

INDIAN CHRONICLE

BJP will solve weavers problems

Hyderabad, Aug.7Telangana state BJP President N Ramchander Rao today worshiped Lord Sri Laxmi Narasimha Swami at Yadagirigutta.He visited temple who is on a two days tour of Yadadri-Bhongir and Jangoani districts to meet people and party workers to get information about their problems in Congress government and strengthening of the party. Rao attended a function as chief guest in BC colony at Yadagirigutta town organised on the occasion of 11th National Handloom day. A large number of Handloom weavers, party workers and local residents have participated in the function.Addressing the function the state BJP chief said the goal of Prime Minister Narendra Modi government was to further strengthen the handloom sector.Stating that the day is celebrated annually to recognise and honour the hard work of artisans in the handloom sector Rao explained various schemes of the central government taken up for promoting the handloom industry.

Singareni CPRO SDM Subhani wins prestigious national award

Hyderabad, Aug.7 (NSS): SDM Subhani, the Chief Public Relations Officer and General Manager of Coordination at Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), has been honoured with the esteemed Dr. CV Narasimha Reddy – Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) national best PR manager award for the year 2025. This accolade was presented to Subhani during the National Public Relations Education Day celebrations held at the Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI) Hall in Hyderabad. The award was conferred by Dr. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University.

BJP is obstructing 42 percent BC reservations: CM Revanth Reddy



New Delhi, Aug.7 It is known that all the Congress leaders have gone to Delhi demanding the approval of the Central government for the implementation of 42 percent BC reservations in Telangana state. On Wednesday, a Mahadharna was also held at Jantar Mantar. CM Revanth Reddy alleged that rival BJP was obstructing the BC reservations bill .He spoke to the media on the issue in Delhi on Thursday . CM Revanth accused PM Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of obstructing the President's appointment to them. He expressed his grief that the President's appointment was not being given to them

KTR releases BRS student wing's scanner poster exposing Congress's failures



Hyderabad, Aug.7: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi Vidyarthi (BRSV), the student division of the BRS, has initiated a campaign featuring QR code scanner posters aimed at holding the Congress government accountable for its unmet commitments to the unemployed youth.BRS working president KT Rama Rao unveiled the poster, which was crafted by BRSV State Secretary Rajesh Nayak, here on Thursday. The poster prominently displays a QR code that directs individuals to a comprehensive overview of the Congress party's electoral promises to the unemployed youth. This includes the Congress manifesto, the youth declaration, a job calendar, and a total of 420 promises. Furthermore, it contains links to video recordings of assurances made by prominent figures such as Rahul Gandhi, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka during the election campaign.During the launch event, KT Rama Rao remarked that nearly a year had elapsed since the Congress government issued any job notifications throughout its 20-month tenure. He asserted that the Congress government had deceived the youth, failing to translate its electoral commitments into concrete actions. "It should at least awaken now and endeavor to fulfill the aspirations of those seeking government employment," he stated. Leaders from BRSV accused the Congress party of betraying numerous youth in search of employment, alleging that it has resorted to making hollow promises as a means of electoral manipulation. They urged the people to scan the QR code to uncover the truth for themselves. BRSV student leaders and activists participated in the event for the release of posters, collectively calling for widespread denunciation of the Congress party's duplicitous political conduct toward the unemployed.

Telangana sets standard in supporting handloom workers: Tummala

Hyderabad, Aug.7 Minister for Agriculture, Handlooms and Textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao said Telangana leads in the welfare and development of handloom workers and is also a pioneer in the practice of geo-tagging.As part of the Handloom Day celebrations, the Minister opened the Handloom Textile Exhibition at People's Plaza in Hyderabad on Thursday. The exhibition features over 100 stalls and will run until August 17. He took the time to examine the handloom items on display and also praised the contributions from the prisons department to set up a stall in the exhibition. The Minister extended his congratulations to those recognised for the Konda Laxman Bapuji Handloom Awards. Speaking on the occasion, Tummala stated that handloom is not just a means of livelihood, but a symbol of Indian culture. "It is a handicraft that has been passed down from generation to generation. It is the responsibility of all of us to protect this art. The Telangana State has earned special recognition across the country in the field of handloom, and products like Gadwala, Narayanpet, Pochampally Ikkat, Siddipet Gollabhama, Warangal Darris, Karimnagar bedsheets are internationally famous," he said.

. He criticized that the BJP had always been doing injustice to the people of Telangana. He said that the BJP leaders were making a fuss over the reservations. He expressed his anger that their political rival BRS party was playing a scheming role over the BC reservations. CM Revanth Reddy questioned as to why BRS did not participate in Wednesday's dharna. He was angry that they were talking about insults instead of participating in the dharna. He commented that the people of Telangana would teach a lesson to the BJP and BRS parties.CM Revanth Reddy explained that complete details had been collected in the caste census of his government . He said that his goal was to provide justice to all communities. He said that the caste census was conducted to know the BC population in Telangana. "Only after the caste census , it was decided to provide the 42 percent reservation to the BCs," he said and made it clear that he is fighting for the BC reservations as promised by the congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He said that two bills had been brought to provide the 42 percent reservation to the BCs in education, employment and local body elections. Reminding that the BRS party made law so that the reservation should not exceed 50 percent, he said that they brought an ordinance to overcome the law made by the BRS party . He expressed impatience that the President of India had not

KTR slams Revanth Reddy, accuses Congress of betraying BCs & playing political drama

Hyderabad, Aug.7 : BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao launched a scathing attack on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and the Congress government, accusing them of deceiving Backward Classes (BCs) and indulging in non-stop political theatrics. Welcoming new leaders and cadre from the Parigi constituency into the BRS at Telangana Bhavan, KTR strongly criticised the Congress' handling of BC reservations and governance failures. He alleged that the Congress party has blatantly misled the people on the issue of BC reservations."They promised 42% reservations with legal backing before the elections and secured votes. But now, CM Revanth Reddy says BC reservations will only be granted if Rahul Gandhi becomes Prime Minister. Was this condition mentioned in the BC Declaration?" he asked. Drawing a sharp contrast, KTR reminded that KCR went to Delhi with a mission to secure Telangana statehood and succeeded. "Can Revanth Reddy claim he brought back BC reservations from Delhi?" he challenge KTR ridiculed the Chief Minister, stating that even in Delhi, Revanth couldn't stop talking about KCR. "It appears Revanth is mentally obsessed with KCR. He's suffering from a clear case of KCR-phobia," KTR mocked. He added that the Congress government was using the BC reservations' issue as a diversion while ignoring other commitments made in the BC Declaration. Calling Revanth Reddy's entire governance style a "drama", KTR said, "When I point out how he's betraying BCs and faking governance, Revanth tries to silence me with personal attacks. But the truth is, everything he's doing whether with Modi, Rahul Gandhi, or even for Chandrababu Naidu is pure drama." KTR also questioned Revanth's silence on the implementation of over 420 pre-poll promises. "Even his claim that he will remain in the Congress till the end is just another drama," KTR said.Taking a dig at defected MLAs, KTR said, "Those who jumped parties are now in such an unfortunate state that they can't even say where they belong. They've gone from wearing party scarves to hiding behind divine ones." He mocked the Speaker for being unaware of the MLAs' status when

Congress govt made people suffer: Harish Rao

Medak, Aug.7 Former minister and Siddipet MLA Harish Rao has alleged that the ruling Congress government had made the people of the State suffer during its two-year long rule. On Thursday, he held a press conference with the party MLAs Sunitha Laxma Reddy and Kotha Prabhakar Reddy at the MLA camp office in Narsapur town.Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao lamented that the Congress government had made farmers, students and the unemployed suffer during its rule and had done nothing but illegal arrests and illegal cases. He recalled that former CM KCR had provided 24-hour long free electricity in the first year of coming to power and had provided Kalyanalakshmi scheme, which was not promised in their election manifesto. He said their government had increased the pension of Rs 200 to Rs 1000, increased the ration rice from four kg to six kg, renovated tanks, converted lending projects into running projects and provided water to lakhs of acres. He expressed anger that the Congress government had not given single penny to dig up canals. He was angry that the Congress government had wasted time in the name of commissions, illegal cases and leaks in the med Rao reminded that after the KCR government came to power, they built eight check dams on Haldi Vagu and eight check dams on Manjeera river. Noting that CM Revanth Reddy is saying that the Kaleshwaram project is a joke, he told the CM that if he ask the farmers of Haldi and Manjeera catchment areas, they would tell him how much good has been done with the Kaleshwaram project He accused the Congress government of diverting Godavari river water to AP based Banakacharla project to

approved the bills even after 4 months. He said that all efforts had been made at the field level for the BC reservations. He reminded that the laws were sent to Delhi with unanimous approval in the state Legislative Assembly. Revanth revealed that he came to Delhi to fight on the BC reservation issue at the national level.

CM Revanth Reddy said that more than 100 MPs had expressed their support for Wednesday's dharna of the congress party. He thanked the leaders of DMK, NCP, SP and other parties, who supported their dharna. He expressed happiness that the congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge praised the caste census model of Telangana. He said that all ministers, MLAs and MLCs from Telangana participated in the Jantar Mantar protest program irrespective of caste. Revanth said that they were implementing the promise given by their leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Yatra. Targeting union minister Kishan Reddy, He said that it was not right for Kishan Reddy to talk like a gang leader about their party leaders Rahul Gandhi and Kharge for their absence from their dharna program. He said that a presentation would be given to Kishan Reddy on the caste census survey. CM Revanth Reddy has advised that if Kishan Reddy fixes the date, time and place, the authorities would clear Kishan Reddy's doubts.



even children in the State knew which party they had joined.With local body elections around the corner, KTR warned the public that Congress leaders were preparing to distribute "ill-gotten money" amassed through 20 months of corrupt governance. He urged voters to support BRS if they wanted to curb Congress atrocities and ensure officials respond to public grievances. KTR painted a grim picture of Congress rule, highlighting power cuts, fertiliser shortages, failing village and urban governance. He said Telangana has been pushed back 10 years. "After the polls, they will even cancel Rythu Bandhu," he warned. "In this Congress regime, not a single individual or community has been spared from betrayal," he thundered.KTR admitted that during BRS' 10-year rule, the focus was on Telangana's development, and cadre may not have received individual attention. But he assured that once BRS returns to power, workers would be given due recognition and growth opportunities. He issued a clarion call to all senior leaders and grassroots workers: "Work hard and ensure victory in every village during the upcoming local body elections. As long as Telangana exists, the pink flag will fly high. We will wipe out Congress and BJP, and bring back KCR as the Chief Minister", he added.



pay Guru Dakshina to CM Revanth's guru. He alleged that Revanth Reddy had done nothing new except cutting ribbons for flyovers built during the BRS regime. He was angry that mid-day meal workers were illegally arrested when they staged a dharna in Hyderabad after not receiving their bills for nine months. He suggested that the Congress MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy should come to his senses and talk about what his government is doing instead of just cursing KCR. He said the Congress party had not fulfilled a single promise.Former Chairman of the Labour Welfare Board Devender Reddy, former Chairman of the District Library Chandra Goud, former Municipal Chairman Ashok Goud,

PM Modi greets people on National Handloom Day



GNS News Agency, August 7
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted people on National Handloom Day and shared data to highlight the "transformation" the sector has seen under his government since 2014.He said, "Best wishes on National Handloom Day! Today is a day to celebrate our rich weaving traditions, which showcase the creativity of our people. We are proud of India's handloom diversity and its role in furthering livelihoods and prosperity."The data said over 43 lakh weavers and allied workers have got direct market access through more than 2,600 exhibitions, leading to the sales of over Rs 1,700 crore.The export value of handloom products to more than 20 countries was over Rs 21,000 crore, taking them from Indian pride to global presence, it added.

Kishan Reddy slams CM Revanth Reddy



Hyderabad, Aug.7 Union Minister Kishan Reddy today alleged that the ruling Congress party had been lying at every step before coming to power by making many impossible promises, promising with six guarantees and 420 sub-guarantees in Telangana. "After coming to power, in a hopeless situation not a single promise could be implemented, with failure in governance and incompetence, they have taken loans to repay debts. They have brought the State's economy to the brink of collapse. On the surface, like a target, they are trying to cover up their incompetence .In an attempt to divert the attention of the people from the failures of their government, the Congress leaders are making meaningless criticisms of the Central government, BJP and PM Modi. Along with CM Revanth, Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi should take full responsibility for the promises made in Telangana," he demanded.Addressing media persons, he alleged that the Congress leaders deceived various communities in the name of Minority Declaration, Youth Declaration, BC Declaration. "After coming to power, they did not implement anything with dedication. They said they would give one lakh crore for BCs. Shouldn't they spend ₹.40,000 crore in these two years and did they do all that? Without doing anything, they are following the path of Delhi and making meaningless criticisms," he criticised. Reddy said in these 18 months, apart from circumbulating Delhi, they have done nothing for Telangana. He said in their attempt to provide social empowerment to the BCs, the Telangana society had understood that the Congress party was not sincere. He said the Congress party and Rahul Gandhi did not have the power to win elections again. "They have lost three consecutive parliamentary elections. They have lost their address in various States. He claimed that people had already written the Congress party's death warrant in Telangana and added that people were regretting voting for the Congress party.

He claimed that the Jantar Mantar meeting was held to praise the Congress leader Sonia's family and curse Modi. "They made a lot of promises at the meeting. They said all the party leaders would come. But in the end, none of the party leaders even raised their eyebrows in Delhi. In the 31-minute speech, the CM spent more time praising Sonia's family and cursing PM Modi," Reddy claimed.

BRS BC Garjana rally rescheduled for August 14 in Karimnagar

Hyderabad, Aug.7 The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has rescheduled its BC Garjana rally in Karimnagar from August 8 to August 14 due to adverse weather conditions, specifically heavy rainfall.

Former minister and BRS MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav, while announcing the postponement, reaffirmed the party's demand for a 42 percent reservation for Backward Classes (BCs) in local governance, education, and employment sectors. During a press conference held at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, Srinivas Yadav expressed strong criticisms of the Congress party, alleging that it engages in political theatrics in Delhi while neglecting the needs of the BC community at the grassroots level.

Education Department's New Classrooms Inaugurated by VC



August 7 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator“
“The National Sanskrit University's Education Department today inaugurated two new state-of-the-art classrooms. The ceremony was led by the university's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy. “The event was attended by distinguished guests, including Registrar K. Narayana Rao, Academic Dean Prof. Rajanikant Shukla, School of Education Dean Prof. N. Latha, Head of the Department Prof. K. Kadambini, Dean of Students' Welfare Prof. S. Dakshinamurthy Sharma, along with faculty members and students. “Following the inauguration, a welcome ceremony (Deeksharambha) was held for the first-year students of the I.Tep, B.Ed, and M.Ed programs. The Vice-Chancellor described the Deeksharambha as an inspiring initiation that sets the path for the students' academic journey. He extended his best wishes to all the students on this occasion.

TUDA Chairman Dollars Diwakar Reddy Meets with Principal Secretary of Urban Development“



“August 7 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator“
“Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA) Chairman Dollars Diwakar Reddy paid a courtesy visit to Mr. Suresh Kumar, the Principal Secretary of Municipal Administration and Urban Development, in Vijayawada. “During the meeting, Mr. Diwakar Reddy felicitated Mr. Suresh Kumar with a shawl and presented him with prasadam from the temple. The two officials then engaged in a discussion regarding the development of TUDA. “Mr. Diwakar Reddy



briefed the Principal Secretary on several key issues, including:“ * The status of TUDA layouts.“ * The problems concerning the lands in Shettipalli.“ * The details of the TUDA Towers, a landmark project under construction in Tirupati. “He also brought to light the alleged misuse of TUDA funds during the previous government's tenure and requested new funds to be sanctioned for the authority's development. “In response, Principal Secretary Suresh Kumar assured Mr. Diwakar Reddy of his complete support for TUDA's development initiatives.

Students should be provided with quality breakfast: ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul“



“Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 6, Indian Chronicle: The concerned principals, wardens and teachers should take special care in the breakfast meals provided to the tribal students studying in the Gurukul colleges, schools, EMRS, Degree, SOE, CO colleges run by the Tribal Welfare Department and ensure quality education to the students, said ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul. “On Wednesday, he held a special meeting with the principals of the institutions run by the Bhadradi Kothagudem District Gurukul at the conference hall of the ITDA office. Speaking on the occasion, he said that for the last 15 days, the staff of the Tribal Welfare Department has been showing negligence in the matter of food supplied to the students in the institutions. The tribal students studying in our institutions are very poor, they are leaving their parents and considering you as their parents and leaving their entire future on you. Special attention should be paid to the food, drinks and health of such students and make them future citizens of India. If any student falls ill, if it has been more than three days since he was treated by the ANM under your control, he should immediately take him to the nearest PHC and get him medically examined. He said that special precautions should be taken in the health of children and in the institutions as the monsoon season is currently underway. Mosquitoes and poisonous insects are roaming around, so the surroundings should always be kept clean. If necessary, the Principal Warden and all the children of the families living in the staff quarters should work together as a Shramadaan, then the surroundings will be clean. He said that children should not be made to do any work. He said that it has come to my attention that such developments are happening in some institutions for the sake of staff dominance, and that no one should be ignored, but that everyone should work equally in the field of children's education. He said that due to such developments in the institution, the education of children will not be done properly. He said that if food is not served to children on time according to the menu in any institution, strict action will be taken against the relevant staff. The principal should take special responsibility in each institution, and all the warden staff should be united and appoint two teachers each for the food served to children, starting from breakfast, lunch and dinner, and the food served to children should be served to the children 15 minutes after they have eaten it first, but if it comes to my attention that children are falling ill, criminal cases will be filed against those who certified it. He said that the staff who cook every day should maintain hygiene and keep the cooking utensils, kitchen and dining hall clean. He said that the vegetables supplied by the agencies and the rice, pulses, salt, patti supplied by the GCC should be of good quality, and if it is found to be in poor condition, the RCO should



be informed immediately. He said that if there are any minor repairs in the institution, they will definitely be done, and that it is known that there is a problem of fresh water and a monkey problem in some institutions, and the Gram Panchayat will take it to their attention and see that the problem is resolved. He said that everyone including the principal and warden, teachers, staff and ANM should be local. He said that last year, the tenth grade results in Gurukul schools were more disappointing than in Ashram schools. He said that to prevent that from happening this year, special classes should be organized for children who are lagging behind in tenth grade subjects and special attention should be paid to them. Night studies should be mandatory. Last year, awareness was made available to children on career guidance by officials from various departments, and most of the children have increased their awareness. He said that an official from some department should be called on the second and fourth Friday of every month for children of classes 8, 9, and 10 to educate them.

Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector Meets with ITDA Project Officer



““Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 6 ,Indian Chronicle: Bhadrachalam Sub-Collector Mrinal Shrestha met with ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul at the ITDA office. He presented Mr. Rahul with a potted plant and wished him well. “During their meeting on Wednesday, the officials discussed the implementation of various development programs in tribal villages. The Sub-Collector asked the ITDA Project Officer to prioritize resolving issues faced by tribal communities, including land disputes, revenue problems related to their crop fields, and pending court cases. He urged the ITDA Project Officer to work toward providing prompt assistance to the tribal residents

P. Murali Unanimously Re-elected as CPI Tirupati District Secretary“

“August 7 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator“
“The Communist Party of India (CPI) Tirupati District's second Mahasabha (conference), held in Sullurupeta on August 3rd and 4th, concluded with P. Murali being unanimously re-elected as the party's District Secretary for a second term. Following his re-election, he was felicitated by CPI leaders from the Renigunta Mandal in a ceremony held in front of the Ambedkar statue. The news was shared by Y.S. Mani, the CPI Renigunta Mandal Secretary. “Party leaders praised P. Murali for his exceptional work in expanding the party's presence across all constituencies and villages in the district and for his prompt and proactive efforts in addressing public issues. “In his address, P. Murali expressed his gratitude, stating that his re-election was a recognition of his team's hard work over the past three years in strengthening the party and fighting for public causes. He thanked the central and state leadership for their trust. He also announced that the party would launch large-scale agitations to implement the 17 resolutions passed during the Mahasabha. “CPI Launches Campaign Against Smart Meters“As part of the day's events, CPI leaders distributed pamphlets against the installation of smart meters. They called for the alliance government to fulfill its election promises and announced a major protest (dharna) on August 11th at the SPDCL office. “P. Murali criticized the ruling coalition leaders for their silence on the is-



sue, noting that during the elections, they had promised to oppose smart meters. He accused the government of giving the contract to the Adani group and urged the public to join the fight against what he called an “electrical burden” on the people. He confirmed that the dharna on August 11th will be attended by CPI National Secretary Comrade Narayana and leaders from other parties, and he called for a large public turnout to make the event a success. “The event saw participation from state executive member Jayalakshmi, district executive members Radhakrishna and Chandrasekhar Reddy, along with numerous local leaders and party workers.

Acharya Jayashankar is the inspiration behind the youth and the movement: Project Officer B. Rahul

““Shaik Sharief, Bhadrachalam, August 6, Indian Chronicle: ITDA Project Officer B. Rahul said that Acharya Jayashankar, the father of Telangana, is the inspiration behind the youth and the movement for the formation of Telangana state. He said that if you take a step forward with hard work, perseverance and courage, you can easily achieve any difficult task. ““He participated as the chief guest in the 91st birth anniversary program of Acharya Jayashankar Sir organized at the ITDA conference hall on Wednesday. After paying homage to Jayashankar's portrait by garlanding it, he said that Jayashankar was born on August 6, 1934 in Peddapur village of Atmakur mandal in Hanumakonda district. Feeling that the people of Telangana are lagging behind in development, he said that he has fought tirelessly for the state of Telangana since 1969, and has worked hard to form Telangana as the 29th state by inspiring the people and youth. He said that as a result of Jayashankar's efforts, Jayashankar Bhupalpally district and a park in Hanumakonda were established in his name. ““Taking Acharya Jayashankar as an example, Rahul called upon those working in Telangana state to work diligently so that government schemes reach the people. He especially explained about the self-employment schemes



to be provided to the tribals living in remote villages of the agency area and said that if you work with a good heart, people will be happy and will praise you. P.O. suggested that every employee should have the desire to work and that they should work more this year than last year and earn the respect of the people. “ITDA Assistance Project Officer General David Raj, D.D. Tribal Welfare Manemma, E.E. Tribal Welfare Harish, D.T.R.O.F.R. Lakshminarayana, A.C.M.O. Ramesh, A.D. Agriculture/S.O. Bhaskaran, Horticulture Officer Uday Kumar, D.S.O. Prabhakar Rao, J.D.M. Harikrishna, officers and staff of various departments and others participated.

English Press Release“Tirupati MP Gurumoorthy Raises Road Issues in Lok Sabha, Receives Response from Central Government“

“August 7 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator“
“The Central government has responded to the road issues in the Tirupati parliamentary constituency, following a question raised in the Lok Sabha by Tirupati MP Maddila Gurumoorthy. The Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, provided the answers. “MP Gurumoorthy had specifically requested details on the steps taken by the government regarding previous proposals for the construction of flyovers at Sullurpet on National Highway-16 and at Karakambadi on National Highway-716. He also asked whether the government had received requests to upgrade the state highways from Srikalahasti to Tada, Gudur-Rapurur-Rajampet, and Uthukotai-Tada to national highways. He sought information on the feasibility studies and budget allocations for these proposals. The MP had previously submitted several requests to the Union Minister on these same issues. “Minister Gadkari's response stated that a rotary junction for vehicles and an underpass for pedestrians have already been developed at Sullurpet's SHAR Circle (at km 81.050 and km 80.970, respectively) on National Highway-16. These projects were completed as part of the four-lane project from Tada to Nellore. “Regarding Karakambadi, the minister announced that two crucial underpasses are being constructed as part of the NH-716 project from Chinnaorampadu to Renigunta. These include a Light Vehicular Underpass at the Karakambadi railway crossing (km 118.057) and a Vehicular Underpass near the Kattaputtalamma Temple (km



118.885). The contract for this project was awarded on January 28, 2025, with a targeted completion time of two years from the start of work. “However, the minister clarified that while the ministry has received proposals to upgrade the mentioned state highways to national highways, no studies, approvals, or budget allocations have been made for them. He stated that the evaluation of these roads is currently being carried out in line with the Prime Minister's Gati Shakti National Master Plan, based on traffic volume, connectivity needs, and priority.

Revenue Minister Anagani Satya Prasad Offers Prayers at Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple“



August 7 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator“
Anagani Satya Prasad, the Minister for Revenue, Stamps and Registration, and the Minister in-charge for the district, paid a devotional visit to the revered Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanur today. He was accompanied by his family. “Upon his arrival at the temple premises, the minister received a warm welcome from temple officials and prominent leaders of the Tiruchanur TDP unit. Minister Satya Prasad began his visit by offering prayers at the temple's Dwajasthambam before participating in the sacred Kumkumarchana seva (ritual) for the goddess. “Following the sacred darshan, a group of priests conducted a Vedic blessing ceremony at the Vedashirvachana Mandapam. Subsequently, temple officials presented the minister and his family with sacred 'teertha' and 'prasadam'. “The visit was attended by several key temple functionaries, including Deputy Executive Of-

ficer Harindranath, TTD VGO Surendra, Superintendent Ramesh, and AVSO Radhakrishna.

BJP's policies harm women and BC reservations: Konda Surekha

New Delhi, Aug.7 Minister for Endowment Konda Surekha said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lacks the authority to comment on women's rights and reservations for backward classes. In a statement here on Thursday, the Minister alleged that the BJP opposes women development and reservations for backward classes, suggesting that one should not anticipate the party to advocate for the broader segments of society. Responding to the comments made by her against President Draupadi Murmu during the BC dharna, Konda Surekha clarified that she did not say anything wrong and said that she had spoken as it was. The Minister also condemned the malicious campaign, being circulated against her by BJP leaders and said that BJP leaders are behaving very badly. Later, Konda Surekha along with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, appealed to AICC President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge to pressure the Central Government in Parliament to approve the bills for 42 percent reservation for BCs in local body elections, education and jobs

Devotees Flock for Varalakshmi Vratam Tickets at Tiruchanur“



“August 7 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator”“Devotees flocked to the Sri Padmavathi Ammavari Temple in Tiruchanur today to secure tickets for the upcoming Varalakshmi Vratam, which will be performed on August 8. The event will take place at the temple's Asthana Mandapam.”The TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) made 150 tickets available for offline sale, leading to a huge rush of devotees. The distribution began

at 9 a.m., though many devotees started queuing up as early as 6 a.m. TTD officials, including TTD JEO Veerabrahmam and CVSO Murali Krishna, oversaw the smooth distribution of tickets with the support of temple and vigilance staff, following instructions from TTD EO Shyamala Rao.”Senior temple priest Babu Swamy highlighted the significance of the event, stating, “It is a strong belief among devotees that participating in the Varalakshmi Vratam of Sri Padmavathi Ammavaru, who is an aspect of Goddess Mahalakshmi, brings wealth and strengthens marital bonds.” He added that this year's Vratam is particularly special as it falls on a Friday, coinciding with the goddess's birth star, Uttara Ashadha.”Babu Swamy confirmed that TTD has made all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the event. He also announced that a procession of the goddess in a golden chariot will be held in the evening. He urged all devotees to participate in the services and seek the blessings of the goddess.”Key officials present at the event included Deputy Executive Officer Harindranath, TTD VGO Surendra, AEO Devarajulu, Superintendent Ramesh, Inspectors Chalapathi, Subbarayulu, Subhaskar, and AVSO Radhakrishna, and Mohan Reddy, among others.

Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam Celebrates National Handloom Day with a "Handloom Power Walk"



““Tirupati, ““ Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV) commemorated National Handloom Day with a vibrant “Handloom Power Walk” on August 7, 2025. The event, held on the university campus at 10:30 a.m., was a joint effort by the university's NSS Bureau and Units I, VII, and XVI, in collaboration with the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Development Corporation, Tirupati.”The celebration saw the participation of the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor V. Uma, Registrar Professor N. Rajani, heads of departments, deans, faculty members, and a large number of students.”Vice-Chancellor Professor V. Uma inaugurated the walk, leading by example and inspiring students with her commitment to promoting handlooms. In her address, she emphasized that it is the collective responsibility of everyone to preserve and promote the handloom industry, which she described as a reflection of India's rich

cultural heritage. She encouraged all faculty members to support weavers by wearing handloom clothing on the 7th of every month, starting from August 2025.”Following her speech, Registrar Professor N. Rajani led the faculty, non-teaching staff, researchers, and students in taking a pledge to wear handloom clothes.”The event was marked by an enthusiastic display of handloom products. Faculty and students showcased a variety of traditional handloom attire, including sarees, dresses, and shawls, infusing the campus with the beauty of Indian tradition.”The program successfully raised awareness about handloom products and promoted the message of adopting handlooms as a part of a sustainable lifestyle within the academic community.”The event was successfully coordinated by NSS Coordinator Professor I.V. Lalithakumari and NSS Program Officers Dr. P. Madhavi, Dr. Y. Anitha, and Dr. B. Visali.

Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam Hosts Breastfeeding Awareness Program“

“August 7 Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator”“ Sri Padmavathi Mahila Visvavidyalayam (SPMVV) organized a breastfeeding awareness program at Kuntrapakam village today, as part of its ongoing breastfeeding week celebrations. The event was a collaborative effort by the university's NSS Units 3 and 13.”Program officers Dr. Neeraja and Dr. Sujatha highlighted the significance of the initiative, which was first launched in 1992 to promote breastfeeding. They emphasized that breast milk is a natural gift for a child's strong growth, providing all the essential nutrients necessary for their physical and mental development. They stressed the importance of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months, noting that it acts as a natural vaccine, boosting the baby's immunity and protecting them from infections.”The program also addressed the serious consequences of not breastfeeding, such as infant mortality, obesity, and respiratory diseases, which affect thousands of children due to lack of awareness and misinformation. The officers also pointed out that many mothers suffer from breast and ovarian cancers, issues that can be mitigated through breastfeeding.”They underscored that a supportive environment is crucial for new mothers. Dr. Neeraja and Dr. Sujatha called for physical, mental, and social support from family members, who should assist with providing proper rest, nutrition, and care. They also appealed to doctors to offer clear guidance and



urged workplaces to provide maternity leave and facilities for mothers to breastfeed their infants.”Gram Sarpanch Smt. Shubha Padmanabha Reddy, who participated in the event, assured that her panchayat would educate mothers in the village on the importance of breastfeeding to ensure the health of both mothers and children.”The program was also attended by Sanghamitra Chenchulakshmi, 40 new mothers, pregnant women, members of self-help groups, and NSS volunteers.

Bhadrachalam Bar Association Urges MLA to Appoint Permanent Judge



“ “ S h a i k Sharief,Bhadrachalam, August 7,Indian Chronicle: The Bhadrachalam Bar Association has requested MLA Tellam Venkata Rao to take immediate steps to address several critical issues affecting the local judicial system.”“According to Bar Association President Kota Devadanam, the Bhadrachalam Sub-Divi-

sional Magistrate (Mobile Court) has been operating under an interim arrangement for the past two years. The association is calling for the appointment of a permanent judge to ensure faster civil justice for the 28 mandals in the agency area.”“The following additional issues were also raised:** The *Assistant

Government Advocate” position has been vacant for the past year and needs to be filled.”“ The *Special Deputy Collector (GI Sam)” post, which was created to resolve Land Transfer Regulation (LTR) cases, is also vacant. Filling this position is crucial for addressing the backlog of LTR cases in the agency area.”“

The “financial jurisdiction of the Bhadrachalam Mobile Court” has not been updated in 100 years. It remains at just 5,000 rupees, as per the 1924 agency laws, which is significantly lower than that of junior civil judges in other areas. The association wants this limit to be increased.”“MLA Venkata Rao responded positively to the requests and promised to bring these issues to the government's attention and work toward their resolution.”“

The meeting was attended by several senior lawyers, including Kodali Srinivasan, Chimala Narasimha Rao, Ulavala Suresh, Booram Ramakrishna, and Korsa Naresh. The Bar Association stated that if these issues are not resolved, they will hold a general body meeting to determine their next course of action.

The Constitution must be aware of the rights provided to the tribes:“ Judge Devarapalli Keerthi Chandrika Reddy.



“Mateti Madhu Yellandu, August 7 Indinan chronicle :“Judge Keerthi Chandrika Reddy said that every tribal

should be aware of the legal rights provided by the Constitution. He was the chief guest of the event and addressed the rights of tribal laws. Citizens are aware of their rights and that there is a philosophy of questioning and economic inequalities wherever they are working, especially women are physically and sexually and, especially the parents will be in the middle of the education future due to the lack of financial prosperity.

The court will appoint a free lawyer through the court, and you will also appoint a free lawyer through the court, if you have been informed about the problems of the injustices, irregularities and accommodations that will happen to you in the areas around you. The event was attended by Bar Association Presidents Kampalli Umamaheswara Rao, General Secretary Keerthi Karthik and Senior Lawyers. Venkatanarasayya K. Narayana, S. Venkateshwar, court and police personnel were present.

Hyderabad is the most prominent city for the aluminium extrusion industry: Jitendra Chopra

Hyderabad, Aug.7 Southern India is fast emerging as a key driver in the growth of the aluminium extrusion industry, with Telangana and Andhra Pradesh playing a pivotal role in shaping the sector's future. Robust industrial activity in the region, strong export potential, and rising demand across sectors make it a vital contributor to India's ambition for self-reliance in manufacturing, said Anil Agarwal, Managing Director of Global Aluminium. He was speaking at the roadshow of ALUMEX INDIA 202, a premier international exhibition and conference focused on the aluminium extrusion industry in India. It is India's first-ever exhibition on the industry. Among the southern states, Hyderabad is playing a very important role in this industry, he added.

This momentum will be highlighted at ALUMEX India 2025, the country's first and only dedicated platform for the aluminium extrusion industry. Organised by the Aluminium Extrusion Manufacturers Association of India (ALEMAI) and supported by Hindalco, Vedanta, and JNARDDC, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Mines, the event will take place in New Delhi from September 10 to 13, bringing together over 200 exhibitors and more than 12,000 visitors from across the aluminium extrusion value chain. Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are home to a growing number of aluminium extrusion facilities, catering to segments like construction, electric vehicles, renewable energy, transportation, electronics, and consumer durables. Projects under the Smart Cities Mission, affordable housing schemes, investments in electric mobility and solar power, and prefer-

ence for lightweight materials across various sectors are major accelerators for growth.Jitendra Chopra, President of ALEMAI, said, “Southern India is rapidly becoming a hub for aluminium extrusion with its unique blend of manufacturing strength, export potential, and fresh investments. Aluminium extrusion plants in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh are contributing significantly to India's domestic needs as well as exports and hold immense strategic value for the industry. Through ALUMEX India 2025, we aim to showcase this transformation and promote new opportunities for collaboration and innovation.” India's aluminium extrusion market touched \$3.51 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach \$4.61 billion by 2030, growing at a CAGR of 4.5%. While North India remains the dominant market, the southern region is now recognised as a major growth corridor, with strong industrial clusters and rapid infrastructure development.However, the sector continues to face several challenges, including volatility in raw material prices, high energy costs, stringent environmental regulations, and competition from global markets. Shortages of skilled labour and the need for advanced extrusion technologies are also pressing concerns. India's aluminium extrusion industry has a combined installed capacity of over 3 million tonnes, but only 1.5 million tonnes is utilised domestically—the remaining 1.5 million tonnes is met through imports.”To counter trade challenges like the Trump Tariff, the industry must boost domestic consumption, reduce dependency on imports, and expand export capacity,” said Agarwal.

Increase wages to film workers: Dr K. Narayana, objects Chiru’s comments

Hyderabad, Aug.7 CPI national secretary Dr K. Narayana today demanded a wage increase for all film workers. He made it clear that the wages for big budget films should be increased by 30% and for small films by 15%. He said the CPI would fully support them until justice was done. He asked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to intervene immediately and get justice to the film workers.

Narayana addressed media at the CPI State office in Hyderabad along with CPI national executive member Pashya Padma and State secretary E.T. Narasimha. Speaking on the occasion, Narayana alleged that when the Telugu film workers want an increase in their wages, the producers were threatening them that they would bring CC workers from Mumbai and make them work. “We strongly condemn the discrimination of the film producers. If injustice was done to the workers here, the CPI will not only participate in the movement specifically but will also go to any lengths,” he warned.He expressed his anger that there

were only 10 families in the Telugu cinema sector in the State and added that only four families own theatres in the State, he said the State government should only encourage message oriented films. He said under no circumstances should subsidies be given to films that are being made with hundreds of crores to mislead the society and added that no concessions should be given to increase the ticket prices. He questioned as to why the Chief Minister, who calls big producers and heroes to speak, does not call the film workers to speak? He said it was not right for the State government to be biased and added that no injustice should be done to the film workers.

Narayana said on a previous occasion, he had apologized for the comments he had made against film actor Chiranjeevi and withdrew his comments. He countered Chiranjeevi's latest comments and said it was not right for Chiranjeevi to bring up that issue again and make those videos viral. Narayana stated that he was leaving the issue to the morality and conscience of Chiranjeevi now.

Top state officials hold stake holders’ meetings on MICE, Film Tourism Sectors

Hyderabad, Aug.7 The Special Chief Secretary to Government, Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department Jayesh Ranjan and CEO of the Industry and Investment Cell in Chief Minister's Office today conducted Two Stakeholders Meetings to further strengthen and promote MICE and Film Tourism Sectors in the State

The Stakeholders meeting on the MICE Sector was conducted at hotel Taj Krishna in the city with a focus on further Transforming Telangana into a Premier MICE Tourism Hub through Strategic Action Plans The event brought together around 40 key stakeholders and industry leaders from across the Event Venues, Travel, hospitality, Airport and event management sectors to discuss a comprehensive roadmap for boosting the state's MICE tourism profile. Along with the Industry Stakeholders, the meeting was also attended by Regional Passport Officer Snehaja and TGTDC MD Valluru Kranthi and discussed on the actionable points.Speaking on the occasion, Jayesh Ranjan emphasized a vision-driven, time-bound strategy, with clear timelines, ensuring that all ideas are translated into tangible outcomes. He assured that each initiative would be sup-

ported by defined time lines and execution frameworks by reinforcing the state government's commitment to the tangible progress. Inputs and suggestions from stakeholders were noted and the final actionplan with deliverables will be announced by the end of August or on World Tourism Day (September 27, 2025). Jayesh Ranjan also conducted a Stakeholder meeting of the Film Tourism at National Institute of Tourism and Hospitality Management (NITHM) in Gachibowli along with the Chairman of the Telangana state Film Development Corporation Dil Raju.

The meeting was attended by around twenty delegates from Telugu Film Chambers of Commerce, Film Studios, cinematographers Departments like Forest Endowments and heritage Telangana and discussed on the Strategies to make Telangana as the most friendly and affordable destination for the film shooting for not only India but from across the world. Ranjan said that Based on the discussion, an action plan would be prepared by including a development of Film in Telangana” Portal development as “One Stop Shop” for all cinema shooting requirements in a single window system.

Amity University Chancellor Atul Chauhan meets CM Revanth Reddy

New Delhi, Aug.7 (NSS): Amity University Chancellor Atul Chauhan has said the university will offer services to the development of the education sector in the Telangana State. He met Revanth Reddy at the CM's official residence in Delhi today. During the meeting, Atul Chauhan extended gratitude to the Chief Minister for approving the establishment of the university by the State cabinet. As part of the skill development programme, the Chancellor said the university will also sign an agreement and partner with the Young India Skills Development university. Atul Chauhan briefed the Chief Minister about the start of the art education facilities available in the university to offer quality education to the students. The Chancellor said the Amity University is ready to work hard and excel in Telangana. University representative Ramachandram was also present



Fake ED, DRI raids: Delhi Police caution people against ‘suspicious activities’



GNS News Agency, August 7

The Delhi Police Wednesday asked the public to be on alert and urged them to exercise caution after two incidents of fake raids were reported within a week last month. In one case, which occurred in the highly secured area of Chanakypuri, three people were arrested for allegedly posing as officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED). In another case reported from Prasad Nagar in North Delhi, the imposters allegedly claimed to be from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).In a press note, the Delhi Police urged “people to exercise caution and immediately report suspicious activities”. “Always inform the local police station if any government or police official visits your doorstep. Demand proper identification from anyone claiming to be a government official, especially if they ask for money, documents or access to your property. If you suspect someone of impersonation, contact your local police station immediately by dialling 112. Businesses should conduct thorough background check on employees particularly those with access to sensitive information or valuables. Your cooperation and vigilance are vital in preventing such incidents,” the note read.

The first incident occurred on June 20, when a Bentley showroom assistant manager was allegedly abducted and robbed of approximately Rs 30 lakh on the pretext of a raid by ED officials.According to a police officer, three people were arrested, including a showroom employee who allegedly leaked confidential information about the cash stored in a car in the showroom. The accused have been identified as Sunil Kumar Taneja, 46; Suraj, 22; and Sumit Yadav, 25. While Yadav works as a sales executive at the showroom, Sunil is a driver by profession for a multinational company and Suraj is unemployed but has a prior criminal record with three cases registered under the Excise Act in Delhi,

the officer added. The showroom is located within the premises of the five-star Samrat Hotel in Lutyens' Delhi, a highly secure area of the national capital.According to the police statement, on June 20, the showroom's assistant manager, Anil Tiwari, was intercepted by two men — Sunil and Suraj — in a car while he was on his way home on his scooter near the Hungarian Embassy in Chanakypuri.

“Two individuals, one of them dressed in a police uniform, informed Tiwari that he was being arrested in connection with an ED case and physically assaulted him. They showed him a fake ED letter and insisted he take them to the showroom, claiming they needed to search the premises due to a large sum of cash allegedly stored there,” the statement said.The duo then allegedly took him back to the showroom, retrieved the keys to a parked Bentley from him, and fled with the cash stored in the vehicle's boot.A senior police officer said Sunil was arrested with the help of technical surveillance from Gurugram on July 5. Subsequently, the other two accused were arrested from South Delhi on July 8. Of the looted amount, around Rs 15 lakh has been recovered so far. “Their further interrogation is underway,” the officer added.In a similar incident, four people, including a woman, allegedly cheated a businessman of approximately one kilogram of gold worth around Rs 1 crore by posing as officials from the DRI in Prasad Nagar in North Delhi.

According to the complaint filed by the victim, he had been in contact with a man from Panipat, Haryana, who had promised good returns for selling his gold. On June 20, the man allegedly asked the businessman to bring the gold to his office in Karol Bagh, claiming he had a buyer lined up.“When the businessman reached the office, he was asked to wait for some time. A staff member requested him to show the gold for verification and then asked him to wait again,” an officer said.In the meantime, four people allegedly entered the office and showed him ID cards, claiming to be DRI officials.“

The fake DRI officials then locked the businessman in a washroom after taking the gold, his two mobile phones, and some cash that he had in his pocket. They also took the office staff with them and fled the scene,” the officer added.When the businessman attempted to call the person from Panipat who had requested that he come to the office for the deal, he discovered that the phone was switched off. Realising that he had been deceived, he reported the incident to the Prasad Nagar police station and filed an FIR.The police said they have formed a team to apprehend the accused and are further investigating the matter.

Majnu ka Tila double murder: Delhi Police arrest Uttarakhand man for murder of live-in partner, baby

GNS News Agency, August 7

delhi police at the crime spotA police officer said that though Nikhil had fled from the spot, a scarf was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his house, suggesting that he himself might have attempted suicide. A day after a woman and a six-month-old baby were found dead inside a house in North Delhi's Civil Lines area, the main accused — the deceased woman's former partner — was arrested from the Haldwani area of Uttarakhand in the early hours of Wednesday.According to the Delhi Police, the suspect, Nikhil, who recently shifted with the deceased woman, 24, to the Majnu ka Tila locality in the Civil Lines area, committed the murders when the woman was at her friend's house. He then fled the scene of the crime.A police officer said that after the crime, Nikhil fled to his sister's house in Haldwani, Uttarakhand, seeking shelter for a few days. She had shifted him to her boyfriend's house, from where he was arrested on Wednesday morning, he added.The police are now bringing Nikhil to Delhi for further investigation.

The woman and the baby were found murdered, with their throats slit, at the infant's house in Civil Lines Tuesday afternoon. The police said Nikhil committed the murders



when the baby's mother was out with her father to pick up her elder sister, 5, from school. Nikhil had visited their house multiple times, and knew the routine they followed.“The woman, who was from Uttarakhand, used to live in the same area with her partner, who is also from Uttarakhand. She had issues with him, and there were a lot of fights. So, she left him and started living with her friend, the baby girl's mother,” DCP (North) Raja Banthia had said.A police officer said that though Nikhil had fled from the spot, a scarf was found hanging from a ceiling fan at his house, suggesting that he himself might have attempted suicide.

No new master plan in 15 years for Kharar; Punjab & Haryana High Court hopes revision begins within a year



GNS News Agency, August 7

The Punjab and Haryana High Court on Wednesday expressed concern over the prolonged delay in revising the statutory master plan for the municipal council of Kharar in Mohali, which continues to rely on a plan notified in 2010 despite rapid urban expansion and ground-level changes.A bench comprising Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry disposed of a PIL petition filed by Chander Shekhar, who sought enforcement of statutory obligations under the Punjab Regional and Town Planning and Development Act 1995 for the timely revision and notification of Kharar's master plan. The court observed that while the law mandates a review and amendment of a master plan at least once every 10 years, no new plan has been notified for Kharar in the 15 years since the last plan was published on May 25, 2010.“Despite a lapse of 15 years, no fresh exercise to make a new master plan for the said city is being undertaken,” the bench said. The state's counsel informed the court that while a revised draft master plan was drawn up in January 2020, the exercise was eventually shelved due to certain deviations. Now, officials have initiated a fresh amendment process for the 2010 plan.A drone-based ground survey was commissioned on June 25, 2025, and is expected to be completed in six months. This will be followed by another six months during which the Kharar municipal council will compile the data and prepare a report. The court recorded its expectation that the process of preparing a new master plan for Kharar “shall be commenced within the said period”, and granted liberty to the petitioner to approach the court again if the state fails to act.

The PIL, argued by advocates Rajni Narula, Alankar Narula, and Navdeep Singh, highlighted that Kharar, part of the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority region and

adjacent to Chandigarh and Mohali, has undergone significant urban transformation. Yet, the outdated 2010 master plan continues to govern planning decisions, despite being declared unworkable soon after its notification.The petition detailed how the municipal council of Kharar had passed a resolution in 2011 declaring the plan infeasible. Subsequent field surveys by the district town planner confirmed that key elements, including road alignments and land use zones, no longer matched on-ground realities.In 2020, a revised draft master plan (Drawing No. DTP SAS Nagar 2372/2020) was finalised following inputs from a committee chaired by the deputy commissioner of SAS Nagar (Mohali). However, no action was taken under section 70(4) of the Act to notify it or invite public objections.The court was also reminded that in earlier proceedings—including CWP No. 14675 of 2014 and COCP No. 92 of 2025—assurances had been given by the state that revision was underway. When deadlines were missed, the court even ordered a halt on further construction in Kharar (May 19, 2025) and attached salaries of senior officials (May 27, 2025) for non-compliance.Calling the continued use of the obsolete master plan a violation of statutory duties and citizens' rights under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution, the petitioner said the inaction had led to haphazard development, infrastructure breakdown, and unregulated land use.

Lakes in southern part of Hyd fall prey to unchecked encroachments

Hyderabad: While a lot is being done or discussed on lake protection, the land mafia appears to have a free run when it comes to the southern areas of the city.Several lakes and tanks are being encroached overnight by the land mafia at Jalpally, Bandlaguda, Nadergul, Mamidipally, Mailardevpally, Katedan, and surrounding areas.Consider the case of Jalpally tank—big boulders are being dumped into the lake from the Jalpally Cargo Road and the Wadi e Mustafa side. The land mafia has converted the encroached area of the lake into plots and is selling them.“Every night, trucks carrying boulders are dumping the debris on the lake. The intention is to encroach the water body and sell the land,” said Mohd Hameed, a community leader from Wadi e Mustafa, Jalpally.

311 bakeries in Mumbai yet to switch to cleaner fuel, Bombay High Court extends deadline



GNS News Agency, August 7

The Bombay High Court Wednesday extended the deadline for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to ensure that bakeries in the city using wood and coal convert their operations to gas or other green fuels.While hearing PILs raising concerns of ‘alarming’ air pollution levels in Mumbai and surrounding areas, a special bench of the high court on January 9 directed the authorities to ensure conversion within six months. Even as the civic body's deadline came to a close on July 8, 311 bakeries, or 54 per cent, are yet to make a switch to cleaner fuels and comply with the court-mandated directives.

On Wednesday, a bench of Justices Makarand S Karnik and Nitin R Borkar passed an order granting extension for the implementation of the new sources. The order came on an interim application by Faiz Alam Bakery, Masoodul Hasan Khan, and others seeking extension to implement the court order and the BMC notice in that regard.The high court posted a hearing on the interim plea to July 28 and noted, “In the peculiar facts and for the reasons mentioned in the application, we are satisfied that the

time granted by this Court in the interregnum needs to be extended till the next date.” The bench also directed the BMC not to act on its notice of January 29 to the bakeries until the next hearing.Presently, Mumbai is home to 573 operational bakeries. According to data procured from the BMC, 187 of them were already using green sources of fuel such as electricity or piped natural gas (PNG). Civic authorities said that only 74 others have switched or commenced the process of transitioning their bakeries to run on cleaner fuels within the deadline.Since October 2024, when the BMC issued its directives to switch, records show that only 46 bakeries transitioned to cleaner sources of cooking. Furthermore, 28 bakeries are currently in the process of switching from traditional fuels to cleaner ones.“This leaves 312 bakeries, of which one shut operations, while 311 are yet to switch to cleaner sources. In our meetings and surveys, the bakers had raised concerns over ground implementation and therefore, filed an application seeking an extension of the deadline. If the court grants the extension, we will continue engaging with the bakeries to facilitate the transition,” a senior civic official told The Indian Express Tuesday.Last week, the civic body and Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL) convened a coordination meeting on July 6 along with representatives from banks and the Bombay Bakers Association (BBA). During the meeting, which aimed to discuss the ground implementation of the gas pipeline, the MGL addressed concerns over security deposits and costs raised by the bakers' association. The MGL, which conducted its own survey, said that at least 97 bakeries can switch to cleaner fuels with intervention.At present, the traditional pav, which is a staple food in Mumbai, is baked in bhattis, dome-shaped ovens made out of brick and mortar, which are suited for wood fires as the sole source of heat. The BMC's data shows that as of now, bakeries contribute to 6 per cent of Mumbai's overall air quality.

Kotwal House, which once housed Hyderabad police chief's office, restored after structural concerns

GNS News Agency, August 7

Kotwal House Hyderabad, Kotwal House restoration, Hyderabad police heritage building, Nizam-era police building,The Kotwal House became the official headquarters cum residence of the police commissioner after the then Nizam, Mir Mahbub Ali Khan, gifted the building for the required purpose.

The famed Kotwal House in Hyderabad's old city, a Nizam-era colonial structure that housed the city police commissioner's office for decades, and remains one of the iconic landmarks of the city police history, has received a fresh lease of life, thanks to the conservation efforts taken up by the city police in collaboration with a CSR partner.The institution of the city police commissioner of Hyderabad was created in 1847, and the Kotwal House became the official headquarters cum residence of the police commissioner after the then Nizam, Mir Mahbub Ali Khan, gifted the building for the required purpose. The location of the Kotwal House near Purani Haveli, the official residence of the Nizam, and many other prominent devdis (mansions) of the time, speaks to the importance the office held during that period.

C V Anand, Police Commissioner, who helmed the project, will now have an office in the old city to oversee bandobast activities. The South Zone, which comprises the core of the old city, remains a key area for the city police. He has decided to be present at the Kotwal House on every Friday, and at the Basheerbagh commissioner's office on every Wednesday, even as his main office remains in the Integrated Command Control Centre in Banjara Hills.“When I took charge, there was a report of the roads and buildings department proposing to dismantle the building as it was declared dangerous. I used to go every Friday



and spend time in the old city and during one meeting, a part of the roof caved in. It was then that we decided to do something to save the heritage building. We estimated the cost and Mr Anil of Greenko agreed to come forward to save the heritage structure,” Anand told indianexpress.com.Mir Khan, conservator in chief of the Deccan Terrain Heritage, who oversaw the conservation project, said the building was unused for about 5 years and was taken up for restoration in May 2023. “There were structural issues like damage in the load-bearing walls and terrace, water leaks and wall plaster deterioration, wooden doors and windows, as well as rafters in the ceiling were deteriorated due to common moisture,” he said.The team stripped off the entire lime plaster and undertook a revamp of the terrace, replacing wooden members, rafters, doors, and windows to bring the building back to its original glory. The building is a prime example of a typical Madras terrace type building, characterised by load-bearing walls, typical varandas with Roman columns, and an overlooking courtyard and gardens, similar to the Secunderabad Club and Nizam Club, for example.

Tirupati temple board suspends officer for attending church prayers, he says it doesn't matter which ‘faith I follow’



GNS News Agency, August 7

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams Board, which manages Andhra Pradesh's Sri Venkateswara temple, suspended Assistant Executive Officer A Rajasekhara Babu, noting in a statement that he had been attending local church prayers every Sunday in his hometown of Puttur in Tirupati district.TTD sources told The Indian Express that Babu had informed the TTD that he had gone to church only a few times to meet some friends. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Board, which manages Andhra Pradesh's Sri Venkateswara temple, on Tuesday suspended its Assistant Executive Officer A Rajasekhara Babu, noting in a statement that he had been attending local church prayers every Sunday in his hometown of Puttur in Tirupati district.“It is nothing but a violation of TTD norms as he has not followed the code of conduct of the TTD as an employee of the organisation, and has acted irresponsibly as an employee representing a Hindu religious organisation. In this context, after examining the report submitted by the TTD Vigilance Department and other evidence, departmental action was initiated against him as per the rules, and he was suspended with immediate effect,” the TTD statement said.TTD sources told The Indian Express that Babu had informed the TTD that he had gone to church only a few times to meet some friends.When contacted, Babu told The Indian Express that he performed his duty with integrity and always upheld the traditions of the TTD. “As a senior TTD member, if someone invited me to a temple or a church, I went there. It does not matter which faith or religion I follow. I always did my best to stick to the TTD rules,” Babu said.TTD sources said this is in line with the Board's stand not to allow any non-Hindu to work in the TTD, especially in temples governed and managed by it.After the Telugu Desam Party-led NDA government came to power last

June, the TTD transferred several non-Hindu employees from various positions. In February, the TTD Board transferred 18 employees who were practising and participating in non-Hindu religious activities.They included six teachers at various TTD educational institutes, a deputy executive officer (welfare), an assistant executive officer, an assistant technical officer (electrical), a hostel worker, two electricians, and two nurses.

Telangana lags in land record digitisation race under new management information system

GNS News Agency, August 7

Hyderabad: Despite being an early adopter of land record digitisation under earlier phases of the Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme (DILRMP), Telangana has seen a significant decline in performance under the newly launched Management Information System (MIS)-4.0, slipping below national averages and its own previous standing under MIS-3.0.

The new MIS-4.0 was launched on October 15 last year, with all the States expected to complete data entry by July 14. The objective is to standardise and centralise land records across India, integrating real-time land information, reducing disputes, and curbing benami transactions. However, Telangana is the only State among major States to lag in completing the task.As per official data of the Department of Land Resources at the Centre, Telangana has completed the Computerisation of Land Records (CLR) in only 77.98 per cent of its villages (8,534 out of 10,944) under MIS-4.0. This marks a sharp decline from the 93.08 per cent completion rate it recorded under MIS-3.0, where 10,190 villages had been covered.While Telangana reported 10,190 digitised villages under MIS-3.0, that figure now stands at 8,534 under MIS-4.0 out of a total of 10,944 villages, suggesting discrepancies in data integration or delays in migration to the upgraded platform.In contrast, several States, including Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Bihar have already achieved 100 per cent completion.

Pune Municipal Corporation to open ‘war room’ to monitor progress of civic works



GNS News Agency, August 7

The municipal chief further directed all ward offices and heads of civic departments to get Engineers India Ltd (EIL) to inspect the quality of development works. The municipal chief further directed all ward offices and heads of civic departments to get Engineers India Ltd (EIL) to inspect the quality of development works.

The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) has decided to set up a war room to monitor infrastructure projects. "It is necessary to ensure that the projects are completed on time, the quality of work should be good, and projects should be made operational on time for the benefit of citizens. Thus, a war room is being set up for monitoring the projects," said Pune Municipal Commissioner Naval Kishore Ram on Thursday. The war room will have a nodal officer of the rank of a deputy municipal commissioner to coordinate between the head of all civic departments and the municipal commissioner. "The nodal officer will have to collect the updated information every 15 days on the status of projects from the respective civic department in charge and submit

it to the municipal commissioner," Ram added. The municipal commissioner said the war room will focus on getting projects completed on time, and if there are any hurdles in project implementation, then the issue will be raised with the government department concerned.

The municipal chief further directed all ward offices and heads of civic departments to get Engineers India Ltd (EIL) to inspect the quality of development works. "It is mandatory to do third-party quality assurance of civic development work above Rs 5 lakh. The PMC has an agreement with EIL for the period from 2022 to 2027. However, it has been noticed that it is not being strictly followed by many ward offices and civic departments. Elected representatives and citizens have been complaining about it," said Ram. The project in-charges are either conducting third-party quality assurance through other organisations or the head of the civic department instead of EIL, he added. "This is very serious and against administrative discipline. If it is not possible to do quality assurance through EIL in exceptional circumstances, then the permission to do it through another agency should be taken from the additional municipal commissioner concerned," the Pune municipal commissioner stated. Ram also said that additional municipal commissioners should ensure that at least 10 per cent of total civic works executed in a year is randomly checked by the civic vigilance department and the report is submitted to the municipal commissioner's office. The PMC chief added that the project in charge or the department head will be held responsible if discrepancies are found. The Pune Metro, River Front Development (RFD), River Rejuvenation Project through soft loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and the uninterrupted water supply project are among the prominent projects currently being implemented in Pune.

Row over ‘Sardar Ji 3’: trend of cross-border collaborations in Punjabi film industry unlikely to sustain

GNS News Agency, August 7

Even as Bollywood has refused to cast Pakistani actors following the 2016 Uri attack, the Punjabi film industry continues to find itself entangled in the debate, more so now in the wake of the controversy surrounding Sardar Ji 3, the Diljit Dosanjh-starrer that features Pakistani actress Hania Aamir in a prominent role. The film, which has not yet been released in India, is currently collecting huge profits in Pakistan and overseas, once again sparking a debate over the involvement of actors from the neighbouring country in Indian Punjabi films. Speaking to The Indian Express, Punjabi singer-music director Ravinder Ranguwal said, "The Punjabi film industry continued casting Pakistani actors, or rather, started featuring them more actively post-2016. All roles involving Pakistani actors were shot overseas."



A major driver of this collaboration, industry insiders say, is the shared linguistic and cultural heritage between Charda Punjab (East Punjab in India) and Lehnda Punjab (West Punjab in Pakistan). Since both regions speak Punjabi, films that blend talent from both sides enjoy wider acceptability. "The shared language and culture create an organic appeal in both Punjabs, which naturally enhances commercial success," Ranguwal added. However, he admitted that the situation might change now. "After all the controversies that followed the Pahalagam terror attack, I don't think the Punjabi industry will cast Pakistani actors in future projects. Films that had already been signed are a different matter altogether, given the financial stakes involved," he said. The Chal Mera Putt franchise stands as a prime example of this trend. The first instalment, released in 2019, was a blockbuster and featured Pakistani actors like Iftikhar Thakur, Nasir Chinyoti, and Akram Udas in prominent roles. Its success was followed by Chal Mera Putt 2 (2020) and Chal Mera Putt 3 (2021), both of which included even more Pakistani talent and enjoyed massive popularity, particularly among the Punjabi diaspora in both countries and overseas. According to an announcement made earlier this year, Chal Mera Putt 4 is scheduled for release in August, but with growing scrutiny of cross-border collaborations, the filmmakers have yet to disclose

whether any changes have been made to the cast. Besides this franchise, several other Punjabi films in recent years — including Maa Da Ladla, Honeymoon, and Carry on Jatta 3 — have featured Pakistani actors in significant roles. In fact, in the last four to five years, blending artists from both sides of Punjab had almost become a norm in the industry. Now, with Sardar Ji 3 facing potential non-release in India due to its Pakistani cast, concerns are being raised about whether Chal Mera Putt 3 will meet the same fate. The film reportedly features an even more extensive lineup of Pakistani actors than the Dosanjh movie. Following the Pahalagam attack, actor Iftikhar Thakur — one of the most celebrated Pakistani comedians involved in cross-border Punjabi films — had allegedly made controversial remarks directed at India, prompting a fresh wave of criticism. "There's no shortage of talent in Punjab. We don't necessarily need to rely on Pakistani actors to make successful films," Ranguwal had said then. While the shared language and commercial potential of such collaborations have been key motivators, industry voices now question whether Punjabi cinema should follow Bollywood's path in phasing out Pakistani actors altogether. "Even Hindi films are widely watched in Pakistan. So, if Bollywood can thrive without casting Pakistani actors, Punjabi cinema can also evolve with local talent," said an insider from the Punjabi industry.

SP MP Iqra Hasan complains against Saharanpur additional district magistrate, probe ordered



Nearly two weeks after Uttar Pradesh MP Iqra Hasan was allegedly mistreated by the additional district magistrate (ADM) in Saharanpur, the authorities have launched a probe into the matter.

GNS News Agency, August 7

Nearly two weeks after Uttar Pradesh MP Iqra Hasan was allegedly mistreated by the additional district magistrate (ADM) in Saharanpur, the authorities have launched a probe into the matter. Hasan, the Samajwadi Party MP from Kairana, accused Saharanpur ADM Santosh Bahadur Singh of misbehaving with her when she accompanied the chairperson of the Chhutmalpur Nagar Panchayat, Shama Parveen, to meet him at his office on July 1.

According to Hasan, on July 1, she accompanied Parveen, who wanted to meet Singh. "I was at the Collectorate. She came to meet me and asked for help. She had been waiting for him from 12 pm to 3 pm after she was informed that he was having lunch. I called the ADM thrice and he did not answer my call," Hasan said. The ADM reached his office at 3.30 pm, she added. "When we met, we told him that all we wanted was that he ensure better coordination between the Nagar Nigam (municipal corporation) and the executive officer, and that we did not want to initiate any formal complaint against the officer," Hasan said. Hasan alleged that Singh sought a written complaint

and "used a harsh tone" when Parveen brought some other issues to his notice. "I intervened as I found it objectionable and initiated a formal complaint," she said. "What happened to me was very unfortunate. We talk to officials every day. Not everyone is like that," Hasan said. Following this alleged incident, Hasan lodged a formal complaint with the principal secretary, Atal Kumar Rai, Saharanpur Divisional Commissioner, and Manish Bansal, District Magistrate, Saharanpur. In her letter to the officials, she sought an impartial investigation into the matter, saying, "All public servants should discharge their duties with fairness, honesty and courtesy. Apart from this, it is clearly mentioned in the circular dated 12 August 2019 of the Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh that disrespectful behavior towards public representatives will be considered serious misconduct and strict disciplinary action will be taken for this. This behavior of Shri Santosh Bahadur is a clear violation of the said circular and conduct rules." Hasan also said that she would place the matter before the Privileges Committee and asked that Singh be sent for training. Taking cognisance of the matter, Rai directed Bansal to conduct a thorough investigation into the allegations. "The matter is being looked into. A report regarding the incident will be sent to the government once the investigation is completed," Bansal said, confirming the ongoing probe. However, ADM Singh on Wednesday denied the accusations. In a statement to the media, he asserted, "I was out in the field when the public representative came to my office. My phone was on silent mode, and that is why I missed her call. When I was informed of her presence in my office, I reached the office and asked her to give her complaint in writing. The allegations that I misbehaved with her are baseless." The incident also drew a strong reaction from SP president Akhilesh Yadav, who took to X on Wednesday, posting, "Those who do not respect Members of Parliament what they will do to the public." Hasan also took to X and wrote, "Jo kursi se taqat ka nasha kar baithe, auron ki ijjat ko dhul samajh baithe, woh bhul gye hai ye Hindustan hai, yha nari nhi khud samvidhan hai. (Those who have become intoxicated with power and consider the respect of others as dust, have forgotten that this is India, this is not a woman but the Constitution itself)."

‘Rules of game can’t be changed once it’s begun’: Punjab and Haryana HC raps Haryana for changing recruitment rules mid-way



GNS News Agency, August 7

The Punjab and Haryana Court emphasised that altering recruitment rules once the process has begun undermines the principles of fairness and transparency. The court emphasised that altering recruitment rules once the process has begun undermines the principles of fairness and transparency. The Punjab and Haryana High Court Thursday struck down Haryana's retrospective application of amended recruitment rules, holding that it violated the fundamental rights of job applicants. It also imposed a cost of Rs 50,000 on the state for what it called a deliberate attempt to undo legitimate claims.

Both appeals challenged a common order passed by a single judge on April 18, 2022, in two Civil Writ Petitions. The petitioners, Abhishek Verma and Ankur Mittal, had alleged that they were wrongfully denied appointments to the Haryana Civil Services and Haryana Police Services (HCS/HPS) despite meeting the criteria outlined in the Haryana Outstanding Sportspersons (Recruitment & Conditions of Service) Rules, 2018. In its judgment pronounced on July 17, the Division Bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sumeet Goel observed, "The act of the State in making amendment on 09.03.2019 to have effect retrospectively from 05.09.2018 appears to be a deliberate act to scuttle the legitimate claim of the petitioners (respondents herein),

which had matured under the 2018 Rules."

The bench held that Haryana's move violated applicants' fundamental right to fair consideration for public employment. Reaffirming that "rules of the game cannot be changed once the game has begun", the court said recruitment processes must remain transparent and equitable. The bench also remarked, "This litigation ought not to have arisen in the very first place had the State of Haryana and its functionaries obtained proper legal advice. The action of the appellants herein appears to be merely to scuttle the genuine claim of the petitioners. Thus the appellant-State of Haryana is liable to be saddled with cost of Rs.50,000/- out of which Rs.10,000/- each shall be paid to both the petitioners, namely, Abhishek Verma and Ankur Mittal and the remaining amount of Rs.30,000/- shall be credited in the account of Punjab & Haryana Bar Association, Chandigarh for having wasted precious time of this Court in pursuing this avoidable piece of litigation."

The court emphasised that altering recruitment rules once the process has begun undermines the principles of fairness and transparency. Citing the Supreme Court's ruling in K Manjusree vs State of Andhra Pradesh (2008), the court said, "Introduction of the requirement of minimum marks for interview, after the entire selection process... was completed, would amount to changing the rules of the game after the game was played, which is clearly impermissible." This view was echoed by a Constitutional Bench in Tej Prakash Pathak vs Rajasthan High Court (2023), which held that recruitment benchmarks cannot be altered mid-process. The case arose from a Haryana Government amendment to recruitment rules notified on March 9, 2019, but made effective retrospectively from September 5, 2018. The petitioners, who had applied under the 2018 Rules, argued that their right to be considered under those rules had crystallised at the time of application. The retrospective change, they contended, unfairly altered eligibility criteria, wiping out their valid claims.

Dwarka man alleges foul play in brother’s death by ‘electrocution’; Delhi Police launch probe

GNS News Agency, August 7

On July 16, the deceased's brother, Kunal, approached the police with concerns about Karan's death, raising suspicions and requesting further inquiry, said the police. On July 16, the deceased's brother, Kunal, approached the police with concerns about Karan's death, raising suspicions and requesting further inquiry, said the police. The Delhi Police have launched a formal investigation after the brother of a man who died in an alleged case of accidental electrocution in Dwarka's Uttam Nagar area raised suspicions in connection with the death, officers said Friday. Officers said that based on the allegations, the probe is now centred around the wife of the deceased.

On July 13, authorities at Mata Rooprani Maggo Hospital in Uttam Nagar alerted the Police Control Room (PCR) about the death of Karan Dev, 36, reportedly due to electrocution. As per the Medico-Legal Case (MLC) report, Karan was declared dead on arrival at the hospital. "The patient was shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital for post-mortem. At that time, no allegations were raised by family members who expressed their wish to waive the post-mortem. However, considering the age of the deceased and to rule out any unnatural circumstances, a post-mortem examination was conducted," said Ankit Singh, Deputy



Commissioner of Police (DCP), Dwarka. On July 16, the deceased's brother, Kunal, approached the police with concerns about Karan's death, raising suspicions and requesting further inquiry, said the police. Acting on his statement, officers launched a preliminary enquiry. Based on the findings of this enquiry and materials gathered during the inquest proceedings, a case was registered under sections pertaining to murder. The authorities have stated that they are examining all possible angles, and gathering the statements of family members, medical personnel, and potential witnesses as the probe is underway.

Non-lawyers can’t wear white shirts, black pants in court premises: Rohini Court Bar Association



GNS News Agency, August 7

Rajiv Tehlan, President, Rohini Court Bar Association, said the association has changed the parking procedure by adopting QR codes, and one can get the details of genuine advocates after scanning the QR codes. Rajiv Tehlan, President, RCBA, said the association has changed the parking procedure by adopting QR codes, and one can get the details of genuine advocates after scanning the QR codes. To prevent non-lawyers from misleading litigants, the Rohini Court Bar Association (RCBA) recently issued a notice reserving white shirts and black pants for advocates at the Rohini Court premises in Delhi. "It is hereby notified that no clerk, litigant, or member of the general public is permitted to wear a white shirt and black pants during their visit to the court complex," reads the RCBA notice issued on Tuesday. "This attire is strictly reserved for respected lawyers/advocates as a mark of professional identity and dignity of the legal fraternity," the notice adds. In an earlier notice, RCBA had stated: "The Executive Committee of the Rohini Court Bar Association, through several respected members of the Bar and multiple complaints from the general public and litigants, has found that a number of touts are falsely representing themselves as official advocates or clerks of advocates. These individuals are misleading and defrauding uneducated litigants under false pretences."

RCBA has also made it mandatory for member advocates to obtain authorised ID cards for their clerks, warning that failing to do so would invite disciplinary action. Rajiv Tehlan, President, RCBA, said: "Many times, even miscreants and accused persons wear the clothes of lawyers... they even take up the parking space reserved for lawyers. They're constantly duping litigants." "If miscreants enter the court premises and security doesn't check them because of their attire, the reputation of all lawyers gets hampered," he added.

Tehlan also said RCBA has changed the parking procedure by adopting Quick-Response (QR) codes. One can get the details of genuine advocates after scanning the QR codes. "This is a revolutionary and pragmatic step in the

right direction... We have instances of common litigants being defrauded by miscreants dressed in black and white," said advocate Pravesh Dabas, who practices regularly in Rohini Court. "In the past, we also witnessed the infamous shootout of gangster Gogi in Court premises... this could only happen as the assailants were wearing a lawyer's uniform," he added. Reacting to the decisions of RCBA, Dhiri Singh Kasana, former secretary of the Saket Court Bar Association in Delhi, said, "In Saket Court, there is no proper checking. This step is good for security purposes. It should happen in every court. Otherwise, thousands wearing black and white clothes enter (court premises) every day... I feel that this can curb the entry of fraudsters."

Hisar teenager cremated after Haryana government accepts family’s demands, lodges FIR

Eleven days after a Dalit teenager died in Haryana's Hisar, allegedly while trying to evade the police, his family claimed his body on Friday and performed his last rites after the government agreed to five of their demands, including an impartial investigation into his death. Sixteen-year-old Ganesh's family members had been protesting since his death on July 7, alleging he had been killed by the police. "The family had raised five demands. The government has agreed to accept all five," Krishan Kumar Bedi, Minister for Social Justice, Empowerment, SCs and BCs Welfare and Antyodaya (SEWA), who mediated between Ganesh's family and the state government to resolve the standoff, said.

"The family was demanding that an FIR be registered in Ganesh's death. We have registered the FIR. The family sought that the innocent should not be targeted. We have assured them it will be a fair investigation. The family wanted Ganesh's post-mortem examination to be done by a board of doctors and videographed. It has already been done," Bedi said, speaking to the media in Hisar.

"The family demanded that one of their kin should be given a job. We have assured them it will be done. We have assured the family that wherever and whichever investigating agency the family wants, we shall get this matter investigated by that agency," he added. Bedi had arranged a meeting between Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini and Ganesh's father, Vikram, relatives and other members of the Dalit community from Hisar on Thursday night. He led the government delegation to Hisar on Friday and assured an impartial investigation into Ganesh's death.

Thailand army accuses Cambodia of breaking truce



GNS News Agency, August 7

Thailand's army accused Cambodia of violating an hours-old truce, saying clashes continued despite a deal meant to end the bloody fighting that has engulfed their jungle-clad frontier.Following peace talks in Malaysia on Monday (July 28, 2025), both sides agreed an unconditional ceasefire would start at midnight to end fighting over a smattering of ancient temples in disputed zones along their 800-kilometre (500-mile) border."At the time the agreement took effect, the Thai side detected that Cambodian forces had launched armed attacks into several areas within Thai territory," said Thailand army spokesman Winthai Suwaree."This constitutes a deliberate violation of the agreement and a clear attempt to undermine mutual trust, he added in a statement."Thailand is compelled to respond appropriately, exercising its legitimate right to self-defense."In Cambodia's Samraong city — 20 kilometres from the border — an AFP journalist said the sound of blasts stopped in the 30 minutes leading up to midnight, with the lull continuing until dawn."The frontline has eased since the ceasefire at 12 midnight," Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet said in a Tuesday morning message on Facebook.Jets, rockets and artillery have killed at least 38 people since last Thursday (July 24, 2025) and displaced nearly 300,000 more -- prompting intervention from US President Donald Trump over the weekend.

The flare-up was the deadliest since violence raged sporadically from 2008-2011 over the territory, claimed by both because of a vague demarcation made by Cambodia's French colonial administrators in 1907.The peace deal was set to see military commanders from both sides meet at 07:00 a.m. (0000 GMT), before a cross-border committee is convened in Cambodia to further salve tensions on Au-

gust 4."When I heard the news I was so happy because I miss my home and my belongings that I left behind," Phean Neth told AFP on Monday evening at a sprawling camp for Cambodian evacuees on a temple site away from the fighting."I am so happy that I can't describe it," said the 45-year-old.A joint statement from both countries -- as well as Malaysia which hosted the peace talks -- said the ceasefire was "a vital first step towards de-escalation and the restoration of peace and security".A spokesman for U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres said in a statement Monday evening that "he urges both countries to respect the agreement fully and to create an environment conducive to addressing long-standing issues and achieving lasting peace".Both sides are courting Mr. Trump for trade deals to avert his threat of eye-watering tariffs, and the US State Department said its officials had been "on the ground" to shepherd peace talks.

The joint statement said China also had "active participation" in the talks, hosted by Malaysian Prime Minister and ASEAN bloc chair Anwar Ibrahim in his country's administrative capital Putrajaya.Mr. Hun Manet thanked Mr. Trump for his "decisive" support, while his counterpart, Thai acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai, said it should be "carried out in good faith by both sides"."If they say they'll stop firing, they must stop completely," said 43-year-old Thai evacuee Prapakarn Samruamjit in the city of Surin.Thailand King Maha Vajiralongkorn marked his 73rd birthday on Monday (July 28, 2025), but a notice in the country's Royal Gazette said public celebrations scheduled for Bangkok's Grand Palace had been cancelled amid the strife.Each side had already agreed to a truce in principle, while accusing the other of undermining peace efforts and trading allegations about the use of cluster bombs and targeting of hospitals.Thailand says 11 of its soldiers and 14 civilians have been killed, while Cambodia has confirmed only eight civilian and five military deaths.More than 138,000 people have fled Thailand's border regions, while around 140,000 have been driven from their homes in Cambodia.Negotiation efforts ongoing between Thai-Cambodia militariesNegotiation efforts between the Thai and Cambodian militaries are ongoing, a Thai army spokesman said on Tuesday, and talks between both sides are now scheduled to be held at 10 a.m. local time (0300 GMT).In a ceasefire agreement announced in Malaysia on Monday, the two militaries were planning to hold talks at 7 a.m. on Tuesday following a cessation of violence at midnight.

Russia's Aeroflot cancels over 100 flights after cyberattack cripples IT systems



GNS News Agency, August 7

Moscow: Russian state-owned flagship carrier Aeroflot suffered a major IT outage on Monday following a cyberattack, Russia's Prosecutor's Office said, forcing the airline to cancel more than 100 flights and delay several others.Footage shared on social media showed hundreds of passengers stranded at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport, where Aeroflot is based. The outage also disrupted flights operated by Aeroflot subsidiaries Rossiya and Pobeda.While most affected flights were domestic, some international services to Belarus, Armenia, and Uzbekistan were also canceled.In a statement released early Monday, Aeroflot warned passengers that the company's IT system

was facing "unspecified difficulties," leading to widespread disruption.Russia's Prosecutor's Office later confirmed that a cyberattack had caused the outage and that a criminal investigation had been opened.Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov called the reports of the attack "quite alarming," adding, "The hacker threat remains for all large companies providing services to the general public."Ukrainian hacker group Silent Crow and Belarusian hacker activist group Belarus Cyber-Partisans, which opposes the rule of Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko, claimed responsibility for the attack.The groups claimed they had accessed Aeroflot's corporate network for a year, copying customer and internal data, including audio recordings of phone calls, employee surveillance data, and intercepted communications."All of these resources are now inaccessible or destroyed, and restoring them will possibly require tens of millions of dollars. The damage is strategic," the Silent Crow channel wrote on Telegram. The claims could not be independently verified.The same channel shared screenshots purportedly showing Aeroflot's internal IT systems and hinted it could begin releasing seized data in the coming days."The personal data of all Russians who have ever flown with Aeroflot have now also gone on a trip -- albeit without luggage and to the same destination," it said.Russia's airports have repeatedly faced mass delays over the summer due to Ukrainian drone attacks, with flights grounded amid safety concerns.

Thailand-Cambodia border calm as military commanders hold talks

GNS News Agency, August 7

BANGKOK, Military commanders from Thailand and Cambodia held talks on Tuesday, as calm return to their disputed border and displaced residents began trickling back, following the Southeast Asian neighbours announcing a truce to end five days of fighting.Thai and Cambodian leaders met in Malaysia on Monday and agreed to a ceasefire deal to halt their deadliest conflict in more than a decade that has killed at least 40 people, mostly civilians, and displaced over 300,000 in both countries.The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.Although Thailand's military said that there had been attacks by Cambodian troops in at least five locations early on Tuesday, violating the ceasefire that had come into effect from midnight, commanders from both sides met and held talks, a Thai army spokesman said.This includes negotiations between the general leading Thailand's 2nd region army, which oversees the stretch of the frontier that has seen the heaviest fighting during the conflict, and his Cambodian counterpart, Thai Major Gen. Winthai Suwaree told reporters.

The commanders, who met at the border, agreed to maintain the ceasefire, stop any troop movement, and facilitate the return of the wounded and dead bodies, he said."Each side will establish a coordinating team of four to resolve any problems," Winthai said.In Bangkok, Thailand's acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai, who travelled to the Malaysian capital to secure the truce deal, said he had spoken to Cambodia's defence minister and calm had returned to border area."There is no escalation," Phumtham told reporters. "Right now things are calm."Maly Socheata, a spokesperson for the Cambodian Defence Ministry, said at a briefing on Tuesday that there had been no new fighting along the border. Vehicular traffic and daily activity resumed in the Kantharalak district of Thailand's Sisaket province on Tuesday, about 30 km (20 miles) from the frontlines, where Thai and Cambodian troops remain amassed.Chaiya Phumjaroen, 51, said he returned to town to reopen his shop early on Tuesday, after hearing of the ceasefire deal on the news."I am very happy that a ceasefire happened," he said. "If they continue to fight, we have no opportunity to make money."

In Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey province, 63-year-old Ly Kim Eng sat in front of a makeshift tarpaulin shelter, waiting for directions after hearing of the ceasefire deal."So, if the authorities announce it is safe for all of the refugees to return home, I would immediately return," he said.TALKS



AND TRADEThe Southeast Asian neighbours have wrangled for decades over their disputed frontier and have been on a conflict footing since the killing of a Cambodian soldier in a skirmish late in May, which led to a troop buildup on both sides and a full-blown diplomatic crisis.Monday's peace talks came after a sustained push by Malaysian Premier Anwar Ibrahim and U.S. President Donald Trump, with the latter warning Thai and Cambodian leaders that trade negotiations would not progress if fighting continued.Thailand and Cambodia face a tariff of 36% on their goods in the U.S., their biggest export market, unless a reduction can be negotiated. After the ceasefire deal was reached, Trump said he had spoken to both leaders and had instructed his trade team to restart tariff talks.Pichai Chunhavajira, Thailand's finance minister, said on Tuesday that trade talks with Washington are expected to be concluded before August 1, and that U.S. tariffs on the country are not expected to be as high as 36%.The ceasefire deal reflected a rare convergence of interest between the U.S. and China, which also pushed for the talks, but the agreement itself remained fragile and third-party monitoring was essential to keep it in place, said Thitinan Pongsudhirak, a political scientist at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University."The ceasefire agreement has to be enforced," he said. "It cannot be left to Thailand and Cambodia to implement because the hostilities are running so deep now."Reporting by Panu Wongcha-um and Panarat Theppgumpanat in BANGKOK, Shoon Naing in KANTHARALAK and Zaw Naing Oo and Chantha Lach in ODDAR MEANCHEY; Additional reporting by Juarawee Kittisilpa and Chayut Setboonsarng in BANGKOK; Writing by Devijot Ghoshal; Editing by John Mair and Raju Gopalakrishnan

What to know about the shooting at a New York City office tower

GNS News Agency, August 7

A man with a rifle killed an off-duty New York City police officer and three other people before taking his own life at a Manhattan office tower on Monday (July 28, 2025), according to officials.Law enforcement officials were working to unravel what took place and why this location may have been targeted in a city that had recently announced it was on pace to have its fewest people hurt by gunfire than any year in recent decades.Here are some things to know:A man exited a double parked BMW with an M4 rifle and then walked toward the building on Monday (July 28, 2025) evening, according to surveillance video.He quickly opened fire on the NYPD officer as he entered the building before shooting a woman who tried to take cover, police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said at a news conference on Monday night. He then started "spraying" the lobby with gunfire. The man went to the elevator bank and shot a security guard who was taking cover behind a security desk and also another man in the lobby, Tisch said.The man took the elevator to the 33rd floor to a real estate management company and one person was shot and killed on that floor. The man then walked down a hallway and shot himself, she said.Police identified Shane Tamura of Las Vegas as the gunman, although his motive and reasoning for targeting the building was not immediately clear.

Tamura had a "documented mental health history," Tisch said.His vehicle had traveled across the U.S. through Colorado on July 26 and then Nebraska and Iowa on July 27. It arrived in Columbia, New Jersey, as recently as Monday afternoon, before making it to New York City, she



said.Officers found a rifle case, a revolver, magazines and ammunition in his car, Tisch said.No one answered the door at the address listed for Tamura in Las Vegas.Didarul Islam, 36, had served as a police officer in New York City for 3 1/2 years. He was an immigrant from Bangladesh.Islam was married and had two young boys, Tisch said. His wife is pregnant with their third child.The names of the other victims, along with a man who was seriously wounded and remains in critical condition, have not yet been released.The shooting took place at 345 Park Avenue, a commercial office building in a busy area of midtown that is just a short walk north from Grand Central Terminal and about a block east of St. Patrick's Cathedral.The building houses offices for companies including the NFL and real estate company Rudin, as well as finance companies KPMG and Blackstone. It also includes the consulate general of Ireland.

At least 34 killed in heavy rains and flooding in and near Beijing

GNS News Agency, August 7

Heavy rains and flooding killed 30 people in Beijing, China's capital, the country's state media reported on Tuesday (July 29, 2025), bringing the death toll from the storms in the region to at least 34.State broadcaster CCTV said that 28 people had died in Beijing's hard-hit Miyun district and two others in Yanqing district as of midnight. Both are outlying parts of the sprawling city, far from the downtown.Reports on Monday (July 28, 20925) said a landslide in neighboring Hebei province had killed four people, with eight other still missing.More than 80,000 people have been relocated in Beijing, including about 17,000 in Miyun, a CCTV online report said.The four victims in Hebei were caught in a landslide in a rural part of Luanning county. A resident told the state-backed Beijing News that communications were down and he couldn't reach his relatives.

Authorities released water from a reservoir in Miyun district that was at its highest level since it was built in 1959. Authorities warned people to stay away from rivers downstream as their levels rose and as more heavy rain was forecast.Heavy flooding washed away cars and downed power poles in Miyun, which borders Hebei's Luanping county.China's Premier Li Qiang said Monday that the heavy rain and flooding in Miyun caused "serious casualties," and called for rescue efforts, according to China's Xinhua News Agency.Uprooted trees lay in piles with their bare roots exposed in the town of Taishitun, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) northeast of central Beijing. Streets were covered with water, with mud left higher up on the wall."The flood came rushing in, just like that, so fast and suddenly. In no time at all, the place was filling up," said Zhuang Zhelin, who was clearing mud with his family from their building materials shop.Next door, Zhuang's neighbor Wei Zhengming, a traditional Chinese medicine practitioner, was shoveling mud in his clinic; his feet in slippers were covered in mud."It was all water, front and back. I didn't want to do anything. I just ran upstairs and waited for rescue. I remember thinking, if no one came to get us, we'd be in real trouble," said Wei.Beijing authorities launched a top-level emergency response at 8 p.m. Monday, ordering people to stay inside, closing schools, suspending construction work and stopping outdoor tourism and other activities until the



response is lifted.The heaviest rain in Beijing was expected early on Tuesday (July 29, 2025), with rainfall of up to 30 centimeters (12 inches) forecast for some areas.Another 10,000 people were evacuated from the nearby Jizhou district under the city of Tianjin, Xinhua reported.The central government said in a statement it had sent 50 million yuan (about \$7 million) to Hebei and dispatched a high-level team of emergency responders to help the affected cities, which include Chengde, Baoding and Zhangjiakou.

Renovation work begins at Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor's houses in Pakistan

Peshawar: The reconstruction and renovation work on the ancestral homes of legendary Indian actors Dilip Kumar and Raj Kapoor officially began in Pakistan's Peshawar city on Monday, according to officials.

The project is set to be completed in two years at an estimated cost of Rs 70 million, said Director of Archaeology Dr Abdus Samad. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government released the funds for the project, which includes structural and aesthetic restoration of the historical residences.

Shooting at Manhattan skyscraper leaves 5 dead, including gunman

GNS News Agency, August 7

NEW YORK, A gunman armed with an assault-style rifle killed four people inside a Manhattan skyscraper that houses the headquarters of the NFL and offices of several major financial firms and then shot himself dead, New York City officials said on Monday.The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

One of the four victims slain in the gun violence was a 36-year-old New York Police Department officer who immigrated to the U.S. from Bangladesh. Mayor Eric Adams described the officer, who had been on the force for about 3 1/2 years, as a "true blue" hero.Authorities offered few details about the three other victims killed by the suspect - two men and a woman. A third male was gravely wounded by the gunfire and was "fighting for his life" in a nearby hospital, the mayor said.New York Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said the gunman, identified as Shane Tamura, 27-year-old Las Vegas resident with a history of mental illness, had driven cross-country to New York in recent days.The gunman was believed to have acted alone, and investigators had yet to determine a possible motive for the shooting, Tisch told reporters at a late-night news briefing."Pure evil came to the heart of our city and struck innocent people and one of our police officers who were protecting those people," Patrick Hendry, president of the Police Benevolent Association, said at the press conference.

The slain policeman, Didarul Islam, a father of two whose wife is pregnant with a third child, was working at the time as part of an NYPD program that allows its uniformed patrol officers to be assigned as security detail in commercial establishments.The shooting spree in the evening rush hour began in the lobby of the Park Avenue tower in Midtown Manhattan, then shifted to the upper-story offices of a management company as the suspect took the elevator to the 33rd floor. The bloodshed came to an end when the gunman fatally shot himself in the chest, Tisch told reporters.

A photo of the suspect that CNN said was shared by police showing a gunman walking into the building carrying



a rifle was published by a number of major news media outlets. Preliminary checks of the suspect's background did not show a significant criminal history, the report added, citing officials.The skyscraper at 345 Park Avenue houses offices of a number of financial institutions, including Blackstone and KPMG, along with the headquarters of the National Football League.

A large police presence converged on the area around the tower, according to Reuters journalists near the scene."I just saw a lot of commotion and cops and people screaming," said Russ McGee, a 31-year-old sports bettor who was working out in a gym adjacent to the skyscraper, told Reuters in an interview near the scene.Kyle Marshall, 38, was working at a Morgan Stanley office in a nearby Park building when his mother texted him, alerting him to an active-shooter incident, and asked if he was OK.

"Then she texted me the address, and I was like, 'Oh my God. That's right next door to my building,' he said.Police kept Marshall and others inside that property on lockdown until after 8 p.m., he told Reuters. Marshall lives in the San Francisco area but comes to New York about once a month for work."It doesn't make me feel less safe to be in Manhattan," he said. "The police responded quickly."The FBI said agents from its New York field office were also responding to provide support at the scene.

When a tiger killed Shanti: What makes women vulnerable to tiger attacks in Corbett

Shanti Devi was attacked by a tiger, metres away from her home at Okhaldhunga in the Ramnagar forest division near Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand. Villagers say the 47-year-old was on a tree, cutting leaves for her horse, and was climbing down when the tiger caught her by the foot. Around 5.30 pm, her husband found her decapitated body and her sandals in the shrubs."Tigers have never attacked us before... They prey on goats and dogs; not humans. In fact, children from our village have to walk five km to reach the inter-college (for Classes 11 and 12). We often hear the tigers roar and it shakes the floor, but we never feared for our lives until now," says Shanti's mother-in-law Anuli Devi, 70.

Two days after the incident, the tiger was captured by the Forest Department and sent to the Corbett Rescue Centre.Since 2017, Ramnagar division has seen 12 deaths in attacks by tigers, of which seven were of women. In 2024, five deaths were reported near the Corbett buffer area — four of these victims were women and three of them from Dhela, a village in the buffer zone of the Corbett National Park. So far this year, there have been two deaths in tiger attacks in two days.Ramnagar Divisional Forest Officer Diganth Nayak says women often fall prey to tigers because they venture into forests to collect fodder for their cattle and firewood. "When women sit on their haunches to pick firewood and cut grass, tigers mistake them for prey," he says.The Corbett National Park, spread over 1,288.31 square kilometres and three districts — Pauri, Nainital, and Almora — is home to 260 tigers, making this the park with the highest density of tigers in the country, according to the Status of Tiger report 2022. According to data provided by Saket Badola, director, national park, there are nearly 46 villages with a combined population of 2,939 near the Corbett buffer zone.While a few youth are employed in homestays and resorts, most of the villages surrounding the park rely on dairy and subsistence farming. But with the produce of rice and wheat barely enough for their families and with frequent instances of animals raiding their crops, the villagers turn to the forests for firewood and minor forest produce. Since most of the men have migrated to the cities for work, it leaves the women to shoulder the foraging responsibilities.

tiger attack, jim corbett, uttarakhand news, indian express Villagers are seen bringing firewood from the jungle. According to officials, since men have migrated to cities in search of work, women are left to shoulder the foraging responsibilities.On a January morning, the forest department called a meeting at Dhela, a village on the road to one of the eight Corbett zones, to resolve this human-animal conflict and to find an answer to a prickly problem: how to stop women from venturing into the forests. At the meeting, Corbett Deputy Director Rahul Mishra's intervention — that legal action would be taken against villagers venturing into the forest — is met with anger."Our women go to the forest for livelihood and it can't be stopped. If you threaten to send us to jail, we will gladly go," a man seethes.

DFO Nayak shoots back, "You say you have been going to the forest for 20 years. Back then, there were 80 tigers. Now, there are over 260. We have to change our traditions. Nothing is more important than life."DFO Nayak finally tables a resolution: "Women can go out to fetch firewood, but in groups of 15, twice a week from each village, and our forest officials will accompany them. This will decrease the chances of an encounter." The officials also promise to bring fodder to the villages at nominal rates of Rs 2.50 per kg.

Why do women enter the forest?When the meeting ends, the women are the first to leave. Prema Mehra, 43, says the forest officials will stop accompanying them after two days. "They are more scared than us," she says, and her group of 10 women laugh loudly.

Mimicking the DFO at the meeting, she says, "'Is going to the forest for firewood more important than her life'? Of course we need firewood and where will we get that but from the forests? See, my husband earns Rs 400 a day as a driver at the safari park, but he does not get a ride daily. We have 1.2 acres on which we grow wheat but that's barely enough for us. Anyway, whatever little we grow has reduced drastically as animals keep raiding our crops. We cannot afford heaters or blowers. Firewood keeps us warm, heats our water, and helps us cook food. The government has given us gas cylinders, but who will pay us for refilling it every 20 days."Forest officials, however, say the women often illegally sell the firewood to homestays and resorts for Rs 300-400 during the winter season, when agriculture is on the wane.

Though, under the Forest Rights Act, villagers are allowed to collect and use minor forest produce, this is restricted to self-consumption. Only the Uttarakhand Forest Department Corporation is allowed to engage in the sale of timber, firewood, bamboo and minor minerals for public and industries."We have been asking the resorts not to buy from the villagers and have told them to produce the receipts of purchase from the Forest Corporation, yet, the practice continues," he says.Dr K Ramesh, scientist at the Wildlife In-



stitute of India and Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia, says the problem requires more than just policing and compensation when a casualty happens. "The government should figure out a regional land-use strategy with zoning — mark out human-use areas, core wildlife habitat, buffer zones, and corridors," he says.A kilometre away from the meeting ground, 76-year-old Devaki Devi is cutting grass on her small piece of land — fodder for her cow that's cooped up in a dilapidated shed. "Today, I will manage with this, but soon, we will have to go again to the forest," she says. A widow, Devaki's six sons work in towns and cities in other states.The burden of venturing out into the forests for foraging has been disproportionately shouldered by women over centuries.In conservationist Jim Corbett's fabled Man-Eaters of Kumaon, he mentions several instances of how women were vulnerable to tiger attacks as it was "their duty to fetch grass". During one of his days out on the lookout for a 'man-eater tiger', Corbett writes of a woman he saw in the forest. "Was there no man? Yes, there was a man, but he was in the fields ploughing, and in any case, it was the duty of women to fetch water," says the book published in 1944.

Shanti's mother-in-law Anuli says, "We have to go to the forest for our livelihood. We don't have a job. I had three goats which were eaten by the tiger once. The only source of income was the horse, but after Shanti's death, we gave it away," Anuli says.A neighbour, Muni Devi, says, "We have not stepped out of our homes in four days. We will not leave for two more days, uske baad phir se chaalu hoga (after that, we will go back to the forest)."In 2007, the Forest Department came up with a plan to stop women from venturing into the forest — teaching them to stitch tote bags that they can sell at the Corbett souvenir shop. This was in addition to a souvenir shop that was opened in 2022 and a bakery a year later. However, villagers say the tote bag scheme has been stuck for the last three years.A hike in compensation for deaths caused by animal attacks — in Uttarakhand, it is currency Rs 6 lakh — has been a continuous demand by villagers. They cite the case of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, where governments award Rs 25 lakh in similar situations.Dr Ramesh of the Wildlife Institute of India, however, says compensation schemes are known to be counterproductive. "In Maharashtra, there have been cases of old people being thrown inside forests for families to get compensation money. There need to be long-term solutions. The reasons that drive women to risk their lives need to be studied," he says.

Girls in the villagesWhile it's hard to keep their mothers out, the younger girls in these villages hope they would never have to venture inside the forests.

Though her father dropped out of school after Class 10 and mother after Class 5, Lalita Mehra, 22, has an MSc in Botany. She is now in Dehradun, preparing for an exam that will take her closer to her goal of being a forester. "There were no colleges near our village that offered a PCB combination (Physics, Chemistry, Biology), so I went to Dehradun. When I called my family two days ago, they told me that a man was killed by a tiger three km away from our village. I have been pleading with my mother not to go to the forests," she says.Her sister Babita says that after Class 12, she plans to leave the village to prepare for a defence personnel test. An aunt, she says, was killed in a tiger attack 18 years ago. "We girls will put an end to this practice of going to the forest," she insists.At Okhaldhunga, Shanti Devi's 23-year-old daughter-in-law Kiran says she has never ventured inside the forest. A Bachelor of Pharmacy student, Kiran shakes her head when asked if she goes to the forest. "I will never go. I live in Almora for my studies and visit the village every two weeks. Now with my mother-in-law's death, there is no one at home to look after my father-in-law, so everything is uncertain. But I am certain that I do not want to do this work. I will look for a job in the local anganwadi after graduation," she says.But the mothers are not listening. Around 4 pm on Saturday, armed with a sickle, Anita Devi, 31, prepares to leave for the forest, a routine she hasn't missed in 15 years. "We are going to work, but there is fun in going together. Nothing will happen to us," she says, calling out to her friends in Kumaoni.

Actress Anupama Parameswaran inaugurates Viyara Fine Silver Jewellery in Jubilee Hills



Hyderabad: Viyara on Saturday announced the opening of its first flagship showroom at Pillar No. 1604, Jubilee Hills Check-Post. Designed to provide an immersive luxury shopping experience, the store will showcase Viyara's collection of handcrafted fine silver jewellery in a sophisticated and inviting setting, a press release said.

The showroom was inaugurated by actor Anupama Parameswaran, Kommuri Pratap Reddy, former MLA, SV Krishna Reddy, film director, Justice Dr VRKK Sagar,

Judge, High Court of AP Amaravati, P Venkateswarlu, Chairman of Value Zone Hyper Mart, South India Shopping Mall, RS Brothers, Honer Homes, Narayani silks, De Royal along with Managing Director V Lalith Kumar.

"Every detail, from the store's contemporary design to the curated jewellery, reflects Viyara's commitment to offering customers an unparalleled 75 years of experience in the jewellery industry from Vijayawada's Bhama Emporio, said V Lalith Kumar, Managing Director of Viyara.

‘Seeing his body might weaken my resolve’– In Chhattisgarh, a man’s legal fight to give his father a Christian burial

It's been three weeks since his pastor father died, but Ramesh Baghel, 45, a farmer from village Chhindwada in Chhattisgarh's Maoist-hit Bastar has resolved not to see or move the body — kept at a mortuary in Jagdalpur — until he fulfils the former's wish: of being buried in the village graveyard next to the rest of his family.On January 18, over 10 days after his father Subhash breathed his last, Baghel moved the Supreme Court asking to be allowed to have him buried in the village graveyard — a move intensely opposed by various village groups. His appeal to the court, which is expected to give its ruling on January 27, came after the Chhattisgarh High Court dismissed his petition on January 9 saying it "may cause unrest and disharmony in public at large".

Chhindwada, the village where Ramesh's father Subhash — a local pastor — was born and raised in, is a tribal majority village of 6,450 people, according to government records. While 6,000 of these are tribal families, the remaining residents belong to the Dalit Mahara caste — including Ramesh's family. According to various estimates, the village has over 100 Christians — mostly Mahara but also tribals.For just over a year, however, the issue of burials appears to have divided the village, with many village residents that The Indian Express spoke to considering Christian funerary rituals as posing a threat to the "Rudi Parampara" — a set of tribal sentiments, traditions and cultural values. On February 7, 2024, the Gram Sabha passed a resolution forbidding a village burial for those who have given up the Rudi Parampara and converted to other religions.The resolution wasn't limited to tribal converts but also applied to Dalit Maharas such as Baghel. As a result, Ramesh now faces "social non-cooperation" — a punitive punishment the resolution prescribes for "violators". "Life has become a nightmare," Ramesh, a school dropout who travelled 450 km to attend the hearing at Chhattisgarh HC, says. "Slowly, people stopped coming to the (now-closed) grocery store that my father had opened and I can't get labourers to work in my farm.... I live in a joint family with my wife, two brothers, their wives and six children, but now we have no source of income."Tribal belief versus religious identityAccording to village residents, Ramesh's grandfather Lakheshwar and his family — including his father — were among the village's first Christian converts back in 1980s. Ramesh talks about the reformation his father underwent since they converted to Christianity. "My father and grandfather were both alcoholics. Villagers tell me my father used to beat and abuse my mother. But due to Christianity, they came in touch with good people and slowly their bad habits stopped. We saw a massive change in my father, and our family progressed from having a cycle to owning cars," he says.

The village has between 7-10 graveyards — one for each of its varied caste groups. A visit to one of the graveyards shows a number of Christian headstones.Among those are Ramesh's grandfather Lakheshwar, who died in 2007, and a paternal aunt who died in 2015. "They were given Christian burials. No one objected back then," he says.Through a 13-point resolution last February, Chhindwada Gram Sabha forbade village burials for anyone who does not follow the Rudi Parampara, and warned of "social non-cooperation" and a fine to those villagers not only seen as challenging village traditions but also those "working" with such alleged transgressors.As a result, there was a row over the burial of a Christian woman, Pachami Bais, with the standoff only ending when the family agreed to bury her without a cross on her tombstone.Sukram Kashyap, 63, a government teacher whose wife is the sarpanch of Chhindwada 2 — one of three villages that comes under the Chhindwada Gram Panchayat — says the resolution was aimed at "protecting the tribal identity". "Although there has been a growing resentment against religious conversions for years, the majority began to feel it when the converted villagers, including tribals, stopped participating



in our 'Rudi Parampara' (cultural and traditional activities) and even stopped believing in our 'Dev Gudi' (the tribal sacred stone), worshipped by tribals as well as Maharas. They stopped taking our prasad (offerings) and refused to attend festivals and marriage rituals... The village finally decided that since they gave up their identity and accepted a new one, they must not be allowed to use our graveyard either," Kashyap says.The second flashpoint came last October, when Eshwar Nag, a Christian native of Chhindawada, died in Sukma's Tongapal village, and his cousin Jaldev Andhkury, a 42-year-old pastor from the village, buried the body there. This led to a heated argument with villagers, and Andhkury and six of his family were eventually arrested."We were in jail for four days. I still don't know the charges against me. But the villagers have approached the high court to get my brother's body exhumed." Jaldev told The Indian Express. The Bastar Police confirm the arrest, but claim it was "preventive custody".

The issue once again resurfaced after Subhash's death this month. When word of his demise spread, a crowd — including Sukram Kashyap — gathered at his house to prevent his burial. "One sarpanch pati told me: 'You are Christian and so you cannot bury your father here' and the police were called. But even in their presence, the villagers warned me against burying my father. The police as well as tehsildar supported them," he says.But police claim it "never picked sides". "We heard a Christian person has died and rushed to the spot and ensured no untoward incident occurs," one officer said. Tehsildar Deepika Dehari, meanwhile, claimed that authorities had "no role in it".

On their part, Christian groups such as the Grahmin Isai Seva Samiti and the Progressive Christian Alliance see this as "the right-wing's attempts to provoke tribal sentiments and cause communal issues". They are also seeking a burial space for Christians at the block level. "They want to divide our village on religious lines," Grahmin Isai Seva Samiti vice-president Nukesh Baghel says.But Chhindwada 1 Deputy Sarpanch and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Rameshwar Nag dismisses these allegations. Instead, he associates the issue with tribal rights and reservation. "Tribals don't see themselves as part of any religion, although there are some similarities with Hinduism... Villagers here don't like that some people have given up in the tribal culture and have forgotten our ancestors, which will ultimately take away our tribal identity and affect our rights under Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act (PESA) of 1996 and the reservation that comes with it," he says.But for Ramesh, the row has already extracted its toll — it has severely affected his mental health and cost him close friends."My childhood friends aren't speaking to me. Since my father's death, I've had many sleepless nights," he says. "I have no appetite and every interview with the press brings back bad memories. At home, we wonder if it's such a big crime to be Christians that Bastar people are willing to accept dead Maoists, criminals and rapists but not us."His lawyer Degree Prasad Chouhan, claims this is one of "countless incidents going on in the Bastar region for the last few years."The main factor behind this is the misuse of the PESA and its rules by villagers backed by right wing groups," he says.

Our tax system retards growth. It's time for an overhaul

The month of January is named after the ancient Roman God Janus, who is depicted as having two faces — one facing forward and the other backward. This symbolises the importance of looking back at the year gone by and simultaneously looking ahead at the new unfolding year. It's a time for deep introspection and understanding the lessons learnt so that the coming year can be planned for course correction.

Looking back at 2024, the decisions taken at the 55th GST Council are a symptom of slipping back to the old harmful habits of chronic tinkering with individual rates, promptly overruling any adverse Supreme Court ruling and very high rates of tax that on the one hand suppress demand and dampen growth, and on the other, are an incentive for tax evasion and a thriving parallel/black economy.

In 2014, the late Arun Jaitley termed retrospective taxation "tax terrorism". Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also condemned this practice on more than one occasion. But the 55th GST Council has now recommended a retrospective tax amendment to nullify a recent Supreme Court judgment that would have resulted in granting input tax credit to warehouses and infrastructure projects. The nature of the dispute, the judgment and the impact of the proposed retrospective amendment from July 1, 2017 merit a separate article. What is retrograde is the message being sent to the business world: We will first deny you relief, if you still fight us for several years and up to the Supreme Court and succeed, we will simply reduce the judgment to a nullity by a retrospective amendment. If we win in court, fine; if we lose, we will still win by a retrospective amendment. Sadly, the GST department may succeed in recovering a few additional crores of GST by the amendment. But the collateral damage to India's reputation as an investment decision is staggering. Apart from disrespecting your own Supreme Court, the message conveyed is the absence of the rule of law. The Vodafone verdict was a golden opportunity to showcase India as a rare developing nation where court verdicts are respected and the rule of law prevails. The ill-advised retrospective amendment to nullify that judgment resulted in an international award of Rs 8000 crore, which India had to pay. It is time to have a new year's resolution: No more retrospective amendments. The fatal flaw in the functioning of the GST Council is the single-minded focus on revenue maximisation. The department repeatedly has news items published that only report tax evasion — often with exaggerated claims. No attempt is made to rationalise rates, cut down complicated notifications and circulars, check arbitrary and exaggerated demands through show-cause notices and create a fair and impartial appellate system.It is morally unfair and economically disastrous to levy GST on various goods and services but deny them input tax credit.



In particular, the GST Council must seriously rethink the levying of GST on lease rentals, on assignment of leasehold rights, and joint development rights as these are neither goods nor services. This will be a huge boost to the real estate sector and, indeed, the economy if there is no GST on any activity other than works' contracts. It is paradoxical to speak of affordable housing but make it unaffordable by multiple taxes.It is necessary to have careful empirical studies of the impact of high taxes on consumption. Will lowering of taxes stimulate demand, eventually resulting in larger tax collection? Will lowering of taxes enable Indian companies to compete with similar Chinese products? For example, why cannot there be a single rate of 12 per cent on all hotels and restaurants instead of multiple rates based on room tariffs and other parameters? Will a maximum rate of 18 per cent on cement reduce the cost of affordable housing and infrastructure projects?High rates of tax, a complicated system of exemption and concessions, and an overarching focus on revenue collection were the hallmarks of our direct and indirect tax system from 1950 to 1990. This socialist mindset crippled the Indian economy and led to the 1991 liberalisation that gave a boost to the economy. Looking back over the last few years, there are several signs that we are once again getting back to the old retrograde system that is a paradise for lawyers, chartered accountants and revenue officers but a nightmare for businesses.The adverse consequences are clear: Imports from China have increased from \$70 billion in 2018-19 to \$100 billion in 2023-24, the share of manufacturing has slipped to below 15 per cent of our GDP, and the further sliding of the rupee is now taken for granted.The present system retards growth and discourages fresh investment. This leads to lower revenue collection, which is then sought to be remedied by higher taxes, which, in turn, leads to lower growth. The dangers of such a downward spiral are real and require urgent attention.The GST Council and, indeed,

To further tech manufacturing, India rethinks China blockade



Nearly half a decade ago, India adopted a ‘China-out’ strategy of sorts, in response to the border clashes in 2020, introduced an anti-Beijing foreign investment policy, and kept Chinese firms out of critical sectors like telecommunications. Now, however, necessitated by changing geopolitical dynamics, following US President Donald Trump’s unprecedented onslaught on global trade, and India’s own manufacturing ambitions, New Delhi is under-taking a serious rethink on the existing strategy, and is strongly considering particularly easing China-based entities’ entry into the country, with some riders.

The most recent sign of the thaw came in the form of a recommendation made by the government think tank Niti Aayog, earlier this month, to ease India’s foreign direct investment (FDI) rules, which involves government scrutiny into investments made by Chinese firms. Earlier, the Economic Survey 2023-24 had sprung a surprise by advocating attracting investments from Chinese companies to boost exports. India had earlier put restrictions on investments from China through Press Note 3 in April 2020 to curb potential opportunistic takeovers of Indian companies during the Covid-19 pandemic by making a government approval mandatory for all investments from countries sharing a land border with India, including China. It continued to be in force in the wake of national security concerns due to border tensions after the Galwan clash.

There have been some signs that India is slowly, but surely, allowing Chinese companies to partner with Indian entities. Dixon Technologies, which is a major Indian electronics assembly company, received approval from the IT Ministry to set up a joint venture with China-based Longcheer. The new company will focus on manufacturing and supplying a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, tablets, true wireless stereo (TWS) devices, smartwatches, AI-powered PCs, automotive electronics, and healthcare devices. Dixon will hold 74 per cent in the

JV, and the remaining 26 per cent will be with Longcheer.

“We can not continue to avoid China. The truth is, they make things which we need for our assembly operations, and if we want to go deeper into the supply chain, our companies have to work with Chinese companies,” a senior government official said. The IT Ministry, earlier this year, notified a Rs 23,000 crore policy for electronic components manufacturing, and it is widely anticipated that Indian firms would partner with Chinese entities to participate in the scheme, given the expertise they have. Recently, India also resumed issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals as part of a broader effort to repair bilateral ties. Earlier this month, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to China where he had underlined that “differences should not become disputes” nor should “competition ever become conflict” and that while India and China have made good progress in the past nine months towards the normalisation of bilateral relations, they should work to address de-escalation on the border.

Of course, while the government managed to keep China out in some sectors like finished smartphones, imports from the country continued, particularly for a number of electronic components, which are crucial for the final assembly process in India, but for which New Delhi has little to no production base. The Indian Express had earlier reported that the financial year 2023-24, India imported electronic components worth over \$12 billion from China and \$6 billion from Hong Kong, with the two accounting for more than half of total such imports to India – suggesting that the country’s growing footprint in electronics manufacturing was not necessarily into reduced reliance on Beijing. In the last five years, electronics imports from China and Hong Kong have far outnumbered imports from other major manufacturing hubs like South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and all ASEAN countries, combined. China, for its own part, and seeing India’s growing manufacturing footprint, also imposed restrictions on its companies, making it harder for them to do business with Indian firms. For instance, India’s share in US smartphone imports surged to nearly 36 per cent in the first five months of 2025, from about 11 per cent in 2024. China, which continues to dominate the product category, saw its share drop from 82 per cent to 49 per cent over the same period, this paper had reported earlier. China’s actions include pulling workers out of India, and making it more difficult for India-based manufacturing companies to obtain capital goods, which are needed for the assembly process. China has also imposed a blockade on several rare earth metals and magnets, and while the prime target of that restriction is the United States, India has found itself caught in the crosshairs.

Jane Street seeks more time from Sebi to respond to July 3 interim order

GNS News Agency, August 7

New York-based proprietary trading firm Jane Street on Monday asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) more time to respond to July 3 interim order, which accused the group of engaging in manipulative trading practices. “We are engaging constructively with Sebi and have sought an extension to respond to the interim order issued on July 3,” Jane Street group said in a statement. The group said it is committed to conduct that upholds the integrity of India’s capital markets and contributes to their continued development.

On July 3, the Sebi ordered the seizure of alleged Rs 4,843.57 crore ‘illegal gains’ Jane Street made through manipulative trading in Nifty futures. The markets regulator also barred the firm from participating in any securities trading until the amount was recovered. In its interim order, Sebi had given 21 days (from July 3) to Jane Street to file their reply or objections. In response to the Sebi order, the US firm, on July 14, deposited Rs 4,843.57 crore in an escrow account with a lien in favour of the regulator. The group clarified that the deposit was made without prejudice to its legal rights and remedies, which it intends to pursue. Following



the deposit of the money, Sebi permitted Jane Street to resume operations on July 21. However, the US firm will stay away from trading in both the options and cash markets until it resolves several issues with the regulator, a report by Reuters had said. Jane Street, a major player in India’s derivatives space, had strongly rejected Sebi’s allegations. In internal communications, the firm called the regulator’s claims “extremely inflammatory” and said it was deeply disappointed.

With ONDC in place, separate national retail policy takes a backseat



As various interventions have been made by the government, such as the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), which provides open access to retailers, a separate national retail policy may not be a top government priority at the moment, The Indian Express has learned.

“A policy is a set of actions, and those actions are already being taken. Timely interventions are happening on a regular basis, such as the setting up of the National Traders Welfare Board and the launch of the ONDC platform. There is no need for a separate policy for retail trade right now,” a source tracking the matter told The Indian Express. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry told Parliament in 2023 that a draft National Retail Trade Policy had been prepared, based on consultations with state governments and major industry and trade associations. The draft focused on preparing strategies for the overall development of retail trade through targeted efforts to promote ease of doing business in the retail sector.

The policy was expected to introduce several measures to reduce the compliance burden, enhance ease of access to credit, and decriminalise minor offences for all formats of retail trade. “Special emphasis is placed on assessing the requirement of licences, removing renewal requirements, inspection reforms, facilitating public service delivery, and the creation of a single-window facilitation mechanism,” a parliamentary response said. India’s retail sector contributes nearly 12 per cent to the gross value added (GVA) to overall GDP, making retail the country’s third-largest sector. Experts have said that India currently lacks a single cohesive policy governing all retail formats, which creates ‘pockets of imbalance between retail formats’ and hampers the sector’s growth.

While some states like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka have introduced their own policies, a comprehensive national approach is missing, leaving other states governed by “outdated and unclear regulations”. An overarching policy is considered one of the most “significant and urgent challenges”, according to a CII report in 2018, prior to the development of the draft retail policy in 2021. “A national policy can encourage the modernisation of in-store operations and standardise back-end infrastructure development by providing financial assistance, subsidies, and tax breaks, and improving access to capital. This modernisation process is expected to lead to more cost-efficient supply chains, improved labour productivity, and savings for end customers,” the report said. Ravi Dutta Mishra is a Principal Correspondent with The Indian Express, covering policy issues related to trade, commerce, and banking. He has over five years of experience and has previously worked with Mint, CNBC-TV18, and other news outlets.

Kinetic re-enters two-wheeler market with electric DX scooter

New Delhi: Kinetic Engineering on Monday announced its re-entry into the two-wheeler space and said it aims to invest around Rs 177 crore over the next 18 months to scale up sales network and ramp up production. The Pune-based firm, which used to produce and sell the iconic scooter Kinetic DX from 1984 till 1998, aspires to be among the leaders in the electric two-wheeler space over the next three years.

The company on Monday launched Kinetic DX scooter in an electric avatar with an estimated range of 116 km on a single charge. In an interaction with PTI, Kinetic Engineering Vice Chairman and Managing Director Ajinkya Firodia said the company aims to scale up the production and sales network in a phased manner. “We aim to touch 1.5 lakh unit sales mark in the next 3-4 years, and to sell that number we would require around 300 dealerships,” Firodia said. The company plans to produce around 40,000 units by August 2026 and then gradually scale up production, he added. “The company aims to achieve a 6-8 per cent market share in the next three years, targeting the top three players in the segment,”

Can the shape and size of your banana stem reveal more about its taste?



If you love eating bananas, you might wanna listen up! According to digital creator Suman Ranganath, the stem of a banana can share insights into the taste and flavour of the fruit inside the skin! In the caption of her reel, she mentioned that “the shorter stem bananas are naturally more sweet and has more flavour!” Is it really true? Indianexpress.com spoke to experts to verify the statement.

Clinical dietitian Ridhima Gupta shared that there is no evidence that represents any relation between the length of banana stem and its taste. According to her, the factors on which the taste of bananas depends are its color, ripeness, whether it is plump, bruised or split, and the presence or absence of dull gray undertones. “If you want to consume them immediately, choose bright yellow bananas with little to no green around the ends. Some light brown speckling, a sign of ripeness and sweetness, is okay,” she said. However, if you want to take your sweet time and eat them in a couple of days, she suggested opting for bright-yellow bananas with more green at the ends. When stored at room temperature, they’ll ripen over a couple of days, she added.

Can these drinks help overcome your vitamin B12 deficiency?

“Vitamin B12 is mostly found in animal-derived foods”, says Kanikka Malhotra, Consultant Dietician & Diabetes Educator. As a result, people who eat a plant-based diet, such as vegans and severe vegetarians, are more likely to be deficient in vitamin B12. While not a primary source of B12, several plant-based milk replacements are fortified with this vital nutrient. The amount of B12 added to plant-based milk also varies significantly. Relying entirely on plant-based milk for B12 may not be sufficient. A varied plant-based diet including “fortified cereals, nutritional yeast, and other B12 supplements” is frequently suggested. The recommended B12 consumption varies according to age, gender, and overall health. Individuals with a B12 deficiency may require higher quantities than individuals with appropriate levels.

Do these drinks help?

Unfortunately, no, says Kanikka. Solely relying on plant-based drinks cannot help combat your vitamin B12 deficiency. Fruit juices like “orange or pomegranate do not contain significant amounts of vitamin B12”. This essential vitamin is primarily found in animal-based foods. While lassi is a refreshing and nutritious drink, it is also not a significant source of vitamin B12. If you’re concerned about deficiency, consulting a qualified dietitian is crucial for personalised guidance. Incorporate folate-rich foods like leafy greens (spinach, kale, collard greens), legumes (lentils, chickpeas, black beans), and fruits such as oranges, bananas, and avocados into your diet.

2. Vitamin B6 Sources

Non-citrus fruits like bananas, along with nuts and seeds such as sunflower seeds and pistachios, are also great sources

3. Vitamin C-Rich Foods

To enhance nutrient absorption, especially of non-heme iron, include vitamin C-rich foods like citrus fruits (oranges, grapefruits, lemons), berries (strawberries, blueber-

ries), and vegetables such as bell peppers and broccoli. Vitamin C’s role in boosting iron absorption is particularly important for those who rely on fortified foods for their B12 intake.

What are the health benefits associated with bananas?

“Banana fruit is a rich source of important phytonutrients, including vitamins and phenolic compounds. It is also notably enriched with minerals, such as phosphorus, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, copper, zinc and manganese,” shared Gupta. According to her, the utilization of banana as an ingredient in different food products as well as incorporation in recipe helps improves the total dietary fibre, resistant starch, total starch and provides some essential minerals (phosphorus, magnesium, potassium and calcium). Agarwal shared that bananas are rich in vitamin A, C and B6 (pyridoxine), which help with anti ageing, improve skin and a better our sleep cycle. “Bananas contains good amounts of Tryptophan a mood relieving neurotransmitter which produces the happy hormone serotonin,” she added.



4. Calcium-Containing Foods

For overall bone health and to support B12 in nerve transmission, include calcium-rich foods in your diet. Dairy products like milk, cheese, and yogurt are excellent sources, as are fortified plant-based milks, tofu, and orange juice. Leafy greens such as kale and collard greens also provide a healthy dose of calcium.

5. Probiotic Foods

Maintaining a healthy gut microbiome is essential for nutrient absorption, including B12. Incorporate probiotic-rich foods like yogurt with live cultures, kefir, sauerkraut, kimchi, miso, and tempeh into your diet to support gut health.

6. Magnesium-Rich Foods

Magnesium plays a key role in many biochemical reactions, including those involving B12. To ensure adequate magnesium intake, include nuts and seeds like almonds, cashews, and pumpkin seeds, as well as legumes like black beans and lentils. If you’re concerned about deficiency, consulting a qualified dietitian is crucial for personalised guidance.

Swap your sunny side ups with water eggs for a healthy breakfast option



Love eggs for breakfast but want to switch to a healthier option? Swap your fried eggs for ones made with water! Dr Michelle Davenport’s Instagram post highlights that how we cook our eggs is gradually making us sicker. She suggested opting for water-based cooking methods to lower our risks of chronic diseases and premature ageing. How can you make water eggs Measure the volume of the eggs you are using. Beat the eggs until smooth.

Add double the volume of warm water (2:1 water to eggs ratio). Add a sprinkle of salt. Mix. Pour mixture through a sieve into a heat-safe, shallow bowl that will fit into your steamer. Cover the bowl with a heat-safe plate. This recipe will make 2 bowls and you can cook them individually or together depending on the size of your steamer.

Steam for 10-12 minutes on low heat.

Remove and cut into squares, then add toppings. Ved Gautam, Executive Chef, For Earth’s Sake Cafe, said that water eggs refer to those cooked using steam or water instead of being fried in oil or butter. The process of making water eggs is often compared to poaching or steaming, resulting in eggs that are tender and lower in fat compared to traditionally fried eggs. “These are made in a pan or a steamer where a small amount of water is added to the pan and brought to a boil or simmer, in case of the steamer water is heated enough to get the steam rolling. Then eggs are either cracked directly or through a bowl. The pan or steamer is covered and cooked until the egg is set to one’s liking,” he explained. Not to be confused with poached eggs, which involves cracking an egg into simmering water and cooking it until the whites are firm but the yolk remains runny, celebrity chef Ananya Banerjee points out that steamed are considered a healthier alternative to regular fried eggs because they are cooked using water or steam, avoiding the added fats that come with frying. Gautam agrees, mentioning that this way of cooking doesn’t use

any additional fat of any kind such as oil, butter, lard, chicken fat, or bacon fat. This also lowers the overall calorie count of the meal and is better for heart health for the same reasons. “This way of cooking eggs also preserves the nutritional composition better than cooking over direct heat. Chances of overcooking or burning the eggs also reduce considerably,” he added.

Hyderabad based space-tech startup Stardour successfully test-fires India’s first Hydrogen-Oxygen Propulsion



Hyderabad: Stardour, a stealth-mode Indian space-tech startup, has successfully completed the test fire of India’s first hydrogen and oxygen propulsion engine, developed in house by Stardour and tested at Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. This milestone positions Stardour at the forefront of advanced, sustainable propulsion systems, paving the way for the future of space mobility and deep-space logistics, a press release said. Founded with a vision to redefine in-space transportation, Stardour is developing Lucas, a next generation Orbital Transfer Vehicle (OTV) designed to conduct scientific and commercial expeditions across Low Earth Orbit (LEO), Geostationary Orbit (GEO), the Moon, Mars, and beyond. Lucas is scheduled for its maiden launch in Q3 2027, marking a significant leap in India’s private space capabilities.

Hari Hara Veera Mallu director reacts to trolling for poor VFX in Pawan Kalyan's film, blames audience for nitpicking: 'No one said it's boring'



Actor-politician Pawan Kalyan returned to the big screen after a gap of two years with Hari Hara Veera Mallu. The film opened with a bang at the box office, but has since seen a free fall in numbers. Apart from its lukewarm commercial performance, it is also being criticised for its shoddy VFX. Now, in a recent interaction, the film's director Jyothi

Krisna admitted the flaws but called them a "minor issue." Speaking to ABN, Jyothi blamed the audience for nitpicking and defended his film, claiming that no one has called it "boring." He said, "When they nitpicked, all they could find was that the CGI and VFX were bad in some places. No one could point out the story and screenplay, or say it's boring, or that they can't understand it. There are 4400 shots in the film that required CGI. I knew in my heart that a few shots weren't up to par, but it wasn't something huge. We needed to hold special premieres for which tickets were sold out, and they turned that minor issue into something major."

Jyothi also shared that he thinks people are trolling his film because they believe targeting famous people gets them views. He said, "Anyone will troll only those who are in the limelight. People only get views when they write about someone famous. I do not take any of the negativity to heart. Every single day, I see something negative being written about Hari Hara Veera Mallu. This is not the first time a film has taken this long to produce." Hari Hara Veera Mallu has largely received negative reviews from critics. The film opened at the box office with Rs 34.75 crore on Thursday but saw a 76% drop the next day, earning only Rs 8 crore. The film witnessed a minor increase in collections over its first weekend, but saw a steep fall on Monday, earning just Rs 2.32 crore. The film is directed by Krish and Jyothi Krisna and also stars Nidhi Agerwal and Bobby Deol in key roles.

Karisma Kapoor's ex-mother-in-law still doesn't know how son Sunjay Kapur died, demands closure amid Rs 30,000 crore family feud: 'I need closure before I go'

The late businessman Sunjay Kapur's mother, Rani Kapur, has offered further comments amid an ongoing family feud over his estate. Her comments come days after she alleged that she was coerced into signing documents in a moment of weakness, and after Sunjay's widow, Priya Sachdev, was appointed as a 'non-executive director' at the family's auto parts manufacturing company, Sona Comstar. In an interview with the news agency ANI, Rani Kapur said that she is uncertain about how her son died, implying that she has her suspicions. Sunjay died in June in a freak accident while playing polo, when he went into cardiac arrest after swallowing a bee. His last rites were performed in New Delhi. Rani Kapur said, "I still don't know what happened to my son. I'm old now, and I need closure before I go. I may be old and frail, but my memory of being with my husband when Sona was set up is strong. I remember the early days of Sona, built with care, sacrifice, and love. I'm here to remind the world that our family legacy must not be lost. It must be passed on as my husband always wanted it to be. Given my health and my age, I will not be making any further comments. My legal team will address everything necessary." Some days ago, she had alleged that she was "compelled to sign various documents without explanation" after her son's death, and that "certain people" were positioning themselves as representatives of the family. Priya Sachdev was subsequently appointed a 'non-executive director' of Sona Comstar by the board. She has since changed her social media handle from 'Priya Sachdev Kapur' to 'Priya Sunjay Kapur'. Her daughter from her previous marriage to Vikram Chatwal, Safira, has dropped her surname on social media as well.

Sunjay and Priya tied the knot in 2017, and had one son, Azarius. He was previously married to Bollywood star Karisma Kapoor, with whom he had two children, daughter Samaira and son Kiaan. In an interview mere weeks before his death, Priya spoke about their blended family. "Sunjay and I had many conversations. I told him, let's invite Lolo for tea. That tea led to a dinner and eventually, she joined us on family holidays because the kids requested it. I did wonder – would she feel comfortable? Would I? Could I be myself in pajamas, sipping coffee? But after a few such



gatherings, it all became very natural," she said on the Kin and Kindness podcast. Sunjay, on the other hand, had said on a podcast a few months before his death that he'd drawn a 10-year plan. "When I drew up my 10-year plan, I actually wrote down the broad strokes of work-related and non-work related, foundation-related... I flushed out 2025 to define what I will do. I'm not the sort of person who can sit around without a packed schedule. It's a great luxury to be the master of your own time," he said on the Indian Silicon Valley podcast.

The market cap of Sona Comstar is close to Rs 30,000 crore, and 72% of its shares are held by the public and 28% (Rs 8,200 crore) of its shares are held by its corporate promoter, Aureus Investments Private Limited. In a letter shared with the board ahead of an annual general meeting, Rani Kapur had written, "I was approached multiple times and compelled to sign various documents without explanation or even having time to read and understand the same. Despite being under immense mental and emotional distress, I was coerced into signing such documents behind locked doors... the contents of such documents have never been revealed to me. Please also take note that I have been totally denied access to my accounts and have been left to the mercy of a select few for survival. All this, in less than a month of my only son passing away. It is unfortunate that while the family and I are still in mourning, some people have chosen this as an opportune time to wrest control and usurp the family legacy." Rani Kapur has claimed that her late husband, in a will, had made her the sole beneficiary of Sona Comstar before his death in 2015.

Mukesh Khanna calls Mahabharat co-stars 'chhichhoras', says Ravi Chopra once said 'a real man is someone who has affairs'

Actor Mukesh Khanna, who remains best known for playing Bhishma on the popular television adaptation of the Mahabharat, and the titular character on the superhero show Shaktimaan, spoke poorly about his co-stars on the mythological drama series, which aired on Doordarshan for nearly 100 episodes. Mahabharat ran from 1988 to 1990, and was created by BR Chopra, who also directed the series alongside his son, Ravi Chopra. Mahabharat debuted a year after Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan. In a new interview, Mukesh Khanna said that his Mahabharat co-stars were mostly 'chhichhoras', and recalled that Ravi Chopra once declared that a man's worth should be gauged on the number of affairs he has had.

Appearing on the VTV Gujarat YouTube channel, he said that Indian culture is being eroded. Speaking about adultery and a lack of commitment in relationships, he continued, "I am more comfortable with my work than with affairs. I still remember something that Ravi Chopra said... I laugh about it, I'm not bothered by it... The entire cast of Mahabharat, forgive me, was filled with 'chhichhoras'. Arjun, Duryodhan, you name them... I was the odd one out. Ravi Chopra would say, 'The man who has the most affairs is a real man'. The number of affairs you have doesn't define you as a man. A real man is someone who takes care of his family." He said that the team behind the show gradually understood that he wasn't going to align with their views. He continued, "A Gujarati actress who worked on Mahabharat was once asked about her co-stars, and she said, 'Mukesh Khanna is a prince among frogs.'" He was then asked about the final day of filming, when the cast broke down in tears and hugged each other. Behind-the-scenes visuals from set have been circulated online. Mukesh Khanna mocked actors Nitish Bharadwaj and Firoz Khan for weeping on set, and said, "You can see in the video as



well that I am keeping my distance. They were crying and wiping each other's tears, but I was amused. My shoot had ended a little earlier..." But he admitted that everyone was emotional because the experience had forged a bond between them. Previously, Mukesh had declined to appear on a Mahabharat reunion episode of Kapil Sharma's show. He has had beef with both Kapil, who slighted him at an event, and with Yudhishtir actor Gajendra Chauhan, with whom he has had a public war of words in the past. "Bhishma Pitamah ke bina Mahabharat kahaan hoti hai? (Mahabharat is incomplete without Bhishma Pitamah). Arjun, Krishna, Duryodhana went, everybody went. Yudhishtira also went and somewhere he gave a statement that, 'Mukesh ji ko toh bulaya hi nahi tha (Mukesh ji was not invited), they needed people who have a sense of humour,' I said, 'Oye, when these cricketers come, are they asked if they have a sense of humour? They are treated as VIPs, as if they have done someone a favour by appearing on his show,' he told Siddharth Kannan.

Suniel Shetty says son Ahan was targeted as some in Bollywood are angry with him: 'Due to Border 2, he now has friends like Varun Dhawan and Diljit Dosanjh'



Suniel Shetty had earlier alleged that his son Ahan Shetty was targeted and ousted from various films after he signed Border 2. The original cult classic 1997 film featured Suniel in a key role, and now his son Ahan Shetty will also play a prominent role in Border 2. During a recent interaction, Suniel opened up about the issue and shared that some people in Bollywood might be upset with him and are taking it out on Ahan.

Speaking to Instant Bollywood, Suniel Shetty was asked how people in the industry could remove Ahan from films despite him being his son. He responded, saying, "That doesn't matter. Maybe I had done a mistake, and they are angry with me, and they want to take it out on somebody

else. You can't change destiny. Ahan is very much a part of Border 2, and it is because of this film that he has gained so much appreciation, and he got friends like Varun Dhawan and Diljit Dosanjh. They love him like a younger brother."

When asked if he is protective of his son because he has seen various pitfalls in the industry, he said, "In anything, you will have to do hard work. There are no short-cuts, and Ahan's first film did well during the pandemic and the film did business of Rs 35-40 crores and had an opening of Rs 4-5 crore even during the pandemic. Fingers crossed, I hope Border 2 crosses Rs 500 crore, and I pray Ahan is also appreciated along with Sunny Deol, Varun, and Diljit." Suniel also commented on debutant Ahaan Panday's film Saiyaara's success and how the film has become a turning point in the Hindi film industry. He said, "It is unbelievable. There is no substitute to hard work, and that is Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda's story. Now it is a big responsibility because they have given a new generation a chance, and maybe this is the turning point for the industry where producers might think that youngsters should get more opportunities." Earlier, during an interaction with Zoom, Suniel had shared that his son faced backlash after he signed Border 2 over other projects. He said, "Ahan let go of many things for this film. A lot of opportunities slipped out of his hands due to egos. He was removed from films and then blamed. Rumours were spread that he comes with expensive bodyguards, and paid articles were published." He added, "Stories were made up because Ahan wanted to do Border, while others wanted their own films to be made. Everything was manipulated."

Saiyaara director Mohit Suri is a 'bright, young boy' but I don't see the 'original voice' of Anupam Kher's Tanvi The Great, says Mahesh Bhatt: 'It is entertainment for the soul'

Mahesh Bhatt's mentorship has proven to reap great benefits this year as several of his former associates and proteges have come into their own as directors yet again in July 2025. Firstly, Anurag Basu, whom he launched as a director in Saaya (2003), recently delivered the much-loved romantic musical Metro... In Dino. On July 18, two other talents that Bhatt launched have also come up with their directorials. Bhatt's nephew Mohit Suri, whom he launched with Zeher (2005), delivered Saiyaara, a blockbuster romantic drama starring Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, backed by Aditya Chopra's Yash Raj Films. But that's not the film Bhatt has his money on.

"There's another young filmmaker, who happens to be my nephew, Mohit Suri. He's made a film called Saiyaara, which is coming on 18th. He made Aashiqui 2 (2013) for me. He's a bright, young boy. He has his own style, and he's coming into his own," said Bhatt on The Himanshu Mehta Show, but added that he doesn't see an original voice in the movies today. "But I don't see an original voice in the landscape today. The burden of an instant box office hit, this box office albatross is weighing down everybody. It makes people take plots and stories which titillate and cater to the senses," added Bhatt. Saiyaara has become the highest grossing Hindi film with newcomers, having collected over Rs 250 crore in 11 days at the domestic box office. "The dopamine (on smartphones) has been numbing your senses. Because you want to escape the reality of the world. Our filmmakers and singers of bygone days would throw you into yourself. Now, content is used as a way to escape yourself. Anything that takes you away from yourself is popcorn, like candyfloss. I don't see filmmakers with great depth anymore," argued Bhatt.

He claimed the only film with an "original voice" he's seen recently is Anupam Kher's coming-of-age drama Tanvi The Great. Kher was also launched by Bhatt as an actor in his 1984 family drama Saaranish. Bhatt admitted his choice could be out of "emotional bias," but he's a biased



human being "like anybody else." "It's a film which roots for the most vulnerable, an autistic child. And he's put in all his own money," said Bhatt, calling Tanvi The Great "entertainment for the soul." "I'm awestruck by his courage. I'm so proud that what I ripped up in him, which was there in him, 41 years ago in Saaranish, is now coming into full bloom, and on his own," added Bhatt. Tanvi The Great, inspired from Kher's real-life niece named Tanvi who's autistic, marks his return to direction 23 years after his 2002 directorial debut Om Jai Jagdish. It marks the debut of Shubhangi Sharma, and also stars Pallavi Joshi, Jackie Shroff, Karan Tacker, Prakash Raj, and Aravind Swamy among others.

RJ Mahvash hits back at trolls claiming she stole Dhanashree Verma's husband amid Yuzvendra Chahal dating rumours: 'People will say anything'

Actor-RJ Mahvash has been in the news for her rumoured relationship with cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal after he parted ways with ex-wife Dhanashree Verma. Recently, RJ Mahvash shared an Instagram video in which she talked about what behaviours constitute cheating in a relationship. She also called out a troll who hinted that she had "stolen someone else's husband." RJ Mahvash shared the video with a long note and urged her followers to leave their partners if they are cheating on them. She wrote, "Relationship me rehke ye sb krna (Doing all these in a relationship is) cheating. Aise log khud hi apna karma hote hain bro chorh de usko, khud hi depressed mareng aise log (These people are their own karma, leave them, they are depressed)."

She went on to write about how people who cheat often fail to realise the value of the love they receive from their partners and tend to develop a habit of cheating in every relationship. She wrote, "They will eventually cheat on the next one, too. And then the next one. And then one more. When God show you their red flags, see it."

She also emphasized that infidelity of any kind shouldn't be forgiven and also revealed that she had forgiven her partner multiple times in her last relationship for the same behaviour. She wrote, "And no. Maafi kya chiz hoti hai? Kabhi maaf ni krne ka warna dubara kuchle jaoge. Main apni last relationship me 3 bar maaf krke dekh chuki hu (What is forgiveness? Don't forgive them twice or else you will suffer. I've seen it in my last relationship). Don't let anyone disrespect you twice. Bohot mil jaenge tumhe unse behtar (You will get much better than them). Relax. Taras khao unpr wo beemar hain. Par tum nahi ho (Feel pity for them, they are ill. But you aren't). Life is too short with the right one and too long with the wrong one!" concluded her note.

A person reacted to RJ Mahvash's post, insinuating



about her alleged relationship with Yuzvendra Chahal following his divorce. The comment read, "Kisika pati churana (To steal someone's husband)??? Cheating."

Mahvash sharply responded, clarifying her stance. She wrote, "Maine churaya nahi islye I wouldn't know but yes kisika pati churana (I haven't stolen so I wouldn't know but yes stealing someone's husband is) cheating." She added, "In logon ne hi to dekha hai mujhe churate? Kuch bhi baatein banate hain log, bas views aane chahiye inke (They have seen me stealing? People will say anything just to get views)." Yuzvendra Chahal and Dhanashree Verma divorced this year after three years of marriage. Since the divorce, Yuzvendra and Mahvash have been seen together on several occasions, sparking dating rumours. They enjoyed the Champions Trophy final in Dubai together and were also spotted together during IPL matches. The two were seen spending time together on multiple occasions, even before his divorce was finalised.