

BRAOU MBA & MBA (HHCM) entrance test on August 10

Hyderabad, July 3 Dr B. R. Ambedkar Open University invites online applications from the candidates desirous of appearing for the MBA & MBA (Hospital and Healthcare Management) Entrance Test-2025-26 for admission into MBA & MBA (HHCM) Programmes for the academic year 2025-26. The last date for 'Online Registration' is July 15. The candidates, who qualified in ICET-2025 and BRAOUMBAET-2025 can directly seek admission into the MBA & MBA (HHCM) Programme. BRAOUMBAET will be conducted on August 10. The timing of examination 2 pm to 3.30 pm at specified centres located in the Telangana.

PM Modi leaves for Trinidad after concluding visit to Ghana



GNS News Agency, July 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday (July 3, 2025) addressed the Parliament of Ghana and dedicated the prestigious "Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana" conferred on him to the enduring friendship and shared values between the two countries. "The tribute paid by Prime Minister reflects India's deep respect for Ghana's rich history and reaffirms the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two countries," a statement released by the Ministry of External Affairs said.

Konda couple meets Meenakshi Natarajan



Hyderabad, July 3 : Internal conflicts within the Telangana Congress intensified as former MLC Konda Murali and Forest Minister Konda Surekha met AICC Telangana in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan in Hyderabad on Thursday.It is reported that the couple submitted a 16-page letter to Natarajan, outlining what they considered troubling developments within the Warangal unit of the party. This meeting followed Murali's recent appearance before the TPCC Disciplinary Committee, prompted by a complaint from former Congress MLAs from the erstwhile Warangal district. The MLAs accused the former MLC of making inappropriate remarks and interfering in issues related to other constituencies. Murali subsequently submitted a counter-complaint, alleging that the complainant MLAs were involved in activities detrimental to the party. Amid the intensifying conflict within the party, the Konda couple convened with Natarajan at the MLA Quarters to share their perspective on the situation. In a later media interaction, Minister Konda Surekha stated that they had briefed Meenakshi about the circumstances in the district. She emphasized that their aim is to foster the development of the Congress party and to elevate Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, to the position of Prime Minister in the future.

Fire Breaks Out at AIIMS Trauma Centre, Major Disaster Averted



GNS News Agency, July 3

New Delhi: A major fire broke out on Thursday afternoon at the Trauma Centre of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi, causing panic on the hospital premises. The blaze originated in a high-voltage transformer, but swift action by the fire department ensured that the situation was brought under control without any casualties or disruption to hospital services.According to fire officials, the incident occurred around 3:35 p.m. when a 33,000-volt electric transformer installed near the Trauma Centre caught fire. The Delhi Fire Service was immediately alerted, and eight fire tenders were rushed to the site.The swift response and efficient coordination of the firefighting team ensured the blaze was quickly brought under control before it could spread to two adjacent 33,000-volt transformers. Officials noted that had the fire reached those units, the outcome could have been far more dangerous. The situation was especially critical, as the doctors' hostel is located just five meters away from the transformer that caught fire. Fire personnel acted promptly to extinguish the flames and secure the area, successfully averting a major disaster.

Telangana HC issues notices over delay in Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa Scheme implementation

GNS News Agency, July 3

Hyderabad: Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara of the Telangana High Court on Wednesday issued notices to the State Chief Secretary K. Ramakrishna Rao and Principal Secretary of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department T.K. Sreedevi in a contempt petition, seeking their explanation for failing to act upon a court direction regarding the implementation of the Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa Scheme in municipal areas.The contempt proceedings arose out of an earlier public interest litigation, wherein the petitioner sought extension of the Indiramma Atmiya Bharosa

Scheme intended to benefit landless agricultural labourers in rural areas to similarly placed individuals residing in small towns and municipal jurisdictions.

The scheme was introduced through G.O. No. 18 dated January 10, 2024. In its previous order, the High Court had directed the petitioner to submit a representation to the Chief Secretary and the Principal Secretary. Municipal Administration.It had further directed the authorities to take a decision within four weeks of receiving the representation and communicate the same to the petitioner. The Court had made it clear that it was not ex-



Committed To Transform Telangana Into Trillion-Dollar Economy By 2035: Duddilla

Hyderabad, July 3 : Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu at the inauguration of the Malabar Gems and Jewellery Manufacturing Unit said his government was committed to transforming Telangana into a trillion-dollar economy by 2035. "I believe the newly inaugurated Malabar Manufacturing Unit will serve as a beacon for Telangana's emergence as a manufacturing hub. I also invite Malabar and other firms to explore setting up furniture manufacturing units in the State and we assure full support from the Government. I urge the Malabar Group and other industry leaders to partner with the Telangana Government in skill development, so that our talented youth are equipped to lead the future of manufacturing".

pressing any opinion on the merits of the scheme or its applicability to urban areas.However, alleging non-compliance with the court's directive, the petitioner returned to the High Court with a contempt petition, asserting that a representation had been duly submitted.

However, no decision was forthcoming from the authorities. Advocate Chikkudu Prabhakar, appearing for the petitioner, submitted that the inaction of the officials constituted a violation of the court's explicit direction.Taking note of the submissions, the bench issued notices to the Chief Secretary and the Principal Secretary, calling upon them to respond to the allegations. The matter was adjourned to July 29 for further hearing.

Government to initiate removal motion against Justice Yashwant Varma



GNS News Agency, July 3

The government will begin the process of collecting signatures for a motion to remove Allahabad High Court judge Yashwant Varma soon, as most of the prominent political parties have accepted, in principle, to support the motion.The Government is set to begin the process of collecting signatures for a motion seeking the removal of Allahabad High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, with several major political parties having expressed their willingness, in principle, to support the initiative.Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju on Wednesday (July 2, 2025) said that while the process of obtaining signatures would commence shortly, a decision was yet to be taken on whether the motion would be introduced in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. A minimum of 100 Members of Parliament (MPs) is required for the Lok Sabha, and at least 50 MPs for the Rajya Sabha, for such a motion to be admitted.The Monsoon Session of Parliament will begin on July 21 and conclude on August 21, following a last-minute extension of 10 days. President Droupadi Murmu gave assent to the revised schedule earlier in the day. "The Government has enough business to conduct," Mr. Rijiju said, without elaborating on the reasons for extending the session beyond the earlier end date of August 12.Even if the motion is introduced during the upcoming session, it is unlikely to reach a conclusion within the same period. Under the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968, once a motion for the removal of a judge is admitted in either House, the presiding officer is required to constitute a three-member committee to investigate the allegations forming the basis of the motion. This committee is composed of the Chief Justice of India (CJI) or a Supreme Court judge, the Chief Justice of a High Court, and a distinguished jurist. The committee must submit its report within three months, though an extension may be granted.

Over 40,000 party activists to attend Kharge's meeting: TPCC chief

Hyderabad, July 3 : Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has announced that over 40,000 party activists, including village, mandal, and district presidents, as well as ministers, MLAs, MPs, and Corporation chairpersons, are expected to participate in the Jai Babu, Jai Bheem, and Jai Samvidhan event, scheduled at the LB Stadium in Hyderabad on Friday, July 4. He highlighted that All India Congress Committee (AICC) President Mallikarjun Kharge, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, and other prominent leaders will speak to the large assembly of party members, offering guidance to village presidents.During a media briefing at Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, Mahesh Kumar Goud also criticised BRS MLC Kavitha for her letter to AICC National President Kharge regarding the BC reservation bills, describing her actions as unusual."Did Kavitha write on behalf of Jagruti? It's uncertain if she penned the letter representing the BRS. I feel embarrassed for having written to the AICC President. What was her role when the BRS held power for a decade? Former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao did indeed reduce reservations in local body elections, didn't he? Can



you provide a single instance of Kavitha discussing BC issues over the past ten years?" he asked. The TPCC chief said Kavitha is chanting the name of BCs for her survival in a political vacuum and she has no right to talk about BCs.He emphasised that the Congress party backs SC, ST and BC communities, having secured 42 percent reservation for BCs in local bodies, education and health sectors.Kavitha is reckoning her fate in prison due to the liquor scam while the Congress party has been advocating for BCs," he commented.Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed disappointment that the BJP has not appointed a BC leader as the state president, emphasising that social justice can only be achieved through the Congress party.

IT Bonalu Poster launched by IT Minister at T-Hub



Hyderabad, July 3 : In a celebration that seamlessly blends Telangana's age-old traditions with Hyderabad's cutting-edge technology sector, Telangana IT & Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu officially launched the TITA Bonalu 2025 poster at T-Hub, in the presence of TITA Global president Sundeep Kumar Makthala and members of the Bonalu organising committee.This year's IT Bonalu celebrations are being held in association with the Department of Language & Culture, underscoring the State's commitment to preserving and promoting cultural heritage across all sectors of society. On the occasion, Sundeep Makthala extended heartfelt thanks to Mamidi Harikrishna, Director, Department of Language and Culture, for his continued support in keeping Telangana's traditions alive in contemporary settings.

The event marks the beginning of the 2025 edition of TITA Bonalu, scheduled for Sunday, July 6, during the auspicious second Sunday of Ashadam Maasam. The Minister, who has personally attended the celebrations in previous years, fondly recalled the atmosphere. "IT Bonalu reflects the cultural heartbeat of Telangana in our most modern spaces. I've witnessed firsthand the energy and devotion IT professionals bring to this celebration—it's deeply inspiring," he said, applauding TITA's consistent efforts in preserving cultural values within the tech corridor A unique highlight this year is the grand procession from Shilpakala Vedika to Chinna Peddhamma Temple, located opposite the Google office in Madhapur. Before the procession begins, Sundeep Makthala and his family will perform a traditional offering of sari and vadibbiyyam to the goddess, continuing a deeply personal and symbolic ritual that reflects the spiritual foundation of the celebration.

Adding to the grandeur, 21 Bonalu from various IT companies, including Infosys, IBM, Microsoft, and

others, will begin their journeys from their respective office premises and converge at Shilpakala Vedika, from where the collective procession will advance toward the temple, accompanied by music, devotion, and community spirit.The cultural richness of the event will be brought to life by Telangana's renowned folk troupes, including Pothurajulu, Sivasattulu, Dappulu, Oggu Dolu, and Gussadi tribal dancers. Their performances will transform the IT corridor into a vibrant stage of tradition, reconnecting thousands of professionals with their cultural roots. The poster launch was graced by key members of the TITA Bonalu Committee, including Bhagya Lakshmi Vakiti, Srinivas Marri, Harini Goli, Yamini Maddukuri, Manasa, Dinesh, Keerthan, Praneeth, Venkat Boora, and a team of dedicated volunteers and cultural enthusiasts who have worked passionately to bring the celebration to life.Speaking on the occasion, Sundeep Kumar Makthala remarked, "TITA Bonalu has grown into more than just a festival—it's a platform where culture and innovation co-exist. Every step in the procession echoes our pride in Telangana's identity. We are grateful to the Government of Telangana and especially the Department of Language and Culture for standing with us in this journey."

As Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi betrayed Telangana, says KTR

GNS News Agency, July 3

Hyderabad: Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao lashed out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for betraying the people of Telangana during his one-year tenure as Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha. He criticised Gandhi for failing to raise any of Telangana's key issues in Parliament, including the unfulfilled promises of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.

"From national status to an irrigation project to the Bayyaram steel plant and other promises, Rahul Gandhi has not once raised Telangana's burning issues," he said.Taking to X, Rama Rao charged Gandhi with turning a blind eye to Andhra Pradesh's controversial Banakacherla project, which threatens to divert Godavari waters away from Telangana farmers.

He said the Congress leader's silence on the Banakacherla project was an indication of his complicity."After peddling hollow 420 promises in Telangana's Assembly polls, he vanished like a shadow, leaving Congress to bask in power while Telangana's aspirations rot," he added.

Strengthening capacity building of civil servants in Telangana: Mission Karmayogi Team meets Governor



Hyderabad, July 3 The Mission Karmayogi team (Capacity Building Commission and Karmayogi Bharat) called on Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on July 2, 2025. Led by Dr Alka Mittal (Member, Administration, Capacity Building Commission), Navneet Kaur (Director, Capacity Building Commission) and Soumi Banerjee (General Manager, Karmayogi Bharat), the team apprised the Governor of the ongoing implementation of Mission Karmayogi in the State and sought guidance on the way forward. The Governor expressed support for the initiative and encouraged the team to continue driving this transformative mission forward in the State. Earlier, the Mission Karmayogi team met with K. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Secretary and senior department heads to chart the way forward for capacity building of civil servants in the State. The team presented a detailed overview of Mission Karmayogi, emphasizing its vision of nurturing a future-ready, citizen-centric civil service through digital learning and competency-based training.

Kavitha unveils 'Rail Roko poster' for support of 42 percent BC reservations

Hyderabad, July 3 : BRS MLC K Kavitha unveiled a poster for the upcoming Rail Roko, organised by Jagruti, scheduled for July 17. This initiative aims to demand the Parliament's approval of the BC Reservation Bill. Later, speaking to the media at her residence here on Thursday, she explained that the Rail Roko will halt all trains traveling from Telangana to Delhi, aiming to ensure the protest's effectiveness. "We intend to apply pressure on the BJP to pass the BC Reservation Bill," Kavitha stated.

Minister's orders ignored – ‘New Vision’ becomes a curse for children.



“Khammam Bureau, July 03, Indian Chronicle. “In Khammam, some individuals have survived for years solely through lobbying and influence. People with Andhra roots, having settled in Telangana, have adapted their lobbying tactics to thrive here as well. These individuals, who have turned into a syndicate, have encroached on lands and display arrogance toward local residents. For them, committing wrongdoing and taking even more wrong steps to escape the consequences has become second nature. Khammam city is in the clutches of these land grabbers. Acting excessively cunning and engaging in extreme misbehavior has become normalized. “For the past two years, Khammam has been experiencing heavy rainfall. As a result, the city’s underlying ugliness has been exposed. Canals have overflowed, and floodwaters have risen above slab level, inundating homes. Thousands of common people’s lives and finances have been turned upside down. The main reason behind this is the land-grabbing syndicate in Khammam and their leader, who turned a blind eye to these illegalities. That same group is now desperately trying to join a new team to cover up their misdeeds. As their plans failed, they are now using innocent children’s lives to continue their business ventures. “In Khammam city, there is a sewage canal stretching from Ballepalli to the Gangamma Temple in Alilpuram. Many small-time local leaders have encroached on both sides of the canal, causing blockages in water flow. Beyond Khanapuram, the sewage water flow increases. Near the lower part of the bypass road, construction of square-shaped buildings has been undertaken by combining the road with adjacent empty land. By bribing gram panchayat officials and abusing their



power, they obtained permissions. This is clearly evident when looking at the old maps. “Now, in areas prone to flooding, the canal’s width is being reduced from 15 meters to 12 meters, and the work has been deliberately delayed for over a year. A hostel has even been set up on the top floor of a four-story building. Although the government is working on desilting the canal, illegal septic tanks have been built in it, and entire roads have been occupied for construction. The Municipal Corporation has issued warning notices, but these were blatantly ignored. The school has failed to provide proper facilities despite collecting huge fees and has disregarded educational building standards. The previous government, rather than acting, tried to rebrand a visionless school into ‘New Vision’. That’s why, despite blatant encroachments on roads and canals, no action was taken. “Minister Thummala is serious. “Minister Thummala strongly believes that anyone who does wrong must not be forgiven, no matter how close they are to him. When Khammam was severely flooded, there were political attempts to defame Thummala and blame him, even though he had no involvement.

However, his relief measures through government officials silenced the BRS party critics. This same BRS-affiliated ‘New Vision’ school has swallowed part of the road for its construction. Now, the residents in the area are deeply worried about their children’s safety. When questioned, school staff give false reassurances, saying the kids are housed safely in the upper floors. People are now urging that Minister Thummala issue strict orders to demolish the illegally built New Vision School and restore public confidence.”

Coal India Ltd & SCCL join hands with heartfulness by signing two MoUs

Hyderabad, July 3 : The Consultative Committee meetings of Members of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Coal & Ministry of Mines were held today under the chairmanship of Minister of Coal and Mines, G. Kishan Reddy. The meeting was co-chaired by Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey. Senior officials from both ministries made detailed presentations highlighting key policy initiatives, current progress, and future plans. The Ministry of Coal showcased various environmental restoration and repurposing initiatives aimed at promoting tourism, supporting local industries, and generating economic opportunities for affected communities. The Ministry of Mines shared its ambitious vision for expanding mineral exploration across the country, with presentations from premier exploration agencies, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL). Addressing the committee, Kishan Reddy emphasized that India’s coal sector is at a pivotal juncture, achieving record-breaking domestic coal production of over one billion tonnes, while simultaneously driving green initiatives and sustainability. He underscored mine closure as a national and moral responsibility, aimed at restoring ecosystems and creating livelihood opportunities. On the issue of mineral exploration, Reddy highlighted that Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in minerals, particularly critical and strategic minerals, will be fundamental to realising the national vision

of Viksit Bharat 2047. He stated that mineral exploration is being taken up in mission mode, employing advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, and modern geophysical surveys. He also stressed the crucial role of the private sector in accelerating exploration efforts and ensuring mineral security for the country’s renewable energy goals.

Minister of State Satish Chandra Dubey reiterated the government’s commitment to sustainable mining and inclusive development. He spoke on the vision to accelerating mine closure and mineral exploration and emphasised that community participation and inter-ministerial coordination will be key to achieving long-term success. Coal India Ltd and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) joined hands with heartfulness today by signing two MoUs respectively on the reclaim initiative announced by the Ministry of Coal and Mines in association with Heartfulness this week. Kishan Reddy graced the MoU signing event at Kanha Shanti Vanam – the headquarters of Heartfulness in the outskirts of Hyderabad today.

The Union Minister was joined by Satish Chandra Dubey, Minister of State for Coal and Mines, senior management and representatives of Coal India Ltd, SCCL and Heartfulness in the presence of Rev. Daaji, guide of Heartfulness and President of Ram Chandra Mission.

We should always be available to the people in times of disaster and stand by them: District SP Rohit Raj



“Bhadradri Kothagudem, June 3, Indian Chronicle: In view of the upcoming rains, 05 DDRF teams formed under the auspices of the district police will be available to the people at all times to rescue the victims accidentally trapped in the floods that may occur. We are moving forward in co-ordination with all the departments to ensure that we are available to the people in times of emergency, he said. As part of this, a meeting was organized with the District Fire Department officials and 6th Battalion TGSP officials at the conference hall of the District SP office on Thursday. He informed on this occasion that the DDRF teams, which have been specially trained, are ready to deal with any disaster in the district. He informed us that these teams will always



be available to protect the people living in the low-lying areas of the river basin, especially when the Godavari River floods occur. The life jackets and life buoys required during rescue Rings, boat pedals, ropes, and other equipment have been provided to these teams. He said that officers of all departments should act responsibly in coordination to protect the victims of any disaster in any area of ??the district. He advised the people of low-lying areas to be always alert in view of the upcoming heavy rains. He advised them to call Dial 100 in times of disaster and use the services of the police. “Additional SP Operations Narender, District Fire Officer Kranthi Kumar, 6th Battalion Assistant Commandant Srinivas, Operations RI Ravi, and staff participated in this program.

Minister Komatireddy Asks Kcr To Come To Assembly To Discuss Public Problems

Hyderabad, July 3: State Roads & Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkata Reddy today made strong comments on BRS party chief and former CM KCR. He held a review meeting with senior officials on the development of the roads and the progress of the works.

Speaking to media persons later, he said KCR should come to the assembly to discuss public problems and added that they would discuss all the issues as requested by the former CM. He made it clear that they have no relationship with BRS party leaders Harish Rao and KTR as they do not even come into the picture. ‘If they want, CM Revanth Reddy

will talk to them, but it is not my range to tell to them,’ he said. He also said they played a key role in the separate Telangana movement and added that the Congress party deserves gratitude for the achievement of the Telangana State.

Reddy argued that Harish Rao was not a deputy floor leader in the State assembly. He demanded that KCR should come as the Leader of the Opposition to the Assembly and added that KCR should come and discuss the mistakes and rights of the Congress government in the assembly.

Medaram Jatara arrangements should be made permanent“-

Special focus on facilities – Committee should review master plan“-
Endowments Secretary Shailaja Ramayyar suggests



“Mulugu correspondent, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: “Telangana State Endowments Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramayyar has instructed officials to make all arrangements for the Sri Sammakka Saralamma Medaram Maha Jatara, which is held every two years, permanent, in accordance with the needs of devotees. A review meeting was held on the arrangements for the 2026 Maha Jatara at the Medaram ITDA Guest House conference hall in Tadwai mandal on Wednesday. District Collec-

tor Divakara T.S., Endowments Advisor Govinda Hari and senior officials of other departments participated in this. Speaking on the occasion, Shailaja Ramayyar said that hundreds of crores of funds are being allocated for each jatara. But their purpose should be permanent facilities, not temporary, and work should be undertaken with proper plans in advance to avoid the problems of devotees. It was suggested that the master plan prepared by Studio One Architecture for the convenience of the one and a half crore devotees coming to Medaram should be reviewed at the committee level with the priests, officials and relevant departments and an appropriate report should be submitted. It was clarified that keeping in mind the experiences of the past fairs, this time the arrangements should be completed with quality and on time. After this meeting, Shailaja Ramayyar, Collector Divakara T.S., and Govinda Hari together inspected the Jampanna Vagu, Chilukalagutta, and Kannepalli Saralamma temples at the field level. Later, they visited the Nanadevatas in Medaram. The priests welcomed them with drums and took them to the gadde. Additional Collectors CH Mahender Ji, Sampath Rao, RDO Venkatesh, APO Vasantha Rao, EO Veeraswamy, President of the Priests’ Association Jagga Rao, priests, officials and staff of other departments participated in this program.”

Development of Kusumanchi Mandal Headquarters on Par with Khammam City – Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy.“



“Khammam Bureau, July 03, Indian Chronicle. “Telangana’s Minister for Revenue, Housing and Information Departments Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, stated that the Kusumanchi Mandal Headquarters is being developed on par with Khammam city. Accompanied by Khammam MP Ramasahayam Raghurama Reddy and District Collector Anudeep Durishetty, the minister toured Kusumanchi on Thursday and laid foundation stones for various road development works. “Key Projects and Costs Dharmatanda Village Road repairs from Kusumanchi R&B road to Dharmatanda at a cost of 36 lakhs. Lokyatanda Village Two separate road repair works 1.26 crores from Lokyatanda to Dharmatanda and 1.16 crores from Lokyatanda to Aghraharam. Kokyatanda Village A BT road from Kokyatanda to Veeryatanda to be built at a cost of 2.9 crores. Ganyatanda Village BT road construction from Ganya Tanda to Motapuram Veeranna Swamy Temple at 3.3 crores. Kusumanchi Village Junction development works costing ?6.5 crores. Central Lighting and Road Dividers Installation between Khammam - Kodad road covering Kusumanchi and Nelakondapalli towns. The minister inspected an Indiramma housing scheme unit being constructed for Banoth Suresh and Bhumika in Kokyatanda, inquiring about any issues. He mentioned that free sand is being provided by the government and that completed houses are being credited in phases every Monday to the beneficiaries’ accounts. “Highlights of Minister’s Address. “The central lighting, dividers, and junction works in Kusumanchi and Nelakondapalli Mandal Headquarters, worth 6.5 crores, will be completed in a few months. Massive internal roads and drinking water supply issues in Kusumanchi have already been addressed. A Shaadi Khana has been sanctioned with 50 lakhs. A Government Junior College worth 5.5 crores has been approved, with foundation stone to be laid soon. In Dharmatanda, internal roads

worth 22 lakhs and tribal development works worth 20 lakhs have been completed in the last 18 months. Cement roads in Lokyatanda (70 lakhs), Anganwadi center improvements (12 lakhs), drinking water works (4 lakhs) and similar developments in Kokyatanda with 14 lakhs for roads, 12.35 lakhs for Anganwadi buildings and 10 lakhs for drinking water. He said that approximately 1,400 - 1,500 crores worth of development and welfare projects have been sanctioned in Paleru Assembly Constituency over the past 18 months. He credited the public’s blessings and the formation of the Indiramma government for enabling such development. “Other Welfare Initiatives Highlighted. “Continued implementation of previous government’s welfare programs. 200 units of free electricity, 500 LPG cylinders and rice distribution under ration cards. Increase in residential hostel diet charges by 40% and cosmetics allowance by 200%. Loan waiver of 21,000 crores benefiting 2 lakh farmers. Rythu Bharosa scheme now providing 12,000 per acre, with 9,000 crores disbursed within 9 days. Indiramma houses will be distributed to the eligible poor in three more phases over the next 3.5 years. “MP Raghurama Reddy appreciated the ongoing development and welfare works in the constituency, highlighting free bus travel for women, free electricity, subsidized gas cylinders, and farmer welfare schemes. Collector Anudeep Durishetty urged officials to expedite and complete all foundation stone projects with quality standards to ensure public benefit. The event was attended by officials including Khammam RDO G. Narasimharao, Paleru Constituency Special Officer Ramesh, Irrigation SE M Venkateshwarlu, Mission Bhagiratha EE Vanishree, Housing PD Bhukya Srinivas, Agriculture AD Saritha, Electricity ADE Lokya Nayak, Kusumanchi Tahsildar Ravikumar, MPDO Venugopal Reddy, public representatives and others.”

We are ready for disaster management: Collector Diwakar“-



Notices for 970 dilapidated houses"- 58 rehabilitation centers ready"- NDRF, SDRF teams in the field"Mulugu correspondent, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Diwakar TS said that all arrangements for disaster management have been completed in the district and if people respond as instructed by the authorities at the first warning, loss of life can be prevented. Speaking at a media confer-

ence at the Collectorate on Thursday, he revealed that 970 dilapidated houses have been identified in the district and notices have been issued to the residents. To prevent accidents, people are advised to move to the rehabilitation centers in advance, without crossing streams and low-lying bridges. He said that a total of 58 rehabilitation centers are ready, which can accommodate about 15 thousand people. He said that the intensity of the disaster is likely to increase due to the Godavari and Jampanna streams, and that the Maredugonda, Kantanapalli and Puredu tanks are likely to be affected by heavy rains. He said that NDRF and SDRF teams, 100 trained personnel and 6 speed boats are ready for disaster services in 30 key villages. He said that a flood control room has been set up and a special portal called "Mulugu Flood Alerts" will be available. He said that three months of ration has already been provided to the people. He said that the medical department should be alert and pregnant women should go to hospitals in advance. He said that the safety of the people of the district is the priority and the machinery is ready to face any disaster. DPRO MD. Rafiq and several media representatives participated in this meeting."

Hospital staff should be fully prepared, as there is a possibility of an outbreak of toxic fever due to heavy rains: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil ““



““Bhadradi Kothagudem, June 3, Indian Chronicle: In a review meeting held at the Collectorate on Thursday, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil directed the superintendents of various hospitals to be fully prepared, as there is a possibility of an outbreak of toxic fever in the coming days in the wake of heavy rains in the district. He said that all types of medicines, reagents, and testing kits should be fully available. He suggested that medical staff in various positions should be available 24 hours a day, following the time schedule. He suggested that the necessary medicines, reagents, basic facilities, and modern machines have already been installed in all hospitals so that patients should be fully pre-



pared in the coming days without any difficulty. Similarly, he said that if any minor problems are brought to his attention in the hospitals, he will look into them and make appropriate arrangements for their resolution and will make arrangements for the necessary funds. The medical staff brought to the attention of the District Collector the fact that insulin and malaria medicines were not available in the hospital, and he said that he would talk to the state authorities and make efforts to make them available.District DCHS Dr. Ravi Babu, superintendents of various hospitals, pharmacists, nursing superintendents, and sanitation supervisors participated in this review meeting.

Collector Emphasizes Efficient Flood Forecasting and Disaster Preparedness.

““Khammam Bureau, July 03, Indian Chronicle.““Khammam District Collector Anudeep Durishetty stressed the need for a robust and efficient flood forecasting system during a review meeting on disaster preparedness, held at his camp office on Thursday. He was joined by Additional Collector P Srinvasa Reddy and officials from Irrigation and revenue departments.““Key Points from the Collector’s Remarks.““Timely flood forecasts are crucial for taking swift action to protect people. There must be a well-structured flood estimation system in the district, similar to the real-time monitoring system at Bhadrachalam, where hourly flood updates are available. Irrigation officials must closely monitor water storage levels, rainfall patterns in upstream districts like Mahabubabad, Warangal and incoming flood data. Continuous monitoring is necessary at key water bodies like Tirathala, Munneru, Akeru, and others. The Collector instructed that water gauges be installed wherever necessary across the district. The Irrigation Department is to be assigned responsibility for flood estimation and a formal memo will be issued accordingly.““Communication and Coordination.““A WhatsApp group comprising irrigation engineers and revenue officials is to be created to ensure real-time updates on water levels. Officials must submit a reporting schedule covering the next three months, including the locations of all water gauges, by the upcoming Monday. SOP and Alert Mechanism, The Collector stressed the need for a detailed Standard Operating Procedure(SOP). When to issue the first, second and third flood warnings for Munneru River near Khammam city. Identification of areas likely to be sub-



merged under each warning level. Specific response actions to be taken at each stage. Administrative Readiness In both Khammam urban and rural areas, revenue officials bear primary responsibility during flood emergencies and must be fully prepared. Precautionary measures must be taken to avoid breaches or overflows in the district’s water bodies. The review meeting was attended by Irrigation SE M Venkateswarlu, Chief Planning Officer A Srinivas, District Irrigation Officer Venkataram, Khammam RDO G Narasimharao, Irrigation DEs, Tahsildars Saidulu (Khammam Urban) and Ramprasad (Khammam Rural), Other key district officials. The Collector emphasized that disaster communication should be swift and efficient and every department must play its role in mitigating the impact of floods effectively.

Protest against attack on Market Committee Secretary

“Yellandu Constituency, June 3, Indian Chronicle: On Thursday, officers and staff staged a protest with black badges at the Illandu Market Committee office to protest against the attack on Mahabubnagar Market Committee Secretary Bhaskar by the Vice Chairman of the Market Committee. Speaking on the occasion, Special Category Secretary V. Suchitra said that they had protested by wearing black badges in protest against the attack on the Mahbubnagar Market Committee Secretary by wearing black badges on the orders of Market Committee TNGOS Employees Central Association President H. Narasimha Reddy, Secretary Mukuram, Joint Khammam District Presi-



dent, and Secretaries T. Kiran Kumar and Y.D. Himayat Hussain. Grade 3

Secretary E. Naresh Kumar, Superintendent V. Srinvasa Rao, Outsourcing

Staff Ranjith, Munir, Madhu, Lakshmi, Vijaya, Ramesh, and others participated in the program.

Medical camp at Gangaram Ashram School““Yellandu Constituency,



June3,Indian Chronicle:A medical camp was organized at Gangaram Ashram High School in Sulanagar on Thursday under the supervision of Kandula Dinesh, the government medical officer of the mandal. Later, the children were made aware of diseases. They said that children should maintain personal hygiene to stay away from diseases. They said that keeping the environment where children live and eating good food is healthy and that children should wash their hands thoroughly before eating and after using the toilet. They advised the students to brush their mouths twice a day, take bath twice a day, wear loose clothes, and not use wet clothes. They also advised the students to have good hygiene habits as lack of hygiene can spread skin-

related infectious diseases from one person to another very quickly. Due to lack of sleep, children are likely to lag behind in studies and games.

They advised the children to wash the clothes of children with skin-related diseases in Dettol and dry them well in the sun. They also advised the children not to use bed sheets and towels used by one person under any circumstances. A total of 56 students were also screened for sickle cell anemia in this program. Health Extension Officer Deva, Supervisor Porandla Srinivas, Mid-Level Health Providers Shailaja, Harika, Dhanasari Rambabu, Principal Jagan, Warden Kishan, teaching staff, ASHA workers and others participated in this program.

Applications are invited for machines for sand extraction and supply: ITDA PO Rahul““

““Bhadrachalam, June 3, Indian Chronicle: Applications are being invited on a rental basis for machines to extract sand from the sand reaches of the Godavari River in Bhadrachalam limits and supply it to the storage area and to fill it in lorries. ITDA PO Rahul said in a statement on Thursday. Two excavators, four tippers, two dozers, and two water sprinklers are required for sand extraction and supply on a rental basis, he said, adding that interested tribal agencies are inviting applications from empanelled ITDA officials. The application forms are available in Room No. 23 from the 4th to the 10th from 11 am to 5 pm, and the form fee is Rs. 10,000 each time. The completed application form, along with an EMD of Rs. 2 lakhs in the name of ITDA PO, should be submitted to ITDA Bhadrachalam by 5 pm on the 18th. It has been decided to contact 93984479092 for complete details.



Free cervical cancer screening camp for women

““Bhadrachalam, July 3, Indian Chronicle: A free cervical disease check-up camp was organized for women at Chinnajiyar Math in Bhadrachalam town on Thursday. This camp was jointly organized by Vikasatarangini and Lions Club, and MLA Tellam Venkat Rao, who participated as the chief guest, inaugurated the camp and spoke. Under the auspices of Chinnajiyar Math, 1481 camps have been organized across the Telugu states, and the organizers said that it is commendable that the 1482nd camp is being organized in Bhadrachalam. He said that a large number of

women have come for cervical disease check-ups. He said that every woman above the age of 35 can be protected from future cervical diseases by getting this check-up done. Lions Club President and Vikasatarangini President Kamalakumari, Chinajiyar Math President Venkatachari, Vikasatarangini District President Roja Ramani, uterine disease experts Madhavi and Jayabharathi, Vikasatarangini Chakravarthy, Lions Secretary Siddha Reddy, Harichandra Nayak, Charugulla Srinivas, Nageswara Rao, and others participated in the program."

DK Aruna condemns Congress’ propaganda on urea shortage

Hyderabad, July 3: BJP National Vice President and Mahbubnagar MP DK Aruna today said her party strongly condemned the false propaganda being spread by the Congress government and BRS party leaders targeting the Centre to create misconceptions among farmers on the shortage of urea in Telangana. She said the shortage of urea in Telangana had arisen due to the negligence and incompetent governance of the Congress government.

In a statement, she said it was unfortunate that such a situation exists only in Telangana. "The farmers are facing difficulties due to the failure of the Congress government in its supply and storage planning. Telangana farmers should not be under any illusion regarding fertilisers. The Central Government has already supplied more urea than the State needs for this Rabi season. While the State needs 9.5 lakh metric tons, the Centre has sent 12.02 lakh metric tons of urea. Apart from this, all fertilizers like DAP and NPKS have been sent in excess of the State's requirement. An example of this is that while 1.47 lakh tonnes are required for DAP, 1.72 lakh tonnes have been sent," she said.

She also said the Centre had been assessing the State's requirements from time to time and supplying more, but the State government had completely failed to properly manage the distribution system. "This situation is evidenced by the allegations that Markfed has gone bankrupt and is imposing transport charges on farmers and that fertilizers

are being stored in some cooperative societies and diverted to the black market. The real problem is the failure of the State government. It is unethical to make false allegations against the Centre to cover it up," she said.Aruna said the Central government was giving a subsidy of Rs. 2,236 for a single urea bag and Rs. 2,422 for a DAP bag to the farmers. She noted that a farmer of one acre was getting a fertilizer subsidy worth Rs. 9,316 for one crop. "If two crops are grown in a year, it is Rs. 18,632. In addition to this, the Centre is providing a total of Rs 24,632 in support through PM Kisan," she said.She alleged that the Congress government was looting the farmers by selling urea, which should be provided at Rs 268, at a higher price and the DAP, which should be provided at Rs 1311, at an additional price. She said that the State Government, which has lost funds from the Finance Commission due to the inability to hold local body elections, was also putting the farmers in trouble by not being able to distribute the fertilizers provided by the Centre effectively.

"The Central Government has spent Rs 12.5 lakh crore in fertilizer subsidy in the last 10 years to support farmers across the country. In particular, the Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant, which was closed in Telangana, was renovated and reopened with a cost of Rs 6,338 crore. All this is evidence of the Modi government's commitment to farmers," she said. (

GITAM signs MoU with Indian Army

Hyderabad, July 3 : GITAM Deemed to be University has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Army. This significant partnership, is a five-year agreement (2025–26 to 2029–30 academic years) that reaffirms GITAM’s commitment to social responsibility and nation-building through education and research.

The MoU was signed by Brigadier T.M. Sinha on behalf of the Indian Army and Prof. D.S. Rao, Pro Vice-Chancellor, GITAM-Hyderabad, in the presence of Prof. V. Rama Sastry, Director, School of Technology & Dean (Core Engineering). Prof. P. Srinivas, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering, welcomed the gathering.

Prof. D.S. Rao emphasised the point of collaborating with Indian Defence Services in general and Indian Army in particular about improving the standards of technical education and hoped students and faculty will take advantage of this MoU. Prof. V.R. Sastry highlighted GITAM’s existing MoUs with the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force, reinforcing the university’s long-standing association with the Defence Services, contributing in a befitting manner to enhance the relevant technologies and the technical col-



laboration for improving academic standards and research at GITAM.He informed that this MoU is having two important components of providing Free Seats to the wards of Indian Army personnel and technical collaboration in the form of exchange of experts and collaborative research in specific areas of defence electronics, materials technology, UAVs, AIML, and so on. Speaking on the occasion, Brigadier T.M. Sinha appreciated GITAM’s gesture and underlined the importance of such collaborations in securing a brighter future for the children of Army personnel. "If you choose the Indian Army, remember it is not just a job or a career, it is a way of life. A life filled with purpose, adventure, and loyalty."

Youth suicide by hanging



— Was he targeted for questioning on social media?—“Suicide driven by fear of criminal charges”— Tragedy in Chalvai, Govindaraopet Mandal, Mulugu District— Relatives stage protest—“Mulugu Correspondent, Mahipal, Indian Chronicle:“A wave of sorrow swept across Chalvai village in Govindaraopet Mandal, Mulugu district, after a young man, Chukka Ramesh (24), allegedly died by suicide due to police harassment. His relatives claim that Ramesh was targeted for raising his voice against irregularities in the selection of beneficiaries under the Indiramma Housing Scheme. According to family members, Ramesh was orphaned at a young age and was raised by his grandmother. For the past two months, he had been posting messages in a local WhatsApp group criticizing the authorities for delaying allocation of houses to the poor under the scheme. Fol-

lowing this, complaints were lodged against him with the police. On Wednesday, the police allegedly confiscated Ramesh's phone and asked him to report to the police station the next day. Fearing false criminal charges and harassment, Ramesh reportedly died by suicide by hanging himself on Thursday morning when no one was home. The incident triggered tension in the village. Locals and the deceased's family members staged a protest on National Highway 163, demanding justice. They alleged that Ramesh was threatened and driven to suicide simply because he questioned injustice. They demanded strict action against those responsible and a comprehensive investigation into the matter. BRS district in-charge and former ZP Chairperson Bade Nagajyothi demanded that the government immediately respond and initiate a thorough probe. As she attempted to visit the protest site in support of the family, she was stopped by the police at Eturunagaram. She strongly criticized the government, stating that “suppressing voices that question injustice is undemocratic, and calling such governance a people's government is illogical.” Nagajyothi demanded legal action against those who mentally harassed Ramesh and drove him to suicide. She also urged the youth not to resort to suicide, but to “live and fight to resolve issues.” Former Library Corporation Chairman Porika Govind Naik and others accompanied her.“

BJP Strengthens Grassroots Network with Formation of New Manthani Town Committee



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani, Peddapalli District, June 3. “In line with the directives of the Bharatiya Janata Party State Leadership and under the able guidance of Peddapalli District BJP President Shri Karre Sanjeeva Reddy, the BJP Manthani Town Committee was formally constituted on Thursday at the party office by Town President Shri Sabbani Santosh. “As part of the newly formed committee, the following appointments were officially announced: “Town Vice Presidents: “Akula Arun” “Dasari

Shravan” “Bollampalli Lakshman” “Ramoju Lakshman” “?? General Secretaries: “Samala Ashok” “Edla Sagar” “?? Secretaries: “Parvathi Vishnu” “Machidi Sridhar” “Velpula Satyam” “Dudapaka Roja” “?? Treasurer: “Vodnala Srinivas” “The committee members ceremoniously assumed their responsibilities at the BJP office, in the presence of former Peddapalli District BJP President Shri Chandrupatla Sunil Reddy, who offered guidance and encouragement. “On this occasion, all committee members pledged to serve the party with integrity, dedication, and selfless commitment, with a clear objective to strengthen the party's presence in every ward and booth of Manthani town. “Shri Sunil Reddy extended heartfelt congratulations to the newly appointed team and urged them to work unitedly toward ensuring the resounding success of the Bharatiya Janata Party in the upcoming local body elections. He emphasized the need for strategic grassroots engagement to firmly establish BJP's footprint across the region.

The Magician Who Won the Hearts of the People.

“Khammam Bureau (Pathakamudi Praneeth Kumar), “July 03, “Indian Chronicle. “B V Pattabhiram is a name that needs no special introduction. He is a man of many talents, a personality development expert, magician, hypnotist, author, public speaker, actor and YouTube channel creator. Every stage of his five decade journey stands as a milestone. Pattabhiram is not just an individual he is a powerful force that awakened society through his words and actions. A great social reformer can be seen in the way he enlightened people about superstitions. He played a vital role in supporting anxious youth, guiding couples facing marital problems due to lack of awareness and helping parents understand better ways to raise children. Every time someone recalls Pattabhiram, the faces of millions whose lives he touched come to mind not just common people, but even officials and celebrities. “Born in East Godavari district, his full name is Bhavaraju Venkata Pattabhiram. One of fifteen children of Bhavaraju Satyanarayana, who worked as an engineer under the British government, Satyanarayana was honored with the title ‘Rao Bahadur’. Speaking about his father, Pattabhiram once said in an interview My father was very intelligent and had a remarkably positive outlook. I was always an average student. Once, my father had my horoscope read. The astrologer said I'd stop studying after 10th grade and die at 17. But my father told me, ‘Forget all this nonsense. Focus on yourself. Improve your abilities. Only by strengthening yourself can you help society discard such blind beliefs’. Those words deeply impacted me. However, after finishing intermediate studies, Pattabhiram suffered a major leg injury in an accident. A surgery left one leg longer than the other, making him extremely self conscious. His father's words during that time were transformative You're sad that a thorn pricked your foot. Be thankful it didn't hit your eye. That thought alone should give you the strength to face the world. Stop worrying about what others think. You can only grow by ignoring their judgments. I believe in your capabilities. Pattabhiram often expressed immense pride in his father's guidance. “He Proved That Horoscopes Don't Define Life. “Despite a horoscope predicting he wouldn't study, Pattabhiram earned two PhDs and completed four post graduate degrees. Due to his accident, he missed opportunities for premier courses, so he joined a BA in Psychology at PR College in Kakinada. Fascinated with personality development from a young age, Pattabhiram was also interested in magic. After earning his degree and MA in Psychology, he began practicing, but people weren't seeking counseling at the time. That's when he turned to his hidden talent magic. His father, however, wasn't pleased with his choice to pursue magic professionally. To fulfill his father's wish, he took a job at the Food Corporation of India, though it didn't last long. Driven by passion, he resigned and committed fully to personality development and magic. He never looked back. One step at a time, his journey grew. Notably, he was a college junior to famous writer Yandamoori Veerendranath, and developed a close friendship with film director Jandhyala, whom he met during magic competitions. Their encouragement brought out his acting talents, leading to performances in plays and films under Jandhyala's direction. “Challenging the With Doctors. “By the 1970s, Pattabhiram had fully embarked on his chosen path. He hosted many magic shows on Doordarshan, especially those that challenged superstitions, earning widespread public appreciation. He recounted one such event Yandamoori and I conducted those shows. Once, we publicly challenged black magicians to use sorcery on us. We received a letter asking us to place our hair and toenails in a bundle at a certain location, and claimed we would die before our third show. But we went ahead and placed them there. Nothing ever happened. People's weaknesses give power to such comen. That's why we must be strong not only physically, but also mentally, he said. “Performances Across the Globe. “Pattabhiram obtained a postgraduate degree in Psychology, Philosophy, Guidance and Counseling, and Hypnotherapy from the US He conducted workshops not only across India but also in the United States, Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, and Arab countries, focusing on stress management, interpersonal rela-



tionships, and self hypnosis. In recognition of his work on hypnosis, the University of Florida awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1983. His personality development articles were regularly published in various magazines and newspapers. Over 90 of his books written in Telugu have been translated into Tamil, Kannada and Marathi. His self-created YouTube channel 'Pattabhi Ramabaanam' features videos offering guidance for today's youth battling stress from academic or job failures, and for people of all ages suffering from mental health issues. In an interview, Pattabhiram said some of these videos were even compiled and published by Andhra University. He demonstrated through his life that a person's true measure is not their height, size, looks or style but the path they choose and how they walk it.“

Leaders provoking regional sentiments — Stop the arrogant rhetoric

TDP leader Bakkani lodges complaint with Governor over remarks made by political leaders

Hyderabad: TDP Politburo member and National General Secretary Bakkani Narasimulu has alleged that some public representatives in Telangana, despite holding prestigious positions, are irresponsibly inciting regional sentiments and creating discord among the people. He stated that Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy has made provocative remarks suggesting that power and drinking water supply should be cut off to covert settlers in the state. Furthermore, former Minister Jagadishwar Reddy, while serving as an MLA, made derogatory statements claiming that the two states are being ruled by despicable people. He used arrogant and disrespectful



singular terms like “Orey” and “Arey” while addressing media houses. They are belittling the Andhra region with such comments. Legislators — who are expected to frame laws — are setting a dangerous precedent for future generations by making personally hurtful and mentally disturbing remarks against others. He urged the Telangana Governor to ensure that public representatives conduct themselves in accordance with the rules and traditions of parliamentary decorum.

Mudiraj Sangham Boyinipet Elects New Leadership Unanimously Amidst Community Solidarity



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani, Peddapalli District, June 3. “In a demonstration of unity and shared vision, the Boyinipet Mudiraj Sangham of Manthani town convened a full-fledged general body meeting on Thursday at the sacred premises of Sri Lakshmi Devi Temple, where a new executive committee was elected unanimously. “The association, rooted in cultural pride and collective identity, entrusted the following individuals with key leadership responsibilities: “Eminent Community Elders: “Shri Attem Raju” “Shri Sunkari Jagadeeshwar” “Shri Potharaveni Nadipi Raju” “Accountant: “Shri Rachakonda Rajender” “Record Assistant: “Shri Jadigala Ramu” “The newly elected

committee members were cordially felicitated with shawls and warm accolades by the members of the Sangham, acknowledging their acceptance of responsibility and dedication to communal welfare. “In their inaugural address, the new office bearers pledged unwavering commitment to the upliftment and progress of the Mudiraj community. They affirmed their mission to foster unity, preserve cultural heritage, and work relentlessly towards socio-economic empowerment. “The event stood as a testament to the deep-rooted democratic values and collective spirit of the Mudiraj Sangham, reinforcing its pivotal role in nurturing leadership and promoting inclusive development.

There is a need to establish centers for the production and sale of medicinal goat milk in tribal areas – Collector Jitesh V Patil



“Bhadradi kothagudem, June 3, Indian Chronicle: Collector Jitesh V Patil held a meeting with the District Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Department Officer, Mandal Level Veterinary Officers and District Veterinary Medical Staff at the Bhadradi Kothagudem Collectorate Office on Thursday. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that there is a need to take steps to develop the goat offspring of tribals and women in tribal villages of the district and achieve high milk yield. He suggested that awareness programs should be organized to inform the public about the special features of goat milk and that tribals and women should be made aware of the methods of making and using products like curd, buttermilk, cheese, paneer and cheese from goat milk. Similarly, by promoting goat milk, forests can be protected as goats consume leaves and trees

found in the forests as fodder, and forests protect us, the Collector said. He explained that forests can be developed by planting plants necessary for goat fodder, which will benefit tribals, women and the entire society. The Collector said that special goat milk sales centers should be set up to provide healthy goat milk to the people of the district, and the economic condition of tribals and women would improve through their marketing. From now on, appropriate arrangements should be made to encourage tribals and women to also rear ducks and quails, and through these measures, tribal families and women would not only benefit financially but also get healthy food, the Collector said. Dr. M. Venkateswarlu, District Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Officer, Mandal level Veterinary Officers and concerned officials participated in this meeting.

Strengthening Capacity Building of Civil Servants in Telangana: Mission Karmayogi Team Meets Governor of Telangana and Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana



The Mission Karmayogi team (Capacity Building Commission and Karmayogi Bharat) called on the Governor of Telangana, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma on 2nd July 2025, in Hyderabad, Telangana. Led by Dr. Alka Mittal (Member – Administration, Capacity Building Commission), Ms. Navneet Kaur (Director, Capacity Building Commission) and Ms. Soumi Banerjee (General Manager, Karmayogi Bharat), the team apprised the Governor of the ongoing implementation of Mission Karmayogi in the State and sought guidance on the way forward. The Governor expressed support for the initiative and encouraged the team to continue driving this transformative mission forward in the State. Earlier, the Mission Karmayogi team met with Shri K. Ramakrishna Rao, Chief Secretary, Government of Telangana, and senior department heads to chart the way forward for capacity building of civil servants in the state. The team presented a detailed overview of Mission Karmayogi, emphasizing its vision of nurturing a future-ready, citizen-centric civil service through digital learning and competency-based training. A key highlight of the discussions was the iGOT Karmayogi platform, which facilitates anytime-anywhere learning for officers across departments. Department heads shared their specific training needs and challenges, underscoring the importance of customized learning pathways tailored to each department's



governance priorities.

A significant outcome of the meeting was the decision to onboard civil servants from multiple departments onto the iGOT platform and the key role the Training Institutions of the State can play in this endeavour. This step is expected to mark a crucial advancement in Telangana's capacity-building journey. The Capacity Building Commission sincerely appreciates the support extended by the Secretary of Governor, the Chief Secretary, and the Telangana administration. These engagements reflect a shared commitment to strengthening governance through continuous learning and development under Mission Karmayogi.

CIA says intelligence indicates Iran’s nuclear program severely damaged



GNS News Agency, July 3

Central Intelligence Agency Director John Ratcliffe on Wednesday (June 25, 2025) said a body of credible intelligence indicated that Iran’s nuclear program was severely damaged by recent U.S. strikes, and that it would take years to be rebuilt. “This includes new intelligence from a historically reliable and accurate source/method that several key Iranian nuclear facilities were destroyed and would have to be rebuilt over the course of years,” Mr. Ratcliffe said in a statement. This comes in the wake of President Donald Trump’s administration hitting back on Wednesday at accounts Iran may have moved enriched uranium before U.S. bombing, as a row grew on how much the strikes set back Tehran’s nuclear program. Mr. Trump, seeking credit for ordering military action and then quickly announcing a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, has lashed out angrily at

media accounts of a classified report that doubted the extent of damage to Iranian nuclear sites. Another key question raised by experts is whether Iran, preparing for the strike, moved out some 400 kilogram (880 pounds) of enriched uranium—which could now be hidden elsewhere in the vast country.

“I can tell you, the United States had no indication that that enriched uranium was moved prior to the strikes, as I also saw falsely reported,” White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt told Fox News. “As for what’s on the ground right now, it’s buried under miles and miles of rubble because of the success of these strikes on Saturday (June 21, 2025) evening,” she said. Vice President J.D. Vance, asked about the uranium on Sunday (June 22, 2025), had sounded less definitive and said the United States would discuss the issue with Iran. “We’re going to work in the coming weeks to ensure that we do something with that fuel,” Mr. Vance told ABC News program “This Week.” The quantity of uranium had been reported by the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, with which Iran is considering severing cooperation after the Israeli and U.S. strikes on its nuclear program. “The IAEA lost visibility on this material the moment hostilities began,” the Agency’s Chief, Rafael Grossi, told France 2 television. But he added: “I don’t want to give the impression that it’s been lost or hidden.” Israel is widely known to have nuclear weapons but does not publicly confirm or deny its program. The United States is the only nation to have used nuclear weapons in war.

‘No objection from finance department’: As Opposition calls for rethink, Devendra Fadnavis says Shaktipeeth Expressway still on

GNS News Agency, July 3

A day after The Indian Express reported how the Maharashtra finance department had flagged the financial burden on the state over the Rs 20,787 crore loan guarantee given for the land acquisition for the Nagpur-Goa Shaktipeeth Expressway, the Opposition called for a rethink. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, however, maintained that the project will move forward as the finance department has not raised any objections. “There is no objection from the finance department. It has merely done its work of pointing out data and nothing else. Infrastructure across the world is built by availing loans,” Fadnavis said, speaking to reporters at the legislative building in Mumbai.

Saying that the construction of highways strengthens and expands the economy, Fadnavis said, “There was opposition to the Samruddhi Expressway as well, but it has changed the face of many districts. The Shaktipeeth Expressway will change the face of Marathwada and the drought-affected region of the state.” The Nagpur-Goa Shaktipeeth Expressway is one of the largest road infrastructure projects in the country. The proposed 802-kilometre high-speed corridor, officially known as the Maharashtra Shaktipeeth Mahamarg, will connect Pavnar in Wardha district to Patraveji in Sindhudurg, near the Maharashtra-Goa border. The project had been halted due to farmers’ protests in 2024.

In a note, the finance department on Tuesday raised questions over borrowing at a higher rate for the project, pointed to the financial status of the state and advised the government to rethink its Build Operate and Transfer policy for mega projects and prioritise projects by the appropriate use of available financial resources. “Maharashtra’s finance department has raised several critical points on loan guarantee extended to the Shaktipeeth Expressway. The state is staring at the potential financial mismanagement due to



this project. At a time when farmers are protesting against the land acquisition for the project, such financial burden will damage the financial health of the country. It is time for the state government to rethink the project,” Supriya Sule, MP and NCP-SP working president, said. Sule said that the Maharashtra government is facing a financial crunch to provide facilities of education, health and water, but wants to move ahead with a project which would be a financial burden on the state exchequer. “We do not want Maharashtra to get caught in financial bankruptcy. The issue needs to be raised at the national level as well,” she said.

Congress MLC Satej Patil, who hails from Kolhapur and is leading the anti-Shaktipeeth expressway agitation, said that the finance department has raised questions on the financial structure of the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation—it will implement the Shaktipeeth Expressway project—as well. “It clearly shows that all is not well within the state government. There is disagreement within the state government itself over this project,” said Patil. He maintained that farmers across the state are opposing the project, and will continue to oppose it.

PMC to enhance sewage treatment capacity to ensure clean water discharge into Mula-Mutha river



GNS News Agency, July 3

With the population expected to rise to 92 lakh in 2037, the sewage treatment capacity for the city is estimated to be 1,450 MLD. By 2047, the capacity should be 1,072 MLD to cater to a population of 1.1 crores. With the population expected to rise to 92 lakh in 2037, the sewage treatment capacity for the city is estimated to be 1,450 MLD. By 2047, the capacity should be 1,072 MLD to cater to a population of 1.1 crores. The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC), which is struggling to treat the sewage generated within its jurisdiction and ensure clean water is released into the Mula-Mutha River, is set to enhance the sewage treatment facilities. The initiative that is aimed at meeting the projected demand of 1,092 million litres per day (MLD) for sewage treatment by 2027 will be developed through a Rs 842 crore fund, including Rs 506 crore approved by the Centre under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme.

Currently, around 92 per cent of Pune city is covered through a sewerage network that spans 2,200 kilometres, which includes six intermediate pumping stations and 10 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). The cumulative treatment capacity of these plants is 567 MLD. However, the old STP at Naidu Hospital with a capacity of 90 MLD is demolished for the reconstruction of a 127 MLD plant. Hence, the effective treatment capacity is 477 MLD. This capacity will be increased by 396 MLD after the ongoing new STP projects funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are completed by 2027.

“The PMC plans to increase the capacity further with 10 MLD in the old city area, 12 MLD in the newly merged 11 villages, and 82 MLD in 23 merged villages. This will increase the sewage treatment capacity to 977 MLD by 2027 as against the estimated generation of 1,092 MLD to meet the requirement of the 70 lakh population of the city,” said Manisha Shekatkar, Chief Engineer of the PMC. Under the AMRUT scheme, the State and Central Governments are to bear 50 per cent of the expenses. With the

population expected to rise to 92 lakh in 2037, the sewage treatment capacity for the city is estimated to be 1,450 MLD. By 2047, the capacity should be 1,072 MLD to cater to a population of 1.1 crores. As part of the plans under AMRUT 2.0, he said the existing STP of 130 MLD at Bhairoba, constructed in 2003, will be demolished to develop a new STP of 200 MLD capacity. The STP at Tanajiwadi will be demolished to make way for a new 26 MLD STP and enhancement of 18 MLD STP to 28 MLD STP at Bopodi. Upgrades will also be carried out at 115 MLD STP at New Naidu, 50 MLD STP at Erandwane, and 32 MLD STP at Vithalwadi. “The objective is to ensure that the treated wastewater is able to meet the discharge parameters, extend the life of existing STPs, and improves the quality of treated wastewater for reuse and implement green initiatives by developing a compressed biogas system for large capacity STPs,” she said. Civic activist Vivek Velankar said there are new standards set for treated sewage water, which has to be maintained by the civic body. He expressed concern over the lack of capacity to treat the entire sewage generated, as the untreated water goes into the river. “The city consumes around 1,800 MLD of water. So sewage generated will be at least 1,500 MLD, but the PMC estimate is well below the actual consumption of domestic water in the city. Moreover, the PMC is somehow approaching its estimated wastewater generation in 2027, which means some amount of untreated water will continue to be released into the river and pollute the water body. In reality, water consumption is going to increase with the rise in population. Hence, the PMC should plan for the next 20 years from now rather than for just two years,” he said.

Two held for faking robbery to swindle Rs. 17 lakh in Hyd

Hyderabad: Two persons who tried to mislead the police and swindle Rs. 17 lakh by cooking up a story of robbery were arrested by the Domalguda police on Thursday. The arrested are Jethin Raj Yadav (21) and Souda Abhilash (18), both residents of Malakpet. According to the police, Raj has been working with a chit fund company located in the city for the last six months. On Wednesday, the manager sent Raj to Jubilee Hills asking him to collect money from one person, Pankaj.

After collecting the money, Raj started towards his office. However, he did not reach the office. Raj later contacted his office and the police and informed them that some persons had stolen the cash bag when he met with an accident at Tank Bund.

Bike taxi ban: Denying permit to new entrants fuels monopoly, owners argue before Karnataka High Court



GNS News Agency, July 3

The counsel representing two bike owners in a case challenging the Karnataka High Court order to suspend bike taxi operations argued Wednesday that refusing to register vehicles as transport vehicles or issue contract carriage permits for motorcycles fuels a monopoly for existing operators. “By refusing to register vehicles as transport vehicles or issue contract carriage permits for motorcycles, the state is effectively denying citizens their right to carry on a lawful business. This creates a monopoly for existing operators and stifles competition, contrary to the Motor Vehicles (MV) Act’s liberal objectives. The market should determine viability through demand and supply, not state intervention,” argued senior advocate Dhyan Chinnappa before the division bench of Justices Kameswar Rao and C M Joshi.

In April, the Karnataka High Court ruled that bike taxis cannot be permitted to operate without proper notification of guidelines under Section 93 of the MV Act. With the order coming into effect on June 16, aggregators Rapido, Uber and Ola have stopped bike taxi operations in the state. The counsel for bike taxi owners also stated that the core issue is whether the state can impose restrictions on the operation of transport vehicles, such as motorcycle taxis, through executive policies or decisions that contradict the statutory framework of the MV Act and violate the fundamental right to trade under Article 19(1)(g) of the Indian Constitution. Article 19(1)(g) guarantees every citizen the right to practice any profession or carry on any trade or business, in-

cluding operating transport vehicles on public roads.

The petitioners also pointed out that the state argues it can restrict the operation of motorcycle taxis based on an unwritten or executive policy, citing reasons such as traffic congestion or protection of existing operators such as autorickshaws. “The state’s policy is not formalised through government orders or rules under the Business Transactions Rules. It appears to be based on ad-hoc objections, which cannot override statutory rights,” Chinnappa argued. The counsel added that if the state argues that excessive vehicles necessitate restrictions, such measures must be enacted through legislation, not executive fiat. “For example, Singapore’s vehicle quota system is legislated, not imposed by policy,” he noted.

During Wednesday’s proceedings, advocate Shashank Garg, representing the Bike Taxi Welfare Association, argued that bike taxis serve a vital function in alleviating traffic congestion and providing last-mile connectivity. “They are a necessity, not a luxury,” he stated. Garg highlighted the Karnataka government’s 2021 E-Bike Taxi Policy, which had initially formalised and supported bike taxi operations, as evidence of the state’s prior recognition of their utility. He contended that the state’s abrupt reversal of this policy in 2024, banning bike taxis, appeared driven by political motives rather than public interest. “The 2021 policy laid a clear framework for bike taxis, acknowledging their role in urban mobility,” Garg stated. “The sudden withdrawal smells of political expediency.” He further challenged the state’s reliance on a 2019 expert committee report that recommended against allowing bike taxis in Bengaluru, arguing that the report was rendered obsolete by the subsequent E-Bike Taxi Rules, which permitted such services until their unexpected revocation. “The state cannot cherry-pick outdated recommendations to justify its actions when its own rules have embraced bike taxis,” Garg asserted. Addressing the bench’s queries on regulation, Garg clarified that the state holds the authority to regulate fares, noting that the current rate for bike taxis is approximately Rs 8 per kilometre. He emphasised their affordability and utility, stating, “In congested areas or remote locations, bike taxis are often the only viable transport option, even for critical services like ambulances.”

Maharashtra boy hacked to death by schoolmate in Ahilyanagar

GNS News Agency, July 3

Pune police extortion case, policemen suspended in Pune, Law College Road extortion, Deccan police station Pune, Ganesh Desai suspension. According to the police, the murder was suspected to be a fallout of previous quarrels between the families of both the boys, who are neighbours. (Representational image) A 15-year-old boy studying in Class 10 was allegedly hacked to death by his junior during the school break in Ahilyanagar district of Maharashtra on Wednesday.

According to the police, the murder was suspected to be a fallout of previous quarrels between the families of both the boys, who are neighbours. The accused, a Class 8 student, was sent to the observation home and would be produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) on Thursday, as per the legal procedure, said a police officer. The police said the boys got into a quarrel with each other during the school mid-break around 3.30 pm. As it escalated, the 13-year-old boy hit the victim with a sharp weapon multiple times, leaving him in a pool of blood. Though the school staff and authorities rushed the injured boy to a government



hospital, he was pronounced dead by the doctors. “There have been quarrels between the two families in the past. Following a dispute last year, a family member of the deceased had filed a complaint application against the assailant’s family at the police station,” said the police officer. The police have registered a case based on the complaint lodged by the father of the deceased boy at a local police station in Ahilyanagar.

‘I’m not scared, more big fish will be caught’: Day after Bikram Singh Majithia’s arrest, Bhagwant Mann says war against drugs to continue



Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday also expressed fear that there could be a threat to his life.

GNS News Agency, July 3

A day after the Punjab Vigilance Bureau arrested Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader Bikram Singh Majithia in a disproportionate assets case allegedly involving the laundering of more than Rs 540 crore of drug money, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said on Thursday that more big fish will fall into the police net soon. “All these days, they were saying we are not catching the big fish. Now, they are crying political vendetta. It is sad that those who are opposing our action are also involved. Those who are supporting them are guilty enough. They will be brought to the book. No matter if they are the president of any political party,” Mann said, addressing the media in Chandigarh on Thursday.

Mann, who did not name Majithia during the entire press conference, also expressed fear that there could be a threat to his life. “Action will be taken against those guilty. No matter who he is. Chahe who mera bhi koi nuksaan karna chahte ho (No matter if they want to harm me). Even if they see me as a thorn in their flesh, as they are now feeling that our action has broken the cartels and affected their business, I will still come down heavily on them. I will not be scared. I will hold public meetings and go to the public. In the coming days, you will get such news that more big fish have been caught, mansions made from drugs have been bulldozed,” he added. Reiterating that he may be harmed, Mann said, “If they want to harm me, I do not care. I have already lived twice as long as Bhagat Singh. If we succeed, it will be good. At least, we will be able to clean the mess.”

Mann said that action was taken with “strong evidence in hand”. “We are in the process of collecting more evidence, and many big fish will also be caught. Local drug lords have

already been brought to book. Almost 90 per cent of those arrested could not even get bail as we have made out strong cases against them. Hawala transactions worth crores have been made. All these skeletons will come out of the closet gradually,” he added. “These are the drug lords who are running the business. We have tried to break the mafia and succeeded, but smuggling is still on. I will not be soft on anyone. I owe it to Punjabis because they have elected me to this chair with huge trust and faith. That is why we have taken action with strong evidence,” he said. Mann said that he received calls from Punjabis and NRIs abroad, asking him if he had taken action with evidence. “I told them that we have everything. There is every evidence. I want to convey this here that I will not listen to anyone. The police and vigilance will take action, and then the narcotics bureau will also come. Those involved in drugs will not be spared. Our hearts beat for Punjab. This action is a part of our drive to make it ‘Rangla Punjab’. Whosoever is responsible for ruining the youth of Punjab will not be spared.” Mann said that the anti-drugs campaign, ‘Yudh Nasheyan Virudh’, had taken the form of a people’s movement. “Panchayats are passing resolutions that they are against drugs, saying they will not support anyone involved in the business. Drug smugglers’ houses have been bulldozed. We took action legally,” he pointed out.

“The 3-4 storey houses constructed on the bodies of drug addicts cannot be allowed to stand erect. We will break the supply line. We have updated the rehab centres. We learnt that some police personnel are having a quid pro quo with drug dealers. We learnt that when our raids failed. Then we transferred several policemen. Now, we get calls from people saying that the cartel has been broken,” Mann said. “We kept saying that we would not spare anyone. Whosoever it may be, a politician, an officer or anyone having their patronage. We said we will stand by the people. The people had to send their children abroad by selling their properties because they did not want them to fall for drugs. We will reverse this trend,” Mann added. Replying to a question on whether the actual war against drugs had started on Wednesday, Mann said, “The war started earlier. Earlier, there were lower rung cops. Now the generals have been caught. Now investigation will be carried out.” He said that the basis of the investigation against Majithia was a Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act case, and recently, hawala transfers of crores were detected. “We were getting several complaints, but were waiting for incriminating evidence,” he added. Asked if the action against Majithia was vendetta, Mann said, “What is political vendetta in this? SAD got only 8,000 votes in the Ludhiana West bye-election. It is AAP vs all. Had there been a proper investigation, they would have all been in jail...but they were watching each other’s backs. That is why no action was taking place...they were taking turns to come to power.”

Can India push Pakistan into FATF’s ‘Grey list’?



GNS News Agency, July 3

Story so far: In a rare show of condemnation, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), on June 16, 2025, stated that the Pahalagam terror “could not occur without money and the means to move funds between terrorist supporters”. FATF’s has released such a statement only twice in this decade -- for the Paris terror attack (2015) and the Pulwama attack (2019). The terror watchdog’s stern stance has given hope for India to push its case to bring Pakistan back into the ‘grey list’ for violating the FATF’s policy on terror-funding. Apart from condemnation, FATF will release a report next month, which will include state-sponsorship as a separate source of funding for terror. The Hindu reported that the FATF has also developed a Terror Financing Risk & Context toolkit for assessors, so that countries cannot “fool them with lies” on terror financing risks from their jurisdictions. Pakistan has been placed ‘thrice’ in the ‘grey’ list of the FATF after it failed to take adequate measures to curb terror financing and money laundering.

FATF first placed Pakistan on the grey list in 2008 after it failed to fight terror financing and money laundering. After cooperating with FATF’s mutual evaluations, Pakistan was given an action plan to stop criminalisation of money laundering, identify, freeze and confiscate terrorist assets. It was removed from the list in 2015 owing to its progress but was reinstated in 2018. Failing to fulfill the first FATF plan, Pakistan was prescribed another seven-point action plan. While it completed 32 of the total 34 action items in the two plans in 2021, Pakistan was retained in the grey list. In October 2022, the country was finally removed from the list after it fulfilled all 34 action items by passing laws tackling money laundering, terror-financing, maintaining a database of terrorists and terror groups, and convicting terrorists such as Hafiz Saeed, Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, Sajid Mir, and Rauf Asghar. However, Islamabad claims it couldn’t trace Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar, a UN designated terrorist, and the mastermind of the 2019 Pulwama terror attack.

How will FATF’s condemnation affect Pakistan?

“FATF has very rarely condemned terror killings. It is only when it is an attack of high intensity or highly political in nature that it has come out and condemned it. However, there are limitations to it. The funding trail has to be established, which is being done by the Government of India, via diplomacy and parliamentary delegations. Maybe the FATF’s condemnation, though late, has come out after conversations with these delegations,” says Dr. Manish Dabhade, Associate Professor at Jawaharlal Nehru University’s Centre for International Politics, Organisation & Disarmament. Aishwaria Sonavane, Research Analyst for Pakistan Studies at The Takshashila Institution, says that FATF’s statement strengthens India’s case against Pakistan to the global community, but is unlikely to translate into any meaningful action. “While India may sort of leverage FATF condemnation, isolating Pakistan diplomatically is far-fetched,” says Ms. Sonavane. Putting Pakistan in the ‘Grey’ list alone will not suffice, says Mr. Dabhade, stating that this will not put economic sanctions on

Islamabad. “Only when they are in the black list will it negatively affect Pakistan. In the grey list the FATF only names and shames the country, so when investors i.e. FDIs flow into Pakistan, they will be acknowledging the risk involved. But when it is in the black list, it is about actually taking steps which will affect investments into Pakistan,” suggests Dr. Dabhade.

Can India ‘push’ Pakistan back into ‘Grey’ List?

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, Mr. Modi warned Pakistan, “Talks and terror cannot go together, terror and trade cannot go together, and water and blood (referring to the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty) cannot go together. India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail.” The current political climate makes it highly unlikely for Pakistan to be pushed into the ‘Grey’ list. “The process is a political one. Depending on what sort of member states’ support India can garner at the FATF plenary session which will be held in October, what sort of dossiers and financial trails India can establish, it will decide if it is a clear cut case for Pakistan to be put back in the ‘Grey’ list,” says Mr. Dabhade. He adds that India would have to spend its political capital abroad with the 30-odd countries who will decide on the case. The seven all-party delegations sent by India after the Pahalagam terror attack and India’s response, covered about half of the FATF member states. Explaining how stakeholders like China and the US are unlikely to support any punitive action on Pakistan, Ms. Sonavane says, “Beijing has its stakes in Islamabad with its China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. They have time and again supported Pakistan on international platforms. The recent optics also suggest that Pakistan does retain strategic significance for Washington”.

Can FATF’s new ‘toolkit’ call Pakistan’s bluff?

Both experts don’t think the Terror Financing Risk & Context toolkit could deter Pakistan. “It feels like a cosmetic eyewash. Though India can definitely utilise these tools to advance its narrative, and present evidence before the international community as much as possible. Grey-listing will risk Pakistan’s economy, which will have a destabilising effect in Afghanistan. This is something that the US cannot afford to do,” they observe.

Who does the current political climate favour?

On June 19, US President Donald Trump hosted Pakistan’s Chief of Army Staff Field Marshal Asim Munir for lunch at the White House and thanked him for ‘not going to war with India’. The unprecedented hosting of an Army chief rather than the Head of the State by a US President has raised eyebrows in India. “It is a big bump for India-US ties under Trump, seeing that it was Prime Minister Modi who met Trump earlier in his Presidency, which indicated that things would smoothen out and that they were clinching a trade deal. But in the long term, we (India) know that there are going to allies like US and Israel that are going to be there sometimes and not at other times. We have to make the best use of whatever military equipment we have bought and know that in this fight (with Pakistan) we are own,” opines Mr. Dabhade. Drawing parallels to the post-26/11 period, he adds, “India was shouting from the rooftops about how we were being affected by cross-border terrorism. While everyone accepted our concerns, they (global powers) said ‘talk about Kashmir’ and that has what the case has been reverted to now – the hyphenation of India and Pakistan”. However, Ms. Sonavane plays down the impact of the Trump-Munir lunch on India. “There are no surprises that the Pakistani military is strategically important to the US. The Trump-Munir lunch had less to do with India and more with regards to Iran and Afghanistan. Pakistan is seeking to appease the Trump administration in many ways. It is opening up to Bitcoin mining, which has ties to the Trump family,” she says, adding that India-US ties will continue to grow in its own irrespective of the Pakistan factor.

The 300-year-old Anglo-Arabic School is Delhi’s oldest academic institution with history in every stone

GNS News Agency, July 3

Just outside the walled city at the bustling Ajmeri Gate in Delhi, and across the narrow lanes of GB Road, the capital’s red-light district, stands the longest running education institution in a quiet contradiction. The Anglo-Arabic Model School, North India’s oldest surviving school, built in the late 1600s, rests here like a relic of forgotten grandeur. Founded by Mir Shihab-ud-Din Siddiqi, a leading military general known by his title Ghaziuddin Khan during the reign of Aurangzeb, this Mughal-era institution is not just a school. It is a symbol of Delhi’s complex, layered history. Inside the gates, history breathes through every stone. Red sandstone walls, Persian arches, jharokhas, and intricately carved jalis frame courtyards where pine trees, rare in Old Delhi, sway gently, offering quiet pockets of green against the city’s restless buzz. A small mosque stands at the centre, welcoming all who come to offer namaz. Beyond these walls, a different world waits, where women sit behind barred windows, and their children, some bearing names the world hesitates to acknowledge, slip quietly through the gates of the academic institution in the hope of a better future.

Principal Mohd Wasim Ahmed does not flinch about the school’s location. “Some of our students come from GB Road. Their mothers are our parents first,” he says. His words carry the weight of quiet defiance. The school has produced luminaries such as Sir Syed Ahmed Khan, Muslim educationist and reformist, hockey Olympian Mirza Masood, Congress politician Meem Afzal, and many others who shaped India’s intellectual and political movements. The school, notably, remains grounded, not in nostalgia, but in service to whoever walks in through its centuries’ old doors. Preservation is a matter of priority here. Although the school has adapted to modern needs, the management is committed to safeguarding its historic character. Over the decades, support from leaders including Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Sheila Dikshit helped maintain both infrastructure and the legacy. “Whenever the school needed help, the government was ready to provide it,” says biology teacher Maqsood Ahmad, teaching here since 1992. What started as a boy’s school in 1696 was changed to a co-education school as recent as in 2012. However, out of 1,500 students, only 130 are girls. “It is not even 9%,” says the principal. But he remains optimistic.

“With these tall ceilings and Mughal architecture, we don’t even need air conditioners. This space is naturally balanced and so are our students,” he says with pride. At this historic location, two worlds meet at the edges every day: the world inside, where history breathes with purpose, and the world outside, where women wait behind closed windows, trapped by society’s silence. In between stands the school, not as a bystander, but as a quiet force, a place that does not judge, only teaches. In a city that so often



draws lines, this school chooses to hold contradictions together.

Microsoft plans ‘substantial’ layoffs at Xbox gaming division

Hyderabad: Microsoft is planning to lay off a ‘substantial’ number of employees from its Xbox division as part of a company-wide restructuring exercise. The company is likely to announce the layoffs early next week, just before the end of its fiscal year on June 30, according to reports. Although the exact number of job losses remains unclear, the layoffs will impact several teams and may also affect employees working in Microsoft’s global sales operations, according to a Bloomberg report. The Xbox division overseas Microsoft’s gaming consoles, game development studios, and digital services, including Game Pass. This could be the fourth major layoff at the company in the past 18 months. In May, the company announced a headcount reduction affecting 6,000 employees — roughly 3 per cent of its global workforce. The tech giant has reportedly been under severe pressure since it acquired Activision Blizzard in 2023 for USD 69 billion. In January 2024, Microsoft fired 1,900 employees at Activision Blizzard and Xbox, and again cut another 650 jobs in its Xbox gaming unit in September. As of June 2024, Microsoft had 2.28 lakh employees worldwide, with around 45,000 people working in sales and marketing roles. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella had earlier said that the recent layoffs were not linked to employee performance but due to organisational restructuring. Addressing staff, Nadella said the layoffs were necessary to realign teams in accordance with Microsoft’s evolving priorities, particularly its growing focus on artificial intelligence.

AI anxiety rising among managers as frontline roles evolve



GNS News Agency, July 3

As artificial intelligence (AI) tools become more deeply embedded in the workplace, a surprising new pattern is emerging: leaders and managers are now more anxious about AI than their frontline teams. According to BCG global survey of over 10,000 employees across industries, 41% of respondents fear losing their jobs to AI. But contrary to past trends, it’s not frontline workers leading that fear, but their bosses. Once seen as the decision-makers and overseers, many managers now find themselves questioning their own relevance. As frontline employees adopt AI tools that help them make faster, more informed decisions, traditional managerial roles are shifting.

“Frontline workers have become managers as a result of the AI tools they operate,” said Vinciane Beauchene, BCG’s partner who leads the consultancy’s talent and skills practice. “Now managers are asking: what is their role as a manager?” The fear of obsolescence is particularly acute in regions with the highest GenAI usage, which includes India, Spain and Middle East. This suggests that increased

exposure to AI may be amplifying concerns about its impact. Even as momentum around AI in the workplace is building, critical gaps remain, especially around adoption, training workers, and workforce readiness, the report noted.

While 52% of respondents said they felt optimistic about the role of AI in their professional lives, the actual use of Gen AI tools among frontline employees has plateaued — with a one percentage point drop from 52% in 2024 to 51% in 2025. The data suggests that while enthusiasm is steady, the practical reality of integrating AI tools into daily workflows is proving more complex than anticipated.

India leads the global AI charge, with 92% of respondents reporting use of AI tools. The Global South, more broadly, is showing stronger adoption patterns than Western economies, notably in countries like Brazil and India. Many companies, per the report, are still stuck in the experimental phase, piloting tools without clear strategies for scale or long-term value capture.

And despite the buzz around AI, only 36% of workers feel they are receiving adequate training in Gen AI. The research underscores a major gap that must be filled with structured, ongoing, in-person training. Without this, adoption is likely to stall. “Training cannot be a one-off,” Ms. Beauchene cautions. “It has to be a journey.” This gap in skill building support is driving risky behaviour, particularly among younger employees. A striking 62% of Gen Z and Millennial respondents admitted they would use AI tools even if their employers hadn’t formally approved them. The report also pointed out that AI agents are the next frontier in the intelligence wave with 77% respondents believing that these agents will be vital within 3–5 years. Yet only a third understand what AI agents actually are or how to use them effectively.

A call to rethink masculinity in India: destigmatising men’s mental health

June, designated as Men’s Mental Health Month, offers a vital opportunity to confront a silent epidemic. In India, where cultural norms often equate masculinity with stoicism, men’s mental health remains shrouded in stigma, under-discussed and under-addressed. The statistics are sobering: according to the National Mental Health Survey (2015-16), nearly 15% of Indian adults face mental health challenges, with men disproportionately affected by issues like substance abuse and suicide. Globally, men are three times more likely to die by suicide than women, as per World Health Organization (WHO) data. Yet, societal expectations—rooted in phrases like “mard ko dard nahi hota” (men don’t feel pain)—continue to stifle conversations about men’s emotional struggles.

From boyhood, men are conditioned to embody strength, suppress vulnerability, and prioritise provision over self-care. In India, these expectations are amplified by a patriarchal framework that places men as breadwinners and protectors, often at the cost of their emotional well-being. Take Arjun*, a 32-year-old IT professional from Bengaluru, whose story mirrors countless others. After losing his job during a tech layoff in 2023, Arjun grappled with anxiety and sleeplessness. “I couldn’t tell my family,” he shared in a session. “They depended on me. Admitting I was struggling felt like failing as a man.” Arjun’s silence is emblematic of a broader issue: men are taught that emotional expression is weakness, leaving them to internalise pain.

Economic pressures exacerbate this. India’s rapid urbanisation and competitive job markets pile stress on men, particularly in metro cities where financial stability is equated with self-worth. Social media posts by young men anonymously venting about burnout abound, with hashtags like #MenToo and #MentalHealthMatters. Yet, these digital cries often don’t translate into real-world support. Cultural narratives—bolstered by Bollywood’s hyper-masculine heroes—reinforce the idea that men must “tough it out,” whether facing workplace stress, relationship breakdowns, or personal loss.

Stigma is the biggest roadblock to men seeking mental health support. In rural areas, where mental health literacy is low, men are often dismissed as “weak” or labeled with derogatory terms if they express emotional distress. Urban India fares little better; therapy is still seen as a luxury or a sign of failure. The lack of accessible mental health infrastructure doesn’t help. India has just 0.75 psychiatrists per 100,000 people, as per WHO, and mental health services are concentrated in urban centres. For men in tier-2 cities or rural areas, seeking help often means navigating long distances or unaffordable private care. Moreover, mental health campaigns in India rarely target men specifically, focusing instead on women or children. This gap leaves men’s issues—like workplace stress, loneliness, or trauma from societal expectations—largely unaddressed.

The most alarming consequence of this neglect is the rising male suicide rate. In 2022, the National Crime Records Bureau reported 1.7 lakh suicides in India, with men accounting for nearly 72%. Young men aged 18-30, grappling with unemployment, academic pressure, or relationship issues, are particularly vulnerable. Men’s reluctance to seek help, compounds this crisis. Unlike women, who are more



likely to confide in friends or family, men often lack safe spaces for emotional expression. Traditional male friendships in India revolve around banter or shared activities, rarely delving into personal struggles. This isolation drives men toward maladaptive coping mechanisms—alcohol, substance abuse, or aggression. The WHO notes that men in India are twice as likely as women to develop alcohol dependence, often as a response to unaddressed stress.

Breaking this cycle demands a multi-pronged approach, starting with dismantling stereotypes. Media plays a crucial role here. Recent movies have normalised therapy, but we need more narratives showcasing men embracing vulnerability. Male voices on social media platforms are already challenging norms by sharing stories of therapy or burnout. Campaigns like ‘Movember’, which focus on men’s health, could gain traction in India with localised efforts, encouraging men to share their vulnerabilities, and address mental health challenges. Education is another cornerstone. Schools must integrate emotional literacy into curricula, teaching boys that vulnerability is strength, not weakness. Community-level initiatives, like men’s support groups in villages or workplaces, can create safe spaces for dialogue.

Efforts are on in the private sector to offer gender-sensitive mental health programmes for men. Scaling such efforts requires government backing—perhaps through dedicated men’s mental health policies or subsidised counselling services. Workplaces, too, must step up. Corporate India’s high-pressure environments often glorify overwork, particularly for men. Companies have introduced employee wellness programmes, but these need to explicitly address men’s mental health, offering confidential counselling or stress management workshops. Normalising mental health days—akin to sick leave—could reduce burnout. Finally, families play a pivotal role. Encouraging open communication, where men feel safe discussing fears or failures, can bridge the emotional gap. Women, as partners or mothers, can challenge traditional expectations by validating men’s emotions rather than dismissing them. Men’s Mental Health Month is more than a calendar event; it is a call to rethink masculinity in India. By fostering a culture where men can express pain without shame, we not only save lives but also build stronger communities. This requires collective effort—from policymakers funding mental health services to individuals challenging stereotypes in daily conversations. Let us strive to create a world where that is true for every man. The path forward isn’t easy, but it is urgent. Let us break the silence, one story at a time.

Gazans burn plastic waste to cook in makeshift shelters

United Nations: Civilians in Gaza face another deadly hazard, alongside hunger, gunfire, and bombardment — burning plastic waste just for cooking, UN humanitarianists said. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in a report on Wednesday stated, “Shelling and bombing across the (Gaza) Strip continue to have a devastating impact on civilians, reportedly killing and injuring scores of people, many of whom were seeking aid.” “Partners report that in the absence of fuel, cooking gas, and electricity, people are burning plastic waste.”

OCHA said that when such fires occur in makeshift shelters or tents, poor ventilation poses tremendous safety and health risks to vulnerable family members, including children and older individuals. The Red Cross Field Hospital in Rafah received a mass casualty influx of 149 cases, as reported by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on Tuesday. “All responsive patients reported they were wounded while on their way to an aid distribution site,” the ICRC said. “Sixteen people were declared dead on arrival, and three more died of their wounds shortly after. The vast majority of patients reportedly suffered gunshot injuries.” The casualties among food-seeking Gazans usually occur at distribution centers of the non-UN, US-operated, and Israeli-approved militarised Gaza Humanitarian Foundation. The ICRC reported that it had to activate its

mass casualty procedures 20 times since May 27, adding, “The scale and frequency of these incidents is an alarming testament to the intolerable dangers civilians face as they attempt to access assistance.” The UN Population Fund reported that 80 percent of critical care units, including those used for childbirth, are at a risk of shutting down, when there is a daily average of 130 births in Gaza. The humanitarian office said that community kitchens were able to prepare more than 200,000 meals every day this week. However, compared with the over 1 million meals distributed daily at the end of April, it represents a reduction of about 80 percent, a trickle offered to people on the brink of famine.

“To facilitate the orderly distribution of aid, supplies must be channeled daily through multiple crossings and land routes simultaneously, thereby ensuring people that the flow of essential support is steady, sufficient, and reliable,” the Office said. OCHA also reported that the world body and its partners attempted to coordinate 15 humanitarian movements inside Gaza on Tuesday, but only four were fully facilitated by the Israeli authorities. Seven other attempts were denied outright, preventing teams from trucking water, retrieving broken trucks, or repairing roads. According to the Office, three other missions were initially approved, which later impeded on the ground, although one was ultimately accomplished on Wednesday.

Why Trump makes fast, furious statements?



Ormskirik: Donald Trump’s latest forthright outburst was made as part of his attempts to create a peace deal with Iran and Israel. “I’m not happy with Israel,” he told reporters on June 24. “We basically have two countries that have been fighting so long and so hard that they don’t know what the fuck they’re doing.” This came a day after Trump had announced a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. By the next day, the ceasefire had been violated by both Iran and Israel. Trump was clearly furious, and his language showed it. This was not a verbal slip – there was no immediate correction, no apology, no nonverbal indication of embarrassment. He just stormed off, clearly angry.

This is not the kind of language that is normally associated with a president. Some have been reported to use the f-word before, but usually behind closed doors. We expect presidents to be calm, measured, thoughtful, considered. Trump’s comment was none of these things. Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th US president, once recommended a foreign policy strategy that was based on speaking softly and carrying a big stick. He was suggesting quiet menace, but Trump showed frustration, barely contained. His furious, aggressive response was like something straight out of an old psychology textbook. In the 1930s, psychologists developed the frustration-aggression hypothesis to explain how aggressive behaviour can arise. The hypothesis suggested that when a person’s goal is blocked in some way, it leads to frustration, which then results in aggression. Aggression was considered a “natural” way of releasing this unpleasant state of frustration. They were clearly different times. Over the next few decades, this hypothesis was thought by most psychologists to be a gross oversimplification of complex human behaviour. It assumed a direct causal relationship between frustration and aggression, ignoring all the other situational and cognitive factors that can intervene.

Human beings are more complex than that, psychologists argued — they find other ways of dealing with their frustrations. They use their rational system of thought to find solutions. They don’t have to lash out when they’re frustrated in this seemingly primitive way. Perhaps, that’s why many people feel shocked when they watch this US president in certain situations. To many of us, it all seems so basic, so unsophisticated, so frightening. The Nobel laureate and psychologist Daniel Kahneman, in his book Think-

ing, Fast and Slow (2011), characterised the two systems that underpin everyday decision-making. His work may help with understanding of what’s going on here.

He describes system one as the evolutionary, basic system. It operates unconsciously, automatically and very quickly, handling everyday tasks like reading other people’s emotions, without any effort. It is an intuitive system designed to work in a world full of approach and avoidance, scary animals and friendly animals. It is heavily reliant on affect to guide decision-making. In contrast, system two is slower, more deliberative. It requires conscious effort and is used for complex thinking, solving difficult problems, or making careful decisions. The relationship between the two systems is critical, and that may get us thinking about Trump in more detail. Kahneman says that system one is a bit of a “workaholic”, beaver away all the time, making “suggestions” for system two to endorse. Good decisions – depend upon system two checking the suggestions of system one. But system one often jumps quickly and unconsciously to certain conclusions. System two should check them, but often doesn’t, even when it would be easy. Here is a well-known example. Answer the following question: “A bat and ball cost one pound ten pence, the bat costs one pound more than the ball. How much does the ball cost?” One answer looks blatantly obvious – but it isn’t correct. The correct answer (after a bit of thought) is five pence. About 80 per cent of university students give the very quick and incorrect answer of ten pence because it “looks” right. Their system two never checked. In many people, it seems system two is not used nearly enough. There are striking individual differences in the way that people rely on emotion and gut instinct versus the rational system in making decisions.

It appears that Trump makes decisions very quickly (classic system one), often without extensive deliberation or consultation with advisers. Both in his presidency and in his business career, he seemed to prioritise immediate action over any sort of prolonged and thoughtful analysis. That’s why he changes his mind so often. His decisions seem to be driven by strong emotions. His response to events, opponents and issues are often passionate and visceral. This could lead to decisions being unduly influenced by personal feelings, first impressions based on arbitrary cues, and interpersonal perceptions, rather than anything more substantial. Trump’s style of decision-making emphasises immediacy and emotional conviction, which can be effective in rallying supporters and creating a sense of decisiveness. However, it also can lead to unpredictable outcomes and, as has been seen again and again, somewhat controversial, impulsive actions. Many suggest that Trump’s decision-making style reflects his background in the high-pressure and high-stakes world of business, where quick judgments and gut instinct can be advantageous in these sorts of competitive winner-takes-all environments. But the world at war is a more precarious place, where system one needs to be kept more firmly in check. Gut instincts may have a role to play, but that old lazy system two needs to be more vigilant. Especially, it would seem, in Trump’s case.

Baloch teen becomes another victim of extrajudicial killing by Pakistani forces



Quetta: Human rights organisation Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) has strongly condemned the extrajudicial killing of 17-year-old Ehsan Shah from Balochistan by Pakistan’s Frontier Corps (FC), describing it as part of a “continued pattern of violence, enforced disappearances, and intimidation” against Baloch civilians. The teenager’s grieving mother issued a powerful and emotional appeal for justice, recounting the events that led to her son’s death on June 3 near the Lak Pass Tunnel in Balochistan. “Why was my son murdered? He had no charges against him. He was innocent and unarmed; his only crime was being Baloch. Why are state forces allowed to kill our youth with impunity?” she said, holding back tears.

According to her statement, Ehsan had been on his way to Quetta with a friend for Eid shopping when FC personnel stopped their vehicle. Without warning or provocation, Ehsan was shot in the shoulder while still inside the car. Eyewitnesses later told the family that an FC soldier picked up the wounded boy and said to his commanding

officer, “He’s got nothing, but he’s dead now. What should we do?” The family’s search for accountability was met with intimidation.

Ehsan’s mother revealed that when her husband approached Deputy Commissioners and officials to seek legal recourse, he was threatened with losing his job and warned about the safety of their family. Despite holding press conferences and making public appeals, no response came from any State authorities. “I call on all Baloch families: do not remain silent. Stand up and speak for your sons. We will not be silenced. We will resist,” Ehsan’s mother said, urging others to join the growing chorus for justice. The BYC reaffirmed its solidarity with the family and called on national and international human rights organisations, legal bodies, and independent observers to urgently take notice of the systemic violence and repression in Balochistan.

The killing of Ehsan Shah comes amid a rising number of human rights violations in the province. According to a recent report by the Human Rights Council of Balochistan, the month of May 2025 alone saw 138 cases of enforced disappearances — 137 male and one female. Of these, 97 people remain missing, 29 were released, and 12 were extrajudicially killed by Pakistani forces. The province has long been the site of an armed independence struggle. Human rights groups have consistently highlighted a pattern of systemic repression, including violent raids on homes, unlawful detentions, enforced disappearances, the ‘kill and dump’ policy, arbitrary arrests under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, and trumped-up charges against civilians and Baloch leaders. The BYC has repeatedly called upon the international community to urgently intervene and address what it calls “a humanitarian and political crisis” in Balochistan.

Axiom-4 mission: Dragon spacecraft carrying Shubhanshu Shukla and crew docks at International Space Station

Soft capture of the Dragon spacecraft took place when the Space Station was passing over north Atlantic Ocean at 4:01 p.m. IST. A live videolink from NASA showed the spacecraft approaching the space station and the docking sequence was completed at 4:15 p.m. IST. With the docking of the Dragon spacecraft, Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla made history by becoming the first Indian to enter the International Space Station.

After multiple delays, Indian astronaut Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla’s Axiom-4 mission (Ax-4) to the International Space Station (ISS) was launched on Wednesday (June 25, 2025) from NASA’s Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Pilot of the Ax-4 mission and Group Captain Shukla, along with other four crew members Commander Peggy Whitson of the U.S., Mission Specialist Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of Poland, and Mission Specialist Tibor Kapu of Hungary, embarked on a 28-hour journey to the ISS on a SpaceX Dragon spacecraft after launching on the Falcon 9 rocket

Earlier in the day, Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla said he was learning to live in microgravity conditions “like a baby” and it was an amazing experience to float in vacuum as the



Dragon spacecraft circled the Earth in its journey to dock at the International Space Station. Before reaching international space station, astronaut Shukla greeted the people with ‘Namaskar from space’ from Dragon spacecraft. Sharing his experience via a videolink from the spacecraft, Shukla said after remaining in quarantine for 30 days, where he was far away from all the excitement, ahead of the launch of the Axiom-4 mission on Wednesday (June 25, 2025), “the only thought in my mind was to let us just go”.

Turbulent skies, turbulent minds: the rising fear of flying and how to combat it



In recent months, a series of high-profile airplane incidents—from sudden turbulence to technical malfunctions—have left passengers worldwide feeling uneasy about air travel. While aviation remains one of the safest modes of transportation, the increased media coverage of these events has heightened fear and anxiety among frequent and occasional flyers alike. For passengers, aircrew, and even pilots, fear can be paralysing. However, mental resilience and proven psychological strategies can help individuals not only cope, but thrive in the face of aviation-related stress. Every day, nearly 8 million people take to the skies. Many more travel by road. Airports and stations buzz with announcements, farewells and noise. Somewhere amid the crowd is a familiar face you’ve seen. Maybe it’s your colleague flying to yet another meeting, or a parent waving goodbye before heading off to check in on their ageing parents, a friend leaving on a honeymoon or an uncle for a conference. Maybe...it’s you. When we talk about frequent travellers, we often picture young business executives or carefree travellers. But in reality, a huge number of travellers, particularly air travellers, belong to the 45–54 age group—a stage of life known as middle adulthood. And they’re not just travelling more often; they are also carrying a heavier emotional load.

Individuals in this age group are, as the psychologist Erickson put it, in the ‘sandwich stage’ because they are often caught between two powerful responsibilities: caring for their ageing parents on one side and raising their own children on the other. At the same time, they are trying to keep their careers thriving, marriages strong, friendships alive, and dreams afloat. If they are travelling great distances, then there is an additional dimension: boarding flights, with one eye on the clock, one hand on a phone, and a heart full of everything they are juggling -- pressure, hopes, guilt and deadlines.

What is the psychological toll of air travel anxiety? Emily Carter, an aviation psychologist, explains: “The brain’s amygdala processes fear, and when triggered, it can override logic. This is why even seasoned travellers might feel sudden dread despite knowing the safety statistics.” Mass cancellations of tours and flight bookings axed, underscore the deep empathy and impact of horrifying airplane accidents. Such mass deaths are deeply disturbing, even if we are not directly involved. This is the manifestation of ‘Indirect trauma’, and it is completely valid to feel fear, panic and a sense of helplessness. When one’s nervous system reacts as if he/she is in danger just by witnessing a shock-

ing event — one is said to be experiencing vicarious trauma. Repeated news about the occurrence and feeds on social media could aggravate the situation. It amplifies these fears, as viral videos of mid-air emergencies create a perception of greater risk than statistics suggest. Sarah Mitchell, a clinical psychologist specialising in anxiety disorders, explains, “Our brains are wired to pay attention to threats, and repeated exposure to alarming news can make flying seem more dangerous than it is. It is important to balance awareness with rational perspective.”

Educate yourself on air safety – Understanding the rigorous safety protocols involved in aviation can provide reassurance. Statistically, flying is far safer than driving. Practice mindfulness & breathing techniques – Deep breathing and grounding exercises can reduce in-flight anxiety. Apps like Headspace or Calm offer guided sessions. Limit exposure to alarmist media – Constant news consumption about plane incidents can heighten fear. Stick to credible sources and avoid sensationalized reports. Focus on what you can control – Prepare for your flight by choosing reputable airlines, staying hydrated, and getting adequate rest before travel. Distraction & comfort tools – Audiobooks, calming music, or even stress balls can redirect focus away from anxiety. Seek professional help if needed – If fear of flying becomes debilitating, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) has proven effective in treating travel-related anxiety. Pilots rely on “sterile cockpit” rules (minimising non-essential talk during critical phases) and simulator training to prepare for rare scenarios. Flight attendants and crew are trained in “situation awareness”—assessing threats calmly and reassuring passengers through clear communication. A study published in the journal Behavioural Sciences investigated the impact of accidents and incidents on pilots’ emotions and situation awareness. The study found that accidents and incidents induced different levels of emotional responses in pilots, with accidents causing more significant changes in happiness and sadness (emotional induction). It also found that the pilots’ situation awareness was affected by their emotional state, with high-situation awareness pilots showing better emotional regulation. The pilots’ emotional intelligence mediated the effects of accidents and incidents on their emotions and situation awareness, the study revealed. Raj Patel, a commercial pilot with 20 years of experience, shares: “We train for worst-case scenarios so that in real life, muscle memory and logic take over. Fear is natural, but discipline keeps us focused.”

Airlines are increasingly prioritizing mental health through various initiatives including crew support programmes that involve confidential counselling and peer support groups to help aircrew process stress as well as passenger initiatives, with some carriers now offering VR-based exposure therapy to help nervous flyers acclimate. While recent incidents are concerning, they remain rare. Airlines and regulatory bodies continuously improve safety measures to prevent accidents. The key is to stay informed without letting fear dictate decisions. Fear is a natural response, but it doesn’t have to control us. Whether you’re a passenger white-knuckling through take-off or a pilot navigating rough weather, mental resilience—built through education, preparation, and psychological tools—can make the difference between panic and calm.

Chemotherapy drugs made by Indian firms fail quality tests, shows study



Vital chemotherapy drugs used around the world have failed quality tests, leaving cancer patients in more than 100 countries at risk of ineffective treatments and potentially fatal side effects, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (TBIJ, www.tbij.com) can reveal. The drugs in question form the backbone of treatment plans for numerous common cancers – including breast, ovarian and leukaemia. Some drugs contained so little of their key ingredient that pharmacists said giving them to patients would be as good as doing nothing. Other drugs, containing too much active ingredient, put patients at risk of severe organ damage or even death. “Both scenarios are horrendous,” said one pharmacist. “It’s heart-breaking.” Doctors from multiple countries told TBIJ of the drugs in question not working as expected, leaving patients suddenly unresponsive to treatment. Other patients suffered side effects so toxic that they could no longer tolerate the medicine.

The variance found in the levels of active ingredient was alarming. In some cases, pills from the same blister pack contained different amounts. These findings expose huge holes in the global safety nets intended to prevent profit-seeking manufacturers from cutting corners, and to protect patients from bad drugs. All the while, patients and governments with stretched resources are paying the price for drugs that don’t work. Generic drugs are widely used in all countries but are most crucial in those with fewer resources, where costlier treatments might be beyond reach.

Cancer is one of the biggest killers worldwide, linked to around 10 million deaths every year – roughly one in six. The burden of cancer is growing, particularly in low- and middle-income regions. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, instances of cancer have doubled in the last 30 years. Much of the global demand for treatment is met by so-called generic drugs. These are versions of a drug that can be made once the original maker’s exclusivity rights have expired, and are typically made far more cheaply. The bad drugs described in this investigation were all generics.

Generics are widely used in all countries but are most crucial in those with fewer resources, where costlier treatments might be beyond reach. If generics were not available in sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, “any cancer treatment would be likely inaccessible to most of the population”, said Claudia Martinez of the Access to Medicine Foundation*, an NGO. In chemotherapy drugs, the active ingredient – which fights cancer cells – is also highly toxic. Patients need to receive enough of it to treat the cancer but not so much that they overdose and suffer damaging side effects. As such, hospital pharmacists calculate doses carefully – and in doing so, rely on the amount of active ingredient being exactly what’s stated on the label. Research from a landmark study published today examined the amount of

active ingredient in seven common types of cancer drug: cisplatin, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, ifosfamide, leucovorin, methotrexate and oxaliplatin. All of them are classed as essential medicines by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Working with collaborators in Cameroon, Ethiopia, Kenya and Malawi, researchers at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, analysed drug samples from the four countries. Of 189 samples that had not expired at the time of testing, about one fifth failed. This consisted of 20 different brands of generic drug made by 17 manufacturers. “We were all taken aback when we saw the results,” said Marya Lieberman, the professor who led the research.

More than 30 manufacturers made products to a good standard. But for patients receiving the poor-quality drugs, the effects could be devastating. “Once a person has been diagnosed with cancer, there’s a limited window of opportunity for treatment to work,” said Lieberman. “And if someone is treated with an ineffective product, they can lose that precious window.” The majority of failed drugs had too little active ingredient (for most this meant less than 88% of the amount stated on the label) while some contained too much (more than 112%). Both thresholds were decided by researchers based on international standards. “Both scenarios are horrendous in my eyes,” said Shereen Nabhani-Gebara, vice chair of the British Oncology Pharmacists Association. “It takes a lot of courage for someone with cancer to accept a diagnosis, but then to be short-changed like this when they are trying their best is heartbreaking – because this is someone’s life.” Tracking the threat Cancer patients in Ethiopia have far better access to treatment facilities now than they did 20 years ago. It doesn’t seem, however, that the standard of medicines has kept pace. Cancer patients in Ethiopia have far better access to treatment facilities now than they did 20 years ago. It doesn’t seem, however, that the standard of medicines has kept pace. | Photo Credit: Anuj Shrestha for TBIJ/Special arrangement

Over the past six years, these brands of drugs have been shipped to more than 100 countries in every populated continent on the planet. They range from low- and middle-income nations like Nepal, Ethiopia and North Korea, to wealthy countries such as the US, UK and Saudi Arabia. The worst-performing drug in the study is made by Indian manufacturer Venus Remedies. It is a drug called cyclophosphamide, which is often used to treat cancers including lymphoma and breast cancer.

All eight samples of this Venus Remedies drug failed, with six containing less than half the amount of active ingredient claimed by the manufacturer. One contained just over a quarter of the stated dose, which according to several cancer pharmacists would be as effective as no treatment at all. The drug has been shipped to six countries, with its largest importer being Ethiopia.

Wondemagegnhu Tigeneh, a clinical oncologist in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, told TBIJ that he has treated patients with chemotherapy drugs he believes did not work. “I have a suspicion that the active ingredient was lower than expected,” he said, remembering a drug he gave to a recent patient who had responded well to the first three rounds of treatment. But on the next round, their progress suddenly stopped. Because he has no means to test them, Tigeneh can never be sure of the quality of a given drug. But in his 20 years treating cancer, he has learned to notice tell-tale signs. Sometimes, for instance, there is a complete absence of side-effects such as nausea or hair loss. “That makes it difficult to trust that particular drug,” he said.

Alienware’s GM explains why the brand hasn’t launched a handheld gaming PC yet



Dell’s high-end gaming brand Alienware is closely looking at the handheld PC space, citing deficiencies in existing portable gaming PCs and the market’s potential. “Many customers return these products because the battery life isn’t great, or they felt it would be like a PC. The software isn’t right—it’s too kludgy, and they have to navigate through a very small Windows environment. Due to these elements, we believe the timing isn’t right at the moment,” explained Matt McGowan, General Manager of Alienware, during a pre-CES 2025 briefing in New York.McGowan added that doesn’t mean it won’t be right in the future. “I think this market will continue to exist. Whether it grows like the PC category or remains flat due to obvious constraints, such as screen size, remains to be seen. It’s still a relatively new space, only a couple of years old, but it’s a space we are looking at pretty heavily.”“The handheld space is really interesting,” accepts McGowan, remembering how Dell had worked on Project UFO as a concept. “Even though it looked very polished, it wasn’t actually that mature internally. It was essentially a collection of pieces put together to create the concept. Other competitors have obviously taken that idea, run with it, and sold units.”Nintendo’s Switch has dominated the handheld gaming space for years, and McGowan acknowledged that existing gaming PCs don’t match the elements the Switch has brought to the market. “If I compare the products out there to the Switch, they are very different. But the Switch also has a clear advantage—it’s much more affordable. The device is significantly lighter, hyper-portable, and offers a seamless experience. Launching games and navigating the interface is effortless, and the performance meets expectations for the Nintendo ecosystem.”

“They [current portable gaming PCs] don’t quite meet all those factors. They do an okay job, but I am not really satisfied with that,” he continued. “Sure, there may be a market where people are willing to accept those deficiencies in the product, but it’s just not a step we are willing to take yet. We don’t want to offer a compromised experience and say, ‘Hey, consumer, this is good enough, right?’ We don’t believe that approach is worthy of the Alienware branding.”The success of Valve Corp’s Steam Deck has expanded the reach and potential market for portable gaming handhelds, enabling users to play PC games on the go. However, many players have since entered the space, including old guardians in the PC industry. While these handhelds are not replacing traditional gaming PCs, they represent a growing demographic that many companies are keen to capitalise on.McGowan, however, doesn’t see PC handhelds as a substitute for gaming PCs, which also explains why Dell hasn’t launched a competitor to handhelds from Valve and Asus on the market. “We don’t see it as a substitute; it’s really an incremental product in the ecosystem, which is a good thing. However, we haven’t seen that handheld has shrunk the notebook market,” he said.Dell Alienware Alienware’s Area 51 laptops have 18-inch and 16-inch screen sizes and include Nvidia’s next-generation graphics. ‘Mac doesn’t offer a superior gaming experience’While PC gaming has historically been a strong forte of Dell with its Alienware brand, Mac hardware has never quite gone toe-to-toe with some of the best gaming PCs. However, with its silicon Apple is seemingly pushing performance higher and introducing more gaming-focused

software optimisations for developers and users,” McGowan responded when asked how he sees a Mac as a gaming machine.“I think the reason people like to game on a Mac is because of the device’s form factor. I don’t think they’re necessarily getting a superior experience. Maybe they’re using the device for both gaming and non-gaming purposes, spending less time gaming and more time on other things where they value things like better battery life,” he continued.For McGowan, the big opportunity for Dell is to take advantage of users who could potentially enter the gaming ecosystem as Apple strengthens the Mac hardware and makes it better optimised for gaming. “The onus is on us, and the Windows ecosystem as a whole, to deliver a better experience. If Apple wanted to commit fully to gaming, they could do it, but it would take time. To me, that would mean even more users engaging in PC gaming, which is great. That’s beneficial for everyone.”“Alienware looks at price-sensitive consumers in a shift in strategy’

Alienware is known for selling incredibly powerful, but pricey, gaming PCs. Its latest lineup, showcased at this year’s Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, includes the new Area-51 desktop and Area-51 laptops, both featuring designs reminiscent of the iconic Area-51 debuted in 1998, representing Dell’s attempt to appease pro-gamers and enthusiasts who have long been Alienware users, a segment of users that has driven the brand for years.McGowan acknowledged that not everyone can afford a device like the Area-51 desktop, which costs \$4,499 for the launch configuration. For McGowan, the next step is to make the Alienware brand more accessible by launching products at a lower tier, allowing consumers who have always wanted to buy an Alienware PC to get a taste of it.

“We want everybody to be an Area-51 customer and not everybody can afford that, and not everybody aspires to it. Some people just want to play games and have a budget for it. So, later this year, we will be coming out with notebooks that are more price-sensitive than what we have historically offered with Alienware,” he said, adding that the company plans to phase out the G series and gradually migrate away from that sub-brand. This way, all gaming products under Dell Technologies will be Alienware.McGowan said Alienware has also gone through a similar rebranding exercise as Dell, where the mainline series now fall under the Dell, Dell Pro, and Dell Pro Max branding. However, the rebranding within Alienware was more focused on the gaming side, while keeping the brand identity in mind.“We did a similar exercise on the gaming side because we had a similar question: Do customers really understand the G, M, and X series? The pretty much unanimous feedback was, ‘We really don’t understand that. We don’t really know what it means.’ So, we asked, ‘Okay, well, do you know what Area 51 means, even though we didn’t have an Area 51 product at the time?’ And the feedback was, ‘Oh yeah, we know what Area 51 means. That means maximum performance.”McGowan is of the view that the type of customers who entered gaming during the pandemic and post-pandemic are different from traditional gamers. According to him, the concentration of gamers at more aggressive price points is huge. This is one of the reasons why the company decided to overhaul the lineup, keeping new-age consumers in mind.“We thought, is it more valuable for us to service those customers with G Series products and then completely disassociate Dell G from Alienware? Or is it more valuable to address those customers with Alienware? After a long deliberation, we came back and said, ‘It’s really more valuable for us to introduce new gamers to the space, to the Alienware brand, and give them a path.”Going forward, Area 51 will sit at the top, followed by Aurora and other lineups, with Alienware also planning to introduce new Aurora laptops, extending the same brand nomenclature used for desktops to notebooks. McGowan expects the entire transition to happen over the next 18 months, and the company will completely phase out the G, M, and X series, with everything eventually folding into the Alienware brand.

Grave new world: humans are killing the elders species need to survive

So do animals. From elephant matriarchs to shark grandmothers, the elders of the animal kingdom carry a treasure trove of knowledge, having guided, and still guiding, their families through the uncertainties of life in the wild.The earth’s life forms are very diverse and unsparingly complex. No two species age the same. Yet there is also a growing body of evidence that older, wiser individuals are crucial in similar ways to many species.

“Because of the diversity in animal social systems, the important position that older individuals often occupy can be a variety of reasons, but often involves them either being particularly dominant individuals who stabilise the social hierarchy in some way through their presence or by acting as repositories of information that they’ve acquired over their lifetime — which can be particularly important when times get tough,” Josh Firth, an associate professor at the University of Leeds, said.“There are a range of potential benefits of older individuals across different types of animals. They are not the same for all species,” Keller Kopf, a senior lecturer in ecology at Charles Darwin University, Australia, added.Without these elders, fish may never find their spawning grounds and birds would get waylaid as they flew across continents.

Ageing in the wildA review published in Science on November 21 suggested that the worldwide loss of old individuals due to shrinking habitats, hunting, climate change, and other human-caused disturbances can be particularly detrimental to long-lived species.According to the researchers, protecting a species’ elders is important for all its members to be able to pass on their cultures and what they know about adapting to changing weather to their future generations, and to help buffer them against human disturbances.While this may go for both short- and long-lived species — the mayfly lives for a day whereas the Antarctic glass sponge can live for millennia — the focus on long-lived species in particular is partly because of data.“Evidence for the contributions of older individuals in short-lived species is limited,” Kopf, the lead author of the study, said.Scientists have been studying ageing for decades but most of their research has focused on the negative effects of biological ageing on human health. Only recently have they been looking at the benefits of ageing and in wild populations.

“Research on the benefits of old individuals has been happening in different disciplines in silos,” Kopf said.What old meansHe and his team analysed more than 9,800 peer-reviewed studies from 1900 to 2023, investigating the roles of elderly individuals in several species. These roles included knowledge transmission, assisted parental care, nutrient cycling, and coping with extreme weather.“Until now, no study has pulled together data across different taxonomic groups to highlight the range of potential benefits of growing

old,” according to Kopf.Before the team could analyse the data, it had to agree on what “old” meant. A three-year-old mouse could be considered old whereas a 30-year-old elephant could be considered young, Kopf said. But the lack of data on short-lived species limited the researchers’ options to two groups: long-lived mammals and birds (which are often social species that invest significant time and efforts in parenting their offspring) and cold-blooded animals (like fish and reptiles, which continue to grow throughout their lifespan).“Traits such as social behaviour, migration, parental care, and increased reproductive output make older individuals in moderate to long-lived species essential for their ecology and therefore conservation,” Kopf said.“However, this importance exists on a continuum and is not a binary.”Of elephants and orcasClimate extremes and human activities such as habitat destruction can hasten the loss of elders in a species and disrupt the stability of populations. Ecologists have documented a cascade of consequences moving through the population when the elders disappear, altering social structures and behaviour.For example, young elephants of both sexes depend on help from the matriarch, the oldest female and often the largest. One 2011 study of African elephants in the wild found that when they were played recordings of lions roaring, a herd’s members would create a defensive formation. Groups led by matriarchs more than 60 years old gathered faster and confronted the threatening calls with more aggression.

“If older individuals are removed from the wild, by capture or unnatural death, younger ones struggle to survive without their knowledge,” Anindya Sinha, a professor at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru, said. “Because they are directionless there might be an increased risk of negative interactions with humans.”“Our work on Asian elephants in Bandipur and Nagarhole National Parks in Karnataka shows that females in herds [with calves] and fewer experienced individuals exhibited high levels of stress hormone,” Sanjeeta Sharma Pokhreal, an assistant professor at Kyoto University in Japan, said. A 2018 study she co-authored suggested that the higher stress could be due to lack of help with parental care, the high energy demands of vigilance, and the responsibility of protecting calves from predators.Studies have also found that older female orcas (Orcinus orca) undergo menopause. According to experts, one compelling explanation for this phenomenon is called the grandmother hypothesis. Grandmother orcas stop being able to reproduce so they can help their daughters care for calves, protect them from predators, and guide them to the best feeding groundsA new conservation paradigmBecause of the great benefits of protecting the older members of a species, the researchers have advanced a new paradigm called longevity conservation.“Biodiversity conservation and threatened species policies should protect age structure,” Kopf wrote in The Conversation. “

Ashutosh Varshney writes: The Hindutva-Ambedkar puzzle



A vigorous debate in the recently concluded Winter session of Parliament has brought into the limelight one of the most important political issues of our times. What is the relationship between Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect of India’s Constitution, and Hindutva?Two contradictory impulses appeared in the debate. The BJP’s principal claim was that it had done more than any other major party, targeting the Congress in particular, to restore the justly great status of Ambedkar in the national public realm. However, the speech of Home Minister Amit Shah seamlessly slipped into the claim that the iconisation of Ambedkar had become too much of a political fashion, and if only similar attention was paid to God, one would earn a place in heaven. The former was an attempt to embrace Ambedkar politically, the latter was barely concealed ridicule. Which of the two truly represents the core of Hindu nationalism?

Perhaps one could begin with how the original thinkers of Hindu nationalism saw the relationship, going all the way back to the 1920s and 1930s. For those early years, there is no better guide for us than V D Savarkar, the father of Hindutva.Luckily, a new book — Savarkar and the Making of Hindutva (Princeton University Press, 2024) by Janaki Bakhle, Professor of History, University of California, Berkeley — gives us novel insights into Savarkar’s thinking. Ten years in the making, Bakhle’s book comprehensively examines Savarkar’s voluminous writings in Marathi, including his plays, poems and essays, which are well-known in Maharashtra but not having been translated in English, little known outside. Savarkar wrote copiously about caste, religion and nationhood, and also commented on Mahatma Gandhi and Ambedkar.

As Vikram Sampath’s biography of Savarkar had also earlier noted, Bakhle emphasises that Savarkar was a persistent critic of caste. But Savarkar’s position was different from both Gandhi and Ambedkar. Gandhi’s unrelenting focus was on untouchability, a “sinful” denial of basic dignity to millions of Indians. As for the other castes, hierarchy was the problem, not caste per se. While untouchability required eradication, the four-varna-based caste system simply needed reform. Minus the hierarchy and untouchability, the caste system, according to Gandhi, could simply function as a division of labour, given the historical links of castes with occupations.Ambedkar disagreed. The entire caste system required annihilation, not just untouchability. The caste hierarchy and its horrors were anchored in religious texts, without which Hinduism was inconceivable. Brahminism was as big a problem as untouchability. Ambedkar was born a Hindu, but did not want to die as one. Before his death, he converted to Buddhism with his followers.Bakhle shows that Savarkar’s views on caste were located somewhere between Gandhi and Ambedkar. He was constantly critical of Sanatana Dharma. To him, caste was “an enduring struc-

ture of stupidity, naivete and even innocence”; rituals were a mere idiotic superstition; and “the cow, Vedic chants and prayers were themselves not sacred”. But Savarkar also believed that Brahmins deserved no special ire for their behaviour. Rather, prejudice and oppression ran through the entire system. Kshatriyas and Vaishyas oppressed everyone beneath them; upper Sudras lorded over the lower Sudras; the “untouchable Mahars”, a caste to which Ambedkar was born, did not look kindly at those below them in the hierarchy. These “rules of bad behaviour” can be altered if we change our minds. The “untouchables”, according to Savarkar, can and should be given access to Vedic rituals and embraced by all castes.But why should all of this be done? Though critical of caste, Savarkar never argued that the caste system was a centuries-long structure of dominance and oppression, and a birth-based, radically unequal, distribution of group dignity was built into it. Anti-Brahmin arguments, ruling many intellectual and political circles in Bombay and Madras Presidencies at the time, did not draw his sympathy. Indeed, he argued, the project of Hindu unity could be pursued under “enlightened Brahmin leadership”. Thus Savarkar “attempted to have it both ways: To enact radical reform without completely alienating the privileged elite”.

This equivocation allows Bakhle to make a key argument. Savarkar’s criticism of caste was “instrumental”. It was “primarily motivated by what he saw as an urgent and immediate need to unite Hindus against Muslims (in marked contrast with Gandhi whose critique of caste was primarily related to the need for a unified nationalist movement against British rule)”. Over time, opposing British rule became less important to Savarkar than creating a united Hindu community against the Muslims, who might rise again and dominate the Hindus, but whose disloyalty to India was, to him, far too evident. If the “untouchables” and lower castes are not incorporated in the Hindu family, they “will join forces with the Muslims”, whose demographic numbers needed contraction, not expansion by conversion. To put it in modern social science terms, Savarkar’s project of Hindu unity meant merging all castes into a singular Hindu ethnicity.To Ambedkar, Hindu unity was exactly the opposite of what his own project sought. He wanted to “annihilate” caste and leave Hinduism altogether. Though Savarkar initially had some sympathy for Ambedkar, the fundamental clash between the two projects became all too obvious. Savarkar’s final judgement was unambiguously clear. He called Ambedkar “a man... burning with hatred against Hinduism”.

most readThe Home Minister’s Ambedkar ridicule is arguably rooted in Savarkar’s ultimate judgment of Ambedkar as a Hindu hater. But so is Hindutva’s Hindu unity strain embedded in Savarkar. Batenge toh katenge (if divided, we will be decimated), the new political refrain of Hindutva, is a perfect contemporary illustration of Savarkar’s Hindu unity project, to be pursued without an attack on caste hierarchy, but with Muslims as an enemy.The electoral significance of Dalits stems from their numbers. They are numerically larger than the estimated demographic size of Brahmins, if not all upper castes together. Ambedkar’s status has become so great that large proportions of Dalits not only view him as an icon, but they also see the Constitution, made under his leadership, as an emblematic canon. A fuller incorporation of Dalits into the Hindu unity project is not possible if Ambedkar and “his” Constitution are threatened. However, since Ambedkar had no interest in Hindu unity, Hindutva’s Ambedkar ambivalence continues, and is not easily resolvable.

The under-representation of women in the judiciary

The absence of women in the judicial system, which is glaring and widely discussed, almost always revolves around entry-level measures that are aimed at ensuring that more women enter the profession as lawyers/judges. While such entry-level measures are necessary, it is crucial to recognise that this is insufficient to ensure the continued support and encouragement and retention of women in the judiciary.The Supreme Court of India’s “State of the Judiciary” report (2023) showed 36.3% of women in the district judiciary, which is heartening. In 14 States, more than 50% of candidates successfully recruited into the civil judge (junior) division were women. However, at the higher levels, the representation of women in the judiciary falls short. As of January 2024, only 13.4% of judges in the High Court and 9.3% judges in the Supreme Court are women. Further, the representation of women is uneven across High Courts, with States which include Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Manipur, Meghalaya, Odisha, Tripura and Uttarakhand having either no women judges or just one woman judge.The situation in the Bar is also bleak. Data published by the Department of Legal Affairs in 2022 show that approximately 15.31% of all enrolled advocates are women. Although comprehensive data in this regard has not been made public by all State Bar Councils, women are drastically under-represented as senior advocates, advocates-on-record, and Bar Council representatives. This results in a funnel effect, creating a smaller pool of candidates who may be able to establish themselves in the system and be considered for elevation.

The under-representation of women in the judiciary is part of a vicious cycle. Women are excluded while even those women who have been included are unable to rise to positions of power to address these concerns. Access for women in the judiciary, therefore, is hindered at two levels: entry and retention.While several States have taken commendable steps in ensuring that women enter the lower levels of the judiciary, direct recruitment continues to be a challenge for female aspirants. The Judicial Service Rules of many States stipulate that advocates must have a minimum period of ‘continuous’ practice for elevation to the Bench. For women advocates who are required to juggle family responsibilities in the absence of maternity benefits and minimum stipends, meeting this threshold is difficult.However, even when women have managed to enter the system, continued career growth becomes difficult in the face of a discouraging and unsupportive environment which fails to take into account their specific needs. There is a continuously diminishing pool of women judges eligible for elevation to the High Court, and eventually the Supreme Court. This reverse funnel effect is caused by transfer policies which are often harsh and demanding, leaving little room for negotiation or sensitivity towards women’s continued responsibilities as primary caretakers in the household.Every day interactions within courts also cause difficulties for women lawyers, judges and staff working in the judiciary, due to the absence of basic infrastructural requirements. A survey in 2019, by the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy highlighted that nearly 100 district courts have no dedicated washrooms for women. Multiple courts, including prominent High Courts, lack adequate washrooms even for

women judges, let alone for female staff, lawyers, or litigants. There are only limited sanitary facilities and hygienic waste disposal systems. The burden of familial responsibilities continues to be the social reality of women in India. With women expected to be primary caretakers, courts must provide family-friendly amenities including feeding rooms and crèches. However, although some courts have taken steps in this regard, the limited availability of resources results in restrictions which render them ineffective. For example, the Delhi High Court’s crèche only caters to children younger than six years, for course correction! is quite intuitive from the issues above that the twin threshold of entry and retention of women in judiciary as equal stakeholders to access is important, but the solutions have been instituted in silos. The main consequence is that the problem persists as there are fewer women represented in the higher echelons of the judiciary, and far fewer amenities that enable their access to court complexes for their continued retention in the justice delivery system.This is a classic problem of the ever-widening public-private divide espoused by Carole Pateman in her theory wherein she points out that as women increasingly entered the public sphere traditionally occupied by men, there was a lag in the laws as well. She further elaborates that this public-private divide is the main reason why the public sphere does not cater to the specific needs of women upon their transition from the private sphere to the public. This theory can be extended to the design and regulation of the public sphere as well, which is usually not a conducive environment for women to thrive and feel safe.Similarly, it is important to acknowledge that as more women enter courts which have been male-dominant institutions for a long time now, it is all the more necessary to employ a female gaze to implement inclusive policies to enable their entry and retention. Simply put, the female gaze in implementation means the employment of a feminist lens to recognise the differential needs of women and course-correct to diminish the unintended impacts of neutral-yet indirectly discriminatory policies and infrastructural mandates. The employment of a female gaze breaks the male standard view employed by an all-male administrative committee of judges or all-male Bar Councils, particularly in cases where there is no women representation. This helps further in an inclusive visualisation of how ‘public spaces’ — in this case, courts and their access — are constructed, aiding in the construction of a lens through which gendered impact of policies and mandates can be filtered to enable the entry and retention of women in courts.Prioritising women’s needsGreater participation of women in the judiciary must be driven by women-centric perspectives, which identify specific issues hindering future career growth and progress.Former judge, Justice Hima Kohli, one of the few women judges in the Supreme Court recently noted the unconscious gender bias in courts which results in women judges being sidelined in administrative duties. This is highlighted by the fact that according to information published on High Court websites, none of the High Court Building Committees aside from Delhi, Allahabad and Himachal Pradesh currently has even a single woman judge as a member. Infrastructure needs for women are often de-prioritised as a result,

Air India Boeing 787 crash: Black box data extraction, analysis underway at AAIB’s new lab in Delhi



Extraction and analysis of data from the black boxes of the ill-fated Air India Boeing 787-8 aircraft that crashed in Ahmedabad on June 12 is being done at the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau’s (AAIB) new state-of-the-art laboratory in Delhi, according to the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). The black boxes are critical in aircraft accident investigations as they provide data on scores on parameters and aircraft systems, helping the investigators identify the most likely causes of an accident.

MoCA also said that the AAIB “promptly initiated” an investigation and constituted a multi-disciplinary team following the tragic crash of Air India flight AI171 in Ahmedabad. This team, constituted as per international protocol, is led by AAIB Director General GVG Yugandhar, and includes an aviation medicine specialist, an air traffic control officer, and representatives from the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB). The NTSB is assisting the AAIB in the probe as the aircraft was designed and manufactured in the US by an American company—Boeing.“On the evening of 24 June 2025, the team led by DG (director general) AAIB with technical members from AAIB and NTSB began the data extraction process. The Crash Protection Module (CPM) from the front black box was safely retrieved, and on 25 June, 2025, the memory module was successfully accessed and its data downloaded at the AAIB Lab,” MoCA said Thursday in an official release, providing an update on the recovery and examination of black box data.

“The analysis of CVR (cockpit voice recorder) and FDR (flight data recorder) data is underway. These efforts aim to reconstruct the sequence of events leading to the accident and identify contributing factors to enhance aviation safety and prevent future occurrences. All actions have been taken in full compliance with domestic laws and international obligations in a time bound manner,” the ministry added. There were reports and speculation that the black box—FDR and CVR—could be sent to the US as AAIB’s black box lab might not be fully equipped to handle damaged units. Sources had indicated that there were deliberations on whether to send units to the NTSB Vehicle Recorder Laboratory in the US for data extraction and analysis, or perform the exercise at the AAIB’s new black box lab in Delhi. While the government had earlier said that the decision on where to extract and analyse data would be taken by the AAIB, the NTSB had declined to comment on the possibility of the black boxes being taken to the US.“The investigation is being led by India’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau. As stipulated by international treaty (ICAO Annex 13) the country leading the investigation is the entity to release any information about the investigation. I’d suggest reaching out

to them,” an NTSB spokesperson had said on Wednesday in response to queries Boeing 787 aircraft have two combined black box sets, each with the joint functions of CVR and DFDR. According to industry insiders, the combined black box is called an Enhanced Airborne Flight Recorder (EAFR), and regulations require two units to be located in the aircraft—one at the front and one at the aft, or rear section—for redundancy, in case of unit is significantly damaged or is never recovered. The first EAFR were recovered on June 13 from a building rooftop at the crash site in Ahmedabad, while the second was recovered on June 16 from the aircraft debris.

“Standard Operating Procedures were issued for their secure handling, storage, and transportation. The devices were kept under 24x7 police protection and CCTV surveillance in Ahmedabad. Subsequently, the black boxes were brought from Ahmedabad to Delhi by IAF (Indian Air Force) aircraft with full security on 24 June, 2025. The front black box arrived at AAIB Lab, Delhi with the DG, AAIB at 1400 hrs on 24 June, 2025. The rear black box was brought by a second AAIB team and reached AAIB Lab, Delhi at 1715 hrs on 24 June, 2025,” MoCA said in its official release. The new and advanced AAIB lab, built by support of government-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and inaugurated in April, has enhanced the agency’s ability to repair damaged black boxes, retrieve data, and conduct thorough analyses of accidents with high accuracy. Earlier, a black box lab under the aviation safety regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) was being used by the AAIB, but the facility was old and lacked a few key capabilities needed for thorough and accurate data retrieval and analysis, said a source. That was one of the reasons why a number of black boxes from aircraft involved in serious accidents were sent to overseas labs.

The purpose of the FDR is to record flight data on numerous parameters of aircraft operations, while the CVR records the flight crew’s voices, as well as other sounds inside the cockpit, including engine noise, stall warnings, landing gear extension and retraction, and other clicks and pops. Communications with air traffic control, automated radio weather briefings, and conversation between the pilots and ground or cabin crew are also recorded. With the data retrieved from the FDR, investigators can generate a computer animated video reconstruction of the flight. The investigators can then visualise the aircraft’s attitude, instrument readings, power settings, and other characteristics of the flight.

This animation enables the investigating team to visualise the last moments of the flight before the accident. They (FDR and CVR) can provide information that may be difficult or impossible to obtain by other means. When used in conjunction with other information gained in the investigation, the recorders are playing an ever-increasing role in determining the Probable Cause of an aircraft accident,” the NTSB says on its website. By regulation, aircraft must monitor at least eighty-eight important parameters such as time, altitude, airspeed, heading, and aircraft attitude. Some FDRs can record the status of more than 1,000 other in-flight characteristics that can aid in the investigation. The items monitored can be anything from flap position to auto-pilot mode or even smoke alarms, the NTSB states.

Over 90 flights with more than 20,000 flyers had to be diverted: Qatar Airways CEO details how airline managed Iran missile crisis

When Qatar announced a sudden closure of its airspace Monday evening, shortly before Iran launched a volley of missiles at the US military base—Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar—over 90 Qatar Airways flights with more than 20,000 passengers were on their way to its hub Doha, and had to be diverted to airports in various countries, including 15 to India, the airline’s chief executive Badr Mohammed Al Meer said in a letter to passengers, detailing how the global airline managed the crisis over the next two days. He described the crisis as “an operational crisis few airlines will ever encounter, and one that “challenged the very core of what it means to run a global airline”. The airspace closure snowballed into a major international disruption, given Qatar Airways’ extensive network and Doha being a mega hub airport, where thousands of passengers transit daily. Iran’s missile attack—in retaliation of American airstrikes at its nuclear facilities—led to other West Asian countries including the UAE, Bahrain, and Kuwait also shutting down their airspaces for a few hours, which deepened the disruption further.

“At the time (of the airspace closure), over 90 Qatar Airways flights carrying more than 20,000 passengers to Doha, were forced to divert immediately. 25 flights diverted into airports across Saudi Arabia, 18 into Turkey, 15 into India, 13 into Oman, and 5 into the United Arab Emirates. The remaining aircraft were re-routed to major hubs including London, Barcelona, and others across Europe, Asia, and the Middle East,” wrote Al Meer, terming the Qatari airspace closure as “unexpected and unprecedented”. “At around 18:00 local time on Monday, 23 June, an unexpected and unprecedented closure of Qatari airspace forced Qatar Airways to suspend global operations with immediate effect. Shortly after, airspace was also closed in Bahrain, the UAE, and Kuwait. Hamad International Airport (Doha), one of the world’s busiest and most connected global hubs, was brought to a standstill, with almost 100 aircraft en route to Doha, several already on approach to our runways, and others lining up for departure,” he said. Scale of the disruption With all departures from Doha suspended until past midnight (Qatar time), the airline’s “routine, seamlessly synchronised global operation” was instantly scattered into dozens and dozens of disrupted flight scenarios across continents, “each with their own complexities and requirements”. According to Al Meer, over 10,000 passengers were already in transit at the Doha airport when the disruption began, finding themselves caught in the middle of “one of the most severe and complex operational challenges in modern aviation history”. “Around the world, some of our flight crews had timed out of legal operating hours. Most of our fleet, including A380s carrying more than 450 passengers each, were now out of position, some grounded at airports with curfews. Several flights had to wait for clearance to re-enter restricted regional airspace. Aircraft routing plans were rewritten in parallel with passenger itineraries. Over 151 flights were immediately disrupted. Every part of the operation had to adapt in real time — without precedent, and without pause,” Al Meer wrote in the letter. He added that the priority for Qatar Airways was clear—to care for passengers impacted by the unprecedented situation, and to restore its global operations “as safely and swiftly as possible”. Crisis mitigation efforts in Doha



Once the Qatari airspace reopened shortly after midnight on Tuesday, the diverted aircraft began returning to Doha over the course of several hours. As a result, the number of passengers in transit at the Doha airport ballooned to over 22,000 by 5 am (Qatar time). “As an airline, our business continuity plans were activated, and our teams coordinated on hard resource planning, catering, ground transport, hotel accommodation, and real-time alignment with passenger movements, immigration, customs, and every airport stakeholder. Over 4,600 customers were provided hotel accommodation, using approximately 3,200 rooms across Doha. Many of these passengers received onward boarding passes for their rescheduled flights before even leaving the terminal—allowing for a smoother re-entry once our operations resumed,” the Qatar Airways CEO said. Meanwhile at the Doha airport, Qatar Airways group teams got busy rebooking journeys, and even manually rebuilding complex travel itineraries—some involving other airlines, and even expired visas. The airline also decided to increase capacity to destinations with “high volumes of displaced passengers”. “Contact centre resources were scaled up to cope with global demand.

We quickly established a flexible travel policy, allowing passengers who had not yet started their journeys to make changes or refund their bookings without fees. Across our global stations, ground handlers and partners moved quickly, supported by live coordination between our airport and airline operations control centres,” Al Meer said. Resumption of normal flight operations On Tuesday, Qatar Airways operated a total of 390 flights as it worked to restore the integrity of its flight schedule. Around 20,000 passengers from its disrupted flights were cleared within 24 hours, with more than 11,000 resuming their journeys on the morning of June 24, while the remainder departed through the evening that day and the morning of June 25. According to Al Meer, after that, there were no passengers from diverted flights that were still stranded. “Within just 18 hours, our scheduled operations had resumed. Wave by wave, the system began to stabilise. By the end of Tuesday, more than 58,000 passengers had departed Doha—moved not by chance, but by a coordinated effort from across the Qatar Airways Group to fulfil our responsibility during this unprecedented disruption,” Al Meer said. The airline’s operations stabilised further on June 25 with the operation of 578 flights. According to data from Cirium, an aviation analytics company, Qatar Airways normally has between 523 and 547 daily flights, depending on the day of the week.

Eli Lilly’s new oral weight loss pill works as well as injectables: Why this could be better than oral semaglutide?



The blockbuster weight loss drug, semaglutide, now has competition in orforglipron, which is just as safe as injectable alternatives and more effectively lowers HbA1c (average blood sugar count of three months) in patients with type 2 diabetes and obesity. The best part. No injections required — just a daily pill. The investigational once-daily pill by US manufacturer Eli Lilly lowered HbA1C by an average of 1.3% to 1.6% across doses, with improvements seen as early as four weeks, in adults with type 2 diabetes, according to Phase 3 results of the ACHIEVE-1 trials, published in The New England Journal of Medicine. Orforglipron also led to an average weight loss of 16.0 lbs or 7.3 kg (7.9%) at the highest dose by week 40. “The efficacy, safety, and tolerability are really consistent with the very best injectable GLP-1s,” Kenneth Custer, president of cardiometabolic health at Eli Lilly, was quoted as saying.

Why is orforglipron effective? Orforglipron and semaglutide are both GLP-1 receptor agonists, which mimic the effects of the naturally occurring hormone GLP-1, which helps regulate blood sugar, reduce appetite and slow down gastric emptying. But while orforglipron is non-peptide, semaglutide is a peptide. Peptides are smaller than proteins, while non-peptides encompass a wider range of chemical compounds with diverse structures and functions. “Orforglipron, being a non-peptide, is a smaller molecule. This allows better absorption of the drug through the gut. They don’t get broken down as easily by digestive enzymes. Hence the efficacy,” says Dr Anoop Misra, chairman, diabetes and endocrinology, Fortis C-Doc.

What are the advantages of orforglipron over semaglutide? “Previous oral GLP-1s like semaglutide (Rybelsus) are peptide-based and have significant limitations — they must be taken on an empty stomach with minimal water and have much lower bioavailability than injectable form. Orforglipron is a small molecule that doesn’t require food or water restrictions, so it is very convenient and is absorbed easily,” says Dr Misra.

What about the trial results? At 40 weeks, all three doses (3 mg, 12 mg, 36 mg) of orforglipron achieved the primary goal of superior HbA1C reduction. Improvements in HbA1C were observed as early as four weeks and were accompanied by similar reductions in fasting serum glucose. “The early onset of glycemic improvement, observed as soon as four weeks, reinforces the therapeutic potential of orforglipron as an effective, oral GLP-1 therapy for early type 2 diabetes treatment. These findings support further investigation in broader populations and longer-duration studies,” said Dr Julio Rosenstock, senior scientific advisor for Velocity Clinical Research at Medical City Dallas, clinical professor of medicine, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, and lead trial investigator.

What about side effects? In the study, orforglipron had a safety profile similar to the established GLP-1 class of medication. The most frequently reported adverse events were gastrointestinal-related.

Chronic cough, headaches for no reason? Is your AC making you sick?

AC mould, health and wellness AC filters need to be replaced or cleaned every three months at least, especially when usage is high. A clogged filter accumulates dust and becomes an ideal breeding ground for mould. (File Photo) Of late I am seeing many patients with chronic cough, breathless bouts and asthma even when they do not have a history of any respiratory condition. Eliminating all risk factors, I zeroed in on one trigger that they didn’t know was affecting their lungs — their air-conditioner. Yes, your AC can become a sneaky health hazard in hot and humid conditions, as mould grows inside it.

What is AC mould? Mould is a fungus that thrives in a dark, humid and wet environment, all of which exist in AC units. Condensation within an AC unit, especially if the AC is not cleaned frequently, is where mould may form on filters, coils or ducts. The mould then deteriorates and releases spores into the air, which you eventually breathe whenever the AC is operational. In patients suffering from asthma, COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), bronchitis or even immune-compromised conditions, inhaling mould initiates attacks, increases their frequency and even leads to hospitalisation. Even healthy individuals can experience symptoms such as coughing, wheezing or breathlessness, sore throat, tightness of the chest, sinus congestion, irritation to the eyes or skin. At high exposure levels, when people come into contact with poisonous moulds like black mould, they could become vulnerable to fatigue, headaches, nausea, or even neurological damage. Long-term exposure also increases the risk of getting a respiratory infection or hypersensitivity pneumonitis, an illness where lung inflammation results from an allergic reaction to mould particles floating in the air. Studies have been few but one of them found that when office air-conditioning systems were irradiated with ultraviolet light to kill bacteria and fungi, fewer



employees reported respiratory allergies. What about prevention? First and foremost, have your AC serviced professionally every six months or once a year. Trained professionals are capable of detecting hidden mould growth and give the system a proper clean-through, making sure it runs safely and efficiently. AC filters need to be replaced or cleaned every three months at least, especially when usage is high. A clogged filter accumulates dust and becomes an ideal breeding ground for mould. Inspecting for water leaks or pooling around the unit is critical. Excess water encourages mould growth. In wetter climates, using a dehumidifier alongside your AC will help prevent the moisture content from increasing. Good ventilation and airflow allow for the reduction of dampness as well as the risk of mould growth. An additional safeguard is to have an air purifier fitted with a HEPA filter capable of catching airborne mould spores in order to provide improved indoor air quality. If you have recurring sneezing, coughing, or breathing problems whenever the AC is running, it may be a signal to inspect your unit carefully.

40-year-old loses 16 kg with novel weight loss drugs: ‘My cravings, food noise are gone’

For the first time, 40-year-old Manmeet Bindra feels motivated to exercise and has set up a home gym, cleaned up her diet and has more energy to ride out her 10 am to 7 pm work days and the pressure of deadlines. Tired of seeing the weighing scale needle tipping over the 90 kg mark and her blood sugar levels spiral despite fad diets, gym routines and natural supplements, she is now 74 kg. For the past year, she had been on the oral weight loss drug semaglutide (Rybelsus) but since she couldn’t tolerate its side effects well, has had better results with tirzepatide (Mounjaro) this year.

“I needed that one push to get off the weight plateau, steel my mind and focus on getting better and be disease-free. Mounjaro accelerated the process,” says Bindra, who has battled uncontrolled diabetes, PCOS (polycystic ovary syndrome), hypothyroidism and fatty liver because of her weight. Her appetite has now gone down by 30-40 per cent, her binge cravings are zero and she has managed to tame the “food noise” that made her peckish through the day.

Food was not just her pleasure but escapism, something that Dr Jasjeet Singh Wasir, her endocrinologist and diabetologist at Medanta, understood when she consulted him last year. That’s why he put her on a new class of weight loss drugs. Her blood sugar readings are better and her HbA1c (average blood sugar count of three months) has gone down from 8 per cent to 7.3 per cent (normal is less than 5.6 per cent). The new drugs are more than a life-saver for people like Bindra as they help them eliminate several obesity-related risk factors. The GLP-1 receptor agonists mimic natural gut hormones responsible for blood sugar and appetite control, such as semaglutide – the active ingredient in Wegovy. It improves secretion of insulin, inhibits glucose production in the liver and slows down digestion. Tirzepatide, sold as Mounjaro, additionally mimics the GIP hormone, primarily by stimulating insulin release from the pancreas. GIP also influences lipid metabolism.

Bindra never realised how a sedentary lifestyle, long work hours, performance anxiety and stress-eating had turned into belly fat. Then she gained weight all over. After developing Covid in 2020 and 2022, her random blood tests showed a blood glucose level of 190 mg/dL and a HbA1c count of 5.8 per cent. In April 2023, during her executive health check-up, she was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes

as her HbA1c shot up to 8.4 per cent. Looking at her body weight, family history of diabetes and her dual role as professional and caregiver for her parents, Dr Wasir put her on oral semaglutide or Rybelsus pills, mainly to control her diabetes though it also helps in some weight loss. According to randomised controlled trials, one starts losing weight immediately after taking Rybelsus. After one month, the average weight loss on Rybelsus is around 2 kg; after two months, it’s over 3 kg. “I constantly had nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, fatigue, constipation and headaches. My body simply did not take to semaglutide,” says Bindra. Then Dr Wasir put her on the injectable tirzepatide. “Around 300 patients of mine on weight loss pills had extreme gastric symptoms. The same patients are tolerating the injectable Mounjaro better,” he says.

Since Mounjaro mimics two hormones involved in appetite regulation and glucose control, this dual action may result in more significant weight loss and potentially better blood sugar control. This can indirectly improve overall tolerability. However, Dr Wasir attributes tolerability to the grading of doses. Most of his patients begin from 2.5 or 5 mg, which is a kind of stage one and stage two doses. Then it goes up to 7.5 mg and a maximum dose of 15 mg. “It’s still very early for us to arrive at an observation,” he says. Bindra started with a low 1.25 mg dose. Once she could tolerate it, Dr Wasir upgraded the dose to 2.5 mg. But at the same time, he insisted she make lifestyle changes, particularly her diet and exercise. “I cut down on junk food, fried items and oily meals. I used to binge-eat when I was stressed and that’s significantly reduced now. I am into plant proteins,” she adds. Now Bindra focusses on simple, home-cooked foods that keep her stomach happy. “Looking back, that kick we seek in our food rather than exercising was the reason I always craved the spicier and heavier chole bhature or rajma rice. This dietary shift has influenced some of my health markers, too,” she says. Mounjaro has been an effective appetite suppressant. “I used to eat two rotis but now I’m comfortable with one. I can portion-control. Interestingly, I no longer feel as hungry as before or feel dizzy. I have given up alcohol too, though I was nothing beyond a social drinker,” says Bindra. For Dr Wasir, the key challenge remains her protein intake, now that she only has plant proteins. “There’s always a risk of muscle loss alongside fat loss, which can be hard to reverse.

Jasprit Bumrah likely to miss second Test against England; India look for replacement, new plan



Very early on this long tour, India have a crisis on their hands. After losing the Headingley Test, which they should have won, they are likely to be without their MVP for the next. It could be the call of Lord's or workload management; Jasprit Bumrah, after bowling 44 overs at Headingley, in all probability will sit out for the second Test at Edgbaston. He is expected to return for the third Test at the home of cricket in London on July 10. The Birmingham Test starts in about a week but that's too short a time, and their bowling department needs to get their act together. For starters, India's pacers need to be skilled and that takes time. So do discipline and strategy. After their justified two-day break, India need to hit the nets and keep getting into huddles – rinse, repeat, rinse, repeat until the Headingley memories are washed clean.

If India can't take 20 wickets with Bumrah, how can they do it without their chief wicket-taker? This is a question that the team management can keep asking themselves, and what bowlers they pick for Edgbaston will have to answer. Bumrah India's Jasprit Bumrah gestures to his teammate as he prepares to bowl his next delivery on day five of the first cricket test match between England and India at Headingley in Leeds, England, Tuesday, June 24, 2025. (AP Photo/Scott Heppell)

Adversity can bring out the best in players, the burden of responsibility can throw up new leaders but those are template quotes for sports movies. In real life, there are Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley on unresponsive pitches to deal with. On the final day of the Test, the two England openers exposed the limitations of the Indian bowling attack. The two aggressive batsmen didn't beat the living daylight out of the bowlers but meticulously hit them out of the attack. They showed India pacers lacked the skill and tactics that work on these surprisingly batting-friendly pitches in England. Either the coaches didn't plan well or the bowlers weren't skilled to implement them. The bottom line is India are 0-1 as they could not defend 371 in fourth innings on a rainy English day. A close look at the mode of dismissal of key batsmen in the first Test hints at a pattern – the best chance of getting wickets was the full ball. Sachin Tendulkar, speaking to The Indian Express, had also said how Bumrah too needed to aim at the stumps. So the conclusion is it is the full on-the-stumps ball, which the batsmen can't avoid, that can get wickets. This is the ball that brings into play the three common dismissals – bowled, lbw and caught behind the stumps. Duckett, Crawley, Joe Root, Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Karun Nair, Shubman Gill – they all got out to balls pitched up, that moved away or kept the line and hit the stumps. The two Indian bowlers under maximum scrutiny – Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur – failed to stick to that ideal line and length during the crucial first session on the final day when India went wicketless and the England openers started sprinting towards the target. The Headingley pitch was dry and brown that day but Day 5 was mostly cloudy and drizzly. There was moisture in the

air, there was swing to avail, stumps to be hit and edges there to be taken. Pundits say that full balls get more swing since they stay in the air longer. Prasidh and Thakur didn't agree to that theory, or they were given alternate plans.

Bumrah and Siraj, though wicketless in their first spell, had at least troubled the openers and kept the run flow in check. But when Prasidh and Shardul bowled, the pressure was off, run-making became suddenly easy.

Go back to the first over that Prasidh bowled. He started with a yorker. It didn't seem like a plan to catch the batsmen by surprise but this was more of a pacer, new to the Test arena too, keen to follow the 'bowling full' theory drilled into him. The next ball he pulled back a bit but it was still over-pitched. Conscious that he wasn't doing what was expected of him, Prasidh ended up bowling a shortish ball to compensate. As luck would have it, Duckett ended up edging the ball and all was forgotten. India need their third pacer to hit the ground running. Bumrah India's Harshit Rana appeals unsuccessfully for the wicket of Australia's Nathan McSweeney during the day one of the second cricket test match between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide, Australia. (AP) Whichever of Arshdeep, Harshit Rana or Akash Deep slot in for Bumrah at Birmingham, will need to make an immediate impact too. They can take inspiration from Tongue or Carse who came in not on the back of too many Tests, but did the needful.

Thakur's first over was the worst. He started with a half volley on legs that was hit straight to the fielder by Duckett. A boundary was saved. But the next ball was similar and got flicked to fine for an easy risk-free boundary. When Prasidh and Thakur bowled together, from 18th to 23rd overs, England scored at close to 6 runs per over. The scoring sequence was 5, 4, 9, 6, 5 and the score climbed from 63/0 to 92/0. England went from a bit more than 50 to approaching 100 – the pressure had lifted and the conditions had been wasted. In the coming days, before the next Test starts, India need to teach their No.3 and No.4 pacers to hit the zone from their first ball.

Siraj, too, needs to recalibrate his pace plan. His nip-backer has troubled batsmen but hasn't proved to be the wicket-taking ball here. His tendency to hit the deck has seen him either miss the stumps or lack the bite to get the outside edge. His other trusted weapon is the scrambled seam ball but in England, at least at Headingley, this hasn't worked. Here India needed a pacer with a proud seam who would keep the ball full and on the off-stump. India, in other words, needs Mohammed Shami. Bumrah India's Mohammed Siraj celebrates the wicket of England's Joe Root before the decision of dismissal was reversed by the TV umpire on day two of the first cricket test match between England and India at Headingley in Leeds, England, Saturday, June 21, 2025. (AP Photo/Scott Heppell) These are skills and discipline that international bowlers avail after long hours at the nets. But what about the temperament to lead a pace bowling attack? In the absence of Bumrah, Siraj will have to be in that role. There was this small moment on the field that showed how Siraj still needs a senior around to put a hand around his shoulder. In one of his spells, Siraj had bowled well but he was denied a wicket. Catches were also getting dropped. On one fine ball, a Duckett edge flew over the wicket-keeper and Siraj's shoulders dropped, he stood like a statue, staring blankly. Bumrah knew what to do, he patted him on his back and walked him to his field position. Ishant Sharma and Mohammed Shami have done the same to him. In Bumrah's absence, Siraj will have to be the strike bowler, a mentor to others and also a motivator to himself. There is this famous reel of an over-emotional Siraj talking about Bumrah who has just taken India to a magical win. "I only believe in Jassi bhai because he is the only game changer," he says with a goofy look in his eyes and a charming smile. Now, he also needs to be a game-changer.

‘Please don’t do that front flip’: R Ashwin explains why he wants Rishabh Pant to stop doing trademark celebration in Tests



GNS News Agency, July 3

India's Rishabh Pant does a cartwheel to celebrate after scoring a century on day two of the first cricket test match between England and India at Headingley in Leeds, England, Saturday, June 21, 2025. (AP Photo) India's Rishabh Pant does a cartwheel to celebrate after scoring a century on day two of the first cricket test match between England and India at Headingley in Leeds, England,

Ravichandran Ashwin said that Rishabh Pant should be compared to Virat Kohli rather than Mahendra Singh Dhoni because the latter never had to bat at a position as high as No.5. Pant slammed twin centuries in the recently-concluded 1st Test at Leeds but India still lost by 5

India grouped with Kuwait, Australia, and Mongolia in AFC Futsal Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers

Hyderabad: India have been drawn alongside hosts Kuwait, Australia, and Mongolia, in Group A of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Indonesia 2026 qualifiers, the draw for which, was held at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Thursday. Ranked 135th in the world, India will appear in their second qualification campaign for the AFC Futsal Asian Cup, after losing their three qualifying matches in 2023. Their Group A opponents, Kuwait, Australia, and Mongolia, are placed 40th, 52nd, and 112nd, respectively, in the FIFA rankings. The qualifiers will be held from September 20 to 24 in Kuwait City. The draw, which was held for the first time in accordance with the FIFA Futsal rankings, saw 31 teams divided into eight groups – seven groups of four teams each and one group containing three teams. The eight group toppers, along with the seven best second-placed finishers, will join hosts Indonesia in the competition proper in January 2026.



Anush Agarwalla announces retirement of Olympic horse Sir Caramello, marking emotional end to historic journey

GNS News Agency, July 3

Hyderabad: Anush Agarwalla, India's first-ever Olympian in equestrian dressage, on Thursday announced the retirement of his iconic horse, Sir Caramello, marking the close of a historic era for Indian equestrian sport. The duo etched its names in history at the Paris Olympics, where they became the first Indian rider-horse pair to compete in dressage on the Olympic stage.

Anush took to his social media to share the emotional announcement, posting a heartfelt tribute to Sir Caramello — the horse who carried him and the nation to a sporting first. You've been more than a horse — my partner, my strength, and my greatest teacher. You carried not just my dreams, but the nation's dreams, and gave me your trust unconditionally. You taught me that hard work always pays off and made me believe in myself when no one else did. You changed Indian dressage forever — proving we belong on the Olympic stage and inspiring a new generation. You are a national hero, and your legacy will forever be part of Indian history. Now, it's your time — to wander through wide open fields, feel the breeze on your face, and spend your days doing all the things you love. A gentle, joyful chapter awaits you. Love you, Caramello. "The bond between Anush and Caramello has been a symbol of trust, discipline, and perseverance.



Asian Squash Doubles Championship: India's Abhay Singh, Velavan Senthilkumar defeat Pakistan's Noor Zaman, Nasir Iqbal in men's final



India dominated the second Asian Squash Doubles Championships when their men's, women's and mixed teams won all three titles in the event on Thursday. The top-seeded men's pair of Abhay Singh and Velavan Senthilkumar lost the first set but made a comeback to beat their Pakistani opponents Noor Zaman and Nasir Iqbal 2-1 (9-11, 11-5, 11-5) in the summit clash that lasted 88 minutes.

The Indian duo had reached the final after beating Hong Kong pair of Chi Him Wong and Ming Hong Tang in the semifinals. Abhay and Zaman had faced each other in the men's team final at the Hangzhou Asian Games back in

2023 in a match where the Indian got the better of his Pakistani counterpart and won the gold for his team.

"I lost myself (in that moment) which is why I chucked my racquet into the crowd. I didn't know what was happening. I was really feeling a lot of emotion. Even after everything had settled there was too much going on. So many emotions," Abhay recollected to The Indian Express on a Twitter Space in 2023 after the Asian Games win. "It's the first time I have thrown my racquet into the crowd. It went flying. There is a video on Twitter which I watch over and over. It's funny how different people react to that moment." In the women's doubles final on Thursday, second seeds Joshana Chinappa and Anahat Singh also rallied from a set down to win 2-1 (8-11, 11-9, 11-10) against Malaysia's Ainaa Amani and Xin Ying Yee in a 35-minute final. Joshna and Anahat had made it to the summit clash after beating Hong Kong's Po Yui Kirstie Wong and Yee Lam Toby Tse. The top-seeded mixed doubles pair of Abhay and Anahat made it a clean sweep of titles for India as they beat Malaysia's Rachel Arnold and Ameeshenraj Chandaran 2-0 (11-9, 11-7) in the 28-minute summit showdown. In the process, Abhay and Anahat bagged their second title of the championships. They had made it to the last-two stage after beating another local pair of Ainaa Amani and Syafiq Kamal in the semifinals.

If Shardul can start the bowling with Bumrah and Siraj can come in as one change: Ajinkya Rahane



Indian cricketer Ajinkya Rahane advised the Indian team management to use Shardul Thakur with the new ball because of his ability to swing the ball. In the first Test, though, Shardul did bowl quite a chunk of overs in both innings, he took the ball when it did lose its shine a bit.

"I feel an all-rounder's role is very important. Shardul Thakur has been an experienced player and has done well in Test cricket overseas. I want to see more overs from Shardul. If the Indian team can use Shardul Thakur in a better way, that will be great. Whatever I have seen with

him, he can swing the ball both ways and is a wicket-taker. If Shardul can bowl the first change or even given the new ball he can swing it both ways," Rahane said on his YouTube channel. "With the duke ball, it generally starts to behave after 10 or 12 overs. If Shardul can start the bowling with Bumrah and Siraj can come in as one change, that will be great. I would like to see Shardul bowling more overs. Give him that freedom, he will get you more wickets," Rahane reasoned. Jasprit Bumrah picked up five wickets in the first innings of the Test match at Headingley in Leeds.

"Bumrah's five wicket-haul in the first innings was amazing. Apart from his five wickets what I liked about Bumrah was his intent. The way he was running in his run-up. His intensity throughout his bowling was amazing. The lines and lengths that he bowled. He was aggressive throughout in his bowling approach," Rahane explained. "What I would like to see is support from the other end. Bumrah is obviously bowling his attacking lengths but if he can support from Siraj and Prasidh, that will be great for him. You don't want Bumrah under pressure and start bowling too many overs and the pressure comes on the team. I want to see Siraj taking that responsibility and also Prasidh if he plays that second Test match," he added.

Rohit Sharma puts win against Pakistan in perspective: ‘It’s not okay if we beat Pakistan and do not win World Cup’

India won the T20 World Cup 2024, which was held in the US and the Caribbean Islands, to win their first ICC trophy in 13 years and beat Pakistan in the group stage en route to their famous win against South Africa in the finals. The 2024 T20 World Cup-winning captain, Rohit Sharma, opened up on the emotions running in the high-octane India vs Pakistan clash at the tournament. Rohit spoke about the much-talked-about stadium in New York and said it looked grand.

"The stadium was beautiful. When we reached the ground for the first time, there was a trophy unveiling ceremony, and that's when I saw the ground for the first time. We were not allowed to train inside the stadium as there was no practice facility," said Rohit to Star Sports. "We could take the feeling of the ground only when we got to play the match. From first glance, Kaafi grand stadium lag raha tha (The stadium looked pretty grand). It was an open stadium, the seating arrangements were good, basically, it was a makeshift stadium. So the things you expect in a normal venue, you won't get there," he added.

Speaking on the tricky pitch of New York, Rohit said, "We played three matches there and we could not figure out what the good total at that venue, where to place the shots, what are the scoring areas, what lines to bowl as a bowler, although it was a bowlers' friendly pitch. So the first thing we did in our group talks was we completely took the

pitch out of the equation." Rohit then runs through the whole India vs Pakistan match, giving the reasoning for his decision. Rohit said India wanted Pakistan to chase. India were bundled out for just 119 in 19 overs, where Rishabh Pant scored 42 off 31. Asked if there was any advice for Rishabh Pant after Virat Kohli fell early, Rohit said, "Nhi, nhi nhi... kuch advice nahi tha (No, there was no advice for him). We just wanted Rishabh to be Rishabh. Do all these kinds of things and try and put the bowlers off, and he did that perfectly. His 42 was more like the 70, considering the conditions."

While defending, Rohit admitted that he felt India were 15-20 runs short after the first innings, but this target would look more like 160 if his bowlers picked early wickets. "Mere paas Bumrah ke saath saath Arshdeep bhi hai (Along with Bumrah I had Arshdeep as well)," he said. India eventually beat Pakistan in a low-scoring humdinger by six runs, but skipper Rohit said it didn't mean anything more than a win. "A tick in the box to move ahead in the tournament, nothing else. I know you want to beat Pakistan and there is so much of chatter around it but for us, it's an opposition and we want to come up against and play well and win. Don't need to overthink and think if we win against Pakistan, we win the World Cup. It doesn't work like that," said Rohit. "Agar Pakistan ko hara diya aur World Cup nahin jeeta, toh chalega? Nahi chalega (If we beat Pakistan and do not win the World Cup, will it be okay? It's not okay)," Rohit said.

Is Ankita Lokhande pregnant? Actor declares ‘main pregnant hoon’ in Laughter Chefs 2 promo.



Is Ankita Lokhande pregnant? That's the question fans were left with after a promo video of Laughter Chefs Season 2 showed the actor seemingly announcing her pregnancy — possibly by mistake. However, this cannot be confirmed, as both Ankita and her husband Vicky Jain have remained quiet on the matter.

The clip begins with Krushna Abhishek being his hilarious self as he confirms with the chef that the dish they are making should have a Middle Eastern flavour. At the same time, Ankita Lokhande enters the frame, revealing that she has a special ingredient that will give the dish that particular flavour. Krushna quickly snatches it

from Ankita's hand and starts running around. After chasing Krushna for some time, Ankita stops and says, "Main pregnant hoon, main bhaag nahi sakti (I am pregnant, I can't run)."

This unexpected line from Ankita Lokhande left the cast of Laughter Chefs Season 2 in shock. Krushna then started singing, "Aaj hamare ghar me aa raha Lalla hai (a baby boy is coming to our house)," which led Karan Kundrra to rush towards Ankita to confirm the news. However, Ankita didn't respond to her co-contestants' reactions and quietly walked away. Fans reacted quickly to Ankita Lokhande's comment. One user wrote, "If it's true toh bhai sooo happy." Another added, "I was already thinking if Ankita is pregnant." A third user speculated, "I think she's joking but could be true alsoooo??" Ankita Lokhande and businessman Vicky Jain tied the knot in 2021. They also appeared together as a couple on Bigg Boss Season 17. However, their arguments and fights inside the Bigg Boss house made several headlines. One particular incident that drew widespread criticism involved Vicky seemingly raising his hand at Ankita. In an earlier interview with Pinkvilla, Vicky denied any such incident. He said, "When I look back at the clip today, it does come across as a harsh gesture. But seriously, I said, even that time, that after you are educated, after you have reached a somewhere in life, you become a very sorted person. These things are not in our system to react like that. I have had big fights with everyone there but I never been abused, I always followed the conduct. I have always been in-charge of my emotions, and I have proved it."

Siddhant Chaturvedi, Chae Soo Bin's snuggly BTS moments from new ad go viral; fans call it 'chutney meets kimchi'

Siddhant Chaturvedi gave us a peek into a Bollywood-K-drama crossover way before it could actually happen for real. The actor recently teamed up with Korean star Chae Soo Bin for a Crocs ad, and their crackling chemistry had the internet buzzing in no time. Now, he's taken fans behind the scenes of the same shoot by dropping a bunch of pictures on Instagram. He even cheekily asked fans what title they'd give if this was a movie. Chae Soo Bin's popularity among Indian fans is no secret either, the actor is known for her Netflix K-dramas, with her latest, When the Phone Rings, topping global charts.

On June 26, the Gehraiyaan actor uploaded over 15 photos from the sets of the Crocs ad. In the pics, the pair is seen sporting quirky Crocs, serving serious rom-com energy, with Siddhant even channelling K-drama CEO vibes. They danced, twirled around, and walked hand-in-hand, looking quite comfortable with each other. In a few shots, it even looked like they were giving each other pose cues, and that's how we got a bunch of candid, behind-the-scenes snaps, perfectly suiting Mumbai's rainy weather. "What'd be the title if this was a movie?" Siddhant teased in the caption, and fans didn't disappoint. Suggestions ranged from "Chutney Meets Kimchi" to "Chings & Chutney," "Tu Ramen Main Masala," "Desi Seoulmates," "Paan Asian," and more. Earlier, it was reported that Chae Soo Bin had flown to Mumbai for an undisclosed project, but the collaboration wasn't made public until Crocs Japan, who shot the ad, uploaded it on their official social media handle. Minutes later, Indian fans swarmed the comments by the thousands, buzzing with excitement over the surprise collab. The commercial showed the two romancing in the rain with umbrellas, complete with classic accidental run-ins and every romance cliché Bollywood and K-dramas are known for. Chae Soo Bin debuted in 2014 with the K-drama My Dictator



but got her breakthrough with Love in the Moonlight, released in 2016. Slowly, her roles transitioned into leading-lady territory, and she headlined a number of hits like The Rebel, Strongest Deliveryman, I'm Not a Robot, The Fabulous, and more. In 2024, her thriller When the Phone Rings with co-star Yoo Yeon Seok made her a household name, with the show sitting in the Top 10 Non-English section for consecutive weeks. The actor is currently in talks to take the lead in Charge Me Up alongside Kim Young Kwang. Meanwhile, she's also starring in upcoming K-drama, Omniscient Reader, alongside Ahn Hyo Seop, Lee Min Ho, and others.

Navjot Singh Sidhu is missing from new The Great Indian Kapil Show promo, Archana Puran Singh sits next to an empty seat.



Kapil Sharma-hosted The Great Indian Kapil Show recently made a comeback, with its OG permanent guest, Navjot Singh Sidhu, returning to his seat. However, the latest promo of the comedy show does not feature the former cricketer. The second episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show Season 3 is all set to host the team of Metro In Dino including its stars Konkana Sen, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Ali Fazal, Fatima Sana Shaikh, Aditya Roy Kapur, Sara Ali Khan, Anupam Kher and director Anurag Basu. The promo started with the stars dancing to a romantic tune in pairs cutting to Kapil Sharma revealing an observation of his own. The comedian is heard saying, "In Fitoor, Aditya (Kapur) worked with Katrina (Kaif), and she got married. In Sadak 2, he worked with Alia (Bhatt), and she got married. So, Sara... maybe," hinting that she might also end up tying the knot soon.

Kapil Sharma then curiously asks Fatima Sana Shaikh, "Considering how your film characters keep getting abandoned... what kind of boyfriend are you actually looking for?" She replies, "Aap Jaisa Ko (Someone Like You)," indirectly promoting her Netflix film with R Madhavan

scheduled for streaming on July 11. In the promo, Pankaj Tripathi is heard confessing, "I have only ever romanced one woman in my life. She's now my wife." This garnered applause from the audience including Archana Puran Singh. However, what caught people's attention is an empty seat beside her which is designated for Navjot Singh Sidhu. The promo then introduces other characters of the show Kiku Sharda, Krushna Abhishek and Sunil Grover. The cast also plays a dramatic game of musical chairs, leaving the audience in splits.

Vicky Kaushal says Katrina Kaif's let herself go in Merry Christmas: 'That's very unlike Katrina as an actor'

Bollywood couple Vicky Kaushal and Katrina Kaif never miss a chance to appreciate each other's performances on screen. In a recent interaction, Vicky gushed about Katrina's performance in Sriram Raghavan's Merry Christmas. The mystery thriller was well-received by both fans and critics, and Vicky admitted that the role was unlike anything Katrina had done before.

Vicky spoke to Kareena Kapoor during a chat on The Hollywood Reporter India. During the interaction, he opened up about Merry Christmas and said, "The last thing I saw of her was Merry Christmas and she was fabulous in the film. She tried to explore something completely new." Vicky Kaushal specifically praised a dance sequence in the film, where Katrina Kaif exhibited such uninhibited abandon as an actor. "I always tell her that there is a sequence of her dancing with Vijay Sethupathi and that's like my favourite dance sequence where she just lets herself go and that's very unlike Katrina as an actor," he shared. Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi in Merry Christmas Katrina Kaif and Vijay Sethupathi in a still from Merry Christmas.

Bollywood villain, who shared screen with Amitabh Bachchan and Dilip Kumar, left the industry disillusioned by its politics



Anyone who has seen the Amitabh Bachchan-starrer Mard would vividly remember the entry of the film's villain, played by Dan Dhanoa. Introduced riding a horse, he delivers the unforgettable line: "Main hoon General Dyer ka beta Danny (I am General Dyer's son, Danny)," a moment that became legendary in Hindi cinema. Dan, who portrayed the evil Danny Dyer in Mard, quickly rose to fame and became a go-to villain for Bombay's film producers. Interestingly, Dan never intended to enter the film industry. His father, Major General Dr. Sardar Singh Dhanoa, had hoped he would follow in his mother's footsteps, and become a doctor. However, since academics didn't interest him, Dan opted for a career in Merchant Navy.

Due to a shortage of job opportunities at the time, he turned to modelling instead. Even then, films were never on his radar. As, during his years at The Doon School, he preferred watching Western films and remained largely unfamiliar with mainstream Hindi cinema. Fate, however, had other plans. In 1984, legendary filmmaker Feroz Khan organized a silver jubilee celebration for his hit film Qurbani. It was at this event that Feroz noticed Dan and, impressed by his looks and personality, approached him with a film offer. In a recent interview on Chai Ke Saath Dil Ki Baat, Dan recounted the meeting: "Feroz Khan came up to me at the party and quickly asked, 'Do you act?'" I said, 'Sir, I don't know how to act.' To this, he replied, 'That's my lookout.'" Feroz Khan even conducted a test shoot with Dan Dhanoa and enrolled him in a short-term acting workshop alongside actresses Mandakini and Reema Kapadia. He also suggested changing Dan's birth name, Indrapreet, to

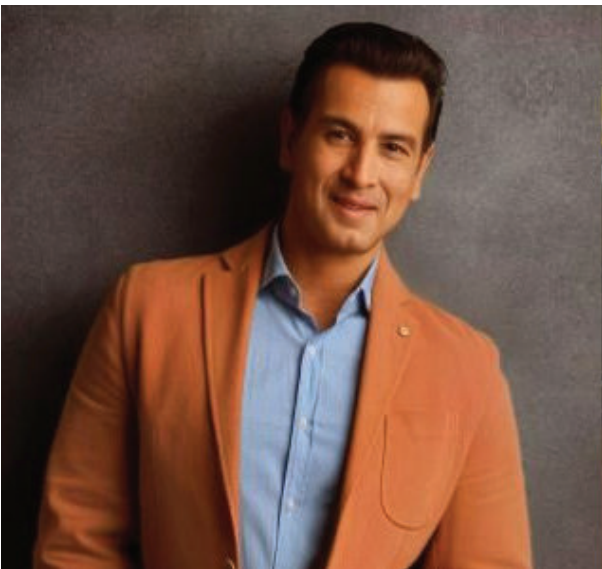
Dan. However, the original version of Janbaaz, in which Dan was to be launched, was shelved. When the film was eventually revived in 1986 with a different script and cast, there was no role for Dan. Soon after parting ways with Feroz Khan on amicable terms, Dan met director Manmohan Desai, who was casting for Mard. Desai saw potential in him and offered him the role of the main villain opposite Amitabh Bachchan. In an interview for the YouTube channel Chai Ke Saath Dil Ki Baat, Dan Dhanoa spoke fondly of working with Amitabh: "He was very welcoming and supportive. He constantly helped me throughout the shooting process and was a thorough gentleman despite being a superstar." Mard was a massive hit, and Dan's portrayal of Danny Dyer made him a household name. From there, there was no turning back. He went on to appear in several notable films, Shahenshah, Tridev, Toofan, Phool Aur Kaante, Vishwatma, and even worked alongside legends like Dilip Kumar in Karma. Dan witnessed the transition of Hindi cinema from the Bachchan era to the rise of stars like Sunny Deol, Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn, and Akshay Kumar. He also revealed in the same interview that he was once offered a role in Ravi Chopra's Mahabharat television series but turned it down, preferring to stay focused on films. His growing fame also brought with it a massive female fan following. "There used to be instances where women fans would call on my landline just to get a chance to meet or speak with me," he recalled.

However, by the late 1990s, Dan Dhanoa chose to walk away from the industry. Tired of being typecast and disillusioned with the internal workings of the film world, he decided to return to his original profession. "I wasn't a film industry man... I was an outsider. I didn't understand the ways of the industry, like going around asking for work and later asking for payment. That just wasn't for me." Disillusioned by how some producers treated him, Dan Dhanoa left Bollywood around the year 2000, returned to the seas, and resumed his career with the Merchant Navy, where he went on to have an illustrious career as a naval officer, traveling across the globe. Now a full-time sailor, Dan leads a quiet life away from the limelight in Chandigarh. He recently made a comeback to acting after 23 years with a role in the Tamil film Soorai Potru. He played a negative character loosely inspired by fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya, marking his return to cinema with the same intensity that once made him a star villain.

Ronit Roy calls Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi co-star Smriti Irani his 'most favorite colleague': 'She is like my little sister'

Actor Ronit Roy has been juggling between TV, films, and OTT. And while this seems to occupy the majority of his time, the actor is finally making a comeback on TV with the show Chakravarti Samrat Prithviraj Chauhan. The show airs on Sony TV. Recently, Ronit Roy spoke to SCREEN, talking about his latest role. He also spoke about Kyunki Saas Bhi Thi returning to Indian television. Calling the show a game changer for him, Ronit shared that he shares a very warm relationship with Smriti Irani and other team members from Ekta Kapoor's iconic show.

Talking about his comeback on TV, Ronit Roy said, "The reason for such a long gap in television is obviously because I do films and OTT as well, and I was busy with my other work. Nothing was interesting. When this came up, the producer is a friend and an old colleague, and I did a show called Adaalat with the channel for five years. Luckily, this wasn't a role where there were too many challenges; only some physical effort was needed to look like a warrior and be able to wield a heavy sword, so I took training for that." Ronit also discussed how TV content has been going downhill for a while now. "TV has been in a downward spiral for a very long time now, obviously when new mediums come in, viewership gets divided, and now people's viewing habits have changed. They want to watch content on the go, so traditional TV has been on the decline. We could do a little uptick in the content itself, a time will come where there will be a finite long long-running series of 50-80 episodes where the storyline is clear. The actors will also have a sense of where they are going; when that time comes, it will be a good one," he said. Confirming that Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2 is indeed returning, Ronit said he has some very fond memories from the show. Talking about his co-star Smriti Irani, Ronit shared, "Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi is coming back. I wish the makers, cast, and crew

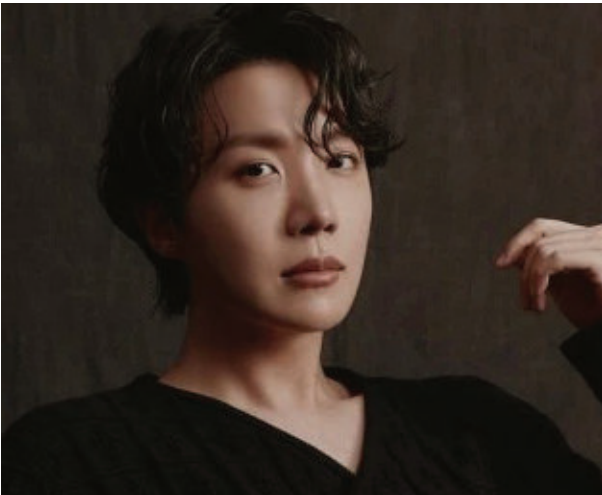


of this season all the very best. I have very fond memories attached to this show, Balaji was like home ground for me. It was a game-changer in my career. Smriti is one of my favorite colleagues and is like my little sister. It was a very warm relationship and remains so to date." On the film front, Ronit will be next seen in Maa alongside Kajol. Talking about the film he said, "Maa is releasing on 27th of this month, it was an amazing experience to work with Ajay Devgn's production, the icing on the cake was working and spending time with Kajol on the sets. She is a truly amazing human being and an amazing actor, there was lots to learn from her. Her energy levels, her recuperance, and sense of humor are all very lit."

J-Hope and AR Rahman collab loading? BTS star seen vibing to Rahman's song with Pharrell Williams at Paris Fashion Week

We have seen some crazy collabs and crossovers in the past year, such as Chris Martin giving a shout-out to Indian bowler Jasprit Bumrah, Ed Sheeran and Shah Rukh Khan headbanging to the former's song or Arijit Singh performing with DJ Martin Garrix. Recently, composer AR Rahman and Pharrell Williams debuted their track "Yaara Punjabi" during the Louis Vuitton Paris Fashion Week. The song garnered even more attention because K-Pop artiste and BTS member J-Hope was seen vibing to its beats from the front row of the show.

J-Hope, who just returned from military duty along with the rest of the members of the band, was seen attending the show alongside other stalwarts of the entertainment industry, such as Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Future, Spike Lee and more. While most heads were banging along to the 'Punjabi-Gospel' tune created by two of the most innovative composers of the last thirty years, J-Hope vibing along to Punjabi lyrics was definitely not something people expected. Fans of the star and the band flooded the comment section of the video shared by Rahman, asking for a collab between the two. One user commented, "Hobi (J-Hope) vibing to AR Rahman! Nice," while another user on X wrote, "If there is one Indian artist that I want BTS to collab with, it is AR Rahman. He is a musical genius. He's the only one I'd love to see a collab with." Fans have already expressed exactly what they want, and with the amount of crossovers that have happened



over the past year, there is a chance that BTS and Rahman might give fans what they want. Rahman definitely seems to be in agreement with the fans, as he even posted an article about J-Hope vibing to his song. With a successful event in the bag, where he debuted a new international track, met greats like Spike Lee, and hung out with Pharrell, the BTS collab can be the next chapter for AR Rahman,