

INDIAN CHRONICLE

5 July, 2025 Saturday | Volume No:13| Issue No:122 Pages: 8+8

www.indianchronicle.com

Published from : Ranga Reddy (Telangana State) ₹ 3

Posts In Public Sector Banks

Hyderabad, July 4 (NSS): Institute of Banking Personnel Selection has invited applications from eligible candidates for recruitment of Probationary officers/Management trainees and Specialist officers in participating Banks (vacancies of 2026-27). The online examinations for the upcoming Common Recruitment Process for recruitment and selection are tentatively scheduled as follows:Online registration of application by candidates and payment of fees online up to July 21, 2025; preliminary online examination August 2025; online examination main October and November 2025; Declaration of result of main examination November 2025; conduct of interview December 2025/January 2026 and provisional allotment January/February 2026. Candidates are advised to regularly visit the official IBPS website www.ibps.in for details and updates. Candidates intending to apply are advised to read detailed notification carefully and ensure that they fulfil the minimum eligibility criteria on the stipulated dates before registering online, the notification stated.

Commendable Performances By Ttd Security & Vigilance Officers In World Police Games Meet

TTD Chairman BR Naidu, EO J Syamala Rao complemented the duo security & Vigilance Officers on their rare feat. Besides, both the top vigilance officials were lauded by the Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary along with JEO Veerabrahmam and Chief Vigilance and Security Officer Munikrishna. Meanwhile, in the 45 plus Singles' Tennis category TTD VGO for the Security wing of Tirumala A Surendra won the Gold medal while in 55 plus Singles' Tennis, the Tirumala Vigilance Wing Officer NTV Ram Kumar won the Bronze medals for the country. The cops duo won the prestigious medals representing India in a biannual event wherein around 9000 athletes from police and Fire

Workers Brought Congress Party To Power In Telangana: Kharge



Hyderabad, July 4 AICC Chief Mallikarjuna Kharge today said the Congress party led government was formed in Telangana due to the efforts of the party activists and leaders. He reminded that the BRS party leaders told no other party leader other than KCR would come to power in Telangana before the party assembly elections."Our party's opponents also said since BJP is in power at the Centre, BJP-led State government would be formed in the State. But, our party's activists worked hard. They defeated all the Opposition parties and brought the Congress party to power. After the Congress government came to power, all sections are getting the fruits of development. The party activists are the soul of the party. Because of the party workers, we came to power in the State," he said while addressing a social justice meeting of the party leaders and the activists at LB stadium in the city. Kharge was the chief guest at the event. He reminded that it was during their party leader Rahul Gandhi's padayatra, he understood that the Congress party would come to power in Telangana. Stating that there are many Central government institutions in Hyderabad, he said the previous Congress governments brought all those institutions to the State capital.Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he asked the PM to what happened to his promise of bringing back the black money from abroad and distribute it to all the citizens of the country at the rate of ₹15 lakh per head? "Everything Modi says is a lie. Modi and Shah are fooling the people by telling lies," he said. Noting that many key sectors like education and agriculture are working wonderfully in Telangana., Kharge said it was the Congress government that is providing free electricity, free buses, and premium quality rice at free of cost to people. "The previous government used to provide rice for sale. Congress government is giving rice to eat," he said. He said they were bringing Rohith Vemula Act in educational institutions in Telangana and added they had done caste census in Telangana and became a model for the country while noting that they will give reservations to backward classes. Kharge said the 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' program should be taken to every house of the State.

KTR condemns arrests of unemployed, warns of Statewide stir against Congress' deceit



GNS News Agency, July 4

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao condemned the arrests of unemployed youth protesting at the Secretariat on Monday, demanding that the Congress government fulfill its promise and release job calendar. He demanded for their immediate release and wanted the government to deliver Congress Lok Sabha leader Rahul Gandhi's promise of providing two lakh government jobs.Rama Rao said arresting those who were peacefully protesting at the State Secretariat as part of the Chalo Secretariat protest, was cruel and undemocratic. He said the government was trying to shield Rahul Gandhi by arresting the youth who were questioning him.He reminded that Revanth Reddy, who once claimed the State Secretariat gates would remain open under the "Indiramma Rajyam" (Indira Gandhi's regime), is now using police to silence the job aspirants. He also condemned the arrest of visitors who came on various works to the State Secretariat, in a haste.KTR lashed out at the Congress for failing to issue even 10,000 fresh job notifications in 19 months. He said the 60,000 jobs touted by the government were already cleared during the BRS regime. "The youth who trusted the Congress manifesto now wait endlessly, not for jobs, but for notifications. However, the Congress leaders shamelessly claim that youth were asking the government to stop notifications," he said.

We Will Win 100 Mla And 15 Mp Seats In The Next Elections : Chief Minister Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, July 4 Chief Minister Revanth Reddy today predicted that the congress party would win 100 MLA and 15 MP seats in the next general elections in the state . He made this prediction while addressing a massive gathering of the party workers at the Social Justice Samarabheri Sabha held LB stadium in the city.Speaking on the occasion, he said that they broke the Kalvakuntla family's gates and hoisted the tricolor flag by showing the BRS party leaders that they have no choice but to turn back in Telangana. This is where we started public governance. Many people campaigned that this government is a three-year joke and that it will not implement welfare schemes and that it will not be together . But we stood up in front of those, who laughed at us . We have implemented the welfare schemes and made Telangana an example for the country . Let's make the Telangana model a model for the country to follow ," he

asked the party workers . Reddy Sai's that they had completed the caste census and settled the BCs problems in the state and added that Despite the damaged economy, they were moving forward by implementing the welfare schemes. "In 18 months, we have implemented rythu bharosa scheme , bonus for small farmers, premium quality rice for the poor, farmer loan waiver scheme ," he said .He said that while the former CM KCR warned the farmers from cultivating paddy crop , his government gave 500 per quintal to all those farmers , who cultivated the paddy.

"We grew the most quantity rice in the country and made Telangana number one in the country . The credit for providing 9 thousand crores of farmer assurance in 9 days belongs to our government.I am throwing a challenge on this platform. Whether PM Modi comes, union minister Kishan Reddy comes or former KCR comes for a debate , I am ready to debate them . Let's discuss in the assembly who did good for the farmers ? If the program of providing Rs. 5 meals to the poor is named after Indiramma. Some idiots are criticising us . Indiramma means the wel-

fare of the poor. We will encourage women to rent buses in RTC and make profits. We encouraged women's groups to set up petrol pumps. In Indiramma's reign, we made women financially stable. We took steps to make them live with self-respect," he noted . The CM said that the people's government was moving forward under people's rule with the goal of making one crore women millionaires."I am calling on women on this platform... Join self-help groups. Stand financially stable. In the first year of the formation of the people's government, we filled 60 thousand government job vacancies. Kishan Reddy is challenging me on the issue . I will apologize even if the number is less than what I stated ," he said .He said that they brought ? . 3 lakh crore investments to the state in 18 months and added that In 100 assembly constituencies they had taken steps to set up Young India Integrated Residential Schools with a budget of Rs 20,000 croresthe youth .

Allahabad HC rejects plea to refer Mathura's Shahi Idgah as 'disputed structure'

GNS News Agency, July 4

New DelhiThe Allahabad High Court on Thursday (July 3, 2025) dismissed a plea seeking that the Mathura-based Shahi Idgah mosque be referred to as "disputed structure" in all future proceedings.A Bench of Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra dismissed the plea filed by advocate Mahendra Pratap Singh, who requested the court to direct the stenographer concerned to use the word "disputed structure" in place of "Shahi Idgah Mosque" in all further proceedings of this original suit, and other related cases.Objecting to the plea, counsel representing the mosque submitted that by moving this application, the plaintiff was trying to introduce a new case through the backdoor and negate the admitted fact that 'Shahi Masjid Idgah' was a mosque.While dismissing the plea, Justice Mishra said, "In pleadings of the parties also, the structure in question is referred as Shahi Masjid Idgah and at this stage where hearing of the suits is yet to commence and even issues have not been framed, it is neither desirable nor expedient to issue any direction to stenographer, as prayed by the applicants, to refer Shahi Masjid Idgah in judgments and orders as "disputed structure".

The Allahabad High Court was presently hearing a total of 18 suits, clubbed together in 2023, that seek the removal of Shahi Idgah, which they claimed was an en-



croachment in the premises of Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura, known as the birthplace of Hindu god Krishna. The plea alleged that Mughal emperor Aurangzeb demolished the Krishna temple and constructed the mosque over it.The High Court, in December 2023, allowed a plea seeking the appointment of a court commissioner to inspect the mosque; this decision was stayed by the Supreme Court in January, 2024.

It was in 1968 when a the committee of Shri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan and management of Trust Shahi Masjid Idgah decided to allow both places of worship to operate simultaneously. The petitioners, later, challenged the validity of this agreement, terming it invalid by law.

Kishan Reddy Highlights India's Sustainable Mining Vision At World Mining Congress Meeting

Hyderabad, July 4 Union Minister of Coal & Mines, G. Kishan Reddy, inaugurated the Indian National Committee meeting of the World Mining Congress (WMC) in Hyderabad today. The theme centred on sustainable mining and responsible practices through effective mine closure. He welcomed esteemed national and international participants, reaffirming India's commitment to responsible, transparent, and sustainable mining practices.

In his address, G. Kishan Reddy noted that since its inception in 1958, the World Mining Congress has served as an essential global platform for promoting collaboration and innovation in the mining sector. He emphasized that as the world transitions to greener mining practices, the role of WMC has become more significant than ever. He stated, "For India, sustainable mining aligns with our twin goals achieving Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in mineral resources and maintaining our commitment to environmental sustainability." The Minister highlighted the importance of responsible mine closure and announced the adoption of the "6Rs" Philosophy for mine closure: "Reclamation, Repurposing, Rehabilitation, Revegetation, Remediation, and Relinquishment". He shared that for the first time since Independence, ten mines have been successfully closed with scientific planning, and an additional 147 mines have been identified for closure in a timely manner. The Ministry has also revised guidelines to enhance the monitoring, administration, and implementation of mine closure plans. A new "RECLAIM Framework" was unveiled at the event to ensure meaningful community engagement and ecological restoration efforts.Referring to the reforms implemented under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kishan Reddy stated that auction-based allocation of min-



eral blocks has made the sector more transparent and competitive, with over 500 mineral blocks auctioned to date. New policy measures have facilitated ease of doing business, including 50-year uniform leases, the elimination of lease renewal delays, and digital processing through a Single Window System. India has achieved a historic milestone in coal production, surpassing one billion tonnes while reducing imports by 7.9% in 2025. The emphasis on a clean energy transition includes coal gasification, renewable energy diversification, and the eco-restoration of mined lands. Kishan Reddy noted the launch of the National Critical Minerals Mission and offshore mineral auctions, positioning India among a select group of countries developing domestic ecosystems for minerals such as lithium and rare earth elements. He also unveiled Vision Plans for Strategic Minerals Aluminium and Copper to boost India's green growth and manufacturing ambitions for a sustainable future. Citing success stories like Cuddalore district in Tamil Nadu, where repurposed mines now provide drinking water .

Aicc Chief Kharge, Cm Revanth Unveil Rosaiah's Statue



Hyderabad, July 4: All India Congress Committee

(AICC) National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy unveiled the statue of former chief minister of the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh, late Konijeti Rosaiah at Lakdikapool in Hyderabad on Friday.AICC General Secretary KC Venugopal, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Ponnamm Prabhakar and Juppally Krishna Rao, MPs, GHMC Mayor Gadwala Vijayalakshmi, members of the Arya Vaishya groups and Rosaiah fans participated in the programme.

Revanth Govt's Functioning Commendable: Kharge

Hyderabad, July 4 :AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge has said the Congress government's efforts in implementing the manifesto are commendable. He also said Congress will be remembered in history as the only party that fulfils its promises. He also said the governance in Telangana is on the right track and party workers are performing well.Addressing party workers and leaders at TPCC extended meeting at Gandhi Bhavan today, Kharge said BJP leaders always speak about the Emergency of 50 years ago, but remain silent on the "emergency-like" conditions under their 11-year rule. He exhorted the party workers to utilize the positions given by the party responsibly and effectively. He also urged the TPCC president to ensure that only committed and capable leaders, who work hard for the party are given key positions. He said the party leaders should not make statements as they like, but everyone must follow party rules and maintain unity.

Rosaiah Was Good Economist And Policymaker: Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad, July 4 Former chief minister of Erstwhile Andhra Pradesh Konijeti Rosaiah held the rare distinction of presenting the State Budget 16 times, a testament not just to his political acumen, but to his economic expertise. He was not merely a politician, but a seasoned economist and policymaker, said Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu.

Speaking at the programme of 92nd birth anniversary celebrations of Konijeti Rosaiah at Ravindra Bharathi here on Friday, the Minister said Rosaiah was a statesman who earned admiration, not only from his own party but also from the opposition, thanks to his principled and value-based politics.Despite rising to the highest positions, he remained humble and grounded. It is a matter of great pride and joy that a statue of such a towering leader is being unveiled today at Lakdikapul, a fitting tribute to a man of such stature," he said

The Minister stated that Rosaiah never craved power; rather, responsibilities and positions found him. Beginning as an ordinary party worker, he rose through sheer merit to serve as MLC, MLA, MP, Minister, Chief Minister, and Governor, dignifying each role with integrity and excellence.Rosaiah's eloquence, constant study, administrative prowess, and unwavering loyalty to the party were the hallmarks of his public life. There can be no doubt that these qualities elevated his stature and legacy," he said.

Ireddy Srinivas Reddy Appointed As Chairman Of Assembly Media Advisory Committee

Hyderabad, July 4 : Senior journalist and The New Indian Express political editor Ireddy Srinivas Reddy has been appointed as the Chairman of the Telangana State Assembly Media Advisory Committee. Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad issued orders to this effect on Friday.

Ireddy Srinivas Reddy, a native of the erstwhile Karimnagar district, has worked as a journalist for over 16 years and has previously worked in various capacities in Andhra Jyothi, Sakshi and Deccan Chronicle newspapers.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Rs 2-lakh-cr boost to jobs, R&D no guarantee of results

The government's decision to boost research & development and employment generation, with a total bill of over Rs 2 lakh crore, is admirable in intent. But how it would realise its goals is a question that experts will ask. The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a Rs 2.07-lakh-crore outlay for a Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) (RDI) Scheme to fund private sector innovations, along with an employment-linked incentive (ELI) scheme to create over 3.5 crore new jobs over the next two years.

This is not the first time the government has announced grand plans to boost manufacturing, innovation, and employment. Similar schemes, such as the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in recent years, although beneficial in specific sectors like electronics and pharmaceuticals, have not yet delivered a transformative impact across the broader manufacturing landscape. The gap between policy announcements and their tangible outcomes continues to be a concern.

Manufacturing remains India's Achilles' heel. Despite years of policy pushes under campaigns like Make in India and PLI Schemes, the sector's share in GDP has largely stagnated around 15-17 per cent, far below the government's target of 25 per cent. More worryingly, even where there has been growth, it has often been in sectors that are capital-intensive rather than labor-intensive, thus failing to generate the volume of quality jobs needed to absorb India's vast and growing workforce. This structural challenge is compounded by issues such as poor infrastructure, complex regulatory frameworks, inconsistent policy implementation, and skill mismatches in the labor market.

Hon'ble Minister Sridhar Babu to Launch Major Infrastructure and Welfare Initiatives Worth 11.5 Crores in Manthani on July "5."



"PS Ashokan"Indian Chronicle"Manthani, July 4." "In a significant stride towards regional development and public welfare, Hon'ble Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, will embark on an extensive tour of Manthani constituency on 5th July 2025, to inaugurate and lay foundation stones for multiple high-impact projects collectively valued at over ₹11.5 crores." "As per the official itinerary, the Minister will commence his engagements at 8:30 AM by laying the foundation for a state-of-the-art synthetic (plastic) tennis court and a Children's Park at the Manthani Junior College Grounds, funded with ₹35 lakhs and ₹10 lakhs respectively." "At 9:00 AM, he will inaugurate a newly developed Children's Park at Eco Park, Boyinipet, built at a cost of ₹12 lakhs, enhancing recreational infrastructure in the municipality." "Following this, at 9:30 AM, in a major boost to educational infrastructure, the Minister will distribute 650 dual desks and chairs to government schools across Manthani, Ramagiri, Mutharam, and Kamanpur Mandals under the CSR initiative. He will also inaugurate digitally-equipped classrooms and a modern library at ZPHS Girls High School, a project developed by SEEDS NGO at a cost of ₹58 lakhs." "At 10:00 AM, the Minister will lay the foundation for the beautification and modernization of Ravula Cheruvu Bund, a transformative ecological and tourism initiative costing ₹4.055 crores." "At 10:30 AM, he will inaugurate a Free Women's Tailoring Training Centre in collaboration with Usha International and the Government of Telangana, at Pochammawada Milk Centre. He will also visit food stalls established by Indira Mahila Shakti, supporting women-led entrepreneurship." "By 11:00 AM, he will initiate the beautification of Ayyagari Cheruvu Bund with a project investment of ₹2.99 crores, aimed at boosting green spaces and community engagement." "At 11:30 AM, the Minister will inaugurate the Brahma Teertha Muktidham, a gas-based cremation facility developed by Sitarama Seva Sadan for the residents of Mantrapuri and nearby villages—a sustainable and dignified final rites infrastructure." "Finally, at 12:00 PM, he will lay the foundation stone for a 33/11 KV Substation at Gangapur, an essential step toward enhancing power supply infrastructure, with an estimated cost of ₹2.55 crores." "These initiatives collectively reflect the government's unwavering commitment to holistic development, infrastructural enhancement, and social empowerment in the Manthani region.

Clarification On Allegations By Srivani Donors

Tirumala, July 4 : On Thursday morning, four devotees who came for SRIVANI Darshan at the Tirumala temple reportedly spoke to the media, alleging delays in the issuance of SRIVANI tickets and non-allotment of quality accommodation to them in Tirumala. TTD would like to clarify that SRIVANI tickets are issued daily at 8.30 am in Tirumala. Devotees shall arrive at the counter at least one hour before, but the devotees in question reportedly arrived as early as 3.30 am and complained about the delay in ticket allotment and lack of basic amenities, which is inaccurate. As a standard practice, TTD ensures continuous supply of tea, coffee, milk, and buttermilk for devotees waiting in queues, even before the ticket counter opens. (Photographs of these arrangements on July 1, 2, 3 have also been attached herewith which is evident that TTD has been continuously serving milk, beverages, Annasprasadams also to SRIVANI pilgrims.)

OPPO India Launches Reno14 Series with 3.5x Telephoto Camera, Wireless Charging, India First MediaTek Dimensity 8450, and much more



Hyderabad:OPPO India has launched the Reno14 Series, delivering a complete smartphone experience for users who demand performance, power, and precision in every feature. With the Reno14 and Reno14 Pro, OPPO transforms how users capture, edit, and share their lives. These smartphones integrate lossless 3.5x optical zoom + up to 120x digital zoom, advanced AI editing tools, and water-resistant durability into a powerful all-rounder that adapts to every lifestyle. At the same time, the Reno14 Series pushes boundaries by packing the largest number of AI imaging and productivity features in its segment—making the Reno14 Series true value for money. Customers can get the Reno14 series starting at ₹34,200** as the net effective price during the first sales period.

Unrivaled Durability, Premium Craftsmanship
OPPO enhances durability with Corning® Gorilla®

Glass 7i and IP66, IP68, and IP69 ratings, offering protection against dust, water immersion, and high-pressure hot water up to 80°C. The Sponge Bionic Cushioning design mimics sea sponges to absorb shocks, delivering superior drop protection. The devices come with a luminous, multi-layer iridescent finish The Reno14 Pro is available in Pearl White with Velvet Glass and Titanium Grey with a reflective matte finish. Reno14 comes in Pearl White and Forest Green with a luminous loop deco. Immersive Displays, Ultra-Slim Design

Both models feature glove-friendly, ultra-slim-bezel 120Hz LTPO AMOLED displays that deliver peak brightness of 1200 nits. The Reno14 Pro features a 6.83-inch flexible AMOLED display, while the Reno14 offers a slightly smaller 6.59-inch screen — both with 1.5K resolution and over 93% screen-to-body ratio for an immersive viewing experience. Despite their superior build quality and rugged design, both models are lightweight and slim. Flagship Imaging That Travels With You The Reno14 Series brings OPPO's most advanced camera system yet—engineered for creators, explorers, and storytellers—with a 3.5x telephoto lens on both the Reno14 and Reno14 Pro for the first time. A 50MP Hypertone camera setup with 3.5x telephoto lens, delivers optical zoom with a portrait-perfect focal length, for crisp results in any setting—from monuments to streetscapes.

TX Hospitals Achieves Medical Milestone with Life-Saving Surgery for Rare High-Risk Pregnancy



Hyderabad:In a remarkable feat of medical expertise, TX Hospitals in Banjara Hills successfully performed a complex emergency surgery on a 29-year-old mother suffering from a rare and dangerous pregnancy condition, ensuring the safety of both her and her twin babies. The case involved placenta percreta, where the placenta has grown beyond the uterus and invaded surrounding organs, including the urinary bladder and cervix. Mrs. Ayesha Siddiqua, a resident of Zaheerabad, was 28 weeks pregnant with dichorionic-diamniotic (DCDA) twins when she experienced recurrent vaginal bleeding. Her medical history included two previous cesarean sections and a uterine procedure, which elevated her risk. Initial imaging indicated placental abnormalities that were confirmed through an MRI, revealing a

severe case of placenta percreta with Grade IV placenta previa, where the placenta crossed into the bladder and cervix.

A Globally Rare Scenario

- Placenta accreta spectrum (PAS) occurs in about 1 in 500 to 1 in 2500 pregnancies worldwide.
- Among PAS conditions, placenta percreta is the rarest, appearing in fewer than 1 in 10,000 pregnancies.
- With each cesarean delivery, the risk of PAS increases—a growing concern in India.
- The combination of twin pregnancy, placenta percreta, and bladder invasion is extraordinarily rare, with an estimated incidence of less than 1 in 50,000 pregnancies globally.

From Imaging to Life-Saving Action

The intricate procedure began in the cath lab, where balloon catheters were strategically placed in both common iliac arteries by Dr. Avinash Dal, Senior Consultant – Vascular Surgeon. This tactic was crucial for controlling blood flow and minimizing the risk of severe bleeding during surgery. Once stabilized, Mrs. Siddiqua was moved to the operating theatre, where gynaecologists Dr. Sruthi Palakollu and Dr. Sudha S prepared for the highly challenging surgery. Given the complete placental coverage over the uterus, the first incision was particularly complex; however, it was performed with real-time ultrasound guidance to avoid placental injury.

The District Police Department always works for the welfare and development of tribal people: District SP Rohit Raj “



“““““Bhadradri kothagudem, July 4, Indian Chronicle: District SP Rohit Raj addressed a community program organized by Lakshmi Devi Palli Police in Gutthikoya village, Gangamma Colony, Lakshmi Devi Palli



on Friday. Speaking on the occasion, the SP said that the Police Department is always at the forefront for the welfare of tribal people. He said that the Police Department works with the aim of providing facilities. They were advised to inform the police if any new people enter the village. They should keep the surroundings around their houses clean during the rainy season, as the authorities said that due to the accumulation of excessive sewage water, mosquitoes increase and there is a possibility of contracting toxic diseases like dengue, malaria, and typhoid. Later, blankets and mosquito nets were distributed to 27 families living there through the hands of P. They said that the electricity and mobile network problems would be resolved soon if they spoke to the concerned authorities. Later, they reached the Madde group and inquired about the current situation of the tribal people who had settled there. SB Inspector Srinivas, Chunchupalli CI Venkateshwarlu, Lakshmidivipalli SI Ramana Reddy, SI Karthik, Lakshmidivipalli police personnel, and special party personnel were present in the program.

ted to the said devotees. The inspection confirmed that the rooms were clean and hygienic, and no cockroaches were found.

To maintain the cleanliness of rooms, restrooms, compartments, queue lines, and roads in Tirumala, the TTD Health Department deploys sanitation workers round-the-clock to ensure that devotees do not face any inconvenience. Despite these facts, it is highly objectionable that certain individuals have deliberately made baseless accusations against TTD. As per a resolution passed earlier by the TTD Board of Trustees, legal action will be taken against anyone who makes false allegations aimed at tarnishing the reputation of the institution. TTD appeals to all devotees to extend their cooperation in view of the increasing pilgrim rush and the availability of limited accommodation in Tirumala.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered a probe into Asian Paints

Hyderabad :The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has ordered a probe into Asian Paints following a complaint by Grasim Industries, part of the Aditya Birla Group. Grasim alleged that Asian Paints abused its dominant position in the decorative paints segment by offering dealers incentives such as discounts and foreign trips in exchange for exclusivity. It also accused Asian Paints of increasing sales targets for dealers selling Birla products and coercing landlords, C&F agents, and transporters to avoid doing business with Grasim. The CCI found prima facie evidence of unfair practices and directed the Director General to submit an investigation report within 90 days.

Asian Paints, which holds 53% of India's installed paint production capacity, has a distribution network of over 74,000 dealers and 1.6 lakh touchpoints in the ₹80,000–90,000 crore market. Despite its size, its dominance is being challenged by Grasim's Birla Opus, which launched in February 2024 and captured nearly 7% market share by March 2025, as per Elara Capital. In 2022, a similar complaint by JSW Paints was dismissed. Asian Paints has stated it will cooperate with the investigation while considering legal options.

"Call for Land Redistribution and Wage Hike Echoes at Komurayya Memorial Conference in Kakarlapalli



“““PS Ashokan"Indian Chronicle"Manthani, July 4“““To commemorate the death anniversary of revolutionary martyr Doddi Komurayya, a significant symposium on agrarian and land-related issues was convened today in Kakarlapalli village, Manthani Mandal. The event was organized under the aegis of the Agricultural Workers Union.““Addressing the gathering, Boodida Ganesh, District Secretary of the Union, paid rich tributes to Doddi Komurayya, hailing him as the first martyr of the Telangana Peasants' Armed Struggle—a historic movement launched for land rights, food security, and emancipation from bonded labor. He emphasized that Komurayya's martyrdom infused renewed vigor into the Telangana armed struggle, igniting widespread resistance and mobilization among oppressed farming communities.““Ganesh reiterated that inspired by Komurayya's revolutionary legacy, the Union is poised to launch widespread agitations across the Manthani Assembly Constituency. The core demands include equitable distribution of agricultural land to the landless poor, enhanced wages for farm laborers, and redressal of longstanding socio-economic grievances faced by daily-wage workers.““He further urged the Congress-led state government to honor its electoral promises by expediting the allocation of land to the underprivileged and safeguarding government lands from unlawful encroachments.““The event witnessed the participation of several dignitaries and local residents, including Union Vice President Elpula Suresh, Gundarapu Srinivas, Boodida Ramesh, Manthani Ramachander, Boselli Gattayya, Shankar, Sadanandam, Boodida Shankar, Manthani Rajashekar, Rajamma Lakshmi, Narasamma, Sarakka, and numerous others who expressed solidarity with the cause.

Over One Lakh Tech Employees Laid Off in Six Months.



“““Khammam Bureau (Praneeth Kumar Pathakamudi), July 04, "Indian Chronicle." "Despite earning massive profits, major technology companies are increasingly adopting cost-cutting measures to boost margins further resulting in mass layoffs. Reports indicate that over 1,00,000 tech workers have been laid off globally in just the first six months of this year. Last year, driven by fears of a recession, many companies downsized drastically. This year, the same companies are citing reasons such as artificial intelligence integration and corporate restructuring to justify job cuts." "Among the worst offenders are tech giants like." "Microsoft - Announced this week the layoff of 9,100 employees, about 4% of its workforce. This marks the fourth round of layoffs this year alone, following earlier cuts in January (1%), May (6,000), and June (300). Last year, it also laid off around 10,000 employees." "Intel - Shut down its automotive chip unit in Germany, laying off the entire team. It also let go of around 100 employees at its headquarters and is preparing to lay off 20% of its global workforce by mid-July." "Amazon - Has already laid off over 14,000 employees across four separate rounds this year and has hinted at further reductions in the coming months." "IBM - Cut 8,000 jobs so far this year." "Infosys (India-based) - Recently laid off 240 entry-level employees, and in February, dismissed 300 freshers." "Meta - Laid off approximately 3,600 employees." "HP - Removed 2,000 workers." "TikTok - Cut 300 staff in its Dublin office." "Ola Electric - Let go of more than 1,000 employees." "Salesforce and Blue Origin - Each laid off about 1,000 employees." "Even though companies like Google have carried out multiple layoffs, exact numbers have not been disclosed. This sweeping trend is creating widespread anxiety among tech professionals, many of whom are living in constant fear of losing their jobs unexpectedly.

Rosaiah, a great person who took the fame of the Telugu nation to the international level: Collector Jitesh V Patil



““““Bhadradi Kothagudem, July 4, Indian Chronicle: When Andhra Pradesh was a united state, Konijeti Rosaiah, a prominent freedom fighter, farmer leader, versatile intellectual, gentle, and clear-headed, did any work with commitment and took the fame of the Telugu nation to the international level. Konijeti Rosaiah, a great leader who served as the Finance Minister in the Andhra Pradesh state government for a long time and was renowned for his greatness in budget formulation, said District Collector Jitesh V Patil. “On Friday, after paying tribute to former Tamil Nadu Governor Konijeti Rosaiah on his 92nd birth anniversary at the IDOC conference hall in the presence of district officials and collectorate staff, he said that Konijeti Rosaiah was born on July 4, 1933, to Ademma and Subbaiah in Vemuru village of Guntur district. He completed his degree in commerce and business from Guntur Hindu College. He started his political career with the Andhra movement and



was elected as a member of the Legislative Council from 1968 to 1980. He first served as the Minister for Roads, Buildings and Transport in the Marri Chenna Reddy government and later held several key portfolios in the ministries of several Chief Ministers. Rosaiah, who has a long experience of serving in the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Ministers, served as the Chief Minister of the united Andhra Pradesh from September 3, 2009 to November 24, 2010. Rosaiah was sworn in as the Governor of Tamil Nadu on 31 August 2011. He served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu till 30 August 2016, and in remembering such a great man, we all should work diligently and devote ourselves to the welfare of the tribal people. “Additional Collector Venugopal, Employment Officer Sriram, Sports Officer Parandhama Reddy, BC Welfare. Indira, Collectorate Administrative Officer Ananth Ramakrishna, and Collectorate staff participated in this program.

Doddi Komurayya, the first martyr of the Telangana armed struggle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil““““



“Bhadradi Kothagudem, July 4, Indian Chronicle: Doddi Komurayya is the first martyr of the Telangana armed struggle, said Collector Jitesh V. Patil. On Friday, the death anniversary of Doddi Komurayya was celebrated grandly at the conference hall of the IDOC office under the auspices of BC Welfare. The Collector, who participated in the program, garlanded the portrait of Komurayya and paid tribute. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Komurayya is a great man who fought for land, for food, and for liberation. He said that the first thing that comes to mind when the words Telangana armed struggle are heard. He said that

Doddi Komurayya is a great hero who faced the atrocities of the nobility. Born into a simple shepherd family in the Warangal district, Komuriah became the leader of the Telangana Mahonta movement, he said. He sacrificed his life in the Telangana armed struggle and breathed life into the movement. Additional Collector Venugopal, BC Welfare Officer Indira, District Employment Officer Sriram, Sports Officer Parandhama Reddy, Collectorate Administrative Officer Ananth Ramakrishna, Kuruma Sangha members Dudala Butchaiah, Lingaiah, Ravikumar, Chandrashekar, Dudala Kiran, Sunka Praveen, Kotilingam, Sampath Kumar, K Ravi, and Collectorate staff participated in the program.

Medical staff should be vigilant to prevent tribals from contracting diseases: Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Government of India Deputy Secretary Dr. Raji“



““““Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, July 4, Indian Chronicle: Medical staff should be vigilant to prevent tribals living in tribal villages from contracting deadly diseases like sickle cell anemia, thalassemia, and other diseases and should organize timely medical camps in tribal villages and conduct all types of diagnostic tests, said Dr. Raji, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Welfare, Government of India. On Friday, a state-wise review was held through video

conference from the Ministry of Tribal Welfare office in New Delhi on the activities to be taken to prevent tribal families in tribal villages from contracting deadly diseases. Speaking on the occasion, she said that sickle cell disease and sickle cell anemia can infect everyone regardless of age; depending on the environment, special medical camps should be organized in every tribal village, and blood tests should be conducted on everyone from young children to the elderly and sent for testing.

If sickle cell disease and sickle cell anemia are diagnosed, special medical camps should be organized in that village, blood tests should be conducted on everyone in the village, awareness should be created among the villagers to keep the surroundings clean, fogging should be done to prevent mosquitoes from spreading, and the relevant medical staff should instruct the tribals on the precautions to be taken to avoid being exposed to sickle cell disease and sickle cell anemia at every house. She also said that special care should be taken for children and pregnant women in the village. She said that if there is a need for equipment related to sickle cell anemia and other tests in the PHCs in tribal villages, proposals related to them should be sent to her by Monday.

ITDA Assistance Project Officer General David Raj told the Deputy Secretary that there is a shortage of doctors in the PHCs under Bhadrachalam in Bhadradi Kothagudem district, as well as gynecologists, physiotherapy machines, scanners, automatic X-rays, and digital city scan machines in the area hospitals and CSCs, and that there is no proper doctor in the PHCs as soon as possible. Bhadrachalam Area Hospital Supervisor Ramakrishna, Program Officer Ramu, and others participated in this program.

Quality Biochar Production through TLUD Method: Collector Jitesh V. Patil“““

““““Bhadradi Kothagudem, July 4, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil inspected the biochar production process through a specially set up experimental biochar unit in Mekalagadda village of Sujathanagar mandal. In this effort, 10 kg of quality biochar was produced by burning 30 kg of waste wood chips, he said. ““““Later, the biochar produced in this way should be mixed with cow dung (cow dung, etc.) and stored for a few days, dried, powdered, and used as fertilizer for crops, he said. He directed that farmers should be made aware of the biochar production method through farmers' forums in the division. ““““He suggested that biochar should be produced using the TLUD (Top-Lit Updraft) method in low oxygen using government toy tree branches, branches along roads, and current wires widely available in villages. He also said that self-help groups should profit by producing and selling biochar. ““““Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said that various methods are being considered to utilize the heat generated during biochar preparation and to make the biochar preparation process more cost-effective and easier for farmers to use. ““““PDRDA PD, MPDO, Sujathanagar Tahsildar EC Raju, ADA (Technical), the Agriculture Officer, the Agricultural Extension Officer, and others participated in the program.



Banners of cultural and traditional artifacts set up to popularize the Tribal Museum: ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul “



““““Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, July 4, Indian Chronicle: Bhadrachalam The Tribal Museum set up in the ITDA premises is running successfully with the support of tourists and devotees who come to see Sri Seetharamachandra Swamy, and banners of cultural and traditional artifacts are being made to make it more popular, said ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul. On Friday, he inspected the Seetharamachandra Swamy Temple, Annadana Satram, Godavari Karakatta, and places where devotees stay in Bhadrachalam town to make it easier for devotees and tourists to find the address of the Tribal Museum and visit the museum. Speaking on the occasion, he said that the Tribal Museum, which is made up of artifacts related to the cultural and traditional customs of the old generation of tribes, is visited by visitors every day except on rainy days. He said that cutouts related to the museum and their history banners will soon be installed at important intersections so that visitors and devotees can fully understand the history of the Tribal Museum. Later, he instructed the Tribal Welfare Department to visit the statues of the great men in the Ambedkar Center and get them painted if any repairs are required. In this program, General David Raj, Tribal Welfare Department Harish, TA Srinivas, Devasthanam DE Ravinder, Irrigation DE, AE Venkateswarlu, Veerabhadram, Gram Panchayat EO Srinivas, and others participated.



Swami Vivekananda’s Legacy Enlightens Youth: Glorious Tribute Held in Manthani



– Bejjanki Digambar Emphasizes Ideals for Nation-Building. “PS Ashokan “Indian Chronicle “Manthani, July 4: ““““In commemoration of the 123rd death anniversary of the great spiritual luminary Swami Vivekananda, a solemn tribute was paid at his statue located opposite the Manthani bus stand. The event was marked by a ceremonial garlanding of the statue and heartfelt homage from citizens and community leaders. ““““Speaking on the occasion, Sri Bejjanki Digambar, Founder and Chairman of the Swami Vivekananda Statue

Committee, highlighted the timeless relevance of Swami Vivekananda’s teachings. “Swami Vivekananda is a beacon of inspiration for the youth of India. His words are not merely philosophical utterances—they are a roadmap for character-building and national awakening,” he remarked. ““““He further added that Swami Vivekananda’s historic address at the World Parliament of Religions in Chicago remains a monumental moment in Indian spiritual history, where he presented the profound values of Sanatana Dharma to the global stage, earning India immense respect and admiration. ““““Sri Digambar expressed his deep gratitude to the individuals and organizations who supported the installation of the statue in Manthani, considering it a matter of personal honour and divine privilege to have initiated such a monument in the town. ““““The commemorative event witnessed the participation of notable dignitaries including Sri Kotha Srinivas, President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad – Manthani Unit; Sri Budida Ganesh, District General Secretary of the Agricultural Workers’ Union; senior citizen and respected community elder Sri Tati Buchchayya Goud; CPM leader Sri Bavu Ravi, and several other well-wishers and citizens who paid their respects. ““““The ceremony served not only as a tribute to Swami Vivekananda’s memory but also as a call to action—urging today’s youth to emulate his values of courage, discipline, patriotism, and selfless service.

Fire & Safety, Industrial Safety Courses Training

Hyderabad, July 4 Venkat Reddy Adapa, Director, National Centre for Fire & Safety Engineering invited Online applications from all over Telangana State for admission into the Govt. of India Certified Fire & Industrial Safety Courses. Interested Inter-pass, Degree, Diploma, and Engineering candidates all over Telangana State can apply online for the respective courses.

Courses offered are: Sub Fire Officer, PG Diploma in Fire Technology & Industrial Safety, PG Diploma in Fire & Safety Engineering, Advanced Diploma in Industrial Safety, PG Diploma in Occupational Health Safety & Environment, Diploma in Fire Technology & Industrial Safety. Duration of the courses is six months to one year. After completion of the course, Govt. of India Certificate will be awarded. After successfully completing of Courses in Fire & Safety Courses, the candidates will get opportunities in the Job profiles like Safety Officer, Fire Officer, Safety Supervisor, HSE Officer, Safety Engineer, and Fireman. Candidates will be getting better opportunities in the oil & Gas Industry, Mining, Plantation and erecting, Thermal Power Stations, Construction, Airports, MNCs etc. Job Opportunities are good for these candidates in India as well as abroad.



Fully Prepared for Flood Disaster Management - District Collector



“Khammam Bureau, July 04, Indian Chronicle.”“District Collector Anudeep Durishetty stated that the administration is fully prepared for flood disaster management. On Friday, a meeting of the District Disaster Management Authority was held at the Collectorate meeting hall with participation from Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr P Sreeja, NDMA Joint Advisor Naval Prakash, Administration Under Secretary Abhishek Biswas, DM Consultant Dr Wajeem Iqbal, Telangana State Disaster Management Authority Consultant Goutham Krishna Teja, B Anupama, TJ Sandra and other relevant officials. The Collector gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on last year’s heavy floods, the arrangements and plans made for disaster management in the district. He explained the work carried out by departments such as Revenue, Irrigation, Municipal, Panchayati Raj, Medical & Health, and Animal Husbandry during emergencies.”“Anudeep Durishetty highlighted that in just 24 hours last year, unprecedented floods struck Khammam city, submerging the Munneru river basin areas. In Tirumalayapalem Mandal’s Rakasi Thanda and Ajmeera Thanda, NDRF teams rescued around 150 people. Six people lost their lives, he noted. The government provided 10,000 as aid per affected house, while livestock loss was also significant. Road repair works were undertaken post-floods. He emphasized enhanced readiness this year, with continuous monitoring of water sources and drought-like conditions. Accurate flood intensity forecasts are being made. Teams from Revenue, Police, and other departments, along with Aapda Mitra volunteers, are ready for rapid evacuation of people from submerged and low-lying areas. Plans are in place to evacuate people proactively before floodwaters pose a danger. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been prepared specifying evacuation zones based on water levels. Safe locations close to residential areas are being converted into rescue centers, with full amenities ensured at relief camps. In Khammam



urban and rural regions, awareness programs on disaster preparedness have been conducted. A control room and toll-free number have been set up at the Collectorate for citizens to contact during floods. Over 300 Aapda Mitras, local corporators, and public representatives have been sensitized about disaster management. Evacuation operations in low-lying areas began well before the onset of rains. They are ensuring that water reservoirs are not more than 75% full, and tank bunds are secured.”“Weather and flood conditions in neighboring Warangal and Mahabubabad districts are also being monitored, especially the flow in Munneru River. Citizens are being cautioned against stepping out for selfies during floods, as seemingly normal situations can become dangerous within minutes. Plans are also in place for rapid post-flood recovery. Water gauges are installed on the Akeru and Munneru rivers for continuous monitoring. NDMA Joint Advisor Naval Prakash suggested de-silting of water bodies, tanks, and check dams where necessary. Awareness is to be raised among farmers to avoid standing under trees during lightning strikes. For children who lost schoolbooks during floods, textbooks and notebooks are being reissued. Steps are also being taken to help flood victims regain essential documents such as educational certificates, ration cards and gas cards. Authorities were instructed to check for illegal constructions obstructing natural water flows and to establish a system to assess economic losses due to disasters. Advance alerts must be provided to the public. A central meeting held on June 16 under the Union Home Ministry recommended every district prepare a disaster management plan. It was emphasized that a unified communication platform be established for all emergencies. Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya stated that de-silting of sewage canals and drains was completed. Efforts are underway to reduce the height of the Prakash Nagar check dam. Additional Collector Dr P Sreeja mentioned that an action plan was ready to prevent disease outbreaks during floods and that farmers are being prepared for drought-like conditions. Sixty-six educational institutions damaged in last year’s floods have been fully restored. A minority residential school near a tank is being relocated. Uniforms and books have been distributed to children. A special camp was set up under the supervision of the District Education Officer to reissue lost certificates.”“On this occasion, the District Collector unveiled the Disaster Survivor Guide. The meeting was attended by Revenue Officer A Padma Sri, ZP CEO Deeksha Raina, DRDO Sanyasayya, CPO A Srinivas, Agriculture Officer G Pullaiah, Medical & Health Officer Dr Kalavathi Bai, Irrigation SE Venkateshwarlu, Education Officer S Satyanarayana, officials from various departments, tahsildars, MPDOs and Aapda Mitras.”

District Collector Inspects Munneru Low-Lying Areas and Guides Officials.



“Khammam Bureau, July 04, Indian Chronicle.”“District Collector Anudeep Durishetty emphasized the importance of pre-emptive action plans to prevent loss of life and property in low-lying areas during potential Munneru river floods. On Friday, he toured flood-prone zones in Khammam city along with Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya. Areas inspected included the canal-side Munneru Bridge, Bokkalagadda, Vinayaka Immersion Ghat, Prakash Nagar and Jalagam Nagar. The Collector, along with SDRF teams, officials from Revenue, Irrigation, Panchayati Raj, Police and Municipal departments, conducted a field review focused on disaster preparedness for the upcoming monsoon. He instructed the officials to remain vigilant and proactive, emphasizing the need to identify vulnerable spots and minimize inconvenience to residents.”“He stressed the importance of mapping flood-prone zones and risky water sources ahead of heavy rains and implementing necessary safety measures. Drawing from past experiences, he advised the identification and resolution of potential problem areas. Under the Aapda Mitra initiative, 139 youth have been appointed in rural areas and 161 in urban areas, and trained to assist in disaster management. He urged for coordinated efforts in-



volving officials, Aapda Mitras, fishermen, and swimmers. To avoid disaster on major roads, he recommended pre-emptively blocking them using RTC buses if needed and restricting tourists from dangerous areas. He instructed the electricity department to be on alert and to safeguard major transmission towers in inundation zones. A control room with the helpline number 1077 is active at the district center. Recalling the severity of last year’s floods, he mentioned that NDRF teams were stationed in Khammam for three months.”

“He also directed identification of potential rehabilitation centers in advance, including private function halls if required, for relocating residents from affected areas. Upon any flood alerts from the Indian Meteorological Department, necessary resources like boats, ropes, life jackets, microphones, lights, JCBs, and cleaning equipment should be made available at the division and village levels. Accompanying the Collector during the inspection were District Fisheries Officer Shivaprasad, Khammam RDO Narasimha Rao, Assistant Municipal Commissioner Sampath Kumar, Tahsildars Saidulu and Ramprasad, Edulapuram Municipal Commissioner A. Srinivasa Reddy, MPDO Kumar, NDRF personnel and other officials.

We Will Open Alluri Memorial Centers Soon: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, July 4 Freedom Fighter Alluri Seetharama Raju’s birth anniversary celebrations were held at Shilpa Kala Vedita here today. Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy took part in the celebrations.Speaking on the occasion, he welcomed Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was the chief guest at the event. He praised that Singh was able to show the Indian military power through Operation Sindoor and termed him as an unblemished leader and inspiration to them. He said they were paying tributes to Alluri Seetharama Raju on his birth anniversary and were organizing the celebrations in a grand manner.When it was decided to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the country’s independence under the name of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, I was entrusted with that responsibility as the Union Minis-

ter of Culture. Many freedom fighters from tribal areas have lost their place in the pages of history. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s intention is to provide this history to the society and the younger generation. The complete details of Alluri Seetharama Raju, who was born on the Telugu soil, were collected and explained to the Prime Minister. Narendra Modi ordered that the history of Alluri Seetharama Raju be made known to everyone and that his 125th birth anniversary be celebrated in a grand manner. We immediately started the celebrations,” he revealed. Reddy reminded that Alluri Seetharama Raju was born in Bhimavaram of Andhra Pradesh State and added that his 125th birth anniversary celebrations were held there in a magnificent manner while noting that the Prime Minister himself attended these celebrations.

Grand Celebration of Konijeti Rosaiah’s 92nd Birth Anniversary, in Yellandu“

“Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, July 4, Indian Chronicle :“Under the aegis of the Yellandu Arya Vysya Mahasabha, the 92nd birth anniversary celebrations of the late Konijeti Rosaiah, former Chief Minister of erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh and former Governor, were held grandly on Thursday.”“The program commenced ceremoniously at the Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameshwari Arya Vysya Kalyana Mandapam, located within the 18th ward limits of the town.”“On this occasion, Arya Vysya leaders garlanded Rosaiah’s portrait and paid rich floral tributes. Subsequently, members of the Mahasabha, under the leadership of prominent businessman Dokuparti Anjaiah, distributed notebooks to students at the local government primary school.”“Town and Mandal presidents of the Mahasabha, Prodduturi Nageswara Rao and Arvapalli Radhakrishna, speaking on the occasion, stated that during Rosaiah’s tenure as Chief Minister, he implemented many public welfare programs that greatly contributed to the development of the state. They lauded him as a great leader renowned for his forthrightness and for effectively countering opposition allegations in the Assembly with clarity and authority.”“Among those who participated in the event were Arya Vysya Mahasabha District General Secretary Yeluguri Nagesh Kumar, former District General Secretary



Pallerla Chandrasekhara, Narendra Anu, Saifa Rajasekhara, Pulluru Satish Kumar, Yeluguri Madhubabu, Bonagiri Ravikiran, Nagaraju, Jonnala Upender Nath, and several others.

AIDWA Women’s Association Conducts Survey at Yellandu Government Hospital“



— A Permanent Superintendent Must Be Appointed at the Government Hospital.— Patients Forced to Turn to Private Medical Shops Due to Lack of Medicines.”“Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, July 4, Indian Chronicle:”“AIDWA (All India Democratic Women’s Association) Yellandu Mandal Secretary Alethi Sandhya demanded that the pressing issues at the Yellandu Government Hospital be addressed immediately. She emphasized the need to appoint a permanent superintendent for the hospital, ensure adequate appointment of doctors based on patient flow, and make all essential medicines available to prevent patients from turning to private medical shops.”“On Friday, AIDWA conducted a survey at the Yellandu Government Hospital to identify the existing problems. The organization demanded that the issues revealed in the survey be addressed by the concerned authorities.”“They stated that although the hospital is said to have 16 doctors on record, only 8 are actually available, despite the Outpatient Department (OPD) receiving 400 to 500 patients daily. It was also noted that no ambulance is readily available during emergencies, even though repeated requests have been



made to ensure this facility.”“AIDWA urged authorities to ensure that doctors are available at the hospital 24/7. They pointed out that the hospital superintendent spends more time at a private hospital than at the government facility, which is causing inconvenience to patients. They demanded the government respond immediately by appointing a regular superintendent.”“Furthermore, due to the unavailability of OP doctors until 12 noon, only one doctor is left attending to all patients. AIDWA called for immediate steps to ensure all appointed doctors are present and accessible.”“With the rainy season approaching, they also emphasized the need to maintain cleanliness in and around the hospital premises.”“They highlighted that diabetic patients are suffering due to a lack of insulin and urged authorities to ensure its availability at the hospital. They also demanded the installation of an HbA1c testing machine at the facility.”“In addition to these, several other issues were brought to light, and AIDWA leaders declared that they will continue their fight in a phased manner until all problems are resolved.”“The survey was attended by AIDWA leaders Tandra Kanthamma, P. Lakshmi, Mannem Mamatha, and Kadari Venkatamma

Congress Party’s Meeting Is To Undermine Social Justice: State Bjp Chief

Hyderabad, July 4 BJP Telangana State president N. Ramachandra Rao today came down heavily on the ruling Congress party for organising a public meeting in the State capital and alleged that the meeting was meant to undermine social justice. He also alleged that Telangana State was as an indestructible vessel for the Congress party’s exploitation. Rao claimed that the ruling party failed to implement any promise and guarantees made to the people of the State. He alleged that the Congress party did extreme injustice to BCs of the State and put shackles around the SCs and STs of the State. He termed the social justice meeting of the Congress party as a mere drama in the name of Bheem. In a statement, he alleged that the Congress party had murdered democracy by imposing Emergency in the country. “Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan” slogans have been undermined. The Congress has murdered justice and constitutional values. The Congress party repeatedly utters slogans that deceive the people and its real

tendency is to work against them. The Congress, which is destroying social justice, is trying to deceive the people of Telangana once again by saying "social justice war". A government that has not been able to effectively implement a single promise in its one-and-a-half year rule, what answer will it give to the people,” he asked. He alleged that the Congress party, which is chanting "Jai Babu", had weakened the village self-government dream of Mahatma Gandhi. Not holding local body elections in the State and keeping Rs 1,200 crore pending the village development bills, all these are against the spirit of Gandhi. The Congress, which is chanting "Jai Bhim", has actually snatched tribal lands in areas like Lagacharla and Kodangal, sent bulldozers on uncultivated lands, framed cases against ST farmers and acted wickedly by closing down Gurukuls. Before chanting "Jai Samvidhan", the Congress party should observe its history. The party that imposed Emergency in 1975 and murdered democracy has no right to preach about the Constitution,” Rao said. (

Minister Sridhar Babu Allocates 5 Lakh for CC Road in Kakarlapalli – SC Cell Leaders Launch Development Works with Resounding Public Support.

“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani, July 4. “In a commendable stride toward grassroots development and social equity, Hon’ble Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, has sanctioned 75 lakh under the CRR grant for the construction of a cement concrete (CC) road in the Scheduled Caste colony of Kakarlapalli village, Manthani Mandal. This initiative is a testament to the government’s commitment to improving rural infrastructure and ensuring dignity of access for marginalized communities.”“The formal inauguration of the project took place today with a ceremonial coconut-breaking performed by Sri Manthani Satyam, Division President of the SC Cell. Addressing the gathering, he expressed profound gratitude to the Hon’ble Minister and lauded his unwavering dedication to the advancement of Dalit communities. He emphasized that Sri Sridhar Babu has been instrumental in bridging the developmental gap through timely interventions and inclusive policy implementation.”“

“The sanctioning of this CC road is not merely a public works project—it represents a step towards empowerment, accessibility, and equitable growth,” Satyam stated.”“The event drew the presence of several dignitaries, party representatives, and community leaders, including:”“Sri Manthani Rakesh – SC Cell Mandal President”“Sri Akkapaka Sadayya – Mandal General Secretary, SC Cell”“Sri Kazipet Babu –



Former SC Cell President”“Sri Kanavena Odhelu – Kakarlapalli Village Congress President”“Prominent Congress leaders: Sri Mende Rajayya, Sri Tanneeru Lakshman, Sri Bhaskarla Shankarayya, Sri Nalli Lakshman”“Youth Leaders: Sri Elagandula Venkatesh, Sri Velakurthi Mahesh, Sri Senam Santosh”“Active participants: Sri Manthani Ramachandru, Sri Manthani Sammayya, Sri Manthani Sagar, Sri Kanukutla Durgayya, and numerous local residents.”“

The community expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Minister’s visionary leadership and the SC Cell’s persistent advocacy, recognizing this development as a milestone in local infrastructure rejuvenation and a model for inclusive governance.

MHADA invites bids to redevelop dilapidated apartments in PMGP Colony in Mumbai's Jogeshwari



GNS News Agency, JJuly 4

The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) on Tuesday floated a tender to hire an Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) contractor for the redevelopment of the Prime Minister's Grant Project (PMGP) Colony within Poonam Nagar, Jogeshwari East, in Mumbai. The move aims to resolve longstanding redevelopment and safety issues of the colony that houses 984 families currently living in decrepit apartments spread over 17 ground-plus-four-storey buildings built between 1990 and 1992.

The scheme will provide new housing units with a 450-sqft carpet area in place of the congested 180-sqft units covering an area of 27,625 sqm where they are currently living. "According to structural audits conducted, the build-

ings have now deteriorated to a highly unsafe state, threatening safety to inmates," said a senior officer from MHADA Mumbai Board. Under the current proposal, 942 residential and 42 non-residential tenements will be rehabilitated in a time-bound manner. MHADA has set a deadline of three-and-a-half years for the redevelopment, which is being implemented under the guidance of its Vice President and CEO, Sanjeev Jaiswal.

The decision to redevelop the colony follows more than a decade's delay. In 2010, private developers were appointed by the housing societies in the colony for the redevelopment work. The Maharashtra government then cancelled the appointment of the developer on December 15, 2020 following repeated complaints from residents over lack of progress. The government then instructed MHADA to get the job done. Later, the tripartite arrangement with the developer was officially revoked in June 2022. In November 2023, MHADA filed a revised plan for cluster redevelopment under Regulation 33(5) of the Development Control and Promotion Regulations (DCPR) for its implementation by a private Construction and Development Agency (C&DA). The government, however, decided otherwise and went ahead with redevelopment under Regulation 33(5) of the DCPR. "Tenders were issued twice during the previous year, in July and September 2024, but got no response. This forced MHADA to approach the government for permission to implement the project directly, which was given on May 28, this year," the officer said.

Haryana recommends service extension for Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi

GNS News Agency, July 4

Haryana's BJP government has recommended a service extension for Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi, who was scheduled to retire on June 30. Sources within the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said on Wednesday that the government has forwarded a formal request to the Centre, seeking a six-month extension for its incumbent chief secretary.

As per Rule 16 of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefit) Rules 1958, the service of the chief secretary may be given an extension of service "for a period not exceeding six months on the recommendations made by the State Government concerned with full justification and in the public interest, with the prior approval of the Central Government". The state government appointed Rastogi, a 1990-batch IAS officer, as the chief secretary in February to replace Vivek Joshi, after he was appointed the Election Commissioner of India. Rastogi is also holding the charge of additional chief secretary (finance and planning) in the Haryana government.

Before his elevation as chief secretary, the power



circles in Haryana had already predicted that Rastogi would be picked to succeed Joshi even though four other 1990-batch IAS officers — Sudhir Rajpal, Sumita Misra, Anand Mohan Sharan, and Raja Sekhar Vundru — were in the race for the post. All four officers are posted as additional chief secretaries, with Rajpal in charge of health, Misra of home, Sharan of environment, and Vundru of agriculture. Rajpal is the senior-most officer in the group, followed by Misra.

Nineteen patients still at Ahmedabad hospitals a week after plane crash

GNS News Agency, July 4

Medical Superintendent of Ahmedabad Civil Hospital Rakesh Joshi earlier expressed hope that the DNA profiling of all the victims will be completed by either Tuesday evening or Wednesday morning. A total of 159 bodies had been handed over to families, as well as seven bodies whose DNA matching was not required and three bodies of patients who died during treatment. A total of 71 injured persons had been admitted to Ahmedabad's Medicity campus after the fatal crash of an Air India flight last week, Medical Superintendent Dr Rakesh Joshi said. As of Wednesday morning, 19 remain admitted to various hospitals across Gujarat. After the crash, six patients had minor injuries and were given Outdoor Patient Department (OPD) treatment, leaving 65 patients admitted in the Indoor Patient Department (IPD).

Among the IPD patients, 11 were in the Gujarat Cancer Research Institute (GCRI), one was at the UN Mehta Institute of Cardiology and Research Centre (UNMICRC) and one was in a private hospital in Naroda area of the city, leaving 52 patients at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital. Notably, 30 of the patients at the Ahmedabad Civil Hospital were medical students who had been injured when the tail end section of the aircraft crashed into the mess hall of their hostel, setting fire to three of four buildings. Of the 52 patients at the Civil Hospital, three patients lost their lives during treatment including one person within 40 minutes of arrival on June 12 and two others who succumbed to burn injuries on June 16 and 17. This brought the number of patients to 49, out of which 42 have either been discharged or



they sought transfers to private hospitals as of June 17 night. Thus, as of June 18 morning, across Gujarat, there remained 19 patients still under treatment. These included the seven patients at Ahmedabad Civil Hospital, five at KD Hospital, five at Zydus Ahmedabad, and one each at Apollo Ahmedabad and Zydus Dahod. Dr Joshi, giving the bulletin of DNA matches and bodies of the deceased being handed over to the families, said that a total of 190 DNA matches had been confirmed as of Wednesday (June 18) morning. A total of 159 bodies had been handed over to families, as well as seven bodies whose DNA matching was not required and three bodies of patients who died during treatment. Of the 159 bodies that have been handed over to families, 123 are Indians, 4 are Portuguese nationals, 27 are British nationals, one is a Canadian and four are non-passengers. A total of 129 bodies were transported locally within Gujarat by road, while 28 other bodies were sent to other states, including 17 by road and 11 by air.

NHRC orders probe into BJP MLA's allegation of police harassing right-wing group workers in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada

GNS News Agency, July 4

NHRC orders probe into BJP MLA's allegation of police harassing Hindu group workers in Karnataka's Dakshina Kannada. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Tuesday ordered its director general (Investigation) to probe allegations of police harassment against workers of Hindu organisations in the Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Tuesday ordered its director general (Investigation) to probe allegations of police harassment against workers of right-wing organisations in the Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka in the wake of the twin murders in May, with a report required within two weeks. BJP MLA Dr Bharath Shetty Y from Mangaluru City North complained to the NHRC, alleging unconstitutional surveillance and harassment of law-abiding citizens and social workers from right-wing groups. The complaint alleged systematic late-night police visits after 11 pm targeting people with no criminal background or pending cases. The police increased surveillance in the communally sensitive Dakshina Kannada district after the murder of Bajrang Dal leader Sushas Shetty in Mangaluru on May 1 and that of Abdul Rahiman, a resident of Koltthamajalu in Bantwal taluk, on May 27. During

these visits, the police allegedly photographed subjects, recorded GPS coordinates, and conducted interrogations without presenting legal warrants or notices. The MLA's complaint said the district's superintendent of police publicly defended these actions in a video statement, claiming the surveillance was necessary to monitor communal organisations. The complaint further alleged that the SP threatened action against anyone who questioned his conduct, prompting the NHRC to intervene. N HRC Deputy Registrar (Law) Mukesh has instructed the DG (investigation) to deploy an officer for an on-site inquiry.

The investigation will involve recording statements from alleged victims, examining police records, and interviewing those affected by the alleged harassment. Last month, the Dakshina Kannada police issued banishment notices to more than 40 criminals, which included both Hindus and Muslims. They were identified as habitual offenders or those involved in repeated anti-social activities. Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for Labour and Employment, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, then wrote a letter to Justice N K Sudhindra Rao, the chairman of the Police Complaints Authority.

Hyderabad firm Raghu Vamsi Aerospace unveils India's first jet-powered kamikaze UAV at Paris Air Show



GNS News Agency, July 4

Hyderabad: A Hyderabad-based aerospace company has made history by unveiling a jet-powered, fixed-wing kamikaze UAV developed under its deep-tech brand ARROBOT at the 55th International Paris Air Show. The UAV, named Astra 100, sets a new benchmark for autonomous combat drones in India. It boasts a range of 200 km and speeds of up to 450 kmph, and is powered entirely by indigenous systems, including flight control, propulsion, and telemetry. The drone has successfully completed test trials earlier this year. "We are building the future of autonomous warfare with 100% indigenous systems. The Astra 100 proves India's readiness to lead in this space," the company said in a press release on Wednesday.

Marking a significant milestone in India's aerospace journey, Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Group, a leader in high-precision manufacturing, also unveiled its latest defense and propulsion technologies at the international event. Its showcase included indigenous micro turbojet engines and high-performance kamikaze drones, underscoring its expanding global footprint and commitment to India's defense self-reliance. To bolster its position as a global aerospace player,

Raghu Vamsi recently acquired WMT Precision LLC, a 40-year-old U.S.-based aerospace manufacturing company in Syracuse, known for producing fuel nozzles for Collins, Parker, and Honeywell. This acquisition enhances Raghu Vamsi's capabilities in critical aero engine components and provides a strong foothold in the North American market. Earlier this year, the group also acquired PMC Group (UK), marking its entry into the oil & gas sector. PMC specializes in high-performance nickel alloy components for surface, drilling, sub-sea, and wireline operations, further broadening the company's engineering portfolio beyond aerospace and defense. Raghu Vamsi Aerospace unveiled a fully indigenous 40 KGF micro turbojet engine and jet-powered, fixed-wing kamikaze UAV in 55th International Paris Airshow. At the Paris Air Show, Raghu Vamsi unveiled a fully indigenous 40 KGF micro turbojet engine, developed for UAVs and cruise missiles—representing a major leap in India's propulsion capabilities. Successfully tested at the company's Hyderabad facility in the presence of DRDO officials, this engine is part of a family of four engines (14, 19, 25, and 40 KGF), all designed and manufactured entirely in India.

"This engine represents a historic leap for Indian aerospace propulsion. It's the culmination of years of R&D, manufacturing precision, and a bold vision for self-reliant defense technologies," said Vamsi Vikas, Managing Director, Raghu Vamsi Aerospace Group. To support its growing product portfolio, the company is developing a state-of-the-art 250,000 sq ft manufacturing facility at Hardware Park, Hyderabad. The facility will feature specialized divisions for: high-precision machining for global OEMs, sub-assemblies for missile systems, final assembly for engines, UAVs, and unmanned ground vehicles. Expected to be operational by early 2026, the plant will create over 1,000 high-skilled jobs, significantly boosting India's domestic aerospace manufacturing capacity.

Cyber scammers swindle Rs 50 crore with claims of suspicious crypto activity; woman among 8 arrested in Mohali

GNS News Agency, July 4

A call centre fraud where people were allegedly cheated out of nearly Rs 50 crore was busted in Punjab's Mohali with the arrest of eight people, including a woman, during a raid at an illegal call centre, the police said on Wednesday. DSP Rupinder Kaur Sohi, in charge of the Cyber Crime and Forensic Wing, said the illegal call centre operating from a flat at Eden Court Society in Sector 91 had been functioning for the past six months, working in day and night shifts and luring people into fraudulent cryptocurrency-related schemes.

According to DSP Sohi, the gang used a new method of fraud wherein they sent mass messages to people from across the country, claiming that money was being deducted from their accounts in suspicious cryptocurrency activity. The victims were then provided with a contact number to "resolve" the issue. Once contact was made, the fraudsters impersonated officials and used fear tactics similar to "digital arrest" scams, claiming that illegal cryptocurrency transactions had occurred from the victim's account. The victims were then tricked into transferring money under the pretext of securing their accounts.

The police recovered 12 laptops, 14 mobile phones, and 1 Scorpio SUV from the arrested accused, who belong to Maharashtra, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh,



West Bengal, and Himachal Pradesh. They were reportedly paid in cash to avoid leaving any financial trail. The police are looking for the absconding kingpin of the gang. They hope to arrest him soon based on leads emerging from the interrogation of the other accused. The police have registered an FIR under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 318(4) (cheating) and 61(2) (criminal conspiracy) as well as section 66 D of the Information Technology Act at Mohali's Cyber Crime Police Station. The accused will be further questioned to determine the full extent of their operations, whether they have committed similar frauds in other cities, and whether more people were involved, said DSP Rupinder Kaur Sohi.

Setback for BCCI in Kochi Tuskers case: Bombay HC upholds Rs 538 crore arbitration awards to defunct IPL franchise

GNS News Agency, July 4

The Bombay High Court Tuesday dismissed the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI) pleas challenging two arbitration awards worth over Rs 538 crore granted in favour of the now-defunct Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Kochi Tuskers Kerala. The dispute arose after the BCCI terminated the franchise in September 2011, citing an alleged breach of the franchise agreement. Kochi Tuskers Kerala took part in only one season of the IPL, in 2011, under a consortium led by Rendezvous Sports World (RSW) and operated by Kochi Cricket Private Limited (KCPL). Aggrieved by the "wrongful" termination, RSW and KCPL began arbitration proceedings, and on June 22, 2015, the arbitral tribunal awarded over Rs 384.83 crore to KCPL and over Rs 153.34 crore to RSW, along with interest and costs.

Upholding the awards, a single-judge bench of Justice Riyaz I Chagla dismissed the two petitions by the BCCI. The petition against KCPL concerned an award related to disputes arising from its franchise agreement with the BCCI, dated March 12, 2011. The challenge to the award in favour of RSW was related to disputes arising from its agreement with the BCCI, dated April 11, 2010. The bench noted that the BCCI, alleging that the awards were perverse, sought the court to venture into fact-finding exercise by revisiting the record and accepting competing interpretations of various clauses of the agreements between the parties.

"The jurisdiction of this Court under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act is very limited. BCCI's endeavour to delve into the merits of the dispute, is in teeth of the scope of the grounds contained in Section 34 of the Act. BCCI's dissatisfaction as to the findings rendered in respect of the evidence and/or the merits cannot be a ground to assail the Award," Justice Chagla noted. "The conclusion of the learned Arbitrator namely that BCCI had wrongfully invoked the bank guarantee which amounted to a repudiatory breach of the KCPL-FA would call for no interference under Section 34 of the Arbitration Act considering that this is based on a correct appreciation of the evidence on record," Justice Chagla added. As per the franchise agreement, KCPL was required to furnish a bank guarantee by March 2011, which the firm failed to do. KCPL referred to the non-availability of a brand-new stadium in Kochi, shareholding approvals, and a sudden reduction in the number of IPL matches.

The BCCI, through senior advocate Rafique Dada, argued that the tribunal's "finding that the non-availability of a brand-new stadium at Kochi was a breach on the part of BCCI is ex-facie materially contrary to the terms of govern-



The dispute arose after the BCCI terminated the franchise in September 2011, citing an alleged breach of the franchise agreement. Kochi Tuskers Kerala took part in only one season of the IPL, in 2011, under a consortium led by Rendezvous Sports World (RSW) and operated by Kochi Cricket Private Limited (KCPL). Aggrieved by the "wrongful" termination, RSW and KCPL began arbitration proceedings, and on June 22, 2015, the arbitral tribunal awarded over Rs 384.83 crore to KCPL and over Rs 153.34 crore to RSW, along with interest and costs.

ing contracts/documents". The cricket board also claimed that the tribunal acted "beyond the terms of contract" and KCPL's failure to provide bank guarantee was a fundamental breach of the franchise agreement. The BCCI alleged that the damages awarded for loss of profits and wasted expenditure were in excess of the agreement. However, senior advocate Vikram Nankani, representing the respondents KCPL and RSW, opposed the BCCI's plea, claiming that the termination was unjustified and disproportionate. Justice Chagla, after perusing submissions, held that the arbitrator's conclusion was supported by records. "Thus, the finding of the learned Arbitrator that BCCI waived the requirement under Clause 8.4 of the KCPL-FA for furnishment of bank guarantee for 2012 season on or before 22nd March, 2011 cannot be faulted," the court noted. The high court said there were "no valid grounds" raised in the two pleas "to warrant an interference with the KCPL Award and the RSW Award" and there was "no patent illegality in the impugned awards".

‘Trying to create rift’: Sharad Pawar questions demand to name Pune railway station after Bajirao I



GNS News Agency, July 4

NCP-SP chief Sharad Pawar on Friday waded into the debate over naming Pune railway station, saying that people were unnecessarily creating a rift among communities by raising the issue. Pawar was speaking in the backdrop of BJP Rajya Sabha MP Medha Kulkarni's recent demand that the railway station be named after Thorle Bajirao Peshwa I. Also known as Bajirao I, Thorle Bajirao Peshwa was appointed the 'peshwa' or chief minister of the Maratha confederacy from 1720 to 1740 during the reign of Chhatrapati Shahu. However, Kulkarni's demand led to protests from Maratha organisations and Opposition parties. "There was no reason to create a dispute by raising the issue now. I have not understood why there is an urge

to give the name of Bajirao Peshwa. If bravery is the criterion, there are many names. Maratha king Sambhaji was known for his bravery and sacrifice," Pawar said in Kolhapur.

The NCP(SP) chief said there was no reason to raise the issue now. "Some people only try to create a rift between different communities without any reason," he added. Kulkarni had requested that the Indian Railways give the Peshwa's name to Pune railway station, citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stand on highlighting local history in the name and planning of railway stations. The leader had never lost a battle, and such a great figure deserves the honour, she had said. However, city NCP (SP) chief Prashant Jagtap had opposed the demand, saying many historical leaders could be considered for the same honour. Meanwhile, NCP(SP) spokesperson and former city mayor Ankush Kakade said that the Pune railway station should be named after social reformer Jyotirao Phule or political and social leader Gopalkrishna Gokhale, considered to be the mentor of Mahatma Gandhi.

A leader of the Maratha organisation Sambhaji Brigade, Santosh Shinde, also said that the organisations and political parties should oppose the move to name Pune railway station after Bajirao Peshwa, and suggested the names of Jyotirao Phule and Savitribai Phule instead. Shiv Sena (UBT) workers in Pune had also put up flex boards against Kulkarni, following which the police had registered a case against unidentified persons.

Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah admitted to Safdarjung Hospital; Tihar Jail says he is ‘normal and stable’

GNS News Agency, July 4

A day after incarcerated Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Ahmad Shah's daughter expressed concern for her father's health on social media, Tihar Jail officials in Delhi on Friday said his medical reports were "normal" and his condition is "stable". In an official statement, Tihar Jail authorities said that "appropriate" medical treatment has been given to him at Delhi's Safdarjung Hospital. Shah, 70, was arrested in 2017 in an alleged terror funding case and has been in Tihar Jail since 2023. The statement released by Tihar Jail spokesperson said, "Some rumours are reportedly being circulated in the social media regarding the critical health condition of inmate Shabir Ahmad Shah.

"In this regard it is stated that inmate has been regularly provided with all medical attention and his condition is stable." It further stated, "Shah was referred to Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi on June 26 for OPD consultation with respect to complaints of some lower urinary tract symptoms, and he was admitted for further tests/evaluation." All his reports have been found to be normal and appropriate medi-



cal treatment is being provided to him at Safdarjung Hospital." In a post on X on Thursday, Shah's daughter Sehar Shabir sought medical treatment for her father. "This is not political. This is not anti-national. This is not against any country, institution, or government. This is only about my father's life. His health. His right to be treated with dignity. Is your conscience alive?" Shah's daughter posted on X.

Maintenance staff assault residents of Noida housing society, 4 arrested

GNS News Agency, July 4

Maintenance staff assault residents of Noida housing society, 4 arrested. Meanwhile, a purported video of the assault also surfaced on social media in which some staff can be seen kicking and pushing the residents. The Noida police Friday informed that they have arrested four maintenance staff of the Ecovillage-1 society for allegedly assaulting the residents during an altercation. Diksha Singh, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Central Noida-II, told The Indian Express that a spat occurred between the residents and the maintenance staff at around 1:30 am on Friday when the residents went to complain about the absence of electricity in the society.

Those arrested have been identified as Ravindra Singh, 33, Sohni Singh, 30, Sachin Kuntal, 27, and Vipin Kasana, 27, all residents of Gautam Buddha Nagar. Manoj Kumar Singh, Station House Officer, Bisrakh Police station, said the arrests were made following the registration of a First Information Report (FIR) under sections 323 (concealment of property), 504 (breach of peace), 506 (criminal intimidation), and 352 (intentional insult) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

"The residents were physically abused after a verbal spat with the maintenance staff. All the necessary legal



action is being taken in this case, and we have taken them into police custody," he said. Sheshmani Singh, 37, a resident of Ecovillage-1, said seven towers in the society had no electricity for almost six to seven hours spanning Thursday and Friday. "There are 57 towers in Ecovillage-1. There was no power in A1, A2, A3, A4, B1, B2 and D2. The children were unable to sleep, so a few parents went to complain about it," Singh added. Meanwhile, a purported video of the assault also surfaced on social media in which some staff can be seen kicking and pushing the residents. A staff member can also be seen trying to hit a resident with a wooden stick.

MMRDA has reduced Uttan-Virar Coastal Road project cost by Rs 34,000 crore



GNS News Agency, July 4

Uttan-Virar coastal road, Mumbai news, Indian express. Uttan Virar Coastal Road will stretch to 55.12 km, which includes a 24.35 km main coastal road and 30.77 km connecting roads. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has reduced the cost of the Uttan-Virar Coastal Road (UVCR) project by nearly Rs 34,000 crore. The fresh proposal was submitted to Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis and Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde at a review meeting held in Mumbai on Thursday.

According to MMRDA officials, the cost has been cut down to Rs 52,652 crore from Rs 87,427 crore after making changes in lane layouts, minimisation of the land area needed, changes in the designs of connectors, and minimisation of provisional and consultancy charges. The coastal road project to enhance connectivity between the northern suburbs of Mumbai and the western coast will now go with this "low-cost system". Among the cost-cutting measures is reducing the size of the carriageways. The initial plan offered 4+4 lanes with a main coastal stretch of an emergency lane and 3+3+1 lanes on connectors. This has now been transformed into a 3+3 lane configuration on the

coastal stretch and 2+2 lanes on the connectors, resulting in the reduction of civil and structural costs. The decrease in lane width has also resulted in a smaller "right of way" requirement, thereby reducing land acquisition costs. The new plan is also structurally altered by using single-pier structures instead of two-pier designs, which are less expensive and require fewer materials and manpower. "The additional savings were made through rationalisation of consultancy charges, minimising initial overheads and revising cost estimates using available infrastructure," said a senior MMRDA official.

Uttan Virar Coastal Road will stretch to 55.12 km, which includes a 24.35 km main coastal road and 30.77 km connecting roads. The planned arrangement for the main road is a 25.1 meter-wide 3+3 lane carriageway and an 18.55 metre-wide 2+2 lane configuration for the connectors. The project includes three key connectors — the 9.32 km Uttan Connector, linking the road to the Dahisar-Bhayandar Link Road, the 2.5 km elevated Vasai Connector, and the 18.95 km Virar Connector, connecting the corridor to the Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway. "This alignment is expected to improve goods and passenger traffic flow between the northern suburbs and Mumbai's western coast while also integrating with larger national corridors," the official added. The funding proposal of MMRDA consists of Rs 37,998 crore (72.17%) as loans by JICA or other multilateral organizations, repayable in the form of toll revenue. The Maharashtra government and MMRDA will provide the balance Rs 14,654 crore (27.83%) as equity. Fadnis has ordered MMRDA to finalise and submit the updated Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Preliminary Project Report (PPR) to the government for approval. He has also sought a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) to be established to execute the project and that all the approvals be fast-tracked. Once operational, the road will improve transport connectivity in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and connect with the planned Vadhavan Port.

First proposed in 2018, housing scheme in Chandigarh's Sector 53 gets governor's nod



GNS News Agency, July 4

Chandigarh is set to witness a new residential housing scheme after a gap of nearly nine years. On Thursday, Punjab Governor and UT Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria gave the official nod to the Chandigarh Housing Board's (CHB's) long-delayed, self-financing housing project in Sector 53. The stalled project—it was first proposed in 2018—will now move forward with updated prices aligned with the current collector rates, effective from April 1.

According to the CHB, the tentative price of a high-income group (HIG) three-bedroom flat has been set at Rs 2.30 crore, marking a 39.39 per cent hike from the earlier estimate of Rs 1.65 crore. A two-bedroom flat in the middle-

income group (MIG) category will now cost Rs 1.97 crore, reflecting a 40.71 per cent increase from the previous Rs 1.40 crore. The cost of a flat under the economically weaker sections (EWS) category has been revised to Rs 74 lakh, up 34.34 per cent from Rs 55 lakh. The scheme, which had faced repeated delays and was even shelved in 2023, saw renewed momentum after an overwhelming response to a fresh demand survey conducted from February 22 to March 3 this year. A total of 7,468 applications were received—5,081 for HIG units, 1,269 for MIG, and 1,118 for EWS flats—indicating strong demand, especially for 3BHK units, which made up nearly 68 per cent of the total applications.

The upcoming project includes 192 HIG units, 100 MIG houses, and 80 EWS flats, to be developed on approximately nine acres of land in Sector 53. This is the CHB's first major housing scheme since the 2016 launch of 200 two-bedroom flats in Sector 51. An earlier effort in 2020 to revive the scheme had failed to attract buyers, with only 148 applications received against the 492 planned units. The CHB had to cancel the survey and refund the deposits. However, renewed interest in city real estate and successful auctions of vacant CHB flats encouraged the Board to revisit the plan. In May 2023, the CHB had approved the construction of 372 flats. But the scheme was again halted in August 2023 by the then UT Administrator Banwarilal Purohit, who deemed it unnecessary, leading to the cancellation of Rs 200 crore worth of construction tenders.

3 illegal immigrants from Bangladesh held from Ahilyanagar construction site; fake Aadhaar, PAN cards seized

GNS News Agency, July 4

bangladeshi illegal immigrants-pune, indian express. The Southern Command Military Intelligence at Ahilyanagar passed on the information to the police that the immigrants from Bangladesh were residing at Pokhardi near an industrial cluster near Ahilyanagar city. Three illegal immigrants from Bangladesh who had obtained fake Aadhar and PAN cards were arrested from a construction site in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district on Thursday, based on input from the Southern Command Military Intelligence.

The Ahilyanagar district police are investigating how the suspects obtained the fake documents and whether a larger racket was operating behind this. The Southern Command Military Intelligence at Ahilyanagar passed on the information to the police that the immigrants from Bangladesh were residing at Pokhardi near an industrial cluster near Ahilyanagar city. A joint operation by the teams from the Southern Command Military Intelligence and MIDC Police Station of Ahilyanagar nabbed the three Bangladeshi nationals who were working at a construction site in Pokhardi. The arrested individuals have been identified as Jahangir Abu Tahir Patwari, 34, Mohammed Hanif Abdul Khalid, 40, and Mosharaf Sheikh Habib Sheikh, 40, — all natives of Chittagong. "All three Bangladeshi nationals were working at a construction site and had fake identities as Indian nationals and had procured fake Aadhaar and PAN cards. Initial probe suggests that they have been residing in



Ahilyanagar for the last two years. Further, questioning of these illegal immigrants is in progress. It is being investigated whether more Bangladeshi nationals are illegally living in the various locations of Ahilyanagar," said an investigation officer with Ahilyanagar district police. The officer added they are investigating whether a larger racket is operating to supply fake documents to illegal immigrants. The three men have been booked under relevant sections of the Foreigners Act. Earlier this month, the Military Intelligence (MI) unit of the Indian Army's Southern Command and the Pune city police arrested four Bangladeshi migrants from a labour camp in Kondhwa Budruk area of Pune.

Mumbai's SCLR corridor to be opened soon, work on 90-degree cable-stayed bridge over Western Express Highway progressing fast

GNS News Agency, July 4

The much-awaited Santacruz-Chembur Link Road (SCLR) corridor will become operational in July as the work of the last phase — a 90-degree cable-stayed arm over Western Express Highway (WEH) — is progressing at a fast pace. The final link, which is the last stretch of the east-west connector, will relieve the commuters from the diversions through the Vakola and Hans Bhugra Marg junctions. The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is reportedly set to inaugurate the stretch, making smooth signal-free travel from the Eastern Express Highway to the Western Express Highway possible. The SCLR extension is an important link project taken up by the MMRDA to enhance east-west connectivity in the city.

While some phases of the SCLR are already in use, the last segment comprising a cable-stayed bridge over WEH fills the gap between the Eastern and Western Express Highways. The bridge offers a direct path from Kurla to just before the airport opposite Panbai School in Santacruz. The civil work on the cable-stayed arm is completely over. MMRDA is now executing final works such as signage installation, street lighting, painting, finishing touches, and removal of temporary support under the cable span.

Metropolitan Commissioner Dr Sanjay Mukherjee and other officials from MMRDA have recently inspected the site progress, confirming that the final arm will soon be opened to the public. Once operational, the north arm connector will offer seamless connectivity from Kurla, Chembur, Chunabhatti, and BKC, straight onto the WEH, skipping the signal at Hans Bhugra Marg and Vakola junction. Existing traffic has to exit at this signal, which is congested during peak hours. The new flyover is likely to relieve pressure on both junctions, bring down travel times, and facilitate smoother movement for airport traffic as well as traffic heading towards western suburbs. The final stage of the SCLR extension features a cable-stayed bridge with a 90-degree horizontal curve and a 100-metre turning radius, with the design executed for the first time in Asia. Executing this alignment posed significant engineering and logistical challenges, especially since work had to proceed without halting traffic on the busy WEH.

The initial plans were for launching the entire 29-metre-long and 10.5-metre-wide deck in one go. However, simulation exercises showed that the full 300 metric tonne structure could not be lifted safely. To overcome this, the span was redesigned into two parts weighing 140 and 160 metric tonnes each. These two segments were then installed simultaneously, enabling precise placement while keeping disruption to WEH traffic at a minimum. The revised method ensured progress on the project while maintaining vehicular movement on one of Mumbai's busiest corridors.

The SCLR Extension has been completed in various phases, with the last arm constituting a key component of the entire corridor. The SCLR Extension project began in 2016, with an initial budget of Rs 450 crore. Due to design changes, cost escalation, and delays, the revised project cost soared to Rs 650 crore. The link was supposed to



open by 2019. However, it got pushed further due to operational delays. Dr Sanjay Mukherjee, Metropolitan Commissioner, MMRDA, said, "This iconic bridge is getting its final finishing touches and will soon be open to serve our citizens, just in time for the monsoon. It's not only a solution to congestion but also a new landmark for Mumbai, blending innovation with impact. Another step forward in making Mumbai a city of seamless connections."

Post offices across India to accept digital payments from August



New Delhi: Post offices across India will start accepting digital payments at counters from August after completing the rollout of a new application in their IT system, official sources said. Post offices have not been able to accept digital payments as they don't have their accounts synced with UPI (unique payment interface) system. "The Department of Posts is implementing its IT infrastructure which will have new applications that are enabled to perform transactions with Dynamic QR Code. Rollout will be completed at all post offices by August 2025," an official source said. Pilot rollout of the new system under IT 2.0 has been started in the Karnataka circle. QR-based booking of mail products was successfully carried out at the Mysore head office (HO),

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer waters down welfare cuts to quell Labour revolt



GNS News Agency, July 4

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer has sharply scaled back planned welfare cuts to quell a damaging rebellion by lawmakers in his governing Labour Party. More than 100 Labour lawmakers had publicly opposed Mr. Starmer's reforms, which sought to shave 5 billion pounds (\$6.9 billion) per year off a rapidly rising welfare bill. They had argued that the plans failed to provide support for disabled people and those with long-term health conditions.

Faced with the prospect of a defeat in parliament next week — just a year after he won a landslide majority in a national election - Starmer's office confirmed that the cuts would be scaled back. "We have listened to MPs (members of parliament) who support the principle of reform but are worried about the pace of change for those already supported by the system," a spokesperson said. The reforms are set to be put to a vote in parliament on July 1. In a letter to lawmakers, work and pensions minister Liz Kendall said only new claimants would be subject to the planned tightening of eligibility for certain benefits payments. Existing re-

cipients, some of whom had faced losing those benefits, would now be unaffected. "Our reform principles remain; to target funding for those most in need and make sure the system is sustainable for the future to support generations to come," Kendall said. Labour lawmaker Meg Hillier, who chairs an influential parliamentary committee and had spearheaded the efforts to water down the bill, welcomed the government's move as "a good and workable compromise". U-turn

However, opponents slammed the changes as another government U-turn following a reversal in cuts to winter fuel payments and a decision to hold an inquiry into grooming gangs. The opposition Conservative Party's work and pensions policy chief, Helen Whately, said the decision was humiliating, and represented a missed opportunity to cut the welfare bill. "Starmer ducked the challenge - leaving taxpayers to pick up the bill," she said in a post on X. The government has argued that cutting the ballooning welfare budget is necessary to shore up the public finances and get more people into work. The government did not set out the cost of the change in policy. Care minister Stephen Kinnock said that details would come in the next budget, which is due in the autumn. Annual spending on incapacity and disability benefits already exceeds Britain's defence budget and is set to top 100 billion pounds by 2030, according to official forecasts, up from 65 billion pounds now.

But the plans to cut payments to some of the most vulnerable in society have proven particularly painful for lawmakers in the centre-left Labour Party, which founded the state-run National Health Service and traditionally sees itself as the protector of the country's welfare state built after World War Two. Despite Starmer's concessions, one Labour lawmaker, Peter Lamb, said after learning of the changes that he would vote down the bill "alone" if necessary.

China purges senior military official Miao Hua from top ruling body

GNS News Agency, July 4

China's top legislature has voted to remove senior military official Miao Hua from the Central Military Commission, its highest-level military command body, according to a statement published on Friday (June 27, 2025) by state news agency Xinhua. Miao, 69, was put under investigation for "serious violations of discipline" in November. The former political ideology chief of the People's Liberation Army was also suspended from his post. The Xinhua statement did not contain any other details, but the move marks another stage in President Xi Jinping's ongoing anti-corruption purge of China's military, in which over a dozen PLA generals and a handful of defence industry executives have been implicated.

Miao's photo had been removed from the senior leadership page of the Chinese defence ministry's website in recent weeks. He was also removed from China's national legislature for "serious violations of discipline and law," according to a communique released by the legislature last month. "The Political Work Department of the Central Military Commission held a military representative conference on March 14 this year and decided to remove Miao Hua from his position as a representative of the 14th National People's Congress," the statement said. Miao was stationed in the coastal province of Fujian when Xi worked there as a local official, according to his official biography. Mr. Xi personally elevated Miao to the Central Military Commission. Another Central Military Commission member and China's second-ranking general, He Weidong, has not been seen in public since the March 11 closing cer-



emony of the annual parliamentary sessions in Beijing. Since then, he has not appeared at a series of high-level Politburo and military public engagements. He is the third-most powerful commander of the People's Liberation Army and is considered a close associate of President Xi Jinping, the army's commander-in-chief. China's defence ministry said in March it was "unaware" of reports he had been detained. His photo remains on the defence ministry's website. Two former Chinese Defence Ministers have been removed from the Communist Party for corruption. One of them, Li Shangfu, was suspected of corruption in military procurement, Reuters has reported. Last year, the Defence Ministry denied reports that Defence Minister Dong Jun was being probed on suspicion of corruption. Dong has continued to appear at public events, attending the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation defence ministers' meeting in Qingdao this week.

Brazil's outspoken First Lady is coming under fire, but she refuses to stop speaking out

GNS News Agency, July 4

In early May, an air of triumph filled a dinner in Beijing, where Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva celebrated a diplomatic victory: businessmen travelling with him said they had secured billions of dollars in investments as the veteran leader renewed his international prestige standing alongside his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping. But then Brazilian first lady Rosângela da Silva, better known as Janja, raised her hand.

Although no one was expected to speak, Ms. da Silva addressed Mr. Xi, saying that Chinese social media company TikTok posed a challenge for leftists, claiming its algorithm favors right-wingers. China's President reportedly answered. The exchange was leaked to Brazilian media by the time dessert was served. Mr. Lula's government is grappling with unpopularity that has dented his credentials as the frontrunner for reelection next year. Some analysts, including members of his government, attribute this partly to his wife's perceived overstepping in what was once a ceremonial role. Ms. Janja, a 58-year-old sociologist, has drawn criticism for insulting tech billionaire Elon Musk, mocking the suicide of a pro-Jair Bolsonaro supporter and advising the President on how to use the military during the Jan. 8, 2023 riots in the capital, Brasília. Still, she insists she will speak out whenever it serves the public interest. A Datafolha poll released June 12 found that 36% of Brazilians think the first lady's actions hurt the government, while 14% say they are helpful. It was the pollster's first measure of the First Lady's approval. The same poll showed Mr. Lula with a 40% job disapproval rating, an 8 percentage point increase from October 2024. Brazil's presidency said in a statement to The Associated Press on June 20 that Ms. da Silva adheres to the Solicitor-General's office guidelines, adding that she "acts as a citizen, combining her public visibility with the experience she has built throughout her professional career in support of relevant social issues and matters of public interest." Under guidelines published by the Solicitor-General's office, the President's spouse primarily fulfills "a symbolically representative role on behalf of the president in a social, cultural, ceremonial, political or diplomatic nature." For many of her critics, this does not grant her the authority to speak as a government representative. Brazilian media have reported that government Ministers, lawmakers and staunch leftist campaigners are privately raising concerns about the First Lady being a hindrance more than an asset. These worries have skyrocketed since the incident in China — even as Mr. Lula himself has praised his wife for speaking out. "It looks like Brazil is governed by a couple," said Beatriz Rey, a political science postdoctoral and research fellow at the University of Lisbon. "When (the First Lady) says there won't be any protocols to silence her, she disrespects our democratic institutions for she has no elected office, no government position. It is not about being a woman or a feminist. It is undue interference." Mr. Lula's first wife, Maria de Lourdes, died in 1971. His second, Marisa Leticia, died in 2017. Mr. Lula, 79, and Ms.



Janja said they met in 2017 and started seeing each other frequently during the leftist leader's 580 days in jail in the city of Curitiba between 2018 and 2019. They married in 2022. Many supporters of Mr. Lula's Workers' Party partly attribute the criticism against the First Lady to misinformation and disinformation. In May, the party launched the "I am with Janja" social media campaign in her defense. But the week-long effort garnered less than 100,000 views and only a few hundred comments. "Ms. Janja is an asset because she rejuvenates Mr. Lula, everyone in the government understands that, even her critics," a Brazilian government source told the AP. "No one wants to alienate her. But many important people in Brasília, friends and allies of Mr. Lula, do understand that by overstepping she brings some of her rejection to the President." The source, who spoke under condition of anonymity for lack of authorization to speak about the matter publicly, often travels with the President and the first lady. Adriana Negreiros, a journalist who profiled the First Lady for a 2024 podcast titled "Janja," said that allies of the President who criticize her do it with extreme caution. (Ms. Janja) dances, sings, speaks out, appears at official events and meetings with heads of state. She insists on being present and vocal," Ms. Negreiros said. "There's a lot of sexism and misogyny directed at her, no doubt. But not all criticism is sexist." Ms. Da Silva said she doesn't go to dinners "just to accompany" her husband. "I have common sense. I consider myself an intelligent person. So I know very well what my limits are. I'm fully aware of that," she told a podcast of daily Folha de S. Paulo. Ms. Da Silva did, however, express remorse during the same podcast for the expletive she used against Ms. Musk in 2024, once a close ally of U.S. President Donald Trump. Many of Mr. Lula's adversaries say they want the first lady to remain in the spotlight. "The more she speaks, the more she holds a microphone, the more she helps the right wing," said Nikolas Ferreira, one of Brazil's most popular right-wing lawmakers. Mr. Ferreira, a prominent social media figure, claims the role of regulating social media is a matter for Brazil's Congress, not for the first lady to debate with foreign leaders like Mr. Xi. Ms. Da Silva is also expected to play as a keen hostess at the BRICS summit in Rio on July 6-7, a role her husband is almost certain not to oppose.

Telangana's medical college expansion: Built to heal, left to rot



GNS News Agency, July 4

On the otherwise quiet stretch of Road Number 4 in Telangana's Siddipet district, about 100 kilometres north of Hyderabad, one building stands out — not for its design, but for the activity it draws. Rickshaws, hatchbacks, private cars and ambulances are parked in a haphazard line along the narrow tar road. With little room for four-wheelers inside, the road outside becomes a makeshift parking lot for those visiting the Government General Hospital, Siddipet.

Step past the entrance and a rectangular lobby opens up. To the left, a queue snakes around the Outpatient Registration counter. To the right, rows of plastic chairs are packed with patients and attendants — women in saris fanning themselves, elderly men on walking sticks, young parents cradling toddlers. Though outpatient hours run from 9.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., the hallway is full by 11 a.m. Adding a splash of colour to this scene is a strip of Cherial painting across the top of the hospital walls — vivid red panels telling traditional tales, a nod to Telangana's folk art legacy. It is an oddly comforting juxtaposition: cultural flourish amid clinical fatigue.

Down the corridor is the duty doctor's room — a modest 15x8 feet, with two foldable metal beds lining opposite walls. What catches the eye isn't the squeeze, but the far wall, or the lack of it. In its place is a large corrugated metal shutter, the kind one would see fronting a kirana shop. Only two brick pillars frame it; a white ceramic washbasin clings to one side. Perched on a metal bed is a young doctor, white coat on, stethoscope around her neck. She speaks in a calm, practiced voice about juggling medical education with long government hospital shifts, her words painting a picture of exhaustion, resilience, and a system stretched thin.

"Though it is now a teaching hospital, Siddipet still runs on the infrastructure of its old identity: an area hospital with 780 beds. There is no space to add more. That is why a new 1,000-bed hospital was built nearby. But that is stuck in limbo — political disputes, budget delays, commissions. The building is ready, but has not been handed over," she says. She gestures towards what lies just five kilometres away — a gleaming new hospital building inaugurated with much fanfare by Siddipet MLA and former Health Minister T. Harish Rao in October 2023. Built adjacent to the Government Medical College, the new Government General Hospital is a sprawling, palace-like structure, strikingly similar to a high-end corporate hospital. But behind the glossy facade lies silence. One and a half years since its inauguration, the building remains non-functional, caught in bureaucratic limbo. When the first batch of medical students enrolled in 2018, they were promised an integrated campus: hospital, hostels and college, all in one place. That vision remains unrealised. What has arrived instead is a faculty crisis too big to ignore. "In some departments, there are 12 to 15 postgraduate students and only three faculty members — one professor and two assistant professors. So PGs end up doing everything: teaching, ward rounds, you name it. Recruitment has not happened. The Directorate of Medical Education keeps saying notifications will be issued, but they never do," the doctor says. She also points to a persistent safety concern — commuting after night duty. "The road to the college becomes eerie after dark. It is so unsafe that we have to ask the boys to escort us. There have been cases of women doctors being followed. It is frightening," she says.

Across Telangana's 34 government medical colleges, the same problems recur. Before 2014, the State had just five government-run medical colleges. Over the last decade, the Bharat Rashtra Samithi government pushed to open one in every district. By 2024, as many as 29 new colleges had come up as part of that ambitious expansion. "The rapid establishment of so many government medical colleges (GMCs) has resulted in impressive buildings that resemble fully functioning medical institutions. But inside, there are serious gaps — faculty shortage, insufficient clinical exposure and other systemic deficiencies," says a senior official from the State Health department. A system under strain At GMC Karimnagar, a second-year student sums up the classroom situation bluntly: "There is not enough space to sit. Two batches share one lecture hall; some of us stand or sit on the floor. The hostel is no better. It is overcrowded and temporary. We are still waiting for the promised building."

Over at GMC-Nalgonda, transportation is the biggest hurdle. "The hospital is seven kilometres away, but there are no dedicated buses. Our principal sent a request to the Director of Medical Education and even to our MLA, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, who is also a minister. He promised two to four buses, but not a single one has arrived," a student says.

At GMC-Asifabad, the problems cut deeper. "We don't have MBBS-qualified faculty. Our labs don't function. We are expected to learn without tools, without guidance," says a first-year student. Things are no better in Bhadradi Kothagudem, where a post-graduate student shares, "Departments like Anatomy and Biochemistry are run by non-MBBS staff. That is a direct violation of National Medical Commission (NMC) norms. We have raised complaints but nothing has changed." Most students here live in rented flats, often cramped and unhygienic. At Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences-Adilabad, the situation is downright bleak. "We stay in quarter clusters with no clean water, no streetlights. The mess food is inedible, the quarters stink, and there is no CCTV cameras or security. We are working 12-hour shifts and studying through the night in such conditions," says a first-year PG student.

At GMC-Narayanpet, the daily commute is a risk in itself. "We lost our college bus last year. Now we travel eight kilometres at our own expense. Many of us live in distant, unsafe hostels. After 7 p.m., the road turns pitch dark. There is no fencing, no security," says a junior doctor. The conditions are equally grim at GMC Jangaon too. "We girls are put up in an old-age home. The boys are crammed into tiny rooms. There are no labs, no gym, no sports, nothing. And we are charged ₹1,000 a month for transport," says a student. The duty doctor room at Government General Hospital, Siddipet, having a large corrugated metal shutter in place of a wall.

In Maheshwaram, students attend classes on borrowed premises. "There are no proper labs. We do physiol-

ogy practicals in lecture rooms. The subsidised hostels they promised never came. We are paying ₹7,000 a month in rent for rooms infested with cockroaches and spiders," a student shares. At GMC-Kamareddy, the gap between college and hospital — just 3.5 kilometres — is a daily hurdle. "With no transport, we often miss clinical postings. Some of us even skip meals just to save time," a student says. Even at established institutions like Gandhi Medical College, cracks are showing. "We have only one assistant professor each in Radiology and Microbiology. Everything else is handled by postgraduates. Forget learning, we are barely surviving," says a student. The infrastructure hasn't kept pace either. "The elevators are constantly breaking down. There are water shortages, outdated pipelines and stray dogs keep biting students. This is not a campus, it is a battlefield." From broken hostels and pitch-dark roads to missing faculty and absent labs, the accounts echo a common story: of systemic neglect wrapped in glossy expansion. A postgraduate student from Vikarabad puts it plainly: "We are the face of public healthcare. But we are studying in the shadows of unfinished buildings, of missing mentors, of apathy." Telangana's 34 government medical colleges collectively offer 4,140 MBBS seats. The top three — Gandhi, Osmania, and Kakatiya Medical Colleges — have the highest intake at 250 seats each. The rest range between 50 and 175. In early June, the National Medical Commission issued show-cause notices to 26 of them, citing critical shortfalls in infrastructure, clinical material and faculty.

A vacancy list accessed by The Hindu, released by the Directorate of Medical Education in July 2024, lays bare the extent of the staffing crisis in Telangana's government medical colleges and teaching hospitals. Of the 3,143 sanctioned Assistant Professor posts, only 1,399 have been filled — leaving 1,736 positions vacant. The shortage extends to professors as well, a senior doctor confirms. "These gaps would not exist if the State government had a consistent, calendar-based recruitment process," says a doctor working as a contract Assistant Professor at a government medical college. "Even under contractual appointments, our salaries have not been paid this year because the contract itself has not been renewed. And this isn't just about Assistant Professors — it affects faculty across all levels."

The doctor warns that the system is nearing a breaking point: "Morale is low. Many are wondering how long they can go on without pay or clarity about their future. Some are seriously considering quitting altogether." Another doctor points to repeated delays. "Regular recruitment was promised last year. But after the SC sub-division notification came out, everything was put on hold. Even after receiving Cabinet clearance, officials keep saying the notification will come 'next week'. It has been over two months and nothing has moved." Fixing the cracks

Meanwhile, in response to the NMC's show-cause notice, the Telangana government has set up 10 Medical College Monitoring Committees to conduct field inspections and comprehensive assessments of all 34 GMCs and their affiliated teaching hospitals across the State. The move was formalised through a Government Order issued by Health Secretary Christina Z. Chongthu on June 19. The GO states that the aim is to develop a detailed action plan to ensure full compliance with NMC standards by June 2028. The committees are tasked with identifying on-ground challenges and recommending institution-specific, sustainable solutions.

Each committee includes officials such as district collectors, medical college principals and hospital superintendents. Their mandate covers a wide spectrum — from infrastructure and lab facilities to the availability of medical equipment, hostel conditions and academic spaces. They will also evaluate the clinical workload, including functioning of in-patient wards, operating theatres, diagnostics and emergency services. Staffing gaps, both teaching and non-teaching, will be mapped and recommendations made for recruitment through Medical and Health Services Recruitment Board, Telangana State Public Service Commission or local contractual appointments overseen by district administrations. The committees have also been asked to assess hostel safety, sanitation, food quality and the presence of support systems like anti-ragging mechanisms, grievance redressal cells and counselling services. Operational issues such as supply of essential drugs, food provisions, infection control and utility expenses are also under review. The functioning of systems such as the electronic Health Management Information System, biometric and facial recognition attendance, and CCTV surveillance — both academic and clinical — will be audited. The committees are expected to submit detailed field reports by June 30. Whether these committees will spark lasting reform or simply become another bureaucratic ritual remains to be seen. For now, thousands of young doctors continue to study, serve and survive in conditions far removed from the promises once made to them. In Telangana's grand medical expansion, it is not the buildings but the people inside them who are being tested the most.

Telangana to levy 1-2 per cent cess on gig services to fund workers' welfare board

Hyderabad: The State government is proposing a cess of one to two per cent on bills generated by gig platforms to mobilise revenue for the Gig Workers Welfare Board. This additional charge, to be borne by consumers, is part of the proposed Gig Workers Act, which is expected to be introduced shortly. A draft of the Act has already been prepared, and the Labour Department held discussions with aggregators and workers in Hyderabad on Friday. Briefing mediapersons, Labour Minister Vivek Venkat Swamy said the nominal cess was intended to generate funds for the board. "One to two per cent cess is nominal. It should not be a big burden on the consumers," he said.

There are nearly 4.5 lakh gig workers in the State. The draft Bill has been placed in the public domain for feedback. So far, 66 suggestions have been received from aggregators and workers' unions. This marks the first step towards introducing the Gig Workers Act. The initial phase would involve registration of workers, constitution of the board, and related measures, the Minister added. Workers have also demanded insurance coverage. On the issue of social security, the Minister said the board would take a call. "All these aspects will be incorporated in the final Bill, which will be sent to the Cabinet for approval. Hopefully, the Bill will be passed in the next Assembly session," he said.



A tightrope walk for Chittoor’s mango farmers



When a middleman told Rajendra, a young mango farmer from Yadamarri mandal near Chittoor, that he could take his ‘totapuri’ mango stocks to an MNC pulp-making centre, he thanked his lucky stars. He had been trying to find takers for the produce from his modest 30 acre mango orchard on the Gudiyattam Road for quite some time and was worried his fruits might rot on the orchard itself.

Rajendra swiftly arranged for the labour to harvest and load six tonnes of his best mangoes. He could only pay part of the wages then, but promised the workers that he would pay balance amount after selling the produce. On June 12, he set out to the procurement centre located on the Chittoor-Puttur highway 30 km away, certain that ‘one of India’s largest pulp-making units’ would take his produce. But as his tractor-trailer approached the unit, he began to notice trailers laden with mangoes parked on either side of the highway. Not one or two, around 30 of them. Rajendra’s heart sank, for he knew what that meant: a queue, stretching for over two kilometres, and he was at the very end of it.

“You have to take a token, and the procurement will be in the last week of June,” Rajendra was told at the factory gate. The worry returned, but this time there was no hope. He cannot take the produce back and store it for weeks. He had to sell them that day itself or ran the risk of incurring total loss. Rajendra, who had spent ₹15 lakh on his orchard this season, was one of the 3.5 lakh active mango growers in the combined Chittoor district who believed in the promise that mangoes would be the next agricultural gold mine, only to find a volatile business that keeps them on tenterhooks year after year. With a leaden heart, Rajendra turned his vehicle around and headed towards Bangarupalem mango market, where he sold his best picks for a paltry sum of ₹4 a kg. “I had expected a negligible profit of ₹20,000 for this shipment, excluding the cost of cutting and transportation and the year-long maintenance. Now, I have to rethink harvesting the remaining fruits,” says Rajendra. For farmers like Rajendra, every season is a tight-rope walk over a chasm of loss. The case of Suryaprakash, another farmer from Irala mandal, is not much different. He had broken 18 coconuts at a local temple to ensure a good outcome before taking his produce to a nearby pulp unit. Everything was fine until factory management shot their price point blank: “We can’t give you more than ₹4 a kg. If you don’t want to sell it at that price, you can return.” After much pleading with the management, he settled for ₹4.5 a kg, still a far cry from the price he had expected.

Notably, the government had ordered pulp units in the State to offer farmers a minimum support price (MSP) of ₹8 a kg, on top of a subsidy of ₹4 a kg. However, even with just two weeks left of the pulp season, none of the 39 pulp units, including six belonging to MNCs, in Chittoor district has come forward to honour the order. Moreover, none of them began procurement as per schedule, from mid-May onwards; active procurement began only in mid-June, say farmers. Farmers resting underneath the trailer of a tractor laden with mangoes, on the outskirts of Chittoor. This queue stretched for over 2 km on both sides of the Puttur Road. Farmers resting underneath the trailer of a tractor laden with mangoes, on the outskirts of Chittoor. This queue stretched for over 2 km on both sides of the Puttur Road.

The yearly swing in mango prices is so steep that it can make or break a farmer in just a year. In 2024, totapuri yield was just 30%, which led to a high demand. Each kg was sold between ₹25 and ₹28 to the pulp units, that, too, without any government intervention. In contrast, 2025 witnessed a glut of over 75% of yield, with most fruits having developed well and being pulpy, thanks to the congenial winter and summer, sending the prices on a tailspin. According to official statistics, in the combined Chittoor district, which includes parts of Tirupati and Annamayya districts, registered a total yield of more than 10 lakh tonnes of totapuri and alphonso varieties this year. Of this, 6.21 lakh tonnes come from the new Chittoor district. The 39 pulp units, on the other hand, has an official processing capacity of 5.65 lakh tonnes. Till the first week of June, the farmers hoped that they would get an MSP of at least ₹20 a kg, but the district administration announced just ₹12, including the ₹4 in subsidy.

Despite assurances from Chittoor District Collector Sumit Kumar that the government would buy the entire produce and that the procurement would continue till August,

the farmers remain worried, and rightly so. “We are not talking about toys, but highly perishable goods. If the procurement goes up till August, what about the already ripe fruits about to fall? When loading is done, we have to unload the fruit within 24 hours, otherwise the stock would get damaged and would have to be thrown away,” says Janardhan, a farmer at Karveti Nagaram. Senior mango farmer and BJP district leader Kothur Babu says they are in a dire situation. “We are headed for a disaster. The mango procurement should have begun in May. The pulp units have formed a syndicate and deliberately delayed the procurement. They know very well that the farmers would be the ultimate losers because our hopes are balanced on perishable goods,” he adds.

Mr. Babu recalled how the district administration used to deploy senior officials at the entrances of pulp units. “Not even a single tractor went inside without the knowledge of the official. The procurement was on a first-come, first-served basis. Now, an illogical token system has been introduced. A farmer who obtained a token on June 16 should visit the factory with stocks on July 3. Can the perishable goods wait that long?” he said. “Fortunately, a good number of mango farmers have their sons and daughters as IT professionals in India and abroad. But for their support, many farmers would have ended their lives by now,” he says grimly. Madhiredy Vijaysimha Reddy, a retired tahsildar and a senior mango farmer, says that though the district administration has the power to dictate terms to the pulp industry, “it’s becoming more of a silent spectator year after year.” The pulp units are getting several crores of rupees as a subsidy every year. “Minister for Agriculture Atchannaidu repeatedly said that the government has earmarked ₹168 crore as subsidy for mango farmers, but there is not a single word of assurance from the government that they would make the pulp industry procure the stocks at ₹8 a kg. Many pulp units are pressuring the farmers to sell their produce at ₹4 a kg,” he alleges. War and fruit Notably, some pulp-making units are blaming Russia-Ukraine war for the tepid procurement. K. Mani, a 62-year-old mango farmer from Palamaner mandal, says: “When I went to sell my produce a few days ago, a manager came up to me saying that owing to the Russia-Ukraine war, the mango beverage business was down and that the stocks were piled up. The manager said they were procuring the produce from us because they didn’t want to make us unhappy. I was forced to sell 10 tonnes at ₹4 a kg as against the government price of ₹8 a kg.” Field staff of the Agriculture and Horticulture departments say this strange situation of “mango panic” exists nowhere else in the country. The mango farmers in the Chittoor region say their counterparts in Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are willing to sell their produce at the lowest possible price. Notably, a large number of farmers from Krishnagiri district of Tamil Nadu were said to have supplied premium varieties of ‘Pulera’ and ‘Chandura’ to pulp units in Chittoor district this year, at costs ranging between ₹4 and ₹6 a kg. These two table varieties are considered superior to totapuri in taste and shelf life and are also in high demand from international clients.

According to sources, Tamil Nadu registered a bumper yield this year, and its farmers took their produce to Chittoor to sell it at whatever price offered to them by the pulp units. A senior official from the Forest department, who sought anonymity, blamed the government for the “undue mango revolution” in Chittoor district. During the past one and a half decades, the departments of DRDA and DWMA distributed mango saplings of various varieties, particularly the totapuri and Alphonso, to farmers in Chittoor. “The officials, in most cases, are responsible for creating the impression that the mango is going to be the alpha and omega of horticulture in the future,” the official adds. Meanwhile, the mango crisis has spurred a political reaction as well, with the YSRCP, the Left and the Congress organising protests, demanding a higher MSP for mango farmers and blaming the government for its “failure to check the of the highhandedness of the pulp industry and make them stick to the declared MSP.”

What the pulp industry says Govardhan Bobby, chairman of All India Food Processors Association-South Zone and a representative of the Pulp Industry in Chittoor district, says mango orchards across the country witnessed a glut this season. “An important point is that mango is a biannual crop, that is, if it’s a bumper crop this year, it will be a poor harvest the next year. Take the example of 2024, when the yield was below 30%. In 2025, the yield is over 75%,” he says. Also, the COVID-19 waves, the Russian-Ukraine war and the present Iran-Israel conflict in West Asia has clobbered the pulp industry in Chittoor district. It has incurred a loss of over ₹1,000 crore since 2023. Govardhan Bobby says the pulp factories currently have a combined pulp stock of 1.75 lakh tonnes in their warehouses because the buyers (those who purchase pulp from the units) did not come forward in 2023 and 2024. After the disturbances in West Asia, the Red Sea route has been closed off or operated with limited schedules. Owing to this, the exporters have to depend on circuitous routes, passing around Sri Lanka and South East Asian countries. “This is eight times costlier compared to the Red Sea route.”

A museum in search of a forever home in Telangana



Somewhere inside a forgotten room in Hyderabad, a crow with the hood of a cobra waits. Not a living creature, but a riveting brass totem with a story so rich, it can take hours to tell. Around it lie ghostly wind instruments made of hide and bone, leather bags that breathe music, and shadowy relics from India’s ancient forest tribes. These are not just objects; they are echoes of long-lost worlds. And now, these artefacts, many of which once mimicked the wind, birds and rain, are in search of a home — a home in Hyderabad bordering the deep jungles and forest tract of central India, where these instruments were first born from ingenuity, ritual, and breath.

These have journeyed far to get here, collected over five decades by one man obsessed with memory and history: ethnographer Jayadheer Tirumala Rao. His treasure trove lies scattered across six rooms tucked deep within the Telugu University campus in Nampally. Here, between sunlit corridors and dusty alcoves, Rao moves like a man among old friends. The wide courtyard is littered with weathered cartwheels, carved doors, door frames, totem poles and what looks like a sculptor’s madness — but each piece has its own story. “This is a hanging inkpot made with brass,” the 75-year-old says, lifting a crouched, bull-shaped vessel with a hidden cap for dipping ink. “It was a gift from a student while I was teaching in Hanamkonda.” There are 200 known varieties of hanging inkpots among Adivasi communities, and Rao has managed to collect 40 of them. The collector and his calling

It all began half a century ago in Warangal district of Telangana, when a young postgraduate student was nudged away from academia by his mentor, folklorist B. Ramaraju, and asked to take the tougher road — field work. Rao took off, hitchhiking, riding rickety buses and walking for miles through Telangana’s interior in the mid-1970s, when roads were few and forests many. “I travelled by train, I travelled by bus. I mostly walked, as there were hardly any buses in 1975, to research and understand folk and Adivasi culture. I began collecting musical instruments that did not work,” he recalls, sitting among his archive. “Once, I started walking from Charla in Bhadrachalam in the morning and by 8 p.m., I realised I was lost. I walked all night and somehow ended up at the same point I had started from. That was scary.”

Gradually, however, those walks bore fruit. Rao’s first acquisition was the ‘Jamadika’ in the 1970s — a haunting stringed instrument enclosed in a drum, played only by a sub-clan of the Madiga community. As he documented folk ballads and songs of the Telangana Peasant Rebellion (Rythuangu Poratam) and folk literature, Rao also began collecting objects from the communities he visited — musical relics, domestic tools and even pieces of performance history. One evening, during a visit to the Saradlu community about 30 kilometres from Kolanupaka, a village in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, he stayed back to listen to folk songs of the Telangana Armed Rebellion. The men invited him along for a hunt. That night, his dinner was roast garden lizards. “That was it. That was my meal,” he says with a shrug. Then he holds up a brass object that looks like a bird. “This is a crow with a snake hood in the middle. It is a totemic object for a clan, called Kaki Padagala Varu. They keep it close during a performance of the Mahabharata, that may last for three days with music and old manuscripts,” shares Rao. Part of his collection is the ‘Thithi’, a leather bag attached to a bamboo pipe used by a community called Kommuluvuru that hums like an ancestral bagpipe. And the rare ‘Bruhat Kinnera’ with 13 steps and three gourds, an instrument even older than the veena. “Very few are gifts. Most of them have been purchased,” says Rao’s wife, R. Neela, a homemaker who has shouldered the endless task of cleaning and caring for this vast, uncatalogued collection. The instruments and artefacts — totemic objects, musical devices, writing tools, masks, flags, household pieces — lie undocumented, without labels or timelines or the gentle touch of a museologist, in these six rooms of the Telugu University. Yet, they hold within them the pulse of India’s earliest communities — the Gonds, Saradlu, Totis, Koyas, Gutti Koyas, Pradhans, Mauryas, Chenchus, Lambadis, and the clans of Manda Hechu, Bolla Pujari, Tera Chiralavaru Daccali, Chindru, Mastidu, Runjavaru and Maladasari. These communities, whose homelands once lay deep in the forested heart of central India, are now vanishing along with their cultures.

Over a century ago, Osmania University (OU) rose from a 2,500-acre expanse that once belonged to one of

the courtesans of the Nizam of Hyderabad. It became the first university in India to adopt Urdu as its medium of instruction, and its campus, dotted with ancient stepwells and serais, has since become more than just a seat of higher learning. It has been a crucible of protest, its student movements playing a pivotal role in the birth of Telangana in June 2014. It was here, amid this charged legacy of scholarship and dissent, that Rao’s long-wandering museum collection was finally offered a space to rest. After decades of being crammed into scattered rooms in Telugu University, two disused bungalows nestled in a quiet, leafy quadrangle off the main road of OU were allocated for the museum. The move came with the backing of Telangana Chief Minister, A. Revanth Reddy. But the students of OU have other plans.

Construction work under way for a cultural museum on Osmania University campus in Hyderabad which were halted following student protests. Construction work under way for a cultural museum on Osmania University campus in Hyderabad which were halted following student protests. | Photo Credit: Nagara Gopal “The land where the museum is set to be established is OU land. It cannot be leased out to private individuals. The university used to have 2,500 acres. Now, it has shrunk to 1,300 acres. Once land is leased, the university never regains control,” says Druhan, president of the OU unit of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), who is spearheading the protests against the establishment. Tensions escalated quickly. Work on the two bungalows came to a sudden halt after student leaders reportedly threatened the labourers and contractors at the site. They left in haste. The buildings now lie silent once again, caught in the crossfire between heritage and protest. “Why involve private parties at all,” asks Raju, another ABVP leader from the university. “OU can run such a museum itself. Even Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy had once promised ₹10 crore for a museum, but that proposal was never taken up.” Land within the university has long been a bone of contention, with student unions seeing themselves as its vigilant custodians. Over the years, various encroachments — some with questionable legitimacy, others with official paperwork — have eaten into the once-sprawling campus. And for student leaders, every new construction represents another line of defense to hold.

Back in 1994, a one-man commission led by Justice O. Chinnappa Reddy drew a firm red line around OU land. After reviewing years of land dealings, his report cited a crucial resolution passed by the University’s Syndicate as far back as December 26, 1986. It read with finality: “There was a firm resolution of the Syndicate of the Osmania University, totally abandoning the practice of allotting University lands to outside agencies for whatever purpose, educational research or otherwise.” In essence, the university had resolved to shut the door, permanently, on all outside claims to its land. Living culture, not just curios But the question at the heart of the current standoff is this: can an archive of folk memory, painstakingly gathered over half a century, be seen as just another “outside agency”?

“This isn’t a private collection to be locked up in a shelf at home,” says journalist Ramachandra Murthy, one of the earliest and most vocal supporters of Rao’s mission. “These cultural objects have travelled as far as Paris, were once displayed at the Rashtrapati Nilayam, and even spent time in the State Gallery of Art. They are not museum curios for personal gratification; they are pieces of living culture. This kind of collection cannot be managed by an individual. It needs institutional support,” says Murthy. Many in the academic world agree. “The students protesting have been misled,” M. Kodandaram, former professor and civil society activist, had been quoted as saying. “This collection could be of immense value to researchers working on tribal life, history, anthropology and music. It is not just about artefacts; it is about Telangana’s cultural history.” Hyderabad, after all, is no stranger to personal collections becoming public legacies. It is home to perhaps the biggest cache of cultural artefacts acquired by one person — Salar Jung. These objects were the genesis of the Salar Jung Museum, one of India’s largest and most visited institutions of national importance. Tucked into a quiet bylane of Domalguda is another legacy: the Jagdish and Kamla Mittal Museum of Indian Art, with its enviable spread of miniature paintings and manuscripts, a quiet cultural gem of the city. Rao’s journey, however, has been less institutional and far more intimate. He recalls an early turning point, nearly four decades ago, when the full weight of his collection first dawned on him. “I was shifting houses in Chikkadpally area [of Hyderabad]. I had booked a small vehicle for three trips. But as the workers started hauling things down from the attic, they kept discovering more and more. Eventually, they got frustrated and demanded extra money. That is when I realised, this collection had grown larger than I imagined,” he reminisces. Now, nearly 40 years later, Rao stands at another crossroads. His collection, born of long treks through forests, folk memory and fading oral traditions has once again outgrown its shelter. Will it finally find a permanent home within OU’s storied grounds? Or will the struggle to shelter India’s sonic and cultural past continue, one room — and one protest — at a time?

Ancient voyagers brought rice across 2,300 km of Pacific Ocean

Canberra: In a new study published in Science Advances, the earliest evidence of rice in the Pacific Islands was uncovered — at an ancient cave site on Guam in the Mariana Islands of western Micronesia. The domesticated rice was transported by the first islanders, who sailed 2,300 km of open ocean from the Philippines about 3,500 years ago. The discovery settles long-standing academic debates and satisfies decades of curiosity about the origins and lifestyles of early Pacific peoples. The case of the Marianas, located more than 2,000km east of the Philippines and north-east of Indonesia, is especially intriguing.

These islands were the first places in Remote Oceania reached by anyone, in this case inhabited for the first time by Malayo-Polynesian-speaking populations from islands in Southeast Asia. For nearly two decades, scholars debated the timing and the overseas source of these first islanders, the ancestors of today’s Chamorro people.

How did they come to Guam and the Marianas?

Archaeological research has confirmed settlement in the Mariana Islands 3,500 years ago at several sites in Guam, Tinian and Saipan. In 2020, the first ancient DNA analysis from Guam confirmed what archaeology and linguistics had suggested: the early settlers came from central or northern Philippines. Further ancestral links trace them back to Taiwan, the homeland of both their language and their genetics.

What do different cancer drugs do? | Explained

A major new investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism published by The Hindu has revealed that cancer drugs shipped around the world to more than 100 countries have failed quality tests. But what are these drugs and how are they used? Cancer is a disease characterised by uncontrolled cell growth. It is caused by mutations in genes disrupting or inhibiting the normal ways in which cells divide or die. This causes cancerous cells to develop — and when a mass of cancerous cells grows, it can form a tumour. Chemotherapy drugs disrupt this process, and these medicines have transformed the landscape of cancer treatment, improving outcomes for millions of patients. The six types of drug in our investigation — Cisplatin, oxaliplatin, cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, methotrexate and leucovorin — are all chemotherapy treatments. While there are differences in exactly how these drugs work, most share a common goal: to target and kill cancer cells while minimising harm to normal cells.

What is cisplatin?

Cisplatin is a platinum-based drug that emerged in the 1960s from an unexpected discovery. Researchers found that a platinum-containing compound blocked the growth of bacteria, leading to the realisation that it could potentially be used to combat cancer. Cisplatin works by binding to the DNA of cancer cells, preventing them from growing and dividing. The drug is particularly effective against testicular, ovarian, bladder and certain lung cancers. Its introduction has significantly improved survival rates for many patients, whether used alone or in combination with other therapies. However, like all potent medications, cisplatin comes with side effects, including sickness, kidney dam-

age and hearing issues. Cisplatin also suppresses the function of the bone marrow, where new blood cells are produced. The resulting reduction in white blood cells has severe effects on patients’ immune systems, leaving them vulnerable to infection.

What is oxaliplatin?

Oxaliplatin, like cisplatin, is a platinum-based drug. It also works by binding to and damaging the DNA of cancer cells. It is used mainly to treat the more advanced stages of colorectal cancer and following surgery for the removal of colon cancer, to wipe out remaining malignant cells. Oxaliplatin comes with broadly similar side effects to cisplatin.

What is cyclophosphamide?

Cyclophosphamide is another key chemotherapy drug, often used to tackle disease including breast cancer, some types of leukemia (a type of blood cancer), sarcoma (cancer of the connective tissues) and advanced lymphoma (cancer of the lymph nodes). Cyclophosphamide disrupts the DNA of cancer cells. This limits their ability to replicate and mutate. It also causes a drop in white blood cells and can also cause pain when passing urine due to inflammation of the bladder.

What is doxorubicin?

Often referred to as the “red devil” due to its striking colour and severe side effects, doxorubicin was derived from a type of soil bacteria called Streptomyces, and was initially explored as an antibiotic. Doxorubicin is effective against several types of cancer, including breast cancer, leukaemia, lymphoma and sarcoma. It works by interfering



with the cancer cell’s DNA and disrupting the replication process. It is a staple in chemotherapy protocols, despite potential side effects including heart damage, risk of infection, skin changes and hair loss.

What is methotrexate?

Methotrexate is very effective against various cancers, including leukaemia, lymphoma and certain types of tumour. By inhibiting the protein responsible for creating new DNA molecules, it effectively stifles cancer cell growth. Methotrexate is often given in high doses, followed by leucovorin to help protect healthy cells from damage.

What is leucovorin?

Leucovorin, also known as folic acid (not to be confused with folic acid), is a form of vitamin B9. It differs from the rest of the drugs that were tested in the Bureau’s investigation in that it is not technically considered a chemotherapy drug, but a companion to chemotherapy.

Ensuring reliable power in the times of heat stress



Though parts of India may have seen a wetter April and May this year, rising heat remains a concern. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) recently warned of heatwave conditions in parts of Rajasthan and Haryana, and above-normal maximum temperatures across most parts of the country. Moreover, 57% of India’s districts now face “high” to “very high” heat risk, according to a new study by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW). This puts a significant strain on lives, livelihoods, and the power grids of a growing economy. Summer is a period of high electricity bills and cooling requirements, with peak demand growing higher each year.

In April, India’s peak electricity demand was 5% higher than last year’s, with total consumption rising by 2%. Space cooling — one of the fastest-growing uses of electricity — is a key contributor to the rise. While the IMD has forecast a cooler May than initially estimated, many regions of the country are still expected to face above-normal heatwave days and hotter nights. So, how can we ensure that electricity remains reliable during rising heat stress? Immediate and long-term measures are needed across the electricity value chain.

First, India must break the vicious cycle of higher carbon emissions from electricity generation, leading to warming. This can be done through a higher renewables target. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA), cooling accounted for 15% of the global increase in energy demand in 2024, and half the additional energy-related emissions, as coal and gas stepped in to meet the surge. India added 5.6 GW of coal power capacity and nearly 28 GW of solar and wind energy in 2024.A recent analysis by the CEEW shows that renewables paired with energy storage can reliably meet demand, if India’s electricity needs are higher than expected in 2030. A higher renewable energy pathway could save ₹42,400 crore (\$5 billion) in power procurement costs, create one lakh new jobs, and cut air pollutants by 23% in this period. The Union and State government agencies must work together to ensure that land, supply chain, and connectivity challenges to clean energy are addressed. The States such as Maharashtra are leading in making clean energy integration more reliable, for example,

Prevention: tackling diabetes before it happens



There are an estimated 540 million people with diabetes globally, and 95% have type 2 diabetes, the majority of whom belong to developing countries. These numbers are projected to increase to 783 million by the year 2040. India has the second-largest number of people with diabetes in the world with nearly 101 million people currently affected. Today, diabetes is no longer a disease of the rich or older people or an urban phenomenon. Moreover, in addition to the large numbers with diabetes, there are another 136 million people with prediabetes, i.e., people ‘at-risk’ who are likely to develop diabetes soon. Unless an effective prevention and management strategy is developed, the prevalence of diabetes and associated complications will only increase in India. Diabetes also poses a huge economic burden on our country. But more than the economic impact, it is the social impact of diabetes that is of greater concern. The age at onset of type 2 diabetes is progressively decreasing and the disorder now affects a significant number of adolescents and children. While it is bad enough if diabetes occurs at any age, its consequences when it affects the youth of the nation are not difficult to imagine. The onset of diabetes-related complications typically occurs 10 – 20 years after the disorder is first diagnosed. Thus, if the onset of diabetes occurs in individuals at 50 years of age, one needs to worry about its complications only around the age of 65 – 70 years. However, if the onset of diabetes occurs in individuals only around age 20, the possibility of people in their 30s and 40s developing complications of diabetes like kidney failure, blindness, heart attacks, or amputations is very high. This would be a disaster not only for the individual and his or her family but also for society and the nation as a whole. Thus, the adage ‘Prevention is better than cure’ is most applicable in the case of diabetes. Primiordial preventionrefers to a reduction of risk factors of diabetes such as obesity or physical inactivity, thereby decreasing the risk of developing prediabetes or diabetes in the future.

Primary preventionrefers to prevention (or postponement) of diabetes in those in a pre-diabetes stage such as those with impaired glucose tolerance (IGT) or impaired fasting glucose (IFG). Secondary preventionrefers to the prevention of complications of diabetes in those who have already developed diabetes. Finally, the term tertiary prevention is used to describe limiting physical disability and preventing progression to end-stage complications in those who have already developed some complications of diabetes. Although genetic factors undoubtedly play a major role, environmental factors contribute to over 50% of the T2D risk. Our research shows that excess consumption of white rice was strongly linked to a risk of type 2 diabetes due to the high dietary glycemic load. Replacing white rice with brown rice could improve blood glucose and insulin levels. Decreased physical activity is another driver of the diabetes epidemic. In the Chennai Urban Rural Epidemiology Study (CURES), we showed that 50% of new-onset T2D can be prevented just by modifying diet and increasing physical activity. Importance of lifestyle modifications The im-

portance of promoting a healthy lifestyle for the prevention of diabetes and other non-communicable diseases has recently taken center stage. The term ‘lifestyle’ includes our attitudes, habits, behaviours, physical activity (exercise), diet, and our reaction to stress. Several randomised control studies in the U.S., Finland, China, and India have shown that diabetes can be prevented by lifestyle modification. One of the strongest drivers of the diabetes epidemic is a marked increase in sedentary lifestyles, especially in urban areas. However, awareness of the importance of physical inactivity in the causation of diabetes remains low. In the ICMR – INDIAB study, we showed that only 24.1% of people exercised regularly and achieved the World Health Organization recommendation of 150 minutes of physical activity per week. Therefore, the promotion of physical activity in the community is a key step towards controlling the twin epidemic of diabetes and obesity.

Despite the growing evidence of the benefits of exercise, there are still only a few takers for exercise. The reasons are many. Many have ‘starting trouble’ and keep postponing the starting of a regular exercise programme. Even after people have begun, adherence to the exercise regime is even more challenging. While lack of knowledge and awareness about the benefits of exercise are often cited as the reason, lack of motivation appears to be the main issue. This is where doctors can play a crucial role. Specific instructions should be given to patients rather than giving general advice. E.g.: rather than just saying, “You need to exercise”, a doctor should be saying, “You would benefit very much from a brisk walk of at least 45 minutes six days a week”. Such instructions clearly outline the type and amount of time to be spent on the exercise. We need to encourage simple, routine lifestyle changes; tips like using the stairs instead of lifts or parking further from one’s destination and then walking the extra distance or walking to the nearby grocery store instead of using a vehicle. In addition to the benefits of physical fitness with respect to reduced cardiovascular risk, regular exercise also lowers cholesterol, increases insulin sensitivity, and leads to a reduction in doses of insulin or tablets. Besides, exercise has an important effect on mental health as it releases ‘happy hormones’ i.e. ‘endorphins’ which have antidepressant effects and reduce anxiety and stress levels. Individuals who exercise regularly also report an improved sense of well-being and better self-esteem as their body shape improves. Diet is the mainstay of therapy for diabetes mellitus. When a person with diabetes neglects this important aspect of diabetes management, then his/her blood sugars become uncontrolled.An ideal diabetic diet should:

- Be balanced and individualised.
- Be tailored to the patient’s age and weight, physical activity, family diet pattern, and physiological needs, and take into consideration the patient’s preference and food habits.
- Ensure normal growth and development and attainment of ideal body weight.
- An obese patient should restrict calories through a reduction in the intake of carbohydrates and fats.
- Ensure that food must be eaten not only at the appropriate time but also in appropriate amounts.
- Cut down on refined and starchy food items such as white rice, wheat, maida, rava, white bread, potatoes, other tubers, processed foods, and red meat.
- Include mainly high-fibre foods like whole grains, pulses, and all green vegetables.
- Include 3-4 helpings of vegetables (preferably raw as salad) and fruits such as guava, apple, oranges, or papaya.

epic choir performs at cleveland thyagaraja festival



Outside the transit gate at the Salt Lake City airport, 50-year-old marketing professional Bharadhwaj Lakshminarayanan was trying to perfect a gamaka, an embellishment applied to notes in Carnatic music. His 12-year-old daughter, Mahathi, corrected him. Moments later, a group of people waiting to board the same flight joined in, singing a Carnatic kriti. Soon, a mini kutcheri unfolded, with curious onlookers wondering about the genre of music being performed. This is a scene from mid April this year, when Bharadhwaj and Mahathi, along with many other Carnatic students, were on their way to the Cleveland Thyagaraja Festival. First celebrated in 1978, it is now considered the largest Indian classical music fest outside of India. At the festival, this group from Bay Area joined several other smaller groups, who had practised the same set of songs. Together, they came to perform for EPIC Choir, Chennai-based Sishyakulam’s signature choral ensemble.

This year’s performance featured over 250 performers, aged five to 60, sharing a stage before an audience of over 2,000, in an hour-and-a-half long event that is perhaps the largest Indian music choral ensemble ever assembled. “It was like a musical vacation,” said Bharadhwaj over a call, “There is an energy when we all sing together which cannot be described in words. For us, as much as the actual performance, the journey to it was very rewarding.” He was referring to the months leading up to the event, when

An IIT professor in Chennai finds immense joy in birding

For Susy Varughese, a professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at IIT Madras, birdwatching is not a separate hobby she pushes into a packed calendar; it is part of life. “Birding happens along the way,” she says. An active member of Chennai’s birding community, she can tune into bird calls even during morning walk or while sitting at home with a cup of tea. “I am reasonably good at identifying birds through their calls, especially the species in my patch. I can prepare checklists of birds while doing a walk in the morning or even by just listening from inside the house, especially at dawn or late at night,” says Ms. Susy.

Living on the IIT Madras campus has largely been an influence as it is her favourite birding spot in Chennai. “Birds are found in all types of habitats and geographical locations, but the species diversity will vary. Many species we find in Chennai may not be there in Kerala or vice versa. It depends on the type of climatic zones and vegetation, and positioning of the place. For example, if the land mass is on a migratory path, you may find more species during the migratory season,” says Ms. Varughese, adding Chennai, as it turns out, is one of those places. From late September to early May, migratory birds drop in and stay for a while. Asked if birding has influenced her profession, she responds thoughtfully. “Nature inspires everything I do. What I get from immersing in these activities such as birding is that it refreshes, rejuvenates, and refills me with energy and novel ideas,” says Ms. Varughese. For her, engineering and science are human interpretation of what nature has mastered through evolution over millions of years. “All engineering and scientific theories we teach such as fluid mechanics or mass transfer, heat transfer, materials, sensors, controllers and intelligent information/energy storage and transfer can be learnt from living systems around us,” she explains.

Need for National Student Work Policy: Safeguarding students working off and on campus

As India’s higher education sector grows alongside its largely unaccounted informal economy, formalizing student employment both within and beyond campuses to safeguard student workers’ rights has become a national imperative. A policy that emphasizes on the key aspects of student employment is a requirement. Here’s an outline of the policy that starts with key rights and responsibilities of student workers (SWs). Then, within a set of sections, the key areas that such a policy should leverage to safeguard student interests are outlined. It is important to clarify that the primary objective here is directed toward student workers (SWs) operating outside the campus and focuses on the student side of the market.

This is because most of the arrangements made for out-campus employment can be easily applied within campus. The scope for intervention of such a policy is much larger for out-campus than in-campus. The University Grants Commission has the Earn While You Learn scheme paying around ₹4,000 (max.) to students working within campus and a few rules too. But there is a need for a comprehensive policy. Below is just an outline. Further deliberations are needed to address the protection of employer interests and define the roles of other prospective stakeholders. Embedding the symbolism of students’ learning and earning in Indian society is neither new nor particularly difficult. However, proposing a nationwide policy to safeguard their future is a more complex challenge.

- Rights and responsibilities**
- Under the National Student Work Policy, SWs shall have the following rights:
1. The right to a workplace free from harassment, discrimination, and unfair treatment;
 2. The right to timely and complete payment for all hours worked, in accordance with applicable wage laws;
 3. The right to a work schedule that does not interfere with academic responsibilities;
 4. The right to confidentiality regarding academic records and employment details;
 5. The right to report workplace concerns without facing retaliation;
 6. The right to a safe and hazard-free work environment;

Carnatic music gurus in the Bay Area including Hari Devanath, Akila Iyer and Kasturi Sivakumar reached out to their many students to participate in this endeavour. Conceptualised by Sishyakulam, an organisation founded by Neyveli R Santhanagopalan to promote Indian classical arts, the EPIC Choir was formed to foster a culture where children across the US dedicate hundreds of hours to learning Indian classical music. “It gives these students immense musical growth and exposes them to songs beyond traditional kritis. They also learn harmonies and chords,” said musician Shankar Santhanagopalan, CEO of Sishyakulam, and son of Neyveli Santhanagopalan, a recipient of the Sangita Kalanidhi. All this musical action unfolded at the Wolstein Center, which usually hosts basketball events. Over 250 students performed six compositions set to tune by Santhanagopalan.

The final track, ‘Aradhana’, set in Nalinakanthi raga, was among the highlights of the performance, with many children enthusiastically chipping in. “It’s become the theme song for the festival,” said Shankar, who also conducted the choir. He added, “When I told people back home that I had organised a choir, everyone was surprised. But the rewards were rich, not just for the participants but their parents too. It helped normalise the idea of meaningful investment in the arts.” For participants like eight-year-old Sabarish Rajagopal from New Jersey, playing the mridangam on such a big stage was exciting. He learns virtually from Chennai-based Patri Satish Kumar. “I made many friends and jammed along with them too,” said Sabarish, whose father drove them to Cleveland, an eight-hour car journey during which he played the kanjira to some Carnatic tracks. “I also learnt a lot of new musical ideas,” he added. With this year’s choir bringing together over 250 classical music students and their families, the hope for a similar event next year is soaring. Shankar promises to be more ambitious in the forthcoming years with this exercise. He said, “We might try to bring together over 300 students and their families, and maybe even apply for an official record, like the Limca Book or Guinness. The sky is the limit.”



Her recent birding activities include observing the Indian Grey Hornbill over the past two years on and off, a species she finds particularly exciting to see here. “Sometimes, I have travelled to do birdwatching, one of them is the Eagles Nest Sanctuary in Arunachal Pradesh. We did a dedicated 10-day birding in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh many years ago,” she says. Her love for birds began early. As a child, she was fascinated by sunbird nests near her grandmother’s home and warblers flitting through pepper plants during winter. Her curiosity began to grow in her 5th grade by ‘Eureka’, a children’s science magazine, published by the Kerala Shashtra Sahitya Parishad. “But there was none to guide me into ‘birding’ as we know it today,” she says. “I satisfied my curiosity by sketching bird pictures or watching them endlessly. During school, I also had a Myna and Malabar Vernal Parakeet rescued as they fell from the nests.” Well, clearly these early encounters, coupled with her innate nature, laid the foundation for a lifelong passion for birdwatching, one that continues like a quiet joy alongside her scientific career.



7. The right to receive funded proper training and guidance for assigned job duties;
 8. The right to access formal grievance procedures and fair conflict resolution mechanisms.
 9. The right to express political and societal issues without impacting their employment outcomes.
- Student workers’ responsibilities**
- In addition to the rights granted, student employees shall adhere to the following responsibilities:
1. Punctuality and Attendance- Arrive at work on time as agreed upon with the supervisor.- Notify the supervisor at the earliest possible time in case of absence due to illness or emergencies.
 2. Work Performance & Professional Conduct- Perform assigned duties diligently and meet departmental expectations during work hours.- Refrain from engaging in personal activities (e.g., studying, unofficial tasks) while on duty.- Use office supplies, equipment, and resources strictly for work-related purposes.
 3. Commitment to Employment Terms- Fulfill work obligations until the agreed-upon end of the semester or employment period.- Continue work during academic breaks if required by the supervisor.- Provide at least two weeks’ advance notice before voluntarily terminating employment.
 4. Confidentiality & Compliance- Maintain confidentiality as required by the department.- Follow all directives from supervisors and comply with office policies, dress codes, and procedural guidelines.
 5. Workplace Regulations- Prohibit visitors during work hours and enforce this restriction when necessary.

ICAO request to join Air India crash investigation under consideration, probe on as per global standards, say sources



Air India crash Ahmedabad, ICAO request to join Air India probe, ICAO observer status India, Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau AAIB, In its request to the government, ICAO is learnt to have suggested that its presence in the probe will help ensure that international standards. The International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) unusual request of joining the investigation into the June 12 crash of Air India's Boeing 787-8 aircraft in Ahmedabad is being considered by the government, according to senior government officials. Any decision on the matter will be taken keeping in view the procedures and protocols followed for air accident investigations and the needs of this specific probe, they said.

The United Nations' aviation body has requested the government to give 'observer status' to an ICAO investigator in the probe that is being led by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB). There has been speculation that the government has rejected ICAO's offer. Sources, however, indicated that the proposal is under consideration. ICAO usually joins aircraft accident investigations in very specific circumstances, mostly when the accident occurs in a conflict zone or the plane is brought down by military action. Officials said that ICAO's request to join the Ahmedabad crash probe is highly unusual.

"The request is under consideration and has not been rejected. All international protocols and processes, as required for such probes, will be assessed before deciding on ICAO's request. The decision will also be based on the needs of the investigation, which is currently going smoothly

Over 100 high-res cameras, AI-system and Radar units- How NHAI's new traffic system on Dwarka Expressway aim to curb India's infamous road fatalities record

At the control room of Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) on Dwarka Expressway, a video and photo pops up on Abhishek Singh's computer monitor. Singh, a traffic operator, clicks at the 15-second video that records an SUV is passing through at the speed of 163 kilometres per hour at 8.29 am from Bharthal chowk on the expressway. The photo flashes the number plate of the vehicle. The photo and video was generated by the Incident Detection & Enforcement System (VIDES), which is one of the key component of ATMS ecosystem and is equipped with advanced sensors including Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, overview cameras, and radar units on the Dwarka Expressway.

"These are very advanced cameras, which sends accurate visual of the violations. We check these videos and photos, which is created by the AI-powered system from 8 to 10 frames, to make sure that there is no error in the violations. The cameras are right at 90 percent times," said Singh, as he forwards the violations, after auditing, to the NIC for further action by district authorities.

The ATMS on Dwarka Expressway, which became operational from April this year, is the first project to be implemented as per the upgraded policy of National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) issued in October 2023, which mandates the use of advancements in AI technology and new cameras for enforcement of traffic rules. The project is being implemented through Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCCL), a company promoted by NHAI. The new system bridges the gap between district traffic police and the highway authority, and share the camera feed to check violations, issue challans and reduce incident response time. The share of National Highways in fatalities is more than 35 per cent, while only making up about two per cent of the total road length.

The ATMS project on Dwarka Expressway spans a total length of 56.46 km —covering entire stretch of 28.46 km along Dwarka Expressway and another 28 km on the Delhi–Gurgaon stretch of NH-48 from Shiv Murti on NH-8 in Delhi to Kherki Daula Toll Plaza in Gurgaon. The total cost of the project is Rs. 16.7 crore. The ATMS mandates the installation of key five systems- Traffic Monitoring Camera System (TMCS), Video Incident Detection and Enforcement System (VIDES), Vehicle Actuated Speed Display (VASD) System, Variable Message Sign (VMS) and Optical Fiber Cable based networking.

The TMCS enables 24-hours live surveillance of traffic flow, stalled vehicles, and accidents. For this, a total of 110 high-resolution PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) cameras have been installed at the interval of 1 km, covering the full corridor of the expressway. This reduces the need for manual monitoring load and helps in post-incident investigations. To record the violations, the VIDES have been installed at every 10 km, primarily at high-risk zones and accident-prone areas. The system is capable of detecting 14 types of incidents, including over-speeding, two-wheeler or banned vehicle, wrong-lane driving, triple riding, seat-belt violations, and helmet violations. NHAI officials said that a total of 15 VIDES gantry have been installed on the complete stretch. This has been integrated with NIC e-Challan platform, so that respective police department can issue challan at their end. VIDES also helps in real-time traffic data collection. Under the ATMS on Dwarka Expressway, a total of six Vehicle Actuated Speed Display System or VASD has been installed at the interval of almost 20 km for speed awareness, using radar-based detection on LED boards. Officials said that a total of 10 VMS has been installed at the expressway for the smart communication with Commuters. Placed at key locations, including project entries, exits, blackspots, and junctions, VMS provides real-time updates on traffic conditions, diversions, weather, and incidents. "We are providing back end support to the challaning authority. We monitor the complete stretch of the expressway, get the details of every violations and then send cases to NIC where challan can be issued. NIC further share information to the district police, who re-audit the incidents and issue challan accordingly," said Chitranshi to He further said that for road users, ATMS will ensure safer

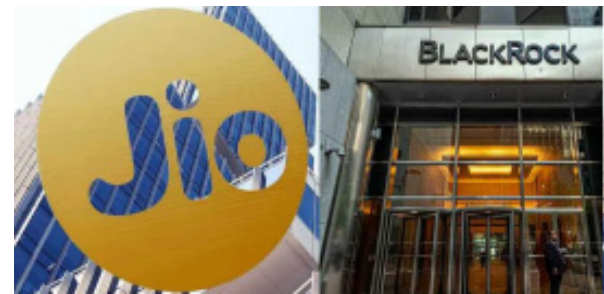
and in line with the laid-down procedures in India that are in line with ICAO guidelines," said a senior government official, who did not wish to be identified. In its request to the government, ICAO is learnt to have suggested that its presence in the probe will help ensure that international standards, procedures, and best practices are followed in the investigation. All but one of the 242 people on board the aircraft perished in the accident, which also led to casualties on the ground. Apart from Indian nationals, 53 British nationals, seven Portuguese nationals, and one Canadian national were among those who perished in the crash.

Another government official said that the AAIB-led probe is already being assisted by representatives from the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), plane maker Boeing, and engine manufacturer GE, and there was no question of international standards and protocols not being followed. The official added that the government has no problem in onboarding any other overseas organization or expert, but provided that such a need is actually there. Instances of ICAO joining air crash probes includes the downing of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in 2014 and Ukrainian International Airlines flight PS-572 in 2020, both of which were accidental shoot-downs around conflict zones. Notably, in both these instances, the investigating agencies had sought ICAO's assistance in the probes, and not the other way around. Extraction and analysis of data from the black boxes of the ill-fated is being done at the AAIB's 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. On Thursday, MoCA 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 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.



roads by timely incident management, reducing accidents, easing congestion, and proactive traffic management. "The major violations that we have seen so far is over speeding, plying of two-wheeler, which is prohibited, seatbelt and helmet violations," said the official. Before, Dwarka Expressway, the old version of ATMS was implemented on 117-km Bangalore-Mysuru Expressway in Karnataka in July, 2024. Built at the cost of Rs. 3.6 crore, the system brought down fatalities from 188 in 2023 to 50 deaths in 2024. The similar standalone projects are under construction on 180-km Delhi-Agra Corridor in Uttar Pradesh, 75-km UER-II in Delhi and 103-km lucknow ring road in UP. Apart from this, In new national highway projects on high density and high-speed corridors of NHAI, installation of ATMS has been made part of the project.

JioBlackRock Broking gets sebi approval to start brokerage operations



New Delhi: Jio BlackRock Broking Pvt Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers Pvt Ltd, has received regulatory approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) to commence operations as a brokerage firm. JioBlackRock Broking aims to bring affordable, transparent, and technology-driven execution capabilities for investors, the company said in a statement. The broking entity's parent company, JioBlackRock Investment Advisers, is a 50:50 joint venture between Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) and BlackRock Inc of the US. Along with the recent regulatory approvals received by Jio BlackRock Asset Management Pvt Ltd and Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers to commence operations, the receipt of the broking license enables the Jio BlackRock joint venture to offer holistic investment solutions. "With JioBlackRock Investment Advisers, we will be able to offer personalised advice to retail investors. Now with brokerage, we will also bring an execution platform for self-directed investors," Marc Pilgrem, MD and CEO of Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers Pvt Ltd, said. Even as JioBlackRock's Asset Management arm introduces innovative mutual funds to the market, and JioBlackRock Investment Advisers prepares to launch operations, the approval for the broking entity adds another dimension to the strategy of democratising investments in India, through easily accessible and digital-first solutions, JFSL MD and CEO Hitesh Sethia said.

5 studios bringing Indian craft into modern homes



In a world dominated by fast-paced mass production and cookie-cutter designs, there is a growing demand for products that carry a historical narrative or an interesting backstory. India is home to a treasure trove of indigenous crafts that are a combination of regional cultural influences, unique artisan skills and time-honoured techniques that have been meticulously practised over decades and sometimes centuries. They encapsulate community practices and are symbolic of rituals and traditions that span generations.

Unfortunately, many such crafts have lost their value today due to a variety of factors, including lack of demand, dwindling number of skilled artisans and stagnation of designs. "At Nolwa Studio, we believe that traditional Indian crafts have the potential to enrich the modern design landscape. Their design language and vocabulary might have stagnated, but the skills, processes and knowledge are definitely relevant and offer us possibilities for contemporary expression and reimagination," says Rohit Naag, Founder and Creative Director, Nolwa Studio. Modern designers are integrating the nuances of indigenous crafts into contemporary products, thereby ensuring that each design carries a piece of history and cultural significance. "Such products embody the value of the human touch. Beyond being a story of patience and remarkable craftsmanship, such products are inherently unique, where no two are alike. They offer the charm of owning something distinctive and whose value only deepens with time. Each craft has a distinct purpose and has evolved with a deep sensitivity to local climates and materials," says Amrita Guha, founding partner, Furgonomics. Such products bring character, meaning, and soul into modern spaces. "They offer a bridge between the past and present, anchoring contemporary living in centuries of culture, symbolism and technique. In many ways, our evolving aesthetic is a return to authenticity, and craft is central to that journey," says Sidharth Rohatgi, Design Director, Fos Lighting. Here is a look at five organisations leveraging the rich heritage of Indian craft to create functional yet aesthetic interior products.

A key trend going strong in luxury lighting is personalisation. Fos Lighting is of the firm belief that lights should not only illuminate a space but also evoke emotion. "Our handcrafted lights invite people to bring a piece of their culture home, sparking nostalgia while adding timeless elegance. Whether it's a brass lotus lamp or a light adorned with Kashmiri embroidery, these elements elevate interiors with layers of story and substance, adding a touch of relevance and emotion," says Rohatgi. The brand works closely with skilled artisans, and their handcrafted lamps and lighting fixtures feature age-old crafts and techniques like inlay and engraving. Brass navkashi work, where intricate hand-chiselled designs are crafted on brass, is used to lend a temple-like grandeur to wall sconces and pendant lamps. Marble inlay from Agra, traditionally seen in Mughal architecture, has been reimaged to enhance the look and feel of table lamps and wall lights with contemporary lines. "We use delicate Rashida embroidery from Kashmir over fabric lamp shades to add texture and depth to lighting. Terracotta and clay work, moulded and painted by hand, finds its way in rustic outdoor lighting and warm ambient fixtures. Often, our artisans themselves suggest which materials or techniques will best express a design. It is a collaborative, evolving process that ensures both craft pres-

Love petting dogs and cats? Watch out for this cyst that mimics TB symptoms



petting dogs and cats, health and wellness, indian express More people are keeping pets, feeding and adopting street dogs and cats, both of which are definitive hosts of this parasite. When 17-year-old Manirul Beg from Haldia came to Delhi a year ago, hoping to get herself treated for tuberculosis, little did she realise that she had been misdiagnosed. She had been suffering from another kind of lung infection linked to contact with dogs and cats. "I am an animal lover and would feed dogs and cats in the neighbourhood," she says. What she had was a hydatid cyst, a zoonotic lung infection that mimics the symptoms of tuberculosis, like prolonged coughing, chest discomfort and general malaise.

Even pet lovers are prone to it if they do not keep to hand-wash hygiene and deworm their dogs and cats on time. "A hydatid cyst is a fluid-filled cyst caused by a parasitic tapeworm infection, the tapeworm being transmitted from animals to humans," says Dr Vikas Mittal, pulmonologist at CK Birla hospital, who is seeing this condition in young people. "So if you are an animal lover, handling animals from close quarters daily, then it's important to get tested for this infection before assuming it to be TB," he adds.

What is hydatid cyst in the lungs?
Hydatid cyst is caused when a person comes into

ervation and innovation in design," says Rohatgi.

Founded by Guha and Joya Nandurdikar, Furgonomics has been reimagining various Indian crafts, such as marquetry, Tarkashi, Sanjhi and Koftgiri for their products. "The intent is to bring lesser-known crafts and the beauty they hold into the products we design, allowing them to reach a wider audience and thrive across generations," says Nandurdikar. The duo has also been exploring craft traditions such as Kari Kalamdani, Pinjrakari, and Khatamband in shutters for wardrobes and partitions and Dokra in console tables. "We enjoy using art forms in unconventional ways. All our products are exquisitely crafted by local artisans who have worked with these materials and techniques for years," adds Guha. Other products from the brand include chairs whose sleek wooden form is enriched with silver edges that showcase Koftgiri, a rare Rajasthani craft where intricate silver inlays are done on iron or steel. They have also designed a tall storage unit featuring two shutters and a base crafted from Basalt (Indian quartzite). The piece is a bold fusion of decorative woodworking techniques like marquetry and Tarkashi, where solid wood serves as the canvas for an artistic interplay of these craft forms. Here, strong geometric graphics are used in an attempt to break away from traditional interpretations of the craft, offering a contemporary lens on age-old techniques.

Nolwa Studio has been reconceptualising traditional techniques by creating pieces that are not only rooted in heritage, but are also novel, contemporary and globally relevant. The brand has been revitalising Bidri, which is an intricate and traditional metal-inlay craft that involves a meticulous eight-step process, in their products like drop tables, lamps and mirrors. "We combined Bidri, which is normally viewed as being purely ornamental, with design sensibilities that are not conventionally associated with the craft, such as avant-garde, organic forms, minimalism, and large-scale applications to create unique expressions that embrace the future while staying rooted. Our objects represent an uncommon scale, and achieving this scale required the development of new casting techniques and engineering innovations, allowing the craft to move beyond surface ornamentation and become integral to the object's form and function," adds Naag. For instance, their monolith and horizon lamp are sculptural objects of illumination, while the drop table is a coffee table with a seemingly levitating base. All these objects celebrate craft, artistry and design and invite engagement, while having an element of functionality. "By combining Bidri metal with wood in Liminal, a futuristic bar-cabinet, we are expanding possibilities for the craft beyond the familiar, thereby creating modern heirlooms that carry tradition into the future," says Naag.

A multidisciplinary studio which believes that "craft is generational while design is intentional", Design ni Dukaan has been creating products where materiality, craftsmanship, and spiritual philosophy converge. "Whether we design a space or a swing, we try to translate the intangible, the nostalgia of crafts and the rhythmic labour of the artisan, into a tangible, architectural presence. Through collaboration with artisans, the craft is no longer just an object; it becomes a functional sculpture and a dialogue between tradition and reinvention," says Veeram Shah, Principal Architect, Design ni Dukaan. The firm has been transforming wardrobe fascia through artistic interventions via textiles, cane, or inlays, making them more than just functional elements. Handwoven pattamadai paai or pattamadai mats from Tamil Nadu have been used not only in wardrobe fascia but also in swings, given their flexibility and ability to fold. "We have also used Sujani weaving from Gujarat to create a partition screen for one of our architectural projects," adds Shah. Their metal dismantle chair is an exploration of precision and modularity, a construction system that eliminates welding, relying instead on an intricate joinery system fastened with Allen keys. Crafted from teakwood and solid milled brass, with brass pipes forming structural connections, the chair is conceived as a kit of parts, allowing for complete disassembly and effortless reassembly.

contact with the faeces of an infected animal, (eggs from the tapeworm are passed in the faeces). The tapeworm eggs trigger formation of cysts in vital organs such as the liver, lungs and brain. If the cysts burst, they could lead to complications like seizures and anaphylactic shock, an allergic reaction that causes the body to release a flood of chemicals. These lower blood pressure and narrow airways in the lungs. You can even get infected if the parasites are present in the saliva or fur of infected animals.

How to diagnose this cyst?
Imaging exams and blood tests are enough. Blood tests can show elevated levels of antibodies to the parasitic infection while imaging exams show the size, shape and location of the cysts. Simple tests can avoid misdiagnosis, which not only causes unnecessary physical and mental stress but can also lead to side effects from prolonged use of strong medications.

How to treat these cysts?
Antiparasitic drugs are good for cysts which are confined to one location. They shrink them. Sometimes, this could be accompanied by a needle or catheter to drain the cyst. A parasite-fighting chemical is injected into the cyst before it's drained again. This is done until the cyst is completely emptied. Bigger cysts need surgery.

Rohit Sharma – ‘Cricket is not played thinking about what happened last time...when the toss happens, the (new) game starts’



GNS News Agency, july 4

It does not do to dwell on the past and forget to live, a famous wizard once said. On the cricket field, like in quidditch, the golden snitch has to be chased down every game, no matter how much past losses hurt. Rohit Sharma hurt like hell when Australia inflicted a home defeat in the ODI World Cup final on India at Ahmedabad. But he would return to win the T20 World Cup, on the way evicting Australia. Speaking on JioHotstar show "Champions Waali Feeling Phir Se," India's T20 World Cup winning skipper Rohit Sharma, recalled how he approached the Australian game in the Caribbean a year later, which now is a year ago. "We knew that if we won this match, Australia would be out. That was a decent motivation for all of us. But cricket is not played thinking about what happened last time. Yes, you want to do well against them. But it is never going to be about the past," Sharma said.

Further explaining he said, "That thing is in the back of the mind — they ruined our 19th November. Not just ours, but the whole country's. So, we should give them a good gift as well. Yes, in the dressing room all this keeps happening among us — between the boys. But when the toss happens, the game starts — then it is all about how you can do your best. When I am batting, I don't think — let's knock them out. It doesn't work like that. I have to focus on how I can play well against them. That was the only thought in my mind — how can I bat well and contribute."

This involved taking on the mighty Mitchell, from the house of Starc. Seeing him looking to contain had given Sharma confidence. "My plan was to attack everyone. I've played against Mitchell Starc for so many years, so I had my own plans. The Australians are very smart. I felt Starc wasn't trying to get me out. When a bowler starts bowling wide and keeping the ball away, he's just looking to survive, to finish his over. For me, half the battle is won there. That knock was very special to me. Yes, hundreds are great, but some of the 60s or 70s, considering the match context and occasion, are bigger. It's the World Cup - it means a lot. So yes, I'd put that innings right up there," he said. But Australia with their pedigree in World Cups remains a tough opponent. "Australia knows how to win World Cups.

ougher new-ball spells in this era, but with openers and first-wicket stands not sustaining a striking dip in overall contributions in the two periods, it all narrows to the faulty one-down bats. Even the stoic Pujara's defences were breached more often at home, his overseas shares failing to string consistent knocks together. Between 2012 and 2019, Pujara tallied 5151 runs at exactly 50.0 at No. 3 with 17 centuries and 21 half-centuries – averaging 60.39 at home, and 39.82 away. In his last 26 Tests between 2020–23, Pujara raised 1306 at 30.37 at No. 3 – 928 of them overseas at 36.89. Among the most prolific run-scorers at home in his prime, the Saurashtra batter got 314 home Test runs at a meagre 24.15 average in this phase. Having topped the charts for most runs at No. 3 between 2011–19, Kane Williamson averaged 54.57 in that period across 68 Tests.

The Kiwi averaged north of 60 at home and forged an equally impressive haul with more runs (3013) away, averaging 49.33 with 10 centuries. The former Black Caps skipper has only buttressed his record at No. 3 with a staggering 71-plus average in the last five years, alien to the rest of the miserable No. 3 syndicate. But in a heavily skewed aggregation, Williamson has courted Bradmanesque levels at home in this time, smashing 1948 at 88.54 – making up 71 per cent of his total runs since 2020. Limited to only 16 away innings in this time, Williamson accorded 668 runs adjusted to 44.53 but heavily influenced by an unbeaten 200 not out on a Karachi flatbed three years ago. India skipper Gill and England's Pope are the only other active No. 3s to cross 1000 runs since 2020, with their uncannily identical averages at 37.74/37.75, respectively, suggesting inconsistent players capable of the occasional spurt of brilliance. With "C/" captaincy added to his profile, Gill has subtly moved down the roster, turned a corner and opened an entirely new chapter in his red-ball career. Despite his first-innings hundred against India last week, it is unclear whether Pope can pontificate Bazball through the whole summer, all the way to an away Ashes and beyond. Test cricket batting seems to be holding shape for now. But its No. 3s are in desperate need of that liberator, the one glorious figure to define a generation and lay down the standards for the rest of the world to catch up to.

GNS News Agency, july 4

Over this weekend in Berlin, the women's FIH Pro League season will come to a close with six teams in action in double-headers. There has been little doubt about which team will finish top of the table, because there really is no one close to the Netherlands in women's hockey at the moment. Having wrapped up the title, the Olympic champions will face Belgium in a no-stakes top three clash. It is at the bottom of the table where the real drama lies. And it involves an Indian team desperate to earn some points to stay in the league for the next season. The three teams that are locked in the battle to avoid relegation are Germany, England and China. While India will face Asian rivals – and arguably the most-improved women's international hockey side in the recent year or so – China, Germany and England go up against each other. Relegation threat

With 9 teams competing in the Pro League (both men's and women's), there are two main storylines to follow. Closer to the top, there is a spot to be won at the World Cup next year (for teams that have not already qualified). And at the bottom, the last-placed team gets relegated from the Pro League for the following year. When the Pro League began, there were initially doubts around the importance of the tournament in the calendar and not many teams were sold on it – including India. But gradually, it has gained prominence and relevance. Many teams still see it as a platform to groom talent but results have a meaning because there are end-goals to work towards.

After 14 matches played, India are at the bottom of the table with 10 points, having won twice in regulation time, and once earning the shootout bonus after a draw. Germany and England have 13 points and 11 points, respectively. A reminder of the points system: An outright win within regulation time of four quarters means a team will be awarded 3 points. A draw means both teams will earn 1 point before a shootout is played. Then 1 bonus point is awarded to the winner of the shootout. There are no points to the loser of a match in normal time.

Former India coach Janneke Schopman is the current head coach of Germany and she'd have been mighty relieved after beating China in a tense match on Wednesday, getting one over a familiar rival in Alyson Annan. Germany have destiny in their own hands as they just have to avoid losing outright against England in both matches. England, just below Germany, would be hoping to pull off at least one outright win. David Ralph's side had a fairly productive home leg in London, where they registered two important wins to earn six massive points – one against Australia and another versus Spain, a mighty impressive 4-1 win in the last match at Lee Valley. It is that result that pushed them above India into a relatively comfortable position. India meanwhile, face two daunting matches against Alyson's China, who'd be smarting after the defeat against Germany's China are, of course, the Paris Olympics silver medallists too and will be red-hot favourites to win the Asia Cup later this year. India coach Hanendra Singh, on the other hand, has seen his side suffer two close defeats against Australia, and managed to hold Argentina to a draw, and then lost twice against Belgium.

For Schopman's Germany, it's simple and in their own hands. They just have to win more points than England. Two draws against England would be enough if they lose both the shootouts. Given their much better goal difference, one outright win for Germany would be enough as India can only equal them in that case. If they lose both matches,

Pakistan are no longer particularly formidable, but there's a tingle to those contests anyway. Sharma recalled the build-up to the India vs Pakistan clash. "Before the India vs Pakistan match, we were told there was a threat — something was going on. So, two days before the game, we weren't allowed to step out of the hotel. The atmosphere started building from there. We were ordering food in, and the hotel was so packed you could barely walk. Fans, media — everyone was there. That's when you realise this isn't just another match — something special is about to happen," he said of the American game. "As soon as we got near the stadium, it already felt like a celebration — Indian fans, Pakistani fans, all dancing and enjoying themselves. I've played so many India-Pakistan games now — I've lost count — but that pre-match energy, that feeling... It's always something else. Nothing compares to it." Rishabh Pant, the flavour of the season in Tests, had set alight that game too and specially in treacherous conditions.

"We just wanted Rishabh to be Rishabh - do all the things he does best, unsettle the bowlers, play freely. And he did that perfectly. His innings was around 42, and on that pitch, that's as good as scoring 70. It was a very challenging surface — something was always happening. The par score there was probably 130 or 140. We ended up with 119. Our plan wasn't to go for 200 — we were aiming for 140. But of course, we lost wickets along the way. And that's when Rishabh played that crucial knock of 40-plus, which really held things together. Eventually, we got 119 — and I actually felt it could still be a good score. Maybe 10—15 runs short, but I knew that if we got 2–3 early wickets with the new ball, that 119 would start to feel like 160." Sharma told JioHotstar. On captaining Jasprit Bumrah and Arshdeep Singh, Sharma said, "With Bumrah, you've got to be proactive in how you use him. He's a wicket-taker, and at the same time, he's not going to leak runs. So, how do you balance that, especially when the opposition is chasing at a run-a-ball? Arshdeep has been phenomenal too. Over the last two years, there's a reason he's become India's highest wicket-taker in T20s — he's a really smart bowler. So, with both of them, my focus was on how to use their remaining overs strategically. You think about which batters are coming in, how would they handle Arshdeep and Bumrah? On that pitch, it was tough for new batters to settle, so our goal was to force new guys to the crease. That was the plan."

however, they'd be under pressure. England are just one point ahead of India, so they are vulnerable too if they can't get a couple of points at least from Germany. England will be safe if India lose both their matches. If England win at least one match against Germany, India will need at least four points from six against China. Finally, India have the toughest task of all three teams. They need at least one positive result from the two matches against China, not easy to begin with. If India get 3 points at least out of 6, England will be forced to win at least one match against Germany. If India somehow get 6 points, they'd still be dependent on England dropping at least one point against Germany. If India do get relegated, then they would have to compete in the next edition of FIH Nations Cup – which is the route they took to earn their current spot in the league. The biggest downside of not being in the Pro League, especially leading up to a World Cup-cum-Asian Games year in 2026, would be the lack of structured matches against the best teams in the world. Teams outside the Pro League would be dependent on arranging bilateral Test matches against top teams, and that would be contingent on said teams having time off from their calendars. Even when Pro League wasn't always a priority tournament, it played a big role in the Indian men's team's run to bronze in Tokyo – just the regularity of competing at the top. Having already suffered the setback of not qualifying for Paris 2024, this would further set Indian women's hockey back.

Hyderabad: Mittapalli Rithvika of Telangana put up an impressive performance, winning a gold, two silver, and a bronze in the 78th Senior National Aquatics Championship at Bhubaneswar.

Rithvika bagged gold with a timing of 33.98 in the 50m breaststroke for women. Harshitha Jayram of RSPB (34.21) and Avni Chahabra of Punjab (34.51) settled for silver and bronze respectively. Vritti Agarwal of Telangana settled for silver in the 1500m freestyle (17:42.36) and 800m freestyle (9:18.16) events, besides a bronze in the 400m freestyle (4:30.05).



"I don't want to be optimistic and get ahead of myself, but we need him because he's a top player, one of the best in the world. We hope he's back soon," Alonso said when asked about Mbappé's availability for the round of 16 game against Juventus.

isolating a player from the main squad for sporting, administrative, or disciplinary reasons. The Ligue 1 club reportedly sidelined the France captain once he refused to extend his contract. The striker was left off a preseason tour to Japan and South Korea and forced to train with fringe players. Mbappe and PSG are in a dispute for a sum of 55 million euros (\$61 million) in unpaid wages, which Mbappe, currently playing for Real Madrid, claims he is owed by the French heavyweight club.

"We need him and we want him back as soon as possible and in the best possible condition," Alonso added. The 26-year-old Mbappe was Madrid's top scorer last season, with 43 goals in 56 appearances. He had been following specific medical treatment to recover from gastroenteritis, Madrid said, but has missed two games since being discharged from hospital. Mbappe has also been in the news for other reasons lately with the French star has filing a complaint against former employers Paris Saint-Germain accusing the French team of 'moral harassment' during the final season of his stay at the club.

The Paris prosecutor's office confirmed on Thursday that the forward had stated in his complaint that he was "lofted" by the club after he refused to sign a contract extension before the 2023-24 season. In France, lofting means

Akshaye Khanna fired Vidya Balan after she refused to do a film opposite him: ‘I was so scared, asked John Abraham to save me’



Vidya Balan, who made a powerful Bollywood debut with Parineeta in 2005, has carved a niche for herself as one of the most respected and versatile actresses in Indian cinema. With a string of memorable performances in films like Heyy Babyy, Bhool Bhulaiyaa, Paa, Ishqiya, No One Killed Jessica, Kahaani, and The Dirty Picture, she's built a legacy defined by bold choices and deeply

layered characters. But behind her confident screen presence is a journey filled with self-doubt, tough decisions, and plenty of learning—especially when it came to turning down films early in her career.

In a recent conversation with Bollywood Hungama, Vidya Balan opened up about one such moment from her early days, when she had to refuse a film opposite Akshaye Khanna—and didn't quite know how to handle it. "I find it much easier to say no today than I did 20 years ago. I was so scared. I remember there was this film offered to me opposite Akshaye Khanna, and for some reason, I didn't connect with the script. But I couldn't pick up the phone and tell him that myself. I asked my manager to convey it to the director instead," she said. The story didn't end there. Vidya Balan later ran into Akshaye Khanna on the sets of Salaam-E-Ishq, and he playfully confronted her. "He fired me!" she recalled with a laugh. "He said, 'Why didn't you tell me you didn't want to do the film?' I was so embarrassed. I went up to John Abraham and said, 'Can you please save me?' I just didn't want any confrontation or to hurt anyone's feelings. But later, I realised he was just pulling my leg." Vidya Balan was most recently seen in Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, marking her much-anticipated return to the franchise after missing out on the 2022 sequel.

When Saroj Khan and Nadeem clashed over Raja song ‘Ankhiyan Milaon Kabhi’: ‘Aapka kaam hai gana shoot karna, gana select kabse karne lagi aap?’

Legendary choreographer Saroj Khan is fondly remembered for the timeless songs she helped bring to life through her masterful choreography. Among the many iconic tracks she's associated with, one standout is "Ankhiyan Milaon Kabhi" from the 1995 film Raja, directed by Indra Kumar. The song remains a favourite at weddings and festive functions even today. However, not many know that Saroj initially disliked the song when she first heard it.

In a recent interview on The Ashok Pandit Show, lyricist Sameer, who penned the song, revealed that the choreographer had a strong reaction upon hearing the track at the music studio. He recalled, "Gana record ho raha tha Sunny Sound mein, Saroj ji aaye gana sunne, aur unhone bola ki Nadeem kya banaya hai tumne, ek hi instrument chal raha hai poore time, main iss mein kya shoot karungi (The song was being recorded at Sunny Sound. Saroj ji came to listen to it and said, 'Nadeem, what have you made? It's just one instrument playing throughout. What am I supposed to shoot for this?')" At the time, composer Nadeem of the iconic duo Nadeem-Shravan, was at the peak of his career. Sameer continued, "Aur Nadeem toh uss waqt shabab par tha toh uss ne bola ki Saroj ji aapka kaam kya hai – gana shoot karna, dance karna... gana select kabse karne lagi aap? Nadeem ne bola ki Saroj ji gana toh yahi rahega chahe aap rahengi ya hum rahenge, magar gana yahi rahega (And Nadeem, who was at the height of his success, responded, 'Saroj ji, your job is to choreograph and shoot the song... since when did you start selecting songs? This song will remain, whether you or I are here or not,



but the song will stay as it is.")

'Who does he think he is?'

The confrontation didn't end there. Sameer added, "Ye sunne ke baad Saroj ji neeche utari gane dete huye Nadeem ko ki ye samajhta kya hai aapne aap ko. Aur unhone bola ki chal tu bhej gana tujhe batati hoon (After hearing that, Saroj ji stormed downstairs, cursing Nadeem, saying, 'Who does he think he is?') And she said, 'Fine, send the song to me – I'll show you what I can do.')" Eventually, Saroj Khan turned the very track she initially rejected into a visual masterpiece. Sameer recounted, "Gana gaya bhaiya poora mix

Aditya Narayan reacts to father Udit Narayan’s kissing controversy: ‘He is now aware that there is something called consent’

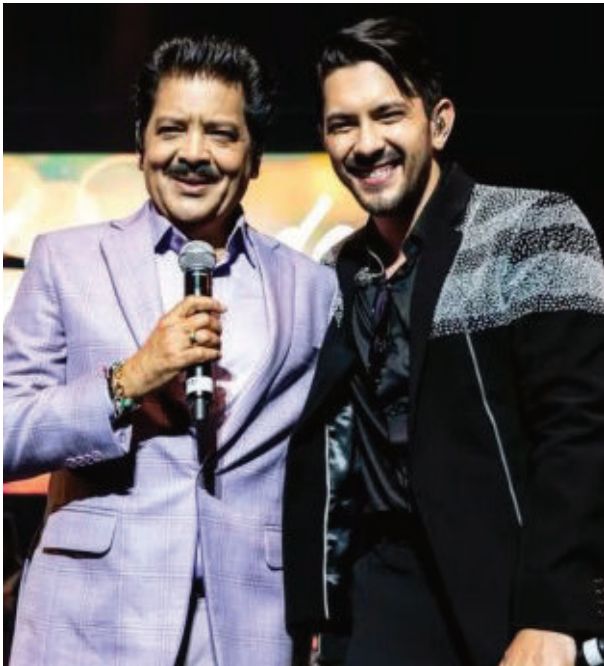
Earlier this year, legendary singer Udit Narayan faced a lot of backlash for kissing a female fan during a concert, sparking a conversation about boundaries and consent involving public figures. The criticism intensified when old videos showing Udit kissing female singers like Shreya Ghoshal and Alka Yagnik resurfaced. Now, in an exclusive interview with SCREEN, his son and singer Aditya Narayan addresses the controversy for the first time. He revealed that the veteran singer has taken the concerns seriously and assured that such incidents won't happen again. When asked about his reaction to the kissing videos emerging on social media, Aditya said, "Internet is a strange thing. Social media is not a real place and what you see on social media is not the full picture. As public figures, we don't have control over every single part of what is broadcast in the world."

Aditya Narayan revealed that Udit Narayan initially struggled to understand the anger and backlash over his actions. "Pehle toh pitaaji ko samajh mein nahi aaya ki logon ko naraazgi kis baat ki hai. He comes from a different time and perspective. There was an era when fans used to throw their undergarments on the artiste on stage. You can't do that anymore. Similarly, he comes from a time when a fan gives you love, you don't consider it incorrect when giving that love back," he stated.

The singer explained the concept of "consent" to his father, and also mentioned how the situation would have been otherwise if it was someone as young as him. "But now, thankfully, we live in a day and age when consent is a thing. He had no idea about it. It is a wonderful, but fairly new development. There are age appropriate terms also now. Shayad mein karta aur koi 32 saal ki ladki hoti, toh itni badi baat nahi hoti. He is now a respected senior member of the music fraternity and his fans range from 6 to 60. So, it depends on who it's happening with," Aditya said. Udit Narayan took a shot at his kissing controversy at a recent event. Udit Narayan at a recent event.

He added, "He wasn't aware. He doesn't come from that generation. He is someone who would never want to be inappropriate. Uske lie main hu, jab unko samajh nahi aata hai toh main samjhaata hu. Now, he is aware that there is something called consent. Maine unko ek hi cheez samjhaayi ki public figure aap hain. How someone expresses their love to you will never become news, how you express that love back is very important because you are a role model."

'You cannot rob a public figure of their right to make



In an exclusive interview with SCREEN, Aditya Narayan addressed the controversy surrounding his father Udit Narayan kissing a female fan on stage.

mistakes'

However, the "Tattad Tattad" singer shared that Udit Narayan was willing to evolve with the changing time. "The amazing part about him is that he is always willing to learn. He understood when I explained it to him. People don't realise sometimes ki vo kisko kya bolrahe hain. He is 70 years old; he comes from a different time. I am not defending him, but we keep evolving. This is one area where there was a lack of evolution," he said. "Now that it has happened, he is aware of it. You cannot rob a public figure of their right to make mistakes and learn from them. Nobody is perfect. You should just accept them and keep learning. We are simple people," Aditya concluded.

Inside Priyanka Chopra-Nick Jonas’ Rs 171 crore Los Angeles mansion: Massive property has a wine room, basketball court, an interior bowling alley



Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas' LA mansion



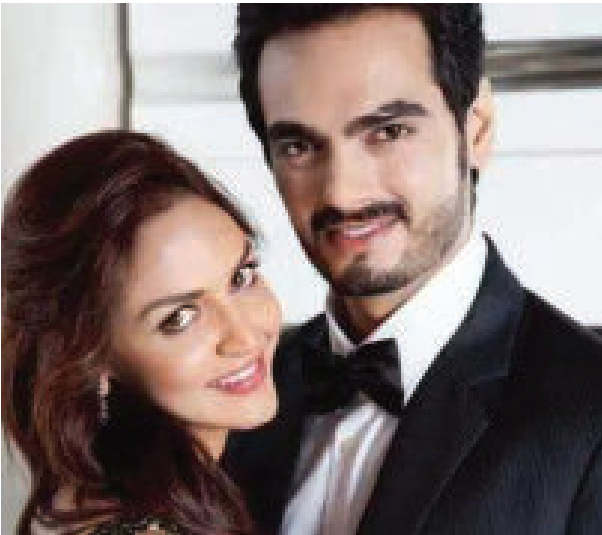
While Priyanka Chopra owns multiple properties, in Mumbai, Los Angeles, and a vacation home in Goa, the actor's LA mansion that she shares with husband Nick Jonas, worth \$20 million, is what grabs many eyeballs. The couple keeps sharing glimpses of their house on social media every now and then. The Encino property roughly translates to around Rs 160-170 crore. Here's a look inside their lavish mansion, where they currently reside.

Priyanka and Nick purchased their \$20 million California mansion in 2019. It is a 20,000 square-foot property which has seven bedrooms, eleven bathrooms, and high ceilings. Confirming the price of their house, Wall Street Journal wrote, "The roughly 20,000-square-foot property has seven bedrooms and 11 bathrooms, according to a description by The Agency, the listing brokerage." The interior of their home is mostly white-themed, giving away a very sophisticated and plush appearance. The spacious house has a lot of wooden architecture in earthy tones. Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas' LA mansion Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas' LA mansion Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas' LA mansion

Esha Deol spotted with ex-husband Bharat Takhtani for the first time after divorce, board a flight together

In a rare and unexpected moment, Bollywood actress Esha Deol was seen alongside her former husband Bharat Takhtani at the Mumbai airport on Friday, marking their first public appearance together since announcing their separation in February 2024. The two were captured by paparazzi as they arrived in the same vehicle. A video shared by celebrity photographer Sneha Zala shows Bharat stepping out first and attending to their luggage before making his way toward the terminal. Esha, maintaining her characteristic grace, briefly walked in the opposite direction before pausing to acknowledge the waiting photographers with a quick pose. Moments later, she joined Bharat at the airport entrance, and the pair proceeded inside together.

Their joint appearance follows closely on the heels of another noteworthy moment, Esha recently shared a family photo on Instagram in honour of Father's Day. The image featured her seated between her father, legendary actor Dharmendra, and Bharat. Captioning the post, she wrote, "Happy Father's Day. Here with my darling papa & Dada to my babies," offering a glimpse into the respectful rapport the former couple continues to maintain. Previously, in a conversation with the YouTube channel Mamaraazzi, Esha was asked whether "being a single mom is more rewarding or if it takes a toll." In response, Esha shared that she doesn't see herself as a single mother and explained: "I don't like to think of myself as a single mother because I don't behave like one, nor do I allow the other person to behave that way with me. Sometimes in life, due to certain circumstances, roles change. And if a particular equation between two people



no longer works, especially when children are involved, it's important for both mature individuals to take responsibility and find a new dynamic, one that keeps the family unit intact for the sake of the children. That's exactly what Bharat and I do." Esha Deol and Bharat Takhtani were married on June 29, 2012, in a traditional ceremony at Mumbai's ISKCON temple. During their 11 years together, they became parents to two daughters, Radhya (born in 2017) and Miraya (born in 2019). In February this year, the couple publicly confirmed their separation through a joint statement that emphasized mutual respect and a shared commitment to co-parenting.

Kajol and Farah Khan fail to identify black cardamom, actors says she doesn’t understand the logic behind ‘less salt’: ‘Namakharam hai saarein’

Kajol may be one of the finest actresses of her time, but when it comes to cooking, she admits she's no expert. In the latest episode of Farah Khan's vlog, the Maa star stepped into the kitchen to try her hand at making Prawn Biryani, under the guidance of Farah and her cook, Dilip. What followed was a hilarious sequence of spice misidentifications and cooking confusion.

As they entered the kitchen, Farah decided to test Kajol's culinary knowledge. She began handing her spices and quizzing her. Holding up shahi jeera, Farah asked, "What is this?" Kajol hesitated and guessed, "Jeera?" Farah wasn't convinced. Kajol tried again, "Ajwain?" Still not right. Farah gave a hint, "Who is the hero you have done most of your films with?" Kajol quickly replied, "Shah Rukh?" Farah laughed and revealed, "It is Shahi Jeera!" Next she showed the actor star anise. Farah asked, "What is this called? Who are you?" Kajol, clueless, responded, "I am the biggest fool!" Farah



Kajol, who is not an expert in kitchen, recently tried her hands at making prawn biryani with the help of Farah Khan and her cook Dilip.

groaned, "You are the biggest star, man! This is star anise!" Kajol burst into laughter as she said, "Acha, I am a star!"

Then came the twist, when Farah herself got stumped. Holding up a spice, she looked confused. "Yeh toh mujhe bhi nahi pata, kya hai yeh? (I too don't know this ingredient, what is this?)" Both turned to Dilip, who with a smile answered, "Badi elaichi (black cardamom)," leaving them both in

splits. As they progressed, Kajol followed Dilip's instructions and added tomatoes. When Farah reminded Kajol to add salt, she enthusiastically said, "Namak toh... I love namak!" A baffled Farah responded, "I love namak? Everyone loves namak." Kajol clarified, "No, no, I really can't do without salt." Still confused, Farah asked, "Bhai, who can do without salt?" Kajol explained, "A lot of people say

'namak kam hona chahiye (we should eat less salt)'. They talk about the right andaz (measure), but I think that andaz is different for everyone." Farah quipped, "Namakharam hai woh saare!" This left them all in splits. Meanwhile, in her interview with Mashable India, Kajol shared that her husband Ajay Devgn is an expert at cooking and very possessive about his recipes.