

CPR training programs on Aug. 16 & 17

Hyderabad, Aug.12 : Lodge Keys No. 297, city's primary unit of Freemasonry is to organise two free CPR training programs on August 16 and 17, in collaboration with GVK Green Health Services (formerly GVK EMRI). CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) is a vital first-aid skill to be used when someone's heart stops beating or they stop breathing. The Lodge Keys' training programs are part of its community outreach initiative "Be a CPR Ambassador", aimed at training 1000 CPR Ambassadors over the next 12 months.

The one program on August 16 will be held from 2 pm to 5.30 pm and the one on August 17, will be held from 10 am to 1.30 pm. Both the programs will be held at the Goshamahal Baradari Masonic Building at Goshamahal. The entry is free, there is no participation fee, but interested parties may confirm their participation with a prior registration (free) on Mobile No. 9848042020.

Jr asst at Angaraajpalli trapped by ACB

Hyderabad, Aug.12 (NSS): Today, Gadiyaram Srinivasulu, Junior Assistant at PHC Angaraajpalli and In-charge of Kotapalli PHC, Mancherial district, was caught red-handed by ACB officials when he demanded and accepted the bribe amount of Rs 6,000 from the complainant for doing an official favour i.e. "for preparing two DA arrear bills and submitting the same to the DDO, Kotapalli PHC, pertaining to the complainant".

The tainted amount of Rs 6,000/- was recovered from the possession of the accused officer, who preformed his duties improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage.

Therefore, the accused was arrested and produced before the Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Karimnagar.

KCR condoles death of Telangana poet and feminist writer Anisetty Rajitha



GNS News Agency, August 12

Hyderabad: BRS chief and former Chief Minister K. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday condoled the demise of noted poet, progressive feminist writer, and Telangana literary figure Anisetty Rajitha. Hailing from Warangal, Rajitha was a prominent voice in the Telangana movement and championed socially responsible literature for oppressed communities. Describing her as a democratic and literary icon, KCR said her passing was a loss for Telangana. He conveyed his deepest condolences to her family and friends.

Focus on eco-tourism development: CM A. Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, Aug.12 Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has instructed the officials to focus on the development of eco-tourism in the State. The CM suggested that countries like Singapore have night safaris in just 30 acres. Noting that the State has huge parcels of forest areas comprising of rivers and waterfalls, he said the officials concerned should formulate plans to make good use of the resources the State has. Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy conducted a review at the Command Control Center on the Forest Department on Tuesday. Speaking on the occasion, the CM said even though they have Amrabad and Kawwal Tiger Reserve forests, the people of Telangana were going to places like Bandipur and Tadoba in other States to see the tigers. The CM ordered to provide facilities to increase the number of visitors to Amrabad and Kawwal Tiger Reserve forests. The CM suggested that a joint survey be conducted between the Forest and Revenue departments to resolve land disputes. Reddy said the Collectors should pay special attention to this matter. The CM suggested that plans be made for the development of Warangal Kakatiya Zoo. He said a study should be done on the possibilities of developing a zoo in Warangal, the largest city in the State after Hyderabad, through public-private partnership. He has ordered immediate steps to ensure that compensation is given to those, who have died or been injured in the forest animal attacks and to those, who have lost their livestock and pets.

BJP misusing SIR to alter Bihar voter rolls, alleges Akhilesh Yadav

GNS News Agency, August 12 Ranchi: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Tuesday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of conspiring to manipulate votes through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Yadav is in Jharkhand to pay tribute to former Chief Minister Shibu Soren, who died on August 4, at his ancestral village Nemra in Ramgarh district. "The BJP's biggest job is to conspire and plot when they lack answers to basic questions. When they realised the people of Bihar are against them, they conspired to manipulate votes on a large scale through SIR," Yadav told reporters after arriving at Ranchi's Birsamunda Airport. He said that if the SIR was genuinely needed, it could have been conducted a year earlier. The assembly elections in Bihar are due this year. "The BJP used to seize people's rights earlier. Now they are manipulating votes. They also want to snatch away the right to vote," Yadav alleged. The SP chief also wondered why the EC sought an affidavit from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to support his allegation of "vote theft." Yadav said, "

CM orders high alert, cancels leaves of all employees

GNS News Agency, August 12

Hyderabad: In view of the forecast of heavy rainfall over the next few days, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed the cancellation of all employees' leaves for the next three days. During a video conference with District Collectors on Tuesday, the Chief Minister instructed in-charge Ministers and officials to remain on high alert. He ordered that preventive measures be taken in all flood-prone areas across the State, including Hyderabad, and that law and order police personnel be deployed to regulate city traffic.

The Chief Minister said that helicopters should be arranged to airlift stranded

Uttam orders strengthening, modernisation of CDO in irrigation dept

Hyderabad, Aug.12 : Minister for Irrigation, Food and Civil Supplies N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Tuesday announced sweeping measures to modernise and strengthen the Central Design Organisation (CDO) of Telangana's Irrigation department, calling for immediate recruitment of top engineering talent, acquisition of cutting-edge technology, and strict adherence to timelines for project designs.

Chairing a detailed review meeting at the Secretariat on Tuesday, Uttam Kumar Reddy underlined what he described as the "urgent need to strengthen and equip the design department with the latest facilities and software."

He said the organisation, which has had a "chequered history," was once the pride of the state and the country. "From designing the Nizam Sagar project nearly a hundred years ago to providing technical expertise for major schemes, the design department enjoyed a reputation for excellence. That standard must be restored," he said. The Minister noted that in recent years, the CDO's standing had suffered due to adverse comments from the National Dam Safety Authority and the Judicial Commission. While not going into operational specifics, he said such remarks had made it imperative for the government to review the organisation's functioning and initiate reforms. "We cannot allow the credibility of this institution to erode. This review is about identifying gaps and filling them swiftly," he said. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed that all vacancies in the CDO be filled without delay, emphasising that "the most talented and qualified engineers from the irrigation department must be posted to the CDO at all levels." He further suggested that engineers recently recruited from premier institutions like IITs and NITs be assigned to the organisation, bringing in fresh technical expertise and new approaches to design.

Recruiting the best is not enough; we must place

Telangana is fastest growing State in country: Komati Reddy



Hyderabad, Aug.12 : A discussion was held on the HAM (Hybrid Annuity Mode) policy at the NAC in the city under the chairmanship of State Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Panchayati Raj Minister Seethakka were present as chief guests. Chief Secretary Ramakrishna Rao, Special CS Vikas Raj, Panchayati Raj Principal Secretary N. Sridhar, Finance Principal Secretary Sandeep Kumar Sultania, R&B officials, bankers, contractors and others also attended the meeting.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy clarified that mirror-like roads would be laid in the State under the auspices of R&B and Panchayati Raj departments. He said providing better road facilities to the people of Telangana was the main objective of the Congress government. "As part of this, we have embarked on the construction of Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM) roads. We are working tirelessly with the motto of "Connecting people, enabling growth, and shaping the future of Telangana". Telangana is one of the fastest growing States in the country. However, in the last ten years, the condition of the roads in the State has been bad. As important as the economic progress of the State, providing better facilities to the people is equally important to us. Our slogan "Reliable Roads,

tential power disruptions. Revanth Reddy directed the HYDRAA officials to remain on 24-hour alert during the rains. A toll-free helpline must also be set up for the public to register complaints or seek emergency assistance. Regarding schools, colleges, and IT sector employees, the Chief Minister said the concerned departments should take necessary decisions.

He also urged that awareness campaigns be launched, advising people to leave their homes only if necessary.



them where they can have the maximum impact. The CDO is one such place," he said, pointing out that complex irrigation projects require precision engineering and innovation that only highly trained professionals can provide. The Minister ordered the procurement of the latest state-of-the-art design software, modern equipment, and advanced facilities "on a war footing" to ensure that the CDO delivers the best possible designs. He called for engaging domain experts, whether serving or retired, as consultants on a merit basis, adding that retired officers with proven expertise could be selectively appointed. Highlighting the growing importance of electromechanical engineering in irrigation projects, he said consultants with deep domain knowledge in this area should be engaged after thorough due diligence. "This is a highly specialised area, and we need experts who can foresee operational challenges and design accordingly," he explained. During the meeting,

Gold prices fall Rs 1,000 as global sell-off, Trump's tariff remarks hit sentiment

GNS News Agency, August 12

New Delhi: Gold prices plunged Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,01,520 per 10 grams in the national capital on Tuesday in line with a sell-off in global markets, according to the All India Sarafa Association.

On Monday, the precious metal of 99.9 per cent purity had settled at Rs 1,02,520 per 10 grams. In the local markets, gold of 99.5 per cent purity dipped Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,01,100 per 10 grams (inclusive of all taxes) on Tuesday. "Gold prices dipped after US President Donald Trump clarified on social media that there would be no tariffs on gold imports. Although an official confirmation from the White House is still pending, the announcement eased some trade-related concerns," Abans Financial Services CEO Chintan Mehta said. Adding to this, the White House announced on Monday that the suspension of high-level tariffs on China will be extended until November 11. This decision has helped ease ongoing macroeconomic tensions for now, which has pressured gold prices downwards, Mehta added. On Tuesday,

KTR serves legal notice to Bandi Sanjay over phone tapping allegations



Hyderabad, Aug.12 Bharat Rashtia Samithi (BRS) working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) has issued a legal notice to Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar over what he termed as "baseless and defamatory" remarks in connection with the alleged phone-tapping controversy. The notice, sent through KTR's legal counsel, refers to statements made by Bandi Sanjay during a press conference on August 8, which, according to KTR, were "false, irresponsible, and intended to damage his reputation." The lawyers stated that such accusations, made without any evidence, were unbecoming of a Union Minister and a Member of Parliament, and amounted to a deliberate attempt to tarnish the image of another elected representative.

In a statement here on Tuesday, KTR's legal team accused Bandi Sanjay of repeatedly making unfounded allegations purely for political mileage and media attention. They further pointed out that KTR, who has served the state in various ministerial roles since the formation of Telangana, has an unblemished record of public service, and such defamatory propaganda was causing serious harm to his reputation. The notice demands an unconditional public apology from Bandi Sanjay to KTR and his family, along with an assurance that no such direct or indirect defamatory statements will be made in the future. It warns that failure to comply within seven days will result in both civil and criminal legal action, holding Bandi Sanjay fully liable for the damage caused. The counsel stressed that not a single allegation made in the August 8 press meet was backed by proof, and accused the Union Minister of abusing his position to launch personal attacks. They cautioned that any further "wild, false, and malicious" statements would invite stricter legal consequences under the law.

Expedite relocation of polluting industries: Bhatti



Hyderabad, Aug.12 Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka directed the authorities concerned to expedite the process of relocating polluting industries outside the Hyderabad Outer Ring Road.

On Tuesday, at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat, the Deputy Chief Minister, along with Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, who is a member of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Revenue Resource Mobilization, held a meeting. The Cabinet Sub-Committee members appreciated the officials from the Commercial Taxes and Mining departments for demonstrating improved performance in revenue generation. The meeting also reviewed the progress of government proposals in the Rajiv Swagraha and Housing Board departments. Principal Secretary of the Finance Department Sandeep Kumar Sultania, R&B Special Secretary Vikas Raj, Commercial Taxes Principal Secretary Rizvi, Principal Secretary of the Energy Department Naveen Mittal, Principal Secretary of the Industries Department Sanjay Kumar, Revenue and CCLA Secretary Lokesh Kumar, Excise Department Commissioner Hari Kiran, Housing VC & MD Gautam, and others participated in the meeting

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

A golden- jubilee run for India's most enduring superstar

August 14 will mark a Red-letter day for millions of his fans all over the globe...social media, the barometer of a film's likely success in the first weekend of its release, has already closed its doors to naysayers and toxic critics. Shivaji Rao Gaekwad, known popularly as Superstar Rajinikanth in the country's leading celluloid centres has his 171st film – Coolie - awaiting release two days from now, a tribute to his 50 years saga in Indian cinema in which he was seen in all the four southern language films, apart from Hindi and Bengali. Love him or hate him, one cannot ignore him...that's the current niche of Rajinikanth in Indian cinema.

A filmi career, which began with a relatively insignificant role with the 1975 Independence Day release 'Apoorva Ragangal' in Tamil has, five decades later, attained an unmatched global recognition and fame: the stuff of legends, so to say. Unlike many before him and after, who arrived with a bang, shone for a while and went into oblivion, this ordinary-looking hero by conventional standards, started steadily, overtook all his competitors at breakneck speed and stayed put at the top, encountering challenges with a rare survival mantra of his own right from the 1980s.

Primarily anchored in the Tamil cinema field, with many of his hit flicks dubbed and remade into other languages, Rajinikanth is what the Tamil media hails 'the eternal entertainer for fans from the ages of six to sixty'; the 'Thalaivar' who reigns supreme. So much so, even after he turned a senior citizen, 15 years ago, his swagger and his solo hero stature continued to endure and was cashed in repeatedly by leading banners of south India.

Rajagopal Reddy calls for fairness in development fund allocation

Nalgonda, Aug.12 : Congress Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy has urged the State government not to discriminate in sanctioning funds for development of his constituency.

Expressing his dissatisfaction with the Congress party leadership for not giving him a ministerial position, Rajagopal Reddy remarked, "I can tolerate being treated unjustly, but I won't stand for any unfairness towards Munugode. There should be equal allocation of funds for development projects in this area."Rajagopal Reddy, along with MLC Nellikanti Satyam, officially opened a new gram panchayat building in Elagalagudem village on Tuesday, which was constructed at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh. During the event, he noted that the Congress high command had assured him a ministerial role, and he was willing to wait for the party to fulfill its promise.

The Congress MLA asserted that the party high command had made two commitments, prior to both the Assembly and Parliament elections, to include him in the cabinet, yet after a span of 18 months, they had not fulfilled that promise.Why are they now claiming that the arrangements are not being resolved? What is hindering my appointment to a ministerial role? Who is obstructing the process?" Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy questioned.He emphasised that out of the nine MLAs elected from the erstwhile Khammam district, three had received cabinet posts, and he pointed out that Nalgonda had 11 Congress MLAs, indicating that it would be reasonable to include three of them in the cabinet as well. He questioned why the same rationale used for Khammam was not applied to Nalgonda.The MLA from Munugode highlighted that prior to the Assembly elections, the Congress high command had fully recognised the political standing of the Komatireddy brothers while promising him a cabinet position.We are both qualified leaders, and there shouldn't be any concerns about us both being appointed as Ministers. If arrangements can be made for Khammam, why can't they be made for Nalgonda? Is anyone opposing this?" he questioned.

Karnan directs swift completion of Nalgonda X road-Owaisi junction flyover

Hyderabad, Aug.12 : In a determined push to strengthen Hyderabad's urban infrastructure, Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) commissioner R.V. Karnan, accompanied by Malakpet MLA Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala, Charminar ZC Venkanna on Tuesday conducted a comprehensive inspection of the 2.58 km four-lane bi-directional flyover from Nalgonda X Road to Owaisi Junction. The commissioner directed officials to expedite construction and resolve land acquisition hurdles to meet the targeted completion date of March 2026. This vital corridor, part of the Strategic Road Development Programme (SRDP), is designed to ease traffic congestion along one of the city's busiest stretches. Spanning from the Government Printing Press in Chanchalguda to Yadagiri Theatre via Saidabad and IS Sadan, the 7620 crore project aims to create a seamless, conflict-free traffic flow. During the inspection, Karnan emphasised the importance of maintaining both speed and quality in execution. Project engineers reaffirmed their commitment to delivering the flyover by the March 2026 deadline. Addressing delays due to pending land acquisition, the commissioner instructed town planning officials to resolve these issues immediately to prevent further setbacks. Malakpet DC MK I Ali , maintenance executive engineer peering and project executive engineer Bhupal, who were present during the visit, assured full cooperation and adherence to timelines.Subsequently, the commissioner inspected the drainage facilities in the Dabirpura area. He pointed out that during the rainy season, rainwater should flow unimpeded through the nala's, drains and not result in floods that affect residents living nearb Speaking on the occasion, Karnan stated that the Nalgonda X road to Owaisi junction flyover is pivotal for easing traffic congestion and enhancing connectivity.

Strict measures should be taken to control drugs: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil''''''



''''''''Bhukya Ranjit Naik, Bhadradri Kothagudem bureau, August 12, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has instructed the officials to take strict measures to control drugs in the district and to create widespread publicity on drugs and the harm caused by drugs. The district-

All basic facilities should be provided in hostels to the fullest extent—District Collector Jitesh V. Patil''''''



''''''''Bhukya Ranjit Naik, Bhadradri Kothagudem bureau, August 12, Indian Chronicle: In the wake of the commencement of UG and PG courses at Dr. Mannohan Singh Earth Science University from this academic year, District Collector Jitesh V. Patil has directed the concerned officials to take immediate steps to provide all basic facilities in the hostels to the students.On Tuesday, the Collector personally inspected the civil works being carried out for the accommodation of students in the university premises. Speaking on the occasion, he said that since a large number of students will come from distant villages and towns to study at the university, all basic facilities like hostel rooms, sanitation, drinking water, dining halls, security arrangements, electricity, etc. should be completed in a timely manner so that they do not face any difficulties.The Collector said that

School development work should be expedited: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil''''''



''''''''Bhukya Ranjit Naik, Bhadradri Kothagudem bureau, August 12, Indian Chronicle: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil reviewed the work undertaken for the development of Telangana Social Welfare Girls Gurukul School and Junior College in Palvancha on Tuesday along with the officials of the concerned departments. Speaking on this occasion, he said that the aim is to provide a comfortable, healthy, and clean educational environment for the students and ordered that all work be completed expeditiously.The Collector ordered the civil department officials to construct a footpath (pathway) from the school entrance to the dining hall and from there to the hostel so that the students can walk easily and safely. He suggested that big trees and bamboo plants that provide shade around the school premises should be planted around it to make it beautiful and pleasant, and fruit trees and medicinal plants should be grown in a planned manner. He clarified that care measures should be taken to ensure that these plants are useful for the health of the students and environmental protection.In addition to arranging dining tables and chairs for the convenience of students in the dining hall, he ordered the construction of compost pits for efficient waste management and special baskets to separate garbage into wet and dry garbage. The officials explained to the Collector that garbage baskets have already been made available with the cooperation of the Municipality.As part of environmental protection, useful plants like tunaga and curry leaves have been planted in the school premises under the auspices of the municipality. The Collector specifically suggested that not only planting plants but also continuous conservation measures should be taken for their growth.Speaking, the Collector ordered the officials of the relevant departments to complete all the development works being done under the auspices of the CSR Department and the Civil Department at the earliest and provide better facilities to the students.Municipal Commissioner Sujatha, School Principal Maithili, Engineer-

level Narcotics Control Committee held a meeting at the IDOC office conference hall on Tuesday. Various issues such as NDPS cases registered in the district, measures to prevent marijuana cultivation, use of drugs, control measures, department-wise programs to be taken, and widespread publicity to be done about the harm caused by drug use were discussed. Speaking on the occasion, the Collector suggested that a special action plan be formulated and implemented for the control of drugs and narcotics. He suggested that awareness programs be organized with medical officials on the harms caused by drugs and narcotics in Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalayas, model schools, hostels, and Gurukul schools in the district. He also suggested that steps be taken to identify those addicted to narcotics and provide them with necessary treatment and counseling. He said that those in need should be provided treatment through the De-Addiction Center. He said that forest officials should inspect the forest lands under their jurisdiction and inform the police authorities immediately if ganja cultivation is found. The Collector instructed the Drug Inspector to check the stock details in hospitals and medical shops in the district every month. He ordered that plans be prepared this week to create awareness about the harms caused by drug use in intermediate colleges. District SP Rohit Raju said that widespread awareness programs should be organized against drugs among students, youth, and the public in all police stations in the district and that the youth should stay away from intoxicants like ganja. He asked that anti-ragging committees be formed in educational institutions and that ragging should be curbed at the earliest stage, and that college managements and students should keep a close eye on their habits and behavior from time to time. ZP CEO Nagalakshmi, Intermediate Officer Venkateswara Rao, District Medical Officer Jayalakshmi, Transport Officer Venkataramana, District Agriculture Officer Baburao, and officials of the relevant departments participated in this meeting.



apart from creating a conducive environment for the educational progress of the students, priority should be given to their health and safety. He instructed the engineering department officials to complete the work with quality standards and within the stipulated time.Similarly, he suggested that extensive plantation should be undertaken to create a pleasant atmosphere in the university premises, and that the hostel surroundings should be kept clean and properly maintained and that attention should be paid to environmental protection. The Collector instructed that all departments should work in coordination to provide a better educational environment for the students, teachers, and researchers coming to the university in the future.Mining College Principal Jaganmohan Raju, Municipal Commissioner Sujatha, officials of the concerned departments, and others participated in this program.



ing Department officials, Nava Bharath officials, and others participated in this inspection.

Be Vigilant Against Cyber Criminals: SP Kantilal Patil

“ “ Kum r a m b h e e m , Asifabad district Reporter. Jade eporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle. August,12. ““Be vigilant against cyber criminals: SP Kantilal Patil””ASF: Komurambheem Asifabad District SP Kantilal Patil in a statement on Tuesday warned the public to be vigilant against scams by cyber criminals. He advised not to fall for scams like loan apps, QR code scans, chain investments, fake customer care numbers, betting apps, nude morphing etc. Victims should immediately call 1930 or dial 100 and file a complaint on the NCRP portal.

Garala Srinivas Goud Extends Helping Hand to Family in Need




''''''''August 12,Pedda Amberpet, Indian Chronicle''''''In a heartwarming gesture of community service, Garala Srinivas Goud, the former councillor of Ward 1 in the Pedda Amberpet Municipality, provided financial assistance for a wedding."Srinivas Goud donated ?10,000 for the marriage of the daughter of Taduri Pushpaleela and Anjanyaa, a family residing in the local Rajiv Gruhakalpa Colony."Speaking on the occasion, Srinivas Goud reaffirmed his commitment to social service, stating that he is always ready to support needy families in the community. The bride's parents expressed their deep gratitude for his timely help, noting that his assistance was invaluable during a challenging time."This act of kindness is consistent with Srinivas Goud's history of participating in various social service initiatives in the region.

Fix The Blood Test And X- ray machine.”

Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter.Jade eporter.Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle. August,12. ''''''Negligence Of Singareni Officials''''''Wave of movement, Asifabad: Singareni"BJP district spokesperson Kesari Anjaneyulu Goud said that people's lives should be saved by setting up blood testing machines and X- ray departments in the dispensary. After the BJP team visited the Goleti Singareni dispensary in Rebenna mandal on Monday and submitted a memorandum to the GM, BJP district spokesperson Kesari Anjaneyulu Goud said that the blood testing machines and X- ray machines have been damaged and are not being repaired due to the negligence of the authorities for the last two months. He said that the authorities next to the Singareni GM office are not paying attention. Since it is the rainy season, malaria, typhoid, dengue and seasonal diseases should be identified and medicines should be given to them, and when there are mining accidents, the victims should be given X- rays and related treatment. He said that the technicians here were sent to Bellampalli and due to the lack of other tests, they are not getting proper treatment.They have to go to Mancheriala, which is 45 kilometers away. They are struggling to develop Singareni and are making crores of rupees in profit.He said that the families of Singareni, contract workers, and landless people who were given lands in Singareni are still not receiving proper medical treatment. The authorities should immediately repair the machines, make technicians available, provide proper medicines, make medical treatment available and save the lives of the people. BJP state executive members Y Krishnakumari, leaders Cheppuri Naveen Goud, Komaravelli Ramakrishna, Avula Rajasekhara and others participated in this program.

Airtel Payments Bank Crosses 3,000 Cr in Annualised Revenue; Reports 777.4 Cr Q1 FY26 Revenue

Hyderabad:Airtel Payments Bank today announced its financial results for the quarter ended June 30, 2025, delivering another strong performance. The Bank's annualised revenue crossed ?3,000 crore, making it one of the fastest-growing digital banks in the country. For Q1 FY26, Airtel Payments Bank reported revenue of ?777.4 crore, up 27.5% year-on-year, while net profit rose 44.4% to ?10.4 crore. EBITDA stood at ?81.8 crore, reflecting a 30% YoY growth driven by strong .

**AGRSIA**

NOTICE

In pursuance of the Gazette Notification bearing S.O. No.2900 dated 24th October 2015 and duly amended by S.O.No.4120(E) dated December 2017 issued by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India pertaining to 100% Water Soluble Mixture of Fertilizers; Agrisia Agro Private Limited hereby notifies that it intends to introduce following grades of 100% Water Soluble Mixture Fertilizers in the State of Telangana

Grade of Fertilizer	Brand Name	Total N (% by weight)	Total P2O5 (% by weight)	Total K2O (% by weight)	Specifications
NPK 19:19:19	Agrisia NPK 19:19:19	19	19	19	N=19, P2O5 (WS)=19, K2O (Ws)=19, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 20:20:20	Agrisia NPK 20:20:20	20	20	20	N=20, P2O5 (WS)=20, K2O (Ws)=20, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 13:40:13	Agrisia NPK 13:40:13	13	40	13	N=13, P2O5 (WS)=40, K2O (Ws)=13, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 22:10:10	Vytel NPK 22:10:10	22	10	10	N=22, P2O5 (WS)=10, K2O (Ws)=10, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 14:48:00	Vytel NPK 14:48:00	14	48	0	N=14, P2O5 (WS)=48, K2O (Ws)=00, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 00:48:36	Vytel NPK 00:48:36	0	48	36	N=00, P2O5 (WS)=48, K2O (Ws)=36, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 00:48:47	Vytel NPK 00:48:47	0	48	47	N=00, P2O5 (WS)=48, K2O (Ws)=47, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 07:40:28	Vytel NPK 07:40:28	7	40	28	N=7, P2O5 (WS)=40, K2O (Ws)=28, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 07:07:40	Vytel NPK 07:07:40	7	7	40	N=7, P2O5 (WS)=7, K2O (Ws)=40, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 24:24:00	Vytel NPK 24:24:00	24	24	0	N=24, P2O5 (WS)=24, K2O (Ws)=00, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 00:09:46	Vytel NPK 00:09:46	0	9	46	N=00, P2O5 (WS)=9, K2O (Ws)=46, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 05:55:17	Vytel NPK 05:55:17	5	55	17	N=5, P2O5 (WS)=55, K2O (Ws)=17, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 00:40:37	Vytel NPK 00:40:37	0	40	37	N=00, P2O5 (WS)=40, K2O (Ws)=37, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 00:60:20	Vytel NPK 00:60:20	0	60	20	N=00, P2O5 (WS)=60, K2O (Ws)=20, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 12:11:18	Vytel NPK 12:11:18	12	11	18	N=12, P2O5 (WS)=11, K2O (Ws)=18, All w/w basis, minimum)
NPK 16:08:24	Vytel NPK 16:08:24	16	8	24	N=16, P2O5 (WS)=8, K2O (Ws)=24, All w/w basis, minimum)

Other Specifications:-
Sodium as NaCl on dry basis per cent by weight, maximum = 0.5; Matter insoluble in water per cent by weight, maximum = 0.5; Moisture per cent by weight, maximum = 0.5; Lead (as Pb), per cent by weight, maximum = 0.003; Cadmium (as Cd), per cent by weight, maximum = 0.0025; Arsenic (as as), per cent by weight, maximum = 0.01

SUPPLY, STORAGE AND SALES OF ABOVE AGRISIA WSF GRADES IN THE STATE OF TELANGANA SHALL BE DONE AFTER 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE

AGRSIA AGRO PRIVATE LIMITED
Regd Office- 42, Row House, Konark Nagar CHS 1, Vimmannagar, Pune 411014, (M.S.), INDIA.
Sales Office - 410, Gulmohar Centre Point, Sopan Nagar Road, Vadgaonsheri, Pune 411014, (M.S.) INDIA.
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School development work should be expedited: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil""“



""Bhukya Ranjit Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem bureau, August 12, Indian Chronicle :District Collector Jitesh V. Patil reviewed the work undertaken for the development of Telangana Social Welfare Girls Gurukul School and Junior College in Palvancha on Tuesday along with the officials of the concerned departments. Speaking on this occasion, he said that the aim is to provide a comfortable, healthy, and clean educational environment for the students and ordered that all work be completed expeditiously. The Collector ordered the civil department officials to construct a footpath from the school entrance to the dining hall and from there to the hostel so that the students can walk easily and safely. He suggested that big trees and bamboo plants that provide shade around the school premises should be planted around it to make it beautiful and pleasant, as well as fruit trees and medicinal plants that should be grown in a planned manner. He clarified that care measures should be taken to ensure that these plants are useful for the health of the students and environmental protection. In addition to arrang-

ing dining tables and chairs for the convenience of students in the dining hall, he ordered the construction of compost pits for efficient waste management and special baskets to separate garbage into wet and dry garbage. The officials explained to the Collector that garbage baskets have already been made available with the cooperation of the Municipality. As part of environmental protection, useful plants like tunaga and curry leaves have been planted in the school premises under the auspices of the municipality. The Collector specifically suggested that not only planting plants but also continuous conservation measures should be taken for their growth. Speaking, the Collector ordered the officials of the relevant departments to complete all the development works being done under the auspices of the CSR Department and the Civil Department at the earliest and provide better facilities to the students. Municipal Commissioner Sujatha, School Principal Maithili, Engineering Department officials, Nava Bharath officials, and others participated in this inspection.

Every eligible woman should be a member of a self-help group: District Collector Jitesh V. Patil.""“



""Bhukya Ranjit Naik, Bhadradi Kothagudem bureau, August 12, Indian Chronicle: As part of the economic and social stability of women, an awareness seminar was organized at the IDOC office conference hall on Tuesday to include eligible women, elderly women, disabled women, and teenage girls in self-help groups under the Indira Mahila Shakti program in the district. District Collector Jitesh V. Patil participated as the chief guest in this meeting. Speaking on this occasion, the Collector said that there is a need to identify eligible rural women who are not yet in self-help groups and connect them to programs like credit facilities, livelihood opportunities, and promotion of small businesses under the auspices of SERP. He said that the state government has not only aimed to provide financial self-reliance to women through this scheme but also to further strengthen their position in the rural society. As part of this, he suggested forming 10-15 member elderly self-help groups with

elderly women above 60 years of age, 5-15 member special groups with disabled people, and 10-15 member groups with teenage girls aged 15-18 years. He said that through these groups, they will be provided with facilities like employment, skill development, financial assistance, and training, and steps will be taken to make them more active in the society. The Collector ordered that village-level support staff, CCs, and MSOBs should be actively involved in making this program successful in the district. He suggested that the relevant departments should work in coordination to provide awareness about this scheme to every eligible woman and provide necessary facilities to join the associations. DRDO Vidya Chandana, Additional DRDO Nilesh, Women and Child Welfare Officer S. Swarnalatha Lenina, L.D. Ramireddy, Adult Education DD Anil, District Federation President Sujatha, DPMs, APMs, CCs, and MSOBs participated in this conference.

The Role Of Media in Today's Society Is Crucial

""Congress Party Mandal President Gurnule Narayana..



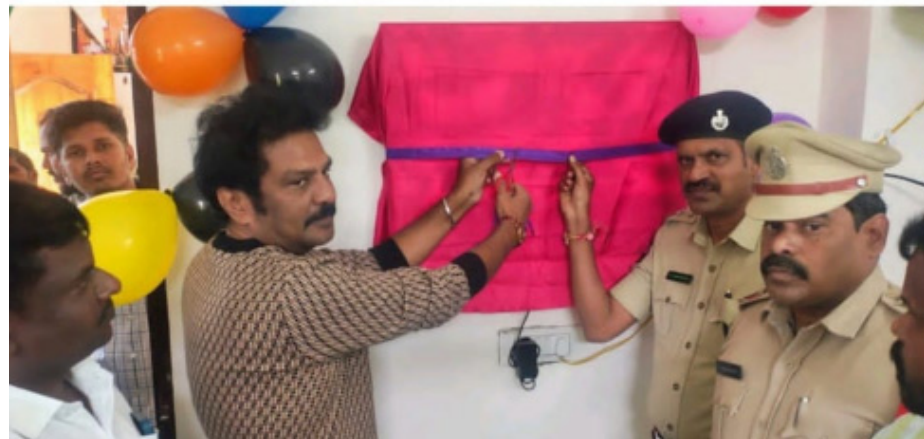
""Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter. Jade eporter. Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle. August, 12. ""Wankidi Mandal President Gurnule Narayana said that the role of media is crucial in today's society. Monday Wankidi. Prana Jyoti and logo were unveiled at the Congress party office in the mandal center. On this occasion, Mandal President Narayana said that the role of media is crucial in providing information to the people and the government, and that timely information should be given to the people about the schemes implemented by the Congress

government, and that the state government should cooperate in creating awareness among the people about the development programs and schemes being implemented. He also said that efforts will be made to provide houses to journalists who are eligible under Gruhalakshmi. Praja Jyoti Stop Reporter Satish, Janam News District Bureau Reporter Tirupati, Praja Jyoti Wankidi Mandal Reporter Bheem Rao, Rodda Shankar, Kishor, Suresh, Congress Party leaders Paint, Sommu, Srinivas, and others participated in the program.

Kashireddy Guda Village Enhances Security with CCTV Installation

Inauguration by ACP Lakshminarayana; Donor Kiran Kumar Felicitated"

"SHADNAGAR, August 12""INDIAN CHRONICLE ""In a significant step towards improving safety and security, Kashireddy Guda village in Farooq Nagar Mandal, Rangareddy District, has installed CCTV cameras with the support of local residents and youth. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Shadnagar Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Lakshminarayana Reddy, Circle Inspector (CI) Vijay Kumar, and Sub-Inspector (SI) Rajesh, who jointly launched the CCTV system."



cial role of CCTV cameras in crime prevention and investigation.

"Speaking at the event, ACP Lakshminarayana Reddy emphasized the cru-

He urged every village in the mandal to adopt similar measures to enhance

security. The initiative was made possible through the generous contribution of donor Kiran Kumar, who was commended by local police officials for his efforts. ""The

program saw participation from village elders, residents, and youth, who were also appreciated for their cooperation in making the initiative a success.

Real culprits in Gattu Vaman Rao case must be brought to justice : Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, Aug.12 : Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has welcomed the Supreme Court's directive to hand over the investigation of the Gattu Vaman Rao couple's murder case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Minister said the order had strengthened public faith in the judicial system.

Justice will be served only when the true perpetrators—and the senior leaders of the then government who abetted them—are duly punished, he asserted. Sridhar Babu criticised the previous BRS government for its complete indifference when advocate Vaman Rao and his wife

were brutally murdered in broad daylight in Manthani. Instead of conducting an impartial inquiry, he alleged, they shielded the actual offenders. Expressing anguish, Sridhar Babu said that the senior leaders of that government, who should have delivered justice to the grieving parents who lost their son and daughter-in-law, had instead derailed the investigation and protected the real killers.

The Minister further remarked that despite repeated appeals from civil society organisations and the Congress party to transfer the case to the CBI, the then government had ignored these demands. Reiterating his unwavering confidence in the judiciary, he concluded, "In the end.. justice will prevail,".

Udai Omni Hospital unveils its ultra-modern surgical robot

Hyderabad, Aug.12 : Udai Omni Hospital, a 50-year-old renowned centre of excellence in orthopaedics and trauma care in South India, unveiled its ultra-modern surgical robot. The advanced Misso robotic system was inaugurated by D. Sridhar Babu, Minister for Information Technology & Industries, in the presence of senior consultants, patients, and distinguished guests, at the hospital premises at Chapel Road, on Tuesday.

The robotic joint replacement unit is led by Dr Udai Prakash FRCS (Tr & Orth) UK, Chief of Joint Replacement Surgery, a veteran with over three decades of surgical expertise and thousands of successful knee and hip replacements to his credit. Sridhar Babu added, "Udai Omni Hospital continues to lead the way in bringing world-class healthcare innovations to Telangana. The launch of robotic surgery here will benefit countless patients and raise the standard of orthopaedic care in the region. Technology has become a powerful catalyst for positive change in human lives, ushering us into a new era of medical excellence. With the advent of cutting-edge innovations, the transformation in healthcare is nothing short of remarkable. Picture the joy of patients who, thanks to advanced medical technology, recover swiftly and are spared prolonged post-surgery trauma, a life-changing difference made possible in the skilled hands of a doctor. Globally, robotic surgeries are on a steep growth trajectory, expanding at 15% annu-

ally, with the market expected to soar to \$18 billion by 2030. In India, this momentum is even more impressive, with a 20% year-on-year growth rate, a clear indication of the immense potential and promise that lies ahead. Our Government is taking initiatives to bring in modern healthcare technology in the government hospitals, to ensure the best possible care for the poor.

Dr Udai Prakash highlights, "Robotic knee replacement - offers enhanced precision for implant placement and bone cuts, minimizing errors and improving fit allows better gap balancing, personalised alignment and a more natural-feeling joint. This minimally invasive approach results in less tissue damage, reduced pain, faster recovery and lower infection rate. The system provides real-time feedback, reducing human error. Patients experience faster healing, reduced swelling, quicker return to normal activities. Studies suggest improved implant longevity due to better alignment and fixation." Speaking at the launch, Dr Udai Prakash said, "Robotic precision transforms the way we perform joint replacements. It allows us to deliver perfectly balanced joints, minimise tissue damage, and give our patients the best chance for a pain-free, active life." The Misso robotic system is completely indigenous and in competition with the best systems in the world. Shortly, we will be able to do partial knee replacements and total hip replacements with the same robotic system"

BJP condemns house arrest of party president & warns to launch agitation

Hyderabad, Aug.12 :BJP strongly condemned house arrest of Telangana State BJP president N Ramchander Rao this morning preventing him to participate in "Ghar Ghar Tiranga" programme organised by the party. Rao was scheduled to participate in the programme in Secunderabad and Goshamahall constituency when a band of policemen went to his residence at Tarnaka and made him house arrest. Hearing the news of house arrest of Rao, Union Minister of Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who was busy with parliament session in Delhi, condemned and accused Congress government of hatching a conspiracy for the votes of a particular community in the Jubilee Hills bye-election. Sanjay alleged that Congress government is plying politics with the sentiments of Hindus for the sake of votes from one community. He said Rao was taken into house custody though he has no schedule programme to visit

Peddamma temple in Banjara Hills to attend Kumkumarcha ceremony organised by Hindu organisations in the temple. He described the arrest as a "foolish" act of State government and questioned what is wrong with Hindus going to the Peddamma temple. In a statement, state party official spokesperson and Media in-charge N V Subhash criticised Congress government's act and demanded immediate release of party chief. Preventing participation in "Ghar Ghar Tiranga" is a direct attack on democracy. He said under previous BRS government regime also we have witnessed number of such incidents and KCR government tried to gag voices of Opposition by arresting them illegally and Congress government also following same path. People of Telangana have taught a lesson to BRS and rejected that party and they will teach same lesson to Revanth Reddy government in coming days, he said.

SC orders CBI inquiry in advocates twin murder case

Hyderabad, Aug.12 : A key development has taken place in the murder case of lawyer Vaman Rao and his wife in the apex court of the country. The Supreme Court has ordered the Telangana government to hand over the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for investigation. The court has directed the CBI to re-investigate the murder case and provide security to the petitioner.

Lawyer Vaman Rao and his wife Nagamani were brutally hacked to death by assailants on a broad daylight road near Kalvacharla in Ramagiri mandal of Peddapalli district on February 17, 2017. The incident created a sensation across the State at that time. The Lawyers across the State staged protests against the murders. Several people have been arrested in the case, but the investigation is still

ongoing. Vaman Rao's father Kishan Rao approached the Supreme Court to hand over the case to the CBI. Justice MM Sundares and Justice ACK Singh heard the petition. The Supreme Court had earlier ordered the Telangana government to place all documents, including videos, related to the case before it. However, the Supreme Court said it would examine the records and decide later on whether a CBI investigation was necessary or not? The State government has submitted all the evidence related to the murder case of the Rao couple to the Supreme Court. At the same time, the lawyer representing the Telangana government said they have no objection to handing over the case to the CBI. The Supreme Court issued orders today transferring the investigation of the murder case of Vaman Rao to the CBI.

UoH celebrates Har Ghar Tiranga with enthusiasm & patriotism



Hyderabad, Aug.12: The University of Hyderabad (UoH) is proud to join the nation in celebrating the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, a patriotic initiative launched by the Government of India to commemorate the Independence Day. As part of this campaign, UoH will organize a series of events on campus till August 15, 2025, fostering a sense of national pride and unity among its students, faculty, and staff. Key events organised on August 12, 2025 are:

Cyber Security Awareness Program: A special session will be conducted online by Dr Sanjay Sharma, Director-Computer Centre and Campus Network Facility to educate fraternity about the importance of online safety and security, highlighting best practices to protect personal data and prevent cyber threats. Importance of Insurance: A lecture in Hindi was organized under 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign by Mr. Ravi Ranjan, Hindi Officer, IRDAI, highlighting awareness on different types of Insurance; risks involved; cost benefit analysis etc. for the benefit of the staff.

Tiranga March: Students, faculty, and staff of the campus participated in a vibrant procession, carrying the national flag and showcasing their patriotism. Tree Plantation Drive: A sapling plantation event was organized in east cam-

pus, emphasizing the significance of environmental conservation and sustainability. This initiative aligns with the university's commitment to promoting eco-friendly practices and reducing its carbon footprint.

Marijuana Seized In Asifabad.. Two Arrested"



"Kumrambheem, Asifabad district Reporter. Jade eporter. Jade Srinivas. Indian Chronicle. August, 12. ""The Task Force police on Tuesday arrested two people who were selling ganja at a Punjabi Dhaba in Asifabad. About 60 grams of dried ganja in 10 packets were seized from them, said Asifabad Task Force CI Rana Pratap. The arrested two were taken to Asifabad police station and a case has been registered against them.

Bhatti promises comprehensive road development across Telangana state

Hyderabad, Aug.12 : Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the entire Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, is committed to large-scale road development in the state. He said that the People's Government, which fought hard to achieve a separate state, is now determined to work towards fulfilling the goals for which Telangana was formed. "Roads are symbols of civilization; with road development, goods produced in remote areas can be transported anywhere with ease. With road construction, industries will grow, thereby creating employment and income for the youth of the state. The state government is not only focusing on welfare programs but, as part of Telangana's Rising, is also advancing infrastructure, industries, education, and healthcare sectors," he said.Speaking at the HAM roads meeting held at HITEK here on Tuesday, Bhatti Vikramarka said that under the Panchayat Raj department, the state government has decided to develop 7,947 km of roads through 17 packages, and under the Roads and Buildings department, to develop 5,190 km of roads through 17 packages.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government would call for tenders and start the works for the road projects approved by the Cabinet at the earliest. To financially en-

courage contractors, a meeting with bankers was also arranged. He said the state government is aware of the contractors' problems, and that the previous rulers had entered into agreements for development works worth ₹1.75 lakh crore and issued tokens for works worth ₹45,000 crore, but failed to clear those dues, leaving behind a financial burden for the present government. "With the Chief Minister, Ministers, and government secretaries focusing on the matter, the financial situation is gradually improving, and the government is working to overcome the difficulties faced by contractors," he assure The Deputy Chief Minister stated that the government considers contractors, industrialists, and investors as partners in wealth creation. It works with a humanitarian approach. Keeping traffic requirements in view, some roads in the state still need to be converted into four-lane roads; he instructed officials to prepare that list quickly, place it before the Cabinet, and get approval. The Deputy Chief Minister said the state government will contribute 40 percent towards funding for HAM roads and is working to mobilise the necessary resources, assuring that contractors will not face difficulties in the future. He reiterated that contractors should be partners in Telangana's Rising and that small contractors will be given opportunities in HAM road works.

Settipalli Land Dispute to be Resolved Soon““



:Tirupati District Collector Venkateswar ““Assures Action“TUDA Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy: Settipalli Land Designing, Mapping Completed“Tirupati District ““August 12 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator““Tirupati District Collector Venkateswar has announced that the long-standing Settipalli land dispute will be resolved soon. Speaking at the TUDA office on Tuesday after a meeting with TUDA Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy, Joint Collector Shubham Bansal, and other officials, the Collector addressed the issue.“During the meeting, farmers and plot purchasers of the Settipalli lands submitted a petition to the Collector and the TUDA Chairman. The Collector stated that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu has given a direct order to resolve the Settipalli land issues as quickly as possible. He explained that despite over 60 cases

being filed regarding the lands, the administration is moving forward with the people's interests in mind. He also noted that TUDA Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy is giving high priority to resolving the issue. The Collector assured that the lands will be handed over to the farmers and plot purchasers as soon as possible.“TUDA Chairman Dollars Divakar Reddy stated that he has made the resolution of the long-pending Settipalli land issue his first priority upon taking office. He mentioned that he has already discussed the matter with the Chief Minister and the District In-charge Minister to bring it to a conclusion. He confirmed that the mapping and designing of the lands have been completed. He promised that once the land file is transferred from the corporation to TUDA and government approval is received, the lands will be handed over to the beneficiaries.

Book bans in Kashmir, talking to Isabel Allende, forgotten voices from Punjab and more

Welcome to this edition of The Hindu on Books Newsletter. Last week, the Jammu & Kashmir Home Department banned 25 books, including works by prominent writers like A.G. Noorani, Sumantra Bose, Arundhati Roy and Ayesha Jalal, for “propagating false narrative and secessionism”. In an order, the Home Department said the identified 25 books had been found “to excite secessionism and endangering [the] sovereignty and integrity of India.” The books declared as “forfeited” include Independent Kashmir by Christopher Snedden; The Kashmir Dispute 1947-2012 by A.G. Noorani; Azadi by Arundhati Roy; Confronting Terrorism by Stephen P. Cohen among others. Two books by Islamic scholars, Imam Hasan Al-Bana and Moulana Moudadi, are also on the list.

The J&K Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, distanced himself from the move, saying he had never banned books and never would. “The ban has been imposed by the L-G using the only department he officially controls – the Home Department,” Mr. Abdullah said, as opposition to the move grows across the country.In reviews, we read Harleen Singh's The Lost Heer, Ravikant Kisana's Meet the Savarnas, an excerpt from a new book on Hiroshima, 80 years on, and we talk to Isabel Allende about her new novel.

In Harleen Singh's epic re-telling, The Lost Heer: Women in Colonial Punjab (Penguin/Viking), there are a myriad echoes of a storied past that situates the Punjab within the larger frame of the subcontinent's history, writes Geeta Doctor. An archivist historian born in Delhi but living now in Toronto, Canada, Singh finds his focus in the lives of women in colonial Punjab.These are the women, mothers of famous sons who ruled and fought over royal fortresses and strongholds that defined the Punjab; their wives, consorts, courtesans and the daughters, who survived what Singh depicts as a stridently patriarchal society; and their hangers-on who made such lives possible. There are many references to the widows emerging from behind their veils sword in hand to exhort their subjects to resist the invader.There are also equally fascinating portrayals, writes Doctor, of the English women who arrived there either as the wives of missionaries, or of the ‘memsahibs’ married to “the newly installed ‘administocracy’, if one may coin a word, who arrived often from Bengal, the seat of power.”

Ravikant Kisana, an academic specialising in cultural studies, uses Marilyn Loden's concept of ‘glass ceiling’ to describe savarna supremacy in Meet the Savarnas (Ebury Press). Loden, writes G. Sampath in his review, used it to explain how patriarchy and sexism hold women back. Kisana writes: “Think of south Asia — India especially — as full of people sitting in a cramped and dirty basement... looking up at what is a glass ceiling for them but is, in fact, a floor above which lives a very small group of people.” The group above are the savarnas, who “have access to all the switches in all the rooms of the house, including the base-

ment. They switch on the lights and switch them off at will.”A glass floor that's also a glass ceiling is a powerful image, points out Sampath. “It encapsulates the invisible barriers that kick in to prevent someone from rising above their caste-mandated station while also protecting those above from falling lower, thereby cementing the segregation of the basement dwellers from those above ground. The vantage point of caste discourse in India is typically above the glass floor, looking down.”

“Kisana, in a startling inversion, points the lens of anthropological scrutiny upwards, from below the glass floor. What emerges is a searing social commentary that unpeels, with wit and precision, layers of congenial hypocrisy, narcissistic entitlement and delusions of grandeur that have propped up a hereditary elite's fantasies about themselves,” says Sampath.When Isabel Allende's Llena was around nine years old, she travelled with her grandfather to the Argentinian Patagonia, where he had sheep. “We went by train from Santiago as far to the south as the train would go, continued by car, crossed the Andes on horseback, and on the other side, we were picked up by rangers,” she writes via email to Anushree Nande as they discuss her works, and particularly her new novel My Name is Emilia del Valle (translated by Frances Riddle, published by Bloomsbury).“That journey is engraved in my memory. That's Chile for me, the country I long for,” says Allende. This deep longing and loss is present in every single book Allende, now 83, has written, including her bestselling debut The House of the Spirits (1982). From the moment she flew to Venezuela where she would remain for 13 years, Chile stopped being hers in the way it had till then, and everything changed forever, says Nande. “Over the years, Allende would keep interrogating the themes of displacement and identity, of memory and family, as well as the potent links between the personal and the historical, through her stories.” Her new novel is set between San Francisco and Chile.FILE - In this Aug. 6, 1945, file photo released by US Air Force, a column of smoke rises 20,000 feet over Hiroshima, western Japan, after the first atomic 5-ton 'Little Boy' bomb was released. Hiroshima was targeted because it was a major Japanese military hub filled with military bases and ammunition facilities. At 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, the Japanese port city of Hiroshima was struck by the world's first atomic bomb that had been built in the U.S. by the top-secret Manhattan Project. Dropped by a B-29 Superfortress, a long-range bomber, the weapon destroyed large parts of the city, and killed tens of thousands.lain MacGregor's The Hiroshima Men (Constable/Hachette India) traces the path to the attack and its aftermath through the experiences of several key characters, including General Leslie Groves, leader of the Manhattan Project alongside Robert Oppenheimer; pioneering Army Air Force bomber pilot Colonel Paul Tibbets II; the mayor of Hiroshima, Senkichi Awaya, who died in the attack;

In the Lok Sabha, Centre does not specify the documents to prove citizenship in India



The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) did not specify the “categories of valid documents” required for people to prove citizenship in India, while responding to a question in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday (August 12, 2025). Citizenship is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955 and its rules, the Ministry said.Data on the number of births registered in Bihar for the years 1998, and 1999 was “not available”, the MHA said.The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is presently underway in Bihar, with birth certificates among the 11 documents listed by the Election Commission of India that can be furnished for inclusion in the voter rolls.The Ministry was responding to a question by Communist Party of India-Liberation (CPI-L) member Sudama Prasad, who asked for the “details of categories of valid documents that are required for people to prove citizenship in India”, and the “total number of birth certificates issued nationwide during the last 25 years and whether the Government received reports about low coverage of issuance of birth and death certificates vis-à-vis number of births and deaths by the State Government and the list of top 10 States”.

“The citizenship of India is governed under the provi-

Centre has not transferred 3.69 lakh crore of cess collections to the designated funds, CAG finds

GNS News Agency, August 12

As of 2023-24, the Central Government has failed to transfer ₹3.69 lakh crore worth of cess collections to the relevant funds for which the cess was implemented, the Comptroller and Auditor General has found. A cess is a levy over and above a tax and has to be used for a particular purpose. These short allocations date back to cesses imposed in 1974 and thus show lapses across governments. In its report on the accounts of the Union Government for 2023-24 tabled in Parliament on Tuesday (August 12, 2025), the CAG found such shortfalls in transfers relating to funds created for investor education and protection, monetisation of national highways, development of the oil industry, and the development of health and education in the country.

“The aggregate impact of test checked funds till 31 March 2024 was short transfer of ₹3,69,307 crore to the designated reserve fund in the Public Accounts,” the CAG said in its report.The single-largest source of this shortfall in transfers was to do with the Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB). The Oil Industry (Development) Act, 1974 had provided for the setting up of the OIDB for the development of the oil industry. For that purpose, a cess was imposed on crude oil and natural gas.

“We found that as per the Annual Report 2023-24 of OIDB, since FY 1974-75 to FY 2023-24, total cess on crude oil collected by the Government was ₹2,94,850.56 crore (including ₹18,845.98 crore during FY 2023-24),” the CAG report noted. “It is also significant that since FY 1974-75 to FY 1991-92, only ₹902.40 crore has been transferred to the OIDB and thereafter no funds have been transferred to the OIDB, out of the cess collected each year.”In other words, the government collected ₹2.9 lakh crore as cess for the development of the oil industry since 1974-75, but had transferred only ₹902 crore or 0.3% to the relevant fund as of 2023-24.In its reply to the CAG, the Ministry of Finance said that the government had decided to constitute an ‘Oil Industry Development Fund’ for the development of the oil sector, which was operationalised from 2024-25. An analysis by of the government's budget documents shows it

Karnataka Minister K.N. Rajanna resigns after his remarks on ‘vote theft’

Karnataka Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna has resigned after he made a statement in public that “vote theft” took place during the Congress government's tenure during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections.The Congress high command instructed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to sack Mr. Rajanna from the Cabinet after his comments sparked a political row.

The Chief Minister is expected to make an official statement of the Minister's resignation in the Legislative Assembly. Sources also indicated that Mr. Rajanna's son Rajendra, an MLC, has handed over the resignation letter to the Chief Minister.When the Opposition BJP pressed for clarity on the resignation in the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Rajanna told the Legislative Assembly that the CM would make a statement.A close loyalist of CM Siddaramaiah, Mr. Rajanna had questioned the party's stand over alleged electoral roll manipulation, remarks that directly contradicted the Congress's official stand on the “vote theft” and embarrassed the Congress high command. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had staged a protest against “vote theft” in Bengaluru on August 8, 2025.

Speaking to reporters in Tumkuru on Saturday (August 9, 2025), Mr. Rajanna had asked why Congress leaders had “turned a blind eye” to irregularities in voter lists and kept silent when they should have raised objections.He said, “Look, if we just start talking about such things casually, there will be different opinions. When was the voter list prepared? It was prepared when our own government was in power. At that time, was everyone just sitting quietly with eyes closed? These irregularities did take place — that's the truth. There is nothing false in this.”

Admitting that the irregularities happened openly, he said, “These irregularities happened right in front of our eyes — we should feel ashamed. We didn't take care of it at the time. That's why we must be alert in the future.”“In Mahadevapura, there was indeed fraud. One person was registered in three different places and voted in all three. But when the draft electoral rolls are being prepared, we have to monitor it, right?..When the draft electoral rolls are made, we must file objections — that is our responsibility. At that time, we kept quiet and now we are talking,” Rajanna

sions of the Citizenship Act, 1955, and rules made thereunder,” Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, said in a written reply.Without specifying the admissible documents, the reply said that citizenship “can be acquired by birth (Section 3), by descent (Section 4), by registration (Section 5), by naturalization (Section 6) or by incorporation of territory (Section 7) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The eligibility criteria for acquisition and determination of citizenship is as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made thereunder”.

The reply added that the registration of births and deaths in the country is carried out under the provisions of a Central legislation, namely, the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969. Based on the annual report on registered births and deaths received from the registration authorities of the States, the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner brings out an annual report titled the ‘Vital Statistics of India based on the Civil Registration System (CRS)’.In 2001, the total registered births/deaths excluded data from Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, and such data for Uttarakhand was not available from the years 2002-2003; in Tripura for the year 2005, and 2007-2009; and in Jammu and Kashmir for the year 2012. The data on total registered births and deaths for the year 2016 did not include data from Manipur and Meghalaya, the MHA said.Earlier, on August 5, the Ministry had informed the Lok Sabha that the Citizenship Act, 1955 requires the Central government to compulsorily register every citizen of India, and issue National Identity Cards to them. The Ministry was responding to a question by Trinamool Congress member Mala Roy about details of cards which, as per the law, are admissible as identity proof of an Indian citizen. The said Rules state that National Identity Cards are to be issued to citizens whose particulars are entered in the National Register of Indian Citizens or the National Register of Citizens (NRC).



has transferred ₹17,730 crore in 2024-25 and has budgeted a transfer of 19,376 crore in 2025-26 to the fund.

The other large cess that has been collected, but not adequately transferred to the relevant fund is the Health and Education Cess. The Government had imposed an Education Cess at 2% on all taxes collected by the Centre with effect from April 1, 2004. The government in 2007 levied an additional Secondary and Higher Education cess of 1% on income tax and surcharge. From April 1, 2018, the central government replaced these two cesses with a single 4% Health and Education Cess. The proceeds from these cesses were to be transferred to the Prarambhik Shiksha Kosh (PSK) introduced in November 2005, the Madhyamik and Uchchatar Shiksha Kosh (MUSK) established in 2017, and the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Nidhi (PMSSN), set up in 2021. The analysis by the CAG found that the Centre did not transfer a total of ₹37,537 crore that it collected as cess from 2018-19 to 2023-24 to the relevant education and health funds.There does seem to be a discrepancy here, the CAG acknowledged. In its reply, the Finance Ministry said that between 2018-19 and 2023-24, it transferred ₹3.66 lakh crore to the designated funds, which was in excess of what it had collected from the relevant cesses during that time. However, the CAG pointed out that the Union Government Finance Accounts showed that the transfer to these funds during this period was ₹2.65 lakh crore. This needs to be reconciled by the Ministry,” it added.



said.Mr. Rajanna, who has sparked off many controversies in the past, has been demanding replacement of Deputy Chief Minister Shivakumar as the president of the Karantaka Pradesh Congress Committee.Earlier, he had insisted on the need for the creation of more deputy chief ministerial posts in a move to “weaken” the position of Mr. Shivakumar, who has been holding multiple posts. Mr Rajanna also said “a major political development will take place in September,” indicating a change of leadership in the Congress government.Mr. Rajanna, who belonged to the Valmiki community, was recently removed from the post of the Minister in-charge of district of Hassan. Mr. Rajanna is second minister to resign after B. Nagendra, who quit after alleged scam in Valmiki Development Corporation. Both belonged to SC community.BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra, responding to the development, said that Mr. Rajanna had “paid the price for speaking the truth.” Raising the issue in the Assembly, Leader of Opposition R. Ashoka sought to know what allegations were against Rajanna for removing him.“Are there are any corruption charges against Rajanna, how much money he has made and where he has kept? He just spoke the truth that there is Congress government when the voting took place,” he said. Ashoka said Rajanna is a respected minister. “He (Rajanna) was the only Siddaramaiah loyalist. Is Siddaramaiah the next target after his removal?” the BJP leader asked.The JD(S), in a post on X, said Rajanna's resignation showed that “there is no internal democracy within the Congress party.”“

2008 Malegaon blast case: The unsolved mystery of the missing documents



GNS News Agency, August 12

The prosecution, therefore, sought that they be allowed to refer to photocopies of the missing documents since the originals were not available. The prosecution, therefore, sought that they be allowed to refer to photocopies of the missing documents since the originals were not available. In 2016, 13 statements that were a part of the evidence in the 2008 Malegaon blast case went missing from the court records. Till the end of the trial, the statements were not found. All seven accused booked in the case were acquitted on Thursday, with the special court stating that there was strong suspicion but not enough legal proof to convict them. The missing statements of key witnesses were recorded before a magistrate under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code, and included those who the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) claimed had deposed about the participation of the accused in conspiracy meetings. While acquitting the accused, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, the court had said that none of the conspiracy meetings were proved as the witnesses turned hostile, with some even claiming that they were threatened into giving false statements by the ATS.

With the National Investigation Agency (NIA) taking over the probe from the ATS in 2011 and re-recording the statements of some of the witnesses, the missing documents were crucial and could have been used to confront the witnesses about their previous statements. The prosecution, therefore, sought that they be allowed to refer to photocopies of the missing documents since the originals

were not available. While the trial court permitted it, the accused approached the Bombay High Court, which stayed the decision, noting that it was not proved that the photocopies were indeed of the original documents. The court had said that the NIA could find proof and file a fresh application to be able to use the photocopies as evidence. "Thereafter, instead of filing any sort of such application, the prosecution proceeded with the case and examined all the witnesses. Merely, it was asked to the witnesses during the course of their evidence about recording of their 164 statements," Special Judge A K Lahoti said. He added that even though witnesses said that they had given statements previously, it would not be considered as evidence since the copies could not be produced on record, and an opportunity could not be given to the accused to verify them. The prosecution had said that the accused had been provided copies, but they had refused, stating that the lawyers in the case were different earlier, and they did not have any copies. The NIA prosecutor sought that this be considered an adverse inference against the accused. The court said that the prosecution had not even examined the magistrates who recorded those statements, and hence the contents cannot be accepted only on the basis of the photocopies. These statements included two crucial witnesses, who had in the missing statements, allegedly told the magistrate that they had heard the accused discuss the need to plan a revenge attack on Muslims and to establish a Hindu Rashtra with a separate Constitution and flag. They were among the 39 hostile witnesses in the case. Among the defences claimed by the accused was that close to the spot of the blast in Malegaon at Bhiku Chowk on September 29, 2008, where six died and nearly 100 were injured, was the office of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIM) and that its activists were involved in the blast... there is nothing on record to show that any activists of SIMI was involved or seen near the spot of the incident," the court said, noting that the ATS investigation officer had admitted that he did not probe whether the SIMI office was operational. The court noted that one of the witnesses had also seen a girl near the blast site. The court said that while it was the prerogative of the officer to decide the direction of the probe, when certain facts come to his knowledge during the probe, then "those angles are also required to be considered and investigated".

Delhi's first ice-skating rink of international standards to come up in Dwarka; check out details

GNS News Agency, August 12

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will construct the city's first international-standard ice skating rink at its sports complex in Sector-23, Dwarka. Spread over 4,200 sq m, the facility will feature a 60m x 30m rink and aims to promote niche winter sports and offer a new indoor recreational space in the Capital. According to DDA officials, the rink will serve both recreational visitors and sportspersons, providing a venue for training in ice skating, ice hockey, figure skating, and curling. The project is part of efforts to improve sports infrastructure in Delhi and expand options for indoor activities, particularly during the city's extended summer months. A statement from the DDA said that an agency has been selected through a bidding process, and the site has been handed over. The project will be developed on a licence fee basis for 15 years. The agency is expected to construct and operate the facility in collaboration with international partners via a joint venture or special purpose vehicle (SPV).

The proposed ice-skating rink will be located within the cloverleaf of the Dwarka Sports Complex, near the junction of Dwarka Expressway and the airport tunnel to IGI Airport's Terminal 3. It is the latest in a series of recreational initiatives taken up by the DDA under the guidance of Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena. "With growing interest in niche sports such as Ice Hockey, Ice Skating, Figure Skating, and Curling across India, Hon'ble LG had directed DDA



officials to explore the possibilities of creating such facility in Delhi itself. It was observed that spaces in the National Capital for the enthusiasts to train, participate, and for organisers to host events in these sporting activities remain limited and hence it was decided to create an Ice Skating Ring," the statement from DDA said. Earlier this week, the DDA also finalised an agency to operate hot air balloon rides at four locations across the city — Asita, Baansera, Yamuna Sports Complex, and Commonwealth Games Village Sports Complex. Officials said the skating rink project aligns with ongoing efforts to develop Dwarka as a modern, self-sustained sub-city, while also expanding Delhi's overall recreational infrastructure.

Out on bail for rape, Delhi man shoots survivor, arrested



GNS News Agency, August 12

Gunshots fired for recording reel injures cab driver; two heldA police control room call was received at around 9.49 pm on Wednesday about a gunshot near the Poorvi Marg area in Vasant Vihar. A man out on interim bail in a rape case was arrested in Delhi on Friday for allegedly attempting to murder the same woman who had accused him.

According to the police, Abuzair Safi, 30, was arrested after he allegedly shot the woman in the chest on Wednesday while she was travelling in an auto-rickshaw in South West Delhi's Vasant Vihar. The woman, who works as a salon manager, had lodged a rape complaint against Safi last year, the police said, adding that his accomplice, Aman Sukhla, was also arrested.

A police control room call was received at around 9.49 pm on Wednesday about a gunshot near the Poorvi Marg area in Vasant Vihar. When the police rushed to the spot and found an auto-rickshaw, its driver, Ranjeet Yadav, informed the police that a female passenger had been shot and had been taken to AIIMS Trauma Centre by PCR personnel. At the hospital, the woman was identified as a Safdarjung resident. "The victim, found conscious and medically fit, stated that while she was travelling in the auto and speaking on the phone, two persons on a black motorcycle approached from behind. One of them, Abuzair Safi, who was driving, fired a shot that struck her in the breast," Amit Goel, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South West, said. Based on her statement, a case was registered at Vasant Vihar police station under sections 109(1) (attempted murder) and 3(5) (common intent) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and sections of the Arms Act. Through intensive technical surveillance, CCTV footage analysis, and local intelligence inputs, the police identified the accused. Sukhla was arrested on Thursday, and the motorcycle used

MSRTC will open public fuel stations in Maharashtra to boost revenue: Minister Pratap Sarnaik



GNS News Agency, August 12

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) has announced plans to open petrol and diesel pumps at its depots across the state for public use, aimed at generating extra revenue for the financially strained public transport system. Transport Minister and MSRTC Chairman Pratap Sarnaik stated on Friday that these retail outlets will be set up in partnership with central public sector firms such as Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum.

"The decision to launch these fuel stations was taken because the income from passenger ticket sales alone is not sufficient to sustain our operations. Our goal is to find new sources of revenue to finance MSRTC's stability," he

said. Currently, MSRTC purchases fuel from Indian Oil and Bharat Petroleum and provides diesel only for its buses from 251 pumps located on its property. The Corporation plans to convert such outlets and expand its services to cater to private vehicles as well. Under the proposed scheme, fuel stations will be set up at commercial buildings on MSRTC-owned land of 750 square metres, the minister said. In addition to fuel pumps, retail outlets can be installed to provide room for small businesses, which can also fetch additional income to MSRTC, he added. MSRTC has experience in running pumps and fuel supply, which the officials believe will facilitate this transition. Surveys are currently being conducted on MSRTC-owned plots to identify suitable sites for setting up commercial fuel stations. These stations, once removed from their current utilisation for bus fleets, will be reconfigured to sell fuel to the public as well, Sarnaik mentioned. The state government and MSRTC are actively working on official commercial partnership agreements with the central oil companies, which, according to Minister Sarnaik, would enhance transparency as the agreement will involve the Central and State Governments. "This initiative is not only a revenue-enhancing measure, but also a model of collaboration between state and central agencies, yielding public advantage," Sarnaik added. The plan also involves transforming these new areas into 'petro-motel hubs,' providing room for fuel sales, simple retail, and facilities for MSRTC's internal operational purposes.

Bangladeshi model's arrest: probe widens to include Shanta Paul's finances, friend under scanner



GNS News Agency, August 12

Shanta Paul arrested, Bangladeshi model arrested Kolkata, Bangladeshi actress Indian documents, Aadhaar card fraud case Kolkata, Police sources said Shanta Paul could not provide a satisfactory explanation about the origin of the Indian documents. (Express photo) The Detective Department of the Kolkata police, which is investigating Bangladeshi model and actress Shanta Paul, 28, who was arrested for allegedly possessing Indian voter ID and Aadhaar cards, has widened its probe after noting inconsistencies in her statements.

The officers are probing how Paul, who was arrested earlier this week, got the ID cards, besides investigating her friend and Bangladeshi national, Suman Chandrashil, whose name had come up during questioning. They are

also probing whether she was passing information to some other country in return for money as she appeared to live a lavish lifestyle, travelling to places including Nathu La Pass near the India-China border, Digha, and Gangtok, where she shot reels. A native of Barisal in Bangladesh, Paul had been living at a rented apartment in Bijoygarh, Jadavpur, since 2023, the police said.

Officers with the Detective Department said it was not clear why a successful Bangladeshi model and actress was using fake documents to stay in India. Paul, who is in police custody till August 8, was found to have two Aadhaar cards. Senior police officials said the first Aadhaar card was registered in her name in 2020 with an address in Burdwan. The other one shows a Kolkata address. She could not give satisfactory answers about how she procured the documents. According to a senior police officer, "A search is on to locate Suman Chandrashil. It is a matter of concern how Bangladeshi nationals are so easily able to obtain Indian identity documents." Police sources said that during the search at Paul's residence, officers found her friend's Aadhaar card details and an address in Behala's Anandagarh, on the outskirts of South Kolkata. According to a senior officer, "Chandrashil is married to a Behala-based woman and it is from that address that the Aadhaar card was obtained." However, officers said that people in the locality claimed that he had not been seen there for months. The police also reportedly found several bank documents and Paul stated during her interrogation that she was planning to open a hotel for which she intended to take a bank loan. Investigators are probing who was going to finance the project and if any partnership was involved. They will also examine the documents that Paul had submitted to the bank for the loan. Paul, who has reportedly won several modelling contests in Bangladesh, said she was working in a Telugu film and is in talks for another movie with a Tollywood star.

Doctors hold protest march at AIIMS, Delhi, demand rotatory headship

GNS News Agency, August 12

The Faculty Association of AIIMS, Delhi, and the Faculty Association of PGIMER, Chandigarh, have been demanding a rotatory headship policy at the two institutes for over a decade now. The Faculty Association of AIIMS, Delhi, and the Faculty Association of PGIMER, Chandigarh, have been demanding a rotatory headship policy at the two institutes for over a decade now. Doctors of the faculty associations of AIIMS, Delhi, and PGIMER, Chandigarh, held a protest march inside the Delhi institute on Friday evening, demanding rotatory headship. The doctors wanted to proceed towards Parliament, but were stopped by the Delhi Police as they did not have permission to do so.

Officials from the associations said that around 50 doctors gathered on campus and were later called by the director and the additional director, administration, for a dialogue on how to take the matter forward. The doctors were also carrying placards inscribed with messages like 'Justice delayed, justice denied', 'Equal opportunity for all, rotatory headship'. "During this discussion, we conveyed the collective concerns and urgency of faculty members, and they reassured us that efforts would be made to reach a positive and time-bound resolution," Dr Amarinder Singh Malhi, general secretary, Faculty Association of AIIMS, said. The Faculty Association of AIIMS, Delhi, and the Faculty Association of PGIMER, Chandigarh, have been demanding a rotatory headship policy at the two institutes for over a decade now. In this regard, several committees have been constituted by the Centre, and almost every panel has recommended its implementation in principle. Prior to this, doctors at AIIMS, Delhi, have been continuing peaceful protests, including black badge protests in May, relay hunger strikes from June 2025 onwards under the banner 'Hunger for Justice', 'Relay for Change', and protests on Doctors' Day during which the faculty and residents wore black badges, black T-shirts and also went on a relay hunger strike. The rotatory headship, the associations said, is an administrative reform that will have impactful progress and transparency in the administration of AIIMS, New Delhi, and PGIMER, Chandigarh. At present, a similar system is already in place in other top medical institutes like IMS, BHU Varanasi, NIMHANS Bengaluru, JIPMER Puducherry and CMC Vellore, and the faculty of these institutes have expressed their satisfaction with this administrative system, the associations added.



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Inflation expected to stay below 4 per cent for next two quarters: CareEdge

New Delhi: Headline inflation in India is expected to stay below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 4 per cent target over the next two quarters, supported by a favourable base effect and muted food prices, a new report has said.

The data compiled by CareEdge Ratings said the recent moderation in inflation has been largely driven by easing food prices, with CPI inflation falling to 2.1 per cent in June 2025 — the lowest level since January 2019.

The report noted that while inflation is likely to remain low in the near term, it could start rising from the third quarter and cross the 4 per cent mark in the last quarter of the current financial year as the base effect fades. For FY26, the agency expects CPI inflation to average around 3.1 per cent, which is lower than the RBI's projection of 3.7 per cent. "However, due to the low base in FY26, inflation is projected to rise to about 4.5 per cent in FY27," the report said.

The sharp fall in June inflation was led by deflation in food and beverages, including vegetables, pulses, spices,

and meat. However, prices of edible oils and fruits continued to show double-digit inflation.

While elevated edible oil prices remain a concern due to India's dependence on imports, the report said the recent cut in customs duty and healthy kharif sowing should help ease pressures in the coming months. The report said the RBI, having already frontloaded rate cuts and ensured surplus liquidity, is likely to hold rates in the upcoming August monetary policy meeting.

The central bank may adopt a wait-and-watch approach to assess the impact of earlier rate cuts, especially with the US Federal Reserve maintaining a hawkish stance and the dollar strengthening.

Despite global headwinds, India's external position remains strong, with foreign exchange reserves at \$695 billion and the current account deficit projected at just 0.9 per cent of GDP in FY26. Healthy services exports are expected to continue supporting the external sector, the report said.

AI across disciplines: How US universities are blending Artificial Intelligence into every field



GNS News Agency, August 12

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer confined to computer science or tech labs. It is now a transformative force across industries, reshaping how we live, work, and learn. US universities are responding to this shift by integrating AI into nearly every academic discipline—from journalism to law, medicine to marketing—preparing students to lead in a rapidly evolving job market.

Why integrate AI across the Curriculum?

The Fourth Industrial Revolution, described by the World Economic Forum (2022), is characterised by the fusion of digital, biological, and physical technologies, with AI at its core. Recognising this, US universities are embedding “AI literacy” into diverse programs to prepare students for a future where AI is integral to professional life. Policymakers are also advocating for early AI education, with initiatives from the US. Department of Education promoting responsible AI learning across K-12 and higher education. How AI is integrated into US University Programs AI is now woven into various fields of study, equipping students with practical and interdisciplinary skills: Computer Science and Engineering – Core courses include Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Natural Language Processing, Robotics, and Computer Vision. Data Analytics and Statistics – Focus on algorithm design, pattern recognition, and predictive modeling. Students analyse complex datasets using AI-driven dashboards and big data tools. Business and Management – Courses explore AI applications in marketing automation, financial forecasting, and supply chain optimisation. Students learn customer analytics, risk prediction, and strategic decision-making using AI tools.

Healthcare and Biomedical Sciences – Programs teach AI applications in radiology, pathology, drug development, and genomics. Students evaluate diagnostic algorithms and AI tools in clinical settings. Education and Learning Sciences – Future educators train in AI-based adaptive learning platforms and virtual tutors. Media, Design, and Arts – Students explore AI in music composition, animation, and storytelling. Generative design tools foster collaboration between humans and machines. Law, Ethics, and Public Policy – Courses such as “AI and the Law” and “Ethics of Emerging Technologies” address surveillance, algorithmic bias, and data privacy. Environmental and Earth Sciences – AI is applied in climate modeling, smart agriculture, and biodiversity monitoring. Students use geospatial AI tools for environmental impact assessments. Interdisciplinary Programs – Universities offer cross-departmental AI minors or concentrations. Students collaborate across fields like robotics, medicine, linguistics, and social sciences. What this means for Indian students Indian students pursuing education in the United States can benefit significantly from this integrated AI curriculum: Global Competitiveness: Exposure to AI across disciplines prepares Indian graduates for global careers in both tech and non-tech sectors. Future-Proof Skills: Hybrid skill sets, such as AI in healthcare or environmental management, align with emerging industry demands.

Innovation Opportunities: Access to cutting-edge AI labs, research grants, and interdisciplinary collaboration fosters innovation. Ethical Awareness: Students learn to apply AI responsibly, understanding its social, legal, and cultural implications. AI is not just a subject—it is the language of the future. US universities are incorporating AI learning into all areas of study, equipping students to apply it ethically and creatively. As fields converge and technologies evolve, the future belongs to those who can adapt and innovate. With the right academic environment, Indian students in the United States will not only be ready for that future—they will help define it. For more information on AI opportunities in the US universities visit the EducationUSA fair on August 11, 2025, at ITC, Kohinoor between 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm. EducationUSA is the US Department of State's official resource for accurate, free, and up-to-date information about studying in the United States. Students can download the EducationUSA India app, available for free on iOS and Android devices, for the latest information about the college application process. Or visit <https://educationusa.in/>.

Karnataka HC quashes gag order on online media channel over Dharmasthala case reports

GNS News Agency, August 12

The Karnataka High Court on Friday quashed a gag order on Mangaluru-based online media channel Kudla Rampage related to its reports on the Dharmasthala ‘secret burials’ case. “The concerned court, at the threshold and without the benefit of adversarial hearing, has ventured to grant a sweeping mandatory injunction, a relief which ordinarily ought to await the culmination of the trial,” Justice M Nagaprasanna said, remanding the matter to the lower court to be heard afresh.

The court also came down strongly on some of the reasoning in the gag order. “The impugned order though spanning multiple pages, conspicuously lacks the foundational reason……the order may span pages, but spanning pages has not depicted application of mind. It is application of mind that is required, in a reasoned order, and not application of ink,” Justice Nagaprasanna added. The Additional City Civil and Sessions Court in Bengaluru had on July 18 granted an ex parte injunction to delete 8,812 links related to the Dharmasthala burials case. The injunction was based on a petition filed by Harshendra Kumar D, brother of BJP MP D Veerendra Heggada and secretary of the Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Educational Society. The channel's counsel, A Velan, had argued that an injunction, which was doubtful at the closing stages of the case, had been granted in the interlocutory stage itself, and said that this was violative of the Civil Procedure Code (CPC). Arguing that it was a case of restraint on freedom of speech, he further pointed out that there was no reasoning behind passing a ‘John Doe’ order in this case. John Doe orders are orders where a defendant is unknown. Velan also asserted that the order, in a matter of public importance, was creating a perpetual gag order on future speakers. Representing Harshendra Kumar, senior advocate Udaya Holla argued that the petition by Kudla Rampage was not permissible



under Article 227 of the Constitution, as the petitioner had not availed the remedy under the CPC to vacate the order. He also stated that the high court had twice directed the channel to be banned, stating that in a case which was being investigated, it was producing defamatory content projecting Kumar to be guilty and creating defamatory content.

The bench stated that the injunction at this stage had the character of a final order, explaining, “The impugned order...while ostensibly couched as an interim measure, in truth and effect, partakes the character of a final determination.” The bench also pointed out multiple Supreme Court precedents with regard to the type of reasoning required for passing an ex parte order or interim injunction in such cases. The court also clarified that ‘John Doe’ or ‘Ashok Kumar orders’, as they are known in India, ought to be granted only with great caution, observing that the current order was wide enough that any voice against Kumar, his family or the location of the incident would be caught in it. The court added, “The order speaks of prohibition of defamatory statements. Not one word of what kind of statements are defamatory for the Court to pass the aforementioned order is found in the order.”

Employees working at marginal pay cannot be left open ended: HC asks Haryana to give salaries of contractual staff



The counsel for the state submitted to the court that the component (60%) of grant-in-aid to be received from the Centre has not been received so far, and as and when this component is received, the salary of the petitioners will be released.

GNS News Agency, August 12

The court directed the government to ensure that the arrears of the salary payable to the petitioner and future salary is paid timely. The court directed the government to ensure that the arrears of the salary payable to the petitioner and future salary is paid timely. Taking strong exception to the non-disbursal of salaries to contractual employees, the Punjab and Haryana High Court directed the Haryana government to release the salary of an employee by August 30 this year.

The court also warned that if the directive is not complied with, “the salaries of two of its officers will not be disbursed except with the leave of this court.” The directions come after Deepak Kumar and other contractual employ-

ees working for an organisation under the Public Health Engineering Department moved the HC. The court was informed that their salaries have not been released for the past four months. The counsel for the state submitted to the court that the component (60%) of grant-in-aid to be received from the Centre has not been received so far, and as and when this component is received, the salary of the petitioners will be released. However, Justice Vinod S Bhardwaj said, “I fail to find myself in agreement with the aforesaid reason assigned by the respondents (government) for withholding the payment. The salary of employee has not been made contingent upon the receipt of the funds from the government of India.”

The Justice said, “Once it is not denied that the employee is working under the direct supervision, control and governance of the Haryana government and is subject to disciplinary and other regulatory mechanisms of the State, the primary responsibility falls upon the employer to ensure that the salaries are disbursed in a timely manner whether or not it has received the grant. The person discharging duties has been made to work during the entire period under the project which has neither been abandoned nor stopped. Besides, the 40 per cent component was none-the-less to be contributed by the state.” “The employees, who are working at marginalised salaries, cannot be left open ended receipt of the funds as and when the state desires,” said the judge. The court directed the government to ensure that the arrears of the salary payable to the petitioner and future salary is paid timely. “The arrears be cleared on or before August 30, 2025, failing which the salary of the Additional Chief Secretary (public health engineering department) as well as the Engineer-in-Chief be not disbursed except with the leave of this Court,” ordered the court.

Cancellations, glitches, wrong exam centre: Here’s why SSC aspirants are protesting in Delhi



GNS News Agency, August 12

Massive disruptions during the Staff Selection Commission’s (SSC) Selection Post Phase 13 examination have triggered a wave of protests across Delhi this week, bringing thousands of aspirants to the streets and also resulting in a strong backlash on social media. The aspirants protested at Jantar Mantar and the CGO Complex, demanding accountability from one of India’s largest recruitment bodies, following complaints of technical glitches and exam-day confusion. They have sought a complete review of the examination process, a rollback or reassessment of the vendor contract, and an independent investigation into the failures.

Held between July 24 and August 1, the computer-based Phase 13 examination process was allegedly marred by abrupt cancellations, software crashes, biometric verification failures, and incorrect exam centre allotments. Many candidates who had travelled long distances at their own expense to their examination centres were disappointed to

note that their exams had been cancelled without prior notice. The alleged mismanagement is largely attributed to a recent change in the Commission’s exam vendor. The protesters alleged that the new vendor lacked the experience and technical capacity to manage large-scale recruitment drives. “The vendor’s failure to smoothly conduct even an examination like Phase 13 has intensified concerns,” said Ronak Khatri, president of Delhi University Students Union, who was among the agitators on Saturday. Khatri told The Indian Express, “I was there at the protest to raise issues of the students. The exam centres were away, several students missed their exams and there were several technical glitches which did not allow students to perform to their best.” Anger has spilled onto social media, with hashtags like #SSCMisManagement, #SSCSystemSudharo, and #JusticeForAspirants trending nationally. Students have shared images and videos from test centres and protest sites, highlighting instances of mismanagement and alleged mistreatment by security staff. The crisis escalated with the emergence of viral clips showing clashes between students and officials at some centres. In several locations, aspirants claimed they were manhandled or removed from premises for questioning procedural lapses. Aspirants and educators gathered this week in large numbers in New Delhi under the banner of a ‘Delhi Chalo’ campaign, raising a call for systemic reform. The protests took a more serious turn after reports emerged of police action at the demonstration sites. Students alleged that security personnel resorted to lathi charges to disperse crowds, leading to further outrage and condemnation online. The present crisis has also raised concerns among the aspirants of SSC Combined Graduate Level (CGL) exam scheduled to begin on August 13.

Post Op Sindoor: As Pak works channels to create ‘spy network’, Punjab Police leads dismantling efforts

GNS News Agency, August 12

A series of arrests — from Punjab and Haryana to Rajasthan and Uttarakhand — in two months following Operation Sindoor has once again put in focus the efforts being made by the Pakistan’s intelligence agency ISI to gather information critical to India’s national security by establishing new espionage networks while targeting serving military personnel and civilians working in defence establishments. A senior Punjab Police officer who has been dealing with countering ISI’s agenda told The Indian Express that an increased tempo of ISI activity in Punjab has been noticed during and after Operation Sindoor. The Punjab Police has in the recent past has busted several modules and arrested several persons who it believes were involved in espionage at Pakistan’s behest.

“The ISI has established extensive espionage network in India by exploiting financial hardships, ideological leanings, personal vulnerabilities, and impersonating as Indian entities. Honey-trapping remains a key tactic, with operatives leveraging personal or intimate relationships to coerce targets into sharing sensitive intelligence,” said a senior intelligence officer of Punjab Police. The officer added that “recruits” are tasked with gathering critical information on troop movements, strategic sites, and border deployments, with payments routed through hawala channels and encrypted apps to maintain secrecy. “Punjab Police, working in coordination with central agencies, have proactively dismantled these deeply entrenched networks over the years, exposing the ISI’s systematic efforts to destabilize India’s security and reaffirming an unwavering commitment to national integrity,” said DGP Gaurav Yadav. He added that in view of the recent developments, Punjab Police intensified its efforts to identify and bust Pakistani espionage networks spread across India. In this regard, he added, several suspects from different states came to notice for being connected with Pakistan Intelligence Officers (PIOs) through encrypted communication platforms. Some of the PIOs have been found to be working in close association with terrorist groups in Pakistan. Subsequently, details of these individuals were shared with police in respective states and central agencies, leading to dismantling of a wide espionage network. In May and June, Punjab Police identified such espionage networks operating in state that led to arrest of several individuals in seven different cases. Among the individuals who have been arrested across various states in connection with Pakistan’s ISI-backed espionage and propaganda activities are Jyoti Malhotra, alias Jyoti Rani, a YouTuber from Hisar in Haryana, Nauman Ilahi, a resident of Kairana in Uttar Pradesh; Devinder Singh from Kaithal, Haryana, Maulvi Qasim and his brother Asim from Rajasthan, Abhishek Bhardwaj from Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, Suraj Masih and Phalaksher Masih from Ajnala;



Rakib from Uttarakhand, Sukhpreet Singh and Karanbir Singh from Gurdaspur, Harpreet Singh, alias Pittu, alias Happy from Amritsar Jail; Gazala and Yameen Mohd from Malerkotla; Gagandeep Singh alias Gagan from Tarn Taran and Jasbir Singh, a YouTuber from Ropar in Punjab.

Apart from these, two Army jawans have also been arrested for passing on information to Pakistan. Devinder Singh was arrested on July 14 from a Rashtriya Rifles battalion in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir’s Baramulla district for allegedly leaking classified defense information to the ISI. He was arrested following the interrogation of Gurpreet Singh, alias Gopy Foji, a jawan serving in the Sikh Regiment who was arrested on June 21 from Amritsar for allegedly sharing sensitive military information with ISI operatives. “These individuals were found to be involved in various activities such as sharing sensitive information, establishing contacts with PIOs, receiving payments for intelligence sharing, and assisting in anti-national logistics and communication,” a Punjab Police officer said. Another officer said that investigations initiated over these months have uncovered attempts by ISI to target Indian nationals — particularly social media influencers and content creators — under the false pretense of cultural diplomacy and digital peace initiatives. Individuals were lured through well-orchestrated outreach, aiming to manipulate online narratives and mislead public opinion in favor of anti-national agendas. Punjab Police investigations have also revealed that this network sought to exploit the popularity and credibility of Indian digital voices to push pro-Pakistan narratives and subtly influence public sentiment within India. These efforts are part of a broader psychological campaign aimed at undermining national unity and eroding institutional trust. “The Punjab Police, through its vigilant monitoring and robust intelligence-sharing mechanisms, has contributed significantly to the identification and disruption of these networks,” says the officer handling investigations into ISI activities. Arrests made across different parts of the country have directly stemmed from intelligence inputs and coordinated action, reflecting the effectiveness of inter-agency cooperation, said an officer.

Land for jobs ‘corruption’ case: CBI ‘cherry picking’ to target Lalu family, argues lawyer in court



Lalu and his family have been accused by the CBI of enabling the recruitment of candidates for Group D railway substitute jobs who had allegedly transferred them land parcels as a quid pro quo.

GNS News Agency, August 12

President grants prosecution nod against Lalu; BJP nervous before Bihar polls: RJD Lalu and his family have been accused by the CBI of enabling the recruitment of candidates for Group D railway substitute jobs who had allegedly transferred them land parcels as a quid pro quo. The CBI is “cherry picking” to target the family of former Bihar chief minister and RJD chief Lalu Prasad in the land for jobs “corruption” case, argued his lawyer before a Delhi Court on Friday. Lalu and his family have been accused by the CBI of enabling the recruitment of candidates for Group D railway substitute jobs who had allegedly transferred them land parcels as a quid pro quo.

“They’re trying to dig deep to open all threads against

the family... They’re trying to link their names somehow,” argued Senior Advocate Maninder Singh, who is representing Lalu’s daughters Misa Bharti and Hema Yadav. Singh was accompanied in court by advocate Varun Jain. “The land sales were years apart from the dates when the jobs were given... How can the CBI connect the two,” he argued before Special Judge Vishal Gogne of Rouse Avenue Courts. “In three days, the Pacific Ocean changed due to the tsunami... multiple years is a long long time to wait.” “This case seems to be the interpretation of one gentleman who sits in a room determined to point out that something was wrong,” the advocate said.

“The CBI has said there were no requirements for the jobs and that there was no urgency... Has any (land) seller ever told them they were under pressure from Lalu Prasad,” Singh asked the court. Singh also said while there were 103 accused persons in the case, there was a mention of just 12 land parcels in the chargesheets. Earlier last month, the CBI which was represented in court by Senior Advocate and Special Public Prosecutor D P Singh and Advocate Manu Mishra, had argued that Lalu had threatened Railway Ministry officials to speed up the recruitment process.

The CBI case pertains to the alleged transfer of land at cheap rates to the RJD chief and his family in return for appointments made in Group-D substitute jobs in the Central Railways between 2004 and 2009, when Lalu was the Railway Minister. In its multiple chargesheets, the CBI has claimed that there were several discrepancies in the documents furnished by those who were given jobs in exchange for land such as candidates having sequential roll numbers on their caste and residence certificates. As per the CBI, Lalu had earlier acquired over 1 lakh square feet of land for only Rs 26 lakh as against the circle rate of over Rs 4.39 crore.

Why Trump talk of Pak’s ‘massive oil reserves’ is hot air — not much else



President Donald Trump listens during an event to sign an executive order restarting the Presidential Fitness Test in public schools, Thursday, July 31, 2025, in the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington. (AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)Trump appears convinced, at least on his own social media platform, that Pakistan is sitting on huge oil reserves.

US President Donald Trump’s announcement on Thursday that the Americans will work with Pakistan to develop the latter’s “massive” oil reserves came as a bit of a surprise, as Pakistan is not exactly a country synonymous with oil exploration and production, unlike Saudi Arabia, Iraq, or Venezuela. Far from it, Islamabad depends heavily on energy imports, has dwindling hydrocarbon production, and a rather inconsistent and uninspiring record of oil and gas exploration. There have been a few preliminary studies and reports of potential reserves over the years, but they have remained inconclusive, and the world’s oil majors have so far largely steered clear of hydrocarbon exploration in Pakistan.

But Trump appears convinced, at least on his own social media platform, that Pakistan is sitting on huge oil reserves. He went to the extent of saying that “maybe” Pakistan will be “selling oil to India some day”, a remark that many have interpreted as a veiled jibe at New Delhi over its heavy imports of Russian oil, which has surfaced as an irritant in the India-US relationship. The backdrop also features the heightened tension between India and Pakistan following their military conflagration in May due to the Pahalgam terror attack by Pakistan-backed terrorists. Trump has repeatedly claimed that he brokered the ceasefire between the two countries, while India has maintained that there was no mediation by any other third country.To be sure, Pakistan’s proven recoverable conventional crude oil reserves are pegged between 234 million and 353 million barrels by various estimates, while India’s proven reserves are estimated at 4.8-5 billion barrels, or nearly 14 times of Pakistan’s. By proven oil reserves, Pakistan is ranked between 50 and 55 in the world, compared to India’s ranking in the early 20s. As for natural gas, OPEC’s latest annual statistical bulletin pegs India’s proven reserves at 1.15 billion cubic metres (bcm), 2.7 times of Pakistan’s 0.43 bcm. Pakistan’s oil production is estimated at around 60,000 barrels per day, only about a tenth of India’s domestic oil output of over 580,000 barrels per day. Both Pakistan and India are heavily reliant on energy imports to meet their domestic demand, and oil is among the top imports for both countries in value terms.

Going by this current data, it is hard to fathom a scenario wherein Pakistan would be in any position to sell oil to India, barring a realisation of Pakistan’s hope of some mi-

‘Driven out like cattle’: Migrant workers from Bengal caught in crackdown

I can’t wait to get back to Mumbai,” says Mostafa Kamal Sheikh, 52, his grey T-shirt blending into the grey of the unpainted walls behind him. “Mumbai never sleeps. I used to work from 3 pm to 1 am at night. There is money and there is life. Here in the village, everything shuts down by 6 pm and then it gets all dark,” he says, sitting at his sister’s home in Baghra village in West Bengal’s Purba Bardhaman district.Kamal’s longing for Mumbai — the city where he has made a living since 1999, first as a dockyard worker and then as a ‘jhal muri’ vendor in Nalasopara — is as strong as his memory of a recent nightmare: of being detained by the Mumbai Police, tagged as an illegal Bangladeshi resident, handed over to the Border Security Force (BSF) and finally driven like cattle across the barbed-wire fencing at the border.The nights he spent on the no-man’s land across the border with Bangladesh were long — and much darker than his village at night.When he finally got home on June 17 – after the “babus” had verified and established that he was who he claimed to be — Kamal was tired and broken.Kamal is among the thousands of migrant workers from West Bengal who have over the last few months been detained and, in some cases like Kamal’s, pushed into the neighboring country as part of an ongoing drive against illegal Bangladeshis.

In June, The Indian Express had reported how more than 2,000 alleged illegal Bangladeshi immigrants were estimated to have been “pushed back” across the border by Indian authorities since Operation Sindoor began in the early hours of May 7. During this period, sources said, a similar number of immigrants showed up near the India-Bangladesh border voluntarily to cross over.While the drive against alleged illegal migrants intensified post Pahalgam, reports of detentions had been coming in even earlier from across the country — from Gurgaon, where the Haryana government demolished slums in March, to similar drives in Assam and Gujarat.With the drive focused on alleged “illegal Bangladeshis”, it’s the Bengali-speaking migrant workers in these cities who have borne the brunt, with some of them packing their bags and returning to their home state.

More detentions followed — in Gujarat and Rajasthan in May, followed by Maharashtra (Mumbai) and Odisha in June, and Delhi and Gurgaon in July. At Jharsuguda in Odisha, 444 Bengali-speaking migrant workers were kept in a detention centre before they were finally released.Back in West Bengal, which is heading into an election year in a few months, the detentions have turned into a hot-button issue. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has initiated a ‘Bhasa Andolan’, calling the drive against illegal Bangladeshi migrants a move by BJP-ruled states to “terrorise Bengali-speaking people”. While the ruling Trinamool and non-NDA parties such as CPI(M) and Congress have taken to the streets in protest, the BJP has accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her party of indulging in appeasement and vote bank politics.Kamal is among the thousands of migrant workers from West Bengal who have over the last few months been detained Kamal is among the thousands of migrant workers from West Bengal who have over the last few months been detained

“This is an invisible but huge workforce. We had earlier demanded identity cards for our migrant workers. On April 26, we started a helpline as complaints started to pour in of people being harassed and wrongly detained. We co-

raculous, fate-altering hydrocarbon discoveries. Theoretically, at least, impossible is nothing, although exploration efforts so far in Pakistan have yielded very limited success.Then what is the source of this hypothesis of Pakistan sitting on “massive” oil reserves that Islamabad, and now Trump, appear to be proposing? The basis of this premature assessment might lie in a decade-old report.

In 2015, the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) released a report that estimated around 9.1 billion barrels of ‘technically recoverable’ shale oil resources in Pakistan based on available data and technical analysis, but without any exploratory effort. The same report had pegged India’s technically recoverable shale oil resources at 3.8 billion barrels. These estimates, however, cannot be equated to proven reserves, which rests two rungs higher on the ladder of hydrocarbon resource recoverability. In fact, only a fraction of such technically recoverable estimates might eventually be produced, if at all, according to experts.Technically recoverable resources mean the oil and gas that can theoretically be produced based on current technology, industry practice, and geologic knowledge. A much smaller subset of these are what are known as ‘economically recoverable resources’, or oil and gas that could be produced without incurring a loss. Again, not all of these estimated economically recoverable resources may actually be produced due to various technical and economic considerations. A much smaller subset of these resources is what are known as proven or proved reserves—“the most certain oil and gas resource category”.“Proved reserves are volumes of oil and natural gas that geologic and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions,” the EIA said in that 2015 report. Notably, the American agency also stated that the recoverability of shale oil was quite low—ranging from 3 per cent to 7 per cent of the oil in-place with exceptional cases being as high as 10 per cent or as low as 1 per cent. Suddenly, the 9.1-billion-barrel technically recoverable resource estimate doesn’t appear as big.Also, given that all the assessments were based largely on available geological data and without any real exploratory data or exploration effort, it is anybody’s guess how much shale oil production may actually be economically viable and feasible for Pakistan. While nothing can be ruled out from the realm of possibility, experts believe that it is highly improbable that Islamabad will win an oil lottery big enough to offset its own oil imports and then be left with excess volumes to export to India, the world’s third-largest consumer of crude oil.A few reports of hydrocarbon discoveries have appeared in the Pakistani press over the past couple of years, but there is little data available in the public domain to back those claims made by officials in that country’s establishment. And again, much of the claims are reported to have been based in surveys and studies, and without any significant exploratory effort.It is also worth noting that hydrocarbon exploration itself is an extremely expensive and long-gestation endeavour that could last multiple years, which is usually followed by another years-long development phase, before commercial production can start. For Pakistan, this would mean a significant lead time before any of its potential oil reserves can be tapped into, apart from billions of dollars’ worth of investments that its fragile economy may not be able to afford. Perhaps that is where one or more of the American oil majors might come in with their deep pockets.



ordinated with the administration and police as they visited houses for verification,” says Asif Faruk, state secretary of the Paschim Banga Parijayi Ayikka Mancha (Unified Forum for Migrants).Samirul Islam, TMC Rajya Sabha member and chairman of the West Bengal Migrant Labour Welfare Board, says, “We have no objection if the police detain and deport illegal Bangladeshi citizens. But thousands of residents of Bengal are being detained and harassed. Some have been pushed into Bangladesh. This is unacceptable.”

“Also, the police in these states have not been sharing any data or details with our state government of those they are detaining. We get to know of the detentions from family members and then, our police and administration visit their houses and verify their papers. If the papers are in order, we send a report along with the documents to our counterparts in different states seeking the release of the migrants,” he says.Kamal and others who were detained say that police often asked them to make a quick call to their families seeking land records, school certificates and birth certificates, before taking away their phones. Delay in submitting these documents often meant long detentions or worse — pushbacks across the border, like in Kamal’s case.It was an SOS video that Kamal and others sent out — recorded on the phones of Bangladeshi citizens in areas near the border — that highlighted their plight and got the state government to verify their documents and intimate the BSF about their legal status. This was followed by a flag meeting between the BSF and BDR, after which they were finally handed over to the Indian side.

Recalling the nightmarish events of June 9, when he was picked up by the Mumbai Police from his Nalasopara room on suspicion of being a Bangladeshi citizen, he says, “I had come back from the jhal muri stall and was eating my dinner at 3 am, when police raided my room. I gave them all the documents they asked for, but they did not listen and took me away. They did not allow me to finish my dinner.”Kamal says he and a few others were detained for some days, after which his photograph and fingerprint were taken and the group sent to Pune, where they were handed over to the BSF.

“From there, we were taken to Agartala (Tripura). By then, there were over a 100 of us. From there, we were put into buses and taken to a BSF border camp, where we were divided into groups of four and taken to the border. Around 3 am on June 14, we were herded like cattle and told to pass through a small gate at the barbed wire fencing. Each of us were given 300 Bangladeshi taka and told to run. We pleaded with them, saying we are Indians, but we were caned. So we started running,” says Kamal.

Behind ED raids in Andhra Pradesh, KCR’s ambitious scheme and sheep that went around in circles



Bharat Rashtra Samiti’s supremo and former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao’s famous sheep distribution scheme is mired in an alleged scam after the Enforcement Directorate on Wednesday conducted searches at the residence and office of G Kalyan Kumar, the former Officer on Special Duty to former BRS Animal Husbandry Minister Talasani Srinivas Yadav, and other locations, in connection with the alleged sheep scam during the BRS rule.In October 2017, some officials involved in procuring and distributing sheep to eligible beneficiaries involved in sheep rearing found that some of the animals they had distributed were back in the market for sale. Officials found that some of the beneficiaries sold them to sheep rearers in neighbouring states, who were reselling the same sheep back to the Telangana government.Officials found hundreds of sheep in markets in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, which they had purchased earlier and tagged using markings. The markings were partially removed, but officials could make out that these were the same sheep.

Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials claim the BRS regime did not adequately investigate this. On December 26, 2023, after the Congress came to power and 19 days after A Revanth Reddy took over as CM, an FIR was registered at Gachibowli police station in Cyberabad in relation to the scheme.The complainant, Sanneboine Yedukondalu, a sheep trader from Palnadu district in Andhra Pradesh, claimed that the owner of a Hyderabad-based livestock company and two assistant directors from the state animal husbandry department approached him to supply animals for the Sheep Distribution Scheme.He stated that between August 13 and 23, 2023, he and 17 other traders delivered 133 units, with each unit comprising 20 sheep and a ram, at Vellela in Prakasam district. They submitted their bank details and Aadhaar cards to the officials, expecting payment. But the money was never credited.When they approached the Joint Director of the Animal Husbandry Department, they were allegedly informed that the money was transferred, but to different bank accounts. Gachibowli Police Station transferred the case to ACB, which registered

an FIR based on a CAG audit report of March 2021 that flagged “irregularities” in the implementation of the scheme. The alleged irregularities included non-maintenance of beneficiary details, improper record of invoices, and duplicate tags allotted to sheep units.The ACB also took note of allegations that sheep units were allotted to families that did not exist, or were allotted in the name of a deceased head of a family.Kalyan Kumar and Ramchander Naik, former CEO of Animal Development Corporation and former MD of the State Sheep and Goat Development Association; D Ravi Kumar and M Aditya Keshav Sai, two former assistant directors from the state animal husbandry department; and 11 others have been arrested in this case.

The ACB eventually passed on the investigation information to the ED, saying there was money laundering involved. Based on the CAG report that approximately Rs 253 crore was allegedly misappropriated and the money laundering spanned seven districts of Telangana, the ED determined that the alleged scam involved total money laundering to the tune of Rs 1,000 crore, which prompted its own investigation, resulting in Wednesday’s raids across Hyderabad.In a separate case registered at Nampally Police Station in Hyderabad, former OSD Kalyan and three aides were accused of breaking into the Animal Husbandry Department on December 10, three days after the Congress government came to power, and destroying documents, damaging computer hard drives, and deleting CCTV data.On Wednesday, at least eight locations in the city related to the beneficiaries and alleged middlemen involved in the case were raided by the ED under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

KCR had launched the sheep distribution scheme in June 2017, aiming to provide for over 7.30 lakh shepherd families, belonging to Yadava and Kurma communities in the state, to revive and encourage caste-based occupation and livelihood. The total budget for this scheme during the BRS regime was approximately Rs 12,000 crore in two phases, and over 1.5 crore sheep were distributed. The animals were procured from AP, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.While the scheme was running successfully, with the beneficiaries able to increase their income, alleged irregularities crept in. As per the ACB, some sheep trading agents and government officials involved in the scheme allegedly contacted the beneficiaries with offers to purchase the sheep. Many beneficiaries who were already in alternative professions and did not know how to tend to their flock sold the sheep to make easy money.The agents took back the sheep to the same markets in the neighbouring states from where the Telangana government had earlier purchased and resold them to the government, often with the knowledge of the officials of the Animal Husbandry Department and the State Sheep and Goat Development Association, it is alleged.

Is India’s economy ‘dead’ as Donald Trump claimed?

United States President Donald Trump announced 25% tariffs on India, as well as an unspecified “penalty” for buying military equipment and energy from Russia.A day later, Trump posted on social media that he did not care if India and Russia “take their dead economies down together”.

Asked about Trump’s description of India as a “dead” economy, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said: “Yes, he (Trump) is right... Everybody knows this except the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. I am glad President Trump has stated a fact... The whole world knows that India is a dead economy and that the BJP has killed it...”Union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal pushed back, saying that India had rapidly transformed from being one of the ‘fragile five’ to the fastest growing major economy in the world in just over a decade.“We have risen from the 11th largest economy to one of the top five... It is also widely expected that we will become the third largest economy in a few years. Today, international institutions and economists see India as the bright spot in the global economy. India is contributing to almost 16% of the global growth,” Goyal said in a statement to Parliament.“In the last decade, the government has taken transformative measures to promote India as the manufacturing hub of the world... India’s young, skilled and talented workforce is driving innovation and competitiveness of Indian industry. Our exports have steadily increased during the last 11 years,” he said.So, is India’s economy “dead”? While Trump, who seems annoyed with India’s hard bargaining in the talks for a trade deal, need not be taken literally, it stands to reason that one absolutely necessary attribute of a dead economy must be an absence of economic growth.The Table alongside contains data for gross domestic product (GDP) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a selection of countries over the past 30 years from 1995.They have been selected in the context of Trump’s comments, and the recent trade pacts signed between his administration and countries such as Pakistan, the UK, and the EU (of which Germany is the biggest economy). Japan has been included because it is one of the world’s biggest economies.

The data throw up a picture that is obviously contrary to Trump’s contention that India, or even Russia, are “dead” economies.Column 3 shows the number of times the GDP of each country has grown over the past 30 years. The top three countries are China, India, and Russia in that order.While the US has now become four times its 1995 size, its closest trade partners like the United Kingdom have grown by less than 3 times, and Germany has failed to even double its economy.Japan’s GDP in 2025 is lower than what it was in 1995, which would, by this metric, qualify it to be not just a “dead” but perhaps a decaying economy.In contrast, India’s economy is today almost 12 times its size in 1995.There is another way to look at these numbers: how did these economies grow relative to the USColumns 4 and 5 show there are only three economies that have grown in size relative to the US: China, India, and Russia. India was less than 5% the size of the US economy in 1995, but in 2025 it is almost 14%.By contrast, all of America’s friends and trading partners have shrunk in size relative to the US.Concerns for IndiaDo the above numbers mean India’s economy has no problems? While India is by no means a “dead” economy — far from it — it does have several ailments.While India’s overall GDP has grown, its growth rate has lost a step since 2011-12, and failed to replicate the spurt of fast growth — averaging 8%-9% — that was witnessed before the Global Financial Crisis of 2008-09. Since 2014, India’s growth rate has hovered around 6%.India also has not achieved the pace of growth that China did during its own journey. In 2014, India’s GDP was \$2.1 trillion; 11 years later, at the end of the ongoing financial year, it is projected to reach \$4.1 trillion, according to the IMF. By comparison, China’s GDP raced from \$1.9 trillion to \$4.6 trillion in just four years, from 2004 to 2008.In terms of trade — which is the context of Trump’s comments — India’s



share is just 1.8% of total global exports of goods, and just 4.5% of total global exports of services.One sign of weakness in the economy is the fact that there are many sectors that India wants to protect when it comes to international trade. India’s farm economy is plagued with distress, with the bulk of the farmers living at subsistence levels.The reason why the bulk of India’s population is still engaged in the rural and farm sectors is the failure to boost manufacturing. Official data show that since 2019-20, manufacturing has registered a slower growth rate (CAGR of 4.04%) than even agriculture and allied activities (4.72%).Further, despite overall GDP growth, the quality of growth and its distribution is acutely skewed, leading to widening inequalities and persistently high poverty. Twenty-four per cent of the population is below the World Bank poverty line for India. In 2011-12, when India was a poorer country and its poverty line was the same as the abject poverty line, 27% of India qualified as poor.Data on inequality also show an alarming rise. And on human development metrics such as health and education, the situation is concerning.A stark skills mismatch means that unemployment in India rises to very high levels with rising educational attainment. And female participation in the economy is among the lowest in the world — even when it is rising, the quality of work is of the poorest quality with low and stagnant wages.

New research redefines how India must rejuvenate the Ganga River

Hyderabad: In a pioneering study published in Hydrological Processes, researchers led by IIT Roorkee have, for the first time, conducted a full-scale isotopic analysis of the Ganga River from its Himalayan origin to its deltaic end, including its major tributaries. The study marks a paradigm shift in understanding how the Ganga is sustained during the hot and dry summer months. The research challenges long-held assumptions by clearly establishing that up to Patna, the Ganga is primarily sustained by groundwater discharge, not glacial melt, as widely believed. This natural underground contribution boosts the river’s volume by nearly 120% along the middle stretch. Meanwhile, more than 58% of the river’s water is lost to evaporation during summer, an alarming yet often overlooked component of the river’s water budget. Contrary to earlier satellite-based studies warning of severe groundwater depletion across North India, the new findings, based on two decades of in-situ data, indicate largely stable groundwater levels across the central Ganga Plain.

Breathing easy in the National Capital Region



Given the umbilical link between winter pollution in the National Capital Region and paddy stubble burning — at least for three to four weeks, it is the difference between poor and very poor or severe air quality — Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh’s plans to reduce land under non-basmati rice cultivation by 500,000 hectares is a breath of fresh air. The Capital’s three neighbours are the biggest stubble-burners in the region (with Punjab accounting for the majority), and the proposal made in a report submitted to the Supreme Court is based on the states’ responses. To that end, they must ensure a meaningful follow-through.

On the possibilities offered by speculative fiction

Let’s talk about Blaft! Having launched in 2008, it is in its 17th year now. How has it changed in the context of who and what you publish?

Rashmi: We brought out the first anthology of Tamil pulp fiction because we strongly believed this book needed to exist. We hoped there would be more than a fair number of folks like us who would want to read it too. Since then, the titles we’ve been bringing out are books we really want to read ourselves — that has been the driving catalyst that makes things bloom in Blaft’s petri dish.

Rakesh: When we started out, Rashmi and I were frustrated with what felt like a suffocating sameness about most of the Indian writing available in English bookstores. It seemed like everything was about delicate sad women, with mangoes and sari borders on the covers. While those books still exist, things have opened up a lot — there’s more writing in different genres, more translations, more experiments. But I don’t think our ethos has changed much really; we still like to publish books that feel different and surprising.

As a small independent press, how has a platform like Kickstarter helped you? Since this campaign made more than three times the goal amount, did you expect such an enthusiastic response?

Rakesh: Kickstarter has been great, especially for getting our books into the hands of international readers; people from all over the world find it easy to support us there. We kept our goal as the amount that would allow us to meet minimum production costs. I did expect that we’d meet it easily — there was a lot of interest early on; besides, there were more than 40 contributors, all of whom had networks of friends and family and fans. But I didn’t expect it to exceed the target by quite so much!

Rashmi: We are really thankful to everyone who supported this campaign. We were completely blown away at the support this book project received. Indie publishing is a hard knock business, you don’t have the infrastructure or fiscal bandwidth that legacy publishing houses have to keep multiple manuscripts in development. This book could only have been conceived through a crowdfunding model. We also want to make books that have stellar production quality in terms of printing and design. We could realise those aspects as well thanks to the ACSF backers.

Why ‘anti-caste’ speculative fiction? How did you envision the collection in the planning stages?

Rakesh: For me, it was just this: if you do a caste census of Indian writers published in English, you’ll find that it’s something like 70% Brahmins and 20% other “upper-caste” writers. And in genres like science fiction, it’s more like 99%. Many of those writers do excellent work, but it’s just totally non-representative of the population, which is only 20% or 30% upper caste. That seems super unhealthy, you know? Like the imagination of most of the country is being throttled.

What possibilities does speculative fiction as a genre offer that perhaps is not the case for realism? Could you please expand on the line about how “it’s a powerful way to think critically and ask important questions about our world”?

Rashmi: I am no expert in speculative fiction. But if I was attempting to articulate what the genre means to me at this point in time, it’s that it lets you reframe the absurdity of the unfairness and imbalance of our day-to-day existence. Realism is also not an umbrella term that covers everyone’s lived experience, right? I think spec fic gives a writer trying to make sense of these absurdities the possibility to build a layered story — fantasy on horror with science fiction at the base, double sandwiched maybe, with a slice of camp.

How did you decide on the contributors and how to source contributions? Were there any specific challenges in getting submissions?

There are happier ways to get out of bed: listen to the musicians of the air

In the old days, we used to be awoken every morning by the plangent fire-engine like rattling ring of our alarm clocks, many of which must have met their end, after being thrown out of the window. Later, equally irritating, electronic beeping alarms would gradually beep louder and louder until they bayoneted the deepest recesses of your blissful early morning sleep. Now, our smartphones play ‘soothing’ tunes, which frankly get on our nerves in very short order. In all cases, we get out of bed cranky and grumpy. That doesn’t happen when you get birds to wake you up. For years and years now, I have used the services of a mellifluous red-whiskered bulbul that roosted in the bougainvillea outside my bedroom window. Punctually at dawn, every morning it would call out in dulcet tones, to be answered by its partner or a rival nearby. Its own timer was set for sunrise. It would wake you up at as late as 7-7.30 am in winter and maybe 5 am in summer, which was so sensible and suited me just fine. It didn’t have a vast repertoire, but there was some soothing and refreshing about its call, which on occasion could be pretty loud too. The bulbul was clearly signalling that it was alive and well, and this was its patch, and that lady bulbuls were welcome to join it. In Goa, I had my magic robin friend who is still on ‘dooty’ as they would say,

Non-basmati varieties account for an overwhelming share of paddy acreage in Punjab (96% in 2024) and a significantly large share in Haryana (56%). The states’ respective commitments of acreage to be divested of non-basmati cultivation — Punjab’s 459,000 hectares, Haryana’s 81,000 hectares, and UP’s 11,000 hectares — need to be viewed against this backdrop. In Punjab’s case, with total rice acreage at 3.15 million hectares in 2024, this would mean a 14% reduction in acreage and a resulting fall in crop residue that needs to be disposed of through burning. The gains for air quality in the NCR could truly be consequential. Given paddy is a water-guzzler, the fall in acreage could also give ground-water reserves in these states much-needed relief after decades of over-exploitation, but only if farmers shift to less water-intensive crops such as maize instead of cotton and sugarcane. That said, the proposed shift must carefully weigh the implications for the government’s grain reserves, given buffer stock and public distribution requirements. At current levels of procurement, the stocks with the government usually are in excess of these, to varying degrees throughout the year. Any anticipated fall in reserves can perhaps be made up for by shifting procurement to other states where rice production is high, but environmental costs are low.



Rakesh: We had a rough target page count. RT Samuel had a network of author friends — many of whom have been active in anti-caste academic or artistic spaces — and solicited contributions from that group. I did a bunch of research hunting for writers in other languages and hooking them up with translators. Those pieces together accounted for about ¾ of the page target; after that we put out our open call with a plan to fill the rest of the pages with submissions.

As for challenges: all the submissions we got from the open call were written in English. Which was fine, but I would have loved to include more translations. In particular, the book doesn’t have anything from Hindi. I can’t believe that among 400 million Dalit/Bahujan/Adivasi Hindi speakers there’s nobody writing cool speculative fiction. They must be out there; we just haven’t found them.

What was the editorial process like? How did you divide the work and labour between the three of you? Were there specialised tasks for each one of you?

Rakesh: RT Samuel did a lot of the commissioning and had the final say on what went in and what didn’t. I did a lot of the working-with-translators. Rashmi was keen on including comics.

It is commendable that the anthology contains contributions translated from other languages as well as multimedia pieces. What was the thought process behind that decision and did it affect how you viewed “speculative fiction”?

Rakesh: We’ve always been interested in genre fiction in Indian languages—after all, we launched our company with an anthology of Tamil pulp stories. Genre boundaries are different in different languages, the tropes are different, the whole idea of what imaginative fiction can be is different. In many ways, the manner in which these stories are written and presented also pushes the horizon of possibility along with their content. Could you please comment on this aspect?

RT Samuel: Blaft has always had a very strong visual language and has also prioritized storytelling across mediums so this project wasn’t any different. And genre-wise SF has also always had a tradition of breaking new ground in terms of art, graphic novels, film (both animated and live-action). It’s just part of the canon, so to speak.

How have contributors and readers responded to the anthology so far? And what next? Have you begun thinking about a follow-up or a similar anthology?

Rakesh: As stretch goals for the Kickstarter, we decided to bring out two collections — a book of short stories by PA Uthaman, translated from Malayalam by Mridula Makkuni, and the full book Parivrajak by Gautamiputra Kamble, translated from Marathi by Sirus J Libero. No plans for a sequel yet, but hopefully soon!

after I first noticed him over 10 years ago. Snuggled up in bed, you could hear his long, sweet whistle break the silence and there was no way you could put a pillow over your head and go back to sleep; you just had to listen. He was an early riser. All dressed up in his tuxedo, he would start his concert well before dawn. He would fly from perch to perch in the area, signalling he was in possession of a territory much larger than perhaps he needed, but which, no doubt, would impress the ladies. He had a playlist, too. On my last visit, I noticed he sang different compositions every morning. Between pauses, you could hear the soft chiming calls of what I think are scops owls deep in the trees, which added to the aura. In case you dozed off or were trying to sleep off a hangover (all too possible in Goa) there was backup — especially in summer. The ringing call of the white-throated kingfisher, was loud and insistent and all about excitement — get up man! Yes, he certainly woke you up. And for the finale, the cackling laugh of a pair of black-rumped flamebacks (nee golden-backed woodpeckers) as they clamped themselves on the tall palm tree at the end of the garden. They have a crackling, rising laugh that lifts your spirits and is just what you need first thing in the morning — better than any cup of coffee! Red-whiskered bulbuls

France’s Far Right Confronts Life After Le Pen



EMS News Agency, July 3

For generations that question was unthinkable as one Le Pen, firebrand Jean-Marie, handed the reins of France’s nationalist party to another, his daughter Marine. In banning Marine Le Pen from running for the presidency in 2027, however, a French court has forced the Le Pen family party, National Rally, into a reckoning over its future. The dilemma: whether Le Pen should dig in and fight for her political future or make way for a successor. The first option means waging an all-out war with French prosecutors in appellate courts as well as the court of public opinion. That approach mirrors President Trump’s campaign against judges and prosecutors, which fired up his supporters and helped turn the tide of the U.S. presidential election in his favor. It also risks bogging down National Rally in litigation with no guarantee Le Pen will secure the right to run, all while alienating swathes of the French electorate who support France’s fiercely independent judiciary.

Picking a successor, meanwhile, is also a path fraught with peril. Le Pen has positioned her protégé, Jordan Bardella, as National Rally’s dauphin, waiting in the wings. A fresh-faced 29-year-old with a gift for viral TikTok posts, Bardella is regarded as a talented politician. Bardella spearheaded National Rally’s campaign during last summer’s snap parliamentary elections, but he has never been under the klieg lights of a contest for France’s highest office. So far, Le Pen has been mercurial about her intentions. In a TV interview on Monday she described herself as a fighter, saying she wasn’t going to be brought down by a court ruling. But she also praised Bardella as a “tremendous asset for our movement.” “I hope we won’t have to use that asset any sooner than necessary,” she added.

Le Pen is counting on an unusually swift appeals trial to overturn Monday’s ruling, which convicted her of misusing European Union funds and sentenced her to a five-year ban from running for office again, as well as a four-year prison term. Half of that term was suspended, and the remaining two years could be served with an electronic bracelet, judges said. The Paris appeals court said Tuesday it “will examine this case within a timeframe that should allow a decision to be taken in the summer of 2026.” Jordan Bardella is waiting in the wings at the National Rally party. For National Rally, turning the page on Le Pen is challenging because the party has long operated as a cult of personality centered on a Le Pen family member. Jean-Marie Le Pen, who died in January, outraged the public with antisemitic remarks, but he was also a riveting presence on the airwaves with his provocative turns of phrase. His daughter cultivated a folksy image, publicly fawning over her cats, and connecting with rural and working-class voters neglected by mainstream parties. Some polls, however, suggest that voters are ready for a changing of the guard. A survey by polling firm Odoxa conducted on Monday after the ruling found that 57% of National Rally voters consider Bardella a better candidate than Le Pen for president in 2027. The figure rose to 61% when accounting for voters of all

stripes. Bardella isn’t alone as a pretender to France’s far-right throne. Le Pen’s 35-year-old niece, Marion Maréchal, has had an on-again, off-again relationship with National Rally and her aunt, adopting the Le Pen last name at one point only to jettison it later. Her ambition to one day become the face of France’s far right, however, has always been clear. After judges ruled on Monday, Maréchal wrote a post on X that included an archival photo of her embracing her aunt. Maréchal recounted how her family had endured “all the attacks, all the injustices” over the decades. “I am more than ever by Marine’s side at this time,” Maréchal wrote. Not to be outdone, Bardella posted a photo of Le Pen hugging him with a look of maternal pride on her face. Bardella and Maréchal each appeared on TV on Tuesday morning to defend Le Pen.

“The weakening of Marine Le Pen’s leadership will create more competition and rivalry,” said Olivier Rouquan, a researcher at the Paris-based Study and Research Center for Administrative and Political Sciences. Jean-Marie Le Pen outraged the French public with his antisemitic remarks. Support for Bardella within National Rally is strong but he isn’t without critics. Some senior party officials blamed him for the National Rally’s disappointing results during last summer’s snap legislative elections. The campaign won 125 seats in the National Assembly—by far the most in the party’s decadeslong history—but the result underperformed the polls. There were signs that Bardella and the party failed to thoroughly vet candidates as it scrambled to find people to run in far-flung districts across the country. Days before the vote, local media reports unearthed a photo of a National Rally candidate wearing an officer’s cap with a Nazi swastika. A video interview of another candidate went viral when she tried to defend National Rally against accusations of racism and antisemitism by saying she had a Jewish eye doctor and a Muslim dentist. Bardella removed some of the controversial candidates from National Rally’s ticket, describing them as “black sheep.” The episodes stood in contrast to Le Pen’s effort to “de-demonize” the party. After the summer election, Le Pen tasked Bardella with professionalizing its ranks, but senior party officials say he has made little progress on that front. Le Pen’s strategy of cleaning up her party’s image and building its machinery was designed to persuade French voters that National Rally is ready to govern. It is an approach that aims to mirror the best practices of the political establishment even as she rails against it. Le Pen’s anti-immigration stance has centered on lax border enforcement and welfare programs that provide migrants with aid without embracing ideology such as the “great replacement” theory, which holds that global elites are bent on replacing Europe’s white population through mass migration from nonwhite regions of the world. Bardella, on the other hand, has flirted with the idea. “I don’t like the word ‘great replacement’ because I don’t think it’s clear. It’s a very intellectual slogan, but it points to a reality that is true,”

Bardella said on national TV in 2021. On Tuesday, Bardella and Le Pen met with their caucus in the National Assembly, allowing cameras to film part of the proceeding as they sought to harness any public anger toward the court’s decision to mobilize supporters. The party is organizing a petition drive to “save democracy” from what Bardella described as “the tyranny of the judges.” Le Pen cast the court’s ruling as the political establishment pulling out all the stops to block her from government. “The system has taken out the nuclear weapon and if they use such a powerful arm against us it’s because we’re on the brink of winning elections,” she said. Read breaking news, latest updates from US, UK, Pakistan and other countries across the world on topics related to politics, crime, and national affairs.

50 years of Emergency: Locked up with seven inmates, M.K. Stalin was beaten, harassed and fed ‘kali’



Hours after the M. Karunanidhi-led DMK government was dismissed during the Emergency on January 31, 1976, police arrived at his Gopalapuram residence. They were looking for his 23-year-old son, M.K. Stalin — now the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Mr. Stalin was in Maduranthakam at the time and returned the following day. Karunanidhi asked him to “be prepared.” Mr. Stalin was soon arrested and lodged in the Madras Central Prison, where he spent several months in custody. He was released, along with other political prisoners, after the Emergency was lifted on March 21, 1977.

Deposing before the Justice M.M. Ismail Commission on July 20, 1977, Mr. Stalin said he and other detainees were beaten and harassed. “I was beaten, slapped, and kicked in the stomach,” he testified. He was later moved to a quarantine cell. According to The Hindu Archives, he said he was granted more freedom following a visit by the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Prisons — but did not complain about earlier abuses out of fear of reprisal. Before a scheduled visit by an advocate, a circular was read out warning the prisoners not to speak about their treatment or discuss politics. Mr. Stalin recalled that his father visited him every week, and also during visits to see Murali Maran, a senior DMK leader and Karunanidhi’s nephew. During Mr. Stalin’s deposition, the counsel for the jail staff denied the claim that seven inmates were ever held in a single cell or

that kali (a ragi ball dish) was served. However, The Hindu’s July 21, 1977 report titled ‘Karunanidhi’s son says he was beaten up in jail’ notes: “Witness (Mr. Stalin) asserted that he was kept in cell custody all 24 hours, he did eat ‘kali’, and there were seven inmates in his cell.” The cell at the erstwhile Madras Central Prison, where Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act during Emergency. The cell at the erstwhile Madras Central Prison, where Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act during Emergency. | Photo Credit: M. Vedhan

Mr. Stalin also acknowledged that the Jail Superintendent, K. Vidyasagar, allowed him to prepare for and take his B.A. exams in

April 1976 — an exception in a prison where Vidyasagar was otherwise accused of high-handedness by political detainees. There were reports that some political detainees in other blocks were released after resigning from the DMK. Mr. Stalin, however, told the Justice M.M. Ismail Commission on July 20, 1977, that he had not been pressured to resign nor did he submit any resignation. However, another detainee, N.V.N. Selvam (son of former Minister N.V. Natarajan) said “ill-health” was not the only reason that prompted him to resign from the DMK. He was also afraid of the brutal acts that might be unleashed on him if he failed to do so. Likewise, party senior leader Arcot N. Veeraswami had deposed saying that following the offer of resignation letters by

some, the Jail Superintendent told him it would be advisable for the others to follow suit “as the DMK had been wiped out”. Vidyasagar also told another detainee that failure to do so might result in their transfer to jails in north India. The counsel for the jail staff argued that the alleged incidents had been “unduly magnified” by DMK sympathisers. He claimed that the detainees refused to return to their cells voluntarily and “minimum force” was used to move them under orders from senior officers. During his deposition, Vidyasagar claimed that the charges were politically motivated. “After seeing the news of brutality in north India, political parties might have thought that if similar reports about Madras were put out, they would bet [fetch] votes,” he told the Commission.

Even before Trump’s ‘penalty’ threat, Indian refiners began cutting down on Russian oil imports



Amid increasing pressure on India from the US and other Western powers over the past couple of months, Indian refiners — led by public sector players — began cutting down on Russian oil imports, much before US President Donald Trump’s announcement earlier this week of an unspecified tariff “penalty” on New Delhi for its defence and energy imports from Moscow. Latest vessel tracking data shows that July deliveries of Russian crude — which would have been contracted May or early June — to Indian refiners fell significantly. Industry and trade sources also indicated that Indian public sector refiners have, for the time being, halted future contracting of Russian oil, the mainstay of India’s oil imports for the better part of the past three years.

Trump has now said that he “heard” that India will no longer be buying oil from Russia, calling it a “good step”, but also added that he is not sure if the information is “right or not”. “Well, I understand India no longer is going to be buying oil from Russia. That’s what I heard. I don’t know if that’s right or not, but that’s a good step. We’ll see what happens,” Trump told reporters in the US on Friday. Meanwhile, India — the world’s third-largest consumer of crude oil with an import dependency level of over 85 per cent — continues to maintain that its oil purchases are commercial decisions. “We take decisions based on the price at which oil is available in the international market and depending on the global situation at that time,” Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said Friday in response to a question on whether Indian refiners have stopped buying Russian oil over the past few days.

Industry insiders, experts, and trade sources indicate that renewed pressure and threats from the US and Europe over the past few weeks have cast a shadow on India’s Russian oil imports, and could mark the beginning of Indian refiners pivoting away from Moscow’s oil. So far, India had successfully managed to walk “the fine line between energy security and geopolitical pressure”, but its options now appeared limited, one expert said, adding that Indian refiners “must now plan not just for commercial shifts, but for systemic geopolitical realignment”. Deliberations are on between the government and other stakeholders — primarily refiners — on managing the situation and assessing the choices on the table for India, sources said. With a pre-emptive reduction in Russian oil imports, some bit of signaling has already taken place. The next steps would most likely be decided on how the India-US dynamic evolves, and more importantly, whether or not Trump decides to further harden the American stance and rhetoric against Russia. Any breakthrough between the White House and Kremlin over the Russia-Ukraine war would most likely ease the pressure on buyers of Russian crude. This renewed pressure from the West — forcing Russia’s top trade partners to cut down on imports from the country — are aimed at forcing the Kremlin’s hand into ending the war in Ukraine. For Trump, who wants the three-year-old Russia-Ukraine war to end within days, this is an opportune time to pressurise countries like India and China over their Russian imports, given the sensitive trade negotiations that these countries are holding with the US.

Pressure up, volumes down India’s Russian oil imports in July were at 1.6 million barrels per day (bpd), down 24 per cent from June levels, and 23.5 per cent from volumes delivered in July of last year, according to latest tanker data from global real-time data and analytics provider Kpler. The share of Russian crude in India’s oil import basket in July contracted notably to around 33.8 per cent from July’s 44.5 per cent. While the drop in oil imports from Russia is evidently more pronounced among Indian state-owned refiners, likely reflecting heightened compliance sensitivity amid mounting risks, private sector refiners—who account for over half of Russian crude imports, have also reduced ex-

posure to Moscow’s oil. The reduction in import volumes from Russia in July was offset by higher crude deliveries from other suppliers — mainly Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the US, Nigeria, and Kuwait — all of which expanded their share in India’s oil imports vis-à-vis June levels.

With much of the West shunning Russian crude following the country’s February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia began offering discounts on its oil to willing buyers. Indian refiners were quick to avail the opportunity, leading to Russia — earlier a peripheral supplier of oil to India — emerging as India’s biggest source of crude, displacing the traditional West Asian suppliers. While the discounts have varied over time, Russian oil flows to India largely remained robust despite Western pressure and limited sanctions on Russia’s oil trading ecosystem. But the appears to be changing now, and fast. “On one side, the EU’s (European Union’s) sanctions — effective from January 2026 — ban imports of refined products derived from Russian-origin crude, forcing Indian refiners to segment crude intake and product flows. On the other hand, the US tariff threat raises the possibility of secondary sanctions that would directly hit the shipping, insurance, and financing lifelines underpinning India’s Russian oil trade. Together, these measures sharply curtail India’s crude procurement flexibility, raise compliance risk, and introduce significant cost uncertainty... (it) represents a double whammy for Indian refiners,” said Sumit Ritloia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling at Kpler.

Before this week’s tariff announcement by Trump mentioning a “penalty” on India, India’s significant Russian oil imports were being subjected to a more aggressive stance by Western powers for a few weeks. Trump himself had had threatened “biting” secondary tariffs of 100 per cent on buyers of Russian exports, and the European Union last month announced a sanctions package, widely seen as the most comprehensive effort yet by the EU to restrict Russia’s revenue stream, placing a ban on import of fuels into Europe if made from Russian oil in third countries like India, and also sanctioning Indian refiner Nayara Energy, in which Russian oil giant Rosneft holds 49.13 per cent stake. According to Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, the massive market share of Russian crude in India’s oil imports doesn’t mean that India is dependent on Russia for oil, and other suppliers can quickly come in to replace Russian volumes if there is any major disruption. “I don’t feel any pressure in my mind. India has diversified the sources of supply... I’m not worried at all. If something happens, we’ll deal with it... there is sufficient supply available,” Puri had said at an event earlier in July. He added that India in recent years has expanded its crude sourcing slate from 27 countries to around 40 countries, and enough oil was available globally for India to buy and ensure energy security. If India indeed decides to shift away from Russian crude, industry insiders and experts expect New Delhi to negotiate a potential wind-down period for reducing supplies, as replacing the massive volumes of Russian oil supply overnight is impossible, according to industry insiders. It would take at least three-four months to substantially cut down on imports and shift to other suppliers — mainly in West Asia, but also in Africa, and even the US and Latin America. Loss of discounted Russian barrels would certainly push up the relative cost of imports by a few dollars a barrel, which in turn would inflate India’s oil import bill by billions of dollars on an annualised basis. Additionally, if global oil prices rise in the eventuality of most of Russian oil going off the market, the hit for India would be amplified further. “Replacing Russian crude isn’t plug-and-play... it is no easy feat—logistically daunting, economically painful, and geopolitically fraught. Supply substitution may be feasible on paper, but it remains fraught in practice. Gulf barrels come with pricing rigidity, African grades add freight volatility, and Latin American flows face availability constraints,” said Ritloia. India’s traditional crude suppliers in West Asia — chiefly Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE — would be the logical fall-back, but Indian refiners will have to grapple with significant constraints as they reduce Russian oil imports. A lot of the crude from West Asia comes through term contracts, unlike spot purchases of Russian crude, which may force Indian refiners to commit to higher annual offtake of West Asian oil, which is more rigidly priced compared to discounted Russian crude. Also, a number of Indian refineries that had gotten attuned to processing Russian crude in large volumes may see an impact on their product yield and refinery configurations due to crude quality mismatch.

Govt to invite financial bids for IDBI stake sale by December: DIPAM Secretary

The government is working towards inviting financial bids for strategic stake sale in IDBI Bank by December with interested buyers having completed due diligence and data room norms, Arunish Chawla, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) said on Friday. The successful bidder will be announced by March 2026, he added.

The long-pending stake sale process of IDBI Bank will be closely eyed as the government kickstarts the disinvestment process for the bank after being in the works for close to three years. “Due diligence and data room protocols have been completed for all the interested parties. Also, formal consultations have been completed with qualified interested parties. We hope to invite financial bids in the third quarter of this financial year,” Chawla said, adding that once the financial bids come in and a successful bidder is selected, it will be sent to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for final “fit and proper” clearance. The prospective buyer of IDBI Bank has already been granted security clearance by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and cleared fit and proper evaluation by the RBI. Along with the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC), the government had in October 2022, invited expression of interest (Eoi) from investors for privatising IDBI Bank by selling a total of 60.72 per cent stake. This includes a 30.48 per cent stake of the Government of India and 30.24 per cent of LIC. In January 2023, it received multiple Eois for IDBI Bank. On Friday, shares of IDBI Bank ended at Rs 90.17 on Friday, down 2.68 per cent from the previous close on the BSE. For the other major pending disinvestment proposal for LIC which also has been in the pipeline, Chawla said the government has appointed merchant bankers and legal advisors for minority stake sale in LIC, and other public sector financial institutions.

“As far as LIC is concerned, we have completed the RFP (request for proposal) process. The process for appointment of merchant bankers and legal advisors has been completed,” Chawla said. Earlier this year, in February, DIPAM had invited bids from merchant bankers and legal firms to assist the government in divesting its stake in public sector banks and listed financial institutions. As per the two RFPs (request for proposal) floated by DIPAM, the



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merchant bankers and legal advisors would be empanelled for a period of three years, which could be extended by one more year. “Individual transactions can happen anytime over the next 3 years,” Chawla said. The government currently holds 96.5 per cent stake in LIC. It had sold 3.5 per cent through an initial public offering in May 2022 at a price band of Rs 902-949 a share that yielded around Rs 21,000 crore. The government needs to offload another 6.5 per cent stake in the public sector life insurer to meet the mandated 10 per cent public shareholding requirement by May 16, 2027. Banks and financial institutions need to meet the minimum 25 per cent public shareholding norm as mandated by the market regulator Sebi. Five PSU banks are yet to meet the minimum public shareholding norm. The government has set August 1, 2026 as the deadline for such non-compliant entities to reduce government holding and meet public float norms.

IVF miracle as US baby is born from embryo frozen 30 years ago: Can frozen embryos result in healthy babies?



A baby boy has been born to an US couple developed from an embryo that had been frozen for more than 30 years in what is believed to be a record length of storage time before a birth. Through a process called the embryo adoption, which is in use in the US to help infertile couples with unused and leftover eggs from a bank, Lindsey and Tim Pierce used a handful of embryos donated in 1994. The donor woman had four frozen embryos, one of which resulted in the birth of her own child and three of which she preserved and then donated for use by others. The donated embryo has been in storage for 11,148 days, which the Pierces’ doctor says sets a record. “If the embryo quality is good and the freezing is done as per accepted standards, an embryo can last decades. Mind you this was a procedure done in 1994. Now there have been so many advancements to preserve the embryo. Many mistakenly believe that the baby would be born abnormal if the embryo is frozen for a long time. Fact is freezing keeps a healthy embryo as it is,” says Dr Anjali Malpani, infertility specialist and emeritus professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Seth G S Medical College and KEM Hospital, Mumbai.

How is an embryo frozen?

First, the woman’s egg is harvested and fertilized by the man’s sperm outside the body, in a laboratory. This is what we call in-vitro fertilisation or IVF. The freshly-harvested embryos are then transferred to a woman’s uterus if the couple wants a baby immediately or preserved for later implantation. During IVF, several mature eggs are retrieved from the woman’s ovaries and are then mixed with

sperm in a laboratory dish. While many sperm will be in contact with each egg, only one sperm will successfully fertilize each egg. So multiple embryos can be harvested in a single IVF cycle. However, only up to two embryos are implanted at a time. What matters is the quality of the embryo. Implanting more won’t necessarily change the possibility. The embryos are then frozen through a process called cryopreservation, which involves gradually cooling them to extremely low temperatures in liquid nitrogen, to halt all biological activity and preserve them for future use. This process allows for the indefinite storage of embryos and also retains their quality as is for later thawing and transfer. The embryo is as good as a freshly harvested one.

What is the biggest misconception about embryo freezing?

That the baby could be born abnormal because of it. Today, because of advancements in science and biotechnology, the number of years doesn’t matter if the embryo is preserved properly in a certified laboratory. The second most important factor is harvesting of quality embryos by a trained embryologist.

How has technology evolved to preserve embryos?

In the early days, it was a slow-freezing process, so ice crystals would form, damaging the cell matrix of the embryo. Only two out of 10 embryos would survive on thawing. In these days of flash-freezing, the crystallisation is minimal. The optimal temperature for preservation is minus 196 degrees centigrade. And in a good lab, all 10 embryos are good for implanting, which means a 100 per cent recovery on thawing. While ovaries get old, the uterus doesn’t. So a woman can have a baby in her later years with the frozen embryo. The chances of birth defects are lower than if the woman had done an IVF at 40.

What’s the longest women have preserved their embryos at your clinic?

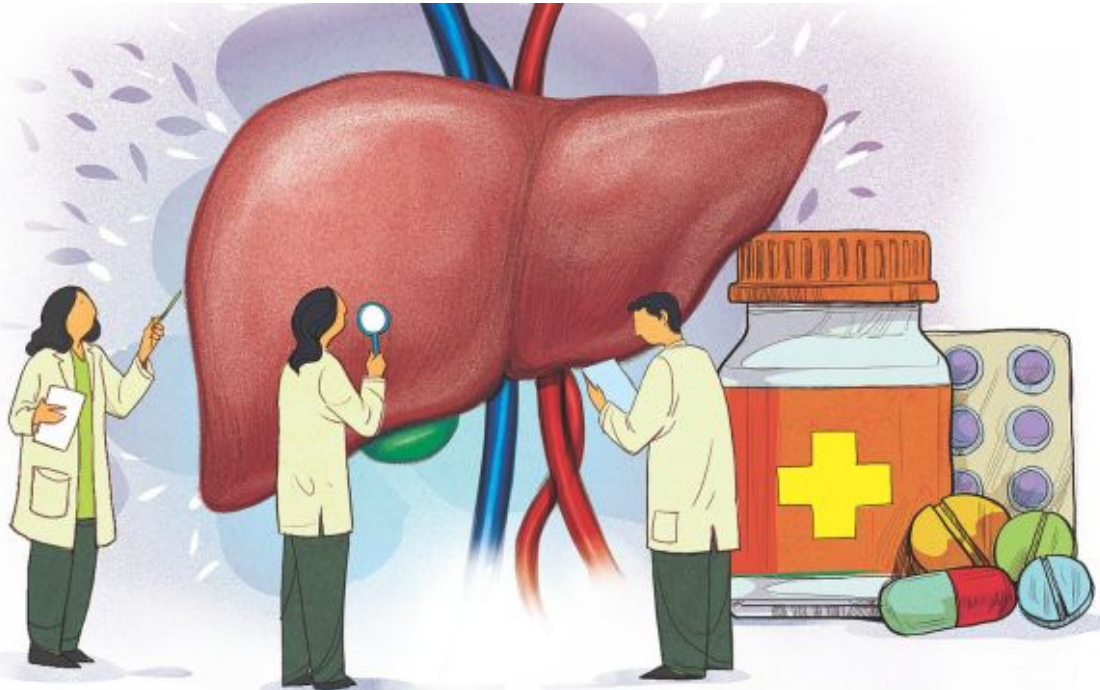
I have had women who froze the embryo with the help of their partners and had them implanted after 10-12 years when they were more settled in life. Cryopreservation has given young people options to choose when to have their child.

What is the cost of embryo freezing in India?

It costs anywhere between Rs 30,000 to Rs 60,000 annually. But choose a good lab.

How long should an embryo be ideally frozen?

Hepatitis A surges with monsoon: What tests to do, what vaccines to take and how to keep the virus at bay



When a 30-year-old woman walked into Dr Rommel Tickoo’s clinic, one look at her yellowish eyes told him that she had a liver problem. Sure enough, when the internal medicine expert at Max Healthcare, Delhi, checked her liver enzymes, they were through the roof. Her enzyme levels stood at around 3,000 IU/L — the normal ranges are between 7 and 55 IU/L. She tested positive for hepatitis A, a viral infection usually transmitted through contaminated food and water.

With several gastrointestinal infections and vector-borne diseases being common during the monsoon, getting the correct diagnosis may be a challenge. “The typical symptoms, such as yellowing of skin and eyes that people associate with hepatitis, are not the first ones to appear. The yellowing happens at later stages of the disease, where there are high levels of accumulated bilirubin (a yellow pigment produced when the red blood cells break down, usually cleared out by the liver). A person should ideally go to a doctor before this happens,” says Dr Tickoo. The overlapping symptoms, which can be caused by other gastrointestinal infections, are the reason that doctors go in for tests to be sure. As Dr Suranjit Chatterjee, senior consultant of internal medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, Delhi, says, “During this season, you would either see food and water-borne infections, vector-borne infections and some respiratory infections. Usually, patients coming in with symptoms such as loose motions, vomiting, loss of appetite have gastrointestinal diseases such as hepatitis A, E, gastroenteritis or typhoid. High fever, headache and body ache would usually be the symptoms in patients with vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria or chikungunya.” Dr Tickoo usually gets such patients tested for complete blood count, liver enzyme and C-reactive protein, the last indicative of the inflammation in the body. Then he prescribes tests for dengue, malaria, typhoid, and in some cases, especially concerning the women and elderly, he gets a urine culture to check for urinary tract infection. People who get fever, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea should go to a doctor if the symptoms seem to be worsening or do not seem to be improving after a couple of days. Dr Chatterjee advises that anyone who is immunocompromised — for example, if they are living with conditions such as heart diseases, liver disease, kidney disease, diabetes, cancers, HIV, or have undergone an organ transplantation — should go to their doctor sooner. “One should also go to a doctor immediately if their symptoms are unmanageable, say if they are vomiting or getting loose motions more than 20 times a day,” he says.

Importantly, people with these symptoms should only take medicines such as paracetamol and those to prevent vomiting when at home. “Other medicines such as Combiflam should be avoided. Pain medications such as diclofenac or mefenamic acid should also be avoided, especially when diseases like dengue are likely. These medicines are known to increase the risk of bleeding in patients with dengue. Antibiotics are a strict no-no. They are of no use in cases of viral infections such as hepatitis, can lead to growing antimicrobial resistance and, importantly, may also affect the results of certain tests we need to confirm our diagnosis,” says Dr Tickoo. While most people with hepatitis A get better within four to 16 weeks, some go on to develop serious complications such as liver failure and coma. “It is, however, impossible to tell who will get the complications. So it is essential that everyone who has the hepatitis A infection takes rest and helps the body recover,” says Dr Ashwini Setya, senior consultant of gastroenterology at Medanta, Gurugram. While at home, patients should ensure that they drink plenty of fluids and eat healthy meals as per their appetite. “It is a myth that people need to eat bland, boiled food. They should only eat as much as they feel like. Usually, people’s appetite reduces significantly when they have a hepatitis infection. Force-feeding can lead to more nausea,” says Dr Setya.

It is better to boil water and follow hand hygiene, according to Ritika Samaddar, regional head, dietetics and nutrition, Max Healthcare. “During the recovery phase, liver cells are regenerating. So they need protein in the form of eggs, milk and paneer. They need good fat, so normal refined, olive and nut oils work, but in moderation. A teaspoon of ghee can be had too to whet the appetite. Carbs are equally important for regenerating liver cells. Have small, frequent meals,” she says. However, she warns that the diet discipline must be adhered to strictly for at least six months. “Hepatitis A is a self-limiting infection. But sometimes there can be a relapse if you do not take care. Besides, you could be at risk of other strains of the hepatitis virus. A diet discipline is a must,” says Samaddar. She even suggests a strict preventive regime: “Please drink only filtered and boiled water, even cook with it. Wash all your fruits and vegetables thoroughly. Do not eat raw or undercooked foods. Avoid street food, cut fruits and even ice drinks from the roadside or restaurants.” There are five hepatitis viruses that cause liver disease in humans. Hepatitis A and E are transmitted through contaminated food and water and usually do not lead to lasting liver damage. Hepatitis B, C and D, on the other hand, are usually transmitted by blood and can lead to chronic infections.

Glenn McGrath says what Jasprit Bumrah does is ‘tough on body’, needs an ‘off-season to manage workload’



GNS News Agency, August 12

In an era where packed schedules and juggling between formats is leading to frequent injury breakdowns among pacers, fast bowling great Glenn McGrath said he was of the firm view that ‘99.9 per cent bowlers need an off-season to get strong again’. Speaking at the MRF Pace Foundation, McGrath added that India’s premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah, who could only play three Tests because of medical advice, needs an off-season to manage his workload.

In the ongoing Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, both India and England have taken the field at the Oval for the series decider without their premier pacers. In the case of India, who need to win the Test to square the series, Bumrah had to sit out, rested keeping his long-standing back injury in mind. “His whole action is different to a lot of fast bowlers. He’s got a slow run-up and the last few steps just really accelerate him through the crease. He’s got hyperextension, and he’s just got a great wrist. And the way he releases it is a fair bit closer to the batsman because of his technique than all other bowlers. So, there’s a lot that’s unique about him, but when he gets it right, it just all comes together well. He’s found what’s worked for him,” McGrath said.

McGrath went on to explain why Bumrah frequently suffers from injury. “Unfortunately, what he does is pretty tough on the body. Especially when you’re playing a lot of cricket, there’s no time to have an off-season. He really needs to get a lot stronger physically and fitter to put up with the stresses of fast bowling. And he needs an off-season. It will get him strong through the season,” he said. Given Bumrah’s injury concerns, talks of India over-using him in Australia earlier this year – which ruled him out of action till mid-IPL – continue to occupy air space. Even in the series against England, where he was able to play only three Tests, he ended up bowling a lot before struggling in Manchester. When asked if India could manage him any differently in the Tests he plays to ensure he plays more matches, McGrath said he needs help from the rest of the pace pack. “You want your best bowler bowling. And he’ll want to bowl all the time. If he’s just bowling in short spells, then the batting team know they just can get through the three or four overs and then they’re away. So it depends a

lot on the other bowlers. You need another group of fast bowlers coming through to balance it out so that he doesn’t have to bowl long spells. You’ve got other bowlers bowling equally as well to carry the workload. You look at Bumrah, he’s so effective in ODI and T20 cricket. To limit himself to Test cricket would be a shame. But, he’s got to work out what’s best for him,” McGrath said.

England captain Ben Stokes, who is the leading wicket-taker in the series, is also not featuring at the Oval Test because of a shoulder injury. Ahead of the Test, Stokes pointed out the short turnaround between the fourth and fifth Test, with just three days in between, which didn’t give any room for recovery. India have had to rotate their seam attack with Mohammed Siraj being the lone exception to play all five Tests. “Well, it’s important for a fast bowler to have an off-season,” McGrath, who picked up 563 Test wickets, said. “If you just keep playing year in, year out, I always say it’s like driving a car. And you don’t fill it up with fuel. But you keep driving it. Sooner or later, you’re going to run out of fuel, and things will happen. It’s the nature of the beast. Being a fast bowler, we put a lot of stress on our bodies,” McGrath said.

The former Australian pacer, who won three World Cups in ODIs, then went on to list what he did to keep himself injury-free despite facing a severe back injury during his initial years. “Three things that I felt held me in good stead. One was I had a pretty good action, short delivery strides, so I wasn’t putting the stress on my body that other bowlers would. So I had a good action. Good genetics also helped. My bone density is really high, so that probably held me in good stead as well. And then work ethic off the field. Courtney Walsh played 21 years straight. Bowling, 21 years straight! Absolutely unbelievable. So, you’ve got to know yourself well and know what you need to do. But 99.9 per cent of fast bowlers need an off-season to get strong again, to get them through the next season,” the 55-year-old who now coaches at MRF Pace Foundation said. As McGrath was listing out the work he put in behind the scenes, Kevin Chevell, who trained the Australian pacer through his career and is now part of the foundation, weighed in with his thoughts. “Ideally, you need 8 weeks. With Glenn, after the session when he joined the team, I knew I wouldn’t be seeing him for the next 15-18 months. You need to give the body the break it deserves. It is what the likes of Starc do it,” Chevell said. The pitches in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy have been batting-friendly with bowlers from both sides having to toil hard for wickets. But each of the four Tests have gone into the final session and McGrath said he didn’t have any issues with the pitches that are used for Bazball. “It’s been quite high scoring, which is a little unusual in English conditions with the Duke cricket ball. So it hasn’t been a one-sided affair. It’s been good, solid test cricket. It’s been enjoyable. It’s close. Obviously, they want the game to last as long as possible. I don’t mind if the pitches are a little flat, as long as there’s got to be something in it for the bowler. And if the game’s coming right down the wire on the fifth day, then it’s perfect, isn’t it?” he added.

‘Call it a funeral’: Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte roast USA Swimming’s performance at World Championships with meme

GNS News Agency, August 12

Michael Phelps and Ryan Lochte have roasted USA Swimming’s performance at the ongoing Swimming World Championships in Singapore by posting a meme of a funeral. USA are currently third in the Aquatics World Championship medals table with just six golds out of 23 medals. The medals table is led by China, who have claimed a whopping 14 golds in their tally of 31 medals. Australia are second in the standings with nine golds and 20 medals overall. This is worrying news for USA, who are hosting the next Olympics at Los Angeles in 2028, who have been a giant in the pool. But in recent years, this domination has started to wane. The Americans were underwhelming at the Paris Olympics last year where they led the medals table, but won only eight gold medals, the lowest total since the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Coming into the World Championships in Singapore, Team USA has been battling a case of “acute gastroenteritis”, which was picked up at training camp in Thailand. While the official number of athletes affected by the issue was not released by USOPC, it seems to have had an effect on results. But outside the pool too, there are issues for USA Swimming, with the American governing body for swimming not having a CEO for a year now. Tim Hinchey resigned as the CEO a year ago. He was replaced by Chrissi Rawak, who stepped down after just a few days. This under-par performance in Singapore has not gone too well with American swimming legends like Phelps and Lochte,



who have taken to Instagram to make their displeasure known. It was six-time Olympic gold medalist Lochte who initially shared a meme on his Instagram Stories on Friday depicting a funeral where a tombstone was inscribed with the words: “In loving memory of United States Swimming.” Phelps too shared the meme on his Instagram handle with the caption: “Is this the wake-up call USA swimming needed?” Rowdy Gaines, a three-time Olympic gold medalist, also did not mince words when he spoke to The Associated Press. Gaines called the body “rudderless.” “Can you imagine any corporation going for a year without a CEO?” Gaines asked. “We’re far from killing it. It’s a major struggle and we can’t hide our heads in the sand and say this is just a blip.”

Son Heung-min set to leave Tottenham Hotspur, hints at international retirement post 2026 World Cup

GNS News Agency, August 12

Son Heung-min will leave Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur. (Reuters) Son Heung-min will leave Premier League club Tottenham Hotspur. Tottenham Hotspur star footballer and captain Son Heung-min will end his stint with the Premier League club based in London before the 2025-26 season, the 33-year-old South Korean announced on Saturday. The Club veteran also hinted at retirement after the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

Son is under contract with Spurs until 2026 and has led the club to their first trophy in 17 years with their win over Manchester United in the Europa League final in May, having joined the North London club from Bayer Leverkusen in 2015. “I have decided to leave the team this summer,” he said at a press conference ahead of Spurs’ pre-season friendly against Newcastle United in Seoul on Sunday. “I think it was one of the most difficult decisions I’ve ever made in my football career. Playing football and being with one team for 10 years is something I am very proud of, but I think I gave my all to the team every single day. I did my best on the field and off the field, and by winning the Europa League, I thought I’d done everything I could and achieved,” he added. South Korea’s Son has spent a decade at the Premier League side, scoring 173 goals in 454 appearances. He also won the Premier League Golden Boot in the 2021-22 season. “When I first arrived at Tottenham 10 years ago,



I was a young boy who couldn’t even speak English well. I’m leaving now as a man. I believe timing is crucial in saying goodbye, and now feels like the right time,” he said. Speaking on his international career, Son said, “The World Cup is the most important. It could be my last World Cup, so it’s crucial that I give it my all. Also important is finding a place where I can play football happily. That’s what I’m contemplating.” While the South Korean did not disclose his next destination, British media have linked him with a move to Major League Soccer club Los Angeles FC. It was the place where I grew a lot as a football player and a person, so I have a very grateful heart.” Manager Thomas Frank said Son was “truly Spurs legend in every aspect”. “

‘I asked Jassi bhai, Why are you going..’: Mohammed Siraj on Jasprit Bumrah being released from Indian Test squad



GNS News Agency, August 12

With 18 wickets in the ongoing Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy between India and England, Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj is currently leading the wickets charts in the series. With fellow Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah not playing in the fifth test at The Oval and being released from the Indian team as confirmed by BCCI on Friday, Siraj has been leading the Indian pace attack at The Oval. Post the second day of the fifth Test, Siraj, who took four wickets in England’s first innings, shared what conversation he had with Bumrah not playing the final Test and how Bumrah had assured him.

With his four-wicket haul on Friday, Siraj became only the first Asian pacer in 29 years to complete six four-wickets or more hauls in Tests in England. It also meant that Siraj broke Bunch’s earlier record of five such hauls and became only the second Asian pacer after Pakistan’s Waqar Younis with six such hauls in England. Siraj now has 41 wickets in 11 Test matches in England with an average of

34.73. He now has 118 wickets in xx Test matches with an average of 31.49 and Friday saw the Indian pacer taking his seventh four-wicket haul. The 31-year-old pacer also had taken 94 Test wickets in 26 away Tests in his career at an average of 30.05. “Everybody likes to play in England because there is more swing and wickets are more helpful for fast bowlers. It feels good to be the highest wicket-taker in the series so far but then if we win the match, it will be then the highlight for me,” added Siraj.

After Indian openers Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley put together a partnership of 92 runs, Indian bowlers led by Siraj and Prasidh Krishna restricted England to a first innings’ total of 247 runs. While Siraj accounted for the wickets of Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook and Jacob Bethell, Krishna would account for the fall of Zak Crawley. Jamie Smith, Jamie Overton and Gus Atkinson with Akash Deep too accounting for the fall of Ben Duckett. Siraj also talked about the comeback by the Indian bowling unit on the second day of The Oval Test. “We made a comeback after such a bad session. As a fast bowler, it feels good to make such a comeback. When the responsibility is handed, then there is fun and I talk with my fellow bowlers and tell them what to do and what not to do. My only mindset since my childhood is that I should give my 100 percent, whatever the result is,” said Siraj. Praish Krishna too talked about his camaraderie with Bumrah and shared how each one of the bowling unit enjoy each other’s success. “Booms (Bumrah) has been a great part of this. I think it’s really important for us to enjoy each other’s success, to have that rapport off the field, so when you’re on the field, speaking to each other, you have that trust. Only that is going to make the team better,” Krishna told BCCI.tv.

‘2019 World Cup, I saw him crying...: Yuzvendra Chahal on seeing Virat Kohli cry post World Cup semis loss against New Zealand

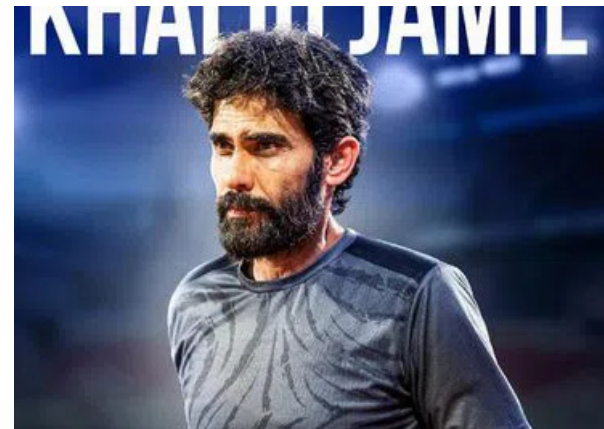
It has been close to six years since the Virat Kohli-led Indian team lost the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand and bowed out of the tournament in their bid to win the world title. With Kohli not winning a World Cup under his captaincy, the former Indian captain won the IPL title with Royal Challengers Bengaluru for the first time in this year’s IPL. Indian leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has now shared how he also saw Kohli crying in the bathroom after the 2019 World Cup loss. Chahal was replying to a question about having seen Kohli cry while talking about Kohli in tears after winning the IPL trophy.

“In the 2019 World Cup, I saw him (Virat Kohli) crying in the bathroom. And then I was the last batter; when I was crossing him, he had tears in his eyes. In 2019, I saw everyone crying in the bathroom,” Chahal said in a YouTube show hosted by Raj Shamani. The Indian team had lost the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand, a match in which weather played a part. With rain interrupting the match on the first day, the match resumed on the reserve day with the Kiwis resuming at 211 for 6 in 46.1 overs. New Zealand set a target of 240 runs on the reserve day, followed by the Indian team being bundled out for a total of 221 runs in 49.3 overs. It also turned out to be Mahendra Singh Dhoni’s last ODI match, as the former Indian captain announced his international cricket retirement in 2020. Chahal, who took one wicket for 63 runs in that match, shared that he regrets his performance in the semifinal. “It



was Mahi bhai’s last match. I could have done better. I still regret that. I could have pushed myself a bit more, bowled a bit better, and leaked 10-15 fewer runs. But sometimes you are in that flow; it happens so quickly that you don’t get time to think. I thought if I was calmer, I could have done even better. I gave my best, but it was the semi-final, a bigger stage, and you have to give your 10-15 percent extra,” Chahal added. The 35-year-old leg-spinner also shared his experience playing under different captains, including Rohit Sharma. “I love how Rohit bhaiya carries himself on the ground. He’s a very good captain. With Virat bhaiya, it’s the energy he brings, the same energy every day. It will only go up and never down. Same energy. Every day,” said Chahal.

Khalid Jamil appointed head coach of India’s Senior Men’s Football Team by AIFF



GNS News Agency, August 12

Hyderabad: The All India Football Federation’s (AIFF) Executive Committee (EC), on the recommendation of the federation’s Technical Committee (TC), decided to appoint Khalid Jamil as the head coach of the Senior Men’s Indian National Team during its virtual meeting on Friday.

In the presence of AIFF President Shri Kalyan Chaubey, Vice President Shri NA Haris, Treasurer Shri Kipa Ajay, the members of the Executive and Technical committees, along with both Dronacharya Awardee coaches Mr. Bimal Ghosh and Mr. Armando Colaco, and Dhyani Chand Awardee Mr. Shabbir Ali, the AIFF’s Technical Director Syed Sabir Pasha and National Teams Director Subrata Paul presented a SWOT analysis of all the three shortlisted coaches – Khalid Jamil, Stephen Constantine, and Stefan Tarkovic. Mr. Colaco and Mr. Ali expressed their views that the AIFF should prioritise selecting an Indian coach for the senior men’s national team. All three opined that during their respective coaching careers, they, too, were once Indian coaches with no national team experience. However, they believe that Indian coaches need to be given a fair chance to prove themselves.

Technical Committee chairperson IM Vijayan, a Padma Shri and Arjuna awardee, shared his experiences during his playing days, and said that India had a much higher FIFA ranking with the likes of Sukhwinder Singh and Syed Nayeemuddin as the head coaches. Thus, he strongly recommended Khalid Jamil, as he has already been conferred with the AIFF’s Men’s Coach of the Year Award on two occasions (2023-24 and 2024-25). Thereafter, the majority of the house accepted the recommendations of the TC. The AIFF Vice President Shri Haris, along with members such as Ms. Pinky Bompal Magar, Ms. Thongam Tababai Devi, Mr. Climax Lawrence, Mr. Menla Ethenpa, Mr. Arif Ali, Mr. Mohan Lal, and others, opined that for the betterment of Indian football, the federation must give an

Hawks Varsity Volleyball League from Aug 16

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Black Hawks (HBH), a professional volleyball team competing in the Prime Volleyball League (PVL), India’s third-biggest sports league with over 200 million viewers, has teamed up with student-led community, Varsity Sports, once again to launch the PVL Hyderabad Black Hawks (HBH) Varsity Volleyball League. This is the first league-format school volleyball championship in India, bringing together top schools from

The five-week league that blends professional experience with school spirit. Kicking off on August 16 and running till September 28, the league brings together 32 boys teams and 19 girls teams from Hyderabad’s top IB and CBSE schools, in a high-energy competition designed to fuse professional-level standards with grassroots passion. From school chants to All-Star showcases, the league aims to create a platform where young athletes are celebrated like professionals. With a five-week schedule that includes a league phase, an All-Star Weekend (September 13) and climactic Finals on September 28. “This isn’t a one-off tournament—it’s a five-week league with qualifiers, playoffs and a grand finale. It’s run with the same professionalism as a pro league. We’re merging grassroots passion with pro-level expertise and giving school kids a taste of what it feels like to play under lights, in front of crowds, and with media attention. That’s game-changing for youth sports in India,” said Abhishek Reddy Kankanala, principal owner of Hawks. “Our goal is to make volleyball one of the most loved and played sports in India and that journey begins here, in schools, with energy, passion and purpose.” In line with the Hyderabad Black Hawks mission to nurture talent and grow the sport from the ground up, the league introduces PVL-inspired point system and will be overseen by experienced referees, official HBH kits designed by Six5Six and match balls provided by Kaizen,” he said. “The HBH Varsity League is exactly the kind of grassroots initiative we as the Prime Volleyball League want to encourage across India” said Joy Bhattacharjya, CEO of PVL.

India's first global rockstar who performed with George Harrison and Bob Dylan, and played a live-aid concert before Queen



It seems almost unreal, too improbable even for dreams. The world was watching as Bangladesh, still unborn as a nation, reeled from a brutal liberation war and a devastating cyclone. As its people found themselves crushed between natural disaster and political violence, a group of musicians planned a concert that would change history. George Harrison and Ringo Starr of The Beatles, Bob Dylan, Eric Clapton, Billy Preston, Leon Russell — and our very own Robindro Shaunkor Chowdhury, better known as Pandit Ravi Shankar. The sitar maestro took the stage at New York's Madison Square Garden alongside tabla legend Ustad Allah Rakha and sarod virtuoso Ali Akbar Khan, two men at the top of the art form they had sworn to master.

August 1 marks the 54th anniversary of the Concert for Bangladesh, a moment when melody turned into protest, and the sound of strings and membranes echoed across the globe. Right at the start, Harrison came onstage to welcome the crowd and explained that the concert would begin with a set of Indian classical music. A few polite claps followed, until he said the name "Ravi Shankar," and the crowd erupted. Now mind you, this wasn't your average lineup of musicians at a cultural fest. The stage is filled with people who have sold millions of records all over the world. Dylan, Clapton, Starr and Preston weren't exactly musicians who play at your local tavern every Friday and everyone from Rishikesh to the now excommunicated planet knew who them. But Shankar's mere mention gave birth to a roar, and just like any middle-aged Indian man, the master then proceeded to give the entire crowd a lesson in etiquette that must be observed while listening to Indian classical. The man actually told a crowd in 70s New York to refrain from smoking while he was performing (I guess Donald Draper or Joe Camel only listened to jazz after that).

What followed was electric. Rakha, Akbar, and Shankar demonstrated what the offspring of serenity and chaos would sound like. The trio opened with folk melodies from Bangladesh before moving into a teen taal composition that stunned the arena into silence. For 16 minutes and 39 seconds, the crowd listened. Truly listened. There was no Instagram to capture it, no phones glowing in the dark,

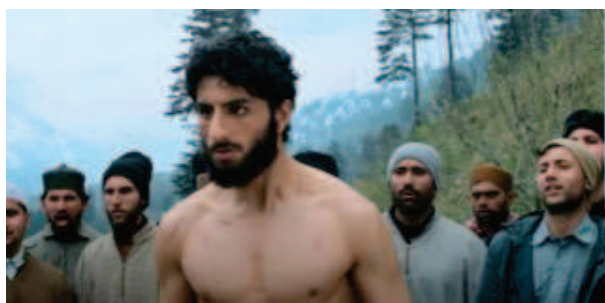
just an entire generation standing still in the middle of a city that never sleeps. Listening to the album today, or watching the footage, you know other legends are waiting backstage — Dylan, Harrison, Starr, Clapton. But for those 16 minutes, you almost don't want them to come on. Shankar, Rakha, and Khan seem to duel and dance through your brain, blurring the line between collaboration and competition. It's hypnotic. And no one wants the spell to break.

When they stop, a roar is heard from the crowd. The three men sit on a stage not built primarily for them, in front of a crowd filled with people who weren't raised with the same culture, in a country that they don't belong to, in a world blinded by violence and agendas. Yet the world paid heed, the country felt the impact, the people stood with respect and admiration, and the stage trembled due to the weight of their skill. The concert continued with George taking the stage next and playing some of his greatest hits along with Ringo and the rest of the gang. Songs like 'My Sweet Lord,' 'Awaiting On You,' and 'While My Guitar Gently Weeps' were all instant hits in front of the crowd. The singer even stopped the show midway to introduce everyone who was playing with him and said, "Everyone had to come for this show on very short notice; many of them cancelled gigs to be here, and of course we aren't getting paid for this." Dylan came to the stage after George's set and played a few songs from the film A Complete Unknown. Shankar's influence on Western music didn't start or end at Madison Square Garden. He was a mentor to George Harrison and recorded the acclaimed album West Meets East with American-British violinist Yehudi Menuhin. The two, along with Allah Rakha, even performed at the UN General Assembly Hall on December 10, 1967. During rehearsals, Menuhin said, "Meetings between civilisations have happened in the past, but they have happened very slowly. It took many travellers and many years for cultures to intersect; today everything happens very quickly. It's amazing to see how quickly you (Shankar) have been embraced by American civilisation and the world." Menuhin was right. It wasn't just collaboration, it was an embrace. The world looked at Shankar with his huge towering instrument in his hand and refused to take into account his language, his appearance, his religion, or his place of birth. They cared about his music, and ironically, giving attention to just his art form is what opened up a completely new market for Indian music. Diljit toured the world, Hanumankind played Coachella, Sid Sriram featured on the Tiny Desk Concert, and Shakti the band won a Grammy. But when Shankar played Madison Square Garden, Shankar Mahadevan from Shakti was four years old, Ustad Zakir Hussain of Shakti was 20 years old, and none of the other three aforementioned men were even born. The band Queen was still 14 years away from playing their very own aid concert, and Amitabh Bachchan was still coming to grips with the fact that he had just acted opposite Rajesh Khanna in Anand. In a world where the concept and definition of excellence are forever changing, it's sometimes nice to sit down and take a look back at where it all started.

Sarzameen director Kayoze Irani addresses negative reviews, admits he'd alter Ibrahim Ali Khan's introduction: 'People were forgiving'

Ibrahim Ali Khan's second film, Sarzameen, premiered last month on JioHotstar, and much like his debut film Nadaaniyan, it was met with significant criticism from both audiences and critics. Directed by Kayoze Irani, son of veteran actor Boman Irani, the film has sparked a conversation online about its narrative and performances. Addressing the mixed reception in a recent interview with Hindustan Times, Kayoze shared his thoughts on the feedback and what he's taken away from the experience.

"I'm extremely happy with the audience reaction to the film. I think that the (viewership) numbers are doing very well. The overall audience perception and the feedback that I've been getting are good. There have been some criticisms. There have been some reviews that are critical, which is fair. What is important is to learn from it and move forward, but I'm genuinely overwhelmed. I feel that if it's managed to touch a few people, I can't be happier than that," he said. He continued, "These are reviewers whom I respect," adding, "Ideally, you want every review to be five stars, and you want the box office collection to be unheard of. But this will not be my only film. There's something that I can learn from it, and I will apply that in the next one." In the same conversation, Kayoze acknowledged the film's flaws but said he feels encouraged by the audience's acceptance. "Are there a few loopholes in the film? Maybe! Are there a few things that could have been done differently? Maybe. But the impor-



tant thing is that the film worked on a larger level, and they were forgiving of a few of the issues."

Reflecting on what he would change about the movie if given the chance, Irani said, "One thing that I would have done differently with Sarzameen was bringing Ibrahim into the film a little earlier, and I would have had more of the cat-and-mouse chase before he is discovered. These are the two things I would have done differently." Set in Kashmir, Sarzameen follows the tense emotional journey of an Indian Army officer who discovers that his estranged son has joined a militant group. Ibrahim plays the role of the young militant, while Prithviraj Sukumaran portrays his father. Kajol also stars in the film in a role that has drawn some criticism online for its writing and execution.

Sreeleela dedicates Bhagavanth Kesari win to daughters who dream big

Mumbai: Actress Sreeleela has expressed her gratitude after her film Bhagavanth Kesari was named Best Telugu Film at the 71st National Award. She said that the win is for every daughter who dares to dream big. Sreeleela took to Instagram, where she shared the poster of the film, which also stars Nandamuri Balakrishna, Kajal Aggarwal and Arjun Rampal. Bhagavanth Kesari follows the story of a former prisoner who is adamant about training his adoptive daughter to join the Indian Army. However, his mission is interrupted by a conflict with a ruthless businessman.

For the caption, Sreeleela wrote: "BANAO BETI KO SHER. THIS FILM IS THE CLOSEST TO MY HEART. With your immense love and support, this message now echoes nationwide as #BhagavanthKesari bag the Best Film Award at the 71st National Film Awards. Heartfelt thanks to the respected jury for recognizing our effort, and deepest gratitude to #NandamuriBalakrishna Garu for his unwavering belief and relentless support throughout this journey. This win is for every daughter who dares to dream big and roar louder!" she added. In other news, Sreeleela will next be seen in Pawan Kalyan's Ustaad Bhagat Singh. The actress will be seen playing the female lead in this film, which is being produced on a grand scale by Naveen Yerneni and Y Ravi Shankar under the Mythri Movie Makers banner.



Archana Puran Singh's son Aaryamann fixes a virtual date with girlfriend Yogita Bihani, father Parmeet Sethi crashes it: 'Kya zamana aagaya hai'



Actor Archana Puran Singh's son Aaryamann recently started a 30-day vlog challenge on his newly launched YouTube channel. In one of the vlogs, he revealed he is dating Vikram Vedha actress Yogita Bihani. Upon hitting the 100k subscribers mark just 23 days after starting his channel, Aaryamann created a special video. While he gathered his entire family to thank his viewers for subscribing to his channel and helping him achieve this milestone ahead of the release of his song, he expressed that he missed his girlfriend.

In the vlog, he said, "I am feeling a little sad because Yogita is not here. We will try to fix that. I have a virtual date planned with her after this." The term 'virtual date' sounded odd to his father Parmeet Sethi, who quickly reacted, "Yeh kuch nayi cheez suni maine abhi (This is something new)." A shy Aaryamann replied to his father, "Keep up with the times dad." Expressing his love for his son, Parmeet Sethi shared, "Arey mera beta set hogaya guys, mai toh bada khush hu (My son has been settled, I am extremely happy)." Later, Parmeet crashed Aaryamann's virtual date and asked, "What is this? Yeh kya ho raha hai? (What's happening)?" An annoyed Aaryamann said, "My date has been crashed guys." He then explains to his father, "Yeh humara virtual date chal raha hai papa (This is our virtual date, Papa). Thank you for interrupting but we were just talking about you." A seemingly confused Parmeet said, "This is virtual date? Yeh kya zamana aagaya hai? (What has this generation come to?)" He then told his son, "You should have met her in person. What do you even mean by virtual date?" With Parmeet still around, Yogita said, "Mere

ghar mein bhi noodles bane hai (They have made noodles even at our place)." This surprised Parmeet, who said, "Kya baat hai, itni tuning abhi se hi? Iski aaj tak toh humarein sath tuning ho nahi paa rahi. (Wow! You guys share a great tuning already. He still struggles to adjust with us.) We ask him to eat veggies, and he says, 'I need paneer'." After Aaryamann shooed his dad away, he spoke about how Parmeet and Archana reacted to Yogita entering his life, "Everybody were very sweet. They all loved Yogita. They already knew her as an actress. Mumma would often say, 'She is such nice actress. She does such great work. She is very hard working.' When I told her I am dating her, she was like, 'Tere sath hai woh? She is with you?'" Archana was quite shocked.

Yogita shared her side of the story, and said, "When I told my mom about Aaryamann, she was like, 'Is he the same guy you messed with your hair in his music video?'" She even revealed that her father has recently subscribed to Aaryamann's YouTube channel and addresses him as Aary Ji. She shared, "Papa told me, 'Dharmendra jaise vibe hai iss ladke ki thodi. Dharmendra jaise lagte hai yeh. If he does a little workout, he will start to look like Dharmendra.' I was like 'Yeah, Papa.' She added, "At my place, people address Aary as Aary Ji." A shy Aaryamann then ended his vlog by saying, "I think our date ka time is up now because your brother would want his room back. And I respect that. Please don't occupy his room." Yogita laughed and said, "Mera pura khandaan pagal ho chuka hai (My entire family has gone crazy)."

Yuvika Chaudhary opens up about rumoured separation from Prince Narula, says she was living with her mother during pregnancy: 'There was a huge distance between us...'

Last year, the media was abuzz with speculation about a possible separation between Yuvika Chaudhary and Prince Narula following the news of Yuvika's pregnancy. While neither of them addressed the rumours at the time, Yuvika has now spoken candidly about navigating those challenging moments and the strength she found with Prince by her side. In a heartfelt conversation on the Hindi Rush podcast, Yuvika shared her experience: "Since I was pregnant, I didn't want to give those rumours too much importance. I chose to react subtly and didn't create a scene. I thought if I made a fuss, it would only get worse. But I didn't realise it would escalate regardless. For me, the pregnancy phase was far more important than any gossip. I believed that such things come and go in life, but the time I had with my pregnancy would never come back. So I ignored everything. But that ignorance weighed heavily on me. I realized that if I spoke out then, it might have only made things worse, so I chose silence."

She further added, "Pregnancy meant more to me at that time. When the baby came, that became my priority, not answering questions from others. I built a wall around myself because I needed to focus on my life, my baby, and healing my body. I had to become strong enough to take care of my child. The changes happening in your body during pregnancy are something no one truly understands. I learned that your pain is yours alone. No matter how much you share it, it hurts the same. So, I decided it's better not to say anything or share my problems with anyone. I prefer to keep my struggles to myself rather than explaining or justifying them to others." Speaking about Prince's support during this time, she said: "He was a great support. Of course, life was busy, but as a couple, we needed to show understanding. There were misunderstandings because that phase naturally came with some confusion. But I knew it was just a phase and why it was happening. Pregnancy brings emotional ups and downs, mood swings where sometimes you're happy, sometimes sad, and sometimes you want your partner right beside you. He did whatever he could



to be there for me. Looking at it from both perspectives helps. These phases come and go, but at the end of the day, what matters most is that a child is on the way." Yuvika also revealed that during this period they had other responsibilities to manage: "At home, there was a lot of interior work going on. Prince had always wanted a bigger home where the baby could grow up. So, when my pregnancy happened, the renovation work also began. It was a busy time. I shifted to my mother's house because during pregnancy, you need lots of love and care. Prince could either focus on work or be with me, and he decided it was best for me to stay with my mom, where I'd get all the care I needed. Later, he also moved there for some time. Taking care of the house, shoots, and everything else was a lot. And I don't think it's a sin for a woman to live with her parents during pregnancy, everyone does it. But those who didn't understand this made it an issue. I was determined not to justify myself or give attention to such things, I just wanted to focus on the baby." She also touched upon how the rumours affected Prince: "Prince is a bit emotional; hearing things from people affected him. So I tried to talk to him through it

Meher Ramesh lunches Telugu teaser of "Bun Butter Jam"

Hyderabad: After making a mark with Tamil audiences, the romantic comedy Bun Butter Jam is gearing up to entertain Telugu viewers. The film, which released in Tamil on July 18 to positive response, will hit theatres in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on August 8.

Director Meher Ramesh unveiled the Telugu teaser of the film on Friday and called it a "fun family entertainer" while wishing the team success for its release.

The story of Bun Butter Jam revolves around two mothers trying to arrange the marriage of their children. Things take a turn when the youngsters, shaped by friendships and modern-day confusion, have their own ideas

about love. What follows is a mix of humour, emotion and generational clashes.

The lead roles are played by Raju Jeyamohan, Aadya Prasad and Bhavya Trikha, with Saranya Ponvannan, Devadarshini, Michael Thangathurai and VJ Pappu in key supporting parts. Raghav Midarth has written and directed the film, while Suresh Subramanian produced it under Rain of Arrows Entertainment. CH Satish Kumar of Sree Vigneshwara Entertainment will release the Telugu version. Music is composed by Nivas K Prasanna. Babu Kumar has handled cinematography and John Abraham is the editor.