

## Lt Gen KS Brar, GOC, Dakshin Bharat Area visits TASA

Hyderabad, July 7 Lieutenant General Karanbir Singh Brar, PVSM, AVSM, General Officer Commanding (GOC) Dakshin Bharat Area, visited Headquarters Telangana & Andhra Sub Area (HQ TASA), Secunderabad and various other establishments under his command to inspect their battle effectiveness and operational readiness. During his visit, Lt Gen Brar assessed the operational preparedness of the units under HQ TASA, emphasizing the importance of maintaining high standards of training and administrative efficiency. He interacted with troops, acknowledging their dedication and commitment to service. Notably, Lt Gen Brar lauded the preparation and exemplary display of operational readiness of TASA during Operation Sindhoor, a testament to any formation's operational capabilities and teamwork.

## Women's reservation to be implemented in next Assembly polls: CM Revanth



Hyderabad, July 7 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy announced that a 33 percent reservation for women will soon be implemented in legislative assemblies, with this women's quota set to be active for the next Assembly elections in Telangana.Revanth Reddy announced that, in accordance with the women's reservation bill, a total of 51 Assembly seats in Telangana will be set aside for women. Additionally, the Congress party plans to allocate nine more MLA seats to women, bringing the total to 60 party tickets for women that he will be responsible for distributing in the upcoming Assembly elections.The Chief Minister inaugurated the Vana Mahotsavam-2025 by planting a sapling at the PJT Agriculture University on Monday.Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the State government is committed to the empowerment of the women community

## BJP chief Ramachandra Rao condemns BRS activists' attack on media organisations

Hyderabad, July 7 : BJP State president Ramachandra Rao today strongly condemned the BRS party workers' attacks on media institutions. He said the police had received information that BRS party activists might attack ABN - Andhra Jyothy media institutions. He was angry that the BRS leaders were acting recklessly in the State. He said the people had defeated the BRS party in a big way but the activists of the pink party had not come to their senses so far.He commented that the attacks by the pink ranks and file on the media institutions were evil. He demanded that the State government provide protection to the media institutions. He issued instructions to BJYM workers to immediately provide protection to the ABN - Andhra Jyothy's media institutions. He said if anything was written wrong, legal action should be taken and added there was no point in sitting idle in the issue.In a statement, Rao warned that if attacks on the media institutions and innocent people were carried out from now on, they would retaliate against the BRS party activists. He said the BJP respects media institutions. He also said if there were mistakes in writings or promoting articles against the BJP, they would correct them. He noted that if false news was written intentionally, they would take legal action and would not attack the media organisations because the BJP is a party that respects freedom of speech. The BJP State president warned the BRS leaders that they would now leave their media channel T News if they would continue the attack on the media channels.Meanwhile, Rao expressed anger over the Congress government's statement that it cannot take action against MIM party floor leader Akbaruddin Owaisi owned educational institution, which was built by encroaching upon the land of the Salkam tank in Old city as thousands of students are pursuing their education in the institution. He questioned whether there is one justice for Akbaruddin Owaisi and another for the poor? Rao also questioned whether the lives of those studying in the Akbaruddin-owned institutions were more important to the State government? He was angry that the lives of thousands of the poor living in the Musi river catchment areas were not being taken care of and added that the middle class people, who built their houses with hard work and sweat were fuming by saying that their lives were not worth living.

## KTR to distribute 4,910 KCR Kits to new mothers in Sircilla under "Gift A Smile" campaign

GNS News Agency, July 7  
Hyderabad: Marking his birthday on July 24, BRS working president KT Rama Rao announced that this year's "Gift A Smile" campaign would focus on progress, hope and life. Accordingly, he will be distributing KCR Kits to 4,910 new mothers and babies in Sircilla district.Calling it the most fulfilling initiative so far, Rama Rao said this year's gift would be a tribute to institutional deliveries in Sircilla over the last 18 months.The "If I have to pick a favourite among all schemes introduced by KCR garu, it would be the KCR Kit. What is more life-changing than life itself?" he remarked.Previous years have seen initiatives such as 108 ambulances being deployed to government hospitals (2020), 1,400 tri-wheelers for the differently-abled (2021), 6,000 tablets being distributed to needy students (2022), laptops being provided to 116 meritorious children from a State home (2023)..

and is implementing many empowerment schemes, including the responsibility of setting up solar plants and running government schools to girls. Moreover, it has provided Rs 21,000 crore loans to women groups this year," he said. The Chief Minister also highlighted the state government is providing free RTC bus travel to women and encouraged them to rent out a fleet of 1,000 buses to RTC and made them the owners of the buses. Women's groups are being provided a facility to market their products at the High Tech city where the multinational companies are located," he disclosed. Reiterating that the government has set a target of making one crore woman millionaires, Revanth Reddy said women SHGs will also be formed in the urban areas. The government is making all efforts to empower women in all fields and ensure women lead a decent life with self respect in the Indiramma regime, he said.

The Chief Minister further stated that the State government has set the target of planting 18 crore saplings under 'Vana Mahotsavam 2025' this year.He recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to people to plant a sapling in the name of Amma (mother) and urged mothers also take the responsibility of planting saplings in their children's name. A popular saying from the older generations that the forest ecosystem and our living are integral ' is still relevant and two saplings should be planted in every house. Then, the Telangana will turn into a complete Green Zone if we nurture trees like our children," Revanth Reddy added.

## KTR condemns police attack on party ex-MLAs, demands Seethakka's resignation

GNS News Agency, July 7

BRS party working president KTR today strongly condemned the police brutality against former BRS MLAs Peddi Sudarshan Reddy and Gandra Venkataramana Reddy as well as other party leaders and activists. He questioned whether there was even a right to protest peacefully in a democratic country. He said it was undemocratic for the police to stop the peaceful agitation being carried out by the BRS party in protest against the death of Chukka Ramesh, who committed suicide due to harassment by Minister Seethakka's followers.KTR said seeing the Mulugu police, who stopped the BRS peaceful protest in the name of the Police Act and only



giving permission to the visit of the Congress leaders, it was clear that some police were working like puppets for the ruling party. KTR alleged that the police, who have been raiding villages across Mulugu constituency since midnight of the Sunday, were illegally arresting the BRS party activists and leaders. He demanded that the Mulugu police should tell

## Meenakshi approves appointment of in-charges for combined districts

Hyderabad, July 7 AICC In-charge for Telangana, Meenakshi Natarajan has approved the proposal for the appointment of In-charges for combined districts for organizational restructuring, right from village to district level, with immediate effect.Khammam: Challa Vamshi Chand Reddy, Special Invitee, CWC; Nalgonda: Sampath Kumar, AICC Secretary; Warangal: Adluri Laxman Kumar, Minister; Medak: Ponnamp Prabhakar, Minister; Hyderabad: Jagga Reddy, PCC wrking president; Mahbubnagar: J. Kusum Kumar, PAC Member; Adilabad: M. Anil Kumar Yadav, MP (Rajya Sabha); Karimnagar: Addanki Dayakar, MLC; Nizamabad: Azmathulla Husseini, Chairman, Waqf Board; Ranga Reddy: K. Shivasena Reddy, Chairman, Sports Authority.

## CM Revanth urges Centre to host Khelo India Games in Telangana



New Delhi, July 7 Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has reached out to Union Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs Mansukh L. Mandaviya, urging him to consider hosting the Khelo India Games-2026 in Telangana.He suggested that the Union Minister explore the option of organising national games, as well as both national and international events in Telangana, alongside the Khelo India initiative.Revanth Reddy met Mansukh L. Mandaviya at his official residence in Delhi on Monday. During this meeting, he advocated for the allocation of funds to enhance sports

infrastructure, train athletes, select sports experts, and support various programmes under the Khelo India initiative. The Chief Minister requested that Rs.100 crore should be allocated for construction of synthetic athletic track and multipurpose indoor stadium at Bhuvanagiri, swimming pool at Rayagiri, synthetic athletic track at Palamuru University in Mahabubnagar, multipurpose hall at the Satavahana University in Karimnagar, archery range at Hakimpet, Hyderabad, synthetic hockey field, squash court, natural football field development and synthetic track at the LB Stadium, renovation of hockey ground at Gachibowli, synthetic athletic track at Mahatma Gandhi University in Nalgonda.He mentioned that the state government is currently making all possible efforts to enhance sports facilities and has requested the Union Government for sufficient support.The Chief Minister also urged the Union Minister to host at least two events in Telangana during the Olympics scheduled for 2036. Revanth Reddy additionally asked for fare concessions on train travel for athletes competing in national-level sports events, similar to arrangements made in the pastSubsequently, the Chief Minister met former Indian cricket captain Kapil Dev at his home to discuss the establishment of a sports university in Hyderabad. Hindi film actor Ajay Devgan also visited Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's residence to express his interest in creating an international film city in Telangana. He proposed the establishment of VFX and smart studios, incorporating AI technology.

## Revanth to chair Cabinet meet on July 10.



Hyderabad, July 7 : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will lead the Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat at 2 PM on July 10, as confirmed by an official announcement from the state government on Monday.Sources indicate that the Cabinet will likely address the upcoming local body elections in Telangana, aiming to make a decision on this matter. The High Court has mandated that these elections be conducted by September 30, suggesting that this topic will be a focal point during the meeting. In addition to this, with the arrival of the rainy season, discussions may also revolve around farmers' issues. Plans are expected to be formulated to ensure that farmers do not encounter hardships during this period. Moreover, other welfare schemes may be on the agenda, particularly regarding the construction of Indiramma Houses, which is anticipated to be revisited in the Cabinet discussions.

## Konda Surekha advocates collective responsibility for environment

Hyderabad, July 7 Minister for Forest, Environment, and Endowments Konda Surekha, has emphasised the importance of celebrating the Vanamahotsavam programme as a genuine Janamahotsavam (people's festival).She highlighted that fostering environmental awareness is a collective responsibility, urging the people to take part in this noble cause for the protection of environment."Vanamahotsavam should not be confined to just one day. It needs to evolve into a statewide movement involving the collective effort of citizens to enhance the greenery, cleanliness, and sustainability of Telangana for future generations," Konda Surekha stated.The state-wide plantation drive officially began at Rajendranagar Agricultural University on Monday, where Chief Minister Revanth Reddy launched the campaign by planting Rudraksha saplings.The event marked the beginning of this year's green initiative aimed at increasing the state's green cover and promoting ecological balance.

Speaking at the event, Minister Konda Surekha emphasised the need to view nature not just as a resource, but as a part of our cultural and spiritual heritage.Our tradition teaches us that those who protect trees will, in turn, be protected by them – as the ancient saying goes, 'Vriksho Rakshati Rakshitah'. Planting and nurturing trees is deeply rooted in Indian culture," she said.The Minister expressed her happiness in leading the green movement in her capacity as the State's Forest and Environment Minister and reiterated the government's commitment to ecological sustainability under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth ReddyShe stressed that the Vanamahotsavam programme must be implemented in a structured, target-driven, and well-coordinated manner across all districts.Konda Surekha instructed the Forest department and allied departments to identify suitable lands well in advance, particularly focusing on using the monsoon season effectively for mass plantation drives.



Hyderabad, July 7 Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma to present the FTCCI Excellence Awards 2025 on Tuesday at Taj Deccan, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The 108-year-old FTCCI, one of India's most dynamic regional chambers, has come out with its prestigious Annual Excellence Awards 2025. The awards will be presented in 19 categories. Initiated in 1974, the FTCCI Excellence Awards aim to promote excellence and the spirit of entrepreneurship across the State. Over the past five decades, the awards have become among the most coveted recognitions in Telangana.Dr Suresh Kumar Singhal, president of FTCCI, emphasised the chamber's legacy in identifying and recognising outstanding contributions to industry, commerce, and trade. "These awards are given to organisations known for quality production, innovation, sustainable growth, and significant contributions to the state's GDP," he said.

Ramakanth Inani, Chair, FTCCI Excellence Awards Committee & Past President, elaborated on the award categories, which include: Excellence in Industrial All-Round Performance – Large Industries & SMEs; excellence in Agri-Based Industry; excellence in export performance – Large Industries & SMEs; excellence in CSR, Aerospace & Defence Industry, Pharma; Excellence in ESG Performance – Large Industries; Excellence in Tourism Promotion & Hospitality; Excellence in Marketing Innovation; Excellence in Product Innovation – Large & SME; Excellence in

Health Care Innovation; Excellence in Research & Development – Large Industries; Excellence in Start-up; Excellence in Digital Tourism.

Additionally, awards will be presented in individual categories such as Excellence in Science & Engineering; Women Entrepreneurship; Self-sustaining Effort by a Differently Aabled Person; Social Entrepreneurship; R. Ravi Kumar, Senior Vice President, FTCCI, noted that the awards are highly credible and greatly boost organisational morale, encourage quality improvements, and bring prestige to the winners.Srinivas Garimella, Member of the FTCCI Excellence Awards Committee and Chair, Industrial Development Committee, shared that the awards were open to all businesses based in Telangana, and the process was completely digitised. The entries were evaluated by a distinguished jury panel, including: Justice Challa Kodanda Ram, M. Gopal Krishna, IAS, retd, Ajay Mishra, IAS, retd, B.P. Acharya, IAS, retd and Prof. Uday B Desai, Founding Director, IIT Hyderabad.

## Census data will be available early, residents can self-enumerate: Registrar General of India

Census data will be available early as the ensuing Census will be the first digital Census in the country, Census India 2027, the official handle of Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (RGI and CCI) posted on X on Monday (July 7, 2025). The first digital Census and will be conducted in two phases and "for the first time technology will be used to collect data and send it electronically to the central server" and "this will result in early availability of Census data," RGI said. In the previous Census, it took at least 2-3 years for primary data to be available.



# Indian Chronicle

## English Daily

### India, US make a quantum leap

There was a time when technologies like quantum computing, cryptography, sensing and networking were confined to the university corridors and research labs. That era is over. These technologies are now a pillar of national security, economic competitiveness, and even geopolitical dominance. Countries that lead in quantum will shape encryption standards, surveillance capabilities, and next-generation warfare.

The India-US quantum technology cooperation is one of the most significant bilateral partnerships in emerging technologies. This strategic alliance encompasses quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing, and quantum materials development, with both nations recognising quantum technology as a critical component of national security and economic competitiveness. The foundation of India-US quantum cooperation rests on the US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (ICET), established following the May 2022 announcement by President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Beyond diplomatic symbolism, it includes two key mechanisms: Indo-US Quantum Coordination Mechanism: Is a collaborative platform fostering research and linking industry, academia, and government entities from both countries. Its second meeting took place in Washington in August 2024, underscoring sustained engagement. US-India Science and Technology Endowment Fund (USISTEF): Has already invested over USD 2 million into quantum and AI research, with six groundbreaking quantum projects. In January 2025, both nations issued a joint declaration emphasising enhanced cooperation in quantum science and technology. It promised to push the boundaries of cooperation in quantum communication, post-quantum migration and security, and digital twins.



Met with Smt Harichandana Dasari, IAS Collector and District Magistrate, Hyderabad District and submitted a representation for allotment of Land for Association Building and for accommodation for TGOS Association Hyderabad District branch office in the Collectorate premises. Hyderabad District Collector has responded positively and assured for the same. In the delegation met with the District Collector includes Mr M.B. Krishna Yadav, President Mrs Enjula Reddy Vice President, Mr Mohd Abdul Khader, Secretary Mr MV Ramana Treasurer and other office bearers

## Empowering Future Innovators: Minister Sridhar Babu Champions Digital Transformation in Manthani



“PS Ashokan” Indian Chronicle “Manthani, July 5. — Government School Students to Receive Training in Artificial Intelligence and Spoken English— ?10 Crore Worth Development Projects Inaugurated and Launched Across Manthani Town” “In a visionary move to align education with the demands of the digital era, Telangana’s Hon’ble Minister for IT, Industries, and Legislative Affairs, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, asserted the necessity for students to attain profound awareness of emerging technologies. He stressed the critical importance of equipping youth with skills in Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, and effective communication, especially in Spoken English, to thrive in a globally competitive landscape. “During his extensive tour of Manthani on Saturday, accompanied by District Collector Sri Koya Harsha, the Minister laid foundation stones and inaugurated multiple high-impact development projects, marking a significant stride in infrastructure and educational enhancement. “?? Major Initiatives Unveiled: “?35 lakhs allocated for a state-of-the-art Synthetic Tennis Court at Manthani Junior College Grounds” “?10 lakhs for a modern Children’s Park” “?4.05 crores for the beautification of Ravula Cheruvu” “?2.99 crores for the beautification of Ayyagari Cheruvu” “?2.55 crores for a new 33/11 KV Power Substation at Gangapuri” “?? Empowering Communities: “Children’s Park at Boyinipet constructed at a cost of ?12 lakhs” “Launch of a Free Women’s Tailoring Training Center, facilitated by Usha International with support from the Government of Telangana” “Inauguration of the Brahma Teertha Mukti Dham,

## Tata Motors launches Ace Pro: India’s Most Affordable 4-Wheel Mini-Truck, starting at Rs. 3.99 lakh



Hyderabad: Tata Motors, India’s largest commercial vehicle manufacturer, creating a new milestone in cargo mobility with the launch of the all-new Tata Ace Pro, heralding a transformative era in small cargo mobility. With an unbeatable starting price of just Rs. 3.99 lakh, the Tata Ace Pro is India’s most affordable four-wheel mini truck, delivering exceptional efficiency, unmatched versatility, and superior value. Designed to empower a new wave of entrepreneurs, the Tata Ace Pro is available in Petrol, Bi-Fuel (CNG + Petrol), and Electric variants – providing customers with the flexibility to choose the ideal solution for their business needs.

Customers can book their preferred Ace Pro variant at any of Tata Motors’ 1250 commercial vehicles sales touchpoints across the country or on Fleet Verse, Tata Motor’s online sales platform. To make ownership of the Tata Ace Pro convenient, Tata Motors has collaborated with leading banks and NBFCs to offer hassle-free financing solutions, including quick loan approvals, flexible EMI options, and enhanced funding support, tailoring to diverse customer

needs.

Launching the Ace Pro, Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director, Tata Motors, said, “The launch of Tata Ace had revolutionised cargo mobility in India. Over the past two decades, it has successfully empowered more than 25 lakh entrepreneurs to become a symbol of progress and possibility. With the all-new Tata Ace Pro, we are building on this legacy with renewed purpose for a new generation of dreamers. Engineered for stability, safety, and profitability, the Ace Pro unlocks greater earning potential to fulfil the ambitions of aspiring entrepreneurs ready to take charge of their future.” Speaking about the Tata Ace Pro, Mr. Pinaki Halder, Vice President & Business Head – SCVPU, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, said, “The purposeful Tata Ace Pro has been developed with deep customer insights and engineered to meet a diverse range of applications. It has undergone rigorous testing across various terrains and weather conditions, covering lakhs of kilometres. With its multi-fuel options, easy affordability and enhanced drivability, the Tata Ace Pro delivers superior value across diverse use cases. It’s a strategic addition to our portfolio that strengthens Tata Motors’ commitment to enabling entrepreneurs and small businesses with dependable, future-ready mobility solutions. With its long coastline, port-led trade and a growing MSME ecosystem, Andhra Pradesh presents a compelling landscape for the Tata Ace Pro range. Cities like Visakhapatnam, Nellore and Vijayawada, major hubs for pharmaceuticals, dairy, and agri-exports, are witnessing intensified logistics activity across farm-to-port and intra-city corridors. In these fuel-conscious markets, the Tata Ace Pro Bi-Fuel offers an ideal solution, balancing daily operating costs with dependable performance and a comfortable, safer cabin for long hours on the road.

## Report on Minor Repairs to be Undertaken at the Social Welfare Residential School - District Collector.

“Khammam Bureau, July 05, Indian Chronicle.” “District Collector Anudeep Durishetty stated that steps are being taken to ensure the provision of essential basic amenities for students studying in residential educational institutions. The Collector visited several institutions in Khammam city, including the Telangana Social Welfare Residential School and Junior College at Danavaigudem, Dr B R Ambedkar Social Welfare Junior College (Girls), the Minority Residential School and College at Koyachilka Crossroad and the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Girls Gurukul School. On this occasion, the Collector said that the development works sanctioned at a cost of 1.5 crore for the Social Welfare Gurukulam should be initiated and completed promptly. He instructed that a perimeter wall be constructed, and water supply be ensured to the Gurukulam’s water tank through Mission Bhagiratha, thereby resolving water issues. After inspecting the dormitories and toilet blocks within the Gurukulam, the Collector inquired about student enrollment details. He directed officials to submit a report on the minor repair works needed in the Gurukulam. He also stated that arrangements would be made to set up tables in the dining hall. At the new bus stand area, the Collector inspected the work being done at a cost of 10 lakh at the Dr B R Ambedkar Social Welfare Residential Junior College (Girls). He suggested proposals be submitted for constructing two additional dormitory blocks and six more rooms on the upper floor, based on student strength. The Collector noted that students studying in government residential educational institutions have been achieving excellent results in national level competitive exams such as IIT and NEET, emphasized the need to motivate students from the district to aim for such accomplishments. Later, during his visit to the Minority Residential School at Koyachilka Crossroad, he advised that students should allocate time daily for both study and sports, and consume nutritious food. He stressed that education opens up many opportunities and enables individuals to reach great heights. “He also addressed the issue of monkeys on the premises of minority residential institutions, promising action to resolve the issue and suggesting that grills be installed where necessary. At Mahatma



Jyotiba Phule Educational Institution, he called for the resolution of street lighting and drinking water supply problems and directed that toilet block repairs be carried out. He recommended coordination with the Rural Development Department to construct community soak pits. The District Collector was accompanied on this tour by Social Welfare Zonal Officer Swaroopa Rani, District Minority Welfare Officer Dr. Purandar, Principals Vijayadurga, Shailaja, Rajyalakshmi, RLC Arunakumari, teachers and other officials.”

## Indiramma Housing Scheme to Enable the Poor to Live with Dignity - Deputy CM.“

“Khammam Bureau, July 06, Indian Chronicle.” “Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu stated that the state government is constructing Indiramma houses so that the poor can live with dignity, fulfilling every poor family’s dream of owning a home. On Sunday, during his visit to Madhira mandal headquarters, he laid the foundation stone for tourism infrastructure works worth 6.45 crore at the Madhira Tank Bund. Later, at the PVR Function Hall, he distributed approval letters to Indiramma housing beneficiaries from Madhira, Errupalem and Bonakal mandals. District Collector Anudeep Durishetty also participated in the event. Bhatti Vikramarka stated that people trusted the Indiramma government to fulfill their dream of owning a home, and that dream is now being realized. He noted that the government is sanctioning 5 lakh for each house, with the first phase involving the allocation of 4.5 lakh homes at a total cost of 22,500 crore. He emphasized that beneficiaries are being selected transparently, regardless of political affiliation. Referring to his earlier padyatra (foot march), he said the government is working with the goal of solving the problems he witnessed firsthand. He said the government is spending thousands of crores to ensure every poor person can live in a home with dignity. “He listed the welfare schemes being implemented Supplying subsidized rice to 93 lakh ration card holders, LPG cylinders at ?500, 200 units of free electricity, Pensions for the elderly and differently-abled, MGNREGA rural employment, Quality education through Young India Gurukulams, 40% hike in diet charges at gurukuls, Recruitment of 56,000 government jobs, 8,000 crore for self-employment units under Rajiv Yuva Vikasam, 10 lakh coverage under Aarogyasri health scheme for each ration card-holding family, 500 per quintal bonus on fine rice variety, 2 lakh loan waiver completed, 12,000 per acre support under Rythu Bharosa, with 9,000 crore disbursed in the first 9 days, Interest-free loans under Indira Mahila Shakti scheme, He asserted that the current administration is fixing the financial damage caused by the previous government. He added that the government is working to bring pride and development to Madhira. Bhatti Vikramarka stressed that building one’s own house is a



sacred task and encouraged beneficiaries to use the 5 lakh aid wisely to construct quality homes. He instructed officials to control the prices of construction materials like cement, steel, and bricks at the mandal level. He urged beneficiaries to use quality materials so the houses remain durable for at least 10 generations. He said he would attend the housewarming ceremonies once construction is completed. “District Collector Anudeep Durishetty shared his delight in distributing approval documents to 1,544 poor beneficiaries from Madhira, Errupalem, and Bonakal. He said 5 lakh will be deposited in phases and sand will be provided free of cost from nearby reaches. Rayala Nageswara Rao, Chairman of the State Warehousing Corporation, said the Indiramma government has ensured welfare schemes like housing and ration cards reach the poor. He added that women have been prioritized with free bus travel and 200 units of free power under the Deputy CM’s leadership. He noted developments in schools and local employment through job fairs. Bhatti Vikramarka also laid the foundation stone for tourism facilities at the Madhira Tank Bund, which include three cottages, a banquet hall, restaurant, children’s play area, and parking facilities. The event was attended by public representatives, Tourism SE Saritha, district tourism officer, district panchayat officer Ashalatha, Housing PD Srinivas and other officials.”

## Trees are the Lifeline of Humanity – SCCL CMD N. Balaram, IRS. “-Target to plant 4.5 million saplings this year.



“Rayala Kishore, July 6, Indian Chronicle: “Singareni CMD N. Balaram stated that trees are the foundation of life on Earth and that without forest wealth, the survival of living beings become dire. On Sunday, he participated in the state government’s Vanamahotsavam programme in Ramagundam Area-1 and personally planted 500 saplings. “He called upon everyone to move forward with the slogan “Every Step Towards Greenness.” He mentioned that this year they have set a target to plant 4.5 million saplings. “Known as the “Telangana Tree Man,” N. Balaram has, since 2019, personally planted 19,570 saplings at 52 locations across Singareni, which have now grown into thriving mini-forests. “He emphasized that environmental protection is everyone’s responsibility and appealed to people to plant at least three saplings in any available space around them and nurture them. He remarked that it is not necessary to leave behind wealth for future generations—growing trees and handing them over is the greatest asset we can provide. “He shared that Singareni has already planted more than 70 million saplings across 14,000 hectares, which today have developed into large forests. As a result, the Singareni regions have lower temperatures compared to other areas—a feat made possible only through tree planting, he noted. “He explained that whenever new mines are started or roads are expanded, and trees need to be removed, they have ensured the trees are not cut down but instead relocated and replanted elsewhere using translocation methods. “Personally giving top priority to environmental protection, he said it gives him immense satisfaction that the saplings he planted have now grown into 40 mini-forests. “He added that Singareni Collieries Company has set the goal of planting 4.5 million saplings this year and has already planted around 500,000. He urged all areas to conduct the plantation drives vigorously. “Inspired by the CMD, Ramagundam Area-1 General Manager Lalit Kumar, along with other officials, workers, and union leaders, planted 500 saplings. “Later, General Manager Lalit Kumar said that CMD N. Balaram, despite holding the highest office as Chairman, has set an inspiring example by personally planting saplings, and he appealed to everyone to follow his lead and plant trees. “The event was attended by CMOAI President B. Mallesh, AITUC Deputy Secretary Maddy Ellayya, Seva President Anita Lalit Kumar, senior area officials, workers, and trade union leaders.

## Grand Celebrations of the First Ekadashi (Shayana Ekadashi) at Karigiri Sriranganatha Temple.“



“Khammam Bureau, July 06, Indian Chronicle. “The first Ekadashi celebrations, also known as Shayana Ekadashi, were held with grandeur at the Karigiri Sriranganatha temple, located atop Ranganayakula Gutta in Khammam city. The event began with a special abhishekam (ritual bath) performed for Sri Lakshmi Ranganatha Swamy along with Sri Bhudevi and Neeladevi, conducted according to Vedic traditions by temple priests Burugadda Venkatakrishnamacharyulu, Venkata Ranganath and Acharya Sandeep. This Ekadashi is known as Shayana Ekadashi and Karigiri Sriranganatha Temple is the only shrine in Khammam district where Lord Vishnu is enshrined in a reclining (Shayana) posture.

Hence, a large number of devotees thronged to have darshan of the deity. Following the rituals, Sudarsana Homam and Maha Purnahuti were performed with great pomp. Female devotees and members of the Sri Ranganatha Bhakta Brundam recited the Vishnu Sahasranama Stotram eleven times as part of the spiritual program. The event was attended by Julakanti Satish Kumar, local corporator Rudragani Sridevi Upender, Jangam Ramesh and his wife, Gannavarapu Srinivasa Rao, Kandibanda Narasimha Rao, Eede Srinivas, Vangaveeti Ashok, Garine Ravikumar, Bollam Yakayya, local devotees and notable figures from the town.



## Dr. A M Reddy - 'The Man of Homeopathy'.



“Khammam Bureau (Praneeth Kumar Pathakamudi), July 06, “Indian Chronicle.” “Dr. A M Reddy, A Homeopathic healer of international fame whose revolutionary remedies bought hope and healing to countless patients started his journey back in the early 2000s. He has completed his BHMS from Gulbarga University and his Master’s from Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar University in Aurangabad, Maharashtra. Since the 2000s, he has dedicated his entire life to helping people, following the guidance of the Great European and Father of Homeopathy, Dr Samuel Hahnemann. We all know Dr A M reddy as a first-generation businessman, a Philanthropist but he had endured ups and down in life that made him the prestigious and humble man he is right now.”? Early Life.” “Born and Bought up in Kurnool, Dr A M Reddy was very active and mischievous as a kid. After completing his Master’s, he acquired hands-on experience under the guidance of Dr K Shiva Shankar for one year and later Established his own Homeopathic clinic with 50,000 Rupees in the 2000s under the name of Krishna Sai and started his journey to heal people and never looked back.”? The Journey.” “Post establishment of his first-ever clinic, He realized that there was not much awareness of what homeopathy is and how it works. So, Dr A M Reddy decided to take this to the next level thus giving birth to 'Positive Homeopathy' in more than 20 districts. In 2007, the first-ever branch of Positive Homeopathy was inaugurated in Hyderabad and he expanded it later to 10 branches in Hyderabad and other branches in Chennai (2013), Coimbatore, and Bangalore. This establishment was the turning point in his career. He has received various accolades, and got recognized as 'The Man of Homeopathy'. Later in 2016, he rebranded Positive Homeopathy to 'Dr Care Homeopathy'. “At Present, Dr Care Homeopathy is spread over India with 50 plus clinics, 300 plus Doctors and 40 plus Lakhs patients treated. The motive

behind these establishments and expansions is that he believed that it was his responsibility to help people in need as he has the knowledge to do it and never gave up from that point.”? Different, Not Less.” “Autism is a developmental disorder that affects communication, social interaction and behavior. In India, there is a lack of awareness and understanding of Autism, leading to delayed diagnosis and inadequate support for affected individuals and their families and Dr A M Reddy found it the hard way. Over the years, he came across numerous patients who were suffering from Autism or ASD and saw their parents suffer due to the stigma around it in India as they used to look at Autistic people as less privileged. Dr A M Reddy’s heart was broken. So, he decided to embark on a journey to find a cure for Autism. He has traveled abroad to research about Autism as there was minimal to no research done on Autism at that point in time. In 2018, he started his own first-ever Autism clinic named 'Dr A M Reddy Autism Centre' and has treated more than one lakh patients who were suffering from Autism. He has written multiple articles to spread awareness of Autism and how homeopathy treatment can 'Cure the Incurable'. “? Awards & Accolades.” “Member of the UK Parliament, Best Treatment Award 2022 by HyBiZ TV, “National Achievers Award 2021, Suman TV 2021 Awards, Best Doctor award in Hyderabad from Vidya Ratna 2013 and many more.”? Approach.” “Dr A M reddy follows the 'Prevention is Better than Cure' principle. He thinks that various factors such as sperm quality of men, habits of a mother during pregnancy and using medication during the trimester can affect the onset of Autism. He also believes in the fact that the body can heal naturally without the usage of any foreign substances such as Antibiotics. In conclusion, if we stop using antibiotics and make lifestyle changes and improve our immune system we can altogether prevent or reduce the effects of Autism in children.

## Tribute to the Martyrs of the Singareni Incline Mine Disaster- A Tradition on Moharram.

“Rayala Kishore, Yellandu Constituency, July 6, Indian Chronicle.” “On the occasion of Moharram, GM V. Krishnayya and other officials paid homage to the officers and employees who lost their lives in the Singareni Collieries Yellandu Area Strut Incline mine accident. “Speaking on the occasion, GM Krishnayya said that in the year 1938, about 37 male employees and 6 female employees—a total of 43 people—died in this tragic incident. He stated that every year on Moharram, a memorial meeting is held at the site of the accident to remember the departed. “He noted that since the accident happened on a Friday, it has become a tradition to observe Friday every week as a holiday for workers in Yellandu, while in all other Singareni areas, Sunday continues as the weekly holiday. “He further said that the paths laid by the workers and officers back then, risking even their lives, have paved the way for today’s generations. “He recalled that in 1886, Dr. King, a geologist, discovered coal deposits in the Yellandu surrounding areas. “The event was attended by A.G.M. (I.D.) M. Giridhar Rao, Area Engineer Narasimha Raju, D.G.M. (Personnel) Ajmeera Tukaram, D.G.M. (Civil) Ravi Kumar, D.G.M. (Area Workshop) Nagaraju Naik, and other officials including Ramdas, Anji Reddy, Shiva Kumar, Y.N. Satish, Ajay, Yellandu Officers Association President Shivaprasad, Recognized Union Branch Secretary Nazeer Ahmed, and many others, according to official representative Ajmeera Tukaram



## ZPHS Manthani Students Shine Bright — Secure Prestigious Seats in IIT Basara.



“PS Ashokan” Indian Chronicle “Manthani, July 7” “In a remarkable academic achievement, two meritorious students of Zilla Parishad High School (Boys), Manthani — Sutari Sathvik Raju and Bera Aditya Teja — have secured coveted seats in the six-year Integrated B.Tech program at the esteemed IIT Basara, based on their exceptional performance in the SSC Public Examinations.” “Both students, hailing from humble backgrounds and educated entirely in the government schooling system, pursued their academics with utmost dedication and discipline. Under the strategic academic planning of the institution and the visionary leadership of Headmaster Sri Mosam Srinivas, they received focused mentoring and participated in specially organized intensive coaching sessions by dedicated faculty members.” “Their outstanding success, placing them among the top performers in Manthani Mandal, stands as a testimony to the high standards of education being imparted in government institutions.” “Speaking on this proud occasion, Headmaster Sri Mosam Srinivas stated: “ “This achievement is a matter of immense pride for our school. It is also a clarion call to all parents to rethink their perceptions about government schools. With committed educators and quality-focused teaching, government schools are fully equipped to shape bright futures. We urge parents to enroll their children in these institutions to help them build a promising academic journey.” “The Headmaster, along with the entire teaching faculty, congratulated the achievers and wished

them continued success in their higher education pursuits.” “Let this inspiring milestone serve as a beacon of hope and motivation for many more rural students to dream big and achieve greater heights through hard work and perseverance.

We will stand by  
Dattureddy's family in every  
possible way: Komatireddy

Kamareddy, July 7 Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has assured full support to the family of late senior journalist Gidipalli Dattureddy, who tragically passed away recently due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 37. The Minister visited Dattureddy’s native village, Maddelacheruvu in Pitlam mandal of Kamareddy district on Monday and personally consoled the grieving family members. Overcome with emotion while recalling his close bond with Dattureddy, the Minister comforted his wife Priyanka and mother, who were in deep sorrow. As a mark of the government’s support and solidarity with the journalist fraternity, the Minister extended a financial assistance of Rs 4 Lakh to the family.

## Purchasing of chillies has come to a standstill



“Khammam Bureau, July 07, Indian Chronicle.” “In Khammam chilly market traders, after attending the morning flag ceremony held in the market, left without making any purchases. Although some buyers were ready to procure chillies, they reportedly backed off due to fear of the traders syndicate. There are murmurs that some traders are demanding the market secretary and the governing body to allow the movement of chillies purchased from farmers without recording them online essentially bypassing the of-

ficial digital registration. In the past, serious allegations regarding zero and RD (receipt and delivery) scams were highlighted in various media outlets. This prompted Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao to take the issue seriously, leading to a halt in such practices. Now, some allege that a conspiracy is underway to tarnish the minister’s image by creating turmoil in the chilli market. Intelligence sources are reportedly investigating who the key players and masterminds behind this syndicate are.”

## 'Restore Public Confidence in Prajavani' - District Collector Anudeep Durishetty.



“Khammam Bureau, July 07, Indian Chronicle.” “District Collector Anudeep Durishetty has directed district officials to resolve Prajavani applications promptly. During the Prajavani session held on Monday at the Khammam District Collectorate Conference Hall, the Collector, along with Additional Collectors Dr P Sreeja and P Srinivas Reddy, received petitions directly from the public. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector stated that 185 pending Prajavani applications, submitted since January 2025, must be resolved within seven days. He emphasized the need to build public trust in the Prajavani program. District officials should review the status of Prajavani applications weekly with mandal level officers. The initiative should function effectively at the mandal level to ensure most grievances are addressed locally. He also instructed mandatory attendance of district officials at the Prajavani program and urged them to prioritize collective issues faced by village communities. Officials must take a proactive approach in addressing public grievances. Additionally, the Collector called for field-level inspections of government schools to identify existing gaps. Officers were advised to maintain checklists and provide feedback on the functioning of these institutions. Some key petitions presented during the session included Vinoba (Navodaya) Colony, Velugumatla, Khammam Urban Mandal Residents submitted that they had built homes on land granted by the Bhudaan Yagna Board 11 years ago. Despite High Court orders, they still lacked basic amenities like drinking water and electricity. The Collector directed the Khammam RDO to take immediate action. Parvatha Nagamani from Buddhavaram Village, Nelakondapalli Mandal Requested a seat in Naikangudem Gurukulam for her son studying in 6th grade. The Collector instructed the BC Welfare RCO to act accordingly. Challa Tirupattamma from Annavaram Village, Konijerla Mandal Sought approval for an Indiramma hous-



ing unit. The MPDO was directed to process the request as per guidelines. M Malleshwari from Khammam City, A PG Diploma holder in Computer Applications with five years of private experience and work as a contractual Computer Assistant in a government school, she requested employment under PMKVY. The application was forwarded to the District Employment Officer for necessary action. Gandagolapadu villagers from Wyra Mandal Farmers who lost land to the National Highway requested a service road and irrigation canal access for their remaining lands. The Collector instructed the Khammam RDO to conduct a field inspection and submit a report within 10 days. Railway Colony (Nagulavancha), Chintakani Mandal Residents asked that the new panchayat building be constructed on government land beside the road, rather than acquiring private land. The Collector directed the Tehsildar to initiate necessary steps. “The session was attended by DRO A Padmasree, district officials from various departments and AO K Srinivasa Rao from the Collectorate.”

## Manthani Police Crack Down on Serial Property Offences — Notorious Offenders Nabbed in Multiple Thefts.

“PS Ashokan” Indian Chronicle “Manthani, July 7” “Demonstrating resolute commitment to public safety and law enforcement, the Manthani Police, under the vigilant leadership of Circle Inspector B. Raju, have successfully cracked a series of high-profile theft and burglary cases across Manthani Mandal. A string of meticulously planned operations led to the apprehension of multiple habitual offenders, restoring a sense of security among the public.” “1. Midnight Gold Chain Snatching Foiled with Swift Arrests” “On 18-06-2025, Mrs. Kandukuri Lakshmi, aged 56, a widow residing in Gaddalapalli (Dharmaram) village, reported a midnight burglary, wherein two unknown culprits stealthily entered her home and snatched a two-tola gold chain from her neck while she was asleep. The assailants fled through the rear exit. Responding with alacrity, the police registered a case and, following a thorough investigation, arrested: “ “Rayineni Anil (27), S/o Mallayya” “Rayineni Mallayya (47), S/o Sailu” “Both hail from Dharmaram village, and belong to the Perika community. The duo were produced before court and remanded to judicial custody.” “2. Tractor Theft Solved — Inter-District Offenders Nabbed” “In a previously reported tractor theft case, based on the complaint of Mr. Mitt Rajasekhara from Puttapaka village, the police arrested: “ “Muppidi Ramesh of Puttapaka” “Dakamuri Prasad of Gangapur” The stolen vehicle was recovered and handed over to the rightful owner.” “3. Iron Rod Theft at Sundilla Pump House — Seven Arrested” “Following a complaint by Mr. Dodda Aravind Reddy, regarding the theft of iron rods from a government pump house near Sundilla, the police conducted intensive surveillance and nabbed the culprits: “ “1. Godari Mahender” “2. Seggem Manohar” “3. Challa Sanjeev” “4. Udutha Sanjeev” “5. Sadula Laxmaiah” “6. Udutha Rajayya” “7. Esampalli Kiran Kumar” “4. Motorcycle Theft at Petrol Bunk — Youth Arrested” “In a case involving theft of a two-wheeler near Manthani petrol station, based on the FIR filed by Mr. Cheerala Tirupathi Reddy of Kataram (currently residing in Karimnagar), the accused was identified and arrested as: “ “Ratnam Raj Kumar (20), S/o Mahankali, a resident of Adavisomanpalli, belonging to the Nethakani caste.” “The stolen motorcycle was recovered in intact condition.” “5. House Burglary in Vasavi Nagar Busted — Cash & Electronics Recovered” “A major house burglary was reported in Vasavi Nagar, Manthani, wherein TV, laptop, tablet, sil-



verware, and ?20,000 in cash were stolen from the residence of Mr. Illendula Venkateshwarlu. Through meticulous investigation, the offender was arrested: “ “Tirunahari Rajanarsimhaswamy alias Raju (41), S/o Sudhakar, of Manthani, from the Sathani Ayya community.” “6. Paddy Theft in Mutharam — Notorious Thieves in Custody” “In a paddy theft case reported in Mutharam Mandal by Mr. Kancham Ramesh of Adavi Srirampur, the following offenders were arrested: “ “Manda Rajender” “Peyyala Arjun” “Both are residents of Adavi Srirampur, with a known history of theft.” “7. Electrical Transformer Theft in Ramagiri — Long-Pending Cases Resolved” “The Manthani Police also solved previously pending cases involving theft of two electrical transformers and a daytime burglary reported in Ramagiri Mandal, leading to the arrest of those involved.” “The Manthani Police appeal to the public to remain vigilant and promptly report any suspicious individuals or activities in their vicinity. Public cooperation plays a crucial role in upholding law and order.” “> “We are committed to protecting every citizen and ensuring that criminal elements are swiftly brought to justice,” said Circle Inspector B. Raju.

## Case against deputy tahsildar on deputation in Civil Supplies, Miryalguda

Hyderabad, July 7 (NSS): A case has been registered by Telangana ACB against Shaik Javeed, Deputy Tahsildar, working on deputation in Civil Supplies, Miryalguda office of DCSO, Nalgonda under section 7(a) of Prevention of Corruption Act, on June 7 at ACB.



# “Withdraw G.O. No. 282 Immediately” – CITU Burns Copies in Fiery Protest Against Anti-Labour Reforms.



“PS Ashokan”Indian Chronicle“Manthani, July 7”“In a powerful demonstration of resistance, members of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) staged a protest in Manthani, vehemently opposing G.O. No. 282 issued by the Congress-led government. As a symbolic act of dissent, copies of the government order were set ablaze, sending a strong message against what they termed as a regressive and anti-worker policy.”“Addressing the gathering, CITU District Committee Member Sri Budida Ganesh condemned the government’s move, stating that G.O. No. 282 seeks to extend the official working day to 10 hours, thereby dismantling the hard-earned legacy of the 8-hour workday, which was secured through decades of struggle by the global labour movement.”“Ganesh accused the Congress government of colluding with the Centre’s anti-labour agenda, particularly aligning with the draconian labour codes intro-

duced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which have been widely criticised for diluting workers’ rights and legal protections. He asserted that by enforcing a 10-hour work schedule, the government is attempting to transform the working class into modern-day bonded labourers, stripping them of dignity and rest.”“Expressing serious concern, he demanded the immediate revocation of G.O. 282, warning that failure to do so would result in statewide mass protests involving joint action by various trade unions and labour organisations.”“The spirit of May Day is being betrayed. Instead of safeguarding worker welfare, this government is trying to turn back the clock on labour rights,” Ganesh declared.”“The protest witnessed the participation of several prominent CITU leaders and activists including Chippakurthi Chandu, Singarapu Gattayya, Mallesh, Rajesh, Jampayya, Bhagya, Posamma, and others, all united in their call for justice and labour dignity.

## Justice P C Ghose inquiry into Kaleshwaram project reaches final phase

Hyderabad, July 7 : The investigation led by the Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission, which is examining the irregularities associated with the Kaleshwaram project, primarily concerning the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages, has reached its concluding phases. Sources indicate that the Commission is expected to present its final report to the State government on July 27. Since last year, the Justice PC Ghosh Commission has been reviewing the shortcomings and failures connected to the three barrages. An extensive investigation has already been carried out regarding their design, construction, quality, and maintenance.As part of its investigation, the Commission has already interviewed former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, former irrigation minister Harish Rao, and former finance minister Eatala Rajender. They have

obtained affidavits from engineers and senior officials concerning technical, financial, and policy matters, and have conducted cross-examinations based on these affidavits. In a related development, the Commission has issued fresh summons to former engineer-in-chief of the Irrigation department, M. Anil Kumar. The Commission discovered that there was a concealment regarding the grounding issue at the Medigadda barrage. Reports indicate that Chandra Ghose has expressed displeasure towards Anil Kumar for providing a misleading statement while holding a significant position. Anil Kumar has been requested to appear before the Commission for questioning on July 9.The Commission’s office has also stated that it has received the minutes from the cabinet meetings of the previous government related to the Kaleshwaram lift irrigation and associated projects.

## Jeedimetla police arrest three HB offenders

Hyderabad, July 7 Based on credible information and the proactive efforts of the Team Jeedimetla Police, a three-member house burglary gang was apprehended in connection with Crime No 656/2025 U/s 305 BNS, involving the theft of ₹3.5 lakh in cash and mobile phones from a milk booth owner’s residence in Apuroopa Colony, S R Naik Nagar, Jeedimetla.

On July 3, 2025, at 9 am, a complaint was received from Nelage Sangamesh. He stated that, on July 2, 2025, he left home in the afternoon to visit his mother-in-law in Muthangi, Patancheru. His daughter called him around 11.30 pm to ask if he was returning home. He told her to close the doors but not lock them. When he returned at 1.15 am on July 3, he found his mother and daughter frightened. His daughter told him she saw a person leaving the house. It was then discovered that ₹3,50,000 and a VIVO mobile phone were missing from the house.On July 7, 2025, while trying to dispose of a stolen mobile, the suspects were stopped at Shapurnagar crossroad during a vehicle checking. They failed to produce documents and were taken to the police station. During interrogation, they confessed voluntarily. Based on their statements, the police seized and

recovery of stolen property from the possession of the accused persons.

Property recovered was net cash of ₹2,15,000, Vivo Mobile, Samsung Mobile, Vivo Mobile, Suzuki Burgman Motorcycle.On July 2, , main suspect A-1 Mohammad Asif, a milk vendor, conspired with A-2 Md Asif and A-3 Mohammed Ameer to steal from his employer’s house located in Apuroopa Colony. They were aware of the owner’s routine and took advantage when the house owner was absent at home. The suspects used a white Suzuki Burgman bike without a number plate to reach the scene. A2 entered the house while A3 kept watch.They stole cash and a mobile phone but fled when the victim’s daughter noticed. The suspects were habitual drinkers and addicted to online betting, which contributed to their involvement in the crime due to financial difficulties. The case was monitored and supervised by K Suresh Kumar, IPS, DCP Balanagar, P. Naresh Reddy, ACP, Balanagar Division, G. Mallesh, Inspector of Police, S. Kanakaiah, Detective Inspector, N Shyam Babu, Sub-Inspector, R. Srinivas Reddy, Asst. Sub Inspector, D Raja Shekar, Head Constable, PCs Prem Kumar, Naresh, Mohan, Rajkumar, Subba Rao.

## ATAL FDP sanctioned to MGIT

Hyderabad, July 7 ATAL FDP was sanctioned to Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT) on the title “Quantum computing: Foundation’s and Applications”. It is offline program and 50 participants are only eligible. Total 99 have registered for this ATAL FDP from 25 different colleges from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu have applied.AICTE has sanctioned this ATAL FDP program to MGIT. The United Nations have declared this year as Quantum computing year. Indian government also declared this year 2025 as Quantum computing year. The one week duration of this offline FDP is July 7 to 12. Today forenoon the inauguration function of ATAL FDP on Quantum computing: Foundation and Applications started

at 10am in which a good number of registered participants have attended.Dr V Kamakshiprasad, Director DAP, JNTUH, was chief guest as well as speaker for the FDP program. Prof. G Chandramohan Reddy, Princepal MGIT addressed the gathering about benefits of attending this FDP and told a few applications also. Prof. K Sudhakar Reddy, vice-principal MGIT told how NASA and other research institutions are spending investments in Quantum computing labs and so on. Prof. T V Rajinikanth also spoke.Participants are from CBIT, MGIT, VNRVJJET, GRIET, Sreedevi women’s college, Madanapalli Engg college (MITS), SRKR Bhimavaram, VJIT, MR Womens engg College and engineering colleges.

## SCR GM conducts inspection of Balharshah-Kazipet section

Hyderabad, July 7 Sandeep Mathur, General Manager, South Central Railway (SCR) undertook inspection of Balharshah – Kazipet section of Secunderabad Division on Monday.He was accompanied by Bhartesh Kumar Jain, Divisional Railway Manager, Secunderabad Division and other senior officials (from both the Headquarters and Division) throughout the inspection.Sandeep Mathur carried out rear window inspection between Balharshah – Kazipet section, during which he reviewed the safety aspects of tracks, signalling systems and inspected major Railway stations in the section. He carried out inspection of new tracks nearby Sirpur Kaghaznagar and also inspected Level crossing Gate No. 79 E at Kaghaznagar and interacted with the staff. The General Manager reviewed the progress of Yard development works at Bellampalli, he instructed the officials to further speed up the work. He inspected the ROH (Routine

Overhaul) depot at Bellampalli, wherein he examined the equipments and reviewed the adherence to safety guidelines. He also inspected the crew lobby at Bellampalli and interacted with the running staff. Further, he inspected catering stall at Bellampalli Railway station and reviewed the quality of food items.

Later, Sandeep Mathur conducted a detailed inspection of Manchiryal Railway station, wherein he reviewed the passenger amenities and examined the station master’s office. He also reviewed the progress of on-going redevelopment works at Manchiryal Railway station undertaken as part of Amrit Bharat station scheme. He instructed the officials to continue the pace of works so as to complete the project as targeted. Further, the General Manager inspected ROH depot at Ramagundam, wherein he examined the equipments and interacted with staff. He also took

## 114th Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service

Hyderabad, July 7: 114th Foundation Course for Agricultural Research Service (FOCARS) was inaugurated at ICAR-National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) on Monday. It’s the flagship programme of the Academy where in newly recruited Agricultural Research Service (ARS) probationary scientists are given foundation training. Dr Himanshu Pathak, Director General, International Crop Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad, while addressing as chief guest, advocated the young scientists not to allow difficulties to surpass their ambition; to work in a team; to do the things differently in order to achieve many milestones in their career. He motivated the budding scientists by advising them to justify the path they travelled to reach this place by contributing to agricultural growth while meeting the sector demands.

Dr HP Singh, former Deputy Director General (Hort.

Sciences), ICAR, was guest of honour on the occasion. He highlighted the challenges faced by the contemporary agriculture such as need for feeding increasing population, limited availability of natural resources, need for sustainable use of natural resources and the need for facilitating resilience in agriculture through cutting-edge research.

Dr Gopal Lal, Acting Director, ICAR-NAARM briefed about FOCARS and the activities of the Academy, and administered the oath of the young probationers.Scientist probationers, numbering 105, representing 41 disciplines of ARS and 21 states of the Country are undergoing foundation training of 3-months duration. Dr. R Venkattakumar, Principal Scientist and Head, Extension Systems Management (XSM) Division and Dr. Umesh Hudedamani, Principal Scientist, Research Systems Management (RSM) Division of the Academy are the Course Directors. Faculty, scientists staff of the Academy took part in the inauguration function.

## TGGENCO setting up 4000 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station at Veerlapalem

Hyderabad, July 7 TGGENCO is establishing 4000 MW (SX800 MW) Yadedri Thermal Power Station at Veerlapalem Village, Dameracheria, Nalgonda District. The Unit-2 (800 MW) is commissioned in January 2025 and Una-1 (800 MW) is scheduled to be commissioned in July 2025.

The balance three units (3X800 MW) will be commissioned by February 2026. The total coal requirement for all the five units will be around 50,000 Metric Tonnes per day (12-14 railway rakes) from SCCL.TGGENCO has constructed Railway line from Janpahad Take-off point to YTPS site with a cost of Rs 500 crores. Presently, S C. Railways are supplying four (4) rakes per day to YTPS and the requirement will be around 12-14 rakes for all the five (5) units from December 2025 onwards. As per the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister and Principal Secretary, Energy Department, a meeting was conducted on July 7 by Chairman & Managing Director, TGGENCO and reviewed the status of construction works of Railway siding of YTPS and preparedness for movement of 12-14 coal rakes with

TGGENCO and Railway Officials. During the meeting, Chairman & Managing Director has directed all the concerned Officials and contractors of TGGENCO to complete all the pending works of Railway siding of YTPS to receive 12-14 coal rakes at YTPS site from December 2025 onwards. Principal Chief Operations Manager, S.C. Railways has informed that, the Railways are fully prepared for movement of required quantity of coal to YTPS with the existing Rail net work and Railways are also taking up for doubling of railway lines between Domakal-BDCR and Motamarri-Vishnupuram to deal with the increased traffic.

Principal Chief Operations Manager, S. C. Railways has also advised TGGENCO to examine other alternative sources of coal supplies to meet the requirement of YTPS since SCCL may not be in a position to meet the future demand. During the meeting, B. Nagya, IRTS, Director (Coal & Logistics), TGGENCO Sri. A. Ajay, Director (Civil), TGGENCO, K. Padmaja, IRTS, PCOM, South Central Railways and R. Sudharshan, IRTS, CFTM, South Central Railways were present.

## Real progress lies in transforming backward areas: Komatireddy

Hyderabad, July 7 : Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy on Monday toured the backward Jukkal Assembly constituency in Kamareddy district, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for several developmental works. The Minister inaugurated a newly constructed high-level bridge at Thimmanagar, built at a cost of Rs.4.86 crore on the Maddelacheruvu–Pitlam road. He also laid the foundation for a new road from Bichkunda to Dongli with an estimated cost of Rs.13.20 crore. The visit saw massive public participation, with Congress workers organising huge rallies under the leadership of local MLA Lakshmi Kanth Rao. The Minister was warmly welcomed with garlands and drum beats, and he walked alongside the crowds, energizing party cadres. Addressing a public meeting later, Komatireddy said, "Real development happens only when backward constituencies like Jukkal are transformed."

Although the Congress party gave Telangana, it never regretted not being in power since 2014. During the previous BRS government, only four families got benefited while the rest of Telangana was ignored. KCR built roads to his farmhouse, but neglected Jukkal. He gave an MLC post to his daughter after being defeated in the election, but ignored

the unemployed youth," he remarked. Highlighting the achievements of the current Congress-led government, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that under Chief Minister Revanth Reddy’s leadership, the State government has already provided 60,000 jobs.He clarified that every farmer, regardless of landholding, received Rythu Bharosa payments in their accounts within 9 days, dismissing false narratives being spread around the scheme.

The Minister stated that he considers the development of Jukkal his responsibility and promised to speak with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Seethakka, who is in charge of the region. He expressed gratitude to the people for the heartfelt welcome and noted that MLA Lakshmi Kanth Rao is a dynamic leader who would ensure rapid development in the region. "Now I share the responsibility for Jukkal and will work for its progress," he declared.Jukkal MLA Tota Lakshmi Kanth Rao, MP Suresh Shetkar, MLA Sanjeev Reddy, SETWIN Chairman Giridhar Reddy, District Collector Ashish Sangwan, SP Rajesh Chandra, R&B Chief Engineer Mohan Naik, Kamareddy DCC President Kailash Srinivas, other elected representatives and leaders were present.

## BRAOU launches stipend based apprenticeship program (SAP)

Hyderabad, July 7 :Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Retail Sector Skill Council of India (RASCI), a Mumbai-based not for profit organization for “Stipend Based Apprenticeship Program (SAP)” at its campus on Monday. The MoU was signed by Registrar, Dr L. Vijaya Krishna Reddy and James Raphael, Executive Director, Retail Sector Skill Council of India RASCI along with other officials in the presence of Prof Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor.

Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice Chancellor said Dr B.R. Ambedkar open University is the first university to sign an MoU with the Retail Sector Skill Council of India. He said this MoU will be very useful in improving the skills of students along with their studies. Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University is providing scholarship-based education along with academics to enhance skills among students. He urged the students of the Open university to take advantage of stipend-based education. The university officials will reach every study centre in Telangana and inform them about this program. He revealed that the details will be updated on the university website and there a joint admission notification will be issued. He said the goal of the University is to provide employment opportunities to every student along with their studies and make them entrepreneurs. As part of this program, students can earn a minimum stipend of Rs 7,000 per month up to a maximum of Rs 24,000 or more per month. Those who have already completed their degree from this university are also eligible. The students aged

between 18 to 28 are eligible to join this program. He also said keeping in mind the future of our students, we will sign more such MoUs with renowned institutions in the coming days.

James Raphael, Executive Director of the Retail Sector Skill Council of India, said their organization works to benefit each student individually, we will work together with the educational institution to prepare students who are ready for employment. The programs have been designed with the concept of Individual, Institution, Industry and India (Four-I’s) will be very beneficial to the students of BRAOU, the curriculum will be a combination of educational journey combined with professional experience and understanding of academic theory along with practicality. He also assured that every student will be financially independent and empowered through this program.Sameer Narsapur, Head Standards & QA, RASCI, suggested that professional standards should be formulated, keeping in mind the requirements for a specific job role, the syllabus will be aligned with apprenticeship. Chanda Vadde, General Manager, Industry and Academia, RASCI (South Region) said that students can achieve a degree certificate in addition to becoming professionals landing them more job opportunities. Prof. G. Pushpa Chakrapani, Director Academic; Dr L. Vijaya Krishna Reddy, Registrar; Prof. Rabindranath Solomon, Director EMR&RC; Prof. Pallavi Kabde, Coordinator, Skill Development and Vocational Training Center also spoke on the occasion.

## Bandi Sanjay warns BRS against attacking Andhra Jyothi office

GNS News Agency, July 7

Hyderabad: Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay stirred a row on Monday by stating that the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) would attack Telangana Bhavan if Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) workers attempted to attack the ABN Andhra Jyothi office.

Speaking to media persons, Bandi Sanjay said BJP State president N Ramchander Rao had already directed BJYM to retaliate within two hours if there was any attack on the media office. "I am also challenging the BRS cadre to arrive at the spot, and our party workers will also arrive," he said.

The war of words began after the BRS strongly objected to a report published in the Andhra Jyothi newspaper. In response, BJP State president N Ramchander Rao warned of serious consequences if any attempt was made to attack the ABN Andhra Jyothi office.



# Two men who snatched US citizen’s phone in Delhi’s Amar Colony nabbed after shootout



GNS News Agency, July 7

Around midnight on Thursday, two snatchers looted an American citizen out for a walk in Southeast Delhi’s Amar Colony. The duo returned to the same spot on Sunday to execute another robbery — and landed in the police net after a brief exchange of fire, officers said. Police said the snatchers, Jatin (20) and Akshay (20), are undergoing treatment at AIIMS for injuries sustained during the shootout. The American citizen, Aradome Bella Kahn (28), landed in Delhi on June 20 and was staying at Hotel Elegant in East of Kailash. On Thursday, police said, he took a stroll in a DDA park in Astha Kunj and was heading to the hotel when the duo pounced on him. “Akshay and Jatin attacked the man and his woman friend with a knife and snatched his mobile phone. He sustained injuries to both his hands and immediately went to Fortis Hospital in New Friends Colony. He

was later shifted to Apollo,” said DCP (Southeast) Hemant Tiwari. Police received the medico-legal certificate from Fortis in the early hours of Thursday, and a case was registered at Amar Colony police station. Based on descriptions given by Kahn and the inputs received by police, it was learnt that both accused would be back at the same park on Sunday morning. “At 1.30 am on Sunday, Inspector Rajender Singh Dagar got inputs about the accused persons moving through the DDA Astha Kunj park from the ISKCON temple side towards Rampyau Kalkaji. At 5.10 am, the accused persons were identified by informers and asked to surrender. However, the duo, carrying one sophisticated pistol and one countrymade katta, fired a total of three rounds at the police party. One bullet stuck Inspector Dagar’s bulletproof jacket on the chest, while another hit HC Mahendar’s jacket in the same area,” DCP Tiwari said. Police fired three rounds in self-defence, and Jatin and Akshay sustained injuries to their right leg.

The accused were arrested, and police seized the US citizen’s stolen mobile phone from their possession. During questioning, Jatin told the police that he and Akshay were childhood friends and dropped out of school in Class 5. Jatin, who has previous cases of robbery and cases under the Arms Act lodged against him, persuaded Akshay to join him in what would be Akshay’s first robbery, police said. “They were planning to get hold of another victim passing by the park in the early hours of Sunday when we caught them. They are admitted to the AIIMS Trauma Centre. Further investigation is on,” DCP Tiwari said.

# Vadavan port will take care of all north-bound cargo and JNPT will cater to hinterland operations: JNPA Chairman Unmesh Sharad Wagh



GNS News Agency, July 7

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) in Navi Mumbai has become the first port in India to cross 10 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) container handling capacity following the completion of its latest expansion phase. With five container terminals now offering a combined capacity of 10.4 million TEUs, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port continues to handle over half of container traffic of India. In an interview with The Indian Express, JNPA Chairman Unmesh Sharad Wagh, who is also leading the upcoming Vadnavan Port project in Palghar, shares insights on expansion, logistics and sustainability of the two ports in Maharashtra.

Q: Recently the Jawaharlal Nehru Port achieved a milestone of 10 million TEUs handling capacity. What factors contributed to this achievement?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: JNPA is mainly a container port operating under the landlord model, where we have roped in private companies to operate under a concession agreement. For this, we have assigned terminals to all global bigger players, which has taken the capacity til 10.4 million TEUs—the largest in all ports in India. Last year we handled a cargo of about 7.3 million TEUs, so assuming 20 per cent growth by the end of this year, our estimation is to reach about 9 million TEUs. So this model of operation has largely contributed.

Q: How does road or highway connectivity play a role here? Are we looking at any expansion of capacity further?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: For a port, three things are important—marine efficiency, execution efficiency, and evacuation to the hinterland. So if we talk about the evacuation to the hinterland, then connectivity is the key. With an eight-lane highway connectivity, the evacuation, which initially was 2-4 kmph, has now increased to 40-50 kmph. Moreover, JNPA has simplified all the processes involved to reduce the cost and time of doing business and promote the ease of doing business, making it 20-25 per cent cheaper for businesses. And for expansion, there is little scope at JNPA. However, we have the upcoming Vadnavan Port.

Q: Talking about Vadnavan, what is the current status of the Vadnavan project as you are overseeing it as well?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: The construction work on the Vadnavan Port is going on. Land acquisition for the approach road has been done and the 3D notification from NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) is in process. We are also constructing a service road dedicated to the making of Vadnavan. This road, after serving its purpose for the port, will be like a present from JNPA for the villagers near the port. It will serve as a connecting toll-free road to the Mumbai-Delhi expressway.

Q: There has been resistance by the villagers and locals. How are you dealing with that?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: There are about 24 villages in the vicinity, but only a few problematic people show resistance even after their demands are considered. Practically, no one is affected in the region. For the people in the influential area the project will only bring many benefits. One of them is a skilling programme for the local youth where we have targeted producing 5,000 sea fares through a collaboration with ITIs. Besides, we are also providing agriculture training for them through Dapoli Agricultural University and the skill development centre at Sahyadri Farms, Nashik. In fact, the only segment that can be seen affected by the port are the fishermen, but they are very positive towards the making of the port. We have ensured to not only give fair compensation to the affected fishermen but also undertake development and skilling activities by deploying CSR funds.

Q: How would the cargo distribution be once the Vadnavan Port begins operations? Any plans to bring in transshipment like at the Vizhinjam port?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: Cargo distribution will eventually happen even though it’s far from sight now. Vadnavan will take care of all the north-bound cargo while JNPT will cater to the hinterland operations. And for transshipment, Vizhinjam is only a transshipment port, while ours is a get-away port with only 1 per cent transshipment capacity. Currently, around 25 per cent of the cargo from India is transshipped and 20 per cent is from the western side. With Vadnavan coming on the western seafront, 100 per cent of this cargo will come to the new port. So we will ensure there is a balance of all the operations amongst both the ports.

Q: What are your plans to make both the ports sustainable and automated—measures already in place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port and plans for Vadnavan?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: Sustainability is always at the centre of our port operations. The port already runs on 60 per cent renewable, green energy, which we are planning to take up to 100 per cent. We have started replacing fuel trucks with electric ones with around 500 e-trucks in place today. Besides, all the required infrastructure like battery charging and swapping points are also in place. Although we have a 34 per cent green cover, we are constantly trying to increase the greenery with efforts like Miyawaki plantations. We have also worked towards the rejuvenation of local lakes and temples as an attempt to beautify with sustainability. Automation also is in process and operations at the port are fully digitised, with 5G-enabled systems and cyber security measures.

# ‘Culprits will be tried in people’s court’: Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan attacks Mamata govt over rape at Kolkata law college

GNS News Agency, July 7

Kolkata law college rape case Pradhan said the rape at the law college and the rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata exposed “the mindset of the ruling party, which is headed by a woman”.

While condemning the rape of a student at Kolkaka law college, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday accused West Bengal’s Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government of “patronising” the perpetrators and making the college authorities helpless. “This is not a matter for a CBI inquiry. The culprits will be tried in the people’s court of Bengal. They must be thrown out—only then will peace return to Bengal,” Pradhan said at an event in North 24 Parganas. “What surprises me is that Mamata Banerjee was a student leader. What happened to Didi? She was a student leader and a youth leader herself. How has she left today’s student generation in such a condition. Rape, murder... How can all that be given patronage? Does it not pain her? They just remain indifferent to peoples suffering to protect their own,” the BJP leader said. “Bengal is the place of Ma Saraswati and the place for women’s development. Bengal used to be an example for the entire country regarding women’s progress in education,” he added. Pradhan said the rape at the law college and the rape-murder of a doctor at RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata exposed “the mindset of the ruling party, which is headed by a woman”. “This is very dangerous for a democratic society. When saviours become demons. When those in power make criminals members of their party, give these criminals power and post them, such anarchy and crime increase. I condemn this in the strongest way possible,” he added. Regarding the college administration’s role in ensuring students’ safety, Pradhan said, “When the chief minister’s office and the ruling party’s leadership patronise such people



what will college authorities do?” In Bengal and many other states, many student leaders have joined politics but now antisocial elements and criminals are taking over colleges, the Union minister said. Meanwhile, after spending 14 hours in Kolkata police’s custody with other BJP leaders and workers, BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar was released. The BJP leaders were detained while protesting at Gariahat over the law college incident. Majumdar told reporters that he had refused bail on a personal bond. “West Bengal has become a killing field of democracy,” he said. “Two incidents of rape inside educational institutions have taken place in the city within eight months, where is the administration?” Majumdar further said that BJP workers and leaders detained during protests would not avail of bail on personal bonds from police stations but would insist on being produced in court. On Saturday the BJP constituted a four-member fact-finding committee to look into the law college rape. Its members are former Union minister Satpal Singh; former Union minister Meenakshi Lekhi; MP Biplob Kumar Deb; and MP Manan Kumar Mishra.

# ‘She has broken a family of 40 years’: Kalyan Banerjee reacts to Mahua Moitra’s ‘misogyny’ jibe as TMC MPs clash over Kolkata rape case

GNS News Agency, July 7

Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee Sunday made a personal attack on fellow TMC MP Mahua Moitra after she accused him and MLA Madan Mitra of “misogyny” over their remarks about the Kolkata law college rape case. Meanwhile, the TMC sent a showcause notice to Mitra, seeking a reply within three days. “She has returned to India after a honeymoon of one and a half months abroad and has started provoking. I am not a misogynist. I talk a lot in favour of women. In fact, Mahua Maitra is so anti-women that in the Krishnanagar parliamentary constituency, she doesn’t let any other women grow. There is one lady hater and that is Mahua Maitra,” he added. “She became an MLA when the TMC was already strong, and she is fully leveraging women’s issues. I don’t need to hear from someone who breaks up a 40-year marriage to marry a 65-year-old man,” said Banerjee, who had a public spat in the Lok Sabha with Moitra in April.

Three people reportedly affiliated with the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad, the TMC’s student wing, have been arrested in connection with the alleged rape in a Kolkata law college on June 25. After the incident came to light, the TMC held a press conference, vowing to ensure “exemplary punishment” for the culprits. However, the TMC’s stance was quickly challenged by comments made by Banerjee and Mitra. Banerjee stirred controversy by stating, “If a classmate rapes a classmate, who will provide security?” He clarified that he wanted to say the impossibility of police ensuring safety inside colleges. Mitra, the Kamarhati MLA, further inflamed the situation with victim-blaming remarks. On Saturday, he told mediapersons, “If that girl had not gone there, this incident would not have happened. If she had told someone when she went, if she had taken her two girlfriends, if she had taken her parents, then this would not have happened. The accused took advantage of the situation.” In a post on X, the TMC stated, “The party unequivocally disassociates itself from their statements and strongly condemns the same. These views do not reflect the position of the party in any manner whatsoever. Our stance remains resolute; we have zero tolerance for crimes against women and demand the strictest possible punishment for all those involved in this heinous crime.” Moitra publicly criticised Banerjee and Mitra, indirectly labelling them “misogynists”. Sharing the TMC’s “zero tolerance” post on social media, Moitra wrote, “Misogyny in India cuts across party lines. What differentiates @AITCofficial is that we condemn these disgusting comments no matter who makes them.”

While responding to Moitra, Banerjee also questioned the party’s statement on “zero tolerance”. “The party is talk-



ing about zero tolerance; my question is that, is it before the incident or after the incident? This incident is so bad that I am in no possible way able to accept it.” As Mitra stood by his comments while speaking to a news channel on Sunday, TMC West Bengal chief Subrata Bakshi sent a letter of protest to Mitra, demanding a reply within three days. The letter stated, “Your unwanted, unnecessary and insensitive comments in this regard have hurt the image of our party. At the same time, your comments are against the party’s strict stance. You are ordered to show cause within the next three days for this behaviour that violates party discipline.”

# ‘Tilak took his last breath in my arms’: Delhi cop bids farewell to beloved stallion on his 31st birthday

On the morning of June 14, Constable Atul received a call from a colleague at Delhi’s Mounted Police Unit. His seven-year-old stallion, Tilak — who had won a medal at a national sports meet earlier this year — was unwell. Atul, who was at home at the time, rushed to the unit — and found Tilak in pain, kicking his legs. These were signs of an abdominal condition called colic, usually caused by problems in the gastrointestinal tract. Atul and other officials from the unit rushed Tilak to a veterinary hospital near Tis Hazari Court for immediate medical attention. The next day, following an initial round of treatment, doctors referred the stallion to the District Veterinary Hospital in Hisar. Tilak underwent surgery there, but did not survive. It was in the early hours of Tuesday (June 17) when Tilak took his last breath. “The doctors had asked me to help him walk a few steps, but he soon collapsed. A few minutes later, the doctors said Tilak was dead,” Atul told Tilak was one of the most active

horses in the Delhi Police and was always eager to play sports, according to Atul. “His nickname was Rocket. He ran very fast and was always excited to play jumping games.” In December 2021, Tilak was brought from the Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC) farm of the Indian Army in Hempur. He was just a four-year-old, then. “He was purchased for Rs 6 lakh, along with a group of 15 horses, from the Army,” an officer at the unit said. Following training and practice sessions, Tilak was assigned to sports activities, the officer said. He added that the horses in the Mounted Police unit are often used for ceremonial duties, patrolling, and even sporting events. Tilak had won a silver medal in the All India Police Equestrian Championship and Mounted Police Duty Meet 2024-25 held this March in Panchkula, Haryana. “Tilak successfully qualified in the ‘Police Horse Test’ category, where he crossed six jump hurdles, a water pond, and a crowd of people and vehicles.

This is considered one of the most difficult tests for a horse to pass,” another officer said. With Tilak’s death, the number of horses in the Mounted Unit has dropped to 24; the sanctioned strength of the unit is 95. The horses are lodged in the stable yard at the Provisioning and Logistics unit in North Delhi’s Civil Lines. They are looked after by 50 staff members, including riders ranging from constables to sub-inspectors. The horses retire upon reaching the official retirement age of 16. They are then handed over to NGOs for further care. Tilak’s post-mortem was conducted at the veterinary hospital in Hisar, and the report is awaited. According to a veterinary doctor, colic is a very common condition in horses. It occurs when the animal overeats and is unable to digest the food properly. Sometimes, food or other indigestible material get stuck in the intestines, which can also lead to colic. “In these conditions, the horse’s behaviour changes, and it often starts kicking its legs,” the doctor said.



GNS News Agency, July 7

Following the arrest of the sons of BJP minister Bachubhai Khabad, the police on Friday arrested state Congress vice-president and OBC leader Hirabhai Jotva and his sarpanch son Digvijay in connection with the alleged Rs 7.3 crore MGNREGA scam. A native of Supasi village of Gir Somanth district, 58-year-old Jotva is seen as one of the most popular faces of the Congress in Saurashtra. A farmer by profession, with a degree in Arts from Saurashtra University, Jotva also owns various businesses like transport, animal husbandry, petrol pump and has also dabbled in construction.

Claiming that Jotva’s opinion on candidate selection “was always sought by the party’s state and central leadership”, Junagadh district Congress chief and Jotva’s close aide Bharatbhai Hirpara said, “We have been friends since our childhood days. Jotva’s father Arjanbhai was also a Congress worker. Jotva began his political career as a sarpanch and went on to win the taluka panchayat and district panchayat elections. He has also served as the Leader of the Opposition in the Junagadh district panchayat.” Jotva also unsuccessfully contested the Keshod Assembly seat in the 2022 polls and the Junagadh Lok Sabha seat last year. Digvijay, on the other hand, won the sarpanch polls from Supasi village in Gir Somnath, a post once held by Jotva, just last week. Sources close to the Jotva family said that both Digvijay and his elder brother Abhay completed their studies in London. Digvijay returned to India only a couple of years ago and joined the family business of public development works. Abhay is also a Congress leader and is currently the Leader of the Opposition in the Gir Somnath district panchayat. “After I completed my studies, I told my father that I wanted to return and join politics. He told me it was very difficult and warned me of legal challenges and said I might even have to go to jail. I told him I was prepared for everything... I am sure my father and brother will come out clean,” said Abhay, adding that party workers have approached him, offering their help. Jotva and Digvijay duo are

alleged to be sleeping partners in Jalamram Enterprise and Murlihard Enterprise, the firms that bagged contracts under the MGNREGA scheme to undertake works in Bharuch, and are accused of direct involvement in the irregularities that are currently being probed.

According to the FIR, between 2021 and 2025, both enterprises secured contracts for road construction and other works across 56 villages of three talukas – Jambusar, Amod and Hansot. The police allege that most of these works were not complete, while poor quality material was used in others. The police said that around 250 people were questioned and 500 bank accounts were checked before arresting the duo. State Congress spokesperson Manish Doshi said Jothva was a very respectable leader. “He was facing considerable pressure from the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and BJP during the recent Visavadar bypoll. BJP MP Mansukh Vasava has alleged the involvement of government officials as well as political leaders in it. The BJP top brass in Bharuch is involved in the scam. After the arrest of Khabad’s sons, the police have changed the direction of the probe by targeting Congress leaders. The true nature of the scam will be revealed only if there is a free and fair investigation. We have demanded the setting up of an SIT,” he said.



# ‘Forced to downsize’: Once hubs for live performances, Gurgaon’s BYOB venues hit by new restrictions



GNS News Agency, July 7

“While we are being forced to downsize without being heard, other states are looking at Gurgaon’s Bring Your Own Booze (BYOB) joints as an example. Every year, there are new restrictions,” complains Gaurav Katyal (31), proprietor, Ebowla, Sector 30. After new restrictions kicked in earlier this month, Gurgaon’s BYOB joints like Ebowla – once thriving hubs for live performances and hotspots to have alcohol at prices that are not marked up — have become shadows of their former selves. Referred colloquially as ‘ahatas’ and as ‘taverns’ in the excise policy, these joints have been restricted from hosting live events and musical performances. In the new Haryana excise policy, which came into effect on June 12, the licensing fee has also been increased, and the joints cannot expand beyond one floor — they have to operate within a 1,000 square metre area.

Not just Katyal, many proprietors across the city are upset. Ebowla, he says, had to reduce its operational area by half, shut down its first floor, and pay Rs 1.8 crore as a licence fee to operate its BYOB unit. For its adjoining liquor store, it had to pay Rs 45 crore as license fees for 21.5 months. Its stage, including a space for the DJ, is now defunct. gurgaon byob Notices from the Excise Department on unpaid dues and pending rent under the previous policy have been pasted at the premises of several joints — Machan in Sector 29, Dakotta in Sector 32, and Where Else in Sector 59.

# 3 ‘drunk’ men pose as Delhi cops, rob bike to experience thrill; arrested

GNS News Agency, July 7

Three men staged a heist in the national capital on Thursday by posing as Delhi Police personnel to allegedly seek a thrill. The police said the trio took away a security guard’s bike near Aerocity, claiming that he was driving rashly. The three accused, Garvit Sharma, 25, Aniket Singh, and Prashanth Kumar, were arrested in different parts of Delhi on Friday. The victim, Amarpal Singh, 47, an Etah native and a security guard with GMR RAXA at Worldmark II in Aerocity, made a PCR call around 7.30 pm on Thursday.

“The complainant stated on June 26, 2025, around 7.10 pm, while he was on his way to Aerocity riding his Splendor, he was stopped near the Mahipalpur underpass by three individuals on another motorcycle. These individuals falsely claimed to be police officers and accused him of rash driving,” Usha Rangnani, Additional Commissioner of Police (ACP), Indira Gandhi International, said. One of the accused reportedly snatched the key to Amarpal Singh’s Splendor bike and hurled abuses at him when he asked the three to show some ID. Aniket Singh then slapped Amarpal Singh as Prashanth Kumar rode away on his bike. The other two, Garvit Sharma and Aniket Singh, followed Prashanth Kumar on the black bike that they arrived on. “During the course of the investigation, all available CCTV cameras at and around the scene of the incident were meticulously examined. Three specialised teams were constituted under the leadership of Inspector Sumit, Inspector Satish, and Inspector Avdesh, and an analysis of approximately 250 to 300 CCTV cameras spread across the possible routes of the accused was done,” Rangnani said. The police said that CCTV footage

# Landlord model helped Jawaharlal Nehru Port achieve container handling milestone: JNPA Chairman Unmesh Sharad Wagh

GNS News Agency, July 7

The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) in Navi Mumbai has become the first port in India to cross 10 million twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) container handling capacity following the completion of its latest expansion phase. With five container terminals now offering a combined capacity of 10.4 million TEUs, the Jawaharlal Nehru Port continues to handle over half of container traffic of India. In an interview with The Indian Express, JNPA Chairman Unmesh Sharad Wagh, who is also leading the upcoming Vadhavan Port project in Palghar, shares insights on expansion, logistics and sustainability of the two ports in Maharashtra.

Q: Recently the Jawaharlal Nehru Port achieved a milestone of 10 million TEUs handling capacity. What factors contributed to this achievement?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: JNPA is mainly a container port operating under the landlord model, where we have roped in private companies to operate under a concession agreement. For this, we have assigned terminals to all global bigger players, which has taken the capacity till 10.4 million TEUs—the largest in all ports in India. Last year we handled a cargo of about 7.3 million TEUs, so assuming 20 per cent growth by the end of this year, our estimation is to reach about 9 million TEUs. So this model of operation has largely contributed.

Q: How does road or highway connectivity play a role here? Are we looking at any expansion of capacity further?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: For a port, three things are important—marine efficiency, execution efficiency, and evacuation to the hinterland. So if we talk about the evacuation to the hinterland, then connectivity is the key. With an eight-lane highway connectivity, the evacuation, which initially was 2-4 kmph, has now increased to 40-50 kmph. Moreover, JNPA has simplified all the processes involved to reduce the cost and time of doing business and promote the ease of doing business, making it 20-25 per cent cheaper for businesses. And for expansion, there is little scope at JNPA. However, we have the upcoming Vadhavan Port.

Q: Talking about Vadhavan, what is the current status of the Vadhavan project as you are overseeing it as well?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: The construction work on the Vadhavan Port is going on. Land acquisition for the approach

“We would recover a significant amount of the hefty liquor store license fees through BYOBs. We would have (local) celebrities and dancers perform here to draw crowds. That’s no longer the case. With the rise in expenses, our planned expansions in the city are on hold,” Katyal adds. According to him, new players would now be apprehensive of entering the sector. “Even we are only in this business because we have a reputation of being solid players in this space. Varna ab kya rakha hain? (Otherwise, what is left now?),” he asks. The scene is no different for such joints at Golf Course Extension Road. “Fifty workers at my joint lost their jobs, and their families are now suffering. If I cannot have music and you’re increasing taxes, who will come anymore to even my joint?” says an owner on condition of anonymity. The state government, he adds, has ignored the middle segment of consumers. “Can everyone afford to go to bars and restaurants to drink, with their marked-up prices? Ultimately, it will cause losses to the government in terms of revenue,” he says. Notices from the Excise Department on unpaid dues and pending rent under the previous policy have been pasted at the premises of several joints — Machan in Sector 29, Dakotta in Sector 32, and Where Else in Sector 59. “We have been closed since June 11. Things are uncertain. Ab license renew hone ka koi aasha bhi nahi hain (now there is little hope of securing a new license),” says a staff member at Where Else. Amit Bhatia, Deputy Excise and Taxation Commissioner (DETC), Gurugram East, tells The Indian Express that it is common for time to be taken for the renewal of licences and agreements between policies. “The agreements between the liquor store operators and proprietors of taverns take time. Some initial losses and a drop in business with any rise in taxes is natural. Projected excise collections are on course, it is still early days to look too far ahead,” Bhatia says. Jitender Dudi, DETC for Gurugram West, says a clearer picture of the revenue impact can be known only once the auctions for vends in the 37 zones remaining are complete. “These places were unregulated. We had got representations from restaurant associations about their business being impacted,” he says.



revealed the registration number of the bike on which the robbers came. The bike was found to be registered in the name of a man named Siddharth, a resident of Shakarpur. Siddharth, during the investigation, revealed that he lent his bike about a year ago to his friend, Garvit Sharma. The police raided Sharma’s house, but found that he was missing. Based on intelligence, Sharma was finally tracked at his hideout in Palam. Thereafter, Aniket Singh was arrested in Kishangarh, while Prashanth Kumar was nabbed in Dashrath Puri. “Garvit and Prashant travelled to Kishangarh on Garvit’s motorcycle on June 26 (Thursday). There, they called Aniket, and the three friends decided to consume alcohol together. As per their plan, they purchased a bottle of liquor from a nearby shop and consumed it in a park. While under the influence of alcohol, Prashant, reportedly intoxicated, expressed a desire to do something ‘thrilling’. Acting on this impulse, they conspired to rob a motorcycle by impersonating police officers,” Rangnani said.

road has been done and the 3D notification from NHAI (National Highway Authority of India) is in process. We are also constructing a service road dedicated to the making of Vadhavan. This road, after serving its purpose for the port, will be like a present from JNPA for the villagers near the port for their access to the port.

Q: There has been resistance by the villagers and locals. How are you dealing with that?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: There are about 24 villages in the vicinity, but only a few problematic people show resistance even after their demands are considered. Practically, no one is affected in the region. For the people in the influential area the project will only bring many benefits. One of them is a skilling programme for the local youth where we have targeted producing 5,000 sea fares through a collaboration with ITIs. Besides, we are also providing agriculture training for them through Dapoli Agricultural University and the skill development centre at Sahyadri Farms, Nashik. In fact, the only segment that can be seen affected by the port are the fishermen, but they are very positive towards the making of the port. And we have ensured to give them fair compensation and many benefits like loan subsidies through JNPA’s corporate social responsibility initiatives.

Q: How would the cargo distribution be once the Vadhavan Port begins operations? Any plans to bring in transshipment like at the Vizhinjam port?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: Cargo distribution will eventually happen even though it’s far from sight now. Vadhavan will take care of all the north-bound cargo while JNPT will cater to the hinterland operations. And for transshipment, Vizhinjam is only a transshipment port, while ours is a get-away port with only 1 per cent transshipment capacity. Currently, around 25 per cent of the cargo from India is transshipped and 20 per cent is from the western side. With Vadhavan coming on the western seafront, 100 per cent of this cargo will come to the new port. So we will ensure there is a balance of all the operations amongst both the ports.

Q: What are your plans to make both the ports sustainable and automated—measures already in place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port and plans for Vadhavan?

Unmesh Sharad Wagh: Sustainability is always at the centre of our port operations. The port already runs on 60 per cent renewable, green energy, which we are planning to take up to 100 per cent.

# Southwest monsoon covers the entire country early, but reaches Delhi late



GNS News Agency, July 7

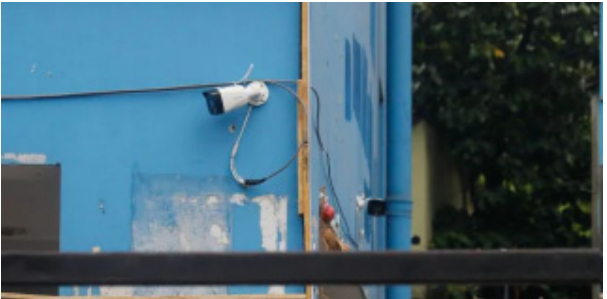
The southwest monsoon covered the entire country on Sunday (June 29), significantly ahead of its normal schedule of July 8. However, in Delhi, its arrival was slightly delayed from the usual onset date of June 27. Last year, the monsoon reached the national capital on June 28, while in 2022 it arrived earlier, on June 25. In recent days, Delhi has witnessed a steady influx of moisture-laden southeasterly winds, which enhanced cloud cover and brought scattered to fairly widespread rainfall across the region. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there have been only a few instances since 1960 when the monsoon has advanced over both Delhi and the entire country on the same day. One such occurrence was on July 2, 1967. Most such instances have taken place in July – in 1968, 1987, 1990, 2003, and 2011. Only once before, in 2013, did the mon-

# ‘Jahan jhuggi, wahan maidan’: Arvind Kejriwal targets PM Modi at Jantar Mantar protest against demolitions

GNS News Agency, July 7

The protest saw sharp attacks on both the BJP and the Congress, with the AAP convenor accusing the government of betraying Delhi’s poor. Addressing the crowd, Kejriwal said, “It’s only been five months since they formed the government, and already the situation in Delhi has deteriorated so badly that people have had to gather here today.” Referring to a video he had released before the elections, Kejriwal claimed he had warned of mass evictions. “I had said they would demolish jhuggis within a year if they came to power—I didn’t think they’d do it in just five months,” he said. The former chief minister lashed out at the ongoing demolitions amid Delhi’s sweltering summer. “It’s 50 degrees right now. In this heat, they are tearing down homes and leaving people out on the streets,” he said. Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kejriwal referred to the BJP’s slogan “Jahan jhuggi, wahan makaan” and rephrased it as “Jahan jhuggi, wahan maidan”. “Modiji had appealed for your votes with promises of housing. But look at what he meant — not homes, just empty grounds.” Kejriwal also mocked the BJP’s pre-election outreach to slum-dwellers. “Remember their Jhuggi Ratri Pravas Abhiyan? Their leaders came to your homes, ate with you, played carroms with your children. And today, those are the very homes they are destroying,” he said. “The day 40 lakh people come out on the streets, Delhi’s jhuggis will be saved,” he said, urging those who had gathered to continue their mobilisation. The AAP chief also warned the Congress, whose 15-year reign in Delhi ended with the rise of the AAP after the 2011 anti-corruption movement. “This is the same Jantar Mantar where the Congress was removed from power. If you (BJP) don’t stop now, your government won’t last more than three years.” After loosing the Delhi elections to the BJP, the AAP feared its vote base—the Dalits and minorities—will move back to the Congress, parties they used to vote for before Kejriwal rose to power. Comparing the BJP to the Congress, he said, “Both BJP and Congress are anti-poor. These are parties of the rich, and they come to power to make money. Only the AAP has worked for the poor.”

# Kolkata law college rape case: CCTV footage corroborates victim’s account, SIT expanded to 9 members



GNS News Agency, July 7

Police sources revealed that more than seven and a half hours of CCTV footage from the college’s external gate and premises have been collected and meticulously examined. Police sources revealed that more than seven and a half hours of CCTV footage from the college’s external gate and premises have been collected and meticulously examined.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Kolkata law college rape case has been expanded from five to nine members to expedite the investigation, police officers confirmed Sunday. The move comes as investigators make significant progress, with collected CCTV footage reportedly corroborating the statement of the first-year student of the law college who was allegedly raped on June 25 in the security guard’s room on the campus. Police sources revealed that more than seven and a half hours of CCTV footage from the college’s external gate and premises have been collected and meticulously examined. “Yes, the CCTV footage... also corroborates the victim’s statement,” a senior police officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Indian Express, specifically referring to the complainant’s claim that she was prevented from leaving the college. So far, four people have been arrested in connection with the alleged rape: a contractual staffer and former student of the college, Monojit Mishra, 31; and two students, Zaib Ahmed, 19, and Pramit Mukherjee, 20; and a security guard of the college, Pinaki Banerjee. All four arrested were visible in the CCTV footage obtained by the police from the day of the alleged rape, confirming their presence at the scene, as per the police. The SIT has already applied for the confidential statements of the survivor and her parents.

soon cover Delhi and the entire country simultaneously in the month of June — on the 16th.

southwest monsoon According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), there have been only a few instances since 1960 when the monsoon has advanced over both Delhi and the entire country on the same day. Earlier, IMD officials had attributed the delayed arrival over Delhi, despite persistent cloud cover, to an anticyclonic circulation that was temporarily obstructing the monsoon’s advance. They noted that the system would weaken soon, allowing the monsoon to progress. Till Saturday, the Northern Limit of Monsoon passed through Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Jhunjhunu, Bharatpur, Rampur, Sonapat, and Anup Nagar, as per the IMD. The Met office has issued a yellow alert for Monday, forecasting light to moderate rain or thunderstorms accompanied by lightning in Delhi and surrounding areas. No alerts have been issued for the subsequent days, but rainfall is still expected. Daytime temperatures are likely to fall and remain between 26 and 31 degree Celsius through the week. In its extended range forecast valid up to July 10, the IMD has predicted above-normal rainfall in Delhi. The normal rainfall for the month is 209.7 mm. Between July 3 and 10, the department stated, “The monsoon trough is likely to be active and near its normal position during most days of the week. As a result, fairly widespread to widespread rainfall with isolated heavy falls is likely over many parts of northwest India.”



Reacting to the allegations, the Congress accused Kejriwal of shedding crocodile tears for the homeless. “When bulldozer action was being taken all over Delhi and the poor were being rendered homeless, where was former CM Kejriwal who is now suddenly shedding crocodile tears? Not only do they need to atone for their sins, but they are also required to answer some questions! Today Delhi Congress President @devendrayadvinc ji will ask 10 questions to Aam Aadmi Party. Is Kejriwal ready???” the party’s Delhi unit wrote on X. Kejriwal also alleged that power supply had worsened under the new government. “Five months ago, Delhi had uninterrupted electricity. Today, even in my house—which is next to Rashtrapati Bhavan—there are five power cuts a day,” he said, adding that the government subsidies would also be removed within an year. Kejriwal concluded by asking the crowd to take a pledge to never vote for either the BJP or the Congress again. Delhi AAP president Saurabh Bharadwaj also took to the stage, responding to recent remarks by BJP leaders suggesting that many of those displaced in demolitions were “Bangladeshis and Rohingyas”. Turning to the crowd, he asked, “Are you Bangladeshis? Are you Rohingyas?” A “No!” came back in response from the crowd. Former minister Gopal Rai echoed the sentiment. “Even before the BJP came to power, Arvind Kejriwal had warned what their bulldozers would do. And now, they are not just breaking homes—they are questioning your very identity.”

Bidisha Kalita, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Jadavpur Division, Kolkata, along with Pradeep Kumar Ghoshal, Assistant Commissioner of Police (South Suburbs), who leads the SIT, visited the crime scene on Sunday and began an examination. Investigators have compiled a list of all those who visited the college on June 25, based on CCTV footage and witness statements. All those on this list will be questioned, with some already summoned by the police. The survivor’s parents are also expected to record their confidential statements before a magistrate. A crucial development in the investigation was the reconstruction of the crime scene on Saturday for over two hours in the presence of the survivor.

# Rainfall deficit hampers Telangana Kharif sowing; paddy output under threat

Hyderabad: Telangana’s Kharif sowing has suffered a setback this year, with only 29.9 lakh acres cultivated by the end of June, significantly lower than the 35.93 lakh acres sown during the same period last year. The drop is largely attributed to a 42 per cent rainfall deficit, with the State recording just 56.3 mm of rain against the normal seasonal average of 97.06 mm. The scanty rainfall, combined with dipping reservoir levels and soaring temperatures, has slowed sowing and transplantation activities, especially for paddy, a crucial crop for Telangana. The normal Kharif sown area in the State stands at 132.44 lakh acres, with a target of 152 lakh acres set for 2025, including 66 lakh acres for paddy. As of mid-June, sowing covered 19.16 lakh acres, marginally higher than the expected 19.14 lakh acres but well below last year’s 25.27 lakh acres at this time. Cotton led the way with 15.26 lakh acres, followed by soybean (1.04 lakh acres), red gram (50,574 acres), maize (48,766 acres), and paddy (36,300 acres). While the Agriculture Department remains optimistic that sowing will pick up in July if monsoon conditions improve, the outlook remains cautious for now. The challenges are particularly stark for paddy farmers. Telangana achieved a record 153 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of paddy in Kharif 2024,



# US Supreme Court upholds childproofing porn sites



Washington: The US Supreme Court handed down a decision on June 27, 2025, that will reshape how States protect children online. In a case assessing a Texas law requiring age verification to access porn sites, the court created a new legal path that makes it easier for States to craft laws regulating what kids see and do on the internet. In a 6-3 decision, the court ruled in *Free Speech Coalition Inc. v. Paxton* that Texas' law obligating porn sites to block access to underage users is constitutional. The law requires pornographic websites to verify users' ages – for example by making users scan and upload their driver's license – before granting access to content that is deemed obscene for minors but not adults.

The majority on the court rejected both the porn industry's argument for strict scrutiny – the toughest legal test that requires the government to prove a law is absolutely necessary – and Texas' argument for mere rational basis review, which requires only a rational connection between the law's legitimate aims and its actions. Instead, Justice Clarence Thomas' opinion established intermediate scrutiny, a middle ground that requires laws to serve important government interests without being overly burdensome, as the appropriate standard. The court's reasoning hinged on characterizing the law as only "incidentally" burdening adults' First Amendment rights. Since minors have no constitutional right to access pornography, the state can require age verification to prevent that unprotected activity. Any burden on adults is, according to the ruling, merely a side effect of this legitimate regulation. The court also pointed to dramatic technological changes since earlier similar laws were struck down in the 1990s and early 2000s. Back then, only 2 in 5 households had internet access, mostly through slow dial-up connections on desktop computers. Today, 95 per cent of teens carry smartphones with constant internet access to massive libraries of content. Porn site Pornhub alone published over 150 years of new material in 2019. The court argued that earlier decisions "could not have conceived of these developments," making age verification more necessary than judges could have imagined decades ago. More importantly for future legislation, the court embraced an "ordinary and appropriate means" doctrine: When states have authority to govern an area, they may use traditional methods to exercise that power. Since age verification is common for alcohol and tobacco, tattoos and piercings, firearms, driver's licenses and voting, the court held that it's similarly appropriate for regulating minors' access to sexual content. The key takeaway: When States are trying to keep kids away from certain types of content that kids have no legal right to see anyway, requiring age verification is an ordinary and appropriate way to enforce that boundary. This decision could resolve a fundamental enforcement problem in child privacy laws. Current laws like the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act protect children only when companies have actual knowledge a user is under 13. But platforms routinely

avoid this requirement by not asking users' ages or letting them enter whatever age they want. Without age verification, there's no actual knowledge and thus no privacy protections.

The Supreme Court's reasoning changes this dynamic. Since the court emphasized that children lack the same constitutional rights as adults regarding certain protections, states may now be able to require age verification before data collection. California's Age-Appropriate Design Code and similar state privacy laws would gain substantially more regulatory power under this framework. Meanwhile, social media platforms could face more restrictions. Several states have tried to limit how social media platforms interact with minors. Florida recently banned kids under 14 from having social media accounts entirely, while other states have targeted specific features such as endless scrolling or push notifications designed to keep kids hooked.

The Supreme Court's reasoning could protect laws that require age verification before kids can use certain platform features, such as direct messaging with strangers or livestreaming. However, laws that try to block kids from seeing general social media content would still face tough legal challenges, since that content is typically protected speech for everyone. The decision also supports state laws regulating how minors interact with app stores and gaming platforms. Minors generally can't enter binding contracts without parental consent in the physical world, so states could require the same online. Proposed legislation such as the App Store Accountability Act would require parental approval before kids can download apps or agree to terms of service. States have also considered restrictions on "loot boxes" – digital gambling-like features – and surprise in-app purchases that can result in massive charges to parents. Since States already require an ID to buy lottery tickets or enter casinos, requiring age verification before kids can spend money on digital gambling mechanics follows the court's logic. But this decision doesn't give states free rein to regulate the internet. The court's reasoning applies to content that children have no legal right to access in the first place, specifically sexually explicit material. For most online content such as news, educational materials, general entertainment and political discussions, both adults and kids have constitutional rights to access.

Laws trying to age-gate this protected content would still likely face the strict scrutiny's standard and be struck down, but what online content and experiences underage users are constitutionally entitled to is not settled. Many advocates worry that while the "obscene for minors" standard in this case appears legally narrow, states will try to expand it or use similar reasoning to classify LGBTQ+-related educational content, health resources or community support materials as inherently sexual and inappropriate for minors.

The court also emphasized that even under this more permissive standard, laws still have to be reasonable. Age verification requirements that are overly burdensome, sweep too broadly or create serious privacy problems could still be ruled unconstitutional. The court's decision in this case gives state lawmakers much more room to effectively regulate how online platforms interact with children, but I believe successful laws will need to be carefully written. For parents worried about their kids' online safety, this could mean more tools and protections. For tech companies, it likely means more compliance requirements and age verification systems. And for the broader internet, it represents a significant shift toward treating online spaces more like physical ones, where people have long accepted that some doors require showing ID to enter.

# What are the issues around deportation? | Explained



The story so far: At least seven West Bengal residents who were pushed to Bangladesh by the Border Security Force (BSF) on suspicion of being Bangladeshis were brought back to India after the intervention of the State government. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on June 25 that residents speaking in their native Bengali language are being branded as Bangladeshis in some Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-ruled States. Several people who were pushed from Assam to Bangladesh also returned as they were found to be Indians or that their citizenship cases were sub-judice.

Why have matters escalated?

After the regime change in Bangladesh in August 2024, the police across the country were asked by the Union Home Ministry to detect Bangladeshis who had illegally entered the country and were living here on forged documents. The drive assumed momentum after the Pahalgam terror attack in April and the subsequent 'Operation Sindoor'. The Ministry has issued instructions to States to deport undocumented migrants but in most cases pushbacks are happening. Around 2,500 suspected Bangladeshis have been pushed back so far. On May 10, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the government has decided to implement the "pushback" mechanism to check infiltration instead of going through the legal route which is a long-drawn process. Home Minister Amit Shah has asked top intelligence officials to make an example of "infiltrators" by detecting, detaining, and deporting them. In 2022, at an Intelligence Bureau meeting, Mr. Shah had asked officials to identify around 100 illegal migrants in each State, check documents and arrest and deport them. He asked them to continue with the crackdown even if neighbouring countries do not accept the undocumented migrants.

What is the difference between deportation and pushback?

Deportation is a legal process which involves detaining and arresting a foreigner suspected to be living in India without documents or who has entered the country illegally. The case is presented before a court and after exhaustion of all legal avenues, which includes conviction by the court, the country which the foreigner belongs to is contacted and the deportation takes places once the identity is confirmed. Pushbacks are not a legal procedure and there are no stated rules. They happen when a foreigner has been caught by the border security force on the international border and, depending on the intensity of the case or the discretion of the border personnel, they are either arrested, made to face the law here or pushed back. Since citizenship and foreigners are Union List subjects, it is the Home Ministry which delegates powers to deport foreigners to State governments. In 2024, the Ministry told the Jharkhand High Court that since the "Central Government does not maintain a separate federal police force exclusively dedicated to the task of detection and deportation of illegally staying foreigners, action in this regard has been entrusted to the State police."

What is the Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act,

1950?

On June 9, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said the State government was likely to enforce a 1950 law to identify and evict illegal foreigners, adding that under the law, district commissioners are empowered to declare individuals as illegal immigrants and initiate eviction proceedings. The 1950 Act was passed by Parliament amid communal disturbance and violence following the Partition of India in 1947 and creation of East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) bordering West Bengal, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram. The Act says that "it extends to the whole of India", but has Assam-specific provisions. Section 2 of the Act says that if the Union government is of the opinion that any person or class of persons, having been ordinarily resident in any place outside India are detrimental to the interests of the general public of India or any Scheduled Tribe in Assam, the Union government may by order, "direct such person or class of persons to remove himself or themselves from India or Assam within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order"; and "give such further directions in regard to his or their removal from India or Assam as it may consider necessary or expedient".

What are the laws for foreigners?

Till April this year, matters relating to foreigners and immigration were administered through "pre-Constitution period" laws enacted during the First and Second World Wars, which were the Foreigners Act, 1946, Passport (Entry into India) Act, 1920, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939 and the Immigration (Carriers' Liability) Act, 2000. In April, Parliament enacted the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025 repealing the old laws.

Unlike Pakistan and Bangladesh borders, the rules for movement of people along Nepal and Myanmar are different. Nepal has a free-border agreement with India, and a Free Movement regime (FMR), allowing movement of people residing within 10-km on either side, exists along the India-Myanmar border. Following the May 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur, the Ministry in 2024 decided to fence the entire 1,643-km Myanmar border in the next 10 years. Post the military coup in Myanmar in February 2021, over 40,000 refugees from Myanmar belonging to the Chin ethnic group who are closely related to the Mizo community crossed over to Mizoram. On March 10, 2021, the MHA sent a letter to the State governments of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Mizoram that the refugees should be identified and deported and that the State Governments have no powers to grant "refugee" status to any foreigner as India is not a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol. The refugees continue to live here.

What is behind this recent drive?

Since the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam, the police has intensified the drive to detect undocumented migrants. Initially, they were taken by trains to border districts and then pushed to Bangladesh by the BSF. In some instances, migrants after being up picked from Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, were flown by planes to Agartala in Tripura and transported to the Bangladesh border by BSF personnel. The police and the BSF record biometrics and photographs of the undocumented migrants. It is to be noted that the BSF has never acknowledged any of the pushbacks. The Ministry has asked the States to verify the claims of undocumented migrants who claim Indian nationality after which District Magistrates are to send a report within 30 days, failing which the Foreigners Regional Registration Officer would deport them. In 2022, the Unique Identification Authority of India was asked to maintain a "negative list" to stop undocumented migrants from procuring identity documents in the future.

# Where does India lag in gender metrics? | Explained



The legislation for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and in State legislatures was passed after a long wait in 2023, but as it is tied to a new Census and delimitation exercise, it can only be implemented from the 2029 general election at the earliest. Women's representation in the Lok Sabha has ranged from 3.4% in 1977 to 14% in 2019.

The story so far: India dropped two places in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index for 2025, slipping to the 131st rank out of 148 countries. While the gender gap has narrowed or remained stable in the case of three categories — economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival — it has worsened in the case of political empowerment. At a time when rising numbers of women are voting in elections, the number of women in the highest halls of power remain stubbornly low. This is set to change in 2029, when mandatory 33% reservation for women in State and national legislatures is set to kick in, but steps need to be taken to ensure the benefits of this law extend to the long term.

What led to the drop?

The Index uses three indicators to assess political empowerment, with India falling in two — the percentage of women in Parliament, which dropped from 14.7% (78 MPs) in 2024 to 13.79% (74 MPs) in 2025 after the general election for the 18th Lok Sabha; and the percentage of women in ministerial positions, which dropped from an already abysmal 6.45% in 2024 to just 5.56% in 2025.

What will change after women's reservation?

The legislation for 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and in State legislatures was passed after a long wait in 2023, but as it is tied to a new Census and delimitation exercise, it can only be implemented from the 2029 general election at the earliest. Women's representation in the Lok Sabha has ranged from 3.4% in 1977 to 14% in 2019. At the time of the passage of the women's reserva-

tion legislation in 2023, women accounted for only 9% of MLAs in State Assemblies, with Chhattisgarh having the highest representation (18% women MLAs), while Himachal Pradesh had just one woman MLA and Mizoram had none. Jacking these figures up to at least 33% will give a significant boost to India's political empowerment scores. The catch is that reservation is only valid for 15 years from the time the law passes, meaning that it is likely to be implemented in only two general election cycles, 2029 and 2034, raising concerns about the sustainability of gains women would make in this period. Also, while more women may become MPs, it remains to be seen if ruling parties also appoint them to ministerial roles in higher numbers, increasing their representation in actual governance. Despite the three-decade old 33% reservation for women at the panchayat and municipality level, which has been increased to 50% in most States, there is no clear pipeline to draw such local leaders into State-level politics.

Does the rise in women voters matter?

Back in 1952, 28 lakh women were excluded from voting in the general election as they were listed on the electoral rolls only as someone's mother or wife, with their own names missing. The gender gap among voters has narrowed speedily since then, from 17 percentage points in 1962 to less than two percentage points in 2014. In fact, in the last two general elections, women voters have actually overtaken men, though this can also be partially attributed to rising male migration for employment, leaving men unable to vote in their home States. The rising numbers of women voting has led to political parties wooing women as a votebank, with a slew of welfare schemes aimed at women, ranging from free bicycles for girls to a monthly allowance for poorer women.

How to increase women candidates?

The trend with respect to women voters, however, has not translated into an increase in women's representation. "Political parties continue to give lower representation to women candidates in so-called 'good seats', often citing a lack of winnability," says Rahul Verma, a political scientist at the Centre for Policy Research, noting that many parties field women in seats reserved for Scheduled Caste/Tribe candidates, in a bid to offset that quota. "Women voters do not automatically vote for women candidates. Gender is not like caste, where voters may vote on the basis of identity. Women are much more practical, looking for actual programmatic delivery," says Tara Krishnaswamy of Political Shakti, a non-partisan group working to improve women's representation in politics. However, she dismisses parties' excuses that women candidates are not winnable. "In every general election since 1952, women candidates have had a higher winning percentage in comparison to men. The problem is that women do not make it to the candidates list... Women candidates in the lists of recognised parties average about 8% or 9%," she says.

# Weddings, interrupted

As men arrange themselves comfortably on a charpoy, Munnish Devi, 50, finds herself a spot on the mud floor of her three-room house at Bhureka village in Uttar Pradesh's Mathura district. Devi, whose husband passed away a few years ago, has four daughters. One of them is Kalpana, 20, who married Akash, 21, in May this year. The only memory Devi has from the wedding is a blood-stained pair of white pyjamas, which she has kept in a stainless steel trunk. It's a reminder of the day a celebration turned violent.

Akash, a member of the Dalit community, was dragged off the chariot he was riding joyously to his bride's house. Many wedding guests were allegedly assaulted by a group of men from the Jat community because members of the Dalit community had organised a wedding procession. In Uttar Pradesh, numerous cases have been reported where Dalit families have faced violence from upper caste communities for organising wedding ceremonies in smaller towns and villages. As many as 15,368 cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and five against Scheduled Tribes were registered in the State in 2022, as per the National Crime Records Bureau data. There is no separate data on atrocities against Dalits during celebrations. Every month though, there are incidents of Dalit wedding processions being attacked in the State. On June 21, Arti Kumari, 19, and Vikas Singh, 21, were getting married in Etah district's Dhakpura village. When their baraat reached a Rajput-dominant settlement, they allegedly faced threats and stones were pelted. The wedding ultimately took place under police protection. In Bhureka, where mud houses dot green fields, people primarily engage in farming. Despite being located just off the Yamuna Expressway — the 165-km, high-speed road that connects Noida with Agra — people in the village have a slow life.

Inside Devi's barely constructed house, open from all sides, men discuss the heatwave. Kalpana's cousin, Anil Kumar, 25, shows videos of the wedding day. He explains how, on May 22, a group of people allegedly from the Jat community in the neighbouring village disrupted the wedding procession. They were upset with the DJ playing music and Akash riding a chariot, he says. "They hurled casteist abuses and attacked our baraatis (members of the bridegroom's procession). It was shameful. We were all so excited about the wedding. Akash's family had come from Aligarh. When the men started threatening our baraatis, we called the police," Anil says. After the police arrived at the marriage hall, barely a few kilometres away, the couple completed their pheras (seven rounds around the fire) at midnight. The next day at 8 a.m., Anil says, the same group, and 20-25 others, returned to the house, holding weapons. They tore the baraatis' clothes, hit them, and damaged the tent and everything in the vicinity. They hurled casteist abuses and insulted the women and children, he says. "We couldn't sit there and see our guests being insulted, so we retaliated, and many of us, including the elderly, got hurt. Look at our stained pyjamas," he says, pointing to a video of the incident. "These were brand new, and now, this is the

only memory we hold." Anil looks away as other family members show their wounds. An FIR has been registered at the Naujheel police station against 20-25 people for rioting, house trespassing, and criminal intimidation under sections of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

Circle Officer (Mant) Gunjan Singh says six persons from the village have been arrested in connection with the incident. "The allegation that the baraat was stopped is false. Our investigation did not reveal it. The argument took place only because the DJ played loud music at night," he says, adding that only three persons asked for the volume to be turned down.

During the 'bidai (giving away of the bride)', Kalpana's family was at the police station, waiting to give their statements. "The last thing I could have given my daughter was a peaceful goodbye; even that wasn't allowed," Devi adds.

Kalpana studied till Class 8; Akash works as a carpenter. The family felt that their daughter would have a better life in a city. Many young women in the village marry in that hope. Not many have access to higher education. A marriage that will take women to a city is seen as a way out of both poverty and suppression.

Soon after the incident, which was reported across newspapers, Ram Khiladi, 60, a resident of Bhureka village, says his daughter's 'rishta (match)' from Palwal in Rajasthan seems to have fallen through. "The family has stopped responding. They said they wouldn't send their baraat to our village because they would get attacked. This is what the attack has done to our people," he says. While the 'pradhan (village head)' is usually the first to respond to local matters, villagers say it depends a lot on which community they are from and which community is at the receiving end. In Bhureka, the pradhan, Bhuvnesh Sharma, hails from the Brahmin community, and he did not offer any support, they say. Sharma says he did. "I even met the family," he says, though he does not give details of what they spoke about. Sushil Gautam, a Dalit rights activist, who has been working on ground for more than 20 years, believes that even though times are changing, "issues still persist". He talks about how the traditional system of marriage has evolved in the Dalit community over the past few years. "With access to social media and education, people from the Dalit community have understood what the term 'resistance' means. It is about creating a safe space for ourselves and accessing rights, be it marriage, education, or something as small as keeping a moustache," he explains. Gautam says even during wedding ceremonies, photographs of Dalit icons such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Ravidas, and Jyotibha Phule take centre stage. "In several instances, when a Dalit wears bright colours, like yellow or green, casteist slurs are hurled at them." This behaviour was endorsed by the caste system for centuries to make the so-called lowest castes unseen and unheard, he says. "Now, people from the Dalit community dress up and the women wear the bridal red. Nobody can take that away from us," he says.



# U.K. police reviewing rapper Bobby Vylan's anti-IDF comments at Glastonbury Festival



GNS News Agency, July 7

British police said they were examining videos of a band that led chants of "death to the IDF" or Israel Defense Forces at Saturday's Glastonbury Festival. Rapper Bobby Vylan, of rap punk duo Bob Vylan, led crowds attending the festival in chants of "free, free Palestine" and "death, death to the IDF." DJ Proval of Kneecap, wearing a balaclava in the colours of the Irish flag, performs at Glastonbury Festival at Worthy Farm in Pilton, Somerset, Britain, June 28, 2025.

DJ Provai of Kneecap, wearing a balaclava in the colours of the Irish flag, performs at Glastonbury Festival at Worthy Farm in Pilton, Somerset, Britain, June 28, 2024. | Photo Credit: Reuters

Avon and Somerset Police said video evidence would be assessed by officers "to determine whether any offenses may have been committed that would require a criminal investigation." The Israeli Embassy to the U.K. said on social media that it was "deeply disturbed by the inflammatory and hateful rhetoric expressed on stage at the Glastonbury Festival." Health Secretary Wes Streeting on Sunday (June 29, 2025) condemned the band's actions as "appalling." He told Sky News that the BBC and festival organizers had to answer questions about how the

# Russia's Rosneft in early talks with Reliance to sell stake in India unit

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Russian oil giant PJSC Rosneft Oil Company is in early talks with Reliance Industries for sale of its 49.13% stake in Nayara Energy, which operates a 20-million tonnes-a-year oil refinery and 6,750 petrol pumps in India, sources said. Reliance has held preliminary talks for acquisition of Nayara, which will help it overtake state-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC). But the talks are at preliminary stage and there is no guarantee that they may lead to a definite deal as valuation remains a sticky ground, three sources with direct knowledge of the matter said.

Top Rosneft officials have visited India at least thrice in the last one year, including visits to Ahmedabad and Mumbai, for talks with potential investors. For Rosneft, which is looking to exit from Nayara due to western sanctions limiting its ability to repatriate full earnings from India operations, a potential buyer could be one who has substantial earnings overseas or is an international company - both of which could make quick overseas payouts for the stake. Being a large exporter of fuel, Reliance has substantial overseas income, the sources said.

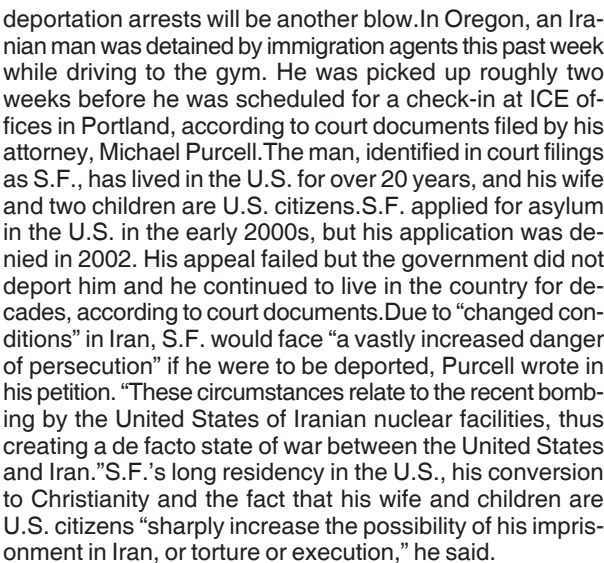
While emails sent to Rosneft for comments remained unanswered, a Reliance spokesperson said, "As a policy, we do not comment on media speculation and rumours." "Our company evaluates various opportunities on an ongoing basis," the spokesperson said. "We have made and will continue to make necessary disclosures in compliance with our obligations under Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 and our agreements with the stock exchanges." Rosneft, which had in 2017 acquired Essar Oil in a \$12.9-billion deal, is unable to get full financial benefits from its Indian operations, including repatriating earnings, due to international sanctions. Essar Oil was subsequently named Nayara Energy. The Russian giant sometime in 2024 decided to exit Nayara and began scouting for potential buyers. Alongside Rosneft, UCP Investment Group, a major Russian financial firm, is also selling its 24.5% stake in Nayara. The rest of Nayara's ownership includes Trifuriga Group (24.5%) and a group of retail shareholders. If a deal is struck, Trifuriga too may exit the venture within months on same terms, they said.

The stake of Rosneft and UCP was offered to Reliance Industries, Adani Group, Saudi Aramco and state-owned ONGC/IOC combine among others. But the \$20-billion valuation that Rosneft had put for Nayara was considered too steep a price by almost every potential investor. Adani Group politely declined the offer to invest in an oil refinery, which is considered a sunset business given the energy transition planned worldwide.

Besides the asking price being too high, the conglomerate's understanding with French energy giant TotalEnergies, with whom it has stitched multi-billion dollar partnership in city gas and renewable energy space, also came in the way of investing in Nayara, the sources said,

The Israeli military on Sunday ordered a mass evacuation of Palestinians in large swaths of northern Gaza, an early target of the war that has been severely damaged by multiple rounds of fighting. Col Avichay Adraee, a military spokesperson, posted the order on social media. It includes multiple neighbourhoods in eastern and northern Gaza City, as well as Jabaliya refugee camp. The military will expand its escalating attacks to the city's northern section, calling for people to move southward to the Muwasi area in southern Gaza, Adraee said. After being all but emptied earlier in the war, hundreds of thousands of people are in northern Gaza following their return during a ceasefire earlier this year. An Israeli military offensive currently underway aims to move Palestinians to southern Gaza so forces can more freely operate to combat militants. Rights groups say their movement would amount to forcible transfer.

A sticking point over how the war endsThe war in Gaza began with Oct 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas in which militants killed 1,200 people and took roughly 250 hostage, about 50 of whom remain captive with less than half believed to be alive.Israel's retaliatory response has killed more than 56,000 people, according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish between militants and civilians in their count but say more than half of the dead are women and children.The war has set off a humanitarian catastrophe, displaced most of Gaza's population, often multiple times, and obliterated much of the territory's urban landscape.Talks between Israel and Hamas have repeatedly faltered over one major sticking point, whether the war should end as part of any ceasefire agreement.Hamas says it is willing to free all the hostages in exchange for a full withdrawal of Israeli troops and an end to the war. Israel rejects that offer, saying it will agree to end the war if Hamas disarms and goes into exile, something the group refuses.



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"The latest Senate draft bill will destroy millions of jobs in America and cause immense strategic harm to our country," Musk wrote on X, as the Senate prepared to vote on whether to open debate on the nearly 1,000-page bill. He added, "It gives handouts to industries of the past while severely damaging industries of the future." Musk, who turned a year older on Saturday, later posted that the bill would be "political suicide for the Republican Party." His remarks have reopened a recent public conflict with Trump's administration, which he left last month after serving as head of the Department of Government Efficiency. The renewed feud adds another layer of trouble for Republican Senate leaders working overtime this weekend to push the legislation through before Trump's self-imposed July Fourth deadline. Musk has never held back his opinions about Trump's "big, beautiful bill." Soon after leaving his federal post, he described the bill as "pork-filled" and a "disgusting abomination," shaming lawmakers who supported it. "Shame on those who voted for it: you know you did wrong. You know it," he wrote on X earlier this month. Musk, a major GOP donor, even threatened to cut off donations and back primary challengers against lawmakers he said "betrayed the American people." Their back-and-forth has turned personal at times. After Trump responded with disappointment over Musk's attacks, the billionaire escalated tensions by suggesting, without evidence, that Trump was linked to files involving sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. Musk later admitted some of his posts "went too far" and tried to reconcile. Trump, in an interview with The New York Post, downplayed the feud, saying, "Things like that happen. I don't blame him for anything."

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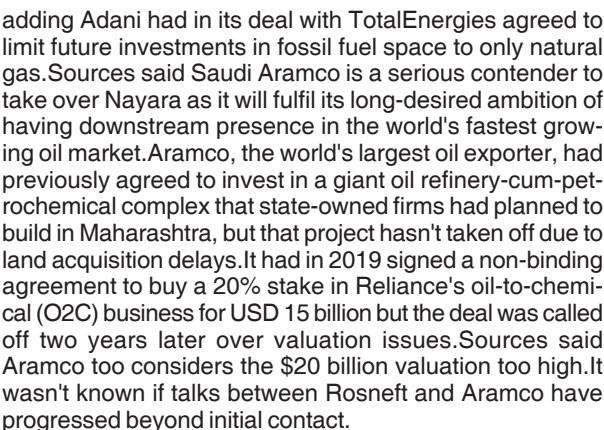
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Revellers with Palestinian and other flags gather as Kneecap performs at Glastonbury Festival at Worthy Farm in Pilton, Somerset, Britain, June 28, 2025. Revellers with Palestinian and other flags gather as Kneecap performs at Glastonbury Festival at Worthy Farm in Pilton, Saturday's festival lineup also included Irish-language rap group Kneecap, which gave an impassioned performance for tens of thousands of fans despite criticism by British politicians and a terror charge for one of the trio. Liam Óg Ó hAnnaidh, who performs under the stage name Mo Chara, has been charged under the Terrorism Act with supporting a proscribed organization for allegedly waving a Hezbollah flag at a concert in London in November. The rapper, who was charged under the anglicized version of his name, Liam O'Hanna, is on unconditional bail before a further court hearing in August. Irish hip-hop group Kneecap performed at Glastonbury Festival despite criticism by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer. Frontman Liam O'Hanna was charged with a terrorism offense last month. The group has faced criticism for lyrics laden with expletives and drug references, and for political statements, especially since videos emerged allegedly showing the band shouting "up Hamas, up Hezbollah" and calling on people to kill lawmakers. On Saturday band members led the audience in chants of "Free Palestine" and "Free Mo Chara." They also aimed an expletive-laden chant at U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has said he didn't think it was "appropriate" for Kneecap to play Glastonbury. About 200,000 ticket holders have turned up in southwest England for Britain's most prestigious summer music festival, which features almost 4,000 performers on 120 stages.



Nayara makes the most sense for Reliance, they said. Reliance operates twin refineries, with a combined capacity of 68.2 million tonnes per annum at Jamnagar in Gujarat. Its units are in the vicinity of Nayara's 20-million tonnes-a-year unit at Vadinar, Gujarat. Nayara will help it cross IOC's 80.8-million tonnes-a-year capacity to become No. 1 refiner in the country. But more importantly, the 6,750 petrol pumps of Nayara would help it gain a meaningful share in the fuel retailing business. Reliance has just 1,972 petrol pumps out of 97,366 outlets in the country. "Oil refining alone is not a profitable business. Unless you have marketing, you can never make money," an industry official explained. Sources said for both Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and IOC, the valuation being sought by Rosneft is too high.

For them the value of petrol pumps should not be more than 73-3.5 crore per outlet. This gives a valuation of not more than USD 2.5-3 billion for the marketing network and similar value is what they see for the oil refinery, they said. But for Reliance, the value of the marketing network is more, perhaps 77 crore per outlet (\$5.5 billion). And given the synergies the combined operations of Jamnagar and Vadinar refineries can derive, the 20-million tonnes Nayara unit and its planned petchem unit could be worth another \$5 billion, they said. Sources said since the start of talks, Rosneft has brought down the valuation to \$17 billion but that too is considered too high by companies such as Reliance.

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Nepal's former President Bidya Devi Bhandari on Saturday (June 28, 2025) announced that she has rejoined active politics by renewing her membership of the ruling CPN-UML, nearly a decade after she left the party to assume the country's top constitutional post. Ms. Bhandari, 62, made the announcement while addressing a programme organised in Kathmandu by the Madan Bhandari Foundation to mark the 74th birth anniversary of her late husband and former Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) General Secretary Madan Bhandari. "I have renewed my membership of CPN-UML with an objective of giving continuity to the party's political journey," Ms. Bhandari said at the function, which was also attended by Prime Minister K. P. Oli. The former President's return to active politics comes amid growing speculation about her future role within the CPN-UML. Over the past few months, she has been holding interactions with party leaders and cadres across the country, fuelling rumours that she may be eyeing a larger role in party leadership. Political experts opine that Ms. Bhandari's decision to rejoin CPN-UML might pose a threat to Mr. Oli, who is enjoying "a kind of monopoly" in the ruling party. Quoting party insiders, The Kathmandu Post newspaper reported that Ms. Bhandari could challenge Mr. Oli in CPN-UML's next general convention. Mr. Oli, who has led the party since 2014, is said to be seeking a third term as chief. Speaking at the same event, Prime Minister

Oli asserted that CPN-UML was united and warned against attempts to divide it. Without naming anyone, he said, "Do not dream of splitting the UML." Mr. Oli also urged party members to focus on the next general elections, scheduled to be held in 2027-28. Adding to the political significance of her move, Ms. Bhandari recently undertook a 10-day visit to China from May 24, during which she held meetings with high-ranking officials. The visit drew attention in Nepal, with observers interpreting it as an effort to boost her political clout. Ms. Bhandari's re-entry into party politics has sparked debate in Nepal's political circles. It is not common for a former President to return to party politics, although there may be no legal restriction, senior journalist and political analyst Dhurva Hari Adhikari said. It may raise moral questions, even if it remains a personal decision, he added. Ms. Bhandari served as Nepal's President for two consecutive terms between 2015 and 2023. She had relinquished her party membership after being elected to the largely ceremonial post in October 2015, becoming the country's first woman Head of State. Before her elevation to the presidency, Ms. Bhandari was a senior CPN-UML leader and had served as the party's vice-chairperson. She was also the Defence Minister in the Madhav Kumar Nepal-led government in 2009. Ms. Bhandari is the widow of Madan Bhandari, a popular Marxist leader who died in a controversial jeep accident in 1993. The incident was widely seen as suspicious, and investigations at the time failed to conclusively establish the cause of the crash.



# Decolonising the Indian mind: Beyond political freedom



I do not agree with many things that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat says, but I have no hesitation in endorsing what in my view is right. Recently, in a speech in Indore, he said that political freedom may have come to us on August 15, 1947, but even after that we remained prisoners of the legacy left by colonialism and were not truly free in the cultural sense.

In this column, I keep away from political matters, but consider the cultural dimension even of politics my legitimate arena. I have consistently argued that it is the inevitable fate of all successfully colonised countries to remain culturally enslaved to their colonial rulers, long after political freedom has been attained. This is because colonial rule is not only about the physical subjugation of a people. It is as much—if not more—about the colonisation of the mind. Thus, political freedom is only one part of the project of decolonisation. Undoubtedly, it is a very significant part. Decades of political struggle and the most remarkable acts of courage and sacrifice of countless Indians preceded the proud unfurling of the Tiranga and the descent of the Union Jack on August 15, 1947. It was not easy or quick to defeat the mightiest military power of the time, and that too principally through non-violence and satyagraha under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. It is, therefore, not my intent, even remotely, to downgrade the political importance of our Independence Day. But the colonisers—at least the more farsighted among them—knew that the real purpose behind their political conquest was to achieve far more long-lasting goals. Nobody could have stated it with greater honesty than Thomas Babington Macaulay in his Minute on Education of 1835. Derisively, even damningly, dismissive of the civilisational refinements and achievements of anything Indian, he stated the coloniser’s purpose with clinical clarity: ‘We must at present do our best to form a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and intellect’. This class, he added, would in time become “by degrees fit vehicles for conveying (our) knowl-

edge to the great mass of the population”. In saying this he was only echoing what he had said earlier—and again without the slightest ideological prevarication—in a speech in the House of Commons: ‘There are triumphs which are followed by no reverse. There is an empire exempt from the natural cause of decay. These triumphs are the pacific triumphs of reason over barbarism; that empire is the imperishable empire of our arts and our morals, our literature and our laws.

It is this ‘imperishable empire’ in the cultural field that, I think, Bhagwat was talking about. And that empire does not cease to exist with political freedom alone. How true this is can be gauged by even a cursory evaluation of the continuing cultural consequences of colonialism. Decades after colonialism has ended politically, English is still the language of the elite; we judge a person’s ability by his or her ability to speak English with the right degree of accent and fluency; most of the Anglicised elite cannot count on a hundred in their own language; our education curriculum ensures—especially that of elite schools—that we have read Shakespeare but not Kalidasa; very few of us have actually read—leave alone studied—our own linguistic classics; we don’t know—and this surprised me—even such basics as who was Adi Shankaracharya, what did he write, and when did he live; we effortlessly mimic western cultural choices; in short, so many of us have shallow roots in the immensely fertile landscape of our own culture.

The process of reclaiming our cultural roots with authenticity is time-consuming. It can take decades, and sometimes even much more. For instance, in Africa, people in the countries that were under French colonial rule, now speak predominantly French. In spite of so many years of political independence, they have not resurrected their own languages, and in many cases, these are lost forever, and along with them, an entire corpus of cultural memory, symbolism, folklore, proverbs and way of life. Therefore, I do not agree with Mohan Bhagwat that one event, the Pran Pratishtha of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, is sufficient to dismantle colonial cooption and ensure true freedom. Culture has a correlation to religion, but it is not only about religion, and thus much more still needs to be done by us to become a culturally rooted, independent and autonomous civilisation. We have been tardy even in doing what was—and is—possible to expedite this process. A good example of this neglect is our education system. Too little has changed in its content and syllabus in an imaginative and enduring manner for our new generations to be sufficiently familiar with their own remarkable cultural heritage. It is true that things are changing, and slowly but surely, we are inching towards reappropriating our own cultural space. But this is still a work in progress.

# Jharkhand Forest dept plans to revive dwindling Bison population at PTR

Ranchi: The Jharkhand Forest Department has initiated a study to revive the dwindling population of Bison, popularly known as Gaur, at Palamu Tiger Reserve (PTR), an official said. The bovine, a food source for big cats, has already gone extinct from across Jharkhand, excluding the PTR where merely 50-70 bison are surviving, he claimed. According to wildlife experts, poaching, infection and habitat disturbance by local cattle have been the major reasons for the vanishing of bison from Jharkhand. “Once Bisons were abundant in Jharkhand’s Saranda, Dalma, Hazaribagh, Gumla and some other forests. But, they went extinct from across the State. PTR, mainly Betla range, is the last destination where it is surviving but numbers are on the decline,” said former State wildlife board member DS Srivastava.

He alleged domestic cattle was posing a major threat to the animal in PTR. “Over 1.5 lakh domestic cattle from around the villages in PTR have occupied most of the space of Bison. They are eating food of the Bison and are also spreading several infections such as mouth and foot diseases. The Forest Department needs to check the cattle grazing,” he said. PTR Director Kumar Ashutosh said they are carrying out a study to ascertain the parameters that impact the animal. “Various aspects are being studied right from their behaviour to survival requirements so that their population could be increased,” Ashutosh said. Giving more details, PTR Deputy Field Director Prajesh Jena said, “We are also studying species of grass they prefer, how to improve their habitats and grow their population. After the study, we will prepare a comprehensive plan for their revival.” He said that the bison population in PTR was around 150 in the 1970s. “The population is currently between 50 and 70. Its revival is also important from a tiger point of view. They are a good source of food for tigers, other than the Sambar and Cheetal,” he said. The tiger count in Jharkhand’s Palamau Tiger Reserve (PTR) rose to one in the latest tiger estimation report, released in 2023, from nil recorded in 2018. The reserve official, however, claimed that currently, the population of tigers in the reserve is around five.

“We have evidence of five tigers in camera trapping captured recently in the reserve,” Jena said. In a bid to protect bison and other animals from zoonotic diseases, the



PTR authority in association with district administration has also initiated a massive vaccination drive under which around 1.5 lakh domestic cattle will be vaccinated. Around 190 villages spread around the reserve area. The villagers let out their cattle inside the reserve area, which spread various diseases, mainly mouth and foot disease, through water bodies, Jena said. “So, we have decided to vaccinate them to protect bison and other animals in the reserve area,” he said. The PTR authority has already started the grass-land improvement work and strengthening anti-poaching centres for the protection of bison and other animals in the reserve. “We have 32 anti-poaching centres in the PTR where 24x7 security guards are providing a protective environment to wild animals and it is also helping grow their population. We are observing Bison count is now rising due to such centres,” he said.

He said that they were also working to relocate the villages from the core area of the reserve. Jena added that if they were successful in repopulating the bison and sambar, tiger population could also rise by 15-17 per cent. There are around 34 villages within the PTR limits. The forest department has identified eight villages that need to be relocated outside the PTR in phases, a forest official said. Of the 1,129.93 sqkm area of PTR, 414.08 sqkm is marked as a core area (critical tiger habitat) and the remaining 715.85 sqkm as a buffer zone. Of the total area, 226.32 sqkm is designated as Betla National Park. In the buffer zone, 53 sqkm is open for tourists.

# Smart watches detecting heart blocks, rhythm irregularities, ECG pattern, and how!

Hyderabad: Smart watches with ECG recording capabilities are increasingly detecting minor heart rhythm irregularities that immediately alert user to contact a qualified heart specialist. Even a minor change in the heart beat, if an alert user of the smart watch is able to detect, then it could be a life saver, health experts and cardiologists believe.

A case in point is a recent instance where a smart watch helped an alert user in realising change in the ECG (heart beat) pattern. He immediately contacted a qualified heart specialist. It turned out that the individual, who till then did not have any symptoms, had a heart defect. “Heart block was detected on Apple watch in an asymptomatic person. One of my friends, aged about 60 years, noticed features of Mobitz type 2 atrio-ventricular block (a type of heart block) yesterday. At that time, he was exercising. However, he had no symptoms. He was immediately evaluated by his cardiologist, and underwent pacemaker implantation. He is doing well,” said noted neurologist from Hyderabad, Dr. Sudhir Kumar, on Friday.

Acknowledging the role of technology, Dr. Sudhir said, “Technology proved to be efficient and aided in timely detection of an illness, which could be life-threatening (in some cases), if appropriate and timely treatment is not provided on time.” Noted cardiologist from Bengaluru, Dr. Deepak



A case in point is a recent instance where a smart watch helped an alert user in realising change in the ECG (heart beat) pattern. He immediately contacted a qualified heart specialist. Krishnamurthy, who is popular on social media with the handle @DrDeepakKrishn1, shared an instance of another patient who benefitted from a smart watch. “A diagnosis picked up on the patient’s daughter’s Apple watch which she put on her mother during an episode of palpitations. Valuable information! I’m not a big fan of smart watches. But what I’m realizing is that the normal stylish expensive wrist watches serve no practical purpose.

# 70 Vs 90 hours workweek



“I regret I am not able to make you work on Sundays. What do you do sitting at home? How long can you stare at your wife?” These appalling words from L&T chairman SN Subrahmanyan sparked outrage across the country after he called for the enforcement of a 90-hour workweek. Social media erupted in fury, intensifying the ongoing discussion about the glorification of exploitative work hours in the country. Subrahmanyan’s comments came shortly after Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy publicly endorsed a 70-hour workweek, and shunned the entire concept of work-life balance. These remarks reveal a deep-seated cultural acceptance of overwork and a complete disregard for employee well-being, an ongoing issue in India that progressively seems to be getting worse, one comment at a time.

The tragic consequences of India’s toxic work culture became evident through the heartbreaking story of 26-year-old Anna Perayil, a chartered accountant who died just four months into her job. In a now-viral letter, her mother blamed the high-pressure work environment for Anna’s death, exposing the devastating consequences of toxic workplace cultures. (Ellis-Petersen, 2024). Anna’s story resonated deeply with many, symbolising the emotional and physical toll of India’s brutal hustle culture. Together, these incidents have reignited a crucial conversation: is work-life balance in India achievable, or is it destined to remain an unattainable ideal? Workplace Culture

The corporate environment in India is defined by its long working hours, rigid hierarchies and hazy boundaries between work and personal life. According to recent labour data, India has one of the world’s most overworked labour groups, with employees putting in far more hours than those in China, Singapore, and even Japan — a country known for its gruesome work culture (Ellis-Petersen, 2024). On average, Indian workers put in 13 extra hours a week than German workers. A McKinsey Health Institute survey also found India to be the global leader in workplace burnout, with 59% of respondents reporting burnout symptoms (Tewari, 2024). These numbers don’t just point to superficial issues but indicate a larger problem: India’s relentless pursuit of economic growth comes at the expense of individual well-being. This toxic work culture does not just affect employees, it also takes a toll on organisations. According to BRSR (Business Responsibility and Sustainability Report) data, the average employee turnover rate (the number of employees leaving an organisation during a specified period, typically in one year) increased from 24% to 31% in the fiscal year 2024, signaling a growing dissatisfaction with toxic work conditions. Yet, the fact remains that despite the painfully evident drawbacks of overwork, change feels so elusive. “This Saturday-Sunday off is not an Indian thing. This is a Western thing,” declared Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal, backing the viewpoints of the other aforementioned influential figures. When leaders openly support extreme workweeks, it sends an alarming message to both employees and organisations. This creates an environment where excess hours are glorified as a symbol of commitment and productivity. As a result, employees often feel pressured to keep up with these unrealistic expectations, worried that they’ll be seen as uncommitted or lacking ambition if they don’t. If we choose to accept this reality and simply conform to it, the very idea of a ‘day off’ is sure to appear mythical in the future, a tale of what once was. In India, the push for rapid economic growth has created a culture that values productivity and competition above all else. Organisations, eager to maximise profits and achieve targets, often exploit the labour force. Employees, trapped in this cycle of proving themselves by working extra hours, often feel threatened with the prospect of losing something crucial in case they leave: promotion, job security or financial stability. A McKinsey Health Institute survey also found India to be the global leader in workplace burnout, with 59% of respondents reporting burnout symptoms. Moreover, large corporations have no real incentive to change their practices because executives are aware that if one person quits or fails to do the job according to their standards, thousands of others will step in to take their place (Ellis-Petersen, 2024). This relentless focus on efficiency may drive results, but is it worth the price we pay for it? Cost of Overwork The toll that toxic work environments can take on health is undeniable. It is well-known that prolonged stress can lead to serious issues like heart disease, depression and anxiety. A 2022 Deloitte survey revealed that a shocking 80% of the Indian workforce experience mental health issues. In a country where conversations around mental health still face a lot of backlash, the constant pressure to perform often pushes people to the point of burnout, taking a toll not just on individuals but on their families as well. Ironically, the obsession with working long hours may even be counterproductive. Research shows that overworked employees are less efficient, more prone to mistakes, and ultimately less productive. Countries like Germany and Sweden, which value work-life balance, consistently outperform nations that demand longer workweeks, proving that prioritising balance isn’t just kinder, it’s smarter for the economy too (Rituparna, 2024). Gen Z: Self-Awareness or Self-Sabotage?

The entry of Gen Z into the workforce has brought a drastic shift in workplace dynamics, with an increase in conversations about work culture and challenging traditional norms. This younger generation, which has grown up in the age of rapid technological advancements and a growing awareness of mental health, is unafraid to call out toxic workplace practices. In the aftermath of Anna Perayil’s tragic story, a wave of younger employees took to social media to air their grievances through reels, tweets and viral posts that shed light on their struggles. Their openness about challenges has forced employers to focus on issues previously brushed under the carpet. Gen Z’s rejection of rigid work structures has given rise to phenomena like “quiet quitting,” where employees disengage and do only the bare minimum required due to dissatisfaction with workplace conditions. According to a Genius Consultants report, over 48% of Gen Z workers cited toxic work culture as the primary reason for quiet quitting (Kartik, 2024).

India has one of the world’s most overworked labour groups, with employees putting in far more hours than those in China, Singapore, and even Japan — a country known for its gruesome work culture. However, this shift in mindset has also garnered some criticism. Industry leaders, like Neeti Sharma of TeamLease Digital, argue that many Gen Z workers fail to understand the professional standards required in the workplace. “A job is not an extension of college,” she explains, noting that younger employees often lack an understanding of the varying demands across sectors. This generational clash poses a significant challenge for the future of India’s work culture. Striking A Balance

The need for work-life balance in India is dire, now more than ever, but its implementation faces several significant hurdles. For balance to become a reality, systemic changes are necessary, starting with leadership. Leaders must model healthy behaviours, emphasising productivity and well-being over hours logged and should be held accountable when failing to do so. Organisations must invest in employee well-being, offering genuine flexibility, mental health support and fair performance metrics. Companies must move beyond token initiatives, instilling work-life balance into their core values. It is easy to point fingers at leaders and big corporations, but it is important to understand the complex reality of the situation and realise that change starts at an individual level. In the rat race of life, many employees voluntarily push themselves to unhealthy limits to attain more promotions and achievements than their peers (Rituparna, 2024).

On average, Indian workers put in 13 extra hours a week than German workers. A 2022 Deloitte survey revealed that a shocking 80% of the Indian workforce experience mental health issues. Instead, employees need to take a step towards challenging toxic norms and advocate for their boundaries. While this is easier said than done, collective action from companies and policymakers can help break barriers and lead the way to a happier, thriving workforce — one where human well-being is prioritised the same amount as economic objectives. Psychological Perspective

In today’s fast-paced corporate environment, it is an undeniable fact that mental health stands at the crux of workplace well-being. A healthy workforce is not just a moral necessity but is also advantageous for employee well-being, directly impacting productivity, creativity and retention. The discourse around overwork and burnout in India often focuses on individual experiences or corporate policies, but an overlooked solution lies in Industrial-Organizational (I-O) Psychology. As a field dedicated to studying and optimising workplace behaviour, I-O psychology provides evidence-based tools to tackle toxic work cultures at their root. Toxic cultures in India often persist because organisations lack insight into how their structures and policies harm employees. I-O psychologists can conduct detailed workplace assessments, identifying inefficiencies like poor task delegation, inequitable workloads or ineffective time management. India’s corporate culture is known to mistake excessive hours for a marker of dedication. I-O psychologists can also challenge this mindset by advocating for policies that prioritise outcomes over hours worked (Freedman, 2018). These interventions, grounded in psychological research, can create environments where employees feel valued and supported. Redefining Success Our people are the heart of our nation, and using them solely for generating profits leads to a burnt-out and exhausted population, unlikely to drive innovation or long-term prosperity. We need to redefine what success means, shifting the focus from just professional achievements to also valuing quality of life. When we celebrate balanced, holistic success, we can change the way society views work, encouraging people to prioritise their well-being without feeling judged. This also means letting go of the misguided idea that overwork is a sign of dedication. Countries like Germany and Sweden, which value work-life balance, consistently outperform nations that demand longer workweeks. France’s “right to disconnect” law gives employees the freedom to step away from work and reclaim their time

Beyond changing mindsets, legislative policies that ensure fair work practices are imperative. Take France’s “right to disconnect” law, which gives employees the freedom to step away from work and reclaim their time (Lerouge & Pons, 2022). Adopting similar policies in India could help create a healthier, more balanced way of working and living. “Make your work and life meaningful and fulfilling and they will complement each other.” These words from the celebrated business icon Ratan Tata serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of balance. By rethinking priorities and embracing change, India can take a step towards creating a culture where work and life are in alignment. All we have to do, you and I, is care. Care enough for our people’s well-being to push for change and fight against the

# Hyderabad-based Woxsen University researchers develop AI-based obesity risk detector

Hyderabad: An Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based prediction model to detect obesity risk has been developed by Hyderabad-based Woxsen University researchers alongside a US Scientist. The researchers – Bobba Bharath Reddy, Dr. Hemachandran Kannan and Dr. Shahid Mohammad Ganie, along with US Scientist Prof. Manjeet Rege – explored how combining multiple machine learning methods can predict the risk of obesity based on lifestyle data.

According to the researchers, the healthcare sector, online medical repositories and hospitals were generating vast amounts of data, providing valuable resources for researchers to explore and leverage AI techniques to address real-life health issues. The researchers explained they selected three algorithms from each ensemble method, each possessing distinct characteristics and strengths, to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed model from multiple perspectives.

While BMI (body mass index) is commonly used as



the primary indicator of obesity risk, the researchers observed that the BMI has limitations in capturing the full complexity of obesity, which is influenced by behavioural, environmental, and genetic factors. They noted that BMI does not account for critical health indicators such as muscle mass, fat distribution, or other variables, potentially reducing the precision of obesity classification.



## Finance Ministry asks public sector banks to monetise investments in subsidiaries via listing on bourses



The Finance Ministry has asked public sector banks (PSBs) to look at monetising their investment in subsidiaries by listing them at bourses after further scaling up operations so that they realise good return. There are about 15 subsidiaries or joint ventures of PSBs lined up for initial public offering or divestment in medium to long term, sources said.

Wherever required banks should invest funds to scale up operations of their subsidiaries or joint ventures, sources said, adding, banks can look at unlocking value at an opportune time. As a precursor to monetisation, sources said, banks should improve governance, professional decision-making and bring in greater operational efficiency in their

subsidiaries.

For example, the country's biggest lender State Bank of India may look at listing SBI General Insurance and SBI Payment Services in the future after they scale up their operations. SBI General Insurance Company Ltd, incorporated on February 24, 2009, earned a profit of Rs 509 crore for the financial year ended March 2025.

The general insurance arm of SBI has allotted 3,71,693 equity shares of Rs 10 each during the year ended March 2025. Consequently, the stake of SBI in SBI General Insurance Company Ltd has reduced from 69.11 per cent to 68.99 per cent. SBI Payment Services Pvt Ltd, which is in the merchant acquiring business, is 74 per cent owned by SBI, and the rest with Hitachi Payment Services. SBI Payments is one of the largest acquirers in the country, with more than 33.10 lakh merchant payment acceptance touch points as of March 31, 2024, including 13.67 lakh POS (point of sales) machines, deployed across geographies. Meanwhile, Canara Bank has already initiated the process for listing of asset management joint venture Canara Robeco AMC. Besides, it is also planning listing of its life insurance joint venture Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company. Canara Bank has already approved the process of diluting a 14.5 per cent stake in its life insurance venture Canara HSBC Life Insurance Company.

## India posts \$13.5 bn current account surplus in March 2025 quarter

India current account surplus, India current account deficit FY2025, Q4 FY2025 balance of payments, India GDP and current account, The current account deficit is the difference between exports and imports of goods and services. It is a key indicator of the country's external sector.

The country's current account balance recorded a surplus of \$13.5 billion, or 1.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in January-March 2025 quarter as against \$4.6 billion, or 0.5 per cent of GDP, in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. During the third quarter of FY2025, there was a current account deficit (CAD) of 11.3 billion, or 1.1 per cent of GDP. For the fiscal 2024-2025, the country's current account deficit was \$23.3 billion, or 0.6 per cent of GDP, compared to \$26 billion, 0.7 per cent of GDP during 2023-24, primarily due to higher net invisibles receipts.

The current account deficit is the difference between exports and imports of goods and services. It is a key indicator of the country's external sector. "While the current account balance expectedly reported a seasonal surplus in Q4 FY2025, the size of the same overshoot our expectations, amid a surprise dip in primary income outflows in the quarter. This led to the unexpected narrowing in the CAD to 0.6 per cent of GDP in FY2025 from 0.7 per cent in FY2024," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist, head – Research & Outreach, ICRA Ltd. During Q4 FY2025, merchandise trade deficit was at \$59.5 billion, higher than \$52 billion in Q4 FY2024. However, it moderated from \$79.3 billion in Q3 FY2025, the RBI data showed. Net services receipts increased to \$53.3 billion in Q4 FY2025 from \$42.7 billion a year ago. Services exports have risen on a year-on-year basis in major categories such as business services and computer services. In the financial account, foreign direct investment (FDI) recorded a net inflow of \$0.4 billion in Janu-



ary-March 2024-25 as compared to an inflow of \$2.3 billion in the corresponding period of FY2024. Net inflow under FDI at \$1 billion during 2024-25 was lower than \$10.2 billion during 2023-24.

Foreign portfolio investment (FPI) recorded a net outflow of \$5.9 billion in Q4 FY2025 as against a net inflow of \$11.4 billion in the same quarter of FY2024. During FY2025, FPI recorded a net inflow of \$3.6 billion, lower than \$44.1 billion a year ago. Net inflows under external commercial borrowings (ECBs) to India amounted to \$7.4 billion in Q4 FY2025, as compared to \$2.6 billion in the corresponding period a year ago. Non-resident deposits (NRI deposits) recorded a net inflow of \$2.8 billion in fourth quarter of FY2025, lower than \$5.4 billion a year ago. There was an accretion of \$8.8 billion to the foreign exchange reserves (on a Balance of Payment basis) in Q4 FY2025 as compared to an accretion of \$30.8 billion in Q4 FY2024. "We foresee India's current account deficit to average 1 per cent of GDP in FY2026, assuming an average crude oil price of around \$70/barrel for the fiscal, which is eminently manageable in spite of the prevailing global uncertainties," Nayar said.

## Family offices diversifying into global equities, private equity: Report

family offices, business news, indian express A family office is a private wealth management advisory firm established to manage the financial, investment, and personal affairs of an UHNI family. While 25 per cent of Indian family offices set up by business houses continue to prioritize wealth preservation, many are now actively diversifying beyond traditional assets into global equities, real estate, private equity, venture capital, and alternative investments, says a report on family offices/

Allocations are increasingly moving into global equities, real estate, private equity, venture capital, and other alternatives, says the EY-Julius Baer report. While preserving wealth remains foundational, families are actively diversifying beyond traditional assets. With over 300 family offices now operating in India, up from just 45 in 2018, the ecosystem is becoming more structured, globally focused, and purpose-driven, it said. Family offices are going global as ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNIs) expand across borders, with Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) remittances rising from \$18.8 billion in 2019–20 to \$31.7 billion in 2023–24.

A family office is a private wealth management advisory firm established to manage the financial, investment, and personal affairs of an UHNI family. It acts like a full-service financial command centre for the family, offering customized solutions that go far beyond what traditional banks or wealth managers provide. There is a growing focus on formalising governance and succession planning among family offices, it said. "While 59 per cent of families have put wills or constitutions in place, and 19 per cent have adopted structures like trusts or LLPs, a significant number still lack a comprehensive succession plan – highlighting the need for greater preparedness," it said. It said private markets are yet to see wider adoption among family of-



fices. As many as 57 per cent of family offices allocate less than 10 per cent of their portfolios to private equity or venture capital, often citing limited access or as a cautious approach. "Regulatory matters are gaining attention among family offices," the report further said. Changing tax laws were flagged by 48 per cent of respondents, while 37 per cent cited cross-border complexities, the report said.

As Indian families expand globally, they are adopting stronger governance, leveraging digital tools, and focusing on long-term impact. "Key trends include rising cross-border investments, growing use of GIFT City, increased interest in ESG, and hybrid family office models that blend in-house teams with external experts for greater agility," it said. "The Indian family office ecosystem is at an inflection point where wealth preservation alone is no longer enough. Families now seek efficiency, transparency, and global access, all of which require a more structured approach. At the same time, navigating tax and cross-border regulatory frameworks is becoming central to how these offices function and plan ahead," said Surabhi Marwah, Co-leader, Private Tax and Partner, EY India.

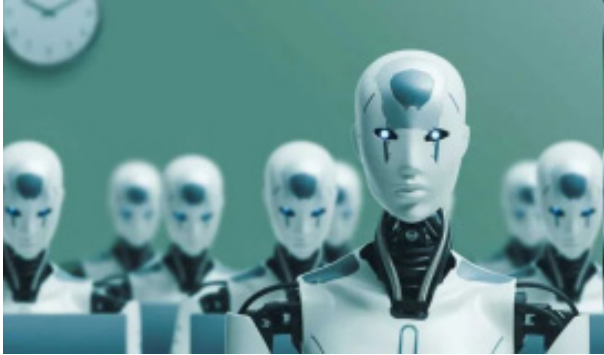
## India seizes 39 containers with Pakistani-origin goods routed via UAE

Despite the stringent measures, some importers have attempted to bypass the policy by "misdeclaring the origin of goods" and manipulating related shipping documents, the statement said. (Credit: Pixabay) Pakistan Despite the stringent measures, some importers have attempted to bypass the policy by "misdeclaring the origin of goods" and manipulating related shipping documents, the statement said.

The anti-smuggling arm of the Finance Ministry, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), has seized 39 containers carrying 1,115 metric tonnes of goods worth around Rs 9 crore, of Pakistani origin, that were being routed to India via the UAE in the backdrop of the Pahalagam terror attacks, the government said in a statement on Thursday. This came after the government had terminated direct trade with Pakistan, marked by the closure of the Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Attari on April 24, following the Pahalagam terror attack. Later, the government banned

direct or indirect import or transit of goods originating in or exported from Pakistan on May 2. "DRI launched an operation codenamed Operation Deep Manifest, targeting the illegal import of Pakistani-origin goods routed through third countries, primarily via Dubai, UAE. The operation has so far led to the seizure of 39 containers carrying 1,115 metric tonnes of goods valued at approximately Rs 9 crore. One of the partners of an importing firm was arrested on June 26," the Ministry of Finance said in a statement. The Indian Express had reported on May 16 that the DRI had begun seizing in-transit goods originating from Pakistan after Customs authorities increased scrutiny in the wake of the Pahalagam terrorist attack. The Ministry of Commerce had last year raised the issue of Pakistani dates and dry fruits entering India through the UAE after the two countries signed a free trade agreement in 2022. Despite these stringent measures, some importers have attempted to bypass the policy by "misdeclaring the origin of goods".

## China's humanoid robots generate more soccer excitement than human counterparts



Beijing: While China's men's soccer team hasn't generated much excitement in recent years, humanoid robot teams have won over fans in Beijing based more on the AI technology involved than any athletic prowess shown. Four teams of humanoid robots faced off in fully autonomous 3-on-3 soccer matches powered entirely by artificial intelligence on Saturday night in China's capital in what was touted as a first in China and a preview for the upcoming World Humanoid Robot Games, set to take place in Beijing.

According to the organisers, a key aspect of the match was that all the participating robots operated fully autonomously using AI-driven strategies without any human intervention or supervision. Equipped with advanced visual sensors, the robots were able to identify the ball and navigate the field with agility. They were also designed to stand up on their own after falling. However, during the match several still had to be carried off the field on stretchers by staff, adding to the realism of the experience. China is stepping

up efforts to develop AI-powered humanoid robots, using sports competitions like marathons, boxing, and football as a real-world proving ground.

Cheng Hao, founder and CEO of Booster Robotics, the company that supplied the robot players, said sports competitions offer the ideal testing ground for humanoid robots, helping to accelerate the development of both algorithms and integrated hardware-software systems. He also emphasised safety as a core concern in the application of humanoid robots.

"In the future, we may arrange for robots to play football with humans. That means we must ensure the robots are completely safe," Cheng said. "For example, a robot and a human could play a match where winning doesn't matter, but real offensive and defensive interactions take place. That would help audiences build trust and understand that robots are safe." Booster Robotics provided the hardware for all four university teams, while each school's research team developed and embedded their own algorithms for perception, decision-making, player formations, and passing strategies—including variables such as speed, force, and direction, according to Cheng. In the final match, Tsinghua University's THU Robotics defeated the China Agricultural University's Mountain Sea team with a score of 5–3 to win the championship. Wu, a supporter of Tsinghua, celebrated their victory while also praising the competition. "They (THU) did really well," he said. "But the Mountain Sea team (of Agricultural University) was also impressive. They brought a lot of surprises." China's men have made only one World Cup appearance and have already been knocked out of next years' competition in Canada, Mexico and the United States.

## Why a persistent cough may be more than just a cold

A lingering cough is often dismissed as a minor inconvenience or a symptom that will clear up on its own. But when it persists for weeks, it can signal a more complex underlying issue. Pulmonologists and ENT specialists call for greater awareness around chronic cough -- not merely as a post-infection remnant, but as a potential marker of deeper respiratory or systemic concerns. The prevalence of chronic cough in India varies across studies, but generally falls within the range of 5-10% of the adult population. This makes it a common symptom, particularly among those seeking primary care. While some studies suggest a prevalence of less than 5%, others show a higher range of 2% to 18%.

Doctors classify cough based on its duration into three main types. Acute cough lasts less than three weeks, sub-acute falls between three to eight weeks, and chronic cough refers to any that continues beyond eight weeks. But beyond time, the cause -- whether infectious or non-infectious -- shapes clinical understanding. Acute cough is usually the result of viral upper respiratory tract infections or bacterial pneumonia. In the elderly or those with heart conditions, even bronchitis can be complicated by heart failure. Sub-acute cough often follows a resolved infection and may point to post-viral bronchitis. Chronic cough, however, opens up a broader diagnostic window, requiring evaluation for conditions like asthma, GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease), chronic bronchitis, postnasal drip, COPD, or in more serious cases, pulmonary tuberculosis.

According to Shachi Dave, consultant pulmonologist at Narayana Hospital, Ahmedabad, "If a cough lasts less than three weeks, it is usually benign. But if it continues beyond that -- especially with warning signs like fever, weight loss, coloured sputum, or blood -- it's vital to get it assessed by a physician." Symptoms like sore throat and fever typically point toward an upper respiratory tract infection in the early stages. If these fade but the cough persists, post-viral inflammation may be the cause. A night-time cough with nasal symptoms may indicate postnasal drip. Persistent reflux symptoms such as burning in the chest could signal GERD as the underlying issue. The nature of the cough -- dry, mucous-filled, or purulent -- also helps guide diagnosis. The often-missed diagnosis of chronic cough

Misdiagnosis is common, with some studies showing that up to 60 percent of chronic cough cases are either mislabelled or inadequately treated. Frequently missed conditions include silent reflux, cough-variant asthma, eosinophilic bronchitis, and even obstructive sleep apnea. "We often see patients labelled as allergic or asthmatic without adequate workup. Any cough that isn't resolving with primary care after a month should be evaluated by a pulmonologist," says Ammaiyappan Palaniswamy, senior consultant at MGM Malabar Hospital in Chennai.

Karthik Madesh Ratnavelu, ENT specialist at SIMS Hospital, adds that habit coughs, especially in children, and psychogenic coughs related to stress are often overlooked. In his view, early referrals and multidisciplinary approaches help avoid delayed diagnosis. When the nerves are too sensitive, a significant body of research now recognises that many chronic coughs are driven not just by physical irritants, but by nerve hypersensitivity. This mechanism, much like that seen in chronic pain, involves both peripheral and central sensitisation of the nervous system. Peripheral sensitisation occurs when airway receptors -- triggered by infections, allergens, or acid reflux -- become overly reactive. "These receptors, once sensitised, begin responding strongly to even minor irritants," explains Dr. Dave. Central



sensitisation follows repeated stimulation, where the brainstem and higher centres of the brain become hyper-excitable, lowering the threshold for triggering a cough. As a result, stimuli like speaking, cold air, or even laughing can provoke coughing. ATP, a chemical released during inflammation, plays a critical role by activating purinergic receptors like P2X3 on the vagus nerve, further enhancing this sensitivity. This understanding marks a shift in viewing chronic cough not just as a symptom, but sometimes as a disorder in itself.

Invisible triggers in everyday environments Beyond infections and reflux, environmental triggers can also sustain or aggravate chronic cough. Common causes include hidden mold on walls, poorly ventilated homes or office spaces and exposure to scented products like air fresheners, incense and perfumes. Even the use of mosquito coils or chemical-based hair dyes has been implicated. "Dust mites in bedsheets, furry blankets, or upholstery can set off coughing in allergic or asthmatic patients," says Dr. Dave. "Overcrowded living conditions and lack of sunlight or airflow also create ideal settings for infection spread, including tuberculosis." Lifestyle patterns also play a role. Skipping meals or relying heavily on outside food can increase gastric reflux. Stress, irregular sleep, dehydration, and over-use of the voice are other under-recognised contributors. Dr. Karthik warns that those in vocally demanding jobs -- teachers, speakers, and singers -- often present with coughs rooted in vocal strain rather than infection. Making living and working spaces more cough-friendly

The idea of a "cough-friendly" environment may seem abstract, but experts say small interventions can make a big difference. These include improving air circulation, maintaining moderate humidity, using air purifiers and reducing the use of strong-smelling products. According to Pankaj Chhabra, clinical director at Marengo Asia Hospitals in Faridabad, "Creating awareness is key. Homes, schools, and offices can all benefit from scent-free policies, periodic ventilation, and attention to allergens. It's more feasible than people think." He also emphasises hydration and vocal rest, particularly for those with existing airway sensitivity. Public understanding can reduce the stigma associated with chronic coughing -- especially post the worst phases of Covid-19 pandemic -- where a persistent cough carry social discomfort as well as physical toll. Therefore, experts emphasise that a cough that persists for more than three weeks -- especially if accompanied by other symptoms like fever, night sweats, hoarseness, or weight loss -- should not be ignored. Early evaluation can help identify treatable conditions and prevent unnecessary suffering. Chronic cough is not just an irritant. It's a clinical clue that deserves careful attention. Recognising its nuances, triggers, and neural underpinnings can pave the way for better outcomes and healthier indoor environments.

## Traditional Indian Yoga helps ADHD, depression patients in Hyderabad clinic

Hyderabad: In a unique attempt to explore the possibilities and promise of Indian traditional systems and practices, a senior psychiatrist from Hyderabad has embraced Yoga as a therapy to address mental health disorders and enhance neurodevelopmental care among patients. Within a few months of adopting Yoga therapy, Dr. Jyothirmayi Kotipalli, Founder and Chief Psychiatrist of Manaha Clinic, said she has witnessed firsthand how the age-old Indian practice can activate specific healing pathways in the human brain that traditional mental healthcare often overlooks.

"We should recognize the limitations of existing medications and psychotherapy for patients with mental health issues when used in isolation. Without diluting modern psychiatry, we aim to deepen it through ancient Indian, yet biologically relevant, tools," she says. For patients with anxiety disorders, where the autonomic nervous system is chronically aroused, employing breathing techniques like Nadi Shodhana and restorative Asanas to increase vagal tone, has significantly helped. In OCD (Obsessive Compulsive

Disorder) patients, where compulsions stem from intrusive neural loops, Kundalini-inspired pranayama and meditative techniques help interrupt these loops by training both breath control and attention redirection, Dr. Jyothirmayi explains. "We have seen patients experience improved emotional regulation and even better adherence to their therapy when Yoga techniques are integrated. This is not merely relaxation. It is an evidence-based method of modulating heart rate variability and reducing cortisol," she says. Surya Namaskar is also employed to counter psychomotor retardation in cases of depression. "More than once, I've seen a patient's affect lift subtly after just 20 minutes of mindful movement," she shares. Dr. Jyothirmayee highlights that both children and adults with ADHD respond remarkably well to body-based therapies. For children, sessions are adapted using visual cues, storytelling, and sensory tools. "Techniques like Bhramari Pranayama, often dismissed as simplistic, can significantly improve sensory processing and attention when repeated consistently.



# How Kuldeep Yadav prepped for England tour with Kevin Pietersen’s advice and bowling-action tweaks



Wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav had the England tour on his mind while playing for Delhi Capitals in IPL this season. As luck would have it, around him was the team mentor Kevin Pietersen, the one-time England captain and a batsman with a deep understanding of spin bowling. Kuldeep didn't let this opportunity go to waste. He sought his help and Pietersen obliged. The two would go through the entire England batting line-up, one batsman at a time, and assess their strength and weakness. Kuldeep would throw questions, Pietersen would answer them. At the end of the discussion the English batting great would also pass on a simple mantra to Kuldeep.

“Kevin Peterson was part of our team at DC. He gave me a lot of inputs for the England tour. He told me about fielding positions, pitches and the batsmen. We ran through their batting line up. He told me about the mindset needed in England,” Kuldeep told The Indian Express. “Pietersen said that generally spinners come to England with a defensive mindset. They think that in England, fast bowlers will get wickets and they will be in a supporting role. He told me to take the field with an attacking mindset. If I get a game and bowl 15 to 20 overs, I have to always think about how to get the batsmen out.”Kuldeep and Pietersen would go through the entire England batting line-up, one batsman at a time, and assess their strength and weakness. (Image credit: Sportzpics) Kuldeep and Pietersen would go through the entire England batting line-up, one batsman at a time, and assess their strength and weakness. (Image credit: Sportzpics)

It remains to be seen if the left-arm wrist spinner, a rare breed of bowler that batsmen aren't used to playing, gets into the playing XI at Edgbaston. India trail 0-1 in the series, and their most incisive bowler, Jasprit Bumrah, will in all likelihood miss the second Test. India desperately need wicket-takers. Kuldeep's new aggressive bowling approach, and his refined action and stellar performance in white-ball cricket makes him the obvious choice. But will the Indian team management, obsessed with batting deep, compromise on a batsman or all-rounder to include the proven wicket-taker?Locals say the pitch at Edgbaston slows down gradually. At Headingley on an unresponsive pitch; Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and Shardul Thakur struggled to make an impact. With pacers ineffective on the tour so far, will India take the spin punt by playing both Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep? The two contrastingly different left-armers, bowling in tandem, sounds promising for a team looking for a quick turnaround in the series.Kuldeep knows the importance of taking wickets. “Apan ko kuch aata nahi hai bowling ke aalava (I don't know anything other than bowling). If you don't take wickets, you can't justify yourself for playing in England. If you don't take wickets, I don't think you deserve to play. But I know one thing, wherever one is playing, at home or in England. I have to get the revs on the ball and the drift and that will get me wickets.”

Having secured a five-for when he last played against England, the final Test at Dharamshala when India won at home, Kuldeep comes to these shores with a reputation. “The pitches in that series were batting-friendly. The Test matches went for 4-5 days. England conditions are different but as a spinner, I believe that it won't be that different. Besides, the way England bat, I think the spinners will be in

the game,” says Kuldeep, subtly suggesting that he didn't take wickets on spin-friendly pitches in the last series and can get England's attacking Bazballers on true tracks this time around.Kuldeep's confidence comes from the adversities he has overcome over the last few years. Around 2021 when he underwent a knee surgery, it was suggested to him by the medical team that he needs to change his action. His slow run-up, his landing on the pitch and gradual pivot was putting a lot of pressure on his front leg.

Kuldeep had been bowling with the same action since the time his coach in Kanpur, Kapil Pandey, convinced him to switch from pace to spin. A pre-teen Kuldeep wanted to be Wasim Akram. The budding left-armer could swing the ball but didn't have pace. His straight-talking coach asked Kuldeep to try spin. To his coach's surprise, he would use his wrist, not fingers, to give revs on the ball. And thus, at age 13, Kuldeep was a Chinaman, a left-arm spinner.Now close to a decade-and-a-half later, Kuldeep was being advised to change the action that got him fame, fortune and the India cap. But as Kuldeep puts it, “When a doctor tells you something, you need to take it seriously.”

He recalls the conversation he had with Ashish Kaushik, the head physiotherapist at the National Cricket Academy. “When I had knee surgery Ashish Kaushik told me ‘KD you have bowled so much over the years that your front foot has taken too much load. Because of twisting and turning there could be a problem for you going ahead’. I didn't give it too much thought initially but things that doctors say stay in your mind,” recalls Kuldeep.Kuldeep's mind started ticking. For starters, he would increase the speed of his run-up as that would help him to glide through his action quickly. Now, the planting and take-off of his front foot was quick, the knee was under less stress. “But I wasn't sure about this new approach. After I returned home to Kanpur I would play a few league games. Instead of ambling I was now running to the crease. But with this fast approach, I was not getting balance. Then slowly, I changed the angle of my run-up. I started coming straighter. Coming in sideways, it was very difficult for me to get balance,” he said.

He would ask his coach about the change and was told that as long as he got revs on the ball it was fine. “Initially there were a number of problems. To flip your old action is very difficult. It took about a month and a half to get the rhythm. It would be there one day and not there the next. It took me 6 months to get the rhythm,” he says.Once he got the rhythm back, Kuldeep faced a new problem because of his fast and aggressive run-up. “I need so much energy to bowl with the altered action, I couldn't bowl more than 4 to 5 overs. The run-up was fast and my approach was aggressive. Even 4 overs in T20 was difficult,” he says.That was the time he joined the Indian team with Rohit Sharma as captain. Rohit said he wanted him to bowl longer spells but with the same energy. “Soham Desai (Team India's strength and conditioning coach) prepared me so that I started retaining my energy – I could give maximum effort for at least 6 overs,” he says. “You must have heard a lot of times in the match, Rohit bhai would keep asking me – Thak raha hai kya (Hope you are not tired)? Now luckily I have started putting in long spells of 8-9 overs. I have also put in 10-12 overs in Tests. It took me 3 years to get that energy to bowl a long spell.”In case Kuldeep gets into the team for the Edgbaston game, this will be his first Test without Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R Ashwin on the field.Kohli was the captain when Kuldeep made his Test debut, he was the one who presented him the cap. Rohit was the ‘big brother’ who understood him and even expressed his exasperation when he faltered. Ashwin, Kuldeep says, was his mentor and sounding board. Over the years, the two would have long conversations on the art of spin bowling, field placements and variations.“Once Ashwin bhai had put an arm around my shoulder and told me ‘you have to take this spin legacy forward,’” says Kuldeep. For that he needs to get a game, starting with the Test in Edgbaston.

# England’s Jamie Smith hails Shubman Gill’s men’s ‘fantastic’ efforts in 1st Test: ‘India kept trying all day’

GNS News Agency, July 7

Jamie Smith said that part of the reason he decided to finish it off as quickly as possible was that he was conscious of the possibility of England's tailenders being exposed to Jasprit Bumrah with the new ball. (AP Photo)Jamie Smith said that part of the reason he decided to finish it off as quickly as possible was that he was conscious of the possibility of England's tailenders being exposed to Jasprit Bumrah with the new ball.India have copped some criticism from multiple quarters in the days since their capitulation to England in the first Test at Headingley but they have now received some praise from the opposition camp. Jamie Smith, who had hastened England's run to victory on a rather dramatic fifth day of the match, said that he felt India were “fantastic” throughout the match.

“It's hard when you're out there and you're focused on the job at hand,” Smith is quoted as saying by ESPNcricinfo. “You know the importance of that moment, when you have the opportunity to start the series with a win, that your focus is all on that.”England chased down a target of 371. Efforts of their openers, particularly centurion Ben Duckett, and later of Joe Root after wickets fell, meant that by the time Smith came to bat, the hosts were pretty much in the driver's seat. India have since been criticised for their lack of firepower in the bowling lineup outside of Jasprit Bumrah and Shubman Gill, who made his debut as Test captain in the match, following the ball and struggling to stamp his authority on the proceedings on Day 5. Smith said that while a chase of that magnitude may not be something that happens often, he felt India kept competing throughout the day.“When they're trying to get 10 wickets and you're chasing 370, it's not everyday that gets done. There could have been some head-downs at the end but they kept trying all day. I see a lot of chat about maybe some inexperience on their part but I thought they were fantastic throughout the five days.”

Possibility of Bumrah taking new ball led to onslaughtSmith finished the match off with a flourish, smashing a four and a six off the second and third balls of Ravindra Jadeja in the second over after India had taken the second new ball. He then hit a six off the last ball of the over to end the chase, himself remaining unbeaten on 44 off 55 balls. Smith said that part of the reason he decided to finish it off as quickly as possible was that he was conscious of the possibility of England's tailenders being exposed to Jasprit Bumrah with the new ball.“The runs at that point were not too many, so I wasn't expecting (Bumrah) to come on and bowl, but you're just never quite sure, especially in cricket. You don't know what will happen. I always back our tail but there could be a couple of decent balls and

# GMR Rugby Premier League 2024 Final: Chennai Bulls face off against Delhi Redz in title clash



GNS News Agency, July 7

HYDERABAD: After two weeks of adrenaline-gushing action, intense tackles and spectacular tries, it all comes down to the inaugural GMR Rugby Premier League (RPL) grand finale as the Chennai Bulls take on the Delhi Redz in what promises to be a fiery battle in Mumbai on Sunday night.Chennai Bulls enjoyed a dominant 31-12 win over Bengaluru Bravehearts in the semi-final but it wasn't so straightforward for the Delhi Redz side. They managed to defeat table-toppers Hyderabad Heroes 14-7 in a match that went right down to the wire, before Patrick Odongo scored a last-second try for the Redz.

Chennai Bulls are in an incredible vein of form with the likes of Terry Kennedy, Joseva Talacolo and Va'aufauese Apelu-Maliko playing an exceptional brand of rugby. Indian players such as Aryan Dixit, Muhammad Jasim EP, and Shahnawaz Ahmed too have made their presence felt. Statistically, the Bulls are overall second in the league when it

# Rohit Sharma relives India’s T20 World Cup 2024 win: ‘It couldn’t have gotten any bigger’



GNS News Agency, July 7

Hyderabad: India's T20 World Cup-winning captain Rohit Sharma sat down with JioHotstar for a straight-from-the-heart conversation on ‘Champions Waali Feeling Phir Se’ to reflect—exactly a year after the historic victory—on key moments like Virat Kohli and Axar Patel's rescue act, Suryakumar Yadav's blinder, and Rahul Dravid's final mission, which led them to become World Champions again.“Thirteen years is a long time. Most people don't even have a 13-year career. So, to wait that long to win a World Cup... the last one I won was in 2007. For me, it couldn't have gotten any bigger than this. I didn't sleep the whole night,” Rohit said.“I was only thinking about the World Cup. I was nervous. I couldn't feel my legs. Did I feel nerves? Of course. I just don't show it—but inside, it was a lot,” he said.“We were supposed to leave around 8:30 or 9 in the morning. But I woke up at 7. From my room, I could see the ground and just kept watching it. I remember thinking—‘In two hours, I'll be there. And in four hours, the result will be out. Either the Cup will be here or it won't,’” Rohit said.

On Virat Kohli's crucial knock and his partnership with Axar Patel in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 final, Rohit said, “If you hit three boundaries in the first over, then obviously you've started off well. And that's exactly what every cricketer wants—it helps settle the nerves. The experience of playing for India over so many years also helps in those moments.”“You learn to control your emotions, manage your thoughts, and stay in the present. I'm sure even he (Virat) was thinking, ‘Today is the day—I need to stay focused and not worry about what happened in the past,’” Rohit explained.

“He played a brilliant knock and stitched a crucial partnership with Axar Patel. When we lost those three wickets up front, there were definitely nerves inside the dressing room. I was panicking—I wasn't comfortable,” he said.“I remember thinking, ‘We've let them into the game.’ But in the back of my mind, I always had belief in our lower middle order—positions 5, 6, 7, and 8,” he said.“They hadn't batted much in the tournament, but whenever they got the opportunity, they made it count. And that confidence in them kept me going. Not many people are talking about Axar's knock, but that innings was a real game-changer,” he said.

“To score 47 off 31 balls at that stage was incredibly crucial. We needed someone to bat through the innings, and Virat did that job perfectly. It was really important for someone to anchor the innings, and he did it brilliantly,” Rohit said.“That allowed Shivam, Axar, and Hardik to come in and play their roles with freedom—and that's exactly what

comes to tries, conversions, points scored and tackles made with 37, 25, 235 and 181 respectively.Delhi Redz have had an incredible arc in the GMR RPL. Despite finishing fourth in the league with three wins, two draws and five losses, the Redz have beaten the strongest team of the tournament in their last game to seal a spot in the final. Matias Osadczuk, Matteo Graziano, Patrick Odongo and Jordan Conroy have made stand-out contributions to the Redz.

Indian players like Rajdeep Saha, Deepak Punia and Sunil Chawan too have had a memorable season so far. Delhi Redz will look to cause another upset in the final as they face a tough challenge in Chennai Bulls who have already beaten them twice in the tournament so far.Ahead of the big day, Chennai Bulls marquee player Terry Kennedy stated, “ This was our goal from the start to get to the final and hopefully get the job done tomorrow. Our performance in the semi-final was probably our best one of the tournament and something we're really proud of.”

“We were forcing things in matches before but now we are back to the basics and are just trying to control the ball and tempo of the game. It's something we've managed to do over the last few games and it has really helped. The accuracy is there but we need to work on our discipline on the field and that will be our focus in the final game” he added.Assessing his opposition, the Captain of the Delhi Redz, Matias Osadczuk said, “ I look at Chennai Bulls, I see aggressive and talented international players. So we need to keep the ball all game and play out from the defence. We need to be in control and go up the field and add pressure. We need to stay concentrated and keep an eye on players like Apelu, Terry Kennedy and the other marquee players.”

# Barbados, Rohit Sharma

they did,” he added.

On Suryakumar Yadav's stunning catch at long-off, Rohit said,“Surya was at long-off and that catch—honestly, it was the moment of the match. Even after he took it, the umpires were checking if he touched the rope. Everyone's heart was in their mouth. I was at long-on, watching it unfold. It looked like a six—until Surya flew in and took that blinder.”“With the wind blowing in, I think it helped pull the ball back slightly. I was standing next to him during the check. I asked him and he said, ‘I think I've caught it.’”“The zoom camera showed the rope didn't move—which usually happens if it's touched. That gave us some relief. But until it flashed on the big screen, you don't know what the third umpire's going to decide,” Rohit explained.

On India's emotional title win in Barbados, Rohit said, “Barbados will forever be in my veins. This is the proudest moment of my cricketing career. To lift that trophy, to be crowned ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Champions—it was surreal.”“I played in the inaugural 2007 T20 World Cup and we won under MS Dhoni's captaincy. And now, to win it again with Rahul Dravid as head coach—it meant everything to this group,” he said.“We've seen heartbreak. We've come so close. That's why this one was so special. We worked and planned relentlessly—every day. And when we finally won, all the emotions came pouring out.” Rohit said.“The younger players, especially those playing their first World Cup, realised how hard it is to win one. Nothing can be taken for granted. It was magical,” he added.On how Rahul Dravid stayed on for one final mission, Rohit said,“Rahul bhai wanted to step down after the 2023 World Cup. But we said, ‘There's another World Cup in six months. We've come this far. Let's give it one more shot.’ He agreed—and I'm so glad he did. I'm sure even now he feels that he made the right decision.”“For me personally, it was also emotional. My identity as a cricketer began with this format—in the 2007 T20 World Cup. To come full circle and lift the trophy again in 2024—it was just fantastic,” he said.

On the emotions heading into the semi-final against England, Rohit said he was quietly confident.“We'd played really good cricket leading up to this match—everyone was in form, and we were doing exactly what we had set out to do as a team. Of course, the 2022 loss to England was in the back of our minds—it should be. It was a heavy defeat,” he explained.“But we learned from that. From 2022 to 2024, we changed a lot of things: our mindset, our preparation, and the way we approached key moments. This time, we were fully prepared. There was belief, and there was clarity in what we wanted to achieve,” he explained.

On the importance of early wickets in the Powerplay to unsettle England, Rohit said,“Taking wickets in the Powerplay is crucial—half the job gets done there. And against England, it was especially important. Both Buttler and Salt are dangerous, but Buttler is their key player. He's experienced, plays around the world, and knows our bowlers well—how to play Axar, Kuldeep, and Bumrah.”“So, getting him early was critical. We got his wicket in the third over, and Salt in the next. Once that happened, we knew we were halfway there. After that, the game slowed down. We brought on the spinners—Kuldeep, Axar, and Jaddu—and they bowled beautifully. The pitch was helping spin, and the idea was to get the slower bowlers on as early as possible,” Rohit explained.

# AB de Villiers suggests that India use Jasprit Bumrah like Dale Steyn

GNS News Agency, July 7

Jasprit Bumrah is arguably the best bowler of the current generation. However, with his injury history, managing him has become one of the trickier parts for the Indian side. For the ongoing India vs England series, even before the team has reached the English shores, the Indian side has decided that the premium bowler will play in only three games out of five. However, former South African cricketer AB de Villiers suggested that India could use Bumrah the way South Africa used Dale Steyn.“He is probably the top bowler in the world in all formats right now. So, it's very difficult to decide a way to rest him, but in my opinion, Test cricket is the ultimate form of the game. And this Test series probably would've been the one, in my opinion, to get him ready for all five Test matches. That's what we used to do with Dale (Steyn). Rest him in lesser important T20 and ODI series and get him ready for the big Test series against Australia, England, and India away from home... New Zealand to a certain extent, depending on the rankings at that time,” De Villiers said.“So, I don't know if it was mismanagement or perhaps because he recently got back from injury, sort of saw the IPL as the warmup phase. Maybe, went to the surgeon, who let him know, ‘You can't play the



five Test matches.’ So, I mean you got to respect that, and at the end of the day, it's up to Team India to sort of manage him well,” he added.India and England series, and that is all to do with Jasprit Bumrah. Will he be playing the 2nd Test match? How many Test matches will he be playing in this Test series? The very big Test series, and I say it like that because I don't know if it's a serious injury, and maybe because of the lack of workload coming into this Test series. They are scared of him getting a very bad injury and being out for a few years, or is it managing workload?”



## Aamir Khan reveals he got invitation from underworld to attend Dubai party: ‘I said I won’t go, unless you take me forcibly’



Aamir Khan turned down an invitation by the underworld to attend their Dubai party in the late 1990s. Aamir Khan turned down an invitation by the underworld to attend their Dubai party in the late 1990s. It's no secret that the underworld held significant influence over the Hindi film industry during the 1980s and 1990s. Right around that time, in the late 1980s, Aamir Khan had his breakthrough in Bollywood as the lead in cousin Mansoor Khan's 1988 directorial debut Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak.

As he became a renowned star, like many others of that time, he received an invitation in the late 1990s from the underworld to attend a party organized by them in the Middle East. "I'd said no to the invite to attend their party in the Middle East, probably Dubai. Some people from the

underworld had visited me to invite me to the party," said Aamir Khan, not revealing if they were hired by notorious gangster Dawood Ibrahim. "I don't take names, even of people from my industry. That's my nature," added Aamir.

"You take me forcibly wherever you want, but I wouldn't come on my own." In the interview with The Lallantop, Aamir Khan continued, "They tried a lot. They offered me money and offered to get any work done of my choosing. I still refused to come. They quickly changed their tone and said I'd have to come now because my presence had already been announced, and it was a prestige issue." "That was our last meeting. I said, 'You've been meeting for a month and I've been telling you right from the start that I wouldn't come. You're very powerful so you can bash me up, hit me on the head, tie my hands and legs, and take me forcibly wherever you want, but I wouldn't come on my own.' So they stopped contacting me after that," recalled Aamir. Aamir Khan admitted he was very scared at that time, not only for him, but more so for his family. "I had two small kids then. My parents were very concerned.

They said, 'What are you doing? They're very dangerous.' So I had said only one thing to them then, 'I want to live my life the way I want. I don't want to go there,'" said Aamir. "I was more concerned for the ones close to me," added Aamir. He had two kids then — Ira Khan and Junaid Khan — from his then-wife Reena Dutta. Aamir had tied the knot with Reena in 1986 and they'd become parents to Junaid in 1993 and Ira in 1997. Aamir and Reena got divorced in 2002. A few years ago, Aamir Khan was in talks to do Mogul, the biopic of late producer Gulshan Kumar, who was shot dead by the underworld in 1997. The film was being produced by Gulshan's son Bhushan Kumar, the current head of T-Series, which was founded by his late father. The film was being helmed by Subhash Kapoor. After Aamir exited the project, Akshay Kumar was being considered for the lead role. However, there's no further update on the film yet.

## Deepika Padukone advocated fixed working hours years before walking out of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit: ‘I don’t intend to burnout’

Deepika Padukone walking out of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film Spirit due to a disagreement over working hours— particularly her request for an eight-hour workday — and other professional terms, has sparked a significant debate in the Hindi film industry regarding work-life balance, especially for new mothers like Deepika herself. While Deepika made headlines for taking a firm stand on work-life balance, this isn't the first time the actor has brought attention to the issue. She had raised the same concern even before becoming a mother. In an old interview, Deepika had spoken about the need to streamline working hours, not just for actors but for the entire film crew as well.

"Years ago, I realized the importance of finding a work-life balance. In a past conversation with Film Companion, Deepika Padukone had revealed that it was during her struggle with depression that she understood the value of work-life balance and the impact it can have on a person's mental health. She said, "That's also where I draw the line in terms of my schedule. That's the only place where I could start feeling that I'm not enjoying what I'm doing. The only other time I felt like that was when I was experiencing depression, but that's very different because you have no control over your thoughts and feelings. Many years ago, I realized the importance of finding a work-life balance. I don't intend to burnout, I'm not going anywhere." "Sharing how in India taking time for oneself is not always viewed as necessary, she said, "Somehow, in our country, including the corporate world, taking leaves or wanting time for yourself carries a connotation of being unprofessional, not hardworking or driven enough. And I disagree. You can be all of those things and still make time for yourself. How are you going to replenish and put energy back into your work if you don't?"

During the same interaction, Deepika Padukone also



advocated for setting fixed working hour limits for crew members. When asked what changes she wants to make as a producer, she said, "Streamlining the hours that we work, especially for the crew. There is this sense that if you make people work extra and continuously, you get it done faster. My thinking is the exact opposite — people need to be given enough downtime and rest so that they come back with better energy. That'll help you work faster and better the quality of your work too." The actor also spoke about the need to compensate crew members who work overtime. She said, "Step 2 is to be compensated for overtime. Actors, at the end of the day, are going to walk away with the awards and the rewards, and so do the directors and everyone above board. The crew, on the other hand, comes in much earlier and leaves much later. Overtime may happen but we need to find a mechanism where they're at least compensated for that on an hourly basis."

## Parag Tyagi immerses Shefali Jariwala's ashes in sea; Varun Dhawan slams media for ‘insensitive’ coverage: ‘Why cover someone’s grief?’



The clip shows Parag struggling to hold back tears as he is supported by Shefali's and his own family members while immersing her ashes in the sea. He is then seen walking away from the beach, surrounded by grieving loved ones.

The sudden death of Shefali Jariwala at the age of 42 on Friday night shocked the industry. Her last rites were performed in Mumbai on Saturday evening, and

photos and videos of her husband Parag Tyagi breaking down while bidding his final goodbye to Shefali have been circulating online. Now, a new video has emerged showing Parag immersing Shefali's ashes in the sea. The clip shows Parag struggling to hold back tears as he is supported by Shefali's and his own family members while immersing her ashes in the sea. He is then seen walking away from the beach, surrounded by grieving loved ones.

Recently, actor Varun Dhawan took to social media to slam the insensitive coverage of Shefali Jariwala's death. He wrote, "Again, one more passing of a soul being insensitively covered by the media. I just don't understand why do I have to cover someone's grief. Everyone looks so uncomfortable with this. How is this benefiting anyone? & my request to my friends in the media, this isn't the way someone would want their final journey covered." Shefali's funeral and last rites were widely photographed and filmed by the paparazzi. In one emotional video, Parag is seen kissing Shefali's forehead and caressing her cheeks before bidding her a final goodbye. Despite his grief, he also found the strength to give his shoulder to Shefali's bier. Earlier, Parag had requested the media not to sensationalize Shefali's death. He said, "Please mazak drama mat banaega main sab se request karta hu, meri pari ke liye pray kijiye ga aap sab log (Please don't make this into a joke or drama. Pray for my Pari, you all). Wherever she is, she stays happy and is at peace, that's all I want." Shefali Jariwala gained fame for her appearance in the music video of the "Kaanta Laga" remix. She had also worked with Priyanka Chopra, Salman Khan, and Akshay Kumar in the film Mujhse Shaadi Karogi. Priyanka took to Instagram to remember the late actor. She shared Shefali's photo on her story and wrote, "So shook. She was too young. Sending condolences to Parag and the family."

## Panchayat actor Sanvikaa reveals she has to ‘fight for basic things’, admits nepotism exists in the industry: ‘Want to be treated in an equal way...’



Actor Sanvikaa, known for playing the role of Rinki in Panchayat, is currently basking in the success of the fourth season of the Amazon Prime Video show. Earlier this month, the actor shared a cryptic note on her Instagram Story on not receiving respect in the industry. In an interview with SCREEN, Sanvikaa opened up about the insider-outsider debate and shared her expectations for her role in Panchayat Season 5. When asked about her cryptic note, Sanvikaa said, "Honestly, I don't have a problem with anyone because it was said in a certain particular context. I still stand by it, but I don't want to talk much about it. But, it does get easier if you come from a certain backdrop. Everyone has their own fight, whether it's some-

one who is starting at a basic level or someone who wants to come to Bombay from their own hometown, there will be another fight. When you audition, it's another fight and when you start getting something, there's another fight. In each stage of your life as an actor, there will be different kinds of battles."

She added, "The context where it came from was that at least you don't have to fight for basic things like respect and being treated in a little equal way, which others are given by default. If I compare myself with the other person, they are given respect naturally. I have to keep proving and fight for it, then I am given that thing." Her viral post read, "Sometimes I wish I was an insider or maybe from a very powerful background, things would have been so much easier (maybe, I don't know). As basic as getting respect and being treated as an equal. The battles would have been lesser. Hanging on." Sanvikaa also revealed that while she has been selective with her projects, opportunities have increased significantly since starring in Panchayat. "After the show, there have been a lot of opportunities. I am getting lead roles, but I am waiting for a good opportunity. I don't want to disappoint my fans. I am taking my sweet time. There's an expectation that they have after doing such a good role. Panchayat has given me everything. Wherever I go, people are recognising me only because of this show. It has given me a new life, new identity," she shared. The actor continued, "After season three, things have changed for me. People want to explore me in different characters and they are looking at me from a different lens. They see the potential in me. There are better character graphs now. I audition for all of them, the flow of auditions has changed." Sanvikaa was also asked about the highly anticipated release of Panchayat Season 5. She replied, "It's coming. Even I don't know anything about my character. I hope they discover more about who Rinki is, what she wants to do in life. I wish the character is written in such a way that we see more of her in the next season."

## ‘Angry’ Aamir Khan went silent on Zabardast sets after Amrish Puri scolded him: ‘Mujhe bada bura laga, I was doing my work’

Amrish Puri scolded Aamir Khan on Zabardast sets. Before becoming an actor, Aamir Khan worked as an assistant director on several films, including his uncle Nasir Hussain's films like Manzil Manzil (1984) and Zabardast (1985). In an interview with The Lallantop, Aamir recalled an incident on the set of Zabardast when the late actor Amrish Puri scolded him harshly for pointing out a continuity error. However, a few minutes later, Puri apologised to him.

Recalling the incident involving Amrish Puri, Aamir said, "I was very sharp in continuity. There was a shot in which he was forgetting his lines and continuity. Unka haath telephone par hona tha. Hence, he was getting a bit irritated, it happens." The actor added, "I used to point out that his hand needs to be on the phone. He was forgetting the continuity each time, so after a few rehearsals and takes, he said, 'Haan haan pata hai, haath phone par, baar baar bolrahe ho.' His voice was heavy, like a motorcycle, khat khat khat khat!" Aamir Khan went silent on the set after the incident. "I am not able to speak in that bass. When he scolded me harshly, there was pin drop silence on the set. Everyone's eyes were on me. Mujhe bada bura laga aur gussa bhi aaya. I was doing my work and telling the right thing, why am I getting scolded for that? Main chup hokar baith gaya," he shared. However, Amrish Puri later apologised after Nasir Hussain's wise response. "There was silence on the set for 5-7 seconds. After that, Nasir sahab ki awaaz aayi. He didn't want to disturb the actor. There was a shot pending and he couldn't even resist the



fact that his assistant got scolded by him. He said, 'Amrish ji, I told my assistant that even if the actor scolds you, vo apna kaam karein. Amrish ji instantly said, 'Sorry beta,'" he concluded. Directed by Nasir Hussain, Zabardasti also starred Sanjeev Kumar, Sunny Deol, Rajiv Kapoor, Rati Agnihotri and Jaya Prada.

## ‘BTS’ Suga is the Eminem of K-pop’: Grammy-winning producer reveals why the West wants to work with the singer



BTS member SUGA kicked off a solo world tour before heading to the military, spanning 102 days across 10 countries, including the United States. The rapper of the seven-member boy band saw his popularity hit a whole new high. But apart from being a performer, SUGA is known for producing his own music—something he's been obsessed with since childhood. He's done it for big names in the industry like Heize, IU, PSY, OMI, Suran, and even Jungkook. But according to Grammy-winning producer Frankie Biggz, SUGA isn't just another idol. His music is now being recognised overseas, and he's changing how people view producers in the K-pop space. Biggz even compared his authenticity to that of U.S. rapper Eminem.

Biggz, who's worked with names like Kanye West, 50 Cent, and Eminem, was recently interviewed by Honorary Reporters, a program backed by South Korea's Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. He praised the "Daechwita" hitmaker for proving that music producers don't always need

to stay behind the curtain. They can create beats, master albums, and take full control, on stage, on tour, and on charts worldwide, all at once. What really struck him was how SUGA does it all while being part of one of the most influential groups in the world. A group whose voice reaches even the UN, yet here's a guy still handling every inch of his creative process, start to finish. "So, for SUGA to be doing what he's doing, he had to be obsessed with it. He was obsessed even before he became a member of BTS," Biggz said.

To Biggz, SUGA's already carved a niche that puts him at the top of every Western label's wish-list. "He's an amazing artiste, he looks great, the camera loves him, and he has millions of fans around the world; that's a very attractive quality for any Western label. Secondly, it's not just for show. He attracts Western artistes because he is one of the most talented people on earth." Artistes like him aren't just collaborators, they are someone who bridges the gap, the producer emphasised. "When it comes to breaking through, when it comes to who's going to be the first to introduce a sound, who's going to be the first to carve their way through all of that, he's winning," Biggz said. Since SUGA understands both Korean and Western sounds, he's in a unique spot to connect the two, and the industry trusts him to do just that. "But I think that SUGA is just a chameleon in terms of production," he added. Suga has an authenticity like Eminem. Biggz also pointed out what separates legends like Kanye and Eminem: "that maniacal obsession with their careers," something he clearly sees in SUGA too. Drawing a direct comparison to Eminem, he said: "He has that presence. He has that authenticity, like Eminem, SUGA carries himself with respect, but if someone offends one of his team members, you're going to have to talk to him first." "In the future, K-pop will likely have an increasing influence on global trends," Biggz said, adding, "Min Yoongi can become a conduit for Western professionals into the Korean industry, demonstrating that professionalism and respect for the process are universal values of the Korean music industry."