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Watershed moment for space industry

India's space journey has reached a historic milestone. The successful launch of Vikram-1, the first orbital rocket developed in the private sector, is a watershed moment because it achieved what is exceptionally rare in the space launch industry: a successful orbital mission on its very first attempt. Most new rockets suffer failures or major anomalies during maiden flights, making its flawless insertion of payloads into a 450-km orbit a remarkable demonstration of engineering maturity, rigorous testing and execution. Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace has now joined a small and elite group of global companies that have successfully developed and launched orbital rockets. India is only the third country, after the United States and China, where a private company has independently placed payloads in orbit. The seven-storey rocket carrying technology demonstration payloads and postcards, lifted off ISRO's First Launch Pad at Sriharikota and, a little over 15 minutes later, placed its payloads in an orbit roughly 450 km above the Earth. Named 'Aagaman' (arrival), it was the first of two test flights Skyroot plans to do this year before starting commercial launches next year. For nearly six decades, the space sector was entirely in the hands of the government. Every celebrated milestone, from Aryabhata to Chandrayaan-3, every Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) that became the workhorse of global commercial launches, every Mars and Moon mission, bore the unmistakable signature of the Indian state. That monopoly has ended now. The achievement also validates India's 2020 space-sector reforms, which opened ISRO's infrastructure to private firms, proving that Indian startups can independently design, build and launch orbital-class rockets.

Special prayers for the speedy recovery of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy



Narsampet, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Special prayers were held at the Sri Dharmashasta Ayyappa Swamy Temple and Siva Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Narsampet town on Tuesday, praying for the speedy and complete recovery of former Narsampet MLA Peddi Sudarshan Reddy. These prayers were held under the auspices of the BRS Town Party President, former MPP, councilors and party leaders. "Speaking on the occasion, BRS Narsampet Constituency Coordinator Takkalapelli Ravinder Rao said that hundreds of party workers and supporters are praying wholeheartedly for the speedy recovery of Peddi Sudarshan Reddy and his return to public life in good health. "BRS President K., who was an inspiration to thousands of party workers during the Telangana Rashtra Sadhana Movement, He said that it is very sad that Peddi Sudarshan Reddy, who fought at the forefront as a close friend and strong supporter of Chandrasekhar Rao, has fallen seriously ill. "Sudarshan Reddy recovered from the critical condition with timely emergency treatment at Rohini Hospital, he said, and is currently receiving advanced treatment under the supervision of expert doctors at Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad with the help of a ventilator. "Ravinder Rao prayed that Peddi Sudarshan Reddy recovers quickly, lives a long life and soon returns to actively serve the people. He said that special prayers have been offered to Sri Dharmashasta Ayyappa Swamy, seeking the blessings of God for his complete recovery.

SIR Process Reviewed in Bheem Reddy Nagar Colony



Ajay Yadav and Congress Leaders Visit SIR Help Desk "BODUPPAL, JULY 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process is progressing actively in Bheem Reddy Nagar Colony under the Boduppal Circle of the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation. "As part of the ongoing voter awareness drive, former Boduppal Mayor Thotakura Ajay Yadav, Medchal District Congress Party B-Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, former Corporator Singireddy Padma Reddy, and Chengicherla Division Congress Party President Pogula Dileep Reddy visited the SIR Help Desk set up at the Bheem Reddy Nagar Colony Community Hall. "During the visit, they distributed SIR enumeration forms to voters and reviewed the functioning of the help desk.

They instructed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to ensure that every eligible voter is properly informed and assisted in completing and registering their details accurately. The leaders urged voters to make use of the opportunity and submit their enumeration forms within the stipulated deadline to ensure their electoral details are updated correctly. "Among those present were Medchal District Youth Congress General Secretary Prashanth, BLOs Rakesh, Anita, Sushila, Babu, and Narendra, along with Booth Level Agents (BLAs), division leaders, women representatives, and local residents.

Allegations of Exploitation Under Arogyasri? "Family Alleges Medical Negligence Led to Patient's Death at Vasishta Hospital



Khammam July 28 Indian Chronicle: "Serious allegations have been levelled against Vasishta Multi Speciality Critical Care Hospital in Khammam, with the family of a deceased patient claiming that medical negligence and the illegal collection of money under the Arogyasri health scheme resulted in his death. "According to the victim's family, Miriyala Kondala Rao (60), a resident of Narasimhapuram in Thallampadu village of Khammam Rural Mandal, was admitted to the hospital on May 30 for surgery after being diagnosed with abnormal bone growth in the C5 and C6 vertebrae. Neurosurgeon Dr. P. Nagendra performed the surgery on June 3, and the patient was dis-

charged under the Arogyasri scheme on June 11. "However, the family alleges that Kondala Rao's health deteriorated dramatically on the same evening after discharge. They claim that despite the emergency, specialist doctors were unavailable, and the absence of a pulmonologist delayed critical treatment even though fluid had accumulated in his lungs. "His son, Miriyala Nageswara Rao, later shifted him to Mamata Hospital, where doctors provided emergency treatment. Despite their efforts, Kondala Rao succumbed to his condition on June 22. "The family maintains that the death was not natural but was the result of medical negligence. They have lodged complaints with the District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO), the District Collector, Arogyasri authorities, and Khammam II Town Police Station, demanding strict action against the hospital management. "The family has also made another serious allegation, claiming that although treatment under the Arogyasri scheme was supposed to be completely free, the hospital collected ₹20,000 through PhonePe. They further allege that when Arogyasri officials sought an explanation, the hospital falsely claimed that the amount had been paid digitally and later refunded in cash to the patient. "Questions Raised Over Arogyasri Implementation "The incident has once again raised concerns over allegations that some private hospitals are misusing the Arogyasri welfare scheme for financial gain. Claims of collecting money despite free treatment, the alleged absence of specialist doctors during emergencies, and attempts to evade responsibility have drawn public attention. "Demand for Government Inquiry "Members of the public and the victim's family have urged the district administration, the Health Department, and the Arogyasri Trust to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident. They have demanded strict action against the hospital management and the doctors found responsible if the allegations are proven true, along with justice for the bereaved family. "Note: The allegations mentioned above are based on the claims made by the deceased patient's family. The hospital management's detailed response and the findings of the official investigation are awaited.

Fight will not stop until Kazipet Railway Division is achieved: Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar

"Hanamkonda, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Former government chief whip and former MLA Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar said that the fight for the implementation of pending railway promises, along with the establishment of Kazipet Railway Division, will continue until it is fulfilled. "He visited Kazipet Railway Station on Tuesday morning to express solidarity with BRS party workers who are leaving to participate in the protest demonstration led by the party at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on July 30. "Speaking on the occasion, Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar said, "Fights are our way, we will continue to fight to protect our rights." He emphasized that the party will continue the movement to protect the rights of Telangana with the same determination as it fought for the formation of a separate Telangana state. He recalled that BRS played a key role in realizing the four-decade dream of establishing the Kazipet Coach Factory for the people of the erstwhile Warangal district. "He demanded that priority be given to local youth in job creation at the Kazipet Coach Factory, that a Kazipet Railway Division be set up, that employment opportunities be provided to families who had given their lands for railway projects be provided, that the problems of loco pilots be resolved, and that all pending railway projects be completed. He said that a peaceful protest would be held at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi



on July 30 to achieve these demands. "Former corporators Sanku Narsingarao, Bongu Ashok Yadav, Zorika Ramesh, senior leaders Narlagiri Ramesh, Ainavolu Sarpanch Raghuvanshi, Puli Rajinikanth, Puli Vikram, Duvva Kanakaraju, Kondra Shankar, Gabbeta Srinivas, Sunchu Ashok, Sudhakar, Afzal, Barignam, Chandi Nair, Punnam, Punnam. Laddu, Ganesh, Robert, Sadanandam, many party leaders and activists participated in the program.

Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya and MLA Kadiyam Srihari Seek Central Support for Road Development Projects



"Warangal, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Warangal Member of Parliament Dr. Kadiyam Kavya and former Deputy Chief Minister and Station Ghanpur MLA Kadiyam Srihari met Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on Tuesday and submitted a memorandum seeking approval for pending key road development projects in the Warangal Parliamentary Constituency. They also requested the speedy completion of unfinished service roads along the National Highway. "During the meeting, they brought to the Minister's attention the need to widen and strengthen the road connecting Karunapuram, Pedda Pendyala, Narsingarapalli, Elukurthi, Dharmasagar Mandal Headquarters, Devunur, Soma Devarapalli, Damera, and Elkathurthi Mandal Headquarters in Hanumakonda district. They explained that this road serves as a vital link connecting National Highways 163 and 563, enabling vehicles travelling from Hyderabad to Karimnagar and Siddipet to bypass Warangal city. They noted that thousands of commuters, farmers, students, and business people use this route every day, making its upgradation essential to meet increasing traffic demands. "They also urged the Minister to complete the missing links between service roads constructed during the four-laning of the Yadadri-Warangal National Highway (NH-163). Although service roads have been built in villages such as Nidigonda, Raghunathpalli, Chagal, Ghanpur Station, Chinna Pendyala, and Karunapuram, the lack of connectivity between them is forcing local residents to travel on the main highway, resulting in traffic congestion and an increased risk of road accidents. Since the required land has already been acquired, they requested immediate approval for completing the remaining service road links. "Further, they appealed for approval of additional road development works proposed by the Telangana Government under the Central Road and Infra-

structure Fund (CRIF) 2025-26. They stated that the widening of the Narsampet-Nandigama Road and the development of the Bhattupalli-Hunter Road would significantly improve rural connectivity and contribute to the growth of the agriculture, trade, and industrial sectors. "Dr. Kadiyam Kavya and MLA Kadiyam Srihari urged the Union Minister to consider these long-pending proposals concerning the people of the Warangal Parliamentary Constituency and grant approvals at the earliest. They said that Union Minister Nitin Gadkari assured them that the representations would be examined positively.

Landmark Mahindra Organises 'Unlimit Weekends' for EV SUV Owners



"Hyderabad, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Landmark Mahindra has organised a special 'Unlimit Weekends' event in Hyderabad exclusively for owners of Mahindra Electric Origin eSUVs, the company said in a statement on Tuesday. According to the company, 88 members of its electric SUV community participated in the programme. As part of the event, an EV rally was flagged off from the Landmark Mahindra showroom in Tellapur and concluded at the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club. The participants also took part in horse riding, customer interaction sessions, networking activities, and a special dinner. The company stated that the initiative was aimed at offering customers memorable experiences beyond vehicle ownership while strengthening the sense of community among Mahindra electric SUV owners.

Pallavi Model School Hosts South Zone CBSE Boys Chess Championship-2026



"BODUPPAL JULY 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Pallavi Model School, Boduppal, on Monday inaugurated the South Zone CBSE (SZ-1) Boys Chess Championship-2026, which will be held from July 27 to July 30. "The four-day championship has brought together 846 young chess players representing 212 CBSE schools from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, making it one of the largest inter-school chess events in the South Zone. "The championship was formally inaugurated by FIDE Woman Grandmaster Bodda Pratyusha in the presence of the school's Director, Mr. Sushil Kumar, Principal Mrs. T. Tanuja, and International Arbitrator Mr. R. Chandramouli. WGM Bodda Pratyusha made the ceremonial first move and encouraged the participants to compete with confidence, discipline and true sportsmanship. "Speaking on the occasion, Director Mr. Sushil Kumar said chess plays a vital role in developing analytical thinking, patience and decision-making abilities among students. Principal Mrs. T. Tanuja welcomed the participants and wished them success in the tournament. "With excellent arrangements, enthusiastic participation and a competitive spirit, the championship got off to a grand start, reaffirming Pallavi Model School's commitment to promoting excellence in both academics and sports.

Farmers' Welfare is the Government's Primary Goal: MLA K.R. Nagaraju



"Warangal, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Farmers' welfare and prosperity are the primary objectives of the State Government, said Wardhannapet MLA and retired IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju. "On Tuesday, the MLA participated in the "Rythu Nestham" video conference conducted under the leadership of Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, along with Warangal District Collector Smt. Satya Sharada Devi. "Speaking on the occasion, the MLA urged officials to create widespread awareness among farmers about agricultural strategies to be adopted in view of the El Niño effect and prevailing drought conditions. He advised farmers to gain awareness about alternative crops and water conservation practices. "He appealed to farmers to cultivate drought-resistant crops such as sorghum, pearl millet, green gram, black gram, and red gram in view of the prevailing drought conditions. As water availability is likely to decline further in the coming days, he suggested that farmers shift their focus from water-intensive paddy cultivation to suitable alternative crops. "The MLA directed the concerned officials to continuously monitor groundwater levels and provide timely information to farmers. He also instructed the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to encourage the cultivation of horticultural crops such as fruits, vegetables, and oil palm. He stated that the government is extending all possible support to farmers who take up dryland farming. "On the occasion, farmers who had opted for dryland crops instead of paddy cultivation were felicitated with mementos and shawls in recognition of their efforts. "The programme was attended by Mandal President Savitri, District Vice President Pinninti Anil, local Sarpanch Shankar, Parvathagiri Village Unit President Kusam Ramachander, Sarpanches' Forum President Venkateswara Rao, Enumamula Market Director Godugu Bikshapathi, Ainavolu Devasthanam Director Venkanna, mandal and village-level leaders, sarpanches, former public representatives, party workers, and officials of the Agriculture Department.



Woman Chess Grandmaster Pratyusha Bodda announced that a chess festival is being organized in four phases from August 9 to 16 under the aegis of the Pratyusha International Chess Academy. She shared details about the festival at a press conference held on Tuesday at the Somajiguda Press Club, alongside RJ Sekhar Basha, RJ Raj, and Academy Director Raviteja. She stated that the festival is being grandly organized at Sri Chaitanya Future Pathways Global Schools in Miyapur and that a total prize money of ₹16,26,666 will be awarded to the winners. A poster for the chess festival was unveiled during the event. She mentioned that gold coins would be awarded to players through daily lucky draws and that there would be entertainment featuring film celebrities. "RJ Sekhar Basha urged parents to encourage their children's interest in chess and to play the game with them, noting that chess fosters intellect, memory, and creativity in young children.

Raise Public Awareness on Hepatitis: DM&HO Dr. D. Rama Rao on World Hepatitis Day



“Khammam, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): On the occasion of World Hepatitis Day, District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO) Dr. D. Rama Rao participated in an awareness rally organized at the Government General Hospital, Khammam, on Tuesday. “Addressing the gathering, Dr. Rama Rao said that Hepatitis is a viral disease that affects the liver. He explained that the disease is caused by different types of hepatitis viruses, namely Hepatitis A,

B, C, D, and E. He emphasized that Hepatitis B can be effectively prevented through vaccination. “He urged parents to ensure that every newborn receives the Hepatitis B birth dose vaccine immediately after birth, followed by all the recommended doses under the National Immunization Programme. “Dr. Rama Rao also stressed the importance of using screened and safe blood for transfusions, single-use needles and syringes, maintaining personal hygiene, consuming safe drinking water, and eating clean and hygienic food to prevent hepatitis. “He advised the public to consult doctors immediately if they experience symptoms of hepatitis, undergo timely medical tests, and seek early treatment to prevent serious liver damage. He appealed to everyone to create awareness about hepatitis, dispel myths, and adopt preventive measures.”

“Later, Dr. Rama Rao inspected the renovation works at the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) Training School located within the Government General Hospital premises. He also visited the Central Drug Store and the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) section, directing the concerned officials to complete the renovation works within the stipulated time while maintaining quality standards. “The programme was attended by Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme Officer Dr. Mothiya, Government General Hospital Superintendent Dr. Narendra, Deputy Medical Superintendent Dr. Kiran, Nodal Officer Dr. Samatha Rani, Resident Medical Officer Dr. Nagendra Prasad, District Vaccine and Logistics Manager Mr. Ramana, District Programme Officer Mrs. Durga, Dr. L. Rambabu, nursing officers, doctors, and other staff members.

Remove Toll Tax and Cess on Journalists' Concession Passes: WJI



Working Journalists of India submits memorandum to TGSRTC Khammam Regional Manager “Khammam, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): The Working Journalists of India (WJI) has demanded the immediate withdrawal of toll tax and cess being collected on TGSRTC State Concession Passes issued to working journalists. A delegation of WJI leaders submitted a memorandum to TGSRTC Khammam Regional Manager A. Sriram on Tuesday. “Speaking on the occasion, WJI Khammam District Convener Gantela Anand said that, as per the existing rules, only one-third (approximately 33.3%) of the basic fare should be collected from journalists holding State Concession Passes. However, the corporation is currently collecting 50 to 60 percent of the fare by adding toll tax and cess, which is unjustified, he said. “The WJI leaders pointed out that journalists travel extensively

every day as part of their professional duties, and the additional charges are imposing an unnecessary financial burden on them. They stated that the government's objective of providing concessional travel facilities to journalists is being defeated by these extra levies. They urged the corporation to immediately abolish the additional collection of toll tax and cess. “Responding to the memorandum, Regional Manager A. Sriram assured the delegation that the issue would be brought to the notice of the state government and senior TGSRTC officials. He clarified that the matter could only be resolved at the state level and promised to forward the representation to the higher authorities for necessary action. “The WJI delegation also requested the introduction of an ordinary bus service between Khammam and Kodad, and from Kodad to Khammam, around 9:00 p.m. They explained that the absence of an ordinary service during that time causes inconvenience not only to journalists but also to passengers travelling to villages along the route. The Regional Manager responded positively and assured them that appropriate steps would be taken. “The delegation included WJI Co-Conveners Yenneboyina Srinivasa Rao and Nagaraju Devara, Khammam Assembly Constituency Convener and Press Club In-charge K. Kalyan Chakravarthi, district leaders Jabishetty Kutumba Rao, Gogula Narayana Rao, K. Prasada Rao, Yenigandla Srinivasa Rao, Boddupalli Ravinder, senior journalist Arika Kiran Kumar, and others.

Government Has Failed to Curb Sexual Assaults Against Children: Palakurthi Vijay Kumar



Narsampet, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): The Telangana Government and the Home Department have completely failed to curb the increasing incidents of sexual assaults and rapes against children in the state, alleged Palakurthi Vijay Kumar, Warangal District President of the International Human Rights Organization and a member of the Warangal District SC/ST Atrocity Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. “Addressing a press conference at the International Human Rights Organization office in Narsampet on Tuesday, he said that incidents of sexual abuse of children and cases registered under the POCSO Act are rising

at an alarming rate across the state. He claimed that 3,029 POCSO cases have been registered this year, compared to the previous year, and expressed concern that incidents of child sexual abuse are being reported almost every day from different parts of Telangana. “He criticized the lack of coordination among various government departments in providing protection to victims, offering counselling, and maintaining surveillance over the accused. As a result, he said, the families of victims continue to face severe hardship and insecurity. “Referring to the recent Shabad incident, Vijay Kumar alleged that the government had failed to provide adequate protection to the victim. He also criticized the alleged negligence of probation officers at the district level. “He further described the recent incident in Wardhannapet Mandal of Warangal district, where a government school headmaster allegedly sexually assaulted a four-year-old girl, as extremely shocking and condemnable. He said it was a matter of deep shame that a teacher, who is expected to educate children and serve as a role model in society, was accused of committing such an offence. “Stating that a case has already been registered against the accused under the POCSO Act, Vijay Kumar demanded that the government ensure a speedy investigation and impose the strictest legal punishment. He also urged the state government to strengthen child protection measures and implement a more effective system to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Vallapu Jagan Yadav Appointed BJP OBC Morcha Medchal Urban District General Secretary



“UPPAL, JULY 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Vallapu Jagan Yadav, a social activist and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader from Ramanthapur, has been appointed as the General Secretary of the BJP OBC Morcha, Medchal Urban District. The appointment was made by OBC Morcha Medchal Urban District President J.K. Shekhar Yadav. According to party leaders, the responsibility was

entrusted to Jagan Yadav in recognition of his dedicated service towards strengthening the party, working for the welfare of OBC communities, and promoting the BJP's ideology among the people. After receiving the appointment letter, Vallapu Jagan Yadav expressed his heartfelt gratitude to District President J.K. Shekhar Yadav for reposing faith in him and assigning him the responsibility. He said the new position carries greater responsibility and assured that he would work with commitment to achieve the party's objectives. He also thanked former MLA N.V.S.S. Prabhakar, BJP leaders of the Uppal constituency, senior party leaders, and party workers for their support in his appointment. Jagan Yadav stated that he would strive to strengthen the OBC Morcha by working in coordination with every party worker and upholding the trust placed in him by the party. “He further said that he would actively contribute to expanding the BJP's presence across Medchal Urban District, addressing the issues of OBC communities, creating public awareness against what he termed the anti-people policies of the state government, and ensuring that the welfare schemes of the Central Government reach the people. On the occasion,

BJP leaders and party workers congratulated Vallapu Jagan Yadav on his appointment and expressed confidence that the BJP OBC Morcha would be further strengthened under his leadership.

Rahul Gandhi's Protest at Jantar Mantar is a Political Drama: Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy



“BJP Leader Inspects SIR Drive in Khammam, Criticizes Congress and Telangana Government “Khammam, July 28 – Indian Chronicle “BJP National Leader and Karnataka–Tamil Nadu In-charge Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy alleged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's protests at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi are nothing more than political theatrics aimed at protecting the party's political relevance. He claimed that the Congress is making baseless allegations against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls out of fear that fake and illegal votes are being removed. “On Tuesday, Dr. Sudhakar Reddy, along with BJP Khammam District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao, inspected the ongoing SIR programme in the Khammam Assembly constituency. Earlier, he offered special prayers at the Sri Raja Rajeshwari Temple in Rotary Nagar, Khammam. Later, addressing a media conference chaired by Nelluri Koteswara Rao, he launched a sharp attack on the Congress party, Rahul Gandhi, and the Telangana government. “Dr. Sudhakar Reddy said that the demonstrations being organized by the Congress at Jantar Mantar are not intended to address public issues but are merely political campaigns designed to attract media attention. He alleged that the Congress, having lost public support, is resorting to such protests only for publicity. He further criticized Rahul Gandhi's leadership, stating that the Congress lacks constructive alternatives and is instead indulging in politics that harms the nation's image. “Defending the Special Intensive Revision process, he stated that the Central Government is conducting the electoral roll revi-

sion transparently. According to him, the removal of fake and illegal voters has caused concern within the Congress party, leading it to make unfounded allegations against the SIR process. He said the exercise is aimed at protecting the voting rights of genuine citizens and added that it has received a positive response from the public in Khammam district. “Criticizing the Telangana government, Dr. Sudhakar Reddy alleged that the Congress has failed to implement the promises it made before the elections, including its six guarantees. He said people are disappointed due to the government's failure to fulfill its commitments. He also alleged that development has slowed down, law and order have deteriorated, and the government is focusing more on publicity and political vendetta than governance. “He further accused Rahul Gandhi at the national level and Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the state level of misleading the people for political gain. According to him, the Congress is more interested in political benefits than in solving public issues, and the people will teach the party a fitting lesson in the coming days. “The programme was attended by BJP leaders Gongura Venkateswara Rao, Rudra Pradeep, Gutta Venkateswarlu, Nunna Ravi Kumar, Sheelam Paparao, Shasanala Sairam, Shyam Rathod, Pammi Anita, Veeravalli Rajesh, Konatham Lakshminarayana, Manda Saraswathi, R.V.S. Yadav, Banda Regan Pratap, Kumili Srinivas, Tajnooth Bhadram, Gadila Naresh, Nakka Ravi Goud, Venkatanarayana Yadav, Pittala Venkata Narasayya, Gutta Vamsi, and several other party workers.

No Acre Should Be Left Uncultivated in the District: Dhanasari Pullaiah



“Farmers Urged to Take Up Pulses Cultivation; Model Farmers and Best Agriculture Officers Honoured “Nelakondapalli (Khammam District), July 28 – Indian Chronicle “District Agriculture Officer Dhanasari Pullaiah urged farmers not to leave even a single acre of land uncultivated and called upon them to take up pulses and other low water-consuming crops in view of the prevailing rainfall deficit. “He was addressing the Rythu Nestham programme held at the local Rythu Vedika on Tuesday. As part of the celebration of the 100th episode of Rythu Nestham, model farmers from the district and outstanding Agriculture Extension Officers were felicitated for their contributions. “Speaking on the occasion, Pullaiah said the district has recorded a 30 percent rainfall deficit, and farmers should avoid cultivating paddy under the current conditions to prevent financial losses. He noted that many

farmers are relying on borewells and open wells for paddy cultivation, while groundwater levels are steadily declining. He also warned that interruptions in electricity supply could further affect irrigation, resulting in additional losses. “He advised farmers to cultivate pulses and other crops that require less water, instead of water-intensive paddy. Out of the district's 3.5 lakh acres of cultivable land, nearly 50,000 acres have already been brought under paddy cultivation. Farmers, he said, should understand the present situation and bring all available agricultural land under cultivation, but avoid growing paddy wherever possible. “Pullaiah further observed that even if rains improve during August, the available water would largely be needed for drinking purposes. Therefore, farmers should plan their crop choices carefully.

He expressed happiness that farmers from the district had received State-level awards during the 100th episode celebrations of Rythu Nestham. He also appreciated the farmers of Nelakondapalli Mandal, stating that they have earned a special place in the field of agriculture through their achievements. “The programme was attended by ATMA Project Director B. Saritha, Kusumanchi ADA Rajesh Kumar, Market Committee Chairman Vennapusala Seetharamulu, Mandal Agriculture Officer M. Radha, Sarpanch Dheeravath Ashokarani, farmers' representatives Matta Durgareddy, Mekala Venkateswarlu, Dheeravath Radhakrishna Murthy, Yelamaddi Lenin, Bhaskara Rao, Venkata Reddy, Seethya Naik, Agriculture Extension Officers Durgabhavani, Sirisha, Avinash, Eswari, and others.

Police Commissioner Calls for Stronger Role of Central Crime Station in Crime Detection



“Khammam, July 28 – Indian Chronicle “Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt has directed the Central Crime Station (CCS) to play a more effective and proactive role in crime detection and investigation. “On Tuesday, the Commissioner visited the Central Crime Station in Khammam and reviewed its functioning. He examined the assistance being provided by CCS personnel to investigating officers in solving crimes, including thefts, robberies, and other criminal offences. He also assessed the unit's efforts in gathering advance intelligence on the movements of habitual offenders. “Speaking on the occasion, the Police Commissioner said that necessary measures would be taken to further strengthen the Central Crime Station, which plays a crucial role in crime detection. He instructed CCS officials to focus particularly on property recovery in criminal cases. “Sunil Dutt noted that the effective use of modern technology has been yielding positive results in preventing and detecting various types of crimes. He also directed officials to expedite the disposal of pending cases and em-

phasized the formation of dedicated crime teams to speed up investigations.

Five Booked in Petty Case for Public Drunkenness and Obscene Behaviour at Chengicherla

“MEDIPALLY, JULY 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Medipally Police registered a petty case against five persons for allegedly consuming alcohol in a public place, creating a nuisance, and behaving indecently in the Chengicherla–Boduppal area. “According to the police, on the night of July 26, Tarun, Racha Kranthi Kumar, Praveen, Tarun (son of Mogulayya), and Naveen were found consuming liquor in a public place and causing inconvenience to the public. A petty case was registered against them, and a charge sheet was filed.

The accused were produced before the Court of the First Special Judicial Magistrate of Second Class at L.B. Nagar. The court imposed a fine of ₹50 on each individual, amounting to a total fine of ₹250. In addition, as part of the Swachh Bharat initiative, the court directed them to clean the premises of the police station and the court. In compliance with the court's orders, all five participated in a cleanliness drive at both locations.

SQI Services Commendable: Bishop Ramesh Balan



“Marriage Licences Distributed to 20 Pastors at Kothakothuru”“Nelakondapalli (Khammam District), July 28 – Indian Chronicle”“The services being rendered by Spirit Quest International (SQI) are highly commendable, said India Bishop Ramesh Balan.”“He was speaking on Tues-

day at the Dahinchu Agni Krupa Prayer Hall in Kothakothuru village of Nelakondapalli mandal, where 20 pastors were presented with Marriage Licences during a programme organized under the leadership of Pastor Bishop Y. Satish Reddy.”“Addressing the gathering, Bishop Ramesh Balan said that SQI is working for the welfare of pastors, particularly those serving in remote rural areas. He stated that the organization's primary objective is to identify and encourage pastors who are rendering dedicated service in villages by providing them with the necessary support and recognition.”“He further announced that the organization is planning to introduce social and health security benefits for pastors associated with SQI in the near future. He appreciated the organization's service activities being carried out across Telangana.”“The programme was attended by State Bishop G. Prakasham, Zonal Bishop Y. Satish Reddy, Y. Lalitha Reddy, D. Dhanasekaran, and several other church leaders and members.

Warangal's unique products should be recognized at the national and international levels...

MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya”“Warangal, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Warangal Member of Parliament Dr. Kadiyam Kavya raised a question in the Lok Sabha on the steps being taken by the Central Government to provide more opportunities in international markets for Warangal's unique products and promote exports.”“She asked for details of the programs taken by the Centre to promote exports of Warangal handloom, textile, agricultural and food processing products. She also asked about the financial assistance, marketing support, quality certification and programs being implemented by exporters to reach global markets.”“In a written reply, Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasad said that Warangal products have significant export potential. Under the programme to transform districts into export hubs, textiles from Warangal Urban and Warangal Rural districts, Warangal handloom carpets, garments, mangoes, rice and maize have been identified as key products with strong export potential.”“The Minister informed the House that the Union Government is implementing an Export Promotion Mission at a cost of Rs. 25,060 crore to promote exports across the country. The mission will provide support to exporters through commercial loans, interest subsidies, loan guarantees, quality standards,



branding, packaging, logistics and assistance in accessing international markets.”“Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Kadiyam Kavya said that her aim is to bring more recognition to the unique products of Warangal at the national and international levels. She said that she will continue to raise her voice in Parliament to ensure that farmers, handloom workers and micro and small industries of Warangal get more opportunities in the global markets.

"May Peddi Sudarshan Reddy Recover Soon"... Minister Ponguleti, MLA Donthi Visit Yashoda Hospital



“Narsampet, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Union Warangal District In-charge Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and Narsampet MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy on Tuesday visited Yashoda Hospital in Secunderabad, where former Narsampet MLA and senior Telangana movement leader Peddi Sudarshan Reddy is undergoing treatment after suffering a heart attack. They met his family members and enquired about his health.”“On the occasion, they interacted with the doctors and reviewed Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's medical condition, the treatment being provided, and his prospects for recovery. They requested the medical team to ensure that he receives the best possible treatment and all necessary care for his complete recovery.”“Later, they met his family members and offered words of encouragement and support. They expressed confidence that, with the prayers of party workers, supporters,



and the people, along with the advanced medical care being provided, Peddi Sudarshan Reddy would soon make a full recovery and return to public life.”“Speaking on the occasion, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that Peddi Sudarshan Reddy had rendered remarkable service in public life and expressed hope that he would recover quickly and resume serving the people.

MLA Donthi Madhava Reddy also prayed for his complete recovery and wished that he would soon return to active public life in good health.”“They further noted that people, supporters, and leaders from various political parties across the state have been enquiring about Peddi Sudarshan Reddy's health and praying for his speedy recovery, describing it as a reflection of the immense affection and respect he enjoys among the public.

TWJF Urges Centre to Resolve Journalists' Issues



Federation Leaders Meet Union Ministers and Members of Parliament in New Delhi”“New Delhi, July 28 – Indian Chronicle”“Leaders of the Telangana Working Journalists Federation (TWJF) urged the Central Government to take immediate steps to resolve the long-pending issues faced by journalists across the country.”“Following the federation's protest at Jantar Mantar on Monday, TWJF State President Mamidi Somaiah, General Secretary

Tanneeru Srinivas, Vice President Bandi Vijay Kumar, and other leaders met Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, as well as Members of Parliament Mallu Ravi (Congress) and Vaddiraju Ravichandra, and submitted memoranda highlighting the demands of the journalist community.”“The federation requested the Central Government to restore the Railway Concession Passes for journalists, which were discontinued during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The leaders also appealed for the implementation of a National Pension Scheme for retired journalists across the country and urged the enactment of a special law in Parliament to ensure the protection and safety of journalists.”“They further requested the Centre to review the Supreme Court judgment relating to the allotment of government land to journalists and journalists' cooperative societies, so that eligible journalists can receive house sites.”“The delegation urged the Union Ministers and Members of Parliament to raise these issues before the Central Government and work towards an early resolution.”“The programme was attended by TWJF National Council Members Kuncham Srinivas, Parkala Sammaiah Goud, K. Ramadevi, Padmanabha Rao, and federation leaders Gopal, Moiz, and others.

AI Software Supply Chain Risks Highlighted

Hyderabad, July 28 (Indian Chronicle) : Cybercriminals are increasingly targeting software developers by using artificial intelligence(AI) to create malicious software packages that appear legitimate, according to Abhishek Chauhan, Senior Director and India Country Head at Sonatype. Speaking alongside Ashutosh Sharma, Vice President and Principal Analyst at Forrester, Chauhan said that experts discussed the growing risks associated with AI-driven software supply chain attacks during the Guru Forum, jointly organized by Sonatype and Forrester. The research presented at the forum revealed a significant rise in targeted attacks involving malicious software packages. The experts emphasized that Indian organizations should prioritize software supply chain security from the earliest stages of software development rather than treating it as an afterthought. They stressed that the solution is not to reduce the adop-



tion of AI, but to strengthen software supply chain security practices. As AI technologies continue to evolve, organizations must also update and modernize their security strategies to effectively counter emerging cyber threats.

Sthree Nidhi Loan Transactions Must Be Fully Digital: Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija



“SERP, MEPMA and Sthree Nidhi Staff Directed to Achieve 100% Loan Recovery”“Khammam, July 28 – Indian Chronicle”“Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Dr. P. Srija has directed officials of Sthree Nidhi, SERP and MEPMA to work in close coordination to ensure timely financial assistance to women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) while achieving 100 percent loan recovery.”“She was speaking at the Sthree Nidhi Committee Review Meeting held at the Collectorate conference hall on Tuesday.”“Addressing the meeting, Dr. Srija emphasized that field-level staff should maintain proper coordination and strengthen women's Self-Help Groups without any com-

munication gaps. She reviewed the performance of officials who were lagging behind in loan disbursement and recovery and instructed them to identify and resolve field-level issues promptly to achieve the prescribed targets.”“She directed officials to increase the recovery rate to 60 percent by next month and said that she would personally review the progress in the next meeting.”“Loan Recovery Only Through 'Mana Sthree Nidhi' App”“Dr. Srija instructed that all Sthree Nidhi loan recoveries should be carried out exclusively through the 'Mana Sthree Nidhi' mobile application to ensure transparency, faster transactions, and prevent misuse of funds.”“She asked officials to create awareness among every SHG member about the app by conducting special meetings in urban wards and village-level organizations (VOs). Staff were instructed to help women download the application on their mobile phones and provide live demonstrations on using the app for loan repayments.”“Speaking at the meeting, DRDO Sriram stated that legal records are being prepared to initiate strict criminal action against Village Organization Assistants (VOAs) found misusing Sthree Nidhi recovery funds for personal purposes.”“The review meeting was attended by MEPMA Project Director, Sthree Nidhi Regional Manager G. Ravinder Naik, MEPMA DMCs, ADMCs, TMCs, staff from five Town Level Federations (TLFs), APMs from 20 mandals, Sthree Nidhi officials, and others.

BJP National Leader Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy Visits SIR Help Desk in Khammam

Khammam, July 28 – Indian Chronicle”“BJP National Leader and Karnataka–Tamil Nadu In-charge Dr. Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy visited the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) Help Desk set up in Ward No. 22 of Khammam's First Town as part of his district tour.”“The help desk, established under the leadership of BJP contested corporator Bandla Madhuri Regan Pratap, is assisting voters in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls being conducted by the Election Commission of India across Telangana.”“Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Sudhakar Reddy said that the right to vote is a constitutional right and urged all voters to verify their details carefully based on the 2002 electoral roll and ensure that there are no errors. He stressed the importance of removing duplicate and deceased voters from the electoral rolls and appreciated the efforts of the local Booth Level Officer (BLO) in carrying out the revision process.”“He also directed BJP Booth Level Agents (BLA-2s) to assist eligible voters by clarifying their doubts and extending all necessary support during the verification process.”“Highlighting the importance of youth participation in democracy, Dr. Sudhakar Reddy urged young citizens to enrol themselves as voters by submitting the required documents. He said that the youth play a vital role in shaping the future of the nation and should actively exercise their democratic rights.”“The programme was attended



by BJP Khammam District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao, Town President Gadila Naresh, Khammam SIR Convener Shyam Rathod, District Vice-President and BLA-1 Veeravelli Rajesh Gupta, Paleru contested candidate Nunna Ravi, State Leader Rudra Pradeep, Mandal In-charge Ravi Rathod, Mahila Morcha President Manda Saraswathi, Town BJP leaders Meda Sampath, Bazoju Kumar, Yedavelli Sandeep, Venkat, Swarna, General Secretary Ramu Palepu, Kadudula Nagavelli Ramachandram, Jagadish, Marimela Ramakrishna, Bala, Sirigiri Shiva, and several local party leaders and workers.

Beerapagadda Community Hall Gets a Major Boost; First-Floor Construction Accelerated

BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj”“UPPAL, JULY 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Community Hall located behind the Beerapagadda Library in Beerapagadda Division is set for a major upgrade. Construction of the first floor of the Community Hall, being undertaken at an estimated cost of 715 lakh, is progressing at a rapid pace.”“BRS State Leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj inspected the ongoing construction works along with former Corporator Bannala Geetha. During the visit, they reviewed the progress of the project with GHMC officials and the contractor, emphasizing the need for quality construction and timely completion.”“Speaking on the occasion, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said the first-floor construction has been taken up with the objective of providing better community facilities to the residents of Beerapagadda. He instructed GHMC officials to ensure adequate ventilation and natural lighting by providing more windows and to construct a wider main entrance keeping public convenience in mind.”“He also pointed out that the Community Hall serves as a polling station during elections, attracting a large number of voters. Therefore, he urged officials to ensure that the building



is designed to accommodate heavy public movement during polling.”“Praveen Mudiraj further directed the contractor to strictly adhere to quality standards and complete the construction within the stipulated timeframe so that the facility can be made available to the public at the earliest.”“GHMC officials, BRS senior leaders Pandla Kishan Goud, Vanjari Narsing Rao, Tirupati Yadav, Kola Varun Goud, Srinivas Yadav, Venkat Reddy, Praveen Reddy, and others were present during the inspection.

Special focus on students' welfare... MLA, Collector make surprise inspection at Ashram school



Warangal, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Vardhamanapet MLA and retired IPS officer K.R. Nagaraju, along with Warangal District Collector Satyasharada Devi, made a surprise visit to the Tribal Ashram Boys' School in Parvatagiri mandal on Tuesday and inspected the facilities being provided to the students.”“During the visit, they thoroughly reviewed the quality of food available to the students, hostel accommodation, drinking water, sanitation and toilet facilities. The MLA examined the hostel attendance sheet and expressed dissatisfaction over the shortage of staff on duty. He took the warden's negligence in discharging his official duties seriously and ordered him to discharge his duties with more accountability.”“Later, the MLA interacted with the students and enquired about their education, accommodation, food, drinking water and other basic amenities. After learning about the problems faced by the students, he directed the concerned officials to take immediate steps to resolve them.”“The MLA had lunch with the students to personally check the quality of the food being served. During his previous visit, he had asked the students to provide blankets. Keeping his promise, during this visit, he along with the District Collector distributed 150 blankets to the students. He also assured them that sports equipment required for games and physical activities would be provided soon.”“The program was attended by Mandal President Savitri, District Vice President Pinnanti Anil, local Sarpanch Shankar, Parvatagiri Village Unit President Kusam Ramachander, Sarpanch Forum President Venkateswara Rao, Enumamula Market Director Godugu Bhikshapati, Ainavolu Devasthanam Director Venkanna, Mandal and



village level leaders, Sarpanches, former public representatives, party workers and concerned officials.

DLSA Secretary P. Devi Manasa Inspects District Children's Home

“Khammam, July 28: Indian Chronicle”“Mrs. P. Devi Manasa, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Khammam, visited the District Children's Home and inspected the facilities being provided to the children. During her visit, she interacted warmly with the children and enquired about their education, health, nutrition, accommodation, hygiene, medical care, safety, and overall well-being.”“Addressing the staff of the Children's Home, she emphasized that along with education, children should be encouraged to participate regularly in sports, cultural activities, reading, drawing, music, and other creative and recreational programs for their overall development. She also stressed the importance of creating a nurturing environment that helps children build self-confidence, leadership qualities, and social skills.”“Mrs. Devi Manasa further instructed the officials to ensure that every child receives care, affection, and protection while safeguarding their rights. She directed the authorities to strictly implement all child welfare regulations and ensure the effective functioning of the Children's Home in the best interests of the children.

Arun Patel Conducts 'Basti Bata' Programme in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division



"Inspects Colonies with Electricity Officials to Resolve Monsoon-Related Power Issues"UPPAL, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): Acting on the directions of Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress In-charge Mandumula Paramesh Reddy, Youth Congress leader and Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel conducted the 'Basti Bata' programme in Old Ramanthapur and Ramashankar Nagar (Chinna Janda) colonies under the Venkat Reddy Nagar Division, along with officials from the Electricity Department. "The programme was organised with a special focus on ensuring public safety during the mon-

soon season. During the visit, Arun Patel and the electricity officials inspected the power infrastructure in the colonies and interacted with local residents to understand their concerns. "Residents highlighted several issues, including old and unsafe electric poles, the need for additional streetlights, and damaged electrical wires that have been causing frequent short circuits and sparking, posing a serious risk to public safety." Responding to the grievances, Arun Patel assured the residents that necessary measures would be taken to replace the old electricity poles, remove damaged wires, and install new electrical cables. He also instructed the Electricity Department officials present at the site to complete all essential works on a war footing to ensure that residents do not face any inconvenience or danger during the rainy season. "The programme was attended by Electricity Department Assistant Engineer Lavanya, Inspector Srinivas, Venkat Reddy Nagar Division President Naam Raj Reddy, District General Secretary Jaleel Pasha, Shivalayam Temple Director Arun Sai, Congress leaders Golusula Swamy, Krishna, Naveen, Boddupalli Ravi, Ramu, Prabhu, Shambulingam, Satish, Raju, Govardhan, Sainath, Mohan, Ashok, Naresh Reddy, Mahesh, Aravind, Mahi, Sunny, Ambati Srinivas, Srikanth, Srinu, Tillu, Venkatesh, Satish Chary, Madhu Venkat, and a large number of local residents.

Paying Tribute to Dr.Kalam Means Fulfilling His Vision : Lead India



"Hyderabad, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): The true tribute to former President and Bharat Ratna Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam lies in implementing and fulfilling his vision, said Lead India Founder Chairman N.B.Sudarshan Acharya and Lead

India Founder Member and TRASMA Telangana State President S.N.Reddy. Speaking at a programme held at Lead India Bhavan to mark the 10th death anniversary of Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, the leaders paid floral tributes to his portrait and recalled his invaluable contribution to the nation. They said that, inspired by Dr.Kalam's vision, the Lead India Foundation has trained 67,000 teachers, 7,000 principals, and 2.2 million students across the country. They added that the organisation is committed to extending training programmes to more teachers and students with the goal of helping transform India into a 'Vishwa Guru' (global leader) by 2047. They noted that Dr.Kalam's inspiring message, 'Dream, dream, dream... Dreams transform into thoughts and thoughts result in action,' continues to motivate generations of young people to pursue their aspirations with determination. M.Devender Reddy, Thomas, Santosh, Aman, and members of TRASMA and Lead India also participated in the programme.

NSS Conducts Tree Plantation Drive at Bonakal Government Junior College



"Bonakal, July 28 – Indian Chronicle""The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Government Junior College, Bonakal, organised a Haritha Haram tree plantation programme on the occasion of World Nature Conservation Day. "Addressing the gathering, College Principal Smt. Nalini Sri said that protecting the environment is the respon-

sibility of every individual. She noted that trees provide oxygen, shade, rainfall, clean air, and help maintain ecological balance. She urged everyone to adopt the principle of "One Person, One Tree" and actively participate in protecting nature. "She said that increasing pollution, deforestation, and climate change have become major challenges, and planting trees is one of the most effective ways to address these issues. Every sapling planted today, she said, is a valuable gift to future generations. She also encouraged NSS volunteers to serve society with dedication and ensure that every sapling they plant is nurtured until it grows into a healthy tree. "Political Science Lecturer Jonathan Babu congratulated the NSS unit for successfully organising the programme. Librarian Mohan led the volunteers in raising environmental awareness slogans such as "Plant Trees – Protect Nature" and "Green Trees are the Steps to Progress," urging everyone to contribute towards the success of the Haritha Haram initiative. "The programme was attended by NSS Programme Officer Ananthi Tirupati Rao, faculty members Rajendra Kumar, Lakshmi Kantam, Padmavathi, Ramakrishna, Ramesh, Rajendra, Priya Kumar Reddy, Murali Krishna, Shanthi Priya, Yashoda, UDC Madar Saheb, Jaswanth, Bujamma, Aruna, and NSS volunteers.

Auto Workers Demand Welfare Board, Immediate Release of 12,000 Annual Assistance



"AITUC Holds Protest in Front of RTA Office in Khammam""Khammam Urban, July 28 – Indian Chronicle""The AITUC has demanded that the Telangana Government immediately establish a Welfare Board for Auto Workers and fulfill its election promise of providing ₹12,000 annual financial assistance to eligible auto drivers. "The demand was raised by AITUC Khammam District General Secretary Thota Ramanjaneyulu and Telangana Auto and Private Motor Owners and Drivers Workers' Union (AITUC) District Honorary President Pagadala Mallesh while addressing a protest organised by the district unit in front of the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Office on Tuesday. The protest was held in response to a statewide call given by the union. "The leaders said that after the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), the auto-rickshaw sector is the largest mode of public transport, serving lakhs of passengers every day. They pointed out that auto drivers purchase vehicles through loans without depending on the government for employment and provide essential transport services in both rural and urban areas. "They demanded that the government establish a dedicated welfare board for auto workers, stating that the demand has remained unresolved despite over three decades of continuous struggle. They also alleged that the lives of auto workers have not improved even after the formation of Telangana. "The union leaders expressed concern that the implementation of the Mahalakshmi free bus travel scheme has significantly affected the livelihoods of auto drivers. They reminded the government of its promise to provide ₹12,000 per year to auto workers and urged it to release the assistance without further delay. "They also demanded the establishment of dedicated auto stands with basic amenities in towns and cities. Warning of intensified protests if their demands remain unfulfilled, the leaders

called upon the government to take immediate action. "The protest was attended by District President Ravula Srinivasa Rao, District General Secretary Peraboyina Mohan Rao, District Vice-President Tekumattla Srinivas, Assistant Secretary Shaik Rafi, Treasurer Arempula Satish, District Committee Members Meenugula Nageswara Rao, Mellacheruvu Guravaiah, Ramakrishna, Mahesh, Pagadala Manmatha Rao, Menaiah, Kommu Raju, and other union members.

Students Urged to Stay Away from Drugs and Build a Bright Future

ACP Venkat Reddy, SHO Ramalinga Reddy""UPPAL, JULY 28 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal ACP Venkat Reddy and Uppal Police Station SHO Y. Ramalinga Reddy appealed to students to stay away from drugs and focus on achieving their goals. An Anti-Drug Awareness Programme was organised by the Uppal Police at Ramanthapur Polytechnic College on Tuesday to educate students about the dangers of drug abuse. "Addressing the gathering, ACP Venkat Reddy said that the use of drugs, ganja, and other narcotic substances destroys the lives of young people and seriously affects both their physical and mental health. He cautioned that the temporary pleasure offered by drugs could lead to a dark and uncertain future. He advised students to choose good friends, concentrate on education, sports, and skill development, and strive to achieve success in life. "SHO Y. Ramalinga Reddy said that the police are taking strict action against the sale, transportation, and consumption of narcotic substances. He explained that those caught in drug-related offences would face severe legal consequences. He urged students not to fall prey to temptation and to completely avoid drugs. He also encouraged them to spread awareness among their family members and friends about the harmful effects of drug abuse. "The police officers called upon everyone to play an active role in building a drug-free society. They requested the public to immediately inform Dial 100 or the Uppal Police Station if they come across any information regarding the sale or consumption of drugs, assuring that the identity of informants would be kept strictly confidential.

Pensioners' Safety is the Priority: Yugandhar Appreciates SBI Services“Railway Pensioners



Welfare Association thanks SBI officials and organizers""Hyderabad, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): "A special cyber awareness programme organized by the State Bank of India (SBI) for railway pensioners received an overwhelming response. The programme educated pensioners on protection against cyber crimes, safe digital banking practices, and the secure use of YONO SBI services. "Speaking on the occasion, P. Yugandhar, General Secretary of the

All India Railway Pensioners' Welfare Association, expressed heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the association to the SBI officials, trainers, and organizers for conducting the awareness programme. "He said the initiative successfully addressed the fears and doubts many pensioners have regarding technology. The sessions provided clear guidance on staying alert against cyber fraud, efficiently using banking services, and safely carrying out online banking transactions through YONO SBI. "Yugandhar appreciated SBI for giving importance not only to managing pensioners' accounts but also to ensuring their safety, dignity, and convenience. He urged the bank to organize more such public awareness programmes in the future and assured the association's full cooperation. "He also appealed to SBI to ensure that pensioners receive courteous and prompt services at all its branches across the state. Even small gestures of assistance at bank counters, he said, can make a significant difference in the lives of senior citizens. "Concluding his remarks, Yugandhar once again thanked the SBI officials, trainers, and organizing team for the successful conduct of the programme, stating that it had strengthened pensioners' confidence in using digital banking services safely.

Farmers Advised to Cultivate Dryland Crops in View of El Niño: Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao



"Awareness Programmes to Prevent Crop Losses""Farmers Urged to Follow Scientific Advice from Agriculture Experts""District Collector Participates in 'Rythu Nestham' 100th Episode via Video Conference at Raghunathapalem Rythu Vedika""Khammam, July 28 – Indian Chronicle""Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Co-operation, Handlooms and Textiles Tummala Nageswara Rao has advised farmers to take up dryland and low-water crops in view of the anticipated impact of El Niño and follow scientific farming practices to avoid crop losses. "Participating in the 100th episode of the 'Rythu Nestham' programme, jointly organised by the Telangana Agriculture Department and Professor Jayashankar Telangana Agricultural University, the Minister said the initiative has been playing a vital role in providing farmers with scientific agricultural knowledge. "District Collector Divakara T.S. participated in the programme through video conference from the Rythu Vedika at Raghunathapalem mandal, where farmers watched the scientific guidance provided by agricultural experts. "Addressing the farmers, Minister Tummala urged them to cultivate alternative crops that require less water considering the prevailing El Niño conditions. He said the government has introduced a Fertilizer

Booking App to ensure the timely supply of fertilizers. "The Minister also stressed the importance of crop diversification, encouraging farmers to expand the cultivation of horticultural crops and oil palm. He said oil palm farmers are earning good returns and suggested that intercrops such as jasmine, black pepper, and cocoa could be cultivated in oil palm plantations for additional income. "He advised farmers to adopt modern agricultural technologies, efficient water management practices, and integrated crop protection methods. Officials were instructed to provide farmers with daily updates on groundwater availability and ensure that the information is used for effective crop planning. "Following the programme, District Collector Divakara T.S. inspected the Seed Exhibition organised at the Rythu Vedika and interacted with farmers on alternative cropping patterns and the possible impact of El Niño. "Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said the government's priority is to protect farmers from losses through advance planning and awareness programmes. He urged farmers not to rely solely on traditional cultivation practices but to follow the recommendations of agriculture officials and scientists by choosing short-duration, low-water-consuming crops. "The Collector also encouraged farmers to give priority to dryland and horticultural crops. Although some parts of the district have recently received rainfall, he cautioned that the overall monsoon outlook remains uncertain and called for careful planning. "He said releasing all available water for irrigation at this stage could create difficulties if rainfall declines later in the season. Referring to weather forecasts, he stated that rainfall this year is likely to remain below normal and that the district has already recorded a significant rainfall deficit. "The Collector assured farmers that the administration is coordinating with the Irrigation Department to utilise available water resources judiciously while ensuring drinking water needs are protected. He advised farmers to plan crop cultivation based on weather forecasts, water availability, and scientific guidance to achieve better yields with lower investment. "Agriculture Department officials, Horticulture Department officials, Mandal Agriculture Officers, Agriculture Extension Officers, and a large number of farmers participated in the programme.

ACB Sets Historic Pace in Anti-Corruption Drive, Logs Highest Second-Quarter Case Count Since 1983



"Hyderabad correspondent, July 28 (Indian Chronicle): The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has recorded its strongest second-quarter performance in over four decades, registering the highest number of cases for the corresponding period since 1983, reflecting an intensified crackdown on corruption and a renewed emphasis on professional, evidence-based investigations. Reviewing the Bureau's performance for the second quarter of 2026, Director General Charu Sinha, IPS, said the achievement un-

derscored the organisation's strengthened operational focus, institutional vigilance and commitment to clean governance. During the quarter, the ACB registered 10 Disproportionate Assets (DA) cases, laid 34 successful trap cases and conducted 23 surprise checks across the State, targeting corruption in public offices. The Director General noted that the Bureau's performance was driven by coordinated field operations, improved investigative standards and sustained teamwork across all units. She emphasised that every investigation must remain fair, impartial and legally robust, while reinforcing public confidence in the rule of law. As part of the review, officers and staff who delivered outstanding results were honoured at a Reward Mela in recognition of their dedication and exemplary service in combating corruption. The review meeting was attended by Director (Investigation) Avinash Mohanty, senior officers and unit heads, who assessed the Bureau's operational achievements and discussed strategies to further strengthen anti-corruption enforcement in the coming months. With its highest corresponding second-quarter case tally since 1983, the ACB has marked a significant milestone in Telangana's anti-corruption campaign, reaffirming its resolve to enhance transparency, accountability and integrity in public administration.

Field Inspection Conducted with Officials Over Water Pollution Issue in Snehapuri Colony, Nacharam Division



"Nacharam, Indian Chornical, 28:"" Following complaints from local residents regarding the water pollution problem in Snehapuri Colony, Road No. 10, Nacharam Division Congress Party President Sri Nuthalakanthi Raju, along with Water Works AE Rohith, colony welfare association members, Congress Party leaders, and concerned officials, visited the area and conducted a field-level inspection of the situation. "During the visit, colony welfare association representatives Venkataswamy, Imran, Yadav Reddy, Ramesh, Ravi, and others explained to the officials the difficulties being faced by residents due to the contaminated water and requested that the issue be resolved on an urgent basis. "Responding to the issue, Water Works AE Rohith, along with the concerned staff, inspected the pipeline system and assured the residents that the cause of the contamination would be identified and necessary corrective measures would be taken at the earliest. "Speaking on the occasion, Nacharam Division Congress Party President Nuthalakanthi Raju stated that providing clean and safe drinking water to the public is a fundamental responsibility of the government. He assured that the issue in

Snehapuri Colony would be brought to the attention of Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Congress Party In-charge of Uppal Constituency, and that efforts would be made in coordination with the concerned departmental officials to ensure a permanent solution at the earliest. "He further stated that the Congress Party has always stood by the people in addressing public issues and will continue to work responsibly and relentlessly towards resolving their problems. "Senior Congress Party leaders Mamidala Raj Reddy, Fasiuddin, Shankar Goud, Rajasekhara, Javed, Rajesh, and others participated in the programme.

Asked to sign before packing leftovers? Why ITC Maratha’s disclaimer went viral



GNS News Agency, July 28

A photograph of a disclaimer that guests at Mumbai’s ITC Maratha are asked to sign before taking home leftover food has gone viral, with many expressing surprise over what the hotel describes as a “legal document.”An X user who shared the photograph wrote: “A friend had dinner at ITC Maratha and asked them to pack leftovers to go and they made him sign a disclaimer that the food will be eaten within two hours or discarded! hilariously bizarre!” A friend had dinner at ITC Maratha and asked them to pack leftovers to go and they made him sign a disclaimer that the food will be eaten within 2 hours or discarded!The undertaking requires guests to acknowledge that leftover food is meant for immediate consumption and should be discarded

Gujarat man arrested in US over Rs 1.32-crore gold bar scam

GNS News Agency, July 28

The US agencies on July 20 arrested a Gujarat native, who the prosecutors alleged acted as a courier for an organised network that duped elderly people through a ‘gold bar purchase’ scam.Harsh Fojalar Shah, 25, was arrested in Honolulu, Hawaii, after investigators conducted a sting operation that allegedly caught him collecting what “he believed were gold bars” from an elderly victim, Jane Doe. He has been charged by criminal complaint with conspiracy to commit wire fraud, the US Attorney’s Office for the District of Hawaii said in a statement.

“During a post-arrest interview, Shah admitted to conducting approximately ten similar pickups from older adults over the past several months,” the release said.According to the complaint, Shah was part of a sophisticated fraud network where the conspirators, posing as US Marshals, rang up senior citizens and falsely claimed that the victims’ identities had been compromised. The callers allegedly instructed victims to liquidate their savings and purchase gold bars, claiming the assets needed to be “protected” as part of a fictitious government investigation.US officials said Doe was persuaded to purchase and hand over nine gold bars worth more than \$137,000 (Rs 1.32 crore). The fraudsters later attempted to pressure her into liquidating her retirement savings to purchase an additional \$429,000 (Rs 4.14 crore) worth of gold before law enforcement intervened.\$1 bill used as a pre-decided password’Authorities subsequently arranged a controlled operation using imitation gold bars. On July 20, Shah allegedly arrived at a pre-arranged meeting in Kaneohe, Hawaii, where he identified himself using a one-dollar bill as a pre-decided “password” before accepting a box he believed contained 10 gold bars, officials said.“Following the meeting, Shah was observed conducting evasive driving maneuvers throughout Honolulu before being arrested,” the release said.US Attorney Ken Sorenson said, “This case highlights both the courage of an elderly victim who came forward and the commitment of federal and local law enforcement to aggressively pursue the predators who seek to defraud victims of their life savings.”

‘30 pellets still inside my body’: Journalist hurt in CJP protest seeks compensation

GNS News Agency, July 28

Delhi CJP protest pellets police firingDoctors told the 28-year-old sports journalist that he was fortunate the pellets had not lodged close to his bones.Three days after the ‘Chalo Sansad’ march, the 28-year-old sports journalist with Outlook is back home in Delhi, working through the pain with more than 30 pellets still lodged inside his body.

A medical report issued by Safdarjung Hospital on July 22, reviewed by The Indian Express, records that he sustained injuries from “physical assault at Jantar Mantar by pellet gun”, with wounds over his right arm, chest, and back.The hospital’s examination recorded small, punched-out wounds across his right arm, chest, and back, with doctors noting injuries “consistent with pellets”. Despite the injuries, the journalist has resumed working from home.“The FIFA tournament got over on the 19th, and today (July 23) is the India-Zimbabwe cricket match, so I’ve been following that,” he says, adding that he is eager to return to covering sports.On July 20, dressed in a black T-shirt, light brown trousers, and grey sports shoes, the 28-year-old parked his Pulsar motorcycle at B-Block in Connaught Place before joining the Cockroach Janta Party’s ‘Chalo Sansad’ march, demanding accountability from the Centre over exam paper leaks and Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation.“After they took away Sonam Wangchuk, that was the turning point for me,” he says.

As the march moved from Jantar Mantar towards the streets around Connaught Place, the 28-year-old says he remained with the crowd until clashes broke out around 4 pm. “Initially, the police were firing tear gas into the sky, but then I saw it being aimed towards the crowd. A person standing just ahead of me was hit barely one or two inches above his eye by what I believe was a tear gas shell,” he recalls.He remembers people running. “Everything turned blurry. I could see men in khaki and blue uniforms. The next thing I saw was an officer aiming a gun at me. I turned and started running, but I felt a shot hit my back,” he says.“At first I felt a tingling sensation. Then it felt like my back was on fire.”He walked a short distance before sitting down. “Later I saw multiple wounds where blood had clotted,” he says.‘Removing them could do more harm than good’With police restricting movement around Connaught Place, the 28-year-old waited for nearly an hour before riding to a friend’s house. “When I reached, I checked my vest. It was drenched in blood,” he says. His friend photographed the wounds and uploaded the images to ChatGPT. “That’s when we first suspected they were pellet injuries,” he says.Later that evening, he received a tetanus injection. “The pain was excruciating while sleeping,” he says.

The following evening, on July 21, the 28-year-old went to Safdarjung Hospital, reaching around 7 pm and remaining there until nearly 4 am the next morning.“The doctors

if not eaten within two hours, depending on storage conditions. It also states ITC Hotels will not be liable for consequences arising after the food leaves the restaurant. Guests must sign, declaring they have read and understood its contents.“Our foremost priority is the safety and well-being of our guests. The disclaimer form is intended to promote safe consumption of leftover food as we cannot control the storage conditions once it leaves the restaurant,” said Bhagwan Balani, General Manager, ITC Maratha.While the document calls itself a “legal document,” it is, in effect, an undertaking by the guest.Industry professionals said the practice is far from new. “It has always been a policy, at least since I was doing my hospitality training nearly 20 years ago,” said a communications professional with another leading hotel chain.Such undertakings, hospitality professionals say, protect hotels from liability once food leaves their premises, since they have no control over how it’s transported, stored or consumed.A Mumbai-based author recalled signing a similar undertaking about three years ago after asking a fine-dining restaurant in Fort to pack an unfinished dish. “Eventually they agreed, but only after asking us to sign a statement absolving them of responsibility if anything happened after the parcel left the restaurant,” she said.Another communications professional, from a luxury hotel chain, said their hotel doesn’t require a signed disclaimer but doesn’t encourage takeaway packing either. “We won’t suggest packing leftovers, but if a guest asks for it, we certainly wouldn’t refuse,” the person said.



If convicted, Shah would face up to 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000, plus a term of supervised release. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is investigating the case with assistance from the Honolulu Police Department and the Hawaii Attorney General’s Office.CJ Ammons, Homeland Security Investigations Acting Special Agent in Charge, said, “HSI is committed to taking down the criminal groups that target vulnerable people in our community. By working closely with our federal and local partners, we’re targeting these scammers and making sure that anyone who steals from our kupuna (Hawaiian word for grandparents) is held accountable.”The US Attorney’s Office for the District of Hawaii urged older adults and their families to take steps to protect themselves from fraud by never trusting unexpected calls, texts, or emails claiming that their accounts are compromised or demanding secrecy.The ‘gold bar purchase’ scam is a fast-growing financial fraud in the United States where criminals impersonate government or federal law enforcement officials, convince victims their bank accounts are hacked, and pressure them to buy gold bars for “safekeeping”. More than a month ago, another Indian national was arrested in Florida for allegedly attempting to collect nearly \$5,00,000 (Rs 4.82 crore) worth of gold from an elderly woman who was targeted in an elaborate phishing and impersonation scam involving fake federal agents.



first cleaned the wounds and put me on an IV drip, which eased the pain. Several doctors examined me. After a CT scan, MRI and X-ray, they told me I had been hit by more than 30 pellets,” he said.According to him, the treating doctors advised against surgically removing them. “They told me there were pellets in large quantities. I counted around 25 to 30 myself. The doctors said they would have to make incisions to remove them, and that removing them could do more harm than good. They said, ‘Let them remain inside’,” he says.The doctors also told him he was fortunate the pellets had not lodged close to his bones, he says. “They said if they had been near the bones, I might not have been able to move my arm.”For now, the 28-year-old has been advised to take medicines whenever the pain worsens. “Doctors said the wounds will heal, but the pellets may remain inside. I don’t know what happens after that,” he says.He has a follow-up appointment with an orthopaedic specialist at Safdarjung Hospital, but said he also plans to seek a second opinion elsewhere. For his injuries, he added, he wants “compensation from the government”.

Hyderabad EOW arrests six alleged QNET representatives in pyramid scheme case

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Economic Offences Wing (EOW) has arrested six alleged QNET independent representatives from a resort in Goa for allegedly duping a businessman from the city by luring him into an illegal pyramid and money circulation scheme. The arrested suspects are Mohd Fawaz, Aswin Suresh, Vinu Johnson D’Cruz, Manoj Ravindran Nair, Subbalakshmi and V Sivarajan Balraj, all natives of Kerala.According to police, the complainant Sardar Sharanpal Singh was contacted by Fawaz through Instagram while searching for gym space in Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

South Gujarat Schools asked to make up for flood-lost days by working on public holidays



To make up for the days lost in the heavy downpour leading to an emergency situation, the District Education Officers of the six south Gujarat districts have directed schools to make up for the loss by working on public holidays.This is to comply with the 120 mandatory working days in the first semester which has just begun over a month ago.Heavy downpour had been witnessed on Thursday and Friday in South Gujarat. Many roads in the urban and rural areas in the region had been affected leading the government to announce a holiday on both days. Even in Ahmedabad which was badly affected by the heavy rainfall, schools and colleges were closed on both days.

Keeping the present situation in mind and acting on the instructions of District Collectors of affected districts in South Gujarat, the District Education officers (DEO) of respective districts — Surat, Tapi, Bharuch, Navsari, Valsad and Dang declared holiday in the schools as a precautionary measure.As per the new notification issued by the District Education Officers of these districts in South Gujarat on Thursday evening, the education affected by the two-

day holiday will be covered in the next two public holidays. This means that, in the next two upcoming public holidays, schools and colleges will remain operational, and students have to attend classes and cover the pending syllabus.Surat District Education Officer Bhagirathsinh Parmar told The Indian Express, “The education of students has been affected due to the heavy downpour and holidays declared on Thursday and Friday. In order not to make the students suffer, a decision has been taken to keep the school functioning in upcoming two public holidays. Now it is up to the schools to decide which two holidays they will select to keep the schools working. The school has to intimate the students early and declare the holidays for the upcoming two holidays.”He added, “The gap of two days holiday of Thursday and Friday will be filled in any of two local day holidays (except festival holidays).

This gap will be filled after the monsoon season ends.”Sources said that in the first academic semester 120 school days should be operational. The first terminal exams is due on October 19-28 which will be followed by the Diwali vacation till November 18.However on Thursday morning, many students were unaware about the holiday declared by DEO or school authorities, as a result of which, large number of students reached to the schools in Surat city and District areas. After learning about the holidays, some students returned to their homes on their own while, in some cases, parents reached the school and took their kids back home. Parents have requested school authorities for advance intimation of such holidays declared in emergency situations so that students don’t end up coming to school risking their lives. On Thursday children of a school had to be rescued from a bus stranded in flood waters in Ahmedabad.

Delhi HC to decide: Can OpenAI use copyrighted material to train ChatGPT?

GNS News Agency, July 28The Delhi High Court will give its verdict at 2.30 pm today on whether OpenAI can be restrained from using copyrighted material to train its large language models (LLMs).This prayer, if allowed, will be in the nature of an interim injunction till the court finally decides the issue.Any observation, even preliminary in nature, made by the court on what is fair use of copyrighted material, will be significant – and a first for an Indian constitutional court.OpenAI is an American artificial intelligence research organization headquartered in San Francisco, which has developed the ChatGPT series of generative AI models.In a first-of-its-kind suit in Indian jurisdiction, the news agency ANI Media Pvt Ltd moved the Delhi HC in 2024 against Open AI Inc (OAI) and Open AI OpCo LLC, raising issues of infringement of its copyrighted material for LLM training by OpenAI.Subsequently, several other organisations – including media and publishing organisations and associations such as the Federation of Indian Publishers (FIP), Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), and the Indian Music Industry (IMI) – who had raised similar objections to OpenAI’s training model, too were made parties in the suit.In November 2024, Justice Amit Bansal of the High Court appointed advocate Adarsh Ramanujan and Dr Arul George Scaria, professor of Law at the National Law School of India University (NLSIU) to assist the court in the adjudication of the suit.

ANI had opposed OpenAI’s use of publicly available copyrighted material of ANI to train its LLMs, verbatim rep-

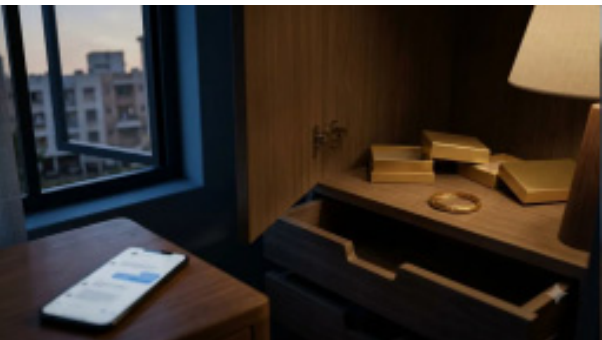


lication of copyrighted material when a query is put in ChatGPT, as well as hallucinatory responses being provided by ChatGPT, while falsely attributing it to OpenAI had submitted that it was not storing data directly, and that there was no general prohibition on the use of data under copyright law – akin to the way in which reading a book could not be equated with “using it”.OpenAI had also argued that the pre-training process took place outside India, that training data was stored on foreign servers, and that OpenAI, over time, had refined its models to prevent regurgitation.It also said that following the pre-training phase, OpenAI’s models did not have access to the original training data after a cut-off date.In November 2024, OpenAI had told the court that they had already “blocklisted” ANI’s domain, which meant that it was excluded from future training of OpenAI’s software.

How a Snapchat ‘friend’ burgled Pune teacher’s house on their first meet

A 25-year-old Pune school teacher’s two-year social media friendship with an MBA graduate ‘settled in the United States’ ended on an unexpected note last month when he allegedly stole gold ornaments worth Rs 14 lakh from her house during their first meeting.The Pune police arrested Yash Bhulchandani, 24, from Mehsana, Gujarat, on July 21 on charges of theft.According to the First Information Report (FIR), the victim works as a teacher at an international preschool and stays in Pune’s Kondhwa area. She allegedly befriended Bhulchandani on Snapchat around two years before. They frequently spoke on Snapchat and agreed to meet when he visited Pune.

Around 5 pm on June 24, Bhulchandani allegedly contacted the teacher, saying he was visiting Pune and wanted to meet her. She agreed, and invited him to her house, the FIR states. Bhulchandani arrived at her house on the night of June 25. They spoke for around 15 minutes, after which she left to give food to a relative in the neighbourhood, as per the FIR. When the teacher returned after 20 minutes, Bhulchandani was missing. According to her complaint, when she went to her bedroom, she noticed that her cupboard was open, and some cash and gold ornaments were missing.Based on her complaint, an FIR was lodged against Bhulchandani at Kondhwa police station on June 26.Acused lost money in share tradingWhen the police began looking for Bhulchandani, they realised that he was constantly changing locations. After investigating technical evi-



dence, Constable Keshav Hirve traced him to Vadodara in Gujarat.A team led by Police Sub-Inspector Ravindra Gawade caught Bhulchandani in Vadodara and brought him to Pune. He was produced before a court on July 22 and remanded to police custody.According to a police officer, after completing his MBA, Bhulchandani worked in Kenya and Ghana. “Around 2022, he suffered huge losses in share trading. We suspect that was when he started befriending women over Snapchat and Instagram. He returned to India around May this year,” the officer added.“We have recovered about 160 grams of stolen gold ornaments worth Rs 14.39 lakhs from his possession. We have also seized 17 SIM cards from him. The accused is tech-savvy,” said Santosh Khetmalas, Senior Police Inspector.

Domestic help held in Rs 2.65 crore theft at Deputy Council Chairperson Sachin Ahir’s home

A domestic worker employed for nearly two decades at the Worli residence of Maharashtra Legislative Council Deputy Chairperson Sachin Ahir has been arrested for allegedly stealing gold ornaments, diamond jewellery, silverware and cash worth Rs 2.65 crore over the past three years. Three other domestic workers are absconding, and the Mumbai Crime Branch has launched a search to trace them.Sachin Ahir, a senior Shiv Sena leader, is the Deputy Chairperson of the Maharashtra Legislative Council and a former state minister. He has represented the Worli constituency in the past and currently holds the second-highest constitutional office in the Upper House of the state legislature.The Crime Branch’s Unit 3 is investigating the alleged theft from Ahir’s residence at Gulrukh Building on Worli Sea Face. Four domestic workers were employed at the residence. Of them, Pravin Solanki (45) has been arrested, while the remaining three are on the run, police said.According to police, the case was registered on the complaint of Ahir’s son, Krishna Ahir, who alleged that valuables had been disappearing from the house over the last three years. The theft came to light last week after a family member searched for a piece of jewellery and found it miss-

ing. A subsequent check revealed that several gold ornaments, gold biscuits, diamond jewellery, silverware and cash kept in the house had also disappeared.Police said the missing valuables were collectively valued at around Rs 2.65 crore. Following the complaint, an FIR was registered at the Worli police station before the probe was transferred to Crime Branch Unit 3.Solanki, who had been working with the family for nearly 20 years, was arrested and remanded in police custody till July 28.Investigators said they have recovered 325 grams of gold from a Mumbai jeweller to whom Solanki allegedly sold part of the stolen ornaments. Police said they are seeking legal opinion on whether the jeweller should be booked for allegedly receiving stolen property or treated as a witness in the case.During interrogation, Solanki allegedly confessed to selling the stolen valuables and sharing the proceeds with his associates. Police suspect his long association with the family gave him knowledge of where valuables were kept and enabled him to remove expensive items over an extended period without immediately attracting suspicion.“We are questioning the accused to establish where the stolen ornaments were disposed of and to identify everyone involved in the conspiracy,” a senior police officer said

Explosions break out near US base in northern Iraq



Irbil: A series of explosions broke out near a military base hosting US forces in northern Iraq, hours after the US military said it had wrapped up its 13th night of strikes against Iran. A journalist with the Associated Press heard at least seven blasts around 9:30 am local time in the city of Irbil, the capital of Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, and observed at least four plumes of black smoke rising into the sky from areas near or inside the base after. The US and Iran have exchanged escalating strikes in fighting that began with a struggle over control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz. Iranian state media reported that four people had been killed and nine injured in the US bombardment. US Central Command said the latest barrage was designed to "further degrade Iran's ability to threaten civilian mariners and commercial vessels transiting regional waters" as the Americans push to regain control over the Strait of Hormuz, through which a fifth of the world's oil and gas transited in peacetime. It said the strikes ended shortly before 5 am local time Friday. Bahrain activated its sirens twice later that morning, warning residents to shelter from detected incoming fire. Gulf states have also come under frequent fire over the past week.

The previous day, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels said they targeted two Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea, potentially widening the Iran war as international oil topped USD 100 a barrel. Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi of Iraq, which has close ties to both the US and Iran, was in Tehran on Thursday to call for peace and dialogue. He promised not to allow Iraqi territory to be used for attacks on Iran, his office said. Al-Zaidi met with Trump earlier this month in Washington.

US strikes hit a naval base for the Revolutionary Guard in the north of Iran, the Iranian semiofficial news outlets Fars and ISNA reported Friday morning. Blasts overnight were also reported on Iran's Qeshm Island, home to stores of naval assets including drone boats that Iran can use to attack vessels on the Strait of Hormuz, as well as in Isfahan

province, where there is a major Iranian air base as well as one of Iran's nuclear sites. More strikes reportedly hit Iran's southwest Khuzestan province and southern Fars province. Four people were killed and five wounded in a US missile attack on the outskirts of Ahvaz on the Karun River, Iranian state media said. An attack in Lorestan province in Western Iran injured two, state media said, while two more were injured by explosions in the port city of Bandar Abbas, a critical hub for moving military supplies as well as trade cargo. Meanwhile, the Houthis threatened to shut down another key trade route with the world economy already reeling from Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, is a vital shipping chokepoint connecting the Red Sea to the Gulf of Aden. Around 12 per cent of the world's trade, including a fourth of global container traffic, passes through there, moving between Europe and Asia via Egypt's Suez Canal. The Houthi attacks put at risk oil shipments from Saudi Arabia's Yanbu port on the Red Sea and present a "double whammy" on top of the disruption in the Strait of Hormuz, said maritime data and analysis firm Lloyd's List Intelligence. Saudi Arabia has diverted millions of barrels a day of oil exports to Yanbu via an overland pipeline as the war has bottled up the Persian Gulf. President Donald Trump threatened "major military punishment" against the Houthis if their attacks on ships continue. As the rhetoric escalated, so did economic fallout. The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, spiked more than 6 per cent to about USD 100 a barrel. That's the highest level since May, before the two sides reached a preliminary peace agreement last month that has since collapsed.

Iran says it has the right to manage traffic and potentially charge fees in the Strait of Hormuz, which was open to all toll-free before the war. It has attacked ships using a route through the strait that is overseen by US forces and intended to be outside Tehran's control. Trump said on social media Thursday that sanctioned Iranian funds in the possession of the US will cover the expense of fixing boats damaged in the war. "Please let this statement serve to represent, until further notice, that from this point forth, any and all damages done to Ships, Cargo, or anything related thereto, will be paid for by Iranian Money that the United States has in its possession, and controls," Trump said. It was unclear what legal mechanisms Trump would use to access and spend the funds, but he said that doing so would be "the fair and equitable thing to do." Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi condemned the suggestion, writing on X that "once governments normalise confiscation, no one's assets are safe. Ensuing chaos will not be pretty or peaceful."

Salman Rushdie recounts brutal 2022 stabbing attack at Hadi Matar's federal terrorism trial

New York: Author Salman Rushdie has given a chilling account of the attack that felled him on a stage at a literary meeting and cost him his right eye. "It was an enormous and expansive lake of blood," he said while testifying on Thursday at the federal terrorism trial of the assailant Hadi Matar. Rushdie narrated the chilling account of the blind fury he faced as stabbings rained on him. Knocked to the floor, he said, "I was on the stage, lying down, with an enormous pool of blood all around me." "I tried to get away, but he was on top of me, stabbing away," he said. Matar, who was convicted in a New York State

court of attempting to murder Rushdie in 2022, is now on trial at the federal court in Buffalo, charged with transnational terrorism. In the US legal system, there are separate state and federal laws, and a person can be tried separately under the two sets of laws for the same incident. Matar is serving a 25-year sentence that was handed him by the state court last year, and if he is convicted of the federal terrorism charges, he could face life in prison. A US citizen of Lebanese descent, Matar, 28, attacked Rushdie in an attempt to carry out the fatwa issued by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1989 demanding Rushdie's death because his novel, "Satanic Verses", was considered blasphemous, assistant federal prosecutor Timothy Lynch told the court on Wednesday when the trial began. After the fatwa was issued, Rushdie, a Booker Prize winner, went underground with British government protection. A decade later, he emerged in public and lives in New York City, where he is a professor at a university. Rushdie, 79, was participating in a literary programme at the Chautauqua Institution, a literary and arts centre about 600 kilometres from the city, and, ironically,



was to speak on the protection of writers when he was attacked. He has written a book about the incident, "Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder". Lynch asked Rushdie to remove the special glasses that he wears so the jurors can see the missing eye. Rushdie said that besides damaging his eye, the stabbings damaged his left hand, and he could not drive any more, and his liver was injured. When they filed the charges last year, prosecutors said that between September 2020 and August 2022, when the attack took place, Matar attempted to provide material support and resources to Hezbollah. To rebut the terrorism charge, Matar's lawyer Nathaniel Barone has said that he was acting alone as an enraged Muslim and not on behalf of Hezbollah or anyone else. Barone asked Rushdie if he should have expected to be attacked by Islamic extremists because of his book, "The Satanic Verses". Rushdie curtly dismissed the line of questioning, saying, "I don't believe the book is on trial. Somebody else is on trial."

Man allegedly shouting 'Allahu Akbar' stabs two in Manhattan; NYPD probes hate crime

New York: A man, screaming "Allahu Akbar", stabbed a Jewish man and another near a synagogue as fears of anti-Semitism and terrorism mount, according to police. The Jewish man, Moshe Yezhak Grunhaus, had left the Jewish Centre on Thursday afternoon when he was stabbed with a screwdriver, according to officials. A rabbi said Grunhaus was attacked after he had attended services for a Jewish day of mourning for the destruction of ancient temples in Jerusalem.

The other victim, who was of East Asian descent identified as Chok Sung and was stabbed with a knife nearby. The attacks took place near Central Park, a major New York attraction. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch identified the alleged assailant as 51-year-old Raul Morales and said police were evaluating whether it is a hate crime. "According to victim and witness statements, Morales yelled 'Allahu Akbar' during both attacks", she said. The victims are in a hospital and are expected to survive, she said. A picture released by Manhattan Shomrim, a Jewish safety patrol, showed the alleged assailant as a tall, gaunt man with a closely shaved head wearing a camouflage-type T-shirt.

Mayor Zohair Mamdani acknowledged that "the perpetrator yelled 'Allahu Akbar' during both attacks" but added in his post on X that the police department's "initial investigation suggests that mental health may have been a factor". "These hateful and despicable attacks have no place in our city", he added. City Council Speaker Julie Menin said in her post on X, "The fear in the Jewish community is real. Every New Yorker deserves to feel safe in their neighbourhood, regardless of their faith or identity." A Jewish organisation linked the incident and other anti-Semitic attacks to Mamdani's rhetoric against Israel.

The United Jewish Appeal-Federation of New York



noted, "These attacks came soon after Mayor Mamdani once again used his official platform to viciously attack Israel, the only Jewish state". "We cannot ignore the dangerous climate created when elected leaders relentlessly portray Israel — and, by extension, the many Jewish New Yorkers who feel a deep connection to it — as uniquely evil and illegitimate", it added. According to the police department, there were 152 confirmed hate crimes this year against Jews in the city till May, and during that month alone there was a 70 per cent spike in the anti-Semitic attacks compared to the previous year. According to police, Morales was caught after he barricaded himself inside a nearby public housing flat. Tisch commended "the bravery of a good Samaritan" who led police to the hideout of the alleged perpetrator. In recent times, the city has seen at least two serious terrorist attacks. In what authorities had called an Islamic State-inspired attack, two men shouted "Allahu Akbar" as they tried to bomb a protest by an anti-Islamist group outside Mamdani's official residence in March.

Commonwealth Games 2026 opens in Glasgow as Mirabai Chanu, Lovlina Borgohain lead India's challenge



GNS News Agency, July 28

Glasgow: Glasgow welcomed the Commonwealth Games back in style on Thursday as a spectacular opening ceremony at the OVO Hydro officially launched the 2026 edition, blending Scotland's rich cultural heritage with sporting excellence while setting the stage for 11 days of elite competition.

Olympic medallists Mirabai Chanu and Lovlina Borgohain, as flag-bearers, proudly led the Indian contingent during the colourful Parade of Nations, drawing loud cheers from the crowd as the Tricolour made its way into the arena. Mirabai, India's former Olympic silver medallist in weightlifting, served as the country's flag-bearer. At the same time, fellow Tokyo Olympics bronze-winning boxer Lovlina carried the ceremonial Commonwealth baton, symbolising India's aspirations for another successful campaign.

In keeping with Commonwealth tradition, King Charles III formally declared the Games open, marking the first time

Divorce of the century: Chairman of South Korean tech giant SK ordered to pay \$640 million to ex-wife

A South Korean court on Friday ordered billionaire SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won to pay his ex-wife 944 billion won (\$640 million) in a case that the national media dubbed the "divorce of the century." The Seoul High Court's ruling came months after the Supreme Court ordered further review by the appellate court of the divorce case between Chey and Roh So-yeong, the daughter of former South Korean President Roh Tae-woo.

The award to Roh, the director of a Seoul art museum, was lower than a 1.38 trillion won (\$940 million) settlement ordered by the high court last year. Chey also was previously ordered to pay 2 billion won (\$1.3 million) in alimony. The value of Chey's assets increased in recent months. Shares of SK Hynix, SK's semiconductor affiliate, have surged with the global artificial intelligence boom. The high court's previous ruling was based in part on its finding that Roh's father provided SK with 30 billion won (\$20.4 million) in alleged slush funds during his presidency. The Supreme Court, however, ruled the funds could not be recognised as a legal contribution to the company's growth. Chey and Roh married in 1988 and have three children. Chey filed for divorce in 2017 after revealing he was in a relationship with another woman and had a child with her. The case can be sent back to the Supreme Court if



appeals are filed by Chey or Roh, who did not attend Friday's high court ruling. Chey is among the South Korean business leaders traveling to the United States with President Lee Jae Myung, who is expected to meet US tech leaders including Anthropic's Dario Amodei, Open AI's Sam Altman and Nvidia's Jensen Huang in San Francisco on Friday to promote investment into South Korean AI and semiconductor initiatives.

Father needs urgent medical attention: Imran Khans son urges international community to intervene -

Former prime minister Imran Khan's son has urged the international community to intervene claiming his father, who has not been incarcerated for 1,100 days, urgently needs medical attention. Currently lodged in solitary confinement at the Adiala Jail, Rawalpindi, the 73-year-old international cricketer turned politician was arrested on August 5, 2023, after an Islamabad trial court found him guilty of corrupt practices in the Toshka Khana (national treasury) case. Imran Khan has been subsequently arrested and convicted in several other cases leading to continued incarceration.

"It has now been around 1,100 days since my father, Imran Khan, was imprisoned, and my brother and I haven't heard his voice since March. For months, we've been denied contact with him," Kasim Khan said in a post on X on Friday. "We remain in the dark about his access to healthcare as his eyesight continues to deteriorate. He urgently needs medical attention, and with no family or legal access, we don't even get any second-hand information or reassurance," said Kasim Khan, 26, who with his brother Sulaiman Khan, 29, is based in the UK.

The Pakistan government had placed a ban on Imran Khan's meetings of all kinds since December 2025 after he called Field Marshal Gen Asim Munir "mentally unstable man" during a meeting with one of his sisters.

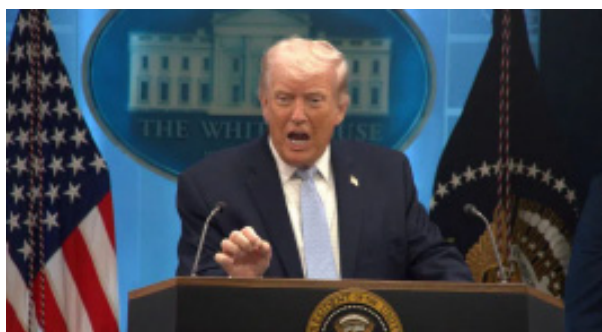
"I've found myself especially missing him recently. I want to speak to him about mundane things like my cricket, books I've been reading and which new movies are good etc. I understand the people of Pakistan want their chosen leader free, but I miss my father more than ever," Kasim Khan said. Lambasting the military backed setup in Pakistan, Khan's son said: "But this is not just about a father. It is about Pakistan, and its future." "A rigged, authoritarian regime continues to crush political opposition, undermine democratic institutions, and deny millions of Pakistanis their right to freely choose their leaders, whilst terrorising those



who speak their beliefs," he said. "I once again plea to the international community to not look away. Silence in the face of injustice only enables it." Earlier in February, Imran Khan suffered severe vision loss in his right eye due to delayed treatment of a blood clot in custody, leaving him with only about 15 per cent vision remaining. His legal team and his party, the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), raised serious concerns over medical neglect, prompting the Supreme Court of Pakistan to intervene, ordering a dedicated medical board to examine him. Imran Khan's family members and political leaders criticised authorities for his solitary confinement conditions and restricted access to independent personal physicians. The government, however, has maintained that Imran Khan is being provided required medical care. In February itself, as many as 14 former international cricket captains wrote a letter titled 'Appeal by former International Cricket Captains' to the Pakistan government asking for fair treatment for Khan.

Trump warns Houthis, threatens military action if ship attacks continue

Cairo: US President Donald Trump says he is "very disappointed" in Yemen's Houthis and has threatened "major military punishment" against the Iran-backed rebels if their attacks on ships continue. The president said on social media Thursday that "if they do this again, the US will hold Iran responsible, in that the Houthis are a Surrogate and/or Proxy of Iran, and major military punishment will be inflicted upon Iran and, of course, the Houthis themselves." Trump said the Houthis had previously been acting "very responsibly" after facing US strikes last year in response to rebel attacks on commercial vessels. "Unfortunately, now they are starting up again, shooting at two Saudi Arabian ships last night," he said.



Naveen, a graduate and the most educated of the four, runs a business installing and maintaining irrigation pipelines for farmers across Ballia district. Sitting on a bed inside his two-storey home, his father, Anil Singh, a government employee posted in Ballia, said the others arrested in the case came to know Naveen through this work. "Otherwise there was no particular reason for them to be in regular contact with him," he said. Over time, Naveen became the common link connecting the others, according to their families. "Two of the arrested men visited our home on a handful of occasions, but only in connection with work," Anil Singh said. "Raj Kumar worked alongside Naveen in the irrigation pipeline business for a few days, while Gyanendra came to our house two or three times after Naveen carried out work on his farm. They were acquaintances through business, not close friends." Raj Kumar, who worked along-

Is everything on the internet now written by AI? The science of AI detection tools, how efficient they are

Within days of the magazine naming this year's winners of the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, allegations surfaced that some of the winning entries showed signs of AI-generated text. The turn of events has not just highlighted the increasing usage of AI in creative and other forms of writing but also put the role of tools that claim to detect AI-generated text under scrutiny. We explain. Since 2012, Granta has been publishing the winners of the Prize — awarded in partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation — for five geographies: Africa, Asia, Canada and Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific. The overall winner is to be announced on June 30.

Days after the magazine announced the winners, many social media users began calling out Trinidadian writer Jamir Nazir's short story "The Serpent in the Grove" (winner for the Caribbean), with one citing the AI detector tool Pangram to call it "100% AI generated" and a "Turing Test of sorts". The Turing Test, proposed by British mathematician Alan Turing in the 1950s, is a test of a machine's ability exhibit intelligent behaviour that a human evaluator cannot distinguish from that of a human. To date, it is considered a benchmark for AI. Similar allegations were directed at two other winners, Indian writer Sharon Aruparayil (Asia) and Malta's John Edward DeMicoli (Canada and Europe), again using Pangram. The remaining two — Lisa-Anne Julien (South Africa, Africa) and Holly Ann Miller (New Zealand, Pacific) — were, however, assessed to be "fully human-written". In a written response, Aruparayil earlier told The Indian Express that "no AI tools were used at any stage in the writing, editing, or development process" of her story. To understand how these tools claiming to detect AI-generated text work, one must first know the science of machine learning (ML). In simple terms, ML refers to the use of data and statistics to build an AI system: this is done by feeding large datasets into a computer so that it can think and reason like a human — or even at superhuman levels. "So you would take lots of examples of AI-written content and human-written content and feed it to a big model to do the classification for you. The model, through data, learns signals like, 'Oh, AI models tend to use em dashes', or use the word 'imperative' or 'delve'. These are statistical patterns that large ML models can learn when they're fed lots of examples of both human writing and AI writing," Danish Pruthi, assistant professor at the Indian Institute of Science Bengaluru, told When allegations of AI started flying in after the prize announcement, a lot of them pointed to the "tells": signs that a piece of text is AI-generated. (The term comes from the card game poker, where it refers to an involuntary

side Naveen while learning the irrigation pipeline business, lives about 30 kilometres from his village. Gyanendra's home is located nearly 25 kilometres away. Gyanendra, the eldest of the four accused, had been preparing to enter local politics and contest the upcoming village head election in his native village of Sheetal Davani. Across the village, hoardings and campaign posters carrying his photograph still stand as reminders of ambitions that, until his arrest, appeared to be moving steadily forward.

His wife, Mahima Singh, dismissed claims that her husband is a habitual offender. Speaking outside their home, Mahima, a graduate, said that the vast majority of cases previously filed against him had resulted in acquittals or rulings in his favour. "Of the 12 cases registered against him, he has been acquitted in 11," she claimed. "The only case still pending is an attempted murder case that stemmed from a land dispute, after our opponents allegedly tried to take over our property." She claimed her husband's decision to enter politics made him a target. "Ever since Gyanendra announced that he would contest the pradhan election, several people in the area began opposing and targeting him," she claimed. The youngest of three brothers, Gyanendra studied up to the intermediate level and married Mahima in 2015. Gyanendra's brothers live separately. The eldest, Daya Shankar Singh, spent nearly three decades working as a helper with a private company in West Bengal before returning to Ballia about a year ago. He now resides in a house directly opposite Gyanendra's home in their native village. "I have no idea how Gyanendra came to be linked to this case," said Daya Shankar, 57. "I am trying to get in touch with people I know in West Bengal to understand the facts of the case and whether the CBI have identified any role played by him."

Residents of the village described Gyanendra as someone who divided his time between farming and property-related work. More recently, he had secured the distributorship of a food products company and employed Golu Singh, one of the accused, to help supply goods to local shops. Mahima admitted Golu had visited their home on several occasions, but only in connection with the business. His village, Basudevpur, lies about 15 kilometres away. At 28, Golu is the youngest of the four men arrested. Having studied up to the intermediate level, he chose to enter business after marrying last year. His 65-year-old mother, Vidyarthi Devi, said this was a sign that he was beginning to stand on his own feet. "My family hid the news from me because of my heart condition. I only learnt about Golu's arrest from people who came to the house," she said. Golu's uncle, Sunil Singh, said that while Golu's father, Ramji Singh, served in the Army until his retirement in 2008, much of the responsibility for raising the children fell to their mother, Vidyarthi Devi.

The fourth accused, Raj Kumar, was the first to be arrested by the agency. After spending some time working with Naveen Singh last year, Raj Kumar travelled to Mumbai in search of better employment opportunities. There, he worked for a private company before returning to his hometown a few days prior to his arrest. The CBI claims he was arrested from Muzaffarnagar while he was allegedly trying to flee to Uttarakhand. Raj Kumar's father, Tribhuvan Narain Singh, an electrician, recalled that two of the men arrested in the case, Naveen and Gyanendra, had previously visited the family's home and even attended Raj Kumar's birthday celebration last year. After Raj Kumar completed his Intermediate studies and spent much of his time idling in the district, the family encouraged him to seek work elsewhere. "He worked with Naveen for some time to learn the trade," he said. "People visit each other's homes and stay together while learning a profession." Tribhuvan described their relationship as increasingly distant in recent years, saying Raj Kumar rarely spoke about his life or activities outside the village. "Our family has decided to wait for the chargesheet to be filed before drawing any conclusions," he said.

change in a player's body language that gives clues about their next move.)

Pruthi said that besides em dashes or certain words, other tells include text that is organised in bullet points — often with a heading of what the bullet is about. Also, even though AI-generated text tends to conclude things neatly, Pruthi said that “human conclusions sometimes introduce new content, but model conclusions rarely do”. He also cited the instance of “negative parallelism”: a rhetorical writing style marked by the formulaic “Not X, but Y” structure. “For instance, ‘These headphones are not just hearing devices, but sound-cancelling devices.’ Models are very commonly doing that now,” he said. As to where these tells come from, Pruthi said research was ongoing but there were no clear answers yet.

“One common hypothesis is that after you pre-train a model, you post-train it to make it safe and useful and able to follow instructions. That’s typically done by contracting annotators and data vendors who create examples to answer questions of different types,” he said. “A lot of those datasets, which are private and constructed by large frontier labs, have these cues. People who are writing those answers behave in this way, and therefore models replicate that behaviour,” he added. Can ChatGPT/Claude be a good detector?

Pruthi said using ML to tell apart whether something is written by a human or AI is just one approach: one that even Pangram — the AI detector at the heart of the matter — also uses. He added that people now want to move beyond this “binary framing” of what is AI versus human. “They (as in the entire research community) are figuring out what the extent of collaboration is. Is it lightly assisted by an AI, moderately assisted by an AI, [or] heavily assisted by an AI?” In a statement following the allegations, Granta’s publisher Sigrid Rausing had said that the magazine had used the AI chatbot Claude to evaluate Nazi’s story as to “whether it was AI-generated”. “The response was long, concluding that it was ‘almost certainly not produced unaided by a human’,” the statement said. According to Pruthi, asking Claude, ChatGPT, or Gemini whether something is AI-written is a “very bad idea”. “The model is not specifically trained for this. So it might take an educated guess, but that isn’t going to be very accurate... This happens to be a task where you care about accuracy a great deal because of it being high stakes,” he said. Olga Tokarczuk Recently, Nobel Prize-winning Polish writer Olga Tokarczuk’s comments about using AI for research while writing her last novel had invited criticism. (Wikimedia Commons)

Diagnosed with brain tumour at 38, he returned to cricket, work and normal life



At 46, Amit Mehra* is doing what he loves most — playing cricket, travelling with his family and maintaining a busy professional life as a chartered accountant. Looking at him today, it is difficult to imagine that eight years ago he was diagnosed with a tumour in one of the most critical regions of his brain. “At 38, my whole world had come crashing down. Now I look forward to my weekend cricket match and know when to log out of work,” he says. Mehra is one of the young Indians reporting brain and Central Nervous System (CNS) tumours in India which have an estimated incidence of 30 cases per 100,000 population. Roughly 30% to 35% of these tumours are malignant (cancerous), while the majority are benign (non-cancerous). Mehra began noticing brief episodes of weakness and numbness in his left hand while playing cricket. Sometimes he would struggle to hold on to objects. The episodes lasted only a few seconds before disappearing. He attributed them to physical strain, poor posture or fatigue. “It felt like numbness from sleeping awkwardly or overexertion,” he recalls. “The symptoms were so generic that I never imagined they could be related to brain tumour.” Mehra was worried because he kept to a good fitness discipline, ate clean, had no diabetes or hypertension and wasn’t a smoker or alcohol drinker.

That's the reason he paid attention to his symptoms, which though fleeting in nature, were replicative. An MRI scan revealed a tumour located in the brain's eloquent cortex — a region responsible for critical functions such as movement and sensation. What appeared to be transient weakness was actually focal motor seizures triggered by the tumour. A surgery and eight years later, there has been no recurrence. His medications have been significantly reduced and he remains active. "I just got a promotion at my firm for high productivity," he says. His story reflects a larger shift in brain tumour care. Increasingly, a diagnosis that once carried an almost universally grim prognosis is becoming a condition that can often be treated successfully, with many patients returning to work, family life and even sports.

More cases or better detection? Brain tumours are being diagnosed more frequently in India than ever before. While the incidence remains relatively low compared to other diseases, neurologists say awareness and access to advanced imaging have transformed diagnosis. "Brain tumours are not necessarily increasing dramatically because of new environmental exposure," says Dr Kapil Singhal, director, Neurology, Medanta, formerly of AIIMS, Delhi. "What has changed significantly is our ability to detect them. MRI scans are more accessible and people are getting evaluated earlier." He acknowledges seeing more young and middle-aged adults with brain tumours. Unlike diabetes or heart disease, most brain tumours do not have clearly identifiable lifestyle-related causes. The uncertainty surrounding why they occur often makes the diagnosis unsettling for younger patients who otherwise consider themselves healthy. Understanding brain tumours

A brain tumour occurs when cells within the brain begin dividing uncontrollably. "It develops when cells in the brain or surrounding tissues acquire genetic mutations that disrupt their normal growth controls. These mutations alter the instructions encoded in DNA, causing cells to multiply and survive longer than they should. As these abnormal cells accumulate, they can form a mass or tumour," says Dr Singhal. In most cases, the exact reason behind these genetic changes remains unknown. While some mutations arise spontaneously during a person's lifetime, others may be inherited from a parent, increasing the risk of developing certain types of brain tumours. "And we need to bust the myth that routine mobile phone usage causes brain tumours. There is no scientific evidence. Also, most brain tumours are not hereditary. They can happen due to random cellular mutations," explains Dr Singhal. Contrary to popular belief,

not all brain tumours are cancerous. "Many are benign or low-grade lesions that grow slowly and can be completely removed. Modern surgical methods have made longevity and quality of life possible. Low-grade tumours (Grade 1 and Grade 2), which tend to grow slowly have lower recurrence rates. High-grade or malignant tumours (Grade 3 and Grade 4) are more aggressive, have high recurrence chances and require surgery, radiation and chemotherapy," adds Dr Singhal. Mehra's tumour was classified as a Grade 2 lesion — a category associated with relatively favourable outcomes when detected early and removed effectively. "The words 'brain tumour' immediately make people think of death or severe disability. But that is simply not true for a significant proportion of patients. Many tumours are treatable, and some can be cured completely," says Dr Singhal. Apart from primary brain tumours, there are metastatic tumours, too, which spread to the brain from cancers elsewhere in the body.

A revolution in the OR Perhaps the biggest change over the past decade has been technological. Modern neurosurgery is being driven by sophisticated imaging, computer-assisted planning and real-time monitoring. Before surgery, doctors perform brain mapping using advanced MRI techniques and tractography, which identifies critical nerve pathways responsible for movement, speech and sensation.

"We perform the surgery virtually before doing it real-time," explains Dr Manish Vaish, director of neurosurgery, Medanta. The imaging data is fed into specialised navigation systems that allow surgeons to plan the safest possible route to the tumour. "The tumour's location in Mehra's case made surgery particularly challenging. It was situated in the eloquent cortex, the part of the brain that governs movement and sensation. Even a few millimetres of error could potentially result in permanent neurological impairment," says Dr Vaish. Inside the operating theatre, multiple technologies work together. Special dyes can be administered that are absorbed preferentially by tumour tissue, causing the tumour to fluoresce under specialised microscopes. Four-dimensional ultrasound helps distinguish tumour tissue from normal brain tissue in real time. Electrophysiological monitoring continuously assesses the function of critical brain regions during surgery. In selected patients like Mehra, surgeons may even perform an awake craniotomy, allowing communication with the patient during the procedure. "We engaged Mehra by talking about cricket and its statistics. Anything incoherent is a red flag," recalls Dr Vaish.

He also describes how advanced ultrasonic aspirators have made a delicate surgery procedure easier over the last decade or so. "In simple terms, this surgical tool has a tip that vibrates at very high frequencies (ultrasound), which breaks soft tumour tissue into tiny fragments. At the same time, the device gently suctions away the broken pieces. This is especially useful in brain surgery because tumours are often located close to critical structures that control movement, speech, vision, or memory," says Dr. Vaish. Depending on the complexity of the case, surgeries may last anywhere from three hours to more than 12 hours.

Changing outcomes One of the most significant advances in neuro-oncology has come not from the operating room but from the laboratory. In the past, doctors relied on what tumours looked like under a microscope. Today, molecular profiling and immunohistochemical (IHC) analysis provide a far deeper understanding of tumour behaviour. Following surgery, tumour samples are analysed for specific molecular markers and genetic alterations that help doctors predict aggressiveness, recurrence risk and likely response to treatment. “These molecular signatures have become extremely important,” says Dr Vaish. “They help us personalise treatment and provide a much more accurate understanding of prognosis.”

Modern outcomes are no longer dependent on surgery alone. Today's patients benefit from integrated teams of specialised anaesthetists, critical care specialists, radiation oncologists, rehabilitation experts, nutritionists, psychiatrists and nursing teams. Back to the mainstream Recovery timelines vary according to tumour location and complexity. Many patients begin walking within days. Those with low-grade tumours may return to work within weeks. "I went home in three days, worked out of home as I was immune-compromised, walked indoors, reduced screen time to avoid stressing my brain. In three months, I was back at the office and in six months, I was driving again," says Mehra. Even patients requiring radiation therapy for malignancy resume normal activity during treatment.

Walking 15,000 steps for weight loss: Orthopedic doctor explains risks and benefits



Can walking 15K steps daily help you drop weight? That's what we asked Dr Sarang Deshpande, consultant, orthopaedics and joint replacement, KIMS Hospitals, Thane, who said that "Walking 15,000 steps a day can definitely help with weight loss, especially for people who start from a sedentary lifestyle. Walking is a simple and low-impact exercise that helps burn calories, improves metabolism, and supports overall fitness." However, weight loss is not just about the number of steps. "Diet, sleep, stress levels, age, hormonal factors, and consistency are all important. Someone who walks 15,000 steps daily but eats too many calories might still have trouble losing weight," added Dr Deshpande.

The biggest benefit of walking is that it is easier to keep up over the long term compared to intense workout routines that many people eventually abandon. Is 15,000 steps too much for the average person?

It depends on the person's fitness level, age, weight, and joint health. "For someone healthy who builds

endurance gradually, 15,000 steps can be safe and helpful. But jumping from a sedentary lifestyle to very high daily step counts may lead to knee pain, ankle strain, heel pain, or lower back discomfort," said Dr. Deshpande. This is particularly important for overweight individuals or those with early arthritis, weak muscles, or previous injuries. The body needs time to adjust. fitness Strength training is also essential (Photo: Getty Images/Thinkstock) A gradual increase is usually safer than aggressively pursuing numbers on a fitness tracker.

From an orthopedic

perspective, is walking better than high-impact workouts for weight loss? For many people, yes, affirmed Dr. Deshpande. "Walking puts less stress on the joints compared to activities like running, jumping, or intense HIIT workouts. It is often a safe way to start getting fit, especially for middle-aged adults, seniors, or people with extra body weight." Regular walking also strengthens the muscles around the joints, improves balance, and helps maintain mobility. "That said, walking alone may not be enough for optimal fitness. Strength training and flexibility exercises are also important be-

cause stronger muscles provide better joint support and lower the risk of injury.”

What is the healthiest way to approach a daily walking goal? The focus should be on consistency instead of fixating on a specific number. "Even 7,000 to 10,000 steps daily can offer major health benefits if done regularly." People should wear supportive shoes, stay hydrated, and avoid overtraining, especially in hot weather. "If knee pain, swelling, or breathlessness occurs, it is important to slow down and get medical advice rather than pushing through the discomfort," said Dr. Deshpande.

Despite objections, open school body spent Rs 247 crore on new office — didn’t move in



Despite a senior official's caution against “extravagant expenditure on fancy offices,” the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) — mandated to educate underprivileged children — spent Rs 247 crore in 2021 to acquire two floors in NBCC’s World Trade Centre in Delhi. It received possession in March 2024 but has never moved in and is now scouting for a tenant. The Indian Express has learnt. The sum is striking in context. NIOS receives no budgetary support from the Centre. It funds itself entirely through admission and examination fees. According to its last publicly available annual report, for 2022-23, NIOS generated a total income of Rs 288.65 crore that year, of which Rs 183 crore came from admission and exam fees, against total expenditure of Rs 157.89 crore. Official records show the proposal to buy 61,000 square feet of commercial space, and relocate NIOS headquarters from its current office in Noida to the capital, was discussed and approved at a Finance Committee meeting of the NIOS Society on October 8, 2021, under then Chairperson Prof Saroj Sharma.

The Ministry’s own Joint Secretary and Financial Adviser then had cautioned against the move before that meeting. The Joint Secretary had reportedly highlighted the mandate of NIOS to help educate “un(der)privileged, poor children of the society who could not pursue formal education in schools.” And that the revenue earned by NIOS comes mainly from these sections of the society. “It is therefore necessary that NIOS must refrain from making any extravagant expenditure on fancy offices at very costly places,” the JS is learnt to have said. The committee set those objections aside. Sharma reportedly told the committee that

NIOS was empowered to locate its office anywhere in the Union Territory of Delhi and “learners of NIOS face difficulties in reaching NIOS office, as no Regional Centre is located in Delhi.” Those in favour of the purchase also cited the National Education Policy’s emphasis on digital infrastructure, arguing that the “newly constructed building in the said premises will have all modern facilities for the learners for making them at par to other boards.”

The committee further noted that other government bodies and public sector undertakings had established offices in NBCC-designed buildings at Kidwai Nagar and Nauroji Nagar, and that the space would be “allotted as per fixed rate in a transparent manner.” On those grounds, the Finance Committee approved the acquisition, recording that “other members of the Finance Committee have given their consent on the agenda.” An official later said the decision was “not a single person’s decision but unanimously taken by the academic council.”

The cost, however, did not stop at Rs 247 crore. At a meeting on January 13, 2025, held under then Chairperson Pankaj Arora — who held additional charge of NIOS from October 2024 to July 2025 while also serving as chairperson of the National Council for Teacher Education — the Society approved further expenditure: Rs 18.82 lakh as stamp duty and e-registration fee, and Rs 70 lakh as GST on maintenance services. Asked about the spending and the need for the space, Arora said there was “no progress on that front” during his tenure. By July last year, NIOS had estimated that actually moving in would require a one-time interior development cost of Rs 37 crore, followed by annual recurring expenses of roughly Rs 2.13 crore for maintenance, and Rs 7 lakh in property tax. Faced with that arithmetic, the institution formed a committee to assess the WTC premises and recommend “optimal utilization.” The committee has since suggested leasing out one floor to reduce the financial burden.

When contacted, current NIOS chief Akhilesh Mishra declined to comment. A senior NIOS official, however, said that according to a proposal in the works, one floor will be rented out and the other will be used “as a space for digital schooling, where we will broadcast our classes live, and another part for the ‘Learn One More Bharatiya Bhasha’ initiative.”

From worst-affected by Maoism to highest class 10 pass percentage: The Bijapur turnaround

EMS News Agency, June 12

Bijapur, the Chhattisgarh district that was the worst-affected by Maoism, has jumped to first place among the state’s 33 districts for pass percentage in class 10 board exams and second place in class 12 exams. Last year, the district stood ninth in class 10 pass percentage and 23rd in class 12 pass percentage. The pass percentage for class 10 boards has increased from 85.40% last year to 96.06% this year, and for class 12 boards, it increased from 80.35% to 95.63%.

The district was once infamous for school students dropping out and allegedly joining Maoist ranks, officials said. In the last two years, security forces stepped up operations against Maoists in the Bastar region, which includes Bijapur. Since 2024, as many as 234 Maoists have been killed in encounters, while 1,191 have been arrested and another 1,003 have surrendered, severely weakening the rebel movement. How Bijapur Moved from Maoist Violence to Top Class 10 Results How Bijapur Moved from Maoist Violence to Top Class 10 Results Starting from a survey



Last year, District Collector Sambit Mishra conducted a survey to find out how many school children were dropping out and why. The survey revealed that nearly 10,000 children had dropped out of school. Mishra then set out to ensure that of those that remain, the maximum number of students clear the 10th and 12th board exams. “Soon after the results last year (in May), we took a meeting with all school teachers and principals, where we found out the issues. We learnt that faculty members were not present in many instances. We also took a basic test of all children and identified those who were weak in their studies. We learnt that there were learning gaps, due to which personal attention was needed for students. We then took four major steps,” he said. First was finding out which subjects needed more teachers, and we recruited 68 new teachers, called “Shiksha Mitans”, using District Monetary Foundation (DMF) funds. The other three steps taken were conducting pre-board exams every two months with regular performance reviews. The teachers were asked to identify weaker students and take remedial classes and extra teaching sessions. A district-level exam cell prepared blueprint-based question papers for students so they are well-prepared. Another initiative was teaching students Artificial Intelligence prompts, which helped some of them clear their doubts, though several others could not use it due to a lack of mobile network. How Bijapur Moved from Maoist Violence to Top Class 10 Results How Bijapur Moved from Maoist Violence to Top Class 10 Results The authorities also worked

on ensuring that attendance at schools was over 90%.

District Zilla Panchayat CEO Namrata Choubey’s active involvement in monitoring was critical. She used to hold monthly meetings with all subject teachers where students were performing poorly in pre-boards and our centralised test. This helped us address the gaps and ensure better results,” said Mishra. The education department’s assistant programme coordinator, Zakir Khan, said, “We had eight months to prepare students for the exams, and the results were very pleasing. Last year, 3,940 students appeared for SSC (10th) and HSC (12th), of which 3,279 passed. This year, 4,111 students appeared for SSC and HSC, of which 3,942 passed. “It was not only pass percentage, but the number of students securing first-class marks also doubled this year. “This year, 2,805 students got first-class in SSC and HSC, while last year the number was 1,441. Girls were ahead of boys in both exams,” said District Education Officer Lakhanlal Dhanelia. The results also brought a cheer to the face of Satyanarayan Tokal, 57, who has been teaching in a government school in Pamed, once a Naxal stronghold over 100 km away from Bijapur district headquarters. “Till last year, there was no proper road to our school, and to go to Bijapur town, we used to travel via Telangana. Until 2008, it was a middle school and then it became a high school. The initiative has made a big impact. In 2012, it became a higher secondary school, and since then, it is the first time that two girls have scored above 80% marks. Archana Gundi scored 82% in HSC science and Sandhya Sabka scored 80% in SSC,” said Tokal proudly. Khan said, “In Tarlaguda porta cabin school near the Telangana border, all 28 children passed. One of them, Divya Micha, got 87.84%. She is from a remote village named Metlacheru, about 16 km from Bhopalpatnam, where there is no electricity or network.”

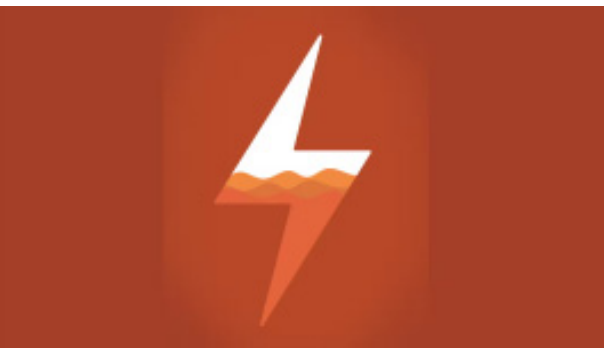
Hot showers may harm your skin, dermatologists warn

Hyderabad: Love turning the shower knob all the way to hot? Your skin probably doesn’t. That steamy, relaxing shower might feel like the best part of your day, but frequent exposure to hot water can quietly weaken your skin over time. The heat disrupts your skin’s natural protective barrier, the layer that helps retain moisture and keep irritants out. As this barrier gets affected, your skin becomes more sensitive and prone to issues like irritation, redness and that tight, uncomfortable feeling after a shower. Over time, this can also make your skin appear dull and less healthy. Long, hot showers can further aggravate existing conditions like dryness or eczema, making flare-ups more likely. The higher the temperature and the longer the exposure, the greater the impact on your skin. Dermatologists often recommend switching to lukewarm water and keeping showers short. It may not feel as indulgent, but it helps maintain your skin’s natural balance. A simple fix? Apply a moisturiser immediately after stepping out, while your skin is still slightly damp, to lock in hydration and support the skin barrier. You don’t have to give up hot showers completely, but turning down the heat and cutting down the time can make a noticeable difference. Sometimes, small changes in routine are all it takes to protect your skin in the long run.



You don’t have to give up hot showers completely, but turning down the heat and cutting down the time can make a noticeable difference. Sometimes, small changes in routine are all it takes to protect your skin in the long run.

After the Hormuz disruption, Asia should build an energy security alliance



After Hormuz disruption, Asia should build an energy security alliance The closure has alerted countries to their vulnerability to other nautical chokepoints. Aside from the Strait of Hormuz, their energy supplies have to cross the Strait of Malacca, the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. Fatih Birol, executive director of the International Energy Agency (IEA), said last month that “we are facing the biggest energy security threat in history”, worse than the aggregate impact of the crises sparked by the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the Iranian Revolution of 1979 and the Russia-Ukraine conflict that began in 2022. He should know, as the organisation he heads was established as a result of the Yom Kippur War. The latter triggered the quadrupling of crude oil prices (\$2.90/bbl in October 1973 to \$11.90 in January 1974) and a global recession. In its aftermath in January 1974, US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger invited the leaders of the Western world to a conference in Washington, DC. Kissinger’s objective was to create a mechanism by which Western countries could counter the cartel of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) and manage and mitigate future supply disruptions. The IEA was the outcome of this conference.

Fifty-two years on, in the wake of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, India should lead a call for the petroleum-importing countries of Asia to create a similar institution, but with a broader threefold purpose. One, to safeguard the rights of individual member countries to free and unencumbered navigation passage through the maritime straits in Asia; two, to counter the pricing power of Middle East exporters through the lever of their aggregate purchasing strength; and three, to harness the complementary technical, financial and human assets of members to accelerate the pace of the green energy transition. Such an institution could be called the Asian Energy Collaborative Compact (AECC).

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has had a dual impact on Asian oil-import-dependent countries. It has led to an energy shortage and highlighted the risks of exposure to maritime chokepoints. The closure has trapped 13 million barrels of petroleum (and its derivatives) in the straits. The bulk of this quantity (approximately 85 per cent) is destined for the Asian markets. As a result, a number of Asian countries are currently facing an energy-supply crisis. The Philippines has declared a national energy emergency; Japan has cut back on ferry and bus services, and India has rationed the supply of LPG to commercial establishments. China has also put the brakes on domestic consumption, although the impact has been buffered by substitute supplies from Russia and a drawdown of stocks from its strategic reserves. Beyond this physical constraint, the closure

AI in top colleges: Is it helping students or adding to stress? A professor explains

The launch of ChatGPT in November 2022 accelerated the adoption of Generative AI (GenAI) across domains. It is now widely used in education, research, and industry to improve productivity and work quality, and is increasingly treated as an assistive technology. While concerns remain about its impact on jobs, GenAI has quickly become embedded in everyday academic and professional workflows. In academia, adoption has been particularly rapid in India’s premier technical institutions (TIs), such as Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS) Pilani, and National Institutes of Technology (NITs). GenAI tools provide on-demand access to explanations, problem-solving support, and coding assistance, effectively functioning as 24x7 tutors at students’ fingertips. While this improves access to guidance and reduces dependence on institutional resources, it raises a key question: Is GenAI reducing academic stress or intensifying it? The question is especially relevant given the high number of student suicides reported in these colleges, owing to a variety of factors. The recent proliferation of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) has penetrated academia’s teaching and learning (T&L) more rapidly than the earlier cycles of AI development. While AI has evolved since the late 1950s, its direct integration into daily life accelerated with the rise of conversational systems such as the Google Assistant in the mid-2010s. A decisive shift followed the public release of ChatGPT in November 2022, marking the widespread adoption of large language models (LLMs). These systems generate text, code, images, and other content from large datasets, fundamentally altering how information is accessed and processed, and are called GenAI. Within academia, GenAI tools are now embedded in routine workflows. From coding assistance and problem-solving to report drafting and assignment preparation, students increasingly rely on tools such as Google Gemini, DeepSeek, and GitHub Copilot. These tools function as assistive technologies, enhancing productivity and reducing time spent on routine tasks. At the same time, they are shifting learning from deep engagement with problems to effective querying, placing greater emphasis on prompt formulation than on independent reasoning. LLMs are probabilistic systems and can produce errors, inconsistencies, or misleading outputs. Over-reliance without verification may affect conceptual understanding and academic rigour. This evolving ecosystem brings both efficiency gains and new challenges in education. What is missing in GenAI Ecosystem?

Traditionally, teaching and learning in premier TIs focused on analysis, design, and application of knowledge rather than rote memorisation. Given concepts and mathematical formulations, students were expected to apply them to solve engineering problems. Many examinations were open-book, allowing the use of reference material while assessing analytical and problem-solving ability. Preparation involved selecting relevant material, organising notes, and developing approaches—processes that ensured deep engagement. With the advent of LLMs, this mode of learning is changing. The effort invested in reading, organising material, and working independently through problems has declined. Students increasingly rely on querying AI systems for solutions and explanations. As a result, emphasis shifts from internalising concepts to retrieving answers on

has alerted countries to their vulnerability to other nautical chokepoints. Aside from the Strait of Hormuz, their energy supplies have to cross the Strait of Malacca and, further east, the Taiwan Strait and the South China Sea. These maritime passages are in the high seas and under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, also referred to as the “constitution of the oceans”, all ships are assured the right of “innocent passage”. The Iranian action has breached this right and created a precedent that compels reflection on the counterfactual. What if the Strait of Malacca (through which 60 per cent of all seaborne trade to and from East Asia passes) were choked? What if the flow of merchandise traffic through the Taiwan Strait and/or the South China Sea were impeded by regulatory restrictions and/or tolls? What pipeline configurations, over land and under water, might enable countries to create supply lines that avoid exposure to such blocks?

These concerns are common to most Asian countries irrespective of their political system, ideology or stage of economic development. They can and should therefore be discussed conjointly. The AECC could provide a forum for such discussions. The “Asian Premium” (the price differential between the price paid for crude oil by Asian countries to Middle Eastern exporters and the North Sea benchmark price) ranged between \$3 and \$6 per barrel before the start of the conflict. It widened to \$60 per barrel after the start of the bombing. It has come down since, but the initial increase warrants the question: Was the steepness of the hike in prices, freight rates and insurance premiums due entirely to tightening supply and inelastic demand? Or was it also because of asymmetric bargaining, that is, the fact that Asian importers failed to leverage their aggregate purchasing power? Kissinger convened the leadership of the Western world in January 1974 to counter OAPEC. My suggestion is that AECC should be set up to secure a similar objective. It should develop mechanisms that, whilst not impeding a country’s ability to trade independently, enable the members to negotiate collectively to secure better supply terms and reduced freight and insurance costs. In addition, AECC should provide real-time market intelligence on supply disruptions, infrastructure incidents and geopolitics. This information is currently provided by the IEA, but Asia should have its own bespoke agency. IEA has a Western skew as it works under the OECD’s umbrella. The exit of the UAE from OPEC is further evidence of the fractured relationships amongst the Gulf oil exporters and the terminal volatility of the international petroleum market. It deepens the urgency for Asia to shift away from fossils towards renewables. Most, if not all, Asian countries have a green energy strategy in place, and some have made impressive progress. But no country has successfully scaled up renewables to dominance in its energy consumption basket. The question arises: How can this shift be accelerated? One proposition that prima facie seems fanciful would be for Asian countries to leverage their green assets (technology, finance, mineral and metal resources, human talent) to identify and tackle areas of overlapping interests regarding the green transition. The proposition is fanciful because, unlike the IEA, Asian countries do not share a common political ideology or system. But the region does have a common purpose in decarbonisation and energy security. So, in its third role as an energy think tank, AECC should research how best the complementary assets of its members can be combined to generate a positive-sum green outcome.



demand. While they could be efficient, this reduces sustained thinking, weakens problem-solving depth, and limits the development of independent analytical skills.

How can GenAI reshape academic stress?

The widespread adoption of GenAI is introducing a set of specific though interlinked stress intensifiers in academic environments: Dependence and reduced confidence: Frequent reliance on AI-generated solutions shifts competence from self to system, weakening confidence in unaided problem-solving. Over time, this reduces persistence in tackling complex problems independently and shifts learning from deep engagement to effective querying. AI-driven benchmarking: Student performance is increasingly measured—directly or indirectly—against AI-generated outputs that are faster, more structured, and often appear near-ideal. It raises evaluation standards, leaves little room for iterative thinking or minor errors, and fosters constant comparison with peers and machine outputs, intensifying performance pressure. Competitive pressure driven by Fear of Missing Out (FOMO): With all-time access to GenAI, students feel compelled to use these tools to avoid falling behind. It creates continuous pressure to match AI-augmented productivity, often prioritising speed and output over deep understanding. This approach may not sustain for long-term knowledge acquisition and skill development. Learning-evaluation mismatch: While GenAI is widely used for coursework and preparation, it is typically restricted in examinations and interviews. It creates a dual environment, forcing abrupt shifts to unaided performance, leading to anxiety, self-doubt, and a sense of unpreparedness during high-stakes assessments. Ethics undefined: The absence of clear norms on acceptable AI use creates uncertainty and internal conflict. Students must constantly decide how much reliance is appropriate, increasing stress while raising concerns about academic integrity. Addressing the rise in suicides requires a shift to integrate mental health support, academic reform, and a policy on the use of GenAI in teaching, learning, and evaluation (TLE). Despite widespread use of GenAI, none of the TIs has a policy framework to address its impact on academic use. Policy efforts should aim to detect stress early through continuous assessment. Counselling systems must be strengthened with early-warning mechanisms and greater faculty sensitisation. Preventing further loss of life must be treated as a national priority, requiring coordinated action by institutions, regulators, and policymakers to ensure that technological ad

‘Massive conflict of interest’ if airport operators are allowed to run airlines: IndiGo’ Rahul Bhatia



Any move by the government to allow airport operators to own airlines will create a “massive conflict of interest” and will be against the interest of consumers, Rahul Bhatia, managing director of the country’s largest airline IndiGo said Thursday. Bhatia’s comments in IndiGo’s post-earnings investor call came amid reports that the initial discussions on allowing airport operators to own airlines have begun in the aviation ministry, and the Adani group — which operates eight airports — could venture into the airline business. “We are reading the news as you are. All I can say is that, if the news has any merit, one, it has no global precedent...and typically (it will create) a massive conflict of interest. Over a period of time, it would actually be against the interest of consumers,” Bhatia said in the company’s post-earnings call on Thursday, adding that IndiGo will closely watch the developments on this front.

In a departure from its stance to steer clear of having an airline while building a significant presence in India’s aviation ecosystem, the Adani Group is considering having a carrier within its fold, although the plans are not concrete yet, according to sources in the know. Preliminary discussions on easing restrictions on cross-ownership in both airline and airport businesses have begun at the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) after the Adani group requested for an enabling policy environment, it is learnt. If the restrictions are eased, they would also pave the way for airlines to pick up stakes in airports. On whether IndiGo would consider investing in airports if the curbs are eased, Bhatia said

that question is moot at present, and a considered view can only be taken once there is clarity on the matter. According to some industry insiders and experts, if airport operators are allowed to own airlines, there is bound to be resistance from existing airlines and other stakeholders due to potential conflict-of-interest situations arising from an airport operator owning an airline. These could include preferential treatment and slot allocation to the airline run by the airport operator. Any such move by the government will have to be accompanied by stringent regulatory oversight as well as mandating the airline and airport operations to be run independently, experts said.

The government has been calling for more airlines in the Indian skies, given the duopoly of IndiGo and the Air India group, which have a cumulative domestic market share of 90%. IndiGo alone has a domestic market share of over 65%. The objective of the initial discussions to allow airport operators to also run airlines is to foster more competition in the sector, sources said. According to prevailing rules, operators of Delhi and Mumbai airports are barred from holding more than 10% stake in a scheduled carrier, and the Adani group is seeking this particular condition to be removed. The Adani group has 74% stake in the Mumbai airport, while GMR has 74% in the Delhi airport. Apart from being an airport operator, the Adani group has a major presence in other segments of the aviation sector as well, including ground handling, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), and pilot training. The conglomerate also plans to set up an aircraft manufacturing facility in India in partnership with Brazil’s Embraer.

The conglomerate had so far maintained that it was not interested in running an airline as it didn’t fit the group’s capital discipline and philosophy, which was about investing in assets in high-margin businesses and sweating those assets. The airline business is the opposite of that. But the thought process has evidently changed over the past few months, largely due to two factors — the government’s push for more airlines in a bid to increase competition and check market concentration, and Adani’s own venture to set up a final assembly line (FAL) of Embraer’s passenger jets.



from alternative sources, leading to discount erosion and even premium on Russian oil.

After the June 17 US-Iran MoU, energy flows through the strait started recovering, with hope in the market that supplies through the chokepoint would normalise steadily. The optimism led to a fall in oil prices; discounts on Russian oil at Indian ports had also widened to over \$10 per barrel to benchmark Brent crude in early July, as per industry estimates. However, the recovery in energy flows from West Asia lasted about three weeks, after which attacks on ships in the region resumed and taker traffic crashed again. As per ship tracking data, only around 10 vessels crossed the Strait of Hormuz on July 21. Since mid-June, vessel movements through the strait had risen meaningfully, even crossing 90 on June 24, with the average being between 40 and 50 on most days in the three weeks that followed the MoU, industry data shows. But these were still lower than the pre-war levels of up to 140 daily transits.

Amid the West Asia crisis, as oil flows from the Gulf dried up, Russian crude became India’s strongest energy security hedge. As per Kpler data, India’s Russian oil imports rose to around 2.6 million barrels per day (bpd) in June, accounting for over half of New Delhi’s total crude imports. July arrivals are also tracking at healthy levels and could match or even exceed June’s volumes, as per estimates. India depends on imports to meet over 88% of its crude oil needs, and over 40% of that was met by oil that came via the Strait of Hormuz. In the months preceding the West Asia war, oil imports from Russia had reduced notably as the US imposed sanctions on Russian oil majors Rosneft and Lukoil, and amid trade pact negotiations with New Delhi and Washington. The US made a meaningful reduction in Russian oil imports a prerequisite for scrapping its 25% additional penal tariff on India. But as supplies from West Asia dwindled due to the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Russian oil came to India’s aid and volumes surged to historic highs.

appointment, based on the recommendation of the Nomination and Remuneration Committee of the Infosys Board, is for a period of five years, the company said.

Having spent over three decades with Infosys, Dash has held senior leadership roles spanning customer-facing businesses, delivery, and global operations across multiple geographies. He also leads the sustainability business across the company. “He has consistently delivered strong business performance, helped clients navigate complex business and technology transformations, and built high-performing global teams,” the company said. The board said Dash’s strategic and commercial acumen, along with his technology delivery experience, positions him to lead Infosys through its next phase of AI-led transformation. “Technology is entering a new era, with AI fundamentally reshaping how businesses operate and create value. Infosys begins this next phase from a position of enormous strength — with a clearly articulated AI strategy, exceptional talent, deep client relationships, and values that have earned the trust of customers globally,” Dash said. Underscoring the AI opportunity, Infosys said its enterprise AI offerings are gaining traction, with momentum now rapidly converting into revenue and market share gains. “Strong large deal wins, powered by Infosys Topaz, reinforce client confidence in our ability to be the strategic partner of choice for AI transformation driving tangible business value,” said Salil Parekh, CEO and MD.

Up to 5 cups of coffee a day safe for most adults, say new heart guidelines: Top cardio decodes



For millions of people, the day begins with a cup of coffee. Now, the largest review yet from the American Heart Association (AHA) offers reassuring news: for most healthy adults, drinking up to 400 mg of caffeine a day — roughly three to five cups of regular black coffee — appears to be safe and may even lower the risk of heart disease, stroke and heart failure. The caveat? Not all caffeine is created equal. Energy drinks and caffeine shots, which pack far more caffeine into a much smaller serving, may do more harm than good.

Explains Dr Balbir Singh, Chairman, Cardiac Sciences, Max Healthcare, who himself has black coffee through the day, “In fact, this latest review clears the misconception that drinking coffee could affect those who have atrial fibrillation, the most common abnormal heart rhythm, in which the heart’s upper chambers (atria) beat rapidly and irregularly, increasing the risk of stroke, heart failure and other cardiovascular complications. But beneficial compounds in coffee outweigh the mild stimulant effects of caffeine at moderate doses. In fact, they are anti-inflammatory and improve blood vessel function.” He also demolishes the myth that drinking black coffee raises blood pressure. “The BP spike is very temporary and then goes down, so one cannot say that coffee-drinking has a significant long-term effect on BP. This is the reason why we advise people to measure their BP for trustworthy readings 30 to 45 minutes after they have had their cup of coffee. It is for the same reason that we advise people not to have coffee before they undertake any intense physical exercise or strenuous activity which can raise your BP. Even then the BP response varies from person to person. Some studies have shown that in habitual coffee drinkers, the spiral effect reduces over time as they develop tolerance to the brew, compared to non-regular drinkers. Others attribute the BP spike to coffee spurring the release of extra adrenaline,” he adds. However, Dr Singh clarifies that this finding applies only to black coffee and not coffee with a lot of milk and sugar. “That’s harmful for the body because it raises calories. Latest research says sweeteners too raise the risk of blood clotting, which is worrisome for heart health,” he says. Excerpts from an interview: The latest scientific statement from the American Heart Association, published in Circulation, quotes experts as saying that moderate coffee consumption does not increase cardiovascular risk for most

adults. In fact, drinking black coffee without added sugar, syrups or cream was associated with a lower risk of several conditions, including heart disease, stroke, heart failure and Type 2 diabetes. The recommended upper limit remains 400 mg of caffeine a day, roughly equivalent to three to five 8-ounce cups of brewed coffee, depending on its strength. While coffee appears relatively safe in moderation, the same cannot be said for energy drinks. Many energy drinks and concentrated “energy shots” contain three to four times more caffeine per ounce than regular coffee, often combined with stimulants and other additives that may speed up caffeine absorption. The review found that high doses of caffeine from energy drinks were linked to increased blood pressure and a greater risk of abnormal heart rhythms. Even healthy young adults have experienced heart rhythm disturbances after consuming large amounts of these beverages. Interestingly, researchers say coffee’s health benefits may not come from caffeine alone. Coffee contains hundreds of natural compounds with antioxidant and anti-inflammatory properties that may help protect blood vessels and reduce inflammation. This may explain why coffee often performs better in studies than caffeine consumed through supplements or energy drinks. At the same time, scientists caution that adding generous amounts of sugar, flavoured syrups, whipped cream or sweetened creamers could offset some of coffee’s potential health benefits. One reason caffeine research remains complicated is that people respond to it very differently. Genetics, age, liver metabolism, medications and even how often someone drinks coffee influence how quickly caffeine is broken down. Some people can enjoy several cups without noticeable effects, while others experience palpitations, anxiety or poor sleep after a single cup. The review notes that caffeine typically reaches peak levels in the bloodstream within an hour, though its effects can last much longer in sensitive individuals. Across multiple studies, drinking two to four cups of coffee a day was consistently associated with the greatest reduction in the risk of heart disease, heart failure and stroke. However, the evidence becomes less certain beyond that level. Some studies suggest consuming more than four cups daily may increase the risk of heart failure in certain people, reinforcing the message that moderation still matters. The way coffee is prepared also matters. Unfiltered coffee — including French press, Turkish coffee, boiled coffee and some espresso preparations — contains higher amounts of cafestol, a naturally occurring compound that can raise LDL (bad) cholesterol. Paper-filtered coffee and instant coffee contain much lower amounts of cafestol and may, therefore, be the better choice for people concerned about cholesterol. The new guidance isn’t a licence to drink coffee endlessly. Instead, it offers reassurance that moderate coffee consumption can fit comfortably within a heart-healthy lifestyle for most adults. At the same time, experts stress there is no universal caffeine prescription. People with heart rhythm disorders, uncontrolled high blood pressure, pregnancy, sleep problems or sensitivity to caffeine should discuss their intake with their doctor. For the rest, do not abandon the diet, sleep and exercise routine.

Drinking fruit juice and sugary drinks in childhood can raise BP later, says study

A glass of fruit juice is often seen as a healthy alternative to soft drinks. However, new research published in Circulation suggests that regularly consuming large amounts of fruit juice and sugar-sweetened beverages from childhood may increase the risk of developing high blood pressure in adulthood. The study followed more than 25,000 participants in the US for up to 25 years, making it one of the longest studies to examine the long-term effects of childhood beverage choices. Children and adolescents, who consumed two or more servings of sugar-sweetened beverages daily, had a 52 per cent higher risk of developing hypertension later in life than those who drank these beverages fewer than three times a week. Those consuming 1.5 or more servings of fruit juice daily had a 35% higher risk compared with children who rarely drank fruit juice.

The findings should not be interpreted to mean that fruit itself is harmful. In fact, the study reinforces an important nutritional principle: the source of sugar matters as much as the amount. Sugars consumed in whole fruits behave very differently from those consumed as beverages. Replacing one daily serving of a sugary drink with whole fruit was associated with a 22% lower risk of hypertension, while replacing fruit juice with whole fruit reduced the risk by 19%.

Why does drinking sugar differ from eating it?

Whole fruits contain fibre that slows gastric emptying and sugar absorption, resulting in a gradual rise in blood glucose and insulin. Juicing removes much of this fibre, allowing sugars to be absorbed rapidly. Repeated spikes in blood glucose and insulin can promote insulin resistance, increase sympathetic nervous system activity, stimulate sodium retention by the kidneys, and activate the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, a vital hormone system in the human body that regulates long-term blood pressure, fluid balance, and electrolyte concentrations. All have an impact on blood pressure. Excess fructose, particularly when consumed as sweetened beverages, is also metabolised primarily in the liver, where it promotes fat synthesis, leading to fatty liver, higher triglycerides and visceral fat accumulation. This metabolically unhealthy fat releases inflammatory cytokines and reduces nitric oxide availability, impairing blood vessel relaxation. Fructose metabolism



additionally generates uric acid, which has been linked to endothelial dysfunction and reduced nitric oxide production, providing another potential pathway through which sugary drinks may contribute to hypertension. Whole fruit, in contrast, delivers fibre, potassium, antioxidants, and polyphenols that may help counteract these adverse effects. Potassium promotes sodium excretion and helps regulate blood pressure, while polyphenols improve endothelial function and reduce oxidative stress. This probably explains why fructose consumed within the whole fruit does not appear to carry the same cardiovascular risk.

Why does this matter for India? The findings are particularly relevant for India, where packaged fruit juices, sweetened milk beverages and sports drinks are increasingly marketed to children. Many parents consider fruit juice a healthy substitute for soft drinks. However, even 100 per cent fruit juice contains concentrated natural sugars and lacks most of the fibre found in whole fruit. It should therefore be consumed in moderation rather than replacing whole fruits in the diet. The message is not that children should never drink fruit juice. Instead, fruit juice should be an occasional beverage rather than a daily health drink. Water and milk remain the preferred drinks, while whole fruits should be encouraged as snacks. Healthy eating habits established in childhood often persist into adulthood, and choosing whole fruit over sugary beverages today may help reduce the burden of hypertension and cardiovascular disease decades later.

Infosys profit rises 12% in June quarter; Ashiss Kumar Dash named CEO designate

The IT major lowered the upper end of its FY27 revenue growth guidance, revising the range to 1.5-3% amid continued global uncertainty and subdued discretionary spending. The IT major lowered the upper end of its FY27 revenue growth guidance, revising the range to 1.5-3% amid continued global uncertainty and subdued discretionary spending. Infosys Ltd reported a 12.2% year-on-year (y-o-y) increase in net profit (attributable to owners) to Rs 7,769 crore for the first quarter ended June 2026, from Rs 6,921 crore in the same period a year ago. Sequentially, profit declined 8.6% from the March quarter. The board also announced the appointment of Ashiss Kumar Dash as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Designate of the company. Dash is scheduled to succeed Salil Parekh as Managing Director (MD) and CEO on April 1, 2027, following the completion of Parekh’s second term. The company reported a 14% year-on-year (y-o-y) rise in revenue to Rs 48,211 crore in the June quarter from Rs 42,279 crore, led largely by the life sciences and financial services verticals. Geographically, the US and Europe grew 3.2% and 2.8%, respectively, on a constant-currency basis.

The IT major lowered the upper end of its FY27 revenue growth guidance, revising the range to 1.5-3% amid continued global uncertainty and subdued discretionary spending. Dash, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, is currently the global head of a diverse business portfolio comprising multiple industry verticals. His

Silk pillowcases have become one of the most talked-about beauty products on social media, with influencers claiming they can prevent wrinkles, reduce frizzy hair and even help your skincare products work better overnight. But can simply changing your pillowcase really make a difference? Unlike cotton, silk has a smooth surface that creates less friction against the skin and hair while you sleep. This means your face is less likely to crease against the fabric, and your hair may look less tangled and frizzy when you wake up. Many people also find silk feels cooler and softer, making it more comfortable to sleep on. AI in sports video 2 However, a silk pillowcase is not a magic anti-ageing solution. Wrinkles develop over time due to factors such as ageing, repeated facial expressions, sun exposure and a natural decline in collagen. While sleeping on silk may reduce the temporary ‘sleep lines’ that appear after a night’s rest, it will not stop wrinkles from forming. Skin & Nail Care Silk pillowcases may also be a good option for people with dry or sensitive skin, as the fabric absorbs less moisture than cotton.



Darren Sammy backs West Indies to build on Sri Lanka success ahead of Pakistan Tests



GNS News Agency, July 28

Tarouba: West Indies head coach Darren Sammy has shown confidence in his side, saying that he could see 'the light coming through' as they gear up to face Pakistan in the two-match home test series starting from Saturday. West Indies, who are placed at eighth position in the World Test Championship points table, are coming to the contest after registering a 1-0 series win against Sri Lanka. According to the former player, the win gives hope of a revival to the Caribbean side, who are looking to move up the table with a win against the ninth-placed Pakistan.

"We could see some light coming through, especially with the Sri Lanka series. Now we have Pakistan. Looking

at the world rankings, we're probably four or five points behind getting into the top six of the table [they are eighth and just three points from getting to No. 6]. The team knows what we're looking to achieve. And each player understands the role that they're playing in us achieving that," he said ahead of the match as quoted by Cricinfo. "So, for me, my process has always been simple: understand what the direction we want to go, with my conversations with the director, conversations with the captain and the players, and how we go about doing it. So if you see me looking calm all the time, it's because I understand what we as a group are trying to do and not the noise from the outside," he added. Sammy has also confirmed that Amir Jangoo is yet to recover from the shoulder injury he got during the New Zealand series, and Shai Hope will take the gloves. "With the injury to Jangoo, it brings another ask of probably Shai Hope to take on the mantle of the gloves again, I'm speaking to him. I'm trying to ask him for a couple more favours, because you've got to also consider his workload, keeping in mind the other two formats and asking him to score some real runs. It's a conversation we'll have," Sammy said. The series opener at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, to be played from July 25 to 29, will mark a historic moment, as it becomes the first men's Test match to be ever staged at the venue and the 13th ground in the region to host international red-ball cricket. The second Test will take place at the historic Queen's Park Oval from August 2 to 6.

India aim for series seal against Zimbabwe in 2nd T20I at Harare

GNS News Agency, July 28

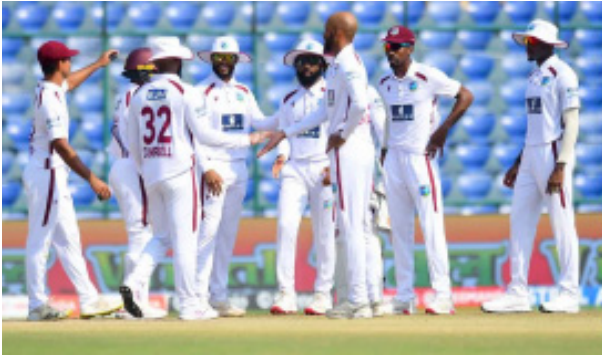
Harare: On recovery path with their maiden win under new captain Shreyas Iyer, India will look to sustain the winning momentum for an unassailable lead against Zimbabwe when the two teams face off in the second T20I here on Saturday. After being swept away by Ireland (0-2) and England (0-4), three-time T20 World Cup winners India produced a far better show in their series-opener here on Thursday, beating Zimbabwe by seven wickets to take a 1-0 lead. Young batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 19-ball 50 and Mayank Yadav's fiery 4-0-18-2 set up an important win for India in the opening match here, against an opponent which has thrived in home conditions of late. India chased down a modest 126 with more than six overs and seven wickets to spare, riding on Sooryavanshi's fifty, a quickfire 35 from Ishan Kishan and a measured 28 not out from skipper Iyer.

Abhishek Sharma, who began his T20I journey here at the Harare Sports Club and struck his maiden hundred in the format in the second game itself two years ago, would be keen to make amends after falling cheaply in the opening game. Sooryavanshi set the record for being the youngest to score a T20I half-century. The young batter would have been relieved getting the monkey off his back, especially when he was specifically targeted with short balls on England tour. But more than their batters' strong showing, the collective effort from a young pace attack would have pleased the team management, which has VVS Laxman in charge as the head coach for this series. India appeared to have adapted well to the conditions as Prince Yadav claimed 2/29 in a much-improved performance, while the debutant Ashok Sharma also cranked up high pace even though he remained wicket-less. But the biggest takeaway was a successful return to top flight cricket for right-arm pacer Mayank, who spent nearly two years on the sidelines with



a string of injuries since making his debut. Mayank's pace as well as control was top notch in the opening contest, with the dismissal of Zimbabwe batting mainstay Brian Bennett on a delivery that shaped away being the standout. Zimbabwe, on their part, would rue losing far too many wickets in the powerplay while not being able to handle the pace the Indian bowlers generated. From 26 for three, the hosts put on a modest 125 for seven which was never going to be challenging enough. There is no gap between the second and the final T20I, which will be played on Sunday in the short series. India: Shreyas Iyer (c), Ishan Kishan (wk), Prabhsimran Singh (wk), Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Tilak Varma (vc), Abhishek Sharma, Shivam Dube, Harsh Dubey, Suryansh Shedje, Rinku Singh, Ashok Sharma, Prince Yadav, Ravi Bishnoi, Mayank Yadav, Yash Thakur. Zimbabwe: Sikandar. Raza (c), Ben Curran, Innocent Kala, Tadiwanashe Marumani (wk), Dion Myers, Tafadzwa Tsiga (wk), Brian Benett, Ryan Burl, Brad Evans, Wesley Madhevere, Tanaka Chivanga, Wellington Masakadza, Blessing Muzarabani, Richard Ngarava, Newman Nyamhuri.

Daren Sammy confident of West Indies Test revival ahead of Pakistan series



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Vaibhav Sooryavanshi says early success boosts confidence after record-breaking T20I fifty

Harare: Teenage batting prodigy Vaibhav Sooryavanshi reflected on his match-winning performance in the opening T20I against Zimbabwe, saying that making an impact early in one's career plays a crucial role in boosting confidence for upcoming assignments. Sooryavanshi became the youngest to score a fifty in international cricket during the first game of the three-match series. The opener scored 50 off 19 balls for his maiden T20I fifty, surpassing Nepal's Kushal Malla, who was 15 years and 340 days old when he made an ODI half-century against the USA in 2020.

Sachin Tendulkar, who was 16 years and 213 days old when he scored 59 against Pakistan on his Test debut tour in Faisalabad in 1989, was the previous youngest Indian batter to score an international fifty. Sooryavanshi's record-breaking knock came in just his fourth T20I, having become India's youngest-ever men's international cricketer earlier this month at the age of 15 years and 99 days. "When it's the starting phase of your career and you get these kinds of innings early on and you perform well it builds confidence for the upcoming matches. And it felt like I was in my zone and I just bagged my strength; that was all. I would dedi-

cate this fifty to my family and to my coaches and to everyone who has supported me along my journey through every good and bad phase," he said in a video shared by BCCI.tv

After reaching his fifty, he seemed to make an 'A' sign with both his hands above his head. Explaining his celebration, the teenager clarified that the celebration was in fact a tribute to his mother 'Aarti'. He also made 'Thumbs up' sign which he said was 'I did that celebration for my mum, and the other one was based on a conversation with Rinku Bahia and I had,' he explained. Harare has proved to be a happy hunting ground for Sooryavanshi. Earlier this year, he struck a sensational 175 off 80 balls against England in the ICC Under-19 World Cup final at the same venue after blasting 68 against Afghanistan in the semi-finals, helping India lift a record sixth title. The innings also marked a timely return to form after scores of 14, 13 and 15 in his first three T20Is against England. "You could say that I like the vibe here. There are some grounds where we just love scoring runs maybe it's like that but I'm not taking this for granted at all. I'm just trying to give my best contribute to the team and perform well whenever I play," he added.

Mayank Yadav's childhood coach reveals how injury-hit pacer rebuilt himself after 21-month lay-off



New Delhi: While a brilliant spell of 2-18 in the first T20I against Zimbabwe provided immense joy for Mayank Yadav on his return to international cricket, the bigger picture stretches far beyond it for the Delhi-based tearaway pacer. A 21-month injury layoff due to a stress fracture in the back needing surgery in Christchurch, New Zealand in July 2025, Mayank picking Player of the Match award on successful return to international cricket at the Harare Sports Club is merely step one in taking the world by storm again – like how he did in a breakthrough IPL 2024 season.

For Devendra Sharma, Mayank's childhood coach at the Sonnet Club in the national capital, watching the speedster hit his strides and trouble the Zimbabwe batters with some serious heat again brought equal parts relief and satisfaction after a grueling spell on the sidelines. "He bowled exceedingly well. It was a treat to the eyes to see him perform very well. As his coach, it felt very joyful and I was really happy to see it because all the hard work done by him, including during the rehab phase, has paid off. I remember of the time he was very worried because things weren't going well for him after picking the back injury in IPL 2025 and continuously was at the NCA (now the BCCI Centre of Excellence) in Bengaluru.

"Before he left for Zimbabwe on July 20, I advised him to not stick much to bowling short balls all the time. I told him, 'Just see the footwork of the batter and bowl as per that,' and that advice worked really well. It was also wonderful to see him get the backing from the likes of VVS Laxman," an elated Sharma told IANS in an exclusive conversation on Friday. Mayank was right on the money when on a pitch with spongy bounce, he produced a steep delivery that squared Brian Bennett up and a faint edge was caught behind by wicketkeeper Ishan Kishan. The early breakthrough set the tone for Mayank, leaving Dion Myers tentative in his footwork as he struggled to cope with the pacer's raw pace and eventually fell to him. Ten of Mayank's first 12 deliveries were clocked in the mid-to-high 140kmph range, with his fastest ball touching 149kmph. With 21 of his 24 deliveries pitched either short-of-a-length or in the good-length area, Mayank extracted sharp zip and bounce off the deck, repeatedly squaring up the batters and hitting them high on the handle. In all, seeing Mayank bowl fast and hurry Zimbabwe's batters for pace was a purist's delight.

Having spent an extended period recovering at the Centre of Excellence (CoE), for injuries ranging from back to elbow, side strain and toe infection before stress fracture came into picture, the primary focus for Mayank was ensuring that he capitalized immediately upon his return to the international setup. It also helped that he was constantly kept in the scheme of things – like his selection for India A team in the T20 World Cup warm-up games and having a

net bowling stint during the one-off Test against Afghanistan in New Chandigarh in June.

"Whenever you get a chance or opportunity to play, you have to grab it with both hands. For Mayank, getting that first game and then doing well in it was super important as he has to maintain himself to be in the reckoning for future T20I assignments and he literally did what was asked of him," added Sharma, also the childhood coach of India wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant. The road back from the serious back injury is rarely straightforward for a express pacer, and Sharma was candid in explaining psychological hurdles Mayank had to overcome in that phase full of turbulence. "When a player goes through an injury and has to do rehab, there are lots of ups and downs in the mind. Like whether I will play or not and even if I play, will it be the same as before? Credit to him – he did his rehab with a lot of shiddat (dedication). He did his daily exercises and then graduated to bowling 15-20 overs daily at CoE. "In times like that, a player just needs motivation to keep going. Like 'Yes, you can do it. You have the capability.' The chats I always had with him were centered around motivating him. "Before he left for Zimbabwe, I called him to say, 'You have got a very good opportunity. Make the most of it and don't let it go to waste because if you do well here, then the path of cementing your place in the Indian team will be made. Credit goes to his hardwork, and the dedication he showed daily to do his rehab well," he recalled. Sharma also highlighted the crucial role played by the medical and training staff at the CoE, where access to top-tier facilities via a fast bowling contract accelerated Mayank's recovery and helped sharpen his skill set. "Credit should also go to the people at the CoE for helping him to get back to the field. The machines and equipment needed for him to get better at the CoE – such facilities aren't here in Delhi. Being at the CoE has helped him become better in all aspects and I am absolutely sure that he will continue doing well in coming matches." While T20Is serve as the immediate stage for Mayank's comeback after making his debut in the series against Bangladesh in 2024, Sharma revealed that the long-term roadmap includes building workload capacity to ready the fast bowler for the ultimate Test in longer formats.

"He was very elated on getting the chance to play again for India. When a player gets a call-up again to play internationally, the mind also starts to be full of joy because all the hard work done over the years is for playing cricket only, no? He practiced in Chandigarh as well in the run-up to the one-off Test against Afghanistan. "Our next step is to improve his fitness and prepare for playing ODIs and Tests. He shouldn't get injured now considering he had the surgery which Bumrah went through. He had a good rehab and will increase his stamina gradually. After putting 15-20 overs at the CoE, he will soon aim to put 25 overs in a day and try for him to play Tests. "Beyond physical recovery, tactical adjustments have been central to Mayank's evolution. "In cricket, if we work hard in the right way, we will definitely get success. The lines and lengths vary from batter to batter – some play well on the front foot, some on the back foot or either both ways. "At that time, the bowler has to see where he has to bowl and employ variations accordingly. He bowled more short balls in the IPL (this time, where he took no wickets) and I told him that time not to do so as the batter is standing on the back foot and has time to hit the ball. So, you have to give less room. "I did talk about this with him and urged him to think well before bowling as then you will get success. I just hope that he will bowl well in the coming games. He has got a good start and he will do better in the upcoming matches," concluded Sharma.

Gukesh, Praggn headline as India announce team for 2026 Chess Olympiad



India on Thursday announced its team for the upcoming Chess Olympiad, headlined by Gukesh, Praggnanandhaa and Arjun Erigaisi in the Open section with Koneru Humpy, Divya Deshmukh and Vaishali Rameshbabu the big names in the Women's section. The Chess Olympiad will start on Sept 15 and go on till Sept 27 at Samarkand, Uzbekistan. India will be a little concerned about the form of world champion Gukesh who hasn't had the best of times since becoming world champion. In the space of 19 months, he's lost 75 rating points. In the recently concluded Chennai Grand Masters, Gukesh's last three of his seven matches and finished last with 2 points. Grandmaster Srinath Narayanan said about Gukesh that confidence is his superpower, and when he's low on that, it affects his results. "Gukesh is very good at calculation. But there's an element of confidence in his game, which

is probably one of the reasons why there are a lot of ups and downs in his play. When he's really confident, he plays the same way, but he pulls off things. But when his confidence is impacted a bit, there are also big drops in his play," Srinath said to the Indian Express.

Praggn, meanwhile, looks in good form with the 20-year-old winning the Norway Chess tournament in June. After a shaky start, he defeated Alireza Firouzja, world no 1 and five-time world champion Magnus Carlsen, world champion D Gukesh and Vincent Keymer on his way to the title. In 2024, the Indian team had created history in Budapest as they won the Open event gold in the 45th Chess Olympiad. In a comfortable position after their superb win against USA, India just had to avoid defeat against Slovenia in the final round.

But Gukesh, Erigaisi and Praggnanadhaa did more than that as they won their respective matches in the 11th and final round. Vaidit Gujrathi drew his match on Board 4. The Indian team of Gukesh, Arjun, Praggn, Vaidit and Harikrishna clinched the country's first ever gold in the history of the prestigious team event. There was double delight soon as the Indian women's team also won gold for the country after a dominant 3.5-0.5 victory against Azerbaijan. D Harika was at her technical best striking on the top board for the team and Divya yet again outclassed her opponent to confirm her individual gold medal on the third board as well. After R Vaishali drew her game, the Indian team confirmed the victory with Vantika Agrawal scoring another brilliant triumph.

With youngsters at her heels, Manika Batra aims to level up her game

Just like she twiddles her racket to switch from spin to anti-spin mid-rally, Manika Batra has turned off the offensive switch in the Asian Games saga. The public, prolonged episode began with her non-selection in the core India squad and left her closure-less, seeking answers. A "mentally exhausted" Manika, who is the country's top-ranked women's singles paddler (world number 51) as per the latest ITTF rankings, has moved on nevertheless. If recent form and age have not diminished her dream of an ever-elusive Olympic medal. For that, however, she needs to qualify first. "Of course, I have to improve my ranking. And I am working towards that thing every day in my training, in my tournaments," Manika tells The Indian Express, three days after neutralizing three straight losses with three straight wins in the ongoing Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) edition. "Till next year I have this goal. And I will give my best to improve my ranking till the end of this year, so that I can have that confidence back." Confidence is a recurring theme in her speech as well as gameplay. It is especially evident when the 31-year-old uses her paddle's pimpled black rubber to exert control, and conspicuous by its absence when she loses to green players such as Syndrel Das and Sayali

Wani.

One might imagine that not being able to twiddle her racket at enough opportune moments has something to do with the latter, but the three-time Olympian is quick to refute that hypothesis. "It depends on how the player is. If I am playing against a fast-paced player I cannot twiddle more, because they are good against that. So, I have to play with my pimples more." Defeats in UTT and the domestic circuit hurt her cause, but she saw a big-picture silver lining in them. "Syndrela beat me 3-0, and I was really happy. Not happy that I lost, but happy to see so many youngsters coming up and doing so well." Their performances are raising Indian table tennis' profile, she believes, and also motivating her to step up. She might shake up her approach in future competitions, in response. How? Keep guessing. "I don't want to reveal that. You will see. But I am really happy how I am right now." She philosophizes to explain: "I will win sometimes or lose. But that doesn't matter for me because I know how much I am improving, and how much I am not. I will keep on working so that my confidence level improves. Ek din, woh sabko dikhega (one day everyone will see that)"

Raj Kapoor's mortgaged wife's gold bangles for Mera Naam Joker; film bankrupted him



It is famously known that Raj Kapoor was on the verge of losing all of his wealth when his dream project, Mera Naam Joker, released in 1970, tanked at the box office. He was under a lot of debt for years after the film's failure and at one point, he had to even mortgage his studio, RK Studios, so he could pay off the creditors. Even during the making of Mera Naam Joker, Raj Kapoor was struggling with the finances, and in a recent interview, his nephew Monty Premnath revealed that Raj had mortgaged his wife's gold bangles to finish the film. In a chat with Vicky Lalwani, Monty, who is the son of late actor Premnath, recalled the making of Mera Naam Joker. Monty assisted actor Manoj Kumar on many of his films, and recalled that Manoj even offered to edit Mera Naam Joker as he too felt that the film was a little too lengthy. Mera Naam Joker released with two intervals and had a runtime of 4 hours 15 minutes.

"Manoj Kumar told Raj Kapoor, 'Let me edit your second and third part'. He found it long," he recalled and added, "Raj Kapoor wanted to make a fourth chapter with my father (Premnath) and Sharmila Tagore because he

got so passionate, he was so involved in it." Manoj Kumar had a cameo in the film playing the boyfriend of Simi Garewal's character. Monty shared that Raj rejected Manoj's idea. "Raj Kapoor told Manoj Kumar, 'This is my product. I won't let you touch my product. Whatever has been made, it is my conviction,'" he said. When Manoj reminded him that he had spent a lot of money on the film, Raj told him, "So what? I earned it all because of films, and I have invested it all in my film." He recalled that Raj had put everything on the line. "Raj uncle even mortgaged his wife Krishna's gold bangles for the film," he said and shared that Raj and Manoj shared many similarities, as Manoj also sold many of his properties so he could finish his film Kranti. Raj Kapoor mera naam joker Raj Kapoor's Mera Naam Joker was released in 1970. In an interview with Zoom Entertainment, veteran actor Prem Chopra reflected on that period and said, "Raj Kapoor was finished! Unka sab kuch bik gaya (He was compelled to sell everything he had). Mera Naam Joker failed miserably at the box office. Raj saab was under a tremendous financial crisis. He not only mortgaged RK Studios but also had to sell off his family properties." Previously, Manoj's son Kunal Goswami also shared a similar anecdote and said, "There was some dialogue between Raj saab and Dad. Dad had told him that you allow me to edit the second half of the film so we can change the shape of the film. But I don't know whether that happened or didn't happen. Dad told me that this discussion happened, about editing, not direction." In an earlier chat with Mumbai Mirror, Manoj had shared that he developed the story idea for a part of the film but did not want to take any credit for it. He also shared that he paid for his own travel and hotel expenses during the shoot. "The first story in this three-story film was reworked by me, but I didn't do it for name, fame or money. I paid for my travel expenses and hotel stay and refused to take credit as writer. Mera Naam Joker was my tribute to karmayogi Raj Kapoor. In Urdu 'awara' means 'khushboo' and even today, the 'fragrance' of Raj Kapoor fills our senses." Mera Naam Joker caused a lot of financial damage to RK Studios. The 1973 film Bobby, which launched Rishi Kapoor and Dimple Kapadia in lead roles, brought the studio back to its glory days.

Archana Puran Singh on treating sons' partners as daughters: 'Won't repeat what I faced'

Actor Archana Puran Singh keeps sharing fun vlogs with her family – husband Parmeet Sethi, and children Aaryamann and Ayushmaan. The videos also keep featuring her sons' partners Yogita Bihani and Samiksha Shetty. The actor couple has welcomed the partners of their two sons with open arms, calling them their own daughters. In a recent interview, Archana revealed that the acceptance comes naturally because she loves her sons. During a conversation with IANS, Archana got candid about her bond with Yogita and Samiksha. She shared that having a cordial relationship with them has never felt difficult because they have become an important part of the family. "You just have to be human. You love your children," she said, adding that if you love your children and they have chosen someone to be their life partner, you automatically start loving them.

"I have two daughters now. During the chat, the actor also revealed that her own experience as a daughter-in-law formed the way she wants to handle the next generation in her family. She expressed that it was an intentional decision to not repeat any unpleasant parts she may have gone through herself. "There's a saying that if something happened to you, you'll do the same. But there's also the opposite, that you'll never do what happened to you," she said.

Archana explained that if anything bad happened to her as a daughter-in-law, she would never repeat it. The actor added that her family has expanded in the best way possible. "I had two sons before. Now I have two daughters too. If you look at it from that perspective, there will be no difference," she admitted.

Archana Puran Singh hopes to break stereotypes. According to her, showing kindness, love and respect is a part of being a good human being. She doesn't



want to be called great, but its genuinely who she is and that's how she wants to behave with her future daughters-in-law. "So I don't think I deserve any special mention for this," Archana said. The actor also talked about the stereotypical impression of a mother-in-law that is shown in TV dramas. She thinks that they don't represent the actual reality, and that many families have loving and respectful relationships. "The ones who come into the limelight are those shown in television soaps, the bad mother-in-law. That's a stereotypical image. Nowadays, there are very few stereotypical mothers-in-law, and I hope by the time I become one, that stereotype will be over." Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi tied the knot in 1992. Her elder son Aaryamann Sethi was born in 1996, while they welcomed their younger son Ayushmaan Sethi in 1998. Meanwhile, on the professional front, Archana was most recently seen in the web series Adarsh Baal Vidyalaya, which premiered on July 24 on Prime Video.

Max, Min & Meowzaki movie review: Adil Hussain holds warm dramedy together

Max, Min & Meowzaki movie review: A film made four years back, releasing only now, suddenly feels current. Mention of protests and placards woven into the plot around an unravelling couple makes you feel that it's reflecting the times we are passing through. But then, who is to say that thorny relationships and problem-ridden times aren't the story of us, decade upon decade? Max (Siddharth Menon) and Min (Medha Shankar), a pair whose relationship is heading south, find themselves connecting over their cat. Or is it just the handsome creature that draws Min back to Max, especially when things aren't quite as smooth with the new man in her life? The feelings are relatable: if you've been together for a while, parting is never easy, and could perhaps encompass residual warmth alongside resentment and sadness.

The elements surrounding them feel refreshingly life-like as well. Bad dates we are desperate to get out of. Parents with whom we are in constant, guilt-ridden conflict. How we deal with those things define who we are, and by the end of this film, we do get to know the contours of its characters, and that's the best part of the film which begins a little clunkily, and then settles down into its groove, as we go along.

The most interesting character here is Mahesh aka Max's near-estranged father, Ramesh (Adil Hussain), a well-to-do businessman. The latter's brusqueness comes from a broken childhood that is acknowledged when he begins loosening up under the patient ministrations of his therapist, Dhaara (Mandira Bedi, appearing in a series of distractingly gorgeous linen saris). Mahesh's own father (Nassar), now living in an old age home, was always a distant figure, busy with his career as a successful Carnatic classical singer; reconciliation and healing becomes a key aspect of the thing between the trio, representing three generations.

A cat called Meowzaki just because the two interfaith (Hindu-Muslim) lovers love Miyazaki is too cutesy for words,



but is handsome enough to be forgiven his name. The Max-Min conflict initially feels a little too talky, not enough feely. But the film rescues itself by building upon the connections, and gives the characters a few ticks: Max finds it hard to sleep; his sleeplessness finds an echo in a cat-sitter (Vidhatri Bandi), whose grandmother (Nafisa Ali) is in an advanced stage of Alzheimer's. And as we see them begin leaning on, and into each other, we begin to lean into the easy warmth the film is trying to build. There are also the unexpected touches which lift the film, especially in the way a lesbian relationship is slipped in quietly, adding to the texture. Menon is a constant presence, and does well as the coming-of-age young man. It is Hussain, as the man who takes the longest, most difficult steps towards self-awareness, who holds this film: despite a few places where the emphasis on the Tamilian vowels is evident—Dhaara becomes Daara—his Ramesh Mahadevan is pitch perfect. Max, Min & Meowzaki movie cast: Siddharth Menon, Medha Kumarr, Adil Hussain, Vidhatri Bandi, Mandira Bedi, Nassar, Nafisa Ali/Max

'Don't back down': H Vinoth recounts what Vijay said when CBFC blocked Jana Nayagan



Jana Nayagan's director H. Vinoth recalled CBFC examining committee told him there was "no problem" with the film before the process was stalled. Jana Nayagan's director H. Vinoth recalled CBFC examining committee told him there was "no problem" with the film before the process was stalled. Director H. Vinoth has given his most detailed account yet of the censor controversy that delayed Jana Nayagan by six months, revealing that the CBFC examining committee initially had no objections to the film, that the upload portal did not open after the requested cuts were made, and that a complaint letter arrived just as the process was about to be completed.

Speaking on the Rangaraj Pandey show, Vinoth walked through the timeline step by step, starting with the decision to apply for certification 20 days before the planned Pongal release rather than the usual 10. "We were also a little worried. So instead of waiting to apply for the censor the usual way, we applied 20 days in advance, on the 19th. We had kept a buffer period," he said. The examining committee watched the film and responded quickly. "They called me and said there's no problem with the film for us. But there is violence in the film. They told me if they cut that out, they'll give a UA 16+ certificate," he said. Vinoth agreed without hesitation and began making the cuts immediately. Because the film involved heavy CGI, the technical work required an extra day. However, then came additional requests. "My team came over and said, 'you still need to do a few more cuts.' We thought if we do all that, it would be good," Vinoth recalled. He complied with these requests as well and prepared the final version for upload. That is where

the process broke down. "While doing all that, the window to upload didn't open for us. Then we called the server and asked, and sent an email too. After that, as soon as the window opened, we checked with the head office," Vinoth said. The head office asked for a specific time, which Vinoth provided. But instead of the portal opening, a complaint letter arrived, and the entire certification process was frozen. "So, we put everything on hold. That's why they said the window couldn't be opened," he said.

Vinoth noted that another major release, Parasakthi, was also facing censor issues at the same time. Both films were close to their release dates. While Parasakthi received its certificate, Jana Nayagan remained stuck. "Both movies have issues, but one movie got the censor certificate. Once it was granted, the news came out. Now, whether this movie will get censor clearance or not, until we get that answer, we can't do anything," Vinoth said. The makers filed a case in court, but according to Vinoth, the legal route only made things worse. "As soon as we filed the case, that's when we got an answer saying they were going to revise it," he said. The case moved between courts, eventually reaching the Supreme Court. "In the end, they told us not to push it and just let it go. All of this happened openly," Vinoth said. Through all of this, Vinoth said the two people who held the strongest were Vijay and producer K. Venkata Narayana. When the censor issue first erupted, the producer called Vinoth and asked what Vijay had said. Vinoth recalled the response clearly.

"I remember Vijay said, 'No matter what happens, I'll stand by you till the end. Don't back down,'" Vinoth said. He then added, with visible emotion, that it was not Vijay or the producer who crumbled under the pressure. It was him. "I was the one who got upset and cried. Apart from all that, those two were really tough. Since they were strong, I felt a lot of pressure, but I was happy about it," he said. Jana Nayagan eventually received an A certificate after the makers withdrew their court petition and resubmitted the film to the CBFC's revising committee. The film, which was originally scheduled for a Pongal release on January 9, finally arrived in theatres on Friday, over six months later. The full extent of what happened between the examining committee's initial clearance and the complaint letter that froze the process remains unclear. Vinoth himself acknowledged this. "There's just speculation, and because it's all speculation, we don't really know what's true. That's why I'm staying away from any controversy around this. There's no solid evidence," he said. Jana Nayagan, directed by H. Vinoth and produced by K. Venkata Narayana under KVN Productions, stars Vijay alongside Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol, Mamitha Baiju, Gautham Vasudev Menon, Prakash Raj, Narain and Priyaman, with music by Anirudh Ravichander. The film is now running in theatres worldwide.

Actor Anandhi Ajay breaks down as she's cut out from Vijay's Jana Nayagan: 'Worked for 1 year'

For many actors, sharing screen space with Vijay is a dream. For television actor Anandhi Ajay, it was an opportunity she had waited a year for, only to see it disappear before audiences could witness it. A day after Jana Nayagan hit theatres, Anandhi posted an emotional video of herself in tears, revealing that her scene in the film had been cut from the final edit. The clip has since gone viral on social media, with fans offering her words of encouragement.

Anandhi Ajay breaks down after scene is removed. In the emotional video, Anandhi is seen crying as she speaks directly to her followers. Speaking in Tamil, she reveals that she had been associated with Jana Nayagan for nearly a year and was devastated to learn that her scene did not make it to the final cut. Translated into English, Anandhi says, "I worked on this film for a year. I was so excited to share the screen with Vijay sir, but my scene has been removed." She also expressed sadness over missing what could have been her only opportunity to work with the superstar, as Jana Nayagan has been widely promoted as Vijay's final film before he transitions into full-time politics. Anandhi's heartfelt video struck a chord with social media users, many of whom flooded the comments section with messages of support. One user wrote, "I can understand your feelings dear because I have also sailed in the same boat exactly like you, for my every film still now I will go to theatre and watch and then confirm to everyone. Saddest thing is they won't tell use before about this scene deletion." Another commented, "You will get a great lead role very soon. Everything will happen for a reason—be positive." A third added, "Don't worry; you deserve more. Stay strong." "I'm not sure But deleted omitted scenes may come from production house Not sure but it may Let's wait and see," read another comment.

Who is Anandhi Ajay?

Anandhi Ajay is a familiar face in Tamil television, having appeared in popular serials including Karthigai Pengal, Yamuna, Kana Kaanum Kaalangaal and Kallikattu Pallikoodam. Apart from acting, she is a trained classical dancer and a yoga enthusiast. She has also participated in several dance reality shows, including Dance Jodi Dance 3.0, Jodi No. 1 Seasons 6 and 7, and Maanada Mayilada Season 7. Jana Nayagan has opened to strong box office numbers. According to trade website Sacnilk, the film earned an estimated Rs 41 crore net in India on its opening day across 13,067 shows, taking its India gross to Rs 48.27 crore. Internationally, the Vijay-starrer collected around Rs 30 crore, pushing its worldwide opening-day gross to Rs 78.27 crore.

Among the language versions, Tamil dominated with Rs 36.50 crore, while Telugu contributed Rs 2.75 crore and the Hindi version added Rs 1.75 crore. However, the film fell short of the opening-day collections of Vijay's previous blockbusters, with Beast opening at Rs 49.30 crore and The Greatest of All Time (GOAT) collecting Rs 44 crore. While the film has registered a strong opening at the box office, it has received largely mixed reviews from critics. In its review, The Indian Express wrote, "The deeper problem with Jana Nayagan is not any single bad decision. It is the weight of trying to be everything at once. This is a film that wants to be a women empowerment drama, a political thriller, a modern warfare spectacle, a family sentiment piece, a mass action entertainer, a campaign video, a farewell tribute, and a statement about Indian democracy." The review further added, "The reason it tries to be all of those things is not artistic ambition, it is the pressure that comes with making a Vijay film in 2026. When the man on screen is not just an actor but a sitting CM, the film



cannot just tell a story, it has to serve the image. Every frame has to reinforce the idea that this man is larger than the screen he is standing on. So the heroism gets louder." Directed by H. Vinoth, Jana Nayagan marked Vijay's final film before he stepped away from acting to pursue a full-time political career. The actor had announced ahead of the film's release that he would not sign any more movies, making it his farewell to cinema. Since then, Vijay has become the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, giving the film added significance among fans. Backed by KVN Productions on a reported budget of Rs 500 crore, the action drama also stars Pooja Hegde, Bobby Deol and Mamitha Baiju, with music composed by Anirudh Ravichander.

CBFC clears Ajay Bhupathi's Srinivasa Mangapuram with U/A certificate

Hyderabad: The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has cleared director Ajay Bhupathi's eagerly awaited film 'Srinivasa Mangapuram', featuring Mahesh Babu's nephew Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni in the lead, for release with a U/A certificate. The news of the CBFC clearing the film for release comes in the wake of the announcement that it will hit screens worldwide on July 30 this year.

Taking to its social media handles, Chandamama Kathalu Pictures, one of the production houses backing the film, announced, "The Intense Love Story of the Season is CENSORED with U/A. #SrinivasaMangapuram GRAND RELEASE IN THEATRES ON JULY 30th. An @dirajaybhupathi Film." Starring opposite Jaya Krishna Ghattamaneni is Rasha Thadani, the daughter of Bollywood actor Raveena Tandon, who makes her Telugu cinema debut with the film. The film is set in the temple town of Tirupati and revolves around the characters of Vasu Babu and Manga, friends who turn lovers and live life with infectious joy until an unexpected conflict disrupts their paradise. Refusing to leave the town without Manga, Vasu Babu chooses to fight for his love, no matter the cost. Sources claim that Ajay Bhupathi, known for his intense and uncompromising storytelling, has presented a youthful love story enriched with impactful action and dramatic moments. The film has generated considerable interest among fans and cinema lovers for several reasons. The film has been directed by Ajay Bhupathi, who earned critical acclaim for his raw and immersive storytelling in the hit films 'RX 100' and 'Mangalavaram'.