

A Timeless Legacy: Sir David Attenborough turns 100, Indian personalities join global tributes

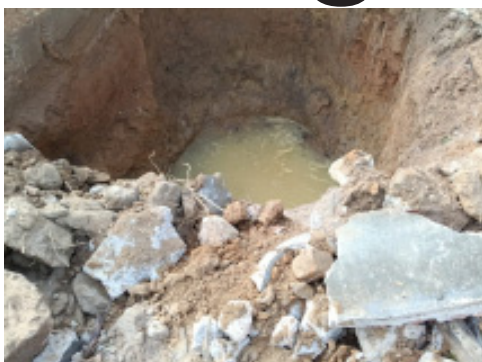
“Hyderabad” “Before ‘viral’ was even a word, Sir David Attenborough was already creating wildlife moments the world couldn’t stop watching. As the legendary broadcaster and natural historian turns 100 this week, Sony BBC Earth is celebrating the milestone with the premiere of a special one-hour behind-the-scenes documentary, Making Life on Earth: Attenborough’s Greatest Adventure, airing on May 8 at 1 PM and 9 PM. The special offers viewers a closer look at what went into creating one of the most influential wildlife series of all time, featuring rare behind-the-scenes insights and stories from the original crew. As tributes pour in from across the globe, several Indian celebrities have also joined in to wish Sir David Attenborough on his 100th birthday, celebrating the impact his work has had on generations of viewers. Anupam Mittal, entrepreneur and angel investor said “Sir David Attenborough’s life is not just a journey through time, but a timeless reminder of the responsibility we carry towards our planet. On his 100th Birthday we celebrate the legacy that has not only educated but awakened us all. Thank you for inspiring us, Sir.” Aman Gupta, Indian entrepreneur, angel investor said, “A very happy 100th Birthday to you, Sir David. Reaching 100 years is remarkable but touching billions of lives within those years is even more extraordinary. You have turned curiosity into a moment, you made people stop, look closer and truly value the incredible world around us. Thank you Sir David for leading with wisdom, grace and purpose for an entire century.” Aditya Narayan, singer & host shared, “Wishing Sir David Attenborough a very happy 100th Birthday- A 100 years of life, and decades of inspiring the world. As someone who loves entertaining and connecting with people, I really admire the way Sir David has kept audiences across generations curious, amazed, and inspired by nature. That kind of storytelling is timeless.” Vishal Dadlani, music composer and performer added, “As a creative person, I really admire how Sir David Attenborough used storytelling to spark curiosity, awareness and respect for the natural world. His work reminds us that our planet is something we must cherish and protect. Wishing him a very happy 100th Birthday.” With ‘Making Life on Earth’, Sony BBC Earth brings audiences closer to the journey behind a series that shaped television history and made Sir David Attenborough a household name across the world. Watch ‘Making Life on Earth: Attenborough’s Greatest Adventure’ premiering May 8 on Sony BBC Earth at 1 PM and 9 PM



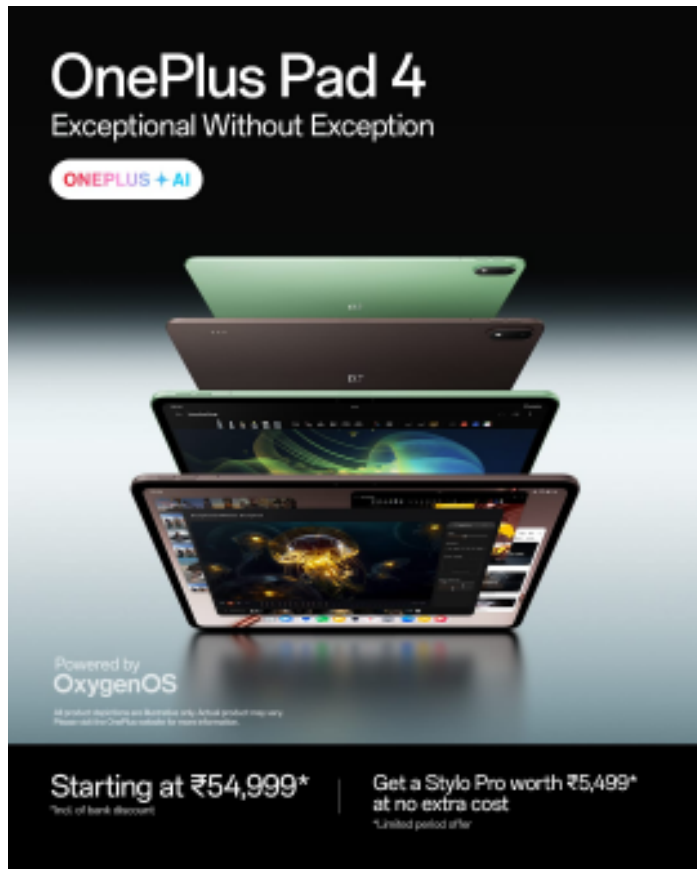
Tragedy in Sudibaka village.

. Man dies after collapsing

while taking silt from a “Mulugu /Venkatapuram.” Indian Chronicle may06.” Madapa Adinarayana, the nephew of Tati Narsamma, who went inside the well to take out the silt, got trapped inside the well and died on the spot. The two men above tried to save him but failed. After the locals informed the police, they immediately reached the spot. The police removed the soil with the help of JCB and took it out. However, it was confirmed that he had already died. The family members were overwhelmed by this sudden incident. Later, the body was shifted to the Venkatapuram Government Hospital. After conducting the postmortem, the body was handed over to the family members. The locals said that the deceased was married and had two children.



OnePlus Pad 4 Goes on Sale in India with Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 5



“Hyderabad” Global technology brand OnePlus today announced the open sale of its OnePlus Pad 4, designed to deliver PC-level performance, visuals, and productivity in a portable form factor. The device is available starting at INR 54,999 including bank offers across Amazon.in, Flipkart, OnePlus.in, OnePlus Store App, OnePlus Experience Stores, and select offline partners. “The OnePlus Pad 4 is powered by the Snapdragon® 8 Elite Gen 5, making it the most powerful OnePlus tablet to date. Paired with up to 12GB LPDDR5X RAM and up to 512GB UFS 4.1 storage, it delivers fast, smooth performance across multitasking, gaming, and creative workflows. To ensure consistent performance, the tablet features an advanced Cryo-velocity Cooling System, spanning a massive 40,760mm², the vapor chamber and graphite composite that keeps the device cool even during intensive usage.” “Built for both work and entertainment, the OnePlus Pad 4 features a 33.53 cm 13.2-inch 3.4K ultra-clear display, offering 315 PPI clarity, Dolby Vision support, and a 144Hz refresh rate for ultra-smooth visuals. The 7:5 ReadFit aspect ratio provides more usable screen space, making it ideal for productivity tasks like reading, editing, and multitasking.” “The device is backed by a 13,380mAh battery, the largest ever on a OnePlus device, supporting extended video playback, gaming, and standby. With 80W SUPERVOOC fast charging, users can quickly power up with minimal interruption.” “Running on OxygenOS 16, it offers a PC-like experience with enhanced multitasking, flexible window management, drag-and-drop sharing, multi-window support, and second-screen functionality. It also introduces AI features including AI Painter, AI Recorder, AI Writer, and AI Summary.

METLIFE GLOBAL CAPABILITY CENTER NAMED AS ONE OF THE BEST WORKPLACES IN INDIA FOR THE 2ND CONSECUTIVE YEAR



“Hyderabad” MetLife, one of the world’s leading financial services companies, announced today it has been named as one of the Top 25 Best Workplaces in India for 2026. This milestone reflects MetLife’s continued focus on building a purpose-driven, inclusive workplace where employees feel valued, empowered and inspired to succeed. “The recognition underscores the company’s commitment to delivering a consistent, high-trust employee experience through strong people practices and a culture rooted in care, collaboration and growth. “We are proud to be recognized among India’s Best Workplaces™ in BFSI 2026,” said Ashish K. Srivastava, Managing Director at MetLife Global Capability Center (MGCC). “This achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive workplace where our people can thrive. At MetLife, we remain focused on nurturing

a culture that empowers our teams and drives meaningful impact.” “Great Place To Work® has been studying employee experience and people practices across organizations for over three decades. Through its rigorous methodology, including employee feedback and culture audits, it helps organizations build and sustain high-trust workplaces. Each year, millions of employees across more than 150 countries participate in these assessments, enabling organizations to benchmark their culture and strengthen their people practices. “This is the second consecutive year that MetLife has earned a spot on this prestigious list. In addition, MetLife was certified as a Great Place to Work in 33 markets worldwide and earned a coveted place among the Fortune World’s 25 Best Workplaces™ 2025 — placing No. 10. These achievements reflect the company’s unwavering commitment to its people, customers and the communities it serves.



Chandrakant Agarwal, President of the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society (TSCS) in Hyderabad, stated that under the aegis of the Thalassemia and Kamala Hospital, "We are moving beyond mere blood transfusions and advancing towards a cure." Our dedicated Kamala Hospital and Research Center stands as a beacon of hope. It has successfully performed a total of 204 Bone Marrow Transplants (BMTs). This remarkable milestone comprises 157 Matched Family Donor Transplants, 39 Haplo-Transplants, and 8 Matched Unrelated Donor Transplants. We remain committed to providing comprehensive care and developing advanced treatment protocols. Remember, HbA2 tests are offered free of cost at our centers in Hyderabad and Khammam. Join us in our mission to transform hope into healing. On the occasion of World Thalassemia Day, a run was organized along Necklace Road under the auspices of the Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Society; Health Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha will flag off and inaugurate the event.

Philip Morris International Announces U.S. FDA Reauthorization of IQOS as a Modified Risk Tobacco Product



PHILIP MORRIS
INTERNATIONAL

Hyderabad The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that it has authorized the renewal of modified risk tobacco product (MRTP) orders previously granted to PMI for two versions of the IQOS device and three variants of the tobacco consumables, commercialized under the HEETS brand. This renewal allows PMI to continue sharing reduced-exposure information with U.S. adults 21+ who use traditional tobacco products, such as combustible cigarettes. "The agency concluded that renewing the IQOS and HEETS MRTP authorizations is appropriate to promote public health and is expected to benefit the health of the population as a whole taking into account both users of tobacco products and persons who do not currently use tobacco products." "As the only company to have successfully secured and maintained MRTP authorizations for heated tobacco products in the U.S., we are confident that our science-based alternatives can help adult smokers transition away from combustible cigarettes," said Stacey Kennedy, CEO, PMI U.S. "This decision from the FDA reflects both the rigorous scientific foundation supporting IQOS and our ongoing commitment to responsibly deliver smoke-free choices to adult consumers." "In issuing the MRTP renewal orders for IQOS, the FDA reaffirmed that "the scientific evidence that is available without conducting long-term epidemiological studies demonstrates that a measurable and substantial reduction in morbidity or mortality among individual tobacco users is reasonably likely." "The IQOS 2.4 system was the first heated tobacco product authorized via the FDA's MRTP process in 2020 as "appropriate for the promotion of public health," following its authorization through the premarket tobacco product application (PMTA) process in 2019. The IQOS 3 system secured MRTP authorization in 2022, following premarket authorization in 2020. The FDA continues to review PMTAs for IQOS ILUMA and given its strong application and demonstrated track record converting legal age smokers to a better alternative, PMI believes the application warrants expeditious FDA action.

Chanagani Dayakar TPCC General Secretary – Janaki Ram Kandikanti“Nagayya Kandikanti“



“...KTR's Warangal meeting was completely futile. *They have been in power for ten years, yet they are incompetent individuals who have failed to implement farm loan waivers. “...When they remarked that agriculture was a "waste of time," we proved that it could be celebrated like a "festival. “... Through the Warangal Declaration, we implemented a farm loan waiver of ₹2 lakhs for farmers. “... We successfully waived loans amounting to ₹20,625 crores, benefiting 2,540,392 farmers. “... By warning that cultivating paddy would inevitably lead to a "death sentence," they subjected farmers to severe distress. “... He questioned whether the dubious distinction

of handcuffing farmers—simply for demanding a remunerative price for their produce—did not, in fact, belong solely to the BRS party. “... Even for a loan waiver of just ₹1 lakh, they subjected farmers to an endless wait—forcing them to endure severe delays across four separate phases. **Under BRS rule, regarding the ₹1 lakh loan waiver scheme—an interest burden amounting to a staggering ₹8,515 crores fell upon the farmers in 2018 alone. “... The 'Rythu Bandhu' scheme, launched in 2018, has lost its way; Instead of reaching genuine farmers, funds were diverted, misappropriated by real estate speculators, and distributed to owners of barren hillsides and rocky lands. “... We introduced

the 'Indiramma Rythu Bharosa' scheme and are demonstrating tangible results through an investment of ₹12,000 crores. ** “... Honoring Rahul Gandhi's word, we have successfully implemented every single promise outlined in our declaration. ** In stark contrast, the people of Telangana had previously placed their trust in the BRS party—yet that party merely organized meaningless public rallies for the sake of political gain, failing to deliver any actual benefits to the farmers. “Under BRS rule—whether it rained, floods struck, or crops were washed away—there was no one within the administrative machinery to heed the plight of the farmers or to address their grievances. “Recognizing the

hardships farmers have endured over the past decade, our government is now allocating ₹5,500 crores every month, dedicated exclusively to the welfare of farmers. “Since the inception of 'Praja Palana' (People's Administration), the government has spent a staggering ₹1,50,000 crores for the benefit of farmers. “Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has unequivocally proven himself to be a true friend to the farmers and a staunch protector of their rights. “He made it clear that farmers will not be deceived merely by someone donning a suit and boots while pretending to be a farmer. In fact, he emphasized that farmers received true justice only under the 'Praja Palana' government.

Political Line The high command and ground realities

Through the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) hectic Karnataka election campaign, the State unit has come through emaciated. The party's internal machinery works in a way that puts all credit of victory in the hands of the central leadership but pins the onus of defeat on the State unit. National leaders of the BJP and Congress do not like strong regional leaders. Before Narendra Modi emerged as the unquestionable supremo of the BJP in 2014, he was one of the several State-level leaders of the party. Without effective regional leaders, national parties cannot operate in States, but strong regional leaders can challenge national leaders. Mr. Modi and his close associate, Amit Shah know that all too well, as their journey to the top was hardly uncontested within the BJP. Strong regional leaders can outwit national leaders who often can't manage the grassroots directly. Mr. Modi successfully resisted an attempt by A.B. Vajpayee to remove him from the post of Gujarat Chief Minister (CM) in 2003; last year, Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot outsmarted the party high command and held on to his post.

The Congress party's current weakness is partly explained by its characteristic reluctance to accommodate or encourage regional heavyweights. The party is relatively stronger in places where strong leadership emerges: Andhra Pradesh earlier, and now Karnataka are examples. But given a choice, the high command would rather allow the party to wilt than tolerate a strong leader, as it did in Andhra Pradesh by forcing Jagan Mohan Reddy to leave the party and create his own regional party. Unlike the Congress' high command, the BJP central leadership used to be diffused, allowing several second and third rung leaders to jostle among themselves, and prove their mettle. There were various power centres in the Sangh Parivar. Now, the BJP's leadership is highly centralised, and the RSS itself has far less clout overall in the power structure.

Having clipped the wings of B.S. Yeddyurappa, who till date remains the most popular leader of the party in Karnataka, the BJP is likely to replicate the same model in three States that will go to the polls later this year: Madhya Pradesh where it is in power, and Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh where it is fighting to return to power by beating the incumbent Congress. The party is unlikely to let any one person at the State level be the face of its campaign in these States, though in Madhya Pradesh, being the sitting Chief Minister, Shivraj Singh Chouhan may remain central. In Rajasthan, former CM Vasundhara Raje is keen to return as the declared CM face. Failure to achieve that might turn her indifferent or even hostile to the party. The BJP went on an overdrive to mollify Mr. Yeddyurappa in Karnataka, but no such attempt is apparent in Rajasthan. In two States, however, strong leaders have emerged in the BJP. In Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath now has popular appeal independent of the party; in Assam, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has the State's politics so under his control that the party

would find it difficult without him. Both Mr. Adityanath and Mr. Sarma are speculated to be future PMs. Mr. Modi and Mr. Shah like the current arrangement in which all power originates from them, but the necessity of leadership at the State level cannot be overstated for their own plans. The BJP's plans to capture power in West Bengal in 2021 did not quite take off as it does not have local leadership. For grand narratives to work well, they must be in tune with ground realities. That is the Big Picture. Federalism Tract: Notes on managing Indian diversity Meitei refugees wait onboard a paramilitary truck at a transit point after being evacuated from the violence that hit Churachandpur, near Imphal in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur.

Demographic root of Manipur conflict A demographic imbalance across communities and regions is at the heart of the conflict in Manipur. The BJP government in the State is trying to politically profiteer from these imbalances, aggravating the conflict. The stability and territorial integrity of a society such as Manipur can be secured only by genuine recognition and substantive accommodation of territorial



rights and identities, this piece argues. SC curtails Centre's imperial ambitions The SC rejected the Centre's argument that it had unlimited power over the elected government in Delhi.

The Centre cited national interests to defend its claim but the court rejected the

argument. Stalin hails Dravidian ideology DMK president and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin last Sunday said the Dravidian ideology was not outdated, but it had rendered Sanathana dharma, Varnashrama, Manu Needhi, humiliation in the name of caste and suppression of women outdated.

Diagnostic imaging of the Rajasthan Right to Health Act

The Rajasthan Right to Health (RTH) Bill, which became an Act in April, had caused a bitter row following which the State government agreed on some exclusions. Many doctors termed the Act draconian, while public health activists have largely stood by it. But there are certain aspects of the Act that have attracted little discussion, which also make it unfit to be an ideal precedent for other States. Comparing the two iterations of the RTH Bill, one before and another after the select committee review, is a good starting point for a review. The primary iteration was sent for the select committee's review in 2022, and the amended Bill was passed on March 21, 2023, which stoked protests. Even a cursory review brings out how the amended version, which sparked the row, was itself a highly moderated version attuned strongly to the interests of the medical community.

Following the select committee amendments, some definitions (accidental emergency, emergency care, and first aid), were added to the Bill. In addition, the term 'designated health care centres' was introduced, and a reimbursement clause for unpaid emergency care was added. These additions are commendable. However, most other changes in the amended Bill were not so salutary at least as far as protecting public health interests is concerned. This shows, foremost, in the renewed composition of the State and district health authorities. For the State health authority, the initial iteration included three

representatives, from ayurveda, homoeopathy, and unani, as ex-officio members. Instead, the amended Bill had provision for only one representative from the alternative medical systems, with medical education representatives filling for the remaining two. What is even more striking is that the amended Bill swapped public health/hospital management experts with Indian Medical Association (IMA) representatives as nominated members. This leaves these authorities with little or no representation from the public health fraternity and, most importantly, from the community for which the Act is aimed. Further, the powers of the administration organs were significantly circumscribed in the amended Bill. The grievance redress system proposed in the initial iteration was also significantly overhauled in the amended Bill. Initially proposed to be handled through web portals, helpline centres, and officers concerned within 24 hours, patient grievances will now be handled by the very health-care institution in question within three days. This introduces conspicuous conflicts of interest. That apart, it stands to compound the administrative burden of hospitals. This predisposes patient grievances to being sloppily or perfunctorily handled, and more often than not, being settled informally. Health legislation embraces not just curative medical care but also health promotion, disease prevention, and important social determinants such as nutrition, which have a stronger bearing on health

than medical care. The current RTH Act lacking in public health representation is ill positioned to achieve these ends or to serve as a template for other States or a pan-India legislation. Coming now to the memorandum of understanding which made the Bill somewhat palatable for doctor associations. The State government has assured that private multispecialty hospitals with less than 50 beds, and those that have not availed of concessions or subsidised land/buildings from the government, will be kept out of the ambit of the law, even if temporarily. It effectively excludes the plethora of small and medium hospitals which predominate in the health-care landscape, particularly outside the urban agglomerations. Contrast this with the The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA) — the U.S. legislation ensuring public access to emergency care — which covers 98% of hospitals. The prognosis Despite being a moderate Bill, some of the objections calling for an in-toto repeal have been rather frivolous, for instance, over the ambiguous definitions of some terms such as 'emergency'. Medical-legal definitions are perennially given to ambiguities, and even widely accepted definitions are typically imprecise and replete with ambiguities. It only behoves all parties in such cases to work together to arrive at the best elaboration, rather than demanding an outright repeal of a Bill with far-reaching implications for public health beyond just emergency care.

Explained | What did India's first national water-body census find?

India is facing a water crisis with groundwater decline and biodiversity loss, and climate change increasing the frequency of floods and droughts. In this context, water bodies are important. They buffer against climate variability, holding flood waters for use in dry periods. They contribute to food and water security and livelihoods by recharging groundwater and providing water for irrigation and livestock. They also have cultural and ecological significance. But water bodies are increasingly under threat from pollution, encroachment, urbanisation, and drying. If they are to be conserved and managed effectively, we need action plans and these require baseline data. Because water bodies are managed by different agencies from state to local to private entities, the data must be uniform and easily accessible. To actually manage water bodies, we need contextual and traditional knowledge of communities to be integrated with formal data. Data on reservoirs and rivers has been available on the India Water Resources Information System (WRIS) for the last few years, but thus far there has been no data on smaller water bodies that are the lifeline of rural India and critical cultural, flood-control and recreational spaces in cities.

How was the census conducted?

The massive effort expended in the first-ever water body census, conducted by the Ministry of Jal Shakti and whose findings were published recently, was much needed. The census's objective was to develop a national database with information on the size, purpose, ownership, status, and conditions of water bodies. It covered all natural and human-made units bounded on all sides for storing water, irrespective of condition or use. The software for data entry and the mobile app for capturing the location and the visual of the water bodies were developed and data-processing workshops were conducted to train the trainers in all States and Union territories. The census built on existing and publicly available satellite-derived datasets. This dataset was also extremely rich, allowing citizens to hone in on a specific village and download the historical time series data on each water body. But it only includes attributes that can be observed from space. The water body census extends this to social characteristics including ownership, use and condition.

What does the data show?

One value of such a large national effort is that it allows us to compare spatial and temporal trends across the country. Most water bodies in the country are very small – The vast majority of India's water bodies are less than one hectare (ha) large. This means locating and keeping track of them is likely to remain a challenge. The traditional way to map these water bodies, using satellites, may not work, which is why the mammoth effort expended in ground-based tracking is very welcome. The water bodies show regional patterns that correlate with rainfall – In general, in drier states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, water bodies tend to be larger and publicly held. In the wetter parts of the country, like Kerala,

West Bengal, and states in the northeast, more than three-quarters of the water bodies are privately owned. In drier states, the water bodies are primarily used for irrigation and groundwater recharge. In wetter states, domestic use and pisciculture dominate. Mid-sized water bodies are largely panchayat-owned. Most water bodies have never been repaired or rejuvenated – Several water bodies were classified “not in use”, meaning despite the recent interest in rejuvenating water bodies, most of them have never been repaired or revived.

How can the census improve?

While the census was a clearly Herculean effort, we must take care to interpret the data. First, there are some clear gaps. Water bodies have an important role in supporting biodiversity. They harbour fish that birds feed on and provide roosting and breeding spaces for resident and migratory birds. These ecological functions are related to the size and location of the water bodies. But the water body census does not address questions about this. The report itself noted in its preamble that water bodies “support healthy ecosystems”, yet the focus was exclusively on human use, which means only pisciculture or fish farming, which is seeded and does not reflect natural biodiversity, is featured. In classifying water bodies in terms of reasons of abandonment or disuse, “others” emerged as a significant reason, on par with “drying up” in a few states, but far ahead of other specific categories such as industrial pollution, construction, and salinity. One possibility is that the census questionnaire may have left out the most common reasons like eutrophication, sewage pollution, and solid waste dumping. Second, there are inconsistencies. The census groups water bodies into five types: ponds, tanks, lakes, reservoirs, and water conservation schemes. Its glossary defines a pond as a smaller water body than a tank, while “water conservation structures” might include check dams and percolation tanks. However, these categories are not mutually exclusive: many tanks that were traditionally used directly for irrigation primarily serve as recharge structures today.

Based on the data, it appears that in Karnataka, these were classified as ponds and tanks serving the purpose of irrigation, whereas in Maharashtra these were classified as water conservation structures, primarily serving the purpose of groundwater recharge. The sources of irrigation statistics for the two states suggest neither state has much tank irrigation. Third, the data are not standardised across states. Some states like Gujarat don't show any water bodies not being in use, whereas Karnataka reports almost 80% of its water bodies as being in a state of disuse. This suggests differences in interpretation by the enumerators. There are some other concerns. For example, the map for north Karnataka seems suspiciously empty. Since the original geotagged data does not seem to have been made available yet, it is unclear if some districts were skipped or if they genuinely had a lower water-body density. Notwithstanding these shortcomings, it is crucial that the government continue such nationwide censuses of a vital

resource, with modifications. This first edition itself provides high-level indications on the ways forward by detailing ownership, state of use, and the costs of construction and repair. It points to how and why water bodies must be restored, which agency's capacities need to be strengthened, where and how much funds are needed, and who will benefit from such efforts. If such censuses are conducted every five or 10 years, over time, they represent the pulse on the state of water in the country as a whole and trends over time. India is facing a water crisis with groundwater decline and biodiversity loss, and climate change increasing the frequency of floods and droughts. India's first

waterbody census's objective was to develop a national database with information on the size, purpose, ownership, status, and conditions of water bodies. It covered all natural and human-made units bounded on all sides for storing water, irrespective of condition or use. If such censuses are conducted every five or 10 years, over time, they represent the pulse on the state of water in the country as a whole and trends over time. Dr. Veena Srinivasan is the Executive Director of the Water, Environment, Land and Livelihoods (WELL) Labs, a new research centre based at the Institute of Financial Management and Research (IFMR) Society and Krea University.

10 Indian languages to get technical-term dictionaries



The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), which works under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Education, is rushing to create technical and scientific terminology in 10 Indian languages underrepresented in the learning landscape. The CSTT will bring out what it calls fundamental (basic) dictionaries with 5,000 words per language, in three to four months. These will be in digital, searchable format, and free of cost. About 1,000-2,000 copies will be printed in each language. Bodo, Santhali, Dogri, Kashmiri, Konkani, Nepali, Manipuri, Sindhi, Maithili, and Sanskrit are a part of the list of 22 official languages of India's Eighth Schedule. However, there is a paucity of study material created in them, primarily because of a lack of words to describe scientific phenomena and technical terms. The sparse content available was confined to the primary school level that used English words when regional vocabulary was unavailable. 15 subjects. The immediate focus is to cover 15 disciplines: journalism, public administration, chemistry, botany, zoology, psychology, physics, economics, Ayurveda, mathematics, computer science, political science, agriculture, civil and electrical engineering. These will enable textbook formulation at the middle- and senior-school

as well as university levels. The dictionaries will be distributed to State education boards, universities, engineering institutes, and the National Testing Agency that conducts entrance examinations such as the Common University Entrance Test (CUET), Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) Main, and University Grants Commission (UGC)-National Eligibility Test (NET) to aid in preparation of content. The national language list, when created in 1950 had 14 languages. Sindhi was added in 1967; Konkani, Manipuri, and Nepali in 1992; and Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali in 2004. “There is a lack of content and linguistic resources in these 10 languages, leading to a lack of availability of learning material in these languages,” Prof. Girish Nath Jha, chairperson of the CSTT, Ministry of Education, said. The CSTT, which was set up in 1961, has the mandate of evolving technical terminology in all Indian languages. The organisation is finalising several memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with prominent institutes, including IIT Bombay, for quick online dissemination. The move assumes importance as the National Education Policy 2020 has espoused the use of regional languages as a medium of education in both school and college.

Generative AI is forcing people to rethink what it means to be authentic

It turns out that pop stars Drake and The Weeknd didn't suddenly drop a new track that went viral on TikTok and YouTube in April 2023. The photograph that won an international photography competition that same month wasn't a real photograph. And the image of Pope Francis sporting a Balenciaga jacket that appeared in March 2023? That was also a fake. All were made with the help of generative AI, the new technology that can generate humanlike text, audio and images on demand through programs such as ChatGPT, Midjourney and Bard, among others. There's certainly something unsettling about the ease with which people can be duped by these fakes, and I see it as a harbinger of an authenticity crisis that raises some difficult questions. How will voters know whether a video of a political candidate saying something offensive was real or generated by AI? Will people be willing to pay artists for their work when AI can create something visually stunning? Why follow certain authors when stories in their writing style will be freely circulating on the internet? I've been seeing the anxiety play out all around me at Stanford University, where I'm a professor and also lead a large generative AI and education initiative. With text, image, audio and video all becoming easier for anyone to produce through new generative AI tools, I believe people are going to need to reexamine and recalibrate how authenticity is judged in the first place. Fortunately, social science offers some guidance. The many faces of authenticity. Long before generative AI and ChatGPT rose to the fore, people had been probing what makes something feel authentic. When a real estate agent is gushing over a property they are trying to sell you, are they being authentic or just trying to close the deal? Is that stylish acquaintance wearing authentic designer fashion or a mass-produced knock-off? As you mature, how do you discover your authentic self? These are not just philosophical exercises. Neuroscience research has shown that believing a piece of art is authentic will activate the brain's reward centers in ways that viewing something you've been told is a forgery won't. Authenticity also matters because it is a social glue that reinforces trust. Take the social media misinformation crisis, in which fake news has been inadvertently spread and authentic news decreed fake.

In short, authenticity matters, for both individuals and society as a whole. But what actually makes something feel authentic? Psychologist George Newman has explored this question in a series of studies. He found that there are three major dimensions of authenticity. One of those is historical authenticity, or whether an object is truly from the time, place and person someone claims it to be. An actual painting made by Rembrandt would have historical authenticity; a modern forgery would not. A second dimension of authenticity is the kind that plays out when, say, a restaurant in Japan offers exceptional and authentic Neapolitan pizza. Their pizza was not made in Naples or imported from Italy. The chef who prepared it may not have a drop of Italian blood in their veins. But the ingredients, appearance and taste may

match really well with what tourists would expect to find at a great restaurant in Naples. Newman calls that categorical authenticity. And finally, there is the authenticity that comes from our values and beliefs. This is the kind that many voters find wanting in politicians and elected leaders who say one thing but do another. It is what admissions officers look for in college essays. In my own research, I've also seen that authenticity can relate to our expectations about what tools and activities are involved in creating things. For example, when you see a piece of custom furniture that claims to be handmade, you probably assume that it wasn't literally made by hand — that all sorts of modern tools were nonetheless used to cut, shape and attach each piece. Similarly, if an architect uses computer software to help draw up building plans, you still probably think of the product as legitimate and original. This is because there's a general understanding that those tools are part of what it takes to make those products. In most of your quick judgments of authenticity, you don't think much about these dimensions. But with generative AI, you will need to. Generative AI thrives on exploiting people's reliance on categorical authenticity by producing material that looks like "the real thing." So it'll be important to disentangle historical and categorical authenticity in your own thinking. Just because a recording sounds exactly like Drake — that is, it fits the category expectations for Drake's music — it does not mean that Drake actually recorded it. The great essay that was turned in for a college writing class assignment may not actually be from a student laboring to craft sentences for hours on a word processor. If it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, everyone will need to consider that it may not have actually hatched from an egg. Also, it'll be important for everyone to get up to speed on what these new generative AI tools really can and can't do. I think this will involve ensuring that people learn about AI in schools and in the workplace, and having open conversations about how creative processes will change with AI being broadly available.

Writing papers for school in the future will not necessarily mean that students have to meticulously form each and every sentence; there are now tools that can help them think of ways to phrase their ideas. And creating an amazing picture won't require exceptional hand-eye coordination or mastery of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator. Finally, in a world where AI operates as a tool, society is going to have to consider how to establish guardrails. These could take the form of regulations, or the creation of norms within certain fields for disclosing how and when AI has been used. Does AI get credited as a co-author on writing? Is it disallowed on certain types of documents or for certain grade levels in school? Does entering a piece of art into a competition require a signed statement that the artist did not use AI to create their submission? Or does there need to be new, separate competitions that expressly invite AI-generated work? These questions are tricky. It may be tempting to simply deem



generative AI an unacceptable aid, in the same way that calculators are forbidden in some math classes.

However, sequestering new technology risks imposing arbitrary limits on human creative potential. Would the expressive power of images be what it is now if photography had been deemed an unfair use of technology? What if Pixar films were

deemed ineligible for the Academy Awards because people thought computer animation tools undermined their authenticity? The capabilities of generative AI have surprised many and will challenge everyone to think differently. But I believe humans can use AI to expand the boundaries of what is possible and create interesting, worthwhile — and, yes, authentic — works of art, writing and design.

Global smartphones market contracts even as inventories rise and consumers renew less often

The global smartphone market contracted even as major brands witness pile-up in inventories and consumers rethink renewing their handsets. The market for mobile phones declined by 14% in the March ending quarter, compared to the same period last year. The drop is seen as the weakest holiday-season quarter for smartphone sales in a decade as slower-than-expected recovery in China, and waning consumer confidence due to unrelenting market volatility dampened consumer spending. Global revenue from smartphone shipments also shrunk by 7% in the March ending quarter to around \$104 billion. The decline comes even as Apple, Samsung, and Xiaomi increased their average selling prices during the period. Consumers are choosing to renew less often but with more durable smartphones when they do, Harmeet Singh Walia, senior analyst at Counterpoint, noted in a company blog post.

Among top brands, Apple saw the least drop in its shipments. The company also recorded its highest-ever market share during a quarter at 21%, according to a report by Counterpoint. Samsung and Apple alone cornered 96% share of the global smartphone operating profits. And the Korean smartphone maker replaced Apple as the top smartphone player in Q1, driven by its mid-tier A series and the S23 series. The launch of S23 series lifted the company's average selling price (ASP),



which ensured its revenue fall was relatively less compared to other brands. Apple outperformed the market as its sticky ecosystem halted consumers from switching to rivals. The Cupertino-based company had captured nearly half the secondary market, and consumers chose to spend on "longer-lasting devices", the report said. Gen-Z consumers in the West enabled the Apple's success even as the company filled the void left by Chinese premium smartphones. This allowed it to handle fluctuations better than its rivals, Jeff Fieldhack, research director at Counterpoint, said.

In China, Xiaomi, Oppo, and Vivo will have to wait longer for their shipments to rebound as they experienced double-digit declines in Q1 2023, the report noted. "Even if the decline in smartphone shipments stabilises, a significant recovery is unlikely before the year-end holiday quarter," Tarun Pathak, research director at Counterpoint, said, citing rising oil prices that could hike inflation and dampen consumer spending.

World Thalassemia Day: An invisible disability that is lacking acceptance

On 8th May 1994, Thalassemia International Federation (TIF) observed World Thalassemia Day in memory of George Englezos. George was the son of the TIF founder, who lost his life due to thalassemia. Thalassemia is a disorder and its advocacy around all sectors, such as preventative awareness, healthcare, education, livelihood, and early interventions, have evolved dramatically. In India, thalassemia, along with two other blood disorders, was recognised as a benchmark disability in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016. This brought a landmark shift in recognition and advocacy for thalassemia that went beyond the health sector and preventative awareness. In the present context, thalassemia and other blood disorders are becoming part of the invisible disability discourse. Understanding Thalassemia

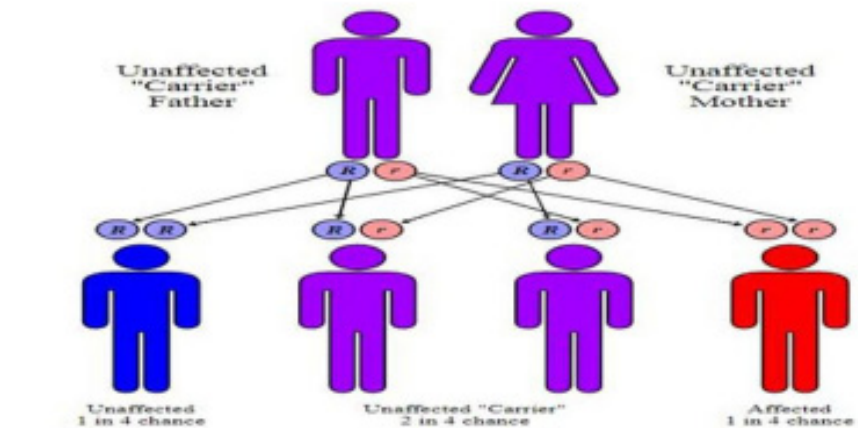
A large section of the population doesn't understand thalassemia. In simple terms, thalassemia is a genetic-blood disorder that requires people to have regular blood transfusions mostly throughout the span of their life. However, it gets increasingly complex as we get into the specifics of the disorder. Thalassemia is part of a group of disorders called hemoglobinopathies. Hemoglobinopathies are a group of disorders that are passed down through families (inherited) in which there is abnormal production or structure of haemoglobin molecules. Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Sickle Cell Disorder all come under the umbrella of hemoglobinopathies. In thalassemia, the presence of haemoglobin is severely low which results in the damaging of Red Blood Cells immaturely. This results in a low count of RBCs and the constant need for blood transfusion. According to the data from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, every year, 10,000 to 15,000 children are born with B-thalassemia major and make use of transfusion. The Health Ministry also highlighted that there are 42 million carriers of the thalassemia trait in India. Thalassemia trait carriers are those people who don't have the disorder but carry a gene that can become a disorder in their offspring if their partner is a thalassemia carrier as well. See the below diagram to understand it.

Any reader can be a thalassemia trait carrier and the only way to know is a blood test. Thalassemia is an easily preventable disorder and can be checked for in the nearest diagnostic centre. Thalassemia can also be detected in a neonatal screening test which allows people to make an informed choice for their future. The Government of India has been working on thalassemia prevention and management. The National Health Mission has come up with guidelines for the prevention and management of hemoglobinopathies. The mission is to improve the care of Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease patients and reduce the prevalence of hemoglobinopathies through screening and awareness strategies. Community education and awareness programs, sustainable carrier screening programs, premarital and pre-conception screening, and extended family screening are all part of the strategy.

For the management of the disorder, the goals of the public health strategy for thalassemia and sickle cell disease include providing optimal care through daycare facilities and safe blood, financial support for essential medicines, early diagnosis and intervention protocols, and community education. The strategy aims to improve treatment and management options and make them available through public health facilities. Understanding patients with Thalassemia

Conversations about thalassemia for its management and prevention by the administration, thalassemia societies and caregivers of people with thalassemia like me. Access to quality disorder management and experienced medical professionals give a chance to people with thalassemia to lead a better quality and a much more fulfilling life. Thalassemia was and still is considered as a pediatric disorder but that understanding has been left in the past when people with thalassemia had a life span of adolescence. Today, people with thalassemia are having long and fulfilling lives with proper management of the disorder and access to better healthcare. However, since the disorder is evolving and adult thalassemics are having different medical issues there is a need to update our medical curriculums and take a closer look at how the patterns of disorder change when patients reach adulthood. It is important to note that it doesn't necessarily mean that every patient is reaching adulthood with a better quality of life. Patients reaching and having healthy adulthood is a minority case still. A recent study conducted by the American Society of Hematology in India highlighted that only 50% of patients are able to survive at the age of 27 years. The numbers are worrying, and as I write this article it makes me terrified to think about my future as well but the numbers are hopeful as we have seen a much worse scenario. Healthcare advancements have shown us a quality long life is possible to achieve with access to management facilities such as safe blood transfusions and regular medicines. However, the definition of quality life goes way beyond just survival for persons with disabilities. Access to healthcare provides an opportunity to maintain a longer healthier life but it doesn't make life fulfilling in nature. In order to have a fulfilling life any individual should have access to quality education, livelihood and living a life free of stigma. Thalassemia impacts every segment of your life. Regular blood transfusions and medical procedures constantly impact education and work resulting in a lack of reasonable accommodations. People often deny believing that thalassemia is a disability or if it at all impacts us at a scale where our daily life is affected.

As a person with thalassemia, I have to undergo a transfusion every 15 days. The blood transfusion process takes about 4 to 6 hours depending on the units transfused. On average I've to get two units of RBCs transfused every 15 days. The number of units depends on a person's weight and haemoglobin levels. The process is often a painful process which shoots up the iron levels severely and regular medi-



cation (approx 14 pills a day for me) is required to manage it. These pills have side effects on vision and bone density.

Accessing this level of healthcare services is not only cumbersome but also a heavy expense for families. The average money spent on thalassemia medication is around ₹15,000. Access to employment opportunities is a prerequisite for sustaining my health needs. However, there are myriad challenges faced by patients with thalassemia when it comes to employment like unavailability of flexible work options. Flexible work options allow people with disabilities to take care of their periodical medical procedures. This write-up cannot exhaustively enlist issues faced by people with blood disorders in every sphere of life. However, I hope we can begin a conversation about a few of them. Thalassemia is a blood disorder but it is also a way of life for lakhs of us. Thalassemia advocacy

needs to go beyond medical procedures. There are hundreds of young and brilliant people who are being devoid of opportunities at workplaces because employers are not sensitized enough to believe in us. Unfortunately, we have no official data or study on dropout rates or employment opportunities for thalassemia patients in the Indian context that can give us a clearer picture. Thalassemia is not a simple disorder and it takes a village to manage it but it is possible. Parents and families become the foundation of this management and hence it is important to sensitize families about the disorder. Families have to believe in their children and also in their child's dreams and hopes. All of those dreams, if they are not about unicorns and ponies, trust me are possible. Aarti Batra is a Javed-Abdi Fellow (Research and Advocacy) at NCPEDP and a disability studies researcher, and a person with thalassemia.

What to expect at Google I/O 2023

The Google I/O 2023 developer conference scheduled on May 10 could witness the search giant announcing some important tech developments and unveiling a few devices. Before we get into what to expect, let's do a recap of what Google announced during last year's Google I/O conference.

Google's top officials spoke about the previously released Google Pixel 6A and the Pixel 6 Pro smartphones. The company also revealed details about the Google Pixel 7 and the Google Pixel 7 Pro that launched in the fall of 2022, explaining that the phones ran on the next generation Google Tensor SoC. At I/O 2022, Google introduced the Pixel Buds Pro as the first Pixel Buds with active noise cancellation (ANC). It further announced the Google Pixel Watch as the first watch built inside and out by Google. The Pixel Watch was released in the fall of 2022. After briefing listeners about the Android 13 interface and the digital Google Wallet, the tech giant announced that 24 new languages were being added to Google Translate. It also shared updates in augmented reality (AR)

technology that could enhance translation and transcription services. The Alphabet-owned company showcased how the Google Maps experience improved for users in Africa. It also introduced LaMDA 2, which was deemed Google's "most advanced conversational model" at the time. CEO Sundar Pichai then introduced the AI Test Kitchen to help users generate ideas and tasks by leveraging AI. He also briefed watchers about the PaLM model, which was trained on 540 billion parameters. More user-centric announcements included automated summarisation starting with Google Docs, localised multi-search, search features based on more inclusive skin tone spectrums, two-step verification by default, improved Google Assistance, and an easier process for requesting the removal of personal data from Google Search. Pixel owners and Android watchers are looking forward to Google's gadget lineup this year as the tech giant is slated to release its first foldable smartphone: the Google Pixel Fold. While some possible specifications have been leaked, Google has only released a short video clip of the Pixel Fold.