July 12, Indian chronicle :The Godavari flood flow at Bhadrachalam is steady. The Godavari, which was 40.5 feet at 6 am, reached 40.7 feet at 7 am, 40.9 feet at 9 am, 41.1 feet at 10 am, and 41.3 feet at 11 am, and then the flow gradually decreased every hour. CWC officials said that the Godavari was steady at 41.3 feet at 5 pm. The Godavari flow at Perur gradually decreased due to the rains falling upstream and the decrease in floodwater released from projects. With this, the Godavari flow reached 41.2 feet at 6 pm and is steady. As the flood receded.

Elderly Mother Seeks Protection from Her Own Sons

Bhadramma appeals to police for safety



Hyderabad:An elderly mother has appealed to the police for protection from her own sons, alleging a threat to her life. Bhadramma (67), a resident of Malkajigiri, shared her ordeal during a press conference held at Deshodharaka Bhavan in Basheerbagh on Monday.

In tears, she revealed that her sons, Anil and Vinay, had illegally occupied property worth ₹3 crore, which was hard-earned by her late husband, and left her homeless. Bhadramma expressed deep anguish, stating that had her daughter not supported her, she would have been forced to beg on the streets. She alleged that her sons created forged documents to seize the property. Although a forgery case was registered against them at the Malkajigiri police station, no action has been taken so far. She claimed her sons are planning to eliminate her in order to fully take over the property. Bhadramma also alleged that the police were siding with her sons. She accused Malkajigiri Inspector Satyanarayana of ignoring her complaint and failing to initiate any investigation. She earnestly requested the authorities to take strict action against her sons Anil and Vinay and to provide her with adequate protection.

TAGS. DYF.CITU Public Association Leaders Visited Tribal Ashram Girls School"



"Leaders of public associations aware of the problems faced by students""Kumrambheem Asifabad. Indian "Chronicle., Jade Srinivas... July ""Ginnedari Ashram Girls' School in Tiryani Mandal was visited by TAGS. DYFI. CITU. District leaders and were informed about the problems of the students. On this occasion, TAGS District President Korenga Mala Sri said that students should pursue higher studies and get jobs. He said that students should be careful about their health. DYFI District President Secretaries said that private school students who did not study properly got good marks and ranks in 10th class. "first in the state with good marks and ranks in the 10th class, which is not well studied. TAGS District Vice President Kota Srinivas said that students should stay away from superstitions and all students should follow cleanliness. 49 GO was explained to the students and they asked about the problems faced by tribal students. They came to know about the problems in the ashram school. CITU District President J. Rajender said that students studying in tribal ashram schools in the district have many problems and the governments have completely failed to solve them. Last year, five students died due to health reasons in Kumuram Bheem district and so far no help has been provided from the government. ""TAGS District President Mala Sri Vice President Kota Srinivas, DYFI District President and Secretaries Gedam Tikanand, Godisela Karthik, CITU District President J. Rajender and Deputy Warden Vijayashanti,

Illegally transported liquor seized""-Case registered against both



"Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) "Indian chronicle" Jade Srinivas. July, 14. "Wankidi police seized liquor being smuggled from Chandrapur in Maharashtra to Wankidi in a car on Saturday night. According to Wankidi SI Prashant, while patrolling with his police personnel, Wankidi SI Prashant was suspiciously driving towards Asifabad in a car at night. When the police stopped the car at the Wankidi RTA check post and checked it, Maharashtra liquor was found. Royal Stock Full Bottle 72. OC 90 ml 2000 bottles were seized. They said that its value is about Rs. 1 lakh 4 thousand. The SI said that a case has been registered against Sudarshan and Rajendra Papaiah of Gadchandur, Maharashtra, who seized the liquor."

Chalo Hyderabad Will Be a Turning Point in Workers' Struggle" – Roars CITU District Secretary Eraveli Muthyam Rao.



“PS Ashokan” Indian Chronicle” Manthani | July 13: “In a spirited address during the General Body Meeting of Municipal Workers held at the Manthani Municipal Office premises, CITU District General Secretary Eraveli Muthyam Rao delivered a rousing call to action, urging all municipal workers to mobilize en masse and make the July 23rd ‘Chalo Hyderabad’ protest a resounding success.” Muthyam Rao expressed grave concern over the long-standing neglect of municipal workers, stating that essential supplies such as soaps, oils, footwear, and uniforms have been pending for years. He condemned the systemic injustice faced by NMR (Nominal Muster Roll) workers, who, despite their dedicated service, continue to survive on paltry, unsustainable wages.” “NMR workers must no longer be treated as second-class employees. They should be merged into the system on par with contract workers, with equal pay, dignity, and benefits,” he asserted. “He declared that a protest (dharna) will be held on July 19th at the Manthani Municipal Office, demanding immediate resolution of long-pending grievances. He also reminded that the Congress party, now in power, had

pledged to enhance the wages and rights of municipal employees.” “It’s time for the government to honour its promise. We demand a minimum monthly wage of ₹26,000, assurance of job security, and dignified working conditions,” he said. “Slamming G.O. No. 252—which increased the work hours from 8 to 10 hours—Muthyam Rao demanded its immediate repeal, calling it a regressive move that violates labour dignity and human rights.” He urged all workers to rise above fear and indifference and march united to Hyderabad on July 23, where a massive dharna will be held in front of the CMD Office of Municipal Administration.” “Let us flood the streets of Hyderabad with red flags and unified voices. ‘Chalo Hyderabad’ is not just a protest—it’s a movement for justice, respect, and recognition,” he thundered.

“The meeting was attended by several prominent union leaders and activists including Budida Ganesh (CITU District Committee), Singarapu Gattayya, Chippakurthi Chandu, Edlapalli Rajayya, Jampayya, Sammayya, Bhagya, Pochamma, and others who pledged their full support.

Tribal leaders passed a resolution to cancel Jivo No. 49 at Velgi Rai Center,



of the tribals, conspiracies are being made to oppress the tribals in the name of new Jivos. He said that the process of unfairly vacating the villages of innocent tribals should be stopped and resolutions are being passed in the Pesa Gram Sabhas throughout the district to repeal Jivo No. 49. He said that resolutions of 339 villages were taken and that there were no objections in it and that they had signed them. He said that all the things mentioned in the Jivo were false and that no village had signed them. Taking advantage of the innocence of the tribals, the Telangana state government is unjustly evicting them from those villages and exploiting the mineral resources there. He said that the Telangana state government and forest department officials have taken action, so all the tribals should unite and raise our slogan to make the movement fly and make the government wise. On Monday, the 14th, a dharna program should be organized at the MRO office and the forest department office and the resolutions of the Pesa Gram Sabha should be presented. Similarly, a complete bandh should be called throughout the mandal center on the 21st. Similarly, a large number of people should be mobilized from the mandal for a maha dharna program at the Kumram Bheem Collectorate on the 28th. Along with them, Tudum Teb District Chief Secretary Pendor Maruthi, Mandal Leaders Kotnaka Ramshaw, Uika Ramu, and Rai Center Leaders of various villages, Sir Medilu Rai Center Leaders, Tudum Teb Leaders, Former Sarpanches, Former MPTCs and Women Adivasi Village Patel Devarilu and others participated in this program.”

“Tudoomdhebbu District President Kova Vijay Kumar participated as the chief guest. “Kumrambheem (Asifabad) Indian Chronicle. July. 14. Jade Srinivas “A meeting of the Rai Center was held in Velgi village of Wankidi mandal of Kumram Bheem Asifabad district and a resolution was passed to cancel JVO number 49. The chief guests of the meeting were Adivasi Rights Struggle Committee Tudungbe District President Kova Vijay Kumar and senior Adivasi leader Dr. Kanaka Prabhakar. “Speaking at the meeting, forest officials said that if the illegal GO brought by the Telangana state government is not immediately revoked, “said that if the Jivo is not repealed immediately, the glory of the tribals will be seen and Jivo No. 49 should be repealed immediately.... Instead of implementing the laws

Hostels should solve problems in Gurukul schools“



“SFI, DYFI, TAGS, Public Grievance Department, petition to District Collector Venkatesh Dotre” Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) Indian Chronicle. July 14. Jade Srinivas. “In the Kumram Bheem Asifabad district, where the academic year has been going on for a month, problems have been

piling up everywhere. Students are facing difficulties in getting uniforms, books, notebooks, trunk boxes, benches, beds, blankets, and other things. In addition to drinking water, they are facing serious problems due to inadequate toilets and urinals. A petition was submitted to the District Collector Venkatesh Dotre at the Pub-

lic Complaints Department under the auspices of SFI DYFI TAGS. On this occasion, leaders of public associations said that problems came to light during the surveys conducted in the hostels and Gurukul schools, especially in the ST Gurukul school of Tiryani mandal, where students are facing serious problems.

The water problem is very serious. Students are suffering due to lack of drinking water and daily activities. Similarly, there is no cleanliness in the grounds. There are big plants and rocks on the grounds, and there is no school to play with. Similarly, in the dining hall of the Ginnedari Ashram school, there are petals or rainwater in the dining hall, and students are having trouble eating while eating. A petition was submitted to resolve these problems immediately. Responding to this, the Collector said that he would visit the Gurukul school soon and resolve the problems. “DYFI District President Secretaries Gedam Teekanand, Godisela Karthik, Telangana Adivasi Tribal Association TAGS District President Korenga Mala Sri, SFI District Vice President S Satish participated in this program...

Kotnaka Vijay Kumar elected as District President of Kumram Bheem Asifabad District Athletics Association for the second consecutive time



“Kumrambheem (Asifabad) Indian Chronicle. July. 14. Jade Srinivas. “Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Athletics Association was formed on 04.04.2021 April and its period has ended till April 2025. Therefore, again for the election of a new committee, the general meeting and election of the Kamram Bheem District Athletics Association was successfully held on 13th of this month at the Tribal Sports School, Asifabad. Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Athletics Association “Kotnaka Vijay Kumar is back as the president for the second consecutive term, Satla Shankar as the chief patron, “Vice Presidents” Poorka Uddhav, Krishna Murthy, Lakshmi Subhash, “Srinivas, Secretary Gundam Lakshman as Joint Secretary” Swapna, Praveen, Tulsidas, Ravinder, “Harikrishna, P Mangavathi as Treasurer. As an EC member. K Jangu Sai Baba, Yadagiri, Bariki Rao, Vijaya

Lakshmi, Chinnakka, were unanimously elected, he said. He said that he was elected unanimously. Telangana State Athletics Association General Secretary Sri K. Sarangapani attended the program as an observer and gave instructions to the newly elected members of the association. And as the election officer, Sri P. Venkateswara Reddy, Telangana Athletics Organizing Secretary, Tribal Sports Officer Banda Meena Reddy, attended and conducted the election and made it successful. In this program, Sports School Headmaster Jangu, Adilabad District Athletics Association Secretary Pitla Rajesh, Telangana Athletics Association Competition Secretary Vasudeva Rao, Jangaon District Athletics Association Organizing Secretary Chandra Shekhar Reddy, Sports Coaches Vidyasagar, Aravind, Tirumal, Ravi, senior sportsmen, participated. “End..” Ok. Sorry Sir...

School and college students should play an important role in controlling drugs - District SP Kantilal Patil IPS“



“Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) Indian Chronicle. July 14. Jade Srinivas. “As part of drug control, an awareness program was organized at Modi Ashram School in Kerameri Mandal under the auspices of the District Police Department. District SP Kantilal Patil, IPS, was present as the chief guest in this program. On this occasion, the SP said, “Drugs destroy personal life, family and future. Students and youth should be careful not to get caught in this dangerous trap. Students should keep their goals clear and move forward with discipline. Only good habits and good discipline can change our lives positively.” he said. He also said that students are being given wide awareness about the use of drugs, their effects, and physical and mental



harm. The police department is always supportive of students and is ready to provide necessary advice and help. The district SP informed that if students are subjected to ragging, eve teasing, or cyber crime, they should contact the police immediately. He said that if students or their parents know anything about drugs, they should immediately call 1908 or 8712670551 and inform them. He made the students take a pledge about drug control. Later, the SP planted a guava sapling along with the students in the school premises. MEO Prakash, Wankidi CI Satyanarayana, Kerameri SI Madhukar, Patel Atram Laxman, “school headmaster Prem Das, school teachers, staff, and students participated in this program.

State Minister for Underground Mines and Labour. Vivek Venkata Swamy was felicitated by - Ajmira Shyam Nayak

“Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) Indian Chronicle” Jade Srinivas. July 14. “Telangana State Minister for Underground Mines and Labor. Vivek Venkata Swamy was on his way to the joint Adilabad district on Monday when Congress Party’s Asifabad constituency in-charge Ajmira Shyam Nayak met him on the way and honored him. He told him about several constituency issues. The minister also went to the joint Adilabad district in the minister’s vehicle. Senior leaders Nizam accompanied them in this program.



Government college land should be protected from encroachment!“



“A boundary wall should be built for the vcollege and road facilities should be provided!!”Jagajampula Tirupati, PDSU Komurambheem District General Secretary”Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) Indian chronicle.July 14. Jade Srinivas.””A grievance was submitted to Additional Collector David Kumar under the auspices of the PDSU District Committee demanding the protection of the Government Junior College site. On this occasion, Jagajampula Tirupati, PDSU. Komurambheem District General Secretary spoke. Regarding the Government Junior College in Janakapur, Asifabad district headquarters, in 1992, the then district authorities, the Mandal Tahsildar, and

about 10 acres of land were allotted to the Government Junior College.”However, at the time of construction of the college building, only two and a half acres were left. Almost seven and a half acres of land was occupied by the surrounding people and all the villagers, and only two and a half acres of land was left. Since then, mainly due to the lack of a school for that college, there has been a situation where some people and the government college land called the temple hall have been encroaching on it for the last ten years. We are not against the gods of the temple, but if it is a land related to the temple, they should prove it with evidence and keep that land. Otherwise, we are telling you not to create any obstacles for the construction of the college wall. The students of that place are playing”or for constructing new buildings related to that college and not for anything else. And there is a situation where they have to walk in mud without even having a road facility to go to that college. In such a situation, we, as PDSU, demand that everyone take the responsibility of protecting the government junior college land. Therefore, we, as the Progressive Democratic Students' Union, demand that the district authorities respond and take appropriate steps to construct a boundary wall in the college land without any hindrance and that the college should also be provided with a road facility along with the boundary wall, otherwise we warn that we will organize large- scale agitations along with the students. In this program”Otherwise,we warn that we will organize large-scale protests along with the students. PDSU district leaders Kursenga Harischandra Prasad, Durgam Prashant, Jagampula Tarun and others participated in this program.

Actions for Optimal Utilization of Krishna River Water – Bhatti & Ponguleti.“



“Khammam, July 14, Indian Chronicle.””Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu and Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy emphasized that the Telangana people's government is taking strong measures to ensure the abundant and effective use of Krishna river water. On Monday, during a visit to Kusumanchi mandal along with District Collector Anudeep Durishetty and Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt, they released irrigation water for the Kharif season from the Palair Reservoir via the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Canal (Lal Bahadur Canal). Bhatti Vikramarka stated that water is being released today from Nagarjuna Sagar Zone 2 to the ayacut of the Palair Reservoir. He stressed that the government is committed to supporting agriculture, electricity and various multipurpose projects. He criticized the previous BRS government's irrational decisions, claiming they caused significant losses and promised to fight for Telangana's rightful share in the Krishna and Godavari rivers and complete pending projects. He further alleged that the past government ignored repeated warnings that construction in Rayalaseema near the Srisaillam Project would negatively affect Zones 1 and 2 of Nagarjuna Sagar. Moreover, he accused the Andhra Pradesh government of constructing storage projects to



draw 11 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of water daily from Srisaillam with the support of the former Telangana administration. Since coming to power, the current government has been correcting past errors and progressing with key initiatives. These include completing pending projects on the Krishna River such as Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Bhima, Koilsagar and Palamuru-Rangareddy SLBC. They also announced the construction of the new Narayanpet-Kodangal project to maximize Krishna river water utilization. He mentioned that due to last year's heavy floods, the Nagarjuna Sagar Left Main Canal's under-tunnel (UT) at Palair was damaged. It has now been restored through emergency repairs costing 14.2 crore. Alongside providing irrigation water, the government has released 9,000 crore in investment support to farmers in 9 days, waived 21,000 crore in loans for 25 lakh farmers, given 17,500 crore in power subsidies for 29 lakh agricultural pump sets over 18 months and provided a bonus of 500 per quintal for fine rice, in addition to implementing farmer insurance. Bhatti highlighted that these welfare initiatives have significantly increased food grain production in the state, making Telangana a food and seed granary. He reiterated the government's focus on developing the agriculture sector, which supports 65% of the population. Despite financial challenges, they are fulfilling promises to farmers, including completing farm loan waivers in a single phase and raising the investment assistance from 10,000 (given by the previous government) to 12,000, disbursed within 9 days. Finally, he emphasized the government's support for paddy cultivation by offering MSP and a bonus of 500 per quintal. The event also saw participation from Telangana Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, Irrigation SE M Venkateshwarlu, R&B SE Yakub, Khammam RDO Narasimha Rao, Palair constituency special officer Ramesh, officials from various departments and local public representatives.”

District SP Kantilal Patil IPS received complaints from complainants as part of the Prajavani program““



Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) Indian chronicle.July 14. Jade Srinivas.””SP orders police officers to ensure speedy justice for victims, Today at the Komuram Bheem Asifabad District Police Office, District SP Kantilal Patil IPS Garu listened to the problems of the complainants as part of the Prajavani program and made several suggestions to the concerned officials to resolve them as per the law. On Monday, as part of the Prajavani program,petitions were received from complainants from various parts of the district and they were sent to the concerned circle for immediate



resolution.and suggestions were made for the status of the problem and the solution. The District Police Department is working with the aim of ensuring that people use the police services voluntarily, without any fear, without any third party involvement, and resolve their problems according to the law, bringing the police closer to the people and maintaining peace and security, informed District SP Kantilal Patil IPS. He informed that they are directly receiving complaints on public problems and resolving problems through the Prajavani program every Monday.

Ujjain Mahakali Bonalu held in Secunderabad

Hyderabad, July 14 Ujjain Mahakali Bonalu were held in Secunderabad. Many celebrities and devotees visited the goddess, performed special pujas and offered plants. As part of the Bonalu celebrations, devotee Matangi Swamalata performed the popular Rangam, which is a fortune-telling act amid the presence of devotees. The devotees gathered in large numbers on the occasion. Standing on a green pot in front of the goddess, Swamalata performed the fortune-telling event. She said there would be good rains this year too. She also said she was not angry. Swamalata performed a fortune-telling saying that if she is naked, she will vomit blood. She said all her pujas should be performed properly. “I am inviting thousands of people. I am not sacrificing blood.

You only ask, but you don't give it to me. If I am not worshipped properly, I will die of blood loss. I am not worshipped properly. That is why deaths are increasing. I will not be hindered in that matter at all. I want blood sacrifice. I will stand with those who measure me, the prophet”, she said. She said in the coming days she would stand with everyone. “I will protect everyone. It is my responsibility to protect my State and the country. In the coming days, the pandemic will haunt all. Everyone should be careful. Follow what you have to follow. Fire accidents will happen. I am warning you in advance. Show me blood or there will be chaos. They are also preventing me from putting my image on display. This year, rains will definitely fall.

Tribal leaders submit petition to Wankidi Tehsildar and Forest Department officials to cancel Act No. 49“



“Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) "Indian chronicle" Jade Srinivas.July 14““Protest program to be held soon under the auspices of Tudumdebba.District President Kova Vijay Kumar Wankidi: Monday on petition was submitted to the Tahsildar of Wankidi Mandal, Kumram Bheem Asifabad District, under the leadership of tribal leaders, requesting the government to immediately cancel the Forest Conservation Act, G.O. No. 49, in the Kagajanagar Division and Asifabad Division of Komaram Bheem Asifabad District.

Tribal community leaders speak about the PESA Act(1996) and they are giving it to you. Similarly, the PESA Gram Sabhas have important authorities in the management and control of natural resources like forests and minerals. It is mandatory to consult the Gram Sabhas in the land acquisition and rehabilitation process, and the permission of the PESA Gram Sabha is mandatory, but without these, the forest department officials and the Telangana state government have illegally brought the Act No.49 without the PESA Gram Sabha resolution. Soon,They expressed their anger that they will soon hold protest programs v the leaders of the Tudum Teb affiliated tribal associations until the 49 GEO is canceled. In this program, Kolam Sangam District President Atram Jalpat Rao Ramshaw Tudum Teb District Chief Pendor Maruti District Leaders Kanaka Prabhakar Mandal Presidents Kotnaka Ramshaw Uyaka Ramu Sidam Paggu Madavi Bandu Patels and people from various villages and others participated.”They expressed their anger that they will soon hold protest programs with the leaders of the Tudum Teb affiliated tribal associations until the 49 GEO is canceled. In this program, Kolam Sangam District President Atram Jalpat Rao Ramshaw Tudum Teb District Chief Pendor Maruti District Leaders Kanaka Prabhakar Mandal Presidents Kotnaka Ramshaw Uyaka Ramu Sidam Paggu Madavi Bandu Patels and people from various villages and others participated.”

Inauguration Ceremony of Rayala Chandrasekhar and Gandhi Yadanna Memorial Stupas – Call for Grand Success by TUCI““““

““““Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, July 14, Indian Chronicle:“““The TUCI (Trade Union Centre of India) leaders have called for the successful organization of the inauguration ceremony of the memorial stupas of Rayala Chandrasekhar and Gandhi Yadanna. District Secretary Yakub Shavali, Party Town Secretary Payam Venkanna, and Municipal District Secretary Vemula Gurunatham made the appeal on Monday at the Municipal crossroads in the town, during a campaign for the upcoming memorial meeting.”The CPI (ML) Mass Line Prajapanda Yellandu Town Committee is conducting this campaign. General body meetings were held at the Municipal Office, Seetharam Talkies, Water Supply area, and Master Center. During these meetings, TUCI District Secretary Yakub Shavali, Town Secretary Payam Venkanna, and Municipal District Secretary Vemula Gurunatham participated and addressed the public.”They stated that party leaders Rayala Chandrasekhar and Bhadradi Kothagudem District leader Gandhi Yadanna dedicated their lives to fighting for land and livelihood rights of the poor and the liberation of marginalized communities. They reminded the public that these leaders had worked tirelessly for the landless poor, getting ponds



and lakes dug to support livelihoods. They were always ready to serve wherever the party directed them.”They further added that these leaders faced many imprisonments, detentions, and torture in their lifetime, yet never wavered in their commitment to the people's cause.”Under the leadership of the Yellandu Division Party Committee, a rally will be held on the 16th of this month up to JK Bus Stop in Yellandu, followed by the inauguration of their memorial stupas. The unveiling ceremony will take place at Ellanna Bhavan, and the revolutionary supporters and public are urged to participate in large numbers.

Swift Resolution for Journalists Housing Sites - Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy.



““Khammam Bureau, July 14, Indian Chronicle.””Telangana Minister for Revenue, Housing and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, assured that the issue of housing sites for journalists will be resolved promptly. On Monday, a delegation from the Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TJF), led by district president Akutota Adinarayana and general secretary Chirra Ravi, met the minister at his residence and submitted a representation. The journalists brought to the minister's attention various pressing issues faced by media personnel in Khammam district, including problems related to housing sites, accreditation cards, and health cards. Responding to their concerns, Minister Ponguleti emphasized that providing house sites to journalists in Khammam is a matter of great importance and pledged to take swift action. He assured them that there was no need for worry and added that the process of issuing accreditation cards will soon be completed across the state. The meeting was attended by several TJF national and district leaders, including Venna Boyina Sambasiva Rao, Electronic Media General Secretary Shetty Rajinikanth, District Vice Presidents Bollam



Srinivas and Velugu Prashant Reddy, and other senior media figures like RTV's Uday, TS Chakravarthy, Ram Shetty Vijetha, Mandula Upender, Harish, Sridhar Sharma, Khammam Press Club President Guddeti Ramesh Babu, Secretary Korakoppula Rambabu, Treasurer Bikki Gopi, Vice President Muthyala Reddy, and city-level Electronic Media office-bearers Yellamandala Jagadish and Karisha Ashok. Also present were Camera Association President Nagaraju, members Moola Jeevan Reddy, Metro Venkata Reddy, Pankala Rao, Antoti Srinivas, Indian Chronicle Praneeth Kumar, Venkata Krishna, Mohan, Govindu, Vanguri Eswari, Tirupathi Rao, Ulloju Ramesh, Nallamothu Srinivas, RTV's Shekhar and Sai, CK News Upender, Puli Srinu, Penti Venkateshwarlu, Esampalli Venkateshwarlu, Apparao, Sridhar, Venugopal, PV Sunil, Satish, Sai Karthik, Ganesh, Murali, Kalyan, Nunna Nageshwar Rao, M Venkateshwar Rao, among others.

Kondagurla Kamalakar, who recently received an honorary doctorate, was felicitated by the Ambedkar Youth Association.

““Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) "Indian chronicle". Jade Srinivas.July 14““Komuram Bheem, Asifabad. Kondagurla Kamalakar was felicitated by the Ambedkar Youth Association on the occasion of his return to his hometown after receiving an honorary doctorate in Narayanpur village of Rebbena mandal of the district. First, they garlanded the statue of Ambedkar and paid homage. Later, Kamalakar was given a bouquet of flowers and was felicitated with a shawl. Speaking on the occasion, the leaders of the Ambedkar Youth Association said that it is a matter of pride for them that Kamalakar has studied



highly, has worked for the development of society in many ways, and has received an honorary doctorate in the social field. Today's students should take the youth as an example and study highly,worked for the devel-

opment of the society in many ways, and received an honorary doctorate in the social field. They wanted today's students to take the youth as an example and study highly and achieve their goals. They wished to rise to a higher level.

Ambedkar Youth Association leaders Tukaram, Namdev, Kiran,Shankar, P Venkatesh,Vilas, D Venkatesh,Rajaram, Mahender,Rajeshwar and others participated in this program.

Man sentenced to two years in prison and fined Rs 5,000 for cultivating marijuana“



“Kumrambheem, (Asifabad) Indian chronicle. Jade Srinivas.July 14““Man sentenced to two years in prison and fined Rs 5,000 for cultivating marijuana““District SP Kantil Patil IPS said that the District Sessions Court, Asifabad, Chief Judge MV Ramesh has sentenced a person under the jurisdiction of Lingapur police station to two years in prison

KTR tweets BRS party would continuously fight for farmers

Hyderabad, July 14 “Time is not passing by but the Congress government is passing by. The drought is not passing by, but the Congress is passing by without draining the water in the canals. Due to the government's negligence in not lifting the Kaleshwaram water, farmers' tears are flowing in the canals instead of the water. The Telangana farmers are worried in the dark because of the lying Congress that is walking around in the mirror. If agriculture, which was destroyed during decades of rule, was celebrated during the decade-long BRS rule, it was again destroyed during the year-and-a-half of Congress rule. But the Congress government is going on a rampage in the name of festivals. The farmers are questioning why the Kaleshwaram water, which rose from a height of about 600 meters, travelled a distance of 450 km and reached Ravi Cheruvu in Penpahad mandal of Suryapet district, and watered the farmers' fields?

The farmers are questioning as to why the water is not flowing today. The Kakatiya flood canal, which was completed in 2001 under Sriramsagar, has travelled 153 km after 22 years due to Kaleshwaram lift irrigation and reached its final ayacut. But today, without repairing Medigadda, there is an opportunity to lift water from Kannepalli pump house and provide irrigation, but the Congress government is not looking in that direction due to deliberate negligence. The

Mallanna demands cancellation of Kavitha's MLC membership

Hyderabad, July 14 MLC Chintapandu Naveen Kumar, popularly known as Teenmar Mallanna, met Telangana Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy on Monday and filed a complaint against MLC Kavitha, demanding her immediate removal from the Council. In response to Mallanna's disparaging comments about Kavitha, workers from Jagruthi vandalised his office, which also serves as the location for his TV channel, Q News. They broke windows and damaged furniture during the protest. A security guard for Mallanna also fired into the air to disperse the protesting crowd. In his complaint, MLC Mallanna accused Jagruthi workers of attempting to kill him and causing destruction to his office. He called for actions against Kavitha and requested the annulment of her MLC membership.

Later, speaking to the media, Mallanna stated that he

Veteran actress B Saroja Devi passes away at 87

Hyderabad, July 14 :Indian cinema legend B. Saroja Devi passed away on Monday at the age of 87. She had been facing health issues related to aging for some time and died while receiving treatment at Manipal Hospital in Yeshwantpur, Bengaluru. Born on January 7, 1938, Saroja Devi acted in approximately 200 films over a span of seven decades across Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, and Hindi cinema. She was one of the most celebrated actresses in the history of Indian cinema. Recognised as the first female superstar of Kannada cinema, Saroja Devi made her significant debut at the age of 17 in the Kannada film Mahakavi Kalidasa (1955). She entered Telugu cinema with Panduranga Mahatyam (1957) and had a series of hit films until the late 1970s. Her role in the Tamil movie Nadodi Mannan (1958) established her as a leading actress in Tamil cinema. Following her marriage in 1967, she remained the second most sought-after actress in Tamil cinema until 1974. However, she was consistently among the leading actresses in Telugu and Kannada films from 1958 through the 1980s. Saroja Devi was also active in Hindi films until

SCR reviews status of station redevelopment works over the zone

Hyderabad, July 14 Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, South Central Railway (SCR) held a safety review meeting and examined the status of station redevelopment works undertaken on SCR on Monday at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad. Neeraj Agrawal, Additional General Manager, SCR participated in the meeting along with all the Principal Heads of Departments. Divisional Railway Manager's (DRMs) of all six Divisions i.e. Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Guntakal, Guntur and Nanded joined the review meeting through video conference. Sanjay Kumar Srivastava held a review on the status of redevelopment works undertaken at 119 stations on the zone as part of Amrit Bharat Station Scheme with a cost of approximately Rs. 6744 crores (out of which, works at 3 stations viz. Begumpet, Warangal & Karimnagar have been completed and were recently inaugurated by Hon'ble PM). The concerned officials from Headquarters & six Di-

and a fine of five thousand rupees in a case of cultivating ganja. The SP has given details: "N.Madhukar,who was previously working as an SS under the Lingapur Police Station, conducted an inspection with the police personnel on 25.10.2021 based on reliable information that cannabis was being cultivated in a cotton field on the outskirts of Raonur village.During the inspection, a person named Kotnaka Somu (father: Balaji, age: 43 years, village: Raonur, Lingapur mandal) was cultivating two acres of cotton crop in the name of his mother Kotinaka Motubai on three acres of land. In this order, he cultivated ganja crop in cotton crop with the intention of making profit by cultivating ganja crop.

The then Lingapur ASI Kathe Bhim Rao (first IO) booked a case against them and the second IO (in-charge CI) Wankidi CI Sudhakar and the third IO Jainur CI Hanook conducted the investigation. The current Jainur CI and Lingapur SI presented the witnesses in the court. P.P Jagan Mohan Rao and Honorable Chief Justice M.V. Ramesh conducted the investigation the investigation, and the accused Kotnaka Somu was found guilty and sentenced to two years in prison and a fine of Rs. 5,000. The District Chief Justice congratulated P.P Jagan Mohan Rao, current Asifabad Sub-Division ASP Chittaranjan IPS, Jainur CI Ramesh, Lingapur SI Ganganna, Court Asifabad Division Liaison Officer Ram Singh and the court staff for their efforts in ensuring the punishment of the accused in the case.



Congress government, which has been hostile to agriculture, is punishing farmers. We will foil the conspiracies of Congress. We will continuously fight to protect the farmers of Telangana," KTR posted on his X handle.

had formally complained to the Ethics Committee about Kavitha and urged for appropriate measures to be taken against her."I have asked the Chairman of the Council for protection, and he has promised that an investigation into the incident will take place," Mallanna stated.He also mentioned that Kavitha lacks an understanding of the commitments and terminology used by the Backward Classes (BCs). According to him, the Jagruthi workers are intentionally causing disturbances to undermine the BCs in the political arena.My comments regarding Kavitha are expressions commonly used in Telangana. I have a good understanding of grammar and language in Telugu, and I am aware of which words are appropriate to use. If she has any doubts about my language, Kavitha can consult her father, former Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao," Teenmar Mallanna added.

around the mid-1960s, beginning with Paigham (1959). In Telugu cinema, she found great success, appearing alongside N. T. Rama Rao in notable films such as Seetarama Kalyanam (1961), Jagadeka Veeruni Katha (1961), and Daagudu Moothalu (1964), in addition to Amara Shilpi Jakkanna (1964), which was a remake of a Kannada film. Her collaboration with Akkineni Nageswara Rao in Pelli Kaanuka (1960) was also well-received. The first Telugu film to utilise dubbing was Panduranga Maharyam (1957), where Krishna Kumari provided her voice. However, in the years that followed, Saroja Devi learned to speak Telugu herself. Remarkably, she holds the record as the only Indian actress to star as the lead heroine in 161 consecutive films over a span of 29 years, from 1955 to 1984.The actress was honored with the Padma Sri, which is the fourth highest civilian award, in 1969, and later received the Padma Bhushan, the third highest civilian distinction, in 1992 from the Union government. Saroja Devi made her final appearance on the silver screen in 2019 in the Kannada movie Nata Sarvabhoudha, featuring Puneeth Rajkumar.

visions gave a detailed power point presentation on stations identified for redevelopment pertaining to their division, project cost, targeted date of completion and present status of the work.The General Manager appreciated the progress of works in stations undertaken for major upgradation across the zone. He instructed the officials to maintain the same pace of works so as to complete the projects at the earliest. He also advised the officials to ensure compliance of all safety guidelines and quality of works, without fail. He instructed the officials that proper precautions have to be taken at every worksite, without causing any inconvenience to passengers. During the meeting, Sanjay Kumar reviewed the safety precautions being followed at Level crossing gates across the zone. He laid special emphasis on identified vulnerable LC gates and instructed the officials to conduct regular inspections, counsel the staff and strictly ensure adherence of all safety procedures.

VIAN Properties announces launch of their latest residential project, VIAN MRIDA

Hyderabad, July 14:In a landmark moment for the Hyderabad real estate landscape, VIAN Properties Private Limited hosted a spectacular Channel Partners Meet at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Banjara Hills, to announce the launch of their latest extraordinary residential project, VIAN MRIDA.The event marked the official unveiling of the collaborative project between VIAN Properties & Ira Reality, two trusted names in the industry, now united as Ira Vian Properties Private Limited. This partnership brings together a shared vision, combined strengths, and a deep commitment to building exceptional communities, beginning with Vian Mrida.The event was graced by the presence of key leadership from VIAN Properties Private Limited, including Arun Jupally, Surendranath Kanchi and Sai Saravana Vaddula. Their insights and collective vision reinforced the company's mission to deliver quality-driven, future-ready homes that align with the aspirations of modern Indian families.Vian Mrida, a REERA approved project, is located in the rapidly developing neighbourhood of Kollur. It represents a distinctive blend of innovative architecture, modern lifestyle amenities, and excellent connectivity. It is also South India's first stepped elevation project, offering a visually striking structure with practical functionality. The name Mrida symbolises soil and divine feminine energy. It reflects the

grounding presence of the earth and is also a synonym for Maa Durga, the Goddess of Power. It signifies the Mrida Chakra, one of the seven essential energy centres of the human body.Spanning 2.62 acres, the project features a single iconic tower with 356 premium apartments in 2 and 3 BHK configurations. The G+32 floor structure offers expansive 270-degree views with its stepped Elevation in a single tower, 8 Feet wide balconies, and 10 Feet corridors, ensuring ample natural light and ventilation. With two levels of parking and seamless 100 Feet road access, the design prioritises convenience without compromising on comfort. The clubhouse in 4 Levels and 40,000 sq. ft. of curated lifestyle amenities serve the diverse needs of residents of all ages.Strategically located near the Financial District and Neo Polis, top-tier educational institutions, hospitals, and major arterial roads, Vian Mrida is set to redefine the standards of residential living in Hyderabad's most promising suburban growth zone. The Channel Partners Meet witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 125 esteemed channel partners and stakeholders. From an in-depth project presentation to an engaging evening of networking and celebration, the event generated a wave of excitement for the journey ahead, not just for Vian Mrida, but for the ambitious pipeline of future projects.

Ramchandra Rao accorded grand welcome in Nalgonda

Hyderabad, July 14 BJP Telangana State president N Ramchandra Rao was given a grand welcome by the party workers and the people during his visit to Choutuppal. Rao spoke at the welcome meeting held on this occasion. "After assuming charge as the Telangana State president, I requested that my first visit be to Nalgonda district. Since this is the district where I was born, I specifically requested it. The party also gave its permission for it. It advised me to work for the strengthening of the party," he said. He also said people had been waiting for the BJP government in Telangana for a long time and added that the enthusiasm seen among the workers and people today was proof of this. He noted that the BJP flag should be hoisted in every village of Nalgonda district and added that everyone should work to ensure that the Bharatiya Janata Party wins in every

village.We should all join hands and launch a public movement against the anti-people policies of the Congress government. The Congress party cheated farmers and students by not fulfilling the promises made in the last elections. The farmer suicides are continuing in the State. The education system has been corrupted due to non-payment of fee reimbursement dues. The previous BRS government was mired in corruption. The current Congress government is turning the State into chaos due to corruption and administrative failure. People are wondering 'why did we elect Congress'. Only BJP can build a golden Telangana, a democratic Telangana, and a developed Telangana. That is why BJP is the only alternative," he said and requested all the party workers to work together and work hard to bring the Bharatiya Janata Party to power.

No delay in resolving public issues: GHMC Addl Commissioner tells officials

Hyderabad, July 14 GHMC Additional Commissioner Raghu Prasad today advised the officials not to delay in resolving the grievances received from the public during the public issue. Additional Commissioners Venugopal, Satyanarayana, Geetha Radhika Pankaja and Alivelu Mangatayaru participated in the public issue program organized at the GHMC headquarters on Monday and received the grievances from people from all over the city, examined them thoroughly and instructed the concerned officials to resolve them on the spot.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghu Prasad said the officials should make special efforts to resolve the problems of the city people. He instructed the officials to send a written reply to the petitioner stating in how many days they will resolve personal and social issues. A total of 72 complaints were received during the public hearing held at the GHMC headquarters. Out of the total complaints, 39 were received from the Town Planning Department, 10 from the Engineering Department, seven from the Sanitation and Health De-

partment, four from the Finance Department, three from the Tax Section, two from the Estate & Sports Department, one each from the Vigilance, Electrical and Land Acquisition Departments, and four complaints were received through phone-in.A total of 98 complaints were received from the six zones under the jurisdiction of GHMC. Out of which 34 were received from the Kukatpally Zone, 18 from the Serilingampally Zone, 16 from the Secunderabad Zone, 15 from the LB Nagar Zone, 13 from the Charminar Zone, and two from the Khairatabad Zone. CE Ratnakar, Additional CCP B. Venkanna, Pradeep, Ranjith, Vigilance Additional SP Sudarshan, Chief Medical Officer Dr Padmaja, Chief Veterinary Officer Abdul Vakeel, Chief PRO Mohammed Murthuja, Joint Commissioner Sports Vani Devi, Advertisement Officer Durdhana Bhanu, Joint Commissioner Estate Yadaya, Chief Horticulture Officer Sunanda, Vidyut EE Mamatha, UCD PD Devender Reddy, Deputy EE Panasa Reddy, Mohan Reddy, Housing Deputy EE Rajeshwara Rao, and others participated in the program.

International Training Programme on Urban Governance

Hyderabad, July 14 A ten-day training programme on Urban Governance for delegates from Nepal commenced on Monday at the National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR), Hyderabad, and will conclude on July 23, 2025. Sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs, this programme underscores the continuous bond of fraternity between India and Nepal.The participants include Mayors, Chairmen, and Chief Administrative Officers of municipalities from the districts of Darchula, Baitadi, and Dadelghura in Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal.

Dr G. Narendra Kumar, Director General of NIRDPR, welcomed the delegation and highlighted India's historic ties with Nepal. He recalled the 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship as the foundation of bilateral cooperation and noted ongoing collaboration through forums such as BBIN and SAARC. Dr Kumar also underlined NIRDPR's pivotal role in facilitating capacity building across South Asia and stressed the importance of collaborative learning to address urban and rural development challenges effectively.

At the inaugural session, Saketa Raja Musinipalli, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, emphasized

We should promote brotherhood in society: Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani

Hyderabad, July 14 “We should promote brotherhood in society and respect each other,” said Dr B.R. Ambedkar University Vice Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani today. Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University's Telugu Department and Yakshi Sanstha organized a discussion forum titled ‘Chavadi’ with creative dialogue on “Dalit Bahujana Art Forms – Respect as a Constitutional Value” on Monday. Speaking as the chief guest of the program, Professor Ghanta Chakrapani said there should be a platform for people to talk. He also said everyone was equal before the Indian Constitution and that efforts were still being made to achieve equality. He said Ambedkar wrote the Constitution for everyone and did not just create reservations. Author Prof. Jayadhir Tirumala Rao said even though they have had identity badges (motifs) since the twelfth century, they still do not have recognition. He urged the governments to protect the art forms that are facing neglect. Artists from ten different art forms participated in the program and expressed their concerns. Artists from Gondu, Dubbula, Kinnera, Nai Brahmin, Tera Sarila, Kati Papala, Goundla Jetties and so on participated in the event.Eminent journalist K. Srinivas said that the word values has been included in the kingdoms of the world. He suggested that people should live a respectable life. He said that existence, knowledge, and presence should be for every caste. He expressed



concern that the responsibility of respecting those who depend on caste professions lies with the society, otherwise there is a risk of these art forms disappearing in the coming days. Eminent poet and orator Gorati Venkanna said social respect was the right of everyone and added that it was everyone's responsibility to preserve rural art forms. Writers and activists like Gogu Shyamala, Bandaru Vijaya, Padma Vangapalli, Ramesh Karthik Nayak, Naresh Kumar Sufi participated in this Chavadi program and spoke about various aspects of the society and the problems faced by them.

Convicted for murdering her father, Telangana HC asks petitioner to pursue LLB from prison



GNS News Agency, July 4

Father murdered by daughter, Telangana High court, LLB student, HyderabadThe senior counsel sought a directive from the court to the college, which was denied by the bench, stating that it could not interfere with the rules of the college. (Source: tshc.gov.in)The Telangana High Court Friday allowed a 23-year-old woman, convicted and currently lodged in Cherlapally Central Prison, to pursue her second-semester LLB course from within the prison using available technologies. The division bench of Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya and Justice B R Madhusudhan Rao was hearing a prayer seeking direction to the authorities of Dr VRK college of Law in MehdiPatnam, Hyderabad, to receive examination fee and examination application form of the petitioner relating to second semester and also to

write second semester examination of LLB course scheduled to be held this month.P Prabhakar Rao, the senior counsel appearing for the petitioner, informed the court that the college was not willing to collect the examination fee as well as the examination application form, citing the requirements for physically attending the classes and a mandatory 60 percent attendance.

The senior counsel sought a directive from the court to the college, which was denied by the bench, stating that it could not interfere with the rules of the college. The original application for bail for one month for the petitioner to appear for the exams was also denied by the court. The senior counsel, thereafter, referred to a Kerala High Court judgment permitting an appellant to undergo online classes from prison. Responding to this, the bench said, "Needless to say, there can't be an embargo, in law or equity, from preventing the appellant to pursue her LLB course from inside the prison precincts, the appellant would certainly be entitled to pursue, in coordination with the college authorities." "The appellant still wants to appear for physical classes and our petition for bail is posted for July 28. For now, the court has directed us to find out if the necessary infrastructure for permitting online classes for the petitioner is available in the prison as well as the college," the senior counsel said, when contacted. The appellant, Priyanka Sula, and her siblings Medipalli Tharun, 28, and Anjali Sula, 29, have been lodged in Cherlapally Central Prison since August 2024 after the court convicted them of the murder of their father and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

Woman found dead in central Noida; man she was in relationship with arrested

GNS News Agency, July 14

Two days after a 37-year-old woman was found murdered in her house in central Noida, the police said on Saturday that she was allegedly killed by the man she was in a relationship with. The accused was arrested after he was injured in a shootout with the police. Shabnam, who hailed from Luharli village in Gautam Buddh Nagar's Dadri, was found dead at her house, with her throat slit, in Haibatpur village in central Noida. Following a complaint from her son, the police registered an FIR under Section 103(1) (murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at Ecotech-3 police station. Ajay Kumar Singh, Station House Officer of Ecotech-3 police station, said Shabnam was killed by her partner, Mukeem, as he did not wish to continue their relationship. "Shabnam had been staying away from her husband, Shabuddin, for the last eight years. Shabuddin and Mukeem were relatives, and after their separation, a romantic relationship developed between Mukeem and her," Singh said. According to Singh, as Mukeem's children grew older, they objected to his relationship with Shabnam and pressured him to leave her. "He works as a carpenter and got a contract for a house in the Nirman Vihar colony nearly 15 days ago. Muneem had also rented a room nearby and called Shabnam to meet on Thursday," said Singh. After Shabnam reached Mukeem's rented room on Thursday, he brought noodles for her, the police said. "Initially he had planned to shoot her but he feared that the noise from firing would alert the neighbours and therefore he slit her throat and left after locking the room from outside. Later during the night, we received a call from a neighbour after he suspected that what he saw from his window appeared to be a



dead body of a woman," Singh said.

Two police teams were deployed to crack the case, Shakti Mohan Avasthy, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Central Noida, said, adding that Mukeem was arrested after a brief encounter between the police on Saturday morning. "The police team of the Ecotech-3 police station was checking near Chauganpur roundabout when they saw a man on a motorcycle and signalled him to stop. Instead, he turned his motorcycle around. The police team took immediate action and chased him. To escape, he left his motorcycle behind and tried to jump into an empty courtyard. But the police surrounded him. To escape, he fired at the police team. The police retaliated and he was injured," DCP Avasthy said. During interrogation, Mukeem allegedly revealed that he was a resident of Dadri and had been in a relationship with Shabnam for over eight years. His wife and children were opposed to this, he allegedly said, adding that this was the reason why he murdered her.

Aiming to open Yellow Line of Bengaluru Metro by August 15, says BMRCL MD as demand grows

GNS News Agency, July 14

Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya along with Bangalore Central MP P C Mohan and other BJP MLAs held a citizens' protest rally in Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya along with Bangalore Central MP P C Mohan and other BJP MLAs held a citizens' protest rally Amid growing demand to open the Yellow Line of the Bengaluru Metro connecting RV Road and Bommasandra via Electronic City, Maheshwar Rao, the managing director of the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has assured that the agency is targeting to commission the stretch by August 15.

This comes after Bangalore South MP Tejasvi Surya along with Bangalore Central MP P C Mohan and other BJP MLAs held a citizens' protest rally under the slogan "Yellow Line na open maadi (Open Yellow Line)" at Lalbagh Main Gate on Saturday, urging BMRCL to commission the much-awaited stretch. Additionally, Surya also demanded that the metro rail corporation make public the fare fixation report, which had recommended over 100 per cent hike in Metro fares, triggering public ire. Addressing the gathering at the protest site, Rao said, "Currently, we have three trains, with the third train having arrived last month. Since these are automated train operating systems, an independent safety assessment test is underway which will check the safety controls of these driverless trains. We are expecting the report by July 7."

He added, "Once the report is submitted within next week, we will request regulatory clearance and approvals from CMRS (Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety). The entire regulatory process and necessary approvals will need at least a month's time. Therefore, tentatively, we are targeting to operationalise the stretch by August 15." Rao also stated that due to insufficient train supply, BMRCL is likely to operationalise the stretch using only three trains with a headway of 20 minutes. "The trains will stop at only five to six stations. We will study the ridership patterns, including demand for services, till Bommasandra and streamline the operations accordingly. We are expecting two trains every month from the Titagarh Rail System starting August," he said.

Meanwhile, Rao stated that finalisation of loans for Phase 3 of the Bengaluru Metro is expected by March 2026. Phase 3, which includes two elevated corridors spanning 44.65 km with 31 stations, is estimated to cost Rs 15,611 crore. Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is likely to provide a significant loan, with approximately Rs 7,577 crore (60%) expected to be sourced from it. Rao said that pre-preparatory works will be done by September and tenders will be floated by October, subject to JICA approvals. Slamming the BMRCL in connection with the lack of transparency over the fare fixation report (FFR), Tejasvi Surya said, "Metro and bus services are the two most crucial modes of public transport. Recently, BMRCL hiked Metro fares by up to 100%. Before announcing the revision, a committee had gone on an international tour and submitted a report, based on which fares were increased by as much as 130%. Since the hike, Metro ridership has



dropped by nearly 1 lakh commuters every day." He added, "Several journalists and activists have filed RTI applications seeking details of the report. However, even after three months, the report has not been made public. What is the BMRCL trying to hide? FFR is no national secret that publishing it would help India's enemies." The BMRCL MD said he will respond to Surya in this regard through a letter. Meanwhile, on the status of the Hebbal-Sarjapur Metro corridor, Rao said, "The government of India has asked us to rework the cost. An independent agency has been engaged to explore whether the cost can be brought down. The MP raised concerns about the proposed tunnel road on the same alignment. We will look into it."

500 kg peacock feathers seized from Pune's Somwar Peth, 11 UP natives detained

GNS News Agency, July 14

The Maharashtra Forest Department on Friday detained 11 Uttar Pradesh natives at Pune's Somwar Peth for illegally storing peacock feathers for sale. The officials have seized around 500 kg of feathers from their possession. The forest department stated that plucking, storing, trading, or purchasing peacock feathers is illegal.

"These feathers are often used blindly for religious purposes or home decoration, which threatens the very existence of peacocks," the forest department said in a statement. The police have booked the accused under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. "We received a tip-off that large quantities of peacock feathers were in their possession Narpatgiri Chowk," says Manoj Barbole, Range Forest Officer. A forest team sent to the spot found that the 11 accused had purchased peacock feathers for illegal trade, and that other individuals were storing peacock feathers for sale at Sant Gadge Baba Dharamshala, in a residential location. The accused would be produced in court on Saturday, the officer added. Further investigation is being conducted under Mangesh Tate, Assistant Conservator of Forests.

Haryana's vigilance dept arrests Palwal Chief Medical Officer for accepting bribe



GNS News Agency, July 4

The Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau of Haryana on Thursday arrested Dr Jai Bhagwan, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Palwal, for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1 lakh. The Gurgaon unit of the Vigilance department also recovered an additional Rs 3 lakh in cash from a cupboard at the doctor's official residence in Palwal during a raid.

Dr Bhagwan has been booked under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act and Section 308(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) that deals with punishment for extortion, at the State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau Police Station in Faridabad. According to the complainant who runs Sunrise Trauma Hospital in Palwal along with three others, Dr Bhagwan had been threatening to shut down their hospital, citing operational deficiencies. The CMO al-

legedly demanded Rs 15 lakh to allow the hospital to continue functioning, claiming he needed to pay off other officials. The complainant stated that he had already paid Rs 6 lakh about 20 days ago and an additional Rs 1 lakh on Wednesday. Dr Bhagwan then demanded the remaining Rs 8 lakh, of which the complainant arranged Rs 1 lakh for payment Thursday night, leading to the sting operation by the Vigilance Bureau. The Vigilance department has urged the public to report bribe demands by government officials to the toll-free numbers 1800-180-2022 or 1064 for prompt action. In January, the Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had recovered Rs 3.65 crore and gold worth Rs 6.5 lakh from the residence of a retired Haryana Development and Panchayat department official. The recovery came after the ACB conducted a raid at the Panchkula residence of the official in connection with a scam worth Rs 50 crore and arrested the accused, identified as Shamsher Singh, who had retired on November 30 last year. ACB officials had said that currency notes were found in a bed and almirahs at Shamsher's house at Panchkula Sector 28. The ACB had registered a case on January 24 this year against junior officials of Haryana Development and Panchayat department posted in Faridabad apart from an outsourcing services firm. An audit report of Comptroller of Auditor General (CAG) had earlier found that funds were disbursed to the Palwal District Development and Panchayat Officer for the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 without approval of Chief Accounts Officer of the panchayat department.

Takht Patna Sahib declares Sukhbir Badal 'Tankhayia' for defying summons

GNS News Agency, July 4

The five Singh Sahibs or head priests of the Takht Sri Patna Sahib, one of the five seats of temporal authority of Sikhism, on Saturday declared Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president Sukhbir Singh Badal a 'Tankhayia'—guilty of violating Sikh religious conduct—for allegedly ignoring its summons and undermining its authority. In August last year, the Akal Takht Sahib had passed a similar verdict against the former Punjab deputy chief minister.

"This action has been taken in view of the events that began on May 21, 2025, when unauthorised and unconstitutional interference was carried out by the Jathedars of Akal Takht and Takht Sri Damdama Sahib, challenging the established norms, constitution, and authority of Takht Patna Sahib," Takht Patna Sahib Jathedar Giani Baldev Singh said, announcing the decision. "Sukhbir Badal was involved in influencing and interfering with the affairs of Takht Patna Sahib, particularly during a series of controversial decisions and actions surrounding the status of ex-Patna Sahib Jathedar Giani Ranjit Singh Gohar. Badal was given two opportunities to appear and present his position, but he failed to do so," Baldev Singh said. "Even after an extension of 20 days—reportedly granted at the request of Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) president Harjinder Singh Dhami—Badal did not comply," he added.

"By repeatedly ignoring the summons and undermining the authority of Takht Patna Sahib, Sukhbir Singh Badal has violated the religious code. As a result, he is hereby declared Tankhayia," Baldev Singh said. In August 2024, the Akal Takht Sahib had passed a similar verdict against Badal. Then Jathedar Giani Raghubir Singh had said that Badal had harmed Sikh interests through decisions taken during his 2007–2017 tenure as deputy chief minister. "Until he seeks forgiveness before Guru Granth Sahib in humility, the Tankhayia status shall remain," the Singh Sahibs had said. In December 2024, the Akal Takht hosted a gathering of the five Singh Sahibs to revisit Badal's previous 'tankhah', the punishment for violating the Sikh religious code. At that time, he reportedly admitted to "all mistakes" made during his government and was assigned religious punishment, which included performing various sevas (voluntary services) at the Takhts, such as guarding the gates, washing utensils, and listening to kirtan (devotional singing).

Reacting to the development, SGPC president Harjinder Singh Dhami said it was an act "beyond their jurisdiction and one that creates confusion within the Panth (Sikh community)". Dhami said that the traditions and customs of the Khalsa Panth are meant to resolve community



issues, not to create crises within the community. "Undermining the supremacy of Sri Akal Takht Sahib is inappropriate, and such actions could lead to internal discord within the Sikh community," he added. While Takht Sri Patna Sahib holds great respect within the Sikh world, the authority to deliberate on Panthic matters lies solely with Sri Akal Takht Sahib, Dhami said. He further said that there is a longstanding historical tradition of Panthic issues being addressed jointly by the five Singh Sahibs under the leadership of Sri Akal Takht Sahib. "It is this very tradition that has uplifted the Sikh community on the global stage," he said, warning that if the supremacy of Sri Akal Takht Sahib starts being challenged by other Takhts, it would severely damage the essence and richness of Sikh traditions. He stressed that, especially in the current matter, the way forward must be through mutual dialogue, so that instead of visible conflict within the community, Sikh strength can be directed towards community interests, the prosperity of the Panth, and the promotion of Sikh values. The present dispute stems from a controversial May 21 decision by the Punjab-based Takhts—Akal Takht, Takht Damdama Sahib, and Takht Keshgarh Sahib—to lift the excommunication of Giani Ranjit Singh Gohar and simultaneously impose sanctions on the current Patna Sahib Jathedar Giani Baldev Singh and priest Gurdial Singh. In response, Takht Patna Sahib retaliated by declaring both Giani Kuldeep Singh Gargaj (acting Jathedar of Akal Takht) and Giani Tek Singh Dhanaula (Takht Damdama Sahib) as 'Tankhayia'. The Takht also summoned Sukhbir Singh Badal, alleging that he played a role in orchestrating the interventions against Patna Sahib's authority. With Badal's continued absence, Saturday's announcement marks a formal escalation in the clash between Sikh religious authorities and political figures, underscoring ongoing tensions between various Takhts and the political leadership of SAD.

Central Railway introduces first EMU rake with compartment for senior citizens



Central Railway (CR) has launched its first Electric Multiple Unit (EMU) rake with a redeveloped compartment solely for senior citizens in the Mumbai suburban network. The step was taken on the directions of the Railway Board and is intended to make travel easier for elderly passengers during peak hours.

"This prototype is the first in a series of planned modifications. We will gradually roll out similar changes across the EMU fleet operating on Mumbai's suburban lines. The move aligns with the broader goal of inclusive infrastructure and creating a more commuter-friendly environment for all age groups," the CR spokesperson said. The renovation work was carried out at a Matunga workshop, where a luggage van in the sixth coach from the Mumbai side was redesigned as a separate senior citizen section. The coach now features infrastructure and safety apparatus intended to provide easier boarding and access to elderly passengers. The upgraded compartment has an improved seating arrangement consisting of three three-seater benches and two two-seater ones, giving a total of 13 seating spaces. The design is intended to provide easier and more manageable seating arrangements for elderly passengers, particularly during rush hour. On the structural front, stainless steel tubular partitions have been fitted. The partitions include eye-level panels as well as grab poles incorporated into the design, enhancing visibility within the compartment and providing improved support when standing or moving. Knurled vertical grab poles have also been included

close to the doorways for enhanced grip, and emergency ladders have been installed under both door frames for enhanced safety. The interior of the compartments has also been coated with vinyl wrapping to enhance the visual design and facilitate easier identification by passengers of the reserved area. The officials explained that the utilisation of visual elements aims to differentiate the coach from ordinary compartments but maintain simplicity in design. Railway officials explained that the purpose of this renovation is not only to enhance passenger experience but also to meet accessibility standards and enable public transport to be made more accessible. "The senior citizen coach will be tracked for feedback, which will guide design adjustments in subsequent conversions. It is a targeted effort by Indian Railways to meet the mobility needs of elderly citizens while persisting with more flexible initiatives aimed at upgrading suburban railway infrastructure," the spokesperson added.

Man injured in Korutla stabbing dies during treatment in hospital

GNS News Agency, July 14Jagtial: Eryala Satyanarayana (49), who was injured in a stabbing incident in Korutla a few days ago, died while undergoing treatment at a hospital on Friday night. A resident of Ravindra Road in Korutla town, Satyanarayana sustained serious injuries after he was attacked with a knife by one Ganga Narsaiah, a resident of the same locality.

Family members had shifted him to a hospital in Karimnagar town, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Based on a complaint lodged by the family, the police registered a case and launched an investigation.

Cultural appropriation isn’t just colonial, it’s casteist



When Italian luxury house Prada recently unveiled its version of the Kolhapuri chappal, Indian social media was quick to react. Accusations of cultural appropriation and erasure followed, accompanied by demands for proper attribution and a wider call to “decolonise fashion”. But what if the cultural erasure didn’t start with Prada, or with the West? What if the deeper, older story is not just about colonial appropriation, but about caste-based appropriation from within? Beneath the Indian diaspora’s outrage lies a deeper, more uncomfortable truth: the issue isn’t just about what is being borrowed, but who gets to borrow and who doesn’t. The Kolhapuri controversy exposes not only colonial legacies but also the casteist dynamics embedded within India’s cultural economy. Originating in Maharashtra’s Kolhapur region and its neighbouring districts, the Kolhapuri chappal is known for its durability and distinct structure. What is less commonly discussed is who makes them. Historical accounts of Kolhapuri craftsmanship often mention specific sub-castes such as the Chamar, Dhor, and Matang: scheduled caste communities historically assigned the task of leatherwork, a practice stigmatised due to its contact with animal hides. These artisans, often from marginalised backgrounds, tan, dye, and stitch the leather by hand, creating a product celebrated for its durability and aesthetic. Yet, mainstream narratives often generalise Kolhapuris as a “Maharashtrian” or “Indian” craft, erasing the caste-specific labour behind them.

Within India, cultural appropriation often wears the mask of reverence. Many Indian artforms, textiles, jewellery, and crafts originate from Dalit-Adivasi aesthetics, labour, and design but commercialised by upper caste (Savarna) owned businesses. When a luxury Indian label collaborates with artisans, it is seen as uplifting tradition. But these collaborations rarely involve co-authorship or equity. Artisans are paid per piece. Designs are owned by the brand. The origin story is softened into a marketing stunt. While artisans toil for minimal wages, the profits and prestige accrue to brands. Artisans, often from marginalised social backgrounds, form the backbone of India’s handicraft sector but

lack control over branding or distribution. Savarna designers and brands act as gatekeepers, curating and profiting from these crafts while framing their role as “saviours of craft”.

Indian fashion runways feature designers predominantly from Savarna castes. The narratives in Indian fashion are largely shaped by editorials run by upper-caste surnames. The leadership roles in the Indian fashion and textile sector are disproportionately represented by upper castes. Meanwhile, Bahujans remain largely invisible in decision-making roles, often limited to labour roles. Their labour, when filtered through a Savarna designer’s lens, becomes “art.” When done independently, it remains “ethnic” or “rural.” Many traditional artisans lack access to formal design education, capital investment, or English-language fluency. Such barriers make it difficult for Bahujans to participate in the elite circuits of fashion. Bahujans are often reduced to tokenistic roles: a one season’s showstopper or a lookbook model, to signal performative inclusivity without ceding power. Bahujans are rarely seen in leadership roles, such as creative directors or brand owners, yet their identity is exploited in marketing campaigns that romanticise their poverty and struggles as “hardwork” or “heritage.” This tokenism commodifies Bahujan struggle while denying them agency, perpetuating a cycle where their labour is celebrated, but their voices are silenced. The Indian diaspora’s calls to decolonise fashion often overlook these internal caste hierarchies. This blind spot is telling. National pride tends to eclipse caste critique. In calling out foreign appropriation, many forget to examine who within India controls narrative, capital, and authorship. The act is the same. The reaction shifts from outrage to celebration depending on who borrows and who gets to author the narrative.

The question isn’t whether Kolhapuris or any Indian craft should evolve. They must. But the more urgent question is: who gets to decide how they evolve? Who profits? Who gets cited in design schools and magazines, and who remains a footnote? True cultural equity is about fair wages, credit, representation in leadership roles and platforms for co-authorship in design and storytelling which rebalance historic exclusion. The Prada-Kolhapuri controversy is more than a clash over sandals; it’s a mirror reflecting how global and local systems both flatten the histories of marginalised makers while uplifting those with socio-economic capital. Within the Indian fashion ecosystem, the intersections of caste and class dictate who gets to be the “designer” and who remains the uncredited, underpaid and exploited “artisan.” Until credit, compensation, and representation are equitably shared, cultural appropriation — whether by Prada or privileged Indian elites — will remain a form of theft, rooted in both colonial and casteist legacies.

Building awareness around a rare and often misunderstood cancer: sarcoma

Every year in July, Sarcoma Awareness Month brings attention to a group of rare and often misunderstood cancers. Sarcoma is not just one disease: it is a family of cancers that originate in the bones and soft tissues such as fat, muscles, blood vessels, nerves, and deep skin tissues. While sarcomas account for only about 1% of all adult cancers and 15% of paediatric cancers, their impact is profound, especially due to limited awareness and late diagnosis. Raising awareness is crucial to helping with early detection, advancing research, and supporting those affected. Types of sarcomas Sarcomas are primarily divided into two main categories: soft tissue sarcomas and bone sarcomas. There are more than 70 subtypes, and this complicates both diagnosis and treatment. Examples of common soft tissue sarcomas include liposarcoma (originating from fat tissue), leiomyosarcoma (arising from smooth muscle), and angiosarcoma (developing from blood vessels). Bone sarcomas consist of osteosarcoma (frequently seen in children and young adults), Ewing sarcoma, and chondrosarcoma. A sarcoma typically appears as a painless lump or swelling that may increase in size over time. Since these signs can be confused with non-cancerous conditions such as cysts or injuries, diagnosis is often postponed, permitting the cancer to advance.

While sarcoma can affect anyone, certain risk factors increase susceptibility. These include: genetic conditions such as Li-Fraumeni syndrome or neurofibromatosis; previous radiation therapy, especially in areas later affected by sarcoma; chemical exposure to agents like vinyl chloride or dioxins; chronic swelling (lymphedema) or certain inherited syndromes. Children and young adults are more frequently diagnosed with bone sarcomas, while soft tissue sarcomas are more common in older adults.

One of the major difficulties with sarcoma is the limited awareness among the public, and even within the clinical community. Some general practitioners might go their entire careers without encountering a sarcoma case, either because they have not come across one, or because they may not be aware of the signs and symptoms, resulting in a missed diagnosis. These situations influence treatment outcomes, as therapies are more effective when administered in the early stages of sarcoma. Management usually consists of surgery, radiation therapy, and chemotherapy. Developments in targeted therapies and immunotherapy provide new optimism, especially for those diagnosed with metastatic or recurrent sarcoma. Nevertheless, because sarcomas are rare and varied, research funding is significantly less than that for more prevalent cancers. This paucity of funding has a negative impact on drug development, clinical trial opportunities, and access to specialised treatment modalities. The importance of awareness

Sarcoma Awareness Month is essential to inform the public, legislators, and medical professionals about the distinct difficulties associated with this type of cancer. Heightened awareness can facilitate earlier diagnoses, which in turn create an opportunity to improve survival rates. Additionally, it fosters public backing for research funding and motivates pharmaceutical companies and researchers to focus on creating improved treatment alternatives. Community events, educational webinars, fundraising campaigns, and patient testimonials help amplify the voices of those affected by sarcoma. The yellow ribbon, the symbol of sarcoma awareness, serves as a visual reminder of the need for continued advocacy and support. Supporting patients and families A sarcoma diagnosis can be life-changing not just for the patient but also for their families. Given the rarity of the disease, many patients feel isolated or overwhelmed. Connecting with sarcoma-specific support groups and organizations can provide emotional, financial, and informational assistance. Organisations such as the Sarcoma Foundation of America, Children’s Cancer Research Fund, and Sarcoma UK offer resources for patients, fund research initiatives, and advocate for better public health policies. These

Kailash Manasarovar Yatra: Pilgrims’ progress



Damini Pandya, 68, had taken a vow of silence for eight days before she reached the clear, ice-blue waters of the Manasarovar Lake in Tibet. There, the retired government officer from Ahmedabad in Gujarat gazed at the majestic snow-capped Kailash mountain in the distance. It had taken her 17 days to get there, walking for three days with low oxygen at an average altitude of about 15,000 feet above sea level. Breaking into a wide smile, she splashed cold water over her head — a ritual that Hindu pilgrims believe purifies the body and soul. Eight days after she began her maun vrat (vow of silence), Pandya crossed into India at the Nathu La Pass in Sikkim. Breaking her vow, she said that the silence had helped her absorb the spiritual significance of the yatra. “I did not utter a word for days because I wanted to be with god. I broke my vow after I entered India, but I don’t have words to describe the cosmic energy I felt in Lord Shiva’s abode,” she said.

Pandya and more than 30 other yatris spent a week in Tibet’s Ngari prefecture, where they trekked the 52-km circumference of Mount Kailash, called the parikrama or the kora. This was Pandya’s second solo trip after 2019. She entered Tibet through the Lipulekh pass in Uttarakhand, which, she said, was a shorter route compared to the journey through Nathu La pass. It may well be her last visit to Mount Kailash, as the Chinese government has restricted the yatra to those under the age of 70, given the high altitude and concerns about illnesses. The youngest member of the group, Arpit Rai, 19, from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh, who travelled with his father Shashikant Rai, 55, said he is keen to return to Mount Kailash. “Between Kashi (another name for Varanasi) and Kailash, Shivji (Lord Shiva) is the common factor. Perhaps Shivji wanted us to visit together for the first time. It was an unforgettable journey despite the long travel time in altitudes we are not used to,” he said. The yatris travelled for 14 days by bus covering nearly 3,000 km and took three days to do the parikrama by foot, covering around 50 km. Geopolitical considerations

Damini Pandya and the Rais were part of the first batch of Indian pilgrims since 2019 who were allowed to cross into Tibet as part of the Kailash-Manasarovar Yatra, organised by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs and the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2020, the COVID-19 lockdown; the violent clashes between the Indian Army and the People’s Liberation Army at Galwan Valley along the Line of Actual Control; and stand-offs at other points such as Demchok, about 250 km from Kailash Manasarovar, ensured the yatra was suspended. Four years later, after talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping, Delhi and Beijing began discussions on normalising relations and restoring a number of different mechanisms between them. The yatra, held between June and August each year due to weather conditions, was prioritised, even as other mechanisms, such as direct flights between India and China, are set to restart. Suman Lata, who recently retired as a school teacher in Delhi, said that while crossing over, the group did not feel any of the tensions between the neighbours that have dominated bilateral ties over the past few years. “We have no link with politics, so we don’t think about such things. I can only say that the Indian government sent us off very well and the Chinese government has received us extremely well too,” she said. Lata was among the 13 women on the group. Like her, half of them had come alone on the yatra. Women pilgrims with their certificates after returning from the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra 2025, in Gangtok.

Women pilgrims with their certificates after returning from the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra 2025, in Gangtok. | For officials on both sides, the final go-ahead in February 2025 presented a daunting task. They had to build facilities along the way in a short period of time. These included re-viving immigration posts at various entry points for the yatris, providing rest stops, oxygen banks, and medical facilities.



groups also push for inclusion of sarcoma in national and international cancer agendas. Even if you are not directly affected by sarcoma, there are several ways to support the cause: educate yourself and others about the signs and symptoms of sarcoma; participate in awareness campaigns during Sarcoma Awareness Month; donate to sarcoma research foundations or volunteer your time; advocate for better healthcare policies and more research funding and support patients and families through acts of kindness and community engagement. This July, and every month, let us stand together to shine a light on sarcoma and support those who face it with courage and hope.

World’s largest digital camera starts observing the cosmos

Ever imagined seeing a golf ball on the surface of the moon in an image taken from the earth? This is now possible with the Vera C. Rubin Observatory (VRO), the world’s latest astronomy facility, located on one of the peaks of mountain Cerro Pachón in northern Chile. Jointly funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy, this 8.4-metre telescope offers an unprecedented view of the universe.

The 3,200-megapixel (MP) camera installed on the VRO has 67-times more pixels than an iPhone 16 Pro camera. The large mirrors and unique design allow the telescope to capture wide-angle 3.5-degree-diameter images, equivalent to the size of seven full moons in the sky. These unique features will allow the VRO to scan the entire southern hemisphere sky every three nights, which it will do continuously for 10 years. This ultra-high definition, wide angle survey of the sky will thus create the longest astronomical time-lapse movie of all time, allowing for many new discoveries in the solar neighbourhood and deep space alike.

While the future holds endless possibilities for this next generation observing facility, the VRO was constructed to serve four major science goals. One of them is understanding the nature of dark matter, the mysterious substance that makes up 80% of all matter in the universe. But while dark matter can’t be seen, it causes galaxies to clump together in specific ways. Astronomers will study the distribution of galaxies near and far in order to understand the properties of dark matter, and figure out what it is made of. Since the VRO will scan the entire southern hemisphere sky over and over again, scientists will also get a pretty good idea of how the sky looks generally. This will allow them to pick up any changes in the sky relative to images taken a few days ago, a few weeks ago, and, eventually, a few years ago. In fact its state-of-the-art technology allows the VRO to compare each image to the ‘general’ image of that part of the sky within 60 seconds and issue an alert if any changes are detected. When fully operational, the VRO

will generate around 10 million alerts from 20 TB of raw data collected every night. That’s equivalent to more than three years of streaming videos. The changing sky While most of the changes in the sky are due to fast-moving objects such as comets, there exist other celestial entities whose position and brightness can change over time. For instance, while 1.5 million asteroids — rocky bodies orbiting the sun between Mars and Jupiter — have been discovered, only 30% of those smaller than 140 m are known so far. The VRO is expected to increase this figure to 90% and allow scientists to locate ‘killer asteroids’, which despite their relatively small size could devastate our planet if they strike it. With its unprecedented resolution, the VRO can raise the count of known solar system objects by 10x, discovering many new comets and asteroids, dwarf planets like Pluto, and even a ninth planet if it exists. All galaxies interact with their neighbours gravitationally. Small satellites are torn apart by the gravity of bigger galaxies as they merge with them. The VRO will map the distribution of stars in the Milky Way, helping astronomers identify ‘streams’ of stars that once belonged to smaller galaxies that blended with the Milky Way millions of years ago. Given its unique long-term survey capability, the VRO will also discover millions of objects of variable brightness. For instance, dying stars explode as supernovae, which brighten up for a few days before their nuclear furnace is extinguished. Some stars may have planets, or another star orbiting them, blocking their light from reaching us occasionally. Other variable stars may change in brightness because their outer surfaces pulse over a few hours to a few days. The first images In a June 23 press conference, the observatory revealed that the \$473 million facility had already discovered 2,104 asteroids in a week of observations. All other efforts combined currently find around 20,000 asteroids a year.

While one of the initial images displays swirling clouds of dust and gas in the Trifid and Lagoon nebulae 9,000 lightyears from the earth, another shows a section of the Virgo galaxy cluster located 54 million lightyears away. The

At the hostel in Zhunzhui Pu, near Taklakot, where the pilgrims stopped for a night before beginning the Kailash parikrama, extra tents were set up inside the atrium to accommodate more people. This is a part of Tibet where people live off subsistence farming. Tourism is the only means of making a living, local workers said, adding that the resumption of the yatra has come as a relief for them. According to the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra website, yatris who pay about ₹3 lakh for arrangements need to budget about 990 Renminbi or RMB (₹12,000) to pay the local porters and 2,370 RMB (about ₹29,000) for pony handlers. In addition, many of the porters do odd jobs for the yatris and make some extra cash, just enough to get by during the brutal winters. During the years when the yatra stood suspended, pilgrims came in via Nepali tour groups. They included many people of Indian origin from the U.S. and the U.K. But the yatra, and Indian pilgrims in particular, have been a mainstay for the local workers in Tibet. According to an External Affairs Ministry response in Parliament, the number of pilgrims allowed to join the yatra each year, which is negotiated between the foreign ministries of India and China, has fluctuated every year since the route was reopened in 1981. In 2015, there were 999 pilgrims. By 2019, there were 1,364. Each of the 15 batches of yatris (10 via Nathu-La pass and five via Lipulekh pass) of about 50 pilgrims this time includes two liaison officers — government officials who apply to join the yatra; 2-4 cooks; and a medical officer from the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. Each of the pilgrims is chosen by a computerised lottery. Of about 5,000 applicants, 750 were chosen this year. They then had to undergo strenuous medical tests to be proclaimed fit to undertake the journey.

“Despite the acclimatisation for two days each at two centres in Sikkim — one at 11,000 feet and the other at 13,500 feet — some 30 out of the 33 pilgrims in my batch experienced high-altitude sickness and breathlessness at times,” said the medical officer, who did not want to be named. “My job was to monitor the health of the pilgrims and ensure that those with hypertension and diabetes take their medicines regularly. A few experienced cramps, but they were too excited by the experience to let these affect them,” he said. One of the cooks, who also did not wish to be named, said it was a challenge to prepare vegetarian food for people from so many different parts of India. But previous experience with the armed forces helped. “When one caters to soldiers with different acquired tastes from all over the country, one finds the formula to make something that appeals to everyone. We focused on pulse-based items and vegetables provided by the Chinese authorities,” he said. While many pilgrims praised the arrangements, some expressed discomfort with the sanitation facilities along the way. According to retired Wing Commander of the Indian Air Force Sadanand Jakhare, they were “comparable to public toilets in India”. He said, “The Chinese officials were hospitable, although restrictive and not very expressive. They declined to let us explore the countryside, even a little beyond the designated places. We were under constant watch.” However, he added that he was “impressed” by the roads and the use of solar power that he saw along the way. Some people were also unhappy about the restrictions on worship. Pilgrims are not allowed to take a full dip in Manasarovar Lake. Officials said the practice was discontinued in 2016 after Indian pilgrims were found using soap to wash themselves in the lake, and leaving items of clothing and jewellery there. “The yatra is not for comfort,” said Devi Prasad Ketkar, a retired manager from Mumbai, who was on the pilgrimage with his wife Pradnya. Ketkar also served on the organising committees for the group. “There is no place for negative energy or negative comments during our visit here... visiting Mount Kailash and doing the parikrama gives us all the answers we need,” he said, as others in the group nodded. As the pilgrims stepped into the waters of Manasarovar Lake, the air was filled with chants of ‘Om Namah Shivaya’, ‘Om Parvati Pataye Namah’, and ‘Har Har Mahadev’. In Hindu scriptures, Mount Kailash is believed to be the home of Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati, who live there with their sons Kartikeya (Muruga) and the elephant-headed god, Ganesha. Lake Manasarovar, where the gods and goddesses are believed to descend for a bath every day, was created, according to the scriptures, by Lord Brahma from a part of his brain (manas means mind and sarovar means lake in Sanskrit). With its peak at 6,638 metres (21,778 feet), Mount Kailash has not been summited in modern memory. After 2001, the Chinese government banned attempts to climb it due to the religious sensitivities of different faiths.



giant images captured by the VRO are a journey through space and time: Milky Way stars shining in an array of colours from blue to red in the foreground, groups of galaxies with reddish hues moving away from us in distant space, and a suite of gravitationally interacting galaxies in a nearby cluster sandwiched in between. The VRO is distinguished from its predecessors, including the James Webb Space Telescope: while they are more sensitive, they can only observe a small patch of the sky at a time. The VRO was originally proposed in 2001 and was then called the ‘Large Synoptic Survey Telescope’ (LSST). It was renamed as the Vera C. Rubin Observatory in 2019. Rubin (1928-2016) was an American astronomer. She was the first to show that spiral galaxies rotated so fast that if their constituents were just stars, they should fly apart. The implication was that there are large amounts of unseen matter holding galaxies together, the substance we call dark matter today. Despite her pioneering work, gender bias denied Rubin a Nobel Prize. Now, the VRO honours her and her colleagues by observing billions of galaxies as part of the ‘Legacy Survey of Space and Time’, which will help astronomers understand the nature of dark matter, whose existence first came to light in Rubin’s work. Smriti Mahajan is an astronomer .

Hamas says it responds to Gaza ceasefire proposal in 'a positive spirit'



CAIRO/TEL AVIV, GNS News Agency, July 4 Hamas said it had responded on Friday in "a positive spirit" to a U.S.-brokered Gaza ceasefire proposal and was prepared to enter into talks on implementing the deal, which envisages a release of hostages and negotiations on ending the conflict. U.S. President Donald Trump had announced a "final proposal" for a 60-day ceasefire in the nearly 21-month-old war between Israel and Hamas, saying he anticipated a reply from the parties in coming hours. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

Hamas wrote on its official website: "The Hamas movement has completed its internal consultations as well as discussions with Palestinian factions and forces regarding the latest proposal by the mediators to halt the aggression against our people in Gaza." The movement has delivered its response to the brotherly mediators, which was characterized by a positive spirit. Hamas is fully prepared, with all seriousness, to immediately enter a new round of negotiations on the mechanism for implementing this framework," the statement said. In a sign of potential challenges still facing the sides, a Palestinian official of a militant group allied with Hamas said concerns remained over humanitarian aid, passage through the Rafah crossing to Egypt and clarity over a timetable of Israeli troop withdrawals. Trump said on Tuesday that Israel had agreed "to the necessary conditions to finalise" a 60-day ceasefire, during which efforts would be made to end the U.S. ally's war in the Palestinian enclave.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is due to meet Trump in Washington on Monday, has yet to comment on Trump's announcement, and in their public statements the two sides remain far apart. Netanyahu has repeatedly said Hamas must be disarmed, a position the militant group, which is thought to be holding 20 living hostages, has so far refused to discuss. Israeli media cited an Israeli official as saying that Israel had received and was looking into Hamas' response to the ceasefire proposal. Trump expressed optimism late on Friday to reporters aboard Air Force One, who asked about Hamas' response. "They said they gave me a positive response? Well, that's good," Trump said, adding that he had not yet been briefed. "There could be a Gaza deal next week." An Egyptian security official told Reuters that Egypt, which along with Qatar is mediating ceasefire efforts, had seen Hamas' response and said: "It includes positive signs that an agreement is near, but there are some demands from Hamas that need to be worked on." Trump has said he would be "very firm" with Netanyahu

Greece battles wildfire in Evia, reports progress on Crete

ATHENS, GNS News Agency, July 14 Firefighters were battling a wildfire on the Greek island of Evia on Saturday which was burning forests and forced the evacuation of two villages, the fire brigade and authorities said. More than 160 firefighters along with 46 trucks and five aircraft were deployed in southern Evia, east of Athens, to put out the blaze, which broke out late on Friday, a fire brigade official told Reuters on condition of anonymity. Make sense of the latest ESG trends affecting companies and governments with the Reuters Sustainable Switch newsletter. Sign up here. Evia was on a list of several Greek regions that were on high alert for wildfires due to gale force winds due on Saturday. The authorities ordered the evacuation of the villages of Tsakeoi and the seaside seasonal settlement of Limnionas in the early hours. Southern Evia is a sparsely populated area of rugged mountains, agricultural land and popular seaside spots. The fire there is the latest in a series of bushfires stoked by strong winds and dry conditions this week as much of Europe sweltered in an early summer heatwave, which officials have linked to at least eight deaths on the continent. Another wildfire on the southern island of Crete, which has razed forest and olive groves since Wednesday and forced thousands of residents and tourists to temporarily evacuate, was largely contained, the fire brigade official said. Tourism is a key earner in Greece and

on the need for a speedy Gaza ceasefire, adding that the Israeli leader wants one as well. **ATTACKS OVERNIGHT** Israeli attacks have killed at least 138 Palestinians in Gaza over the past 24 hours, local health officials said. Health officials at the Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, said the Israeli military had carried out an airstrike on a tent encampment west of the city around 2 a.m., killing 15 Palestinians displaced by nearly two years of war. The Israeli military said troops operating in the Khan Younis area had eliminated militants, confiscated weapons and dismantled Hamas outposts in the previous 24 hours while striking 100 targets across Gaza, including military structures, weapons storage facilities and launchers. Later on Friday, Palestinians gathered to perform funeral prayers before burying those killed overnight.

"There should have been a ceasefire long ago before I lost my brother," said 13-year-old Mayar Al Farr as she wept. Her brother, Mahmoud, was shot dead in another incident, she said. "He went to get aid, so he can get a bag of flour for us to eat. He got a bullet in his neck," she said. In Tel Aviv, families and friends of hostages held in Gaza were among demonstrators who gathered outside a U.S. embassy building on U.S. Independence Day, calling on Trump to secure a deal for all of the captives. "Only you can make the deal. We want one beautiful deal. One beautiful hostage deal," said Gideon Rosenberg, 48, from Tel Aviv. Rosenberg was wearing a shirt with the image of hostage Avinatan Or, one of his employees who was abducted by Palestinian militants from the Nova musical festival on October 7, 2023. He is among the 20 hostages who are believed to be alive after more than 600 days of captivity. An official familiar with the negotiations said on Thursday that the proposal envisages the return of 10 of the hostages during the 60 days, along with the bodies of 18 others who had died since being taken hostage. Ruby Chen, 55, the father of 19-year-old American-Israeli Itay, who is believed to have been killed after being taken captive, urged Netanyahu to return from meeting Trump with a deal that brings back all hostages. Itay Chen, also a German national, was serving as an Israeli soldier when Hamas carried out its surprise attack, killing around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking 251 hostage.

Israel's retaliatory war against Hamas has devastated Gaza, which the militant group has ruled for almost two decades but now only controls in parts, displacing most of the population of more than 2 million and triggering widespread hunger. More than 57,000 Palestinians have been killed in nearly two years of fighting, most of them civilians, according to local health officials. Reporting by Alexander Cornwell in Tel Aviv, Nidal al-Mughrabi and Menna Alaa El Din in Cairo, Hatem Khaled in Gaza, Howard Goller in New York and David Brunnstrom and Trevor Hunnicutt in Washington; Editing by Alex Richardson, Philippa Fletcher and Rosalba O'Brien A senior correspondent with nearly 25 years' experience covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict including several wars and the signing of the first historic peace accord between the two sides. Alexander has over a decade of international reporting experience. He is currently a senior correspondent in Jerusalem covering Israel & the Palestinian Territories and was formerly in Dubai where he covered the Arabian Peninsula, including the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, often writing about foreign policy, security and economic-related issues.



the fires have hit at the start of the peak summer holiday season. Temperatures in Greece were forecast to reach up to 38 degrees Celsius (100 degrees Fahrenheit) on Saturday, the Greek weather service said. Greece and other Mediterranean countries are in an area dubbed "a wildfire hotspot" by scientists - with blazes common during hot and dry summers. These have become more destructive in recent years due to a fast-changing climate, prompting calls for a new approach.

ons to Ukraine prompted warnings by Kyiv that the move would weaken its ability to defend against Russia's airstrikes and battlefield advances. Germany said it is in talks on buying Patriot air defense systems to bridge the gap. A source briefed on the Trump-Zelenskiy call told Reuters they were optimistic that supplies of Patriot missiles could resume after what they called a "very good" conversation between the presidents. Trump said he also spoke with German Chancellor Friedrich Merz about Ukraine's request for Patriot missiles but that no decision had been made to supply the advanced missiles. U.S. news outlet Axios reported, citing unnamed sources, that the call lasted around 40 minutes and that Trump told Zelenskiy he would check what U.S. weapons due to be sent to Ukraine, if any, had been put on hold. Zelenskiy, in his nightly video address, said he and Trump had agreed to "arrange a meeting between our teams to strengthen air defenses." "We had a very detailed discussion on joint production. We need it, America needs it.

"The conversation came a day after Trump said he had a disappointing call with Putin. Russia pummeled Kyiv with the largest drone attack of the war across the capital hours after Trump's conversation with Putin on Thursday. Zelenskiy called the attack "deliberately massive and cynical." Kyiv in the past received Patriot batteries and ammunition from the U.S. in the form of aid under then-President Joe Biden. Trump criticized him for sending weapons to Ukraine without getting anything in return, and since taking office has overseen a dramatic shake-up of relations with Kyiv.

B2 bombers roars over White House; Donald Trump and Melania Trump celebrate U.S. Independence Day



GNS News Agency, July 14

U.S. President Donald Trump signed his flagship tax and spending Bill into law on Friday (July 4, 2025), capping a grandiose White House Independence Day ceremony featuring a stealth bomber fly-by. Mr. Trump also played down criticism by Democrats that the unpopular legislation will slash social welfare programs, saying: "You won't even notice it." With First Lady Melania Trump at his side, Mr. Trump watched from the White House balcony as two B-2 bombers — the same type that recently struck Iranian nuclear sites — roared overhead, accompanied by F-35 and F-22 fighter jets. The 79-year-old's victory lap came a day after Republicans fell into line and passed the sprawling mega-Bill, allowing him to sign it as he had hoped on the Fourth of July holiday. The Bill honours many of Mr. Trump's campaign promises: extending tax cuts from his first term, boosting military spending and providing massive new funding for Mr. Trump's migrant deportation drive. 'Never been anything like it'

The legislation's signing caps two weeks of significant wins for Mr. Trump that have seen him tighten his grip on power and his party alike. The successes include the re-

A deliberate strategy to usher in a communal order

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution, the Supreme Court of India reaffirmed the foundational character of the Indian Republic by upholding the inclusion of the words "secular" and "socialist" in the Constitution's Preamble. These words, introduced through the Constitution (42nd Amendment) Act, 1976, by the Indira Gandhi-led government during the Emergency, have been the target of repeated political and legal attacks by right-wing forces. Dismissing a batch of petitions challenging these additions, a Bench of the Supreme Court recently upheld the addition of these words, arguing that the mere absence of these terms in the original Preamble adopted on November 26, 1949, cannot invalidate their inclusion. This legal reaffirmation was a powerful signal from the judiciary. But the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the ideological backbone of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), chose to launch a fresh offensive on the very idea of India as enshrined in the Constitution. RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale made a brazen demand: the removal of "secular" and "socialist" from the Preamble, which, according to him, were alien to Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's constitutional vision.

The Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, went a step further, terming the insertion of these words as "sacrilege to the spirit of Sanatan". It is no coincidence that these statements are being made from some of the highest offices of the land. This is not an intellectual debate. This is a deliberate political strategy to delegitimise the modern, plural, democratic republic of India and to usher in a communal and hierarchical order. An agenda, from fringe to mainstream

When the Constitution was being framed, the Constituent Assembly, emphatically and unanimously, supported the idea of a secular state. Not a single member argued for a theocratic state. The idea of India was built on the foundations of unity in diversity — a rejection of colonial divide-and-rule, of communal politics, and of caste and religious supremacy. Today, the RSS-BJP establishment is working relentlessly to dismantle that consensus and impose the idea of a Hindu Rashtra. This agenda has moved from fringe rhetoric to the political mainstream. On the day of the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a provocative statement equating 'Ram with Rashtra and Dev with Desh'. This kind of fusion of religion and state is exactly what the framers of the Constitution warned against. It is also directly in contradiction to the Supreme Court's ruling that secularism is a part of the basic structure of the Constitution — something that cannot be amended or erased, even by Parliament. The warnings of our national leaders resonate even more forcefully today. In 1931, Mahatma Gandhi, in his resolution on Fundamental Rights, insisted that the state must remain neutral in religious matters. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar too reflected this in the line, "The State shall not recognise any religion as State religion." What is particularly instructive, and ironic, is that the Hindu Mahasabha, which boycotted the freedom movement and opposed secular nationalism, included a similar provision in its 1944 Hindustan Free State Act.

The Constituent Assembly Debates further highlight the intent of India's founding generation. On August 27, 1947, Govind Ballabh Pant posed a direct question: "Do you want a real national secular State or a theocratic State?" He warned that if India became a theocracy, it could only be a Hindu state, raising questions about the status and secu-

India-Pakistan trade continues in May despite border tensions

Islamabad: Despite a brief military conflict and the continued closure of borders, trade between Pakistan and India persisted in May, primarily through a third country. The official data showed that imports from India reached a three-year high during July-May FY25. Dawn reported quoting the data of the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP). It showed that imports from India totalled USD 211.5 million in the first 11 months of FY25 — surpassing USD 207m in FY24 and USD 190m in FY23. In May alone — when the four-day conflict broke out in the first week—imports stood at USD 15 million, slightly down from USD 17 million in the same month last year.

However, Pakistan's exports to India remained negligible. In May, exports to India were recorded at just USD 1,000, while total exports during July-May FY25 were only

cent Iran-Israel ceasefire that was sealed after what he called the "flawless" U.S. air strikes on Iran. Pilots who carried out the bombing on Iran were among those invited to the White House event, which included a picnic for military families on the South Lawn. "The last two weeks, there has never been anything like it, as far as winning," said Mr. Trump. Mr. Trump had however forced through the tax Bill despite deep misgivings in the Republican Party that it would balloon the national debt.

The legislation is expected to pile an extra \$3.4 trillion over a decade onto the U.S. deficit. It squeezed past a final vote in the House of Representatives 218-214 after Republican Speaker Mike Johnson worked through the night to corral the final group of dissenters. Mr. Trump's billionaire former ally Elon Musk was among the most vocal critics, and he has pledged to set up a new political party to oppose Republicans who backed the Bill. Democrats and many voters have meanwhile expressed concerns that the "big beautiful Bill" will gut health and welfare support. The Bill will force through the largest cuts to the Medicaid health insurance program for low-income Americans since its 1960s launch, while also shrinking federal food assistance programs. Fireworks explode near the Washington Monument during a Fourth of July celebration at the White House in Washington, on July 4, 2025. Up to 17 million people could lose their insurance coverage under the Bill, according to some estimates. Scores of rural hospitals are expected to close as a result. But Mr. Trump played down the concerns. "They've developed a standard line, and we can't let them get away with it. 'Oh, it's dangerous. Oh, everybody's going to die.' It's actually just the opposite," said Mr. Trump. Democrats hope public opposition to the Bill will help them flip the House in the 2026 midterm election, pointing to data showing that it represents a huge redistribution of wealth from the poorest Americans to the richest.

A deliberate strategy to usher in a communal order



ity of those who would be excluded from such a polity. Jaspal Roy Kapoor, on November 21, 1949, noted that Gandhi had made it clear: religion should be a personal matter. On November 22, 1949, Begum Aizaz Rasul called secularism "the most outstanding feature" of the Constitution and expressed hope that it would remain "guarded and unsullied". On October 14, 1949, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel reassured the nation that the Constitution of free India would not be "disfigured by any provision on a communal basis." And on November 23, T.J.M. Wilson warned that the clouds threatening India's secular character were already forming. These warnings were not alarmist but were deeply perceptive, and speak with urgency to our times. The present RSS-led campaign is also aimed at discrediting and eliminating the socialist orientation of the Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar, in the Constituent Assembly, clearly noted that the Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in Part IV of the Constitution were rooted in socialist ideals.

The Supreme Court's recent decision, rightly interpreted the term "socialist" in the Preamble as synonymous with a welfare state. This vision resonates with B.R. Ambedkar's own emphasis on the social and economic transformation of India — an end to caste exploitation, landlessness, poverty, and discrimination. Socialism means creating conditions for equality and justice — not the importation of any foreign ideology, but the realisation of the promises of the freedom struggle. In this regard, B.R. Ambedkar issued perhaps the most unambiguous warning ever — in Pakistan or the Partition of India, he wrote: "If Hindu Raj does become a fact, it will, no doubt, be the greatest calamity for this country... Hindu Raj must be prevented at any cost." That cost is now upon us. The RSS's demand to remove the terms "secular" and "socialist" from the Constitution is part of a long-term project to dismantle the very edifice of the modern Indian Republic and to institutionalise a new order built on religious supremacy, caste hierarchy, market fundamentalism, and political authoritarianism. This must be resisted — through public awareness, legal challenge, political mobilisation, and mass democratic struggle. The Constitution is not just a legal document. It is a political, social, and moral covenant forged in the crucible of our freedom struggle. It embodies the dreams of countless martyrs, revolutionaries, and constitutionalists who envisioned an India that belonged to all its people. To defend secularism and socialism today is to defend democracy itself. It is to defend the right of every citizen — regardless of faith, caste, class, or gender — to live with dignity, equality, and freedom. The Republic must be protected, nourished, and, if necessary, defended against those who seek to destroy it from within. Let us rise to that responsibility, with courage, with clarity, and with collective resolve.

USD 0.5 million. In FY24 and FY23, exports stood at USD 3.44 million and USD 0.33 million, respectively—highlighting the highly one-sided nature of bilateral trade. Formal trade relations between Pakistan and India have suffered since 2019. However, after the April 22 Pahalgal terror attack that claimed 26 lives, India took a series of measures, including immediate shutting down of the Attari land-transit post, used for movement of certain kinds of goods. In retaliation, Pakistan too announced that "all trade with India, including to and from any third country through Pakistan, is suspended forthwith." Traders were reluctant to discuss the continuation of imports during the tense period. However, one trader suggested: "It may have come from a third country and the payment for the May imports would have been made before the war."

The need is for domain experts, but within the civil service



In August 2024, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) initiated the recruitment process through the lateral entry scheme by issuing a notification for the recruitment of 45 Joint Secretaries, Directors, and Deputy Secretaries as specialists in government departments. The initiative faced significant opposition from various groups, particularly political parties, which argued that the scheme compromised the reservation rights of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The strong opposition compelled the government to shelve the plan. This was not the first time that the Union Government has recruited specialists through the lateral entry scheme. In 2018, 63 specialists were appointed through lateral entry in various ministries. Currently, around 57 specialists are working with the government. Even then, recruitment through the lateral entry scheme was excluded from the reservation system. The decision to withdraw the notification has reignited the debate on the need for domain experts within the civil service and highlights the necessity of developing an appropriate approach to civil service reform.

Need for domain expertsIt has long been recognised that specialised skills are much needed in the civil service. In fact, the Second Administrative Reforms Commission (2005) recommended the need for lateral entry into the higher echelons of the government to bring in specialised knowledge and skills, though it did not specify a method of recruitment. The ongoing representation issues of SCs and STs within the civil service further complicate the narrative. Despite existing reservations, the number of SC and ST officers in higher positions remains low. SCs and STs constitute only around 4% and 4.9% of top bureaucratic positions in the Union government at the level of Deputy Secretaries, Directors, Joint Secretaries, and beyond. One reason is that the entry age of officers during the recruitment process is often higher than that of general category candidates, and these officers frequently retire before reaching the top positions.

The lateral entry scheme is likely to further limit the representation of these marginalised communities, as the scheme is unlikely to attract domain experts from these communities due to their limited access to such positions in the private sector. For better or worse, the lateral entry debate has been politicised. With caste-based reservations being significant factors in elections, the government is unlikely to reignite this debate, as doing so could have substantial political repercussions. For now, the discussion around lateral entry appears to have reached an impasse. But there is no denying the reality that there is a need for domain experts in the public sector, as each sector is becoming specialised, requiring close collaboration with technical experts. Civil servants are generally generalists, not specialists. Lateral entry, with or without reservation as it existed, was essentially a short-term solution. The need is for domain experts within the civil service itself. It is these domain experts who would cultivate a resilient and effective civil service. To realise this objective, there is a need to develop long-term strategies that prioritise academic-industry-civil service collaboration, capacity building, and institutional development. Integrated model for domain expertise

In order to effectively develop domain expertise within the civil service in India and address the ever more complex needs of governance, a collaborative framework that brings together civil service, academia, and industry is needed. This collaboration would facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices, allowing civil servants to engage with the latest developments in their respective fields and develop much-needed domain expertise. Civil servants with public sector experience and decision-making capabilities would imbibe insights from academia and industry about emerging trends, skills, and technologies. But this collaboration must differ from the current refresher and mid-career training offered to civil servants. These training programmes for civil servants often act as temporary fixes. Even though such programmes inculcate valuable skills, they fail to create a robust framework for domain expertise. Domain expertise, unlike training programmes, is not an isolated event but must be an integral part of a civil servant's career trajectory. For domain expertise, an integrated model that aligns with individual career paths and areas of interest is essential. The critical components of an integrated model for developing domain expertise among civil servants include strategic planning, memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with institutions, a rigorous selection process, and

specialised postings with fixed tenures.

Strategic planningDomain expertise starts with the drafting of a strategic plan to create efficient public policy analysts within the civil service, with locus in the public sector and focus on skills and knowledge from the private sector/industry, facilitated by academia. The objective is to enhance the capacity of civil servants in terms of technical expertise and strategic vision to formulate and implement policies efficiently and effectively in specific sectors, contributing to good governance and improved public service delivery. Strategic planning represents a long-term vision for the civil service and requires identifying the number of sector-specific domain experts needed for better alignment of resources and priorities. Academic institutions must be involved in the strategic planning at the initial stages only. This integrated model has significant advantages for academic institutions as well, as they would receive fresh impetus and motivation to contribute richly to public service delivery. One critical aspect of domain expertise is staying focused on ever-changing innovations and technologies in industry and incorporating these into the public sector. Strategic planning would include an element of circular response planning, with feedback and adjustments continuously incorporated. This element promotes flexibility and adaptability in the face of changing circumstances.

MoUs with institutionsThe second component of the integrated model for developing domain expertise is the framing of MoUs with institutions. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, along with other cadre-controlling ministries, will establish MoUs with premier institutions such as the Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Technology, National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Indian Institute of Public Administration, and the top central universities based on the National Institutional Ranking Framework. This collaboration's primary objective is to formulate tailored courses and training programmes laced with industry experience for transforming current mid-level and top-level officers into domain experts. To start with, each ministry of the Government of India could target developing around four to five domain experts in sector-specific areas over the next few years and ensure the smooth and steady infusion of specialised knowledge and skills into the civil service. The MoUs must ensure that these courses are not usual academic courses, but, specifically, domain expert skill courses. The institutions involved must necessarily engage industry experts for the long term and have their own collaboration with them.

Selection process, specialised postingThe third but critical component of developing domain experts within the civil service is the establishment of rigorous selection processes for specialised training programmes. This should be jointly done by the ministries concerned and the institutions concerned. Herein, consideration can be given for adequate representation of SCs, STs and OBCs for domain expertise. The selection process should involve submission of a Statement of Purpose (SoP) detailing their motivations for domain expertise and past experiences and interview process to assess a civil servant's alignment and potential for a domain expertise programme. Through this selection process, and subsequent training, a pool of civil servants would be developed who are not only domain experts but also deeply invested in making a meaningful impact. The last component of the integrated model for domain expertise is specialised posting in their respective areas of expertise, much like the existing lateral entry framework, which appoints personnel based on ministry needs. There should be no transfer of the trained domain experts outside their specialised sector. This targeted approach would address the long-standing issue of "the right minds aren't in the right places" by ensuring that individuals with the most relevant knowledge and skills are assigned to roles where they can make the greatest impact. Further, irrespective of their years left in the service, a fixed tenure system post training should be set up that allows all domain expert officers equal chances to reach senior roles and contribute richly. Transforming the civil service in India through the integrated model for domain expertise is necessary to strengthen governance and improve public service delivery by developing a resilient and responsive civil service. In today's market-based economy, the role of government has shifted from being a service provider to that of a facilitator and regulator. Through a cadre of domain experts, the government can build institutional capacity, enabling civil servants to serve effectively as regulators, facilitators, and even service providers. The model also allows civil servants to step away from the daily grind of government machinery to focus on skill development and specialisation. From a psychological perspective, this break from the routine can significantly reduce monotony, re-energising civil servants and enhancing their motivation. By engaging in capacity-building programmes, civil servants can rejuvenate their professional drive, thereby avoiding the "deadwood" effect that often arises in a prolonged career within the government sector. Zubair Nazeer is an Assistant Professor (Public Administration) at the Amar Singh College, Cluster University, Srinagar. He was previously a faculty member at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The views expressed are personal



The history of geopolitical rivalries involving the United States (US) and Russia (also the former Soviet Union) teaches us that tensions and conflicts tend to become protracted. West Asia and eastern Europe have been the theatres of power rivalries during the Cold War and post-Cold War eras. Due to multiple power centres in the post-Cold War, wars and conflicts have become more complicated on at least two fronts: global leadership and "free-raider" countries. The global leadership is contested by countries outside the 'US-Russia' hyphenation. Emerging economies like those in BRICS are strengthening their collaboration on international peace and security matters. Nonetheless, the BRICS countries themselves are unclear about what alternative form of international peace and security structure suits the current global conflict scenarios. The US positions on the Ukraine-Russia war and the Israel-Palestinian conflict are ambiguous in terms of its commitment to international laws. The US policy towards Ukraine supports the United Nations (UN) Charter and international law to the cause of Ukraine's sovereignty and international peace. It voted in favour of the UN General Assembly resolutions, for example, ES-11/1 of March 2, 2022, which condemned Russia's invasion and stood firm, which has been maintained throughout the ongoing conflict, that Russia should withdraw its troops from Ukraine. The Global South has not been on the same footing with the US's policy of isolating Ukraine diplomatically. Some of these countries have maintained special exemptions, like India's oil import from Russia at a discount, from the US sanctions against Russia.

The US policy towards the Ukraine-Russia war has shown consistency and unambiguity in support of Ukraine. The victory of Donald Trump as President in the recent election, who will take charge January 20 next year, might change the policy. He will assume power after the war, which marks the completion of 1,000 days. Trump's focus is on diplomacy and a rapid resolution to the conflict. He showed his confidence to end the war "within 24 hours," talking directly to Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. He strongly felt that the US aid to Ukraine was at the cost of US interests, and bringing back America First is his priority. Moreover, his explicit criticism of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (Nato)'s dependency on US funding cannot go unnoticed in the current war efforts in Ukraine. Thus, it departs from President Biden's strong support for Ukraine. It remains to be seen if his transactional diplomacy will be able to "end" the war, although he has not laid down a concrete strategy yet. Geopolitical experts are observing which direction the US policy might swing under his reign, either towards diplomacy or sanctions to resolve the long-drawn-out war. Experts con-

In Paradise Papers dataset, details of Azure Power becoming a Mauritius entity; their pledge to follow US laws

Azure PowerParadise Papers, a cache of 13.4 million documents, were obtained by German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung and were investigated by the ICIJ working in partnership with 96 news organisations, including The Indian Express. Documents in the dataset of the Paradise Papers—a global collaboration on offshore finance done by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), and 95 other media partners—contain details about how Azure Power Global Limited was incorporated in Mauritius on January 30, 2015; subsequently got listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and had pledged to be in compliance of US laws and regulations.

According to the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), for a large part of the period of the alleged bribery scheme—2020-2024—Azure stock traded on the NYSE. Executives of Azure Power's dominant shareholding company have also been charged for allegedly offering Rs 2,029 crore in bribes to Indian government officials to secure "lucrative solar energy supply contracts." The SEC has alleged that Azure's share in the bribes paid or promised was one-third, while the remaining two-thirds share was that of Adani's. Interestingly, it is a 658 page "registration statement" submitted by Azure Power Global Limited after it was incorporated in Mauritius—and contained in the Paradise Papers dataset—that becomes relevant to the bribery scam in which the company has been named. The company—which has described itself as an "emerging growth company" with no business op-



erations of its own has declared that they were developing and implementing "controls and procedures" to ensure that we are in compliance with the FCPA (Foreigners Corrupt Practices Act) and similar laws. Their registration statement for the SEC states, "... any violation of these laws could expose us to administrative, civil or criminal penalties, fines or restriction... a violation of these laws and regulations, or even an alleged violation could harm our reputation and cause some of our US investors to sell interests in our company... we may become involved in costly and time-consuming litigation and other regulatory proceedings..." At that stage Azure Power Global Limited had informed that they had commenced business in 2008 and set up their first utility-scale solar plant in India in 2008. Also that they were currently (2015) were constructing six projects with a combined rated capacity of 122 MW and had an additional 230 MW of projects committed. There are over a 100 documents on Azure Power in the dataset of the Paradise Papers. These include a Whistle Blower Policy of Azure Power India

sider that his Ukraine policy might concede to Russia in favourable terms regarding territorial concessions primarily.

On the other hand, Trump has shown steadfast support for Israel in the October 2023 Israel-Hamas conflict. The UN General Assembly and the US Security Council are ineffective due to different member States' positions in each body. In these bodies, the US has been supporting Israel while a significant number of countries are supporting Palestinian rights and statehood. Columbia and Turkey recently announced that they would cut ties with Israel. South Africa, Chile, Honduras, Chad, and Jordan withdrew their ambassadors earlier. In 2023, Bolivia and Nicaragua severed relations with Israel. Both the Trump and Biden administration continue to support Israel. The only difference with President-elect Trump is his approval to give Israel greater freedom to act militarily in Gaza without any US pressure. President Biden, in the past, warned the Israeli leadership against excessive use of force and advised Israel to exercise restraint in military operations in Gaza. The possibility of bringing back Trump's "Peace to Prosperity" plan of 2020 is reported. The Peace Plan proposed a two-State solution. It, however, also approved of Israel's annexation of settlements in the West Bank and retained control of the Jordan Valley. The territorial demarcation to create a Palestinian State is not according to the pre-1967 borders. Its control over its security is limited, which would be under Israel. Palestinians rejected the peace plan, while Israelis welcomed it. Although Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the plan with reservations at the time, the current conflict with Hamas has expanded to include Lebanon and Iran in the fray. It took a more complex turn before Trump's second term began. While Trump's endeavours in both cases seem to pick and choose favourable international laws of peaceful settlement to global conflicts, leveraging his personal connections with global leaders to resolve long-drawn crises is his style of diplomacy. Trump might cut down on US aid to Ukraine and use his personal connection with Putin to bring both to the negotiating table. He insisted that Israel to end the Gaza conflict swiftly. All of this carries his intentions towards global conflicts, which are consistent with his endorsement of withdrawing the US from Nato and the United Nations operations, which, he believed, are financially dependent on the US disproportionately. Nonetheless, Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal and imposition of heavy sanctions against Iran is an example of unpredictability in his conflict resolution methods. On the other hand, his significant diplomatic achievement involved the Abraham Accords, which normalised relations between Israel and several Arab nations. President-elect Trump does not fit into the traditional internationalist or pacifist category. His transactional diplomacy and selective engagement define his foreign policy. However, the risk of escalation is now even more significant for any US policy without the support and collaboration of Ukraine or Israel and their counterpart actors, alongside emerging economies, in his peace efforts. Although not an easy task, these global conflicts require long-term conflict resolution. It is a difficult task for the US alone to see through the global conflicts without involving other power centres like the BRICS nations, which have appealed for amicable solutions to global conflicts. However, involving the BRICS countries is unlikely if the peace efforts are in

ended on April 1, 2024. Paradise Papers data includes an advise given by Appleby on the "externalization plan" of the company which states, "We are instructed by Azure Power India Private Limited ("AZI") to provide an opinion as to whether: (a) the externalization of the holding structure of AZI (a company incorporated under the laws of India) to Azure Power Global Limited, a company incorporated under the laws of Mauritius ("AGPL") would be effective under the laws of Mauritius" and advised that "we consider that the proposed steps to be followed for the externalization would be valid and effective under the laws of Mauritius.

"Paradise Papers, a cache of 13.4 million documents, were obtained by German newspaper Süddeutsche Zeitung and were investigated by the ICIJ working in partnership with 96 news organisations, including The Indian Express. A bulk of the records investigated are from Bermuda law firm Appleby. These leaks were mostly about mega corporates than individual players and how they took advantage of tax havens.

What is the One Nation One Subscription explained

The story so far: The Union Cabinet on Monday, November 25, 2024, approved the 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) initiative for centralised access to research articles and journal publication for government higher education institutions and research and development (R&D) laboratories of the central government. The central government has allocated ₹6,000 crore for ONOS until 2027. All higher education institutions under central or State governments and R&D institutions of central government can avail the benefits of the initiative through a national subscription.

What is ONOS? ONOS is a plan to consolidate researchers' subscriptions to prominent academic journals and other similar publications. Once in place, the ONOS initiative will provide access to journal articles to all individuals in India for one "centrally negotiated payment". The ONOS will replace individual institutional journal subscriptions. Subscriptions to scientific journals are a costly affair. According to research conducted by S. Chakraborty of the National Institute of Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, and other researchers and published in Current Science in April 2020, India spent around ₹1,500 crore on subscription for electronic and print journals in 2018. Institutions also spent around ₹30-50 crore on access to SCOPUS and Web of Science, which are popular citation databases. "One is looking at very large numbers in terms of financial outlays," the paper noted. In a response to a query raised in the Lok Sabha in August 2023, Subhas

Sarkar, then Minister of State for the Education Ministry, said the Indian government spent around ₹995 crore on journal subscriptions in 2022. This included "the spending by the ten library consortia funded by different ministries/departments and self-subscriptions by individual government academic and R&D institutions". Overall, the total expenditure for 2019-2022 was estimated to be around ₹2,985 crore, Mr. Sarkar said. The ONOS initiative is also expected to include concessions on fees that authors have to pay to have their work published in open access journals. History of the scheme ONOS was recommended as one of the objectives of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy 2020 to facilitate knowledge-sharing on an "equal partnership basis". A plan for ONOS was presented at a stakeholder consultation in August 2021, which was endorsed by the concerned ministries. Another round of negotiations for ONOS took place on October 11-12, and October 25, 2023. The negotiations were held with 41 publishers, which included journals and citation databases, according to the Office of the Principal Scientific Advisor. Popular STEM and social science publishers like Elsevier, Springer Nature, Taylor and Francis, and Wiley were a part of the process. In his Lok Sabha response in 2023, Mr. Sarkar said a core committee had been constituted to implement ONOS. This committee consists of a secretary each from the Ministry of Education and the Department of Science and Technology, and a scientific secretary.

Government reduces toll charges by up to 50% on national highways with bridges, tunnels



The government has reduced the toll rates up to 50% for the sections of National Highways that have structures like tunnels, bridges, flyovers or elevated stretches, a move which will lower travelling cost for motorists. User charges at fee plazas on National Highways are collected as per NH Fee Rules, 2008. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has made amendment to 2008 rules and notified a new method or formula for calculating toll charges.

“The rate of fee for use of a section of national highway comprising of structure or structures shall be calcu-

lated by adding ten times the length of structure or structures to the length of the section of national highway excluding the length of structure or structures, or five times the total length of section of national highway, whichever is lesser,” said the notification dated July 2, 2025. ‘Structure’ means an independent bridge, tunnel or flyover or elevated highway. To explain the new toll charges, the ministry has cited examples. In one of the examples, it said that if a section of a national highway has a total length of 40km, comprising of structure alone, the minimum length shall be computed: ‘10 x 40 (ten times length of structure) = 400km or five times the total length of section of a national highway = 5 x 40 = 200km’. “User fee shall be calculated on the lesser length i.e. for 200km” and not 400km. In this case, the user charge is only on half (50%) of the road length. According to the extant rules, users pay ten times the regular toll for every km of structure on national highways. A senior official of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) said the existing toll calculation method was meant to offset higher construction cost associated with such infrastructure. “The revised notification issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reduces the toll rate for stretches such as flyovers, underpasses and tunnels up to 50%,” the official said.

No trade deal with US under time pressure; national interest supreme, says Piyush Goyal

India does not enter into any trade agreement based on deadlines and will accept the proposed trade deal with the U.S. only when it is fully finalised, properly concluded and in the national interest, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal said on Friday. He also said that India was negotiating free trade agreements (FTAs) with different countries, including the European Union, New Zealand, Oman, Chile, and Peru.

FTAs are possible only when both sides get benefited and it should be a win-win agreement, he told reporters when asked about the proposed interim trade agreement with the U.S. “National interest should always be supreme. Keeping that in mind, if a deal is made then India is always ready to deal with developed countries,” Mr. Goyal said.

When asked if an interim trade agreement between the two countries was possible by July 9, he said, “India never does any trade deal based on deadline or time frame. When the deal is done properly, and is completely finalised and is in the country’s interest, then we will accept it” July 9



marks the end of the 90-day suspension period of the U.S. President Donald Trump-announced tariffs imposed on dozens of countries, including India. An additional import duty of 26% was announced on Indian goods entering the U.S.. He added that at present, there was no plan to visit Washington for the trade talks.

Microsoft closes its Pakistan office after 25 years



Tech giant Microsoft has announced it will shut down its limited operations in Pakistan as part of its global strategy to reduce its workforce, which various stakeholders termed on Friday as a “troubling sign” for the country’s economy. Microsoft, while closing its office in Pakistan on Thursday after 25 years, cited global restructuring and a shift to a cloud-based, partner-led model. The move came as the tech giant cut roughly 9,100 jobs worldwide (or about

4 per cent of its workforce) in its largest layoff round since 2023.

Jawwad Rehman, former founding Country Manager of Microsoft Pakistan, urged the government and IT minister to engage with the tech giants with a bold KPI (Key Performance Indicators) driven plan. He said the exit reflected the current business climate. “Even global giants like Microsoft find it unsustainable to stay,” he posted on LinkedIn. Former Pakistan president Arif Alvi, in a post on X, also expressed concern over Microsoft shutting down operations.

“It is a troubling sign for our economic future,” he wrote. He claimed Microsoft once considered Pakistan for expansion, but that instability led the company to choose Vietnam instead by late 2022. Jawwad explained that Microsoft didn’t operate a full commercial base in Pakistan, relying instead on liaison offices focused on enterprise, education, and government clients. Over recent years, much of that work had already shifted to local partners, while licensing and contracts were managed from its European hub in Ireland.

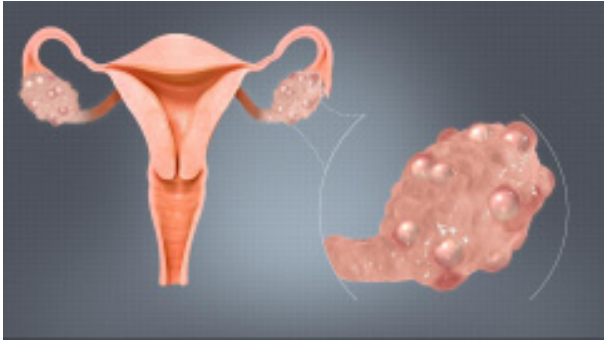
What is U.S. President Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill all about? | Explained

The story so far: U.S. President Donald Trump signed into law the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ on U.S.’ Independence Day on July 4, 2025. This happened a day after the House of Representatives cleared the passage of the legislation proposing sweeping tax cuts, altering access to social security programs and doing away with provisioning incentives for clean energy production, among other things. While the Opposing Democrats argue the bill effectively introduces tax breaks for the wealthiest populace offset by cuts in healthcare and food security, the Republicans contend it would unleash “massive economic growth” and avert “waste, fraud and abuse” of federal spending.

At the centre of the contention is the bill proposing to make permanent President Trump’s 2017 cuts across several income brackets. This also includes rates for the highest income bracket from the present 39.6% to 37% as per the version of the bill presented to the House of Representatives. Thus, when assessing tax liability for incremental income across successive brackets (say, up to \$11,600 and then from \$11,601-\$47,500, and so forth), reducing rates across the board would translate to lowered tax liability. Conversely, this would also imply that higher earners also benefit with their liability from income across all brackets being reduced. However, the proposed legislation also enhances the standard deduction by \$1,000 for individual taxpayers, \$1,500 for heads of households and \$2,000 for married couples until 2028, that is, until the expiry of President Trump’s tenure. Additionally, OB BB seeks individual taxpayer be allowed to forego up to \$25,000 in taxes they earn in tips, and \$12,500 in overtime pay. This is provided the individual income does not exceed \$150,000. The two provisions combined have been suggested to particularly benefit the working class. Broadly, concerns in the realm exist on two fronts, namely, loss of taxable income – especially the wealthier quartile and the potential impact on income, especially the working class. According to the U.S.-based Yale School of Management’s recent analysis, the budget passed on July 1 would add \$3 trillion in debt between 2025 and 2034. This would be about 0.84% of the GDP. Furthermore, analysing the bill proposed to the Senate, the lab estimated the lowest quartile’s income would decrease by 2.5% in contrast to the higher quartile witnessing a 2.4% growth.

What happens to social security schemes for food and medical needs?

How genetic factors influence the onset and progression of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome



Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), a multifaceted endocrine-metabolic condition, is increasingly being recognised as not only a reproductive disorder but also a genetic and lifestyle-driven health challenge that affects a growing number of women across India. While clinical attention has often centred around irregular periods and infertility, recent studies and clinical experiences point to the crucial and often overlooked hereditary nature of this condition.

Affecting an estimated 5 to 20 % of women of reproductive age in India, PCOS is now understood to be a spectrum disorder -- presenting differently across individuals. According to Dakshayani D., head of obstetrics and gynaecology at MGM Healthcare, Chennai, PCOS is a “multisystemic pathology,” often seen with irregular cycles, weight gain, hirsutism (excessive growth of dark, coarse hair in women in a male-like pattern, typically on the face, chest and back), acanthosis nigricans (a skin condition characterised by dark, velvety and thickened patches of skin, often found in body folds like the neck, armpits and groin) and in some cases, infertility. She notes that some women may show classical ultrasound findings of multiple peripheral ovarian cysts and increased ovarian volume, while others may have no cysts at all. “PCOS is not a uniform disease; it manifests differently from lean PCOS to obese PCOS with symptoms such as male-pattern hair growth, scanty or heavy bleeding and insulin resistance varying in severity,” she adds.

The strong familial clustering of PCOS has led clinicians to view genetics as a significant component in its development. “There is strong clinical evidence that the condition runs in families,” says R.K. Vidhyalakshmi, lead consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at SRM Global Hospitals, Chennai. “First-degree relatives -- mothers, sisters and daughters have a significantly increased risk.” Genomic studies support these clinical observations. Variants in genes such as CYP11a, CYP17, CYP19, INSR, LHR, FSHR, and DENND1A -- all involved in steroid hormone synthesis and ovarian function have been identified in women with PCOS. “PCOS is a polygenic disorder with no single causative gene,” explains Mannan Gupta, chairman, department of obstetrics and gynaecology at Elantis Healthcare, New Delhi. “Instead, several gene variants act together with environmental triggers.” Sapna Raina, clinical lead at Narayana Health City, notes that the risk of developing PCOS in women with a family history can be as high as 25–50 %, further underscoring the need for early surveillance in adolescent girls with known familial risk.

Given its variable presentation, early detection of

Anti-rabies vaccine alone is not enough when children suffer deep stray dog bites, says Tamil Nadu Directorate of Public Health

Citing two recent rabies deaths despite vaccination in Kerala, the Directorate of Public Health (DPH) and Preventive Medicine reiterated the need to train healthcare workers to identify the dog bite category and administer rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) appropriately along with anti-rabies vaccine (ARV). Re-emphasising the set of scientific guidelines that healthcare workers should strictly adhere to, the directorate said two boys, who were bitten by stray dogs in Kerala, died despite being vaccinated. The reasons for their deaths could be a delay in starting post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), improper wound cleaning, skipping of doses, failure to administer RIG for category III exposures (transdermal bites or scratches, licks on broken skin), and improper vaccine storage or administration as recommended by the manufacturer.

In a communication to district and city health officers, T.S. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health, said rabies PEP is life-saving only if done properly. Proper wound care, timely and complete vaccination, RIG (if indicated), and the storage of vaccines at proper temperatures are crucial, he said. They should be aware that rabies is a deadly viral infection that affects the brain and nervous system, and is almost always fatal once symptoms appear, for which the PEP must be administered correctly and promptly. Standard guidelines for rabies vaccination after a suspected or confirmed dog bite should be strictly followed. Elaborating the possible reasons for rabies death despite vaccination, the directorate said if a child had deep or bleeding wounds, RIG should be administered along with ARV. RIG neutralises the virus at the site of wound, especially in the



initial days before vaccine-induced antibodies develop. Without RIG, the virus can spread to the nervous system, even if ARV is given later, it said. If there is a delay in starting PEP even by a few days, especially with severe bites near the face or head, the vaccine may not prevent the disease. Missed or delayed dose of the vaccine and incorrect administration (wrong injection site or route of administration) could also be a cause. Improper cleaning of wounds is another possible cause, as the first and most important step is thorough washing with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. The directorate added that children were at a higher risk as the immature immune system might respond less robustly. Listing out the guidelines for PEP, the directorate said the bite should be assessed -- category I (touching/feeding animals, licks on intact skin-no PEP required), category II (minor scratches/abrasions without bleeding-vaccine only) and category III (vaccine and RIG).

No link between Covid vaccines and sudden deaths, confirms ICMR-AIIMS Studies: Health Ministry

New Delhi: Extensive studies undertaken by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) have conclusively established no link between Covid-19 vaccines and sudden deaths, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said on Wednesday. Post the Covid pandemic several cases of heart attack-related death among people, especially the young were reported from across the country, and suggested a link with Covid vaccinations.

The Ministry noted that sudden cardiac deaths can result from a wide range of factors, including genetics, lifestyle, pre-existing conditions, and post-Covid complications, but not from Covid vaccines that have been found safe. “Studies by the ICMR and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) affirm that Covid-19 vaccines in India are safe and effective, with extremely rare instances of serious side effects,” the Ministry said. “The matter of sudden unexplained deaths has been investigated through several agencies in the country”. This includes the ICMR and NCDC, which investigated young adults between the ages of 18 and 45 years in two complementary studies -- one based on past data and another involving real-time investigation.

The first study, conducted by ICMR’s National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), explored unexplained sudden

deaths among adults aged 18-45 years in India from May to August 2023 across 47 tertiary care hospitals in 19 states and Union Territories. The study looked at individuals who appeared to be healthy but died suddenly between October 2021 and March 2023. “The findings have conclusively shown that Covid-19 vaccination does not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death in young adults,” the Ministry said. The second study, currently being conducted by the AIIMS, New Delhi in collaboration with ICMR, aims to determine the common causes of sudden deaths in young adults. “Early analysis of data from the study indicates that heart attacks, or myocardial infarction (MI), continue to be the leading cause of sudden death in this age group. Importantly, no major changes in the pattern of causes have been observed when compared with previous years,” the Ministry said. The study identified “genetic mutations as a possible cause” in the majority of the unexplained death cases, it added. It has also been revealed that Covid vaccination does not appear to increase the risk, whereas the role of underlying health issues, genetic predisposition, and risky lifestyle choices do play a role in unexplained sudden deaths. The Ministry also called out reports making statements linking Covid vaccination to sudden deaths calling them “false and misleading”.

Vivek Oberoi says he raised Rs 8,500 crore for his companies in just one year: ‘Marry Silicon Valley with Marwari mindset’



Actor Vivek Oberoi said that he grew disillusioned with the film industry, which prompted him to focus on his business ventures. The actor has worked actively in Bollywood for over two decades, but is now increasingly turning to the entrepreneurial side of his life as his primary source of sustenance. In the last year alone, he said that he has raised around \$1 billion (Rs 8,500 crore) for the 12 companies that he is currently a part of; two of these companies, he said in a new interview, are ready to go public. He is said to be worth Rs 1,200 crore.

Chatting with CNBC TV-18, Vivek said that he was inclined towards business from a very young age, thanks to his father, Suresh Oberoi. “He was always an investor, he was buying and selling land, accumulating land. He made money always. Land was my first introduction. When I was

nine or 10, he would suddenly show up with inventory. One year was perfumes, the other year it was electronics... I would fill it up in my backpack, and go door to door. At the end of the day, he would ask me for my ‘khata book’, and let me keep only the profit. He’d take the cost from me,” Vivek said. Vivek said that after spending some years in the film industry, he realised that he was just going around in circles and ending up in the same place that he started. “I didn’t enjoy that. It wasn’t empowering. I enjoyed being there and collaborating with certain people, but collaboration needs to be a circular give-back. People need to pick people with talent, and give them advice, or a platform, or support. That’s something that was missing in the ecosystem,” he said, adding, “It was about either going down a spiral of pessimism, or stop banging my head against that door and open another one instead.” This is when he decided to pivot to business.

He said, “I’m not averse to obnoxious capital. In the past year itself, across my companies, we would have raised over \$1 billion. That is a substantial sum. That isn’t the problem. But where that capital pipeline deploys and how is that growth protected... Somewhere, you have to marry Silicon Valley with a Marwari mindset. That marriage has to happen.” Vivek said that even when Bollywood producers and directors would ‘copy’ international films, they would infuse them with ‘desi tadka’. “So, why not in business?” he asked rhetorically. In an earlier chat with SCREEN, Vivek spoke about his decision to move away from films. “It was only around 2009 when I decided I didn’t want to be completely dependent on this and built my economic independence. I didn’t want to be in a situation where a lobby could decide your future. Somebody could bully you into doing something because they controlled things,” he said.

Apoorva Mukhija, aka Rebel Kid, calls Sudhanshu Pandey a ‘misogynist’, says he has spoken more outside The Traitors than he did on the show

Fans were quite disappointed when social media star Apoorva Mukhija, aka The Rebel Kid, got evicted from The Traitors. What made them even more upset was when Apoorva’s rival, Uorfi Javed, won the show along with Nikita Luther. Apoorva survived till the very end of the Prime Vide reality show, and said that she is happy to have gotten this opportunity. In an interview with SCREEN, Apoorva spoke about her experience on the show. She also opened up about her equation with Purav Jha and her fight with Uorfi Javed. Apoorva also slammed Sidhanshu Pandey for his comments against her. Apoorva recalled the various rules that contestants had to follow during the show. When asked if her contract denied her the ability to quit the show midway, The Rebel Kid shared, “If you could leave the game midway, I would have left after the fourth episode, but there was no rule like that. I don’t think anyone indulged in physical violence. I got my contract read from Chat GPT, so I am not sure. But that also didn’t give me everything I needed to know. I was only concerned about the money, the NDA, and nothing else.”

Talking about her link-up rumours with co-contestant Purav Jha, Apoorva clarified, “There is absolutely nothing between me and Purav, I didn’t even know that he has spoken nicely about me in his VD’s. I was shocked to see them; he was making fun of me, so I thought I would look like a fool for trusting him. He considered me to be his friend, but you cannot stop the internet from shipping us.” Apoorva and Uorfi were at loggerheads throughout their time on the show, and their differences only became more pronounced afterwards. Talking about the same, she said, “She took the story time video personally, and it blew up into drama. Every time I went and sat in the group, she would get up and leave. I am a petty person, so I would never go and clear things out. My goal in life is not to be understood; I was there to catch a traitor and be entertaining. I was dramatic, and I don’t care if people misunderstand me; they are not



paying my bills.” Apoorva also reacted to comments Sudhanshu Pandey made about her in his recent interviews. Calling the Anupamaa actor misogynistic, Apoorva said, “Sudhanshu ji has spoken a lot more outside than he did in the game. I also texted him that he called me his child, so he could have texted me once; this could have been a private conversation. I am sorry if he felt that way, but I cannot go and clarify everything that is said about me on the internet. He also said in an interview that there is a difference between boys and girls, but today, girls think they will live like boys, which also stems from a lot of misogyny, more than moral policing. I have done everything on my behalf. People have only cut reels out of one thing, sir, then why me? We could have spoken about the game.”

Jurassic World Rebirth worldwide box office collection hits \$100 million in two days; highest franchise opener yet in India

Jurassic World Rebirth, despite mixed reviews from critics, has earned more than \$104.6 million within the first two days, as per a report in Deadline. The film released two days before July 4, which kicks off an extended weekend in the US. The seventh film in the franchise kicked off with \$30.5 million on Wednesday in the US and followed it up with \$25.3 million on Thursday, making it one of the biggest midweek openings in the country. In India, the film has become the biggest franchise opener as it made over Rs 9 crore, as per industry tracker Sacnilk.

Jurassic World Rebirth global box office collection. Jurassic World Rebirth received mixed reviews but the opening collections suggest that the craze around dinosaur films is far from over. The film is well on its way to becoming one of the biggest box-office successes of the year. In America and in most parts of the world, the movie rolled out on July 2, while in countries like India and France, it was released on July 4. Within two days, the movie managed to cross the \$100 million mark in the domestic market. It’s now expected to pull in around \$137–138 million, including \$82 million over Friday–Sunday, according to The Hollywood Reporter. That beats the initial projections of \$100–120 million, and the three-day total is close to the \$145 million opening of Dominion in 2022. By Thursday, Jurassic World Rebirth had already brought in \$104.6 million worldwide, with \$48.8 million from overseas markets. It’s now headed for a global opening north of \$260 million, possibly even higher. In China, the movie raked in around \$15.5 million by Friday, leaving Brad Pitt’s F1 behind. The movie topped box-office charts with a 50% market share. In South Korea, where Johansson and Bailey personally visited for promotion, it hit \$2.8 million by Friday and stayed #1 for three days. Other strong openings include the UK/Ireland (\$4.5 million), Mexico (\$4.3 million), and Spain (\$2.4 million). In countries like Germany, Brazil, Thailand, Taiwan, and more, it is currently trending at Number 1. According to box office trend tracker Sacnilk, in India, the Gareth Edwards directorial crossed the 9 crore mark on the first day of its



release. On its opening day, the film beat Bollywood films like Kajol’s Maa and Anurag Basu’s Metro In Dino, alongside Brad Pitt’s F1, which was going strong in the country ever since its release. In India, Rebirth has become the highest-grossing Jurassic instalment yet, surpassing the 2022 release Dominion, which grossed Rs 8.15 crore net and Rs 11 crore including paid previews. The movie, made on a budget of \$180 million, also stars Mahershala Ali, Rupert Friend, Manuel Gracia-Rulfo and Ed Skrein in key roles. If compared to the last three Jurassic World movies, all of them opened higher in the US (\$145 million–\$208 million range), but those had the original trilogy factor. With Rebirth, the franchise is entering its new era.

The movie goes back to the Jurassic roots. The story follows an extraction team on a dinosaur-infested island. The mission is to obtain the dinosaur’s DNA, which can be a lifesaver for mankind. Meanwhile, Brad Pitt’s F1 movie has now entered its second weekend and has already crossed \$200 million worldwide (\$77.4 million from the US and \$125 million from overseas.) On Thursday, it added \$6.1 million, bringing its U.S. total to \$88.5 million.

Ishaan Khatter recalls pulling Amitabh Bachchan’s beard on the set of Sooryavansham: ‘I was calling Bade Miyan’



On a lazy afternoon, if you flip through TV channels and land on Set Max, chances are you’ll find Amitabh Bachchan’s Sooryavansham playing. Though the film didn’t do well in theatres when it was released in 1999, it has gained a cult following over the years. Those who grew up in the early 2000s watched Big B in a double role in the movie, but for actor Ishaan Khatter, the experience was more personal. He actually visited the sets of the film as a child, thanks to his mother, Neelima Azeem, who was part

of the film’s cast. Neelima Azeem played Mrs Varun Singh in the movie, while Ishaan’s father, Rajesh Khattar, played her on-screen husband.

In a recent chat with Mid-Day, Ishaan shared a sweet story from his childhood. “I think my mom once did a children’s show called Nayanantara, and I appeared on it too. It was a talk show where she spoke about parenting and motherhood. I’ve always been fascinated by film sets. She once took me to the sets of Sooryavansham, and apparently, I kept saying ‘Bade Miyan, Bade Miyan’ to Amitabh Bachchan, because I had seen Bade Miyan Chote Miyan,” he laughed. But what happened next made the memory unforgettable. Ishaan said, “He (Amitabh Bachchan) picked me up! And my mom later told me, ‘You were the only kid he lifted, and you pulled his beard!’ And he just smiled and said, ‘It’s okay.’ These are the stories I’ve grown up hearing from my mom.” In an earlier chat with Mashable India, Ishaan shared that it was because of Amitabh Bachchan that his mother could secure an admission for him in one of the best schools in the city. “At the time, she was trying to get me admitted into a school and Jamnabai was then one of the nicest schools. She was having trouble getting admission for me there and he very kindly, personally went and spoke to the authorities,” he said.

Filmistan Studios, founded by Kajol and Rani Mukerji’s grandfather, sold for Rs 183 crore to real estate company

Filmistan Studios, which was one of the earliest studios in Mumbai, became the base for film shoots in the city back in the 1940s, and for decades, it stood tall holding a large part of Indian cinema’s history. Now, the studio and the property it stands on, has been acquired by real estate developers Arkade Developers for a whopping sum of Rs 183 crore. The deal for the transaction was officially registered on July 3. Filmistan was founded by Kajol and Rani Mukerji’s grandfather Sasadhar Mukherjee along with his brother-in-law, late actor, Ashok Kumar in 1943. Gyan Mukherjee and Rai Bahadur Chunilal were also the founders of the studio. The studio came into being after 1943 when Ashok Kumar left Bombay Talkies, another prolific studio in the city. Back in the day, studios were not just seen as places that provide their services for shoot, but as production companies that made films within the studio. For years, actors were employed by these studios on a salary system.

Known for its sound stages, outdoor sets, and accessibility to filmmakers, Filmistan served as a filming location for numerous Bollywood movies, television serials and commercial shoots for decades. However, in recent years, it saw a gradual decline as other technologically advanced studios started emerging in the city. According to Hindustan Times, Arkade Developers Limited plans to launch a project with luxury apartments having a gross development value of Rs 3000 crore. The project is reportedly scheduled for a tentative launch in 2026. The project will reportedly include 3, 4, and 5 BHK residences along with exclusive penthouses, across two high-rise towers of 50 floors each. Amit Jain, the Chairman and Managing Director of Arkade Developers took to his LinkedIn profile to confirm the news.



He wrote, “Thrilled to share that Arkade Developers has successfully acquired the iconic 4-acre Filmistan Pvt. Ltd. land parcel on SV Road, Goregaon West, for a total consideration of Rs 183 crore.” He added, “This strategic acquisition paves the way for an ultra-luxury residential project on one of Mumbai’s most storied addresses — popularly known as ‘Filmistan Studios’.”

Jain told Hindustan Times, “Filmistan Studios holds immense emotional and legacy significance for Mumbai, and we are privileged to be entrusted with shaping its next chapter. This development will go beyond being a premium address, and it will offer a thoughtfully curated lifestyle experience for a discerning few. At Arkade Developers, we are not just creating homes; we are crafting a legacy that reflects the dynamic aspirations of our ever-evolving city.”

After apologising, Ram Kapoor brushes off inappropriate sexual remarks controversy as ‘not a big deal’, but admits his family ‘went berserk’



Actor Ram Kapoor has opened up about his family and friends’ reaction to what he describes as first controversy in 25 years of working in the entertainment industry. He was recently sidelined from the promotions of his new show, Mistry, after he made inappropriate sexual remarks during an interview. He later admitted that he behaved in an obnoxious manner, and said that he would have stopped had he been told that his comments weren’t acceptable. In a new interview, he said that his family went ‘berserk’ after the controversy broke out, and that his friends said that they knew this day would come. Speaking to Zoom Entertainment, the actor admitted that he was ‘nervous’ this time, even though he isn’t the kind of person who gets frazzled easily. Admitting that he stepped out of line, he said that he refuses to let this incident impact his life in a major way. “When this news hit, my family and my network and my staff went berserk. And I was telling everyone, ‘Why are you all reacting so much? I will handle it.’ And I did handle it. For me, it was definitely a situation that needed to be handled, but it was not a big deal.” he said.

Using the incident as a teachable moment for his children, he told them that difficult situations in life should be handled calmly. “I don’t want to sound as if I’m preaching because I have nobody to preach to. But if you don’t allow anything to become a big deal, then you will not let anything affect you too much, which is good. Because small, unnecessary things affect us and waste our lives. We don’t realise it. So my thought process is a bit like this,” he said. The actor claimed to have received support from members of the industry, as he seemed to step further away from his initial apologetic tone. Suggesting that his comments wouldn’t have been taken in the wrong spirit had he been

around people who know and understand him, he said, “Everybody who knows me and has worked with me called and just laughed on the phone, saying, ‘I told you one day, this would happen’.” So the fact is, I got a lot of support from the press, from my directors, from my actors.” In recent interviews, the actor has also been speaking openly about the wealth that he has accrued for himself over the years, saying that he has made enough money for four generations. He also said that he is doubling his money every three years at this point in his life, and that he can afford to buy cars worth crores of rupees without thinking too much about it.

Rajinikanth’s Coolie to reach audience in a 100 countries?

Chennai: If one is to go by rumours doing the rounds in the industry, director Lokesh Kanagaraj’s much awaited action entertainer ‘Coolie’, featuring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead, may well reach audiences in over a 100 countries around the world when the film hits screens on August 14 this year! Hamsini Entertainment, a key player in international film distribution, is backing the film’s global distribution. Having released over 130 films across languages worldwide, Hamsini Entertainment has a proven track record of taking Indian cinema to a global audience.

Hamsini’s recent ventures include the release of The Greatest of All Time (GOAT) starring Vijay in over 40 countries, and Devara, starring Jr. NTR, in more than 90 countries. Now, sources in the industry claim that with ‘Coolie’, Hamsini Entertainment is gearing up for their biggest release yet, targeting distribution in over a 100 countries, making it one of the most widespread international releases for an Indian film. Produced by Sun Pictures, Coolie has already made headlines by becoming the highest overseas procurement for a Tamil film to date. Apart from Rajinikanth, the film also stars stalwarts from the Indian film industry like Nagarjuna, Sathyaraj, Aamir Khan, Upendra, Soubin Shahir and Shruti Haasan. Anirudh has composed the music for the film marking his fourth consecutive film with director Lokesh Kanagaraj. Cinematography for the film is by Girish Gangadharan and editing is by Philomin Raj. The film is keenly awaited as it will feature actors Sathyaraj and Rajinikanth together after almost 38 years. The two were last seen together in the superhit Tamil film ‘Mr Bharath’, which was released in 1986 and in which Sathyaraj played Rajinikanth’s father.

Portuguese tennis star reveals Wimbledon denied this tribute request to Diogo Jota of wearing football jersey but allowed black bands



GNS News Agency, July 14

A day after the death of the Liverpool footballer Diogo Jota, who hailed from Portugal, a Portuguese tennis player Nuno Borges said he was prevented by Wimbledon officials from wearing a football jersey on to court in tribute to the footballer. Borges is Portugal No1 tennis player and he eventually wore a black ribbon pinned to his hat during Friday's third-round game against Karen Khachanov. He would reveal later that his team had initially pressed for a more visible tribute to Jota, who was killed in a road acci-

dent in Spain on Thursday. "I know Wimbledon is usually not very flexible with attire," Borges said. "But I was told we could still do something to pay our respects for what happened, so I think it was a nice gesture. He was a great footballer. It was a tragedy." Borges, who lost a five-set thriller, said his agent had even tried to source a white version of the football shirt to comply with dress rules, but it was not approved. "We initially talked about getting a full jersey to walk on court," he said. "I even tried to find one in white, but it was turned down, so we ended up doing something a little smaller." Asked if Wimbledon should have allowed the shirt, he said: "I think that's what makes Wimbledon special and different from every other slam, so I really don't know. Wimbledon relaxed its 148-year-old dress code in light of Jota's death, allowing players to wear black ribbons or armbands. Borges wore that along with fellow Portuguese doubles player Francisco Cabral. Cabral said, "Yesterday the idea of wearing a black strap came up – that was not allowed. I asked for permission to use the black ribbon and they let me play with it. He was an inspiration not only for me but for the country in general. He made so much in the sport and conquered so much in my life. If I helped one per cent for the family I will be super happy."

Vaibhav Suryavanshi slams 52-ball century, puts India U19 in charge vs England U19

GNS News Agency, July 14

Vaibhav Suryavanshi broke the India U19 sixes record with nine maximums against England U19 in the 3rd ODI. (X) Vaibhav Suryavashi broke the India U19 sixes record with nine maximums against England U19 in the 3rd ODI. (X) India's teenage sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi smashed a blistering century in the India U19 vs England U19 4th Youth ODI match on Saturday as he continued his meteoric ascent. The 14-year old took 52 deliveries in an innings studded with 7 sixes and 10 boundaries. This was the fastest century ever in the history of youth ODIs. The youngster ultimately scored 143 runs off 78 deliveries.

The teenager burst into the scene in October 2024 when he etched his name in the history books as he became the youngest player to score an international century. Vaibhav scored 104 off 62 balls in India Under-19's Youth Test against Australia in Chennai. A month later, Vaibhav Suryavanshi became the youngest player to be signed in IPL history as he ignited a bidding war between Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals, with the former ultimately securing him for a handsome sum of Rs 1.1 crore. During the IPL this year, his fame became stratospheric when he smashed a 35-ball century for Rajasthan Royals against Gujarat Titans – the fastest by an Indian in IPL history and the second-fastest overall. In the last match, Suryavanshi continued to display his belligerent big-hitting capabilities as he lit up India U19's stellar four-wicket win over England U-19 in the third Youth ODI. In a rain-affected contest that was trimmed to 40 overs, England racked up 268 for six on the back of captain Thomas Rew's unbeaten



76 off 44 deliveries. However, it was the Suryavanshi show that dominated the match in the second half as he stormed his way to a 20-ball fifty to get India's chase off to a blistering start. The 14-year-old dashing southpaw smoked nine sixes and six fours before falling short of a sensational century on 86 in only 31 deliveries, his highest score in six youth ODIs for India. Aided by the roaring start, India chased down the 269-run target in only 34.3 overs. Suryavanshi's 20-ball half-century is only bettered by Rishabh Pant among Indian batters in youth ODIs. The current India Test vice-captain had slammed an 18-ball fifty against Nepal U19 back in 2016. Suryavanshi's nine sixes also break the Indian record in all youth ODIs, surpassing Raj Angad Bawa and Mandeep Singh's previous joint record of eight maximums each. The Rajasthan Royals batter made 78 of his runs in boundaries, amounting to 90.69 per cent of his total score. Only three other Indians – Pant, Sarfaraz Khan and Manan Vohra – have recorded a higher percentage of runs in boundaries in a Youth ODI innings for India.

IND vs ENG: Why Mohammed Siraj thinks Akash Deep is like a horse



GNS News Agency, July 14

Mohammed Siraj Akash Deep India vs England Siraj and Akash Deep took all the 10 wickets between them with the former taking 6 while the latter snapped up 4 as they helped India maintain a healthy lead. (Screengrabs: BCCI.tv) Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep duly compensated for Jasprit Bumrah's absence in the second India vs England Test at Edgbaston as the two pacers combined to skittle out England for 407 runs on Friday. Siraj and Akash Deep took all the 10 wickets between them with the former taking 6 while the latter snapped up 4 as they helped India maintain a healthy lead. "Akash Deep is like a horse. He was waiting for opportunity and when the opportunity ar-

rived he has shown how hungry he was. To be honest I enjoyed a lot bowling with him. I love when given responsibility. My only goal was not to give runs from my end. I tried to bowl with control as much as possible and keep the batsmen under pressure," Siraj said in an interaction with BCCI.TV. Bengal pacer Akash Deep also lauded Siraj, saying how much he loved sharing the new ball partnership with the Hyderabad speedster.

"With the first new ball I got two wickets but Mian (Siraj) played a big role. He kept the pressure from one end. Very important role (Siraj played), we bowled in partnership with the new ball. Enjoyed a lot. The way we made a comeback with the second new ball was special. Five wickets will come and go but I never have these things in mind," he said. At close on day 3, India were 64 for 1 in the second innings – an overall lead of 244 runs – with KL Rahul (28 batting) and Karun Nair (7 batting) at the crease. Yashasvi Jaiswal was the only batsman to get out on 28 runs. Siraj (6/70) struck vital blows in the morning session, dismissing Joe Root (22) and Ben Stokes (0), while Akash Deep (4/88) broke a 303-run partnership between Brook (158) and Smith (184 not out) by getting rid of the former in the post-tea session. Akash then sent back Chris Woakes for 5 runs to reduce England 395/7, before Siraj wiped out the tail, dismissing Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue and Shoaib Bashir for ducks.

Mohammed Siraj's 6-wicket haul puts India in commanding position against England at Edgbaston

GNS News Agency, July 14

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's Mohammed Siraj, who returned with dream figures of six for 70 in the England first innings of the second Test at Edgbaston on Friday, said that the feeling was unbelievable. "I'd been waiting for a moment like this for over a year. I always bowled well but wickets didn't come. Today, the morning session felt good but still no breakthrough—so these six wickets are really special," Siraj said in a chat with JioHotstar after the third day's play. "The pitch was slow, but I knew I had a responsibility. I haven't played too many matches recently, but with experience, I knew not to try too much. Just keep bowling in the right areas. That builds pressure and changes the atmosphere. I've played 38 Tests, so my aim was to bring stability," he said. "With 600 runs on the board, I didn't want to go hunting for wickets—I just wanted to be consistent. I love responsibility, I love challenges. I've seen many challenges in life, and I feel I perform best when there's a burden on my shoulders," Siraj said. For his part, former India pace bowler and JioStar expert said the difference

in Siraj's numbers when Bumrah isn't playing was drastic—it showed he relished leadership. "Like Shubman Gill with the bat, he enjoys taking charge of the bowling unit. I'd say he had a bit of luck early on today—luck earned from his consistent efforts in the last match," Varun said. "He stuck to his strengths—setting batters up with the away-going delivery and then using that sharp in-dipper, which has become one of his biggest weapons. That's now Siraj's best bowling performance in England: 6 for 70. Brilliant execution," he said. Former England international and JioStar expert Jonathan Trott said yes they could talk about some questionable captaincy and bowling lengths, but credit to the English batsmen. "Then, the way India came out shows they clearly had a discussion in the dressing room about intent. They wanted to be positive and ensure they got runs on the board to bowl England out," Varun said. "They desperately needed a big partnership—and Harry Brook and Jamie Smith delivered."

‘That’s the negative, these bowlers hardly get a rest’: Nasser Hussain on Bazball’s effect on England bowlers



IND vs ENG: Nasser Hussain has termed the shorter recovery time for the bowlers to rest due to Bazball as a negative of England's aggressive approach. IND vs ENG: Nasser Hussain has termed the shorter recovery time for the bowlers to rest due to Bazball as a negative of England's aggressive approach. (AP) After India gained a 180-run first innings lead in the second Test at Edgbaston, KL Rahul and Karun Nair ensured that India leads England by 244 runs at the end of the third day's play. With two more days remaining in the Test, India will look towards building a huge second innings total before they put England to chase the target. With England scoring 407 runs in their first innings in 89.3 overs at a run-rate of 4.54, former captain Nasser Hussain has termed the shorter recovery time for the bowlers to rest due to Bazball as a negative of England's aggressive approach.

"India know they need time to bowl England out, it's still a very good pitch. That's why I think they've been positive tonight, which is the right approach. Also they're taking advantage of tired bowlers. That's the negative of Bazball, these bowlers hardly get a rest," Hussain told Sky Sports. After India had reduced England to 84 for 5 in their first innings, with India posting a mammoth total of 587 in their first innings, Harry Brook and Jamie Smith stitched together a 303-run sixth-wicket partnership in 368 balls. It was also England's second-highest sixth-wicket partnership in Tests. While England lost their last five wickets quickly with their first innings folding at 407 runs and handing a 180-run first innings' lead to India, Hussain praised the quick scoring by Brook and Smith but also found the England bowlers tired due to England batting quickly. "Watching this England team is just so much fun, long may it continue. One of the consequences of Bazball, though, is their bowlers bowl so quickly – on flat pitches in back-to-back matches they're coming in tired. They look tired and frazzled," Hussain said.

While Brook scored his ninth Test hundred with his knock of 158, England wicket-keeper Jamie Smith scored his second Test hundred with an unbeaten knock of 184 runs off 207 balls. Hussain termed Smith's knock as 'Bazball with brains'. "He (Jamie Smith) didn't look reckless, it was more Bazball with brains. Anyone who has watched Surrey and England will know he is a man of talent. More than his ability, I like his calmness and attitude. He looks like he is meant to be playing here," Hussain said.

‘When you know that your coach is backing you...’: Indian pacer Akash Deep on coach Gautam Gambhir’s backing



GNS News Agency, July 14

With the Shubman Gill-led Indian team taking a 180-run first innings lead against England in the second Test at Edgbaston, Mohammed Siraj's six-wicket spell coupled with Akash Deep's four-wicket haul was the highlight of the day for the Indian team. With India leading by 244 runs with nine wickets in hand in their second innings, India will once again look towards Siraj and Akash Deep to make dents in England's batting once the target is set. Pacer Akash Deep, who picked up four wickets in England's first innings, talked about how coach Gautam Gambhir motivated him to give his best. "He (Gautam Gambhir) kept sharing his experience with me. What a player needs from a coach in terms of confidence, he has given me. And his confidence in me only has reflected in this match. When you know that your coach is backing you, then you get the confidence and it gets reflected in the match. He was telling me I don't even know what skills I have. So that's motivating when the coach says that. He along with Morne Morkel kept reminding me of my strengths," Akash Deep told

reporters after the end of third day's play.

The Indian pacer was picked in place of Jasprit Bumrah for the second Test with the Indian team management deciding to rest Bumrah. He picked up the wickets of Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope off consecutive deliveries on the second day before he accounted for the fall of a well set Harry Brook and breaking the 303-run partnership between Brook and Jamie Smith. The right-arm pacer would also talk about the kind of flat wickets the Indian team is encountering during the tour and the challenge. "The kind of wickets and the kind of batting England has, it poses a challenge. As a bowler, you have things like disciplined bowling, bowling in your areas and bowling according to your plan in your hands on such kinds of pitches. So I believe when you keep things simple and go into the match with your plan and try to execute your plans, it's not difficult. Whether conditions are easy or difficult and whatever the batting is, it becomes easier for us. Result will come in favour one day and it will not come in favour the other day but sticking to this makes things easier for you," he said. England recovered after being 84 for 5 with Brook and Smith stitching together a 303-run partnership for the sixth wicket but Siraj and Akash Deep made sure that England lost quick wickets with the second new ball. Akash Deep also talked about his conversation with Siraj. "We kept talking about what's working and what's not working. One thing which we kept talking about was that we have to maintain pressure as a pair. We will bowl in our areas and will not concede runs. Whether we get the wicket or not. With the first new ball, I was attacking and Siraj was stopping the runs. So it gave me the freedom to bowl freely. That was important," said the Indian pacer.

On PV Sindhu’s birthday, commentator Gill Clark’s inspirational post: ‘Certainly possible she could write another chapter in her remarkable career’



“Athletes tend to be defined by how they perform at the major events, the Olympic Games and world championships

GNS News Agency, July 14

Veteran badminton commentator Gill Clark said Sindhu could still script a memorable chapter after turning 30, citing the example of Roger Federer and Felix Sanchez. Veteran badminton commentator Gill Clark said Sindhu could still script a memorable chapter after turning 30, citing the example of Roger Federer and Felix Sanchez. On Saturday, PV Sindhu hit the big 3-0 landmark. The star Indian shuttler, who has won medals at Tokyo and Paris Olympics, turned 30. To mark the occasion, veteran badminton commentator and former doubles player, Gill Clark, posted an inspirational message on her X account. Clark, a former World Championships medalist herself in mixed doubles and women's doubles, recounted Sindhu's well-established reputation as one of the greatest big-tournament shuttlers in the world. But Clark also said Sindhu could still script a memorable chapter after turning 30, citing the example of Roger Federer and Felix Sanchez.

"Athletes tend to be defined by how they perform at the major events, the Olympic Games and world championships. They are the ultimate test as every rival shares

that same burning desire to perform to their best. Everyone has prepared, everyone has the desire, but it's only a rare few who actually have the mindset and character to deliver. Pusarla Venkata Sindhu has always been a "big tournament player" with 2 Olympic and 5 world championship medals (plus medals at Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Asian Championships). But what is so remarkable, and testament to Sindhu's character and "big tournament player" reputation, is that with all 7 medals won at the world championships or Olympic Games, she surpassed expectations according to her ranking at the time. Seeded 9 in Rio when she won Olympic Silver, and 5 when she became world champion in 2019. Athletes tend to be defined by how they perform at the major events, the Olympic Games and world championships. They are the ultimate test as every rival shares that same burning desire to perform to their best. Everyone has prepared, everyone has the desire, but it's only a rare... pic.twitter.com/GuPQhwY8e3 There is no doubt, therefore, that Sindhu has that remarkable and rare ability to produce her absolute best on the very biggest of global stages. But it's now 4 years since her medal in Tokyo, and 6 years since her last world championship medal, and with Sindhu turning 30 today (on World #Badminton Day) some have wondered whether advancing years and recent injury problems have taken their toll. However, sport is littered with inspirational stories of athletes coming back after injuries and a period of barren success. Roger Federer missed most of the 2016 season due to injury, but at the age of 35 he made a miraculous comeback to win the 2017 Australian Open, his first Grand Slam title since 2012. Félix Sánchez, a 400m hurdler was unbeaten for 43 races from 2001 to 2004 winning Olympic and 2 world championship Golds in that period. For 8 years he then struggled and was ranked 7th going into the 2012 Olympics, but against all odds he won a second Gold, 8 years after his first. Sindhu's place in history is already secured by her medal haul at the Majors. And it is certainly possible Sindhu, like Federer and Sánchez, could write yet another chapter in her remarkable career. Because, while circumstances may change, the character and mindset of a champion endures.