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Unified Ticketing System proposed for Hyderabad metro and TGSRTC

Hyderabad: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Friday suggested a common mobility ticketing system be introduced across all public transport services such as Metro and RTC, enabling passengers to travel on a single ticket. The Chief Secretary instructed officials concerned that discussions be held with TGSRTC to develop a common mobile application. He also directed officials to explore options for introducing daily, weekly and monthly passes for Metro passengers.

Modi Urges Calm, Forgives 'Misguided' Student Protesters

NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Reeling under mounting pressure, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a late night attempt on Friday to reach out to the agitating students, saying that although some had used "filthy language" against him and even his late mother, it was time to "embrace them."

Describing the students' outbursts as the "mistake" of a few "misguided children," Prime Minister again took to Instagram to appeal for calm and strike a conciliatory note amid simmering unrest. The Prime Minister's late night address was also being viewed as an attempt to steal the thunder from the Opposition, which has been relentlessly targeting him for the "police brutality" against the protesting students on July 20.

Modi said that some children used very abuses and it directed at him and his late mother as well.

The Prime Minister said that while society's anger was understandable, particularly over the language allegedly used by young women, the focus should be on showing them the right path rather than pushing them into legal battles.

"They are misguided children, and showing them the way is our duty and we will not be able to change circumstances by punishing them, making them run around the courts, or harassing them in society," he said, adding that he wish to forgive these students and urged society to do the same.

He stated that just as people do not break their teeth after accidentally biting their tongue, society should not abandon its own children for their mistakes.

"Sometimes our tongue comes under our teeth and



blood comes out, but we do not break our teeth—because the teeth are ours, and the tongue is ours too. The children are also ours," the Prime Minister said, called on the students to move on from the episode.

He invited students to contribute to nation-building.

"Children, come, let us move forward together for the country. Let us learn something new, let us learn even from mistakes. I live for you, I toil for your bright future, so come, let us together take the country forward."

Hyderabad Traffic Police announce diversions for Secunderabad Bonalu celebrations

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Traffic Police have announced traffic restrictions and diversions for the Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Bonalu in Secunderabad.

The festival will be held from August 2 to August 4, with traffic curbs coming into effect from 12 am on August 2 and continuing until 3 am on August 4, or until the conclusion of the festivities. Traffic authorities said traffic congestion is expected at Karbala Maidan, Ranigunj, Old PS Ramgopalpet, Paradise, CTO Junction, Plaza, SBI Crossroads, YMCA Crossroads, St. John's Rotary, Sangeet Crossroads, Patny, Park Lane, Bata, Ghasmandi, Bible House, Minister's Road and Rasoolpura.

Cabinet approves extension of PM-KISAN scheme for 5 years with total outlay of over Rs 3.15 lakh crore

New Delhi, July 31

The Union Cabinet on Friday approved extension of the PM-KISAN scheme for the next five years till the 2030-31 fiscal with an outlay of Rs 3,15,614 crore.

Launched on February 24, 2019, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at providing assured income support to farmers nationwide.

Under the scheme, each eligible farmer family receives annual financial assistance of Rs 6,000. This is disbursed in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism into Aadhaar-seeded bank accounts.

Briefing the media, Information & Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the Cabinet has extended the PM-KISAN scheme for five years till 2030-31. The total outlay stands at Rs 3,15,614 crore.



Telangana CM moots centre to foster innovation at Skill University

Hyderabad, July 31 : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday proposed the establishment of a research centre at the Young India Skill University to foster innovation.

He also called for the creation of a dedicated department within the university to facilitate learning languages such as German, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and



Russian.

The Chief Minister directed that instructors from the respective countries, alongside local experts proficient in these languages, be brought in to conduct the training.

At a review meeting of the Skill, Human Capital and Knowledge Training Initiatives (SHAKTI) Department, the Chief Minister instructed officials to examine the feasibility of providing scholarships to those undergoing training for blue-collar jobs, similar to the overseas scholarships

offered to students pursuing higher education.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), he stated that TOMCOM (Telangana Overseas Manpower Company) should take responsibility for the entire process—ranging from providing necessary training and organising job fairs to facilitating passports and securing employment opportunities in foreign countries for job seekers.

On Friday, CM Revanth Reddy held a review meeting regarding the Energy Department alongside Minister Vivek Venkataswamy.

The CM noted that a large number of workers from North Telangana migrate to Middle Eastern countries, often falling victim to fraud by agents and facing hardships. He suggested that TOMCOM should assist these individuals in obtaining passports and enter into agreements with manpower agencies in the destination countries.

The CM opined that such agreements would enable TOMCOM to intervene, hold discussions, and ensure justice if workers encounter any difficulties abroad. The Chief Minister directed officials to gather details of agents who facilitate the overseas migration of workers and to register the particulars of every individual sent abroad by them.

He announced that a former IFS officer would be appointed as the CEO of TOMCOM to oversee these operations.

The Chief Minister also suggested providing training in Light Motor Vehicle (LMV) and Heavy Motor Vehicle (HMV) driving to job seekers.

He said students studying in government engineering colleges, ITIs, ATCs, and polytechnic colleges should be provided opportunities to undertake internships with major companies. He noted that by pursuing internships alongside their studies, students would earn a stipend and acquire skills relevant to their future careers.

The CM suggested introducing courses on EV servicing and drone technology in ATCs, highlighting the need for skilled personnel to service electric vehicles given their rapidly increasing usage. He also recommended drone technology courses due to the significant rise in the use of drones in agriculture.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy remarked that there is a huge demand for nursing services both domestically and internationally. He noted that the ageing population in several developed countries has created a demand for home-based nursing care. The CM stated that permissions for nursing colleges are being granted to meet this growing demand.

SHAKTI Minister Vivek Venkatswamy, Principal Secretary to the CM N. Sridhar, Secretary (Energy) Harichandana, Director of Employment and Training Nirmala Kanthi Wesley, and Young India Skill University Vice-Chancellor Subbarao and others participated in the review meeting.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SAWAPURE PRANEETH S/O SAWAPURE VIJAY KUMAR** (Old Name) born on 04-03-1995 at sawapur earlier was holding passport no. **N5994389** DT: 18-12-2015 hereby changing my name and henceforth in future I would be known as **SAWAPURE PRANEETH KUMAR S/O SAWAPURE VIJAY KUMAR** (New name) H.No. 2-54 SAWAPUR, Dist. Adilabad 504309 Telangana.

DECLARANT.

Place: **SAWAPURE****PRANEETH KUMAR**Date: **16-06-2026****S/O SAWAPURE VIJAY KUMAR**

Terrorists open fire on labourers in J-K's Kulgam; 1 killed, 1 injured

Jammu, July 31

A labourer from Chhattisgarh was killed and another from the same state was injured in a terrorist attack at a brick kiln in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday, officials said.

The assailants targeted the labourers at the brick kiln in Kelam area of the south Kashmir district late in the evening.

Officials said that two labourers were injured in the attack, and one of them succumbed to his injuries before he could be taken to a hospital.

The deceased has been identified as Deepak Ratray (24), and the injured labourer is Bopinder (28).

Bopinder was taken to GMC Anantnag and later referred to SKIMS Hospital in Soura, officials said.

The attack follows closely on the heels of another incident less than 10 days ago, in which terrorists killed a police officer in Anantnag town.

Before this, two labourers were killed here in 2024.

On February 7, 2024, two non-local workers from Punjab, Amritpal Singh and Rohit Masih, were shot dead by a terrorist in the Shaheed Gunj area of Srinagar.

Telangana: Election Commission extends SIR deadline till Aug 10

Hyderabad, July 31 : The Election Commission of India on Friday extended the deadline for submitting enumeration forms under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) till August 10.

Revising the SIR schedule for the second time, the poll panel extended the last date for submitting filled-in enumeration forms from August 3 to August 10. It also extended the rationalisation and rearrangement of polling stations from August 3 to August 10.

The draft publication of rolls has been extended to August 17, and the period of filing claims and objections will now be from August 17 to September 16. The notice phase (disposal of claims and objections) will be from August 17 to October 15. The final publication of rolls is scheduled for October 19.

The Election Commission had earlier revised the schedule on July 15. As per the schedule announced in May, the house-to-house enumeration exercise by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) was scheduled from June 25 to July 24. The draft electoral roll was to be published on July 31, with the final electoral rolls on October 1.

Meanwhile, as per the status report on SIR on Friday (July 31), the BLOs have achieved 100 per cent distribution of enumeration forms.

According to Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharshan Reddy, enumeration forms have been distributed to all 3,38,26,004 voters. The election officials have so far digitised 77.12 per cent (2,60,88,334) of the enumeration forms.



With over 77 lakh voters yet to submit their forms, the election authorities have given them another chance by extending the deadline by a week.

In neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, nearly 45 lakh voters have been deleted from the roll as the Election Commission on Friday published the draft voter list following the SIR.

According to Chief Electoral Officer Vivek Yadav, deleted names include 22.30 lakh who had permanently shifted or were found absent. Names of as many as 15.22 lakh deceased have also been deleted, while 7.37 lakh voters were found enrolled at multiple places.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

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.

Youth Should Work for the Nation Inspired by Captain Veera Reddy



“Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy and Habsiguda Congress leaders garland his statue”**UPPAL, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):** Congress leaders paid rich tributes to late Captain Rapolu Veera Raja Reddy on the occasion of his 24th death anniversary. Captain Veera Raja Reddy laid down his life while heroically fighting terrorists in Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir. “Along with the family members of the late Army officer, Uppal Congress Constituency In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy and Habsiguda Division President Kandi Shravan Kumar Reddy garlanded the statue of Captain Veera Reddy and offered floral tributes.”Speaking on the occasion, Parameshwar Reddy said that Captain Veera Raja Reddy, a proud son of Habsiguda, brought immense honour to the nation through his supreme sacrifice. He called upon the youth to draw inspiration from the brave soldier and dedicate themselves to serving the country. “He recalled that despite sustaining 48 bullet injuries, Captain Veera Raja Reddy fought courageously against terrorists without retreating and attained martyrdom on July 31, 2002, while defending the nation. In recognition of his extraordinary bravery, the Indian Army's Northern Command inscribed his name on the 'Dhruva' Memorial. He also noted that a statue of the martyr has been installed in Habsiguda and a road has been named 'Captain Veera Reddy Marg' in his honour. “Among those who participated in the programme were former Floor Leader Kandi Aggi Reddy, DCC Vice-President Boppanapalli Sudhakar Reddy, District ST Cell President Ganesh Naik, former Division President Gannaram Vijay Kumar, senior leaders Rolla Damodar Reddy, Rolla Srikanth Reddy, Pradeep Reddy, Malla Reddy, Ajith Reddy, Ramesh Reddy, Sirish Reddy, Mahender Reddy, Dhan Pal Reddy, Division General Secretary Dharma Naik, Chintala Baburao, Murali Krishna Mudiraj, Kishan Naik, Raju Naik, Lakshma Reddy, Gundu Rajanna, Malu Naik, Ganga Yadav, Youth Congress President Vasu Naik, Suman Naik, Lakshmi Narayana, Shiva, Mahboob, Mekala Shiva, and several other Congress leaders and party workers.

Raja Singh Felicitates Bonalu Pothuraju Soma Vijay Kumar

“Hyderabad, July 31 (Indian Chronicle) : BJP MLA T.Raja Singh felicitated Soma Vijay Kumar Mudiraj, who has been serving as Pothuraju during the Bonalu festival for the past 33 years. The felicitation ceremony was organised by the Telangana Medhavalu Forum State Unit, where Vijay Kumar was honoured with a shawl, a memento, and a floral garland. Speaking on the occasion, Raja Singh said that the Bonalu festival is a symbol of Telangana's rich culture and traditions. Expressing his gratitude, Soma Vijay Kumar Mudiraj thanked Raja Singh and Dr.Raj Narayan Mudiraj, State President of the Telangana Medhavalu Forum, for the honour. The programme was attended by TCC State Vice President K.Ravinder, Coordinators G.Venugopal, Bichukari Surya, Mahesh, Sairam, Jagadish Chari, and Harsha Yadav.

Shraman Dev Appointed Telangana Rakshana Sena In-charge for Uppal Constituency



“**UPPAL, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):** As part of its statewide organizational expansion, the Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRSena) has appointed Shraman Dev "Panjiray" as the In-charge of the Uppal Assembly Constituency. The appointment was made by the party's president, Kalvakuntla Kavitha, as part of the first phase of appointing constituency in-charges across Telangana, according to party sources. “Party leaders and workers welcomed the appointment of Shraman Dev. Speaking on the occasion, he thanked the party leadership for reposing faith in him and assured that he would work with complete dedication to strengthen the party.He said his primary focus would

be to strengthen the Telangana Rakshana Sena from the village level to the booth level across the Uppal constituency while actively addressing public issues. He added that the party would prepare a special action plan to take its ideology and policies to the people, with emphasis on the development of Telangana, public welfare, employment opportunities for youth, women's empowerment, and the welfare of farmers.“Shraman Dev also stated that a large-scale membership drive would be launched to take the party's principles to every household. He affirmed that effectively discharging the responsibility entrusted to him and strengthening the Telangana Rakshana Sena in Uppal would be his top priority. Expressing confidence, he said that with the collective efforts of party leaders and workers, the party would establish a strong foundation in the constituency in the coming days.“Among those present at the programme were Ega Santosh Mudiraj, Orsu Balakrishna (State Leader, Vaddera Sangham), Kristina Naik (Corporator), Rangu Shekhar Goud (TOS Paper Pal), Sagi Srinivas (TRS Uppal leader), Sonikar Kaya (TRS Uppal leader), Satish Katari (Former Corporator), and several other leaders and party workers.

Police Commissioner Felicitates Retired Police and Home Guard Personnel



“Khammam, July 31 – Indian Chronicle”“Khammam Police Commissioner Sunil Dutt felicitated retired Police and Home Guard personnel with garlands, shawls, and mementos at a ceremony held at the Police Commissioner's Office.”“Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner commended the retirees for their dedicated and responsible service in various wings of the Police Department over the years. He appreciated their invaluable contribution to the department and acknowledged their commitment to duty.”“The Commissioner also congratulated the family members who stood by the officers throughout their careers. He wished the retired personnel a happy, healthy, and peaceful post-retirement life with their families.”“The

retired personnel honoured were:”“V. Hanumantha Rao – Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI)”“G. Chinnappa – Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI)”“T. Prasada Rao – Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI)”“N. Jayababu – Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI)”“K. Daturam – Head Constable (HC)”“J. Janayya – Head Constable (HC)”“M.D. Abdul Ghani Pasha – Head Constable (HC)”“T. Ramesh – Armed Reserve Head Constable (AR HC)”“P. Sundaracharyulu – Head Constable (HC)”“P. Srinivasa Rao – Home Guard”“Among those present were Additional DCP Ramanujam, AR ACP Sushil Singh, Reserve Inspectors Kamaraju and Suresh, Khammam District Home Guards Welfare Association President Banka Srinu, National Vice President CC-21 E. Venkateswarlu, and Senior Advisor D. Ramesh.”“PRO

Students Will Intensify Agitation if Fee Reimbursement and Scholarships Are Not Released: PDSU

“Khammam, July 31 – Indian Chronicle”“The Progressive Democratic Students Union (PDSU), Khammam District Committee, staged a massive protest and laid siege to the Khammam Collectorate on Friday, demanding the immediate release of pending Fee Reimbursement, Scholarship, and Best Available Schools (BAS) funds.”“Addressing the gathering, PDSU Khammam District President G. Mastan alleged that the Congress Government had failed to fulfil its election promise of releasing fee reimbursement and scholarships immediately after assuming office. He said lakhs of students were being deprived of higher education due to the delay in releasing the pending funds.”“Mastan stated that students aspiring to pursue PG, Ph.D., and other higher education courses were unable to attend counselling as they could not obtain their original certificates from colleges because of unpaid fees.”“He criticized the State Government, alleging that while crores of rupees were being spent on projects and religious institutions, it had neglected students' future by delaying the release of educational funds. He also alleged that the Government was clearing pending dues for ministers and MLAs while failing to provide financial assistance to students.”“He further said that private college managements were forcing students to pay tuition fees in advance following the Government's proposal to credit reimbursement amounts directly into students' bank accounts, placing an additional financial burden on poor families. He expressed concern that the Government was attempting to weaken the existing fee reimbursement scheme.”“The PDSU demanded the immedi-



ate release of ₹10,000 crore in pending fee reimbursement and scholarship funds, along with ₹200 crore for the Best Available Schools (BAS) scheme, irrespective of Government Orders (GOs). He warned that if the demands were not met immediately, the State Government would face intensified student protests.”“The protest was attended by PDSU District Vice-President Eshwari and district committee members Srikanth, Yashwanth, Ramu, Uday Kiran, Chaitu, Vinod, Rajashekar, Chandu, Sanjay, Venkatesh, Gandhi, and several other student leaders and activists.

Langa High Court orders in favor of colony residents regarding Officer Colony Park : Colony President



“The revelation of the great character”“Malkajigiri, Sada Nand, July 31 : The Telangana High Court has issued an order in favor of the residents of the colony in relation to Park in the Officer's Colony, said R Mahapatra, the president of the colony. “He said that after a long legal battle of about 16 years related to the issue of Colony Park lands, the Telangana High Court on 25th June 26 issued an order in favor of their colony. “It is truly a milestone and historic achievement for all of us. “He said that when he took over as the president of the colony in January 2023, he gave priority to the protection and restoration of the colony park. “He said that with the support of all the residents and Committee members of the colony, along with many development programs in the colony, he resolved this long pending issue with determination. “After studying the case thoroughly, to speeding up the case I have requested Senior Advocate Mr Deepak Bhattacharjee to continue the old case

filed by Dr. “Kanwaljit Singh, “He said that the present orders were issued in that writ petition. “He said that he argued the matter strongly and presented the facts before the court.”“Mr Mahapatra, sincerely thanks all residents and the former Presidents Committee members and everyone who extended their valuable support throughout this long legal battle.



The film Us Ghar Mein Mat Jao, produced under the Manish Gaur Hollywood Films banner, completed a two-day shoot in Mumbai. “The cast and crew include Anil More (Police Officer), Anjali Malhotra (Special Role), Ramprasad Gurajada (Special Comedy Role), Shirish (Constable), Vishal (Villain), Raja Singh (Villain), and Kavya Reddy (Special Role). The technical team comprises Prakash Karne (Cinematography & Editing), Srikanth (Fight Master), Anil Kumar (Music), and T. Ramu (Story, Screenplay, Direction, & Dialogues). The film is produced by Manish Gaur.

TUNGATURTHI RAVI Inspects SIR Drive at Parvathapur, Medipally Division“



“**MEDIPALLY, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):** Medipally Division Congress Party President Tungaturthi Ravi inspected the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) programme at Parvathapur under the Medipally Division on Friday.During the visit, he reviewed the progress of the SIR process at the polling booths in Parvathapur and urged all eligible voters to complete their SIR formalities on or before August 3 to safeguard their voting rights.Ravi instructed that all pending applications in Booths No. 520 to 526 be completed at the earliest. He emphasized that no eligible voter should miss the opportunity to be included in the electoral rolls and called upon officials, Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Booth Level Agents (BLAs), and public representatives to work in close coordination for the successful completion of the programme.”Among those present were Ramesh, Nagesh, Sairam Goud, Amar Nath, Nataraj, Pranay, along with BLOs, BLAs, and other local leaders.

Free HPV Vaccine for Girls Below 15 Years



“Medical Officer Launches Vaccination Drive at SR High School”“Khammam, July 31 – Indian Clinical”“As part of the Government's Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme, a free vaccination camp for adolescent girls was conducted on Friday at SR High School under the supervision of the UPHC Venkateshwar Nagar (Old Mamata Medical College Road, Khammam).”“The programme was inaugurated and supervised by Medical Officer Dr. I. Devi Sri, who stated that the Government is providing the HPV vaccine free of cost to all eligible 14-year-old girls to help prevent cervical cancer.”“She explained that the HPV vaccine is safe and does not cause any harmful side effects. The Government aims to ensure that every eligible girl receives the vaccine, and vaccination camps are being conducted in schools accordingly. She appealed to school managements and parents to cooperate in making the programme a success.”“Before administering the vaccine, Dr. Devi Sri created awareness among students, school staff, and parents about the importance and benefits of HPV vaccination.”“Others who participated in the programme included Supervisor Z.S. Jayapal, Principal N. Madhu, Coordinator B. Himabindu, In-charge G. Swetha, ANMs B. Sandhya and Rahimbi, and ASHA workers Ramadevi and Venkata Lakshmi.

Collector Inaugurates 'Pranaam' Initiative for Senior Citizens



“Hyderabad, July 31 (Indian Chronicle) : Aster Hospitals and CARE Hospitals have jointly launched 'Pranaam', a comprehensive initiative aimed at providing personalized healthcare services for senior citizens. The programme was inaugurated by Hyderabad District Collector Dr.Priyanka Ala, IAS, at CARE Hospitals in Hyderabad. Lions Clubs International Vice District Governor Narasimha Raju Dichpalli attended the event as a special guest. Among those present were Dr.Pawan Kumar, CEO, Aster DM Quality Care(India-2), Shalabh Dang, Vaibhav Joshi, Dr.Amit Singh, Neelesh Gupta, and Dr.Vincy Ashok Tribhuvan. The organisers said the initiative has been rolled out across all Aster and CARE Hospitals in Telangana. Under the programme, senior citizens will receive priority medical services, a dedicated helpline, regular follow-up care, health check-ups, chair yoga sessions, walking groups, and other wellness support services aimed at promoting healthy and active ageing.

The 100-day celebration for the movie Gaali was held with great grandeur at the Sreeji Hotel in Andheri West, Mumbai. Distinguished guests such as Anil More, Rajan Singh, Monu Saini, Vijay Kaushik, Jitender J, Pooja Mishra, Irrfan Khan, and Yasli attended the event. Actors including Ramprasad Gurajada, Anjali Reddy, Shirish, Srikanth, T. Ramu, and Kavya also participated. The event was organized on a grand scale under the leadership of director Ramu.

FORMER CORPORATOR MANDUMULA RAJITHA PARAMESWAR REDDY Inaugurates Smitha Reddy Designer Studio



“UPPAL, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Former Uppal Division Corporator Mandumula Rajitha Parameswar Reddy on Friday inaugurated the newly established Smitha Reddy Designer Studio at Uppal Bhagayath amidst traditional rituals and celebrations. After formally inaugurating the studio with special prayers, Rajitha Parameswar Reddy congratulated the management and extended her best wishes for the success of the

venture. “Speaking on the occasion, she encouraged the youth to explore self-employment opportunities instead of depending solely on jobs. She said that women and young entrepreneurs choosing creative fields such as fashion designing, boutiques, and designer studios is a welcome development. She expressed hope that self-employment would not only strengthen them financially but also enable them to create employment opportunities for others. “She appreciated the establishment of Smitha Reddy Designer Studio with modern facilities and expressed confidence that it would provide quality services to customers. Wishing the proprietors success in their business journey, she hoped the studio would achieve great heights. The studio owners, K. Smitha Reddy and K. Swathi Reddy, warmly welcomed and felicitated the chief guest and other invitees. “Among those present were K. Smitha Reddy, P. Latha Reddy, P. Swathi Reddy, P. Swapnika Reddy, P. Narsi Reddy, Salla Prabhakar Reddy, Varala Vijay Reddy, P. Srinath Reddy, K. Sathwik Reddy, G. Pandu Ranga Reddy, C. Narsa Reddy, Jitender Reddy, Kannamaina Naresh Mudiraj, Saleem, Bobby, and several others, who conveyed their best wishes to the studio management. The inauguration ceremony concluded in a warm and festive atmosphere.

Grand Tributes Paid at the 24th Death Anniversary of Captain Rapolu Veera Raja Reddy

“UPPAL, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 24th death anniversary of martyr Captain Rapolu Veera Raja Reddy was observed with solemnity on Friday at Captain Veera Raja Reddy Marg in Habsiguda, Hyderabad. Several dignitaries, local leaders, and members of the public participated in the programme and paid rich floral tributes to the brave soldier. On the occasion, Janumpally Venkateshwar Reddy, Gayam Sridhar Reddy, and Baddam Madhusudan Reddy remembered Captain Veera Raja Reddy's supreme sacrifice for the nation. They called upon the youth to imbibe the spirit of patriotism and always respect the dedication and sacrifices made by the soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces. The programme was organized by the Reddy Association, Habsiguda. Association members, local residents, and a large number of youth attended the event and offered floral tributes to the martyr. The speakers emphasized that it is the responsibility of every Indian



to preserve the memory and honour the sacrifices of the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in service of the nation.

Medipally Mandal Nai Brahmin Association Elects New Committee



---B. Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, Congress leaders Tungaturthi Ravi, Bandi Sriramulu, Bommak Kalyan and Pogula Dileep Reddy attend as chief guests. “MEDIPALLY, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Medipally Mandal Nai Brahmin Association held a meeting at Boduppal on Friday to constitute its new Mandal-level committee. The existing committees functioning across four divisions were merged into a single unified Mandal com-

mittee, and a new executive body was elected unanimously. The meeting was attended by B. Block General Secretary Kotha Kishore Goud, Congress Party 9th Division President Tungaturthi Ravi, 10th Division President Bandi Sriramulu, 11th Division (Boduppal) President Bommak Kalyan, and 12th Division (Chengicherla) President Pogula Dileep Reddy as chief guests. In the newly elected committee, Avadhoota Ramesh was elected President, Srinivas as General Secretary, Sai as Treasurer, and Satish Kumar as Working President. “Speaking on the occasion, Tungaturthi Ravi congratulated the newly elected committee members and urged the Nai Brahmin community in the Mandal to remain united and work collectively for the welfare and development of the association. He emphasized that the new committee should strive to strengthen the organization and continuously work for the rights, welfare, and overall progress of the Nai Brahmin community. Among those who participated in the programme were Ramesh, Ravi, Dayanand, Sayanna, Anjaneyulu, Srinivas, Narasimha, Sudarshan, Yakaiah, Yadagiri, Naresh, Narayana Das Raju, Bhupal, Balu, Satish, and several others.

PARAMESWAR REDDY Condoles the Demise of Chiruva Suman Sharma, Visits Bereaved Family



“UPPAL, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Uppal Assembly Constituency Congress Party In-charge

Mandumula Parameswar Reddy expressed profound grief over the untimely demise of Chiruva Suman Sharma (Pantulu), a resident of Sai Baba Colony, Uppal. “On learning of the tragic news, Parameswar Reddy immediately visited the residence of the deceased and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family.

He met Suman Sharma's wife, Chiruva Ramadevi, and other family members, offering them comfort and urging them to remain strong during this difficult time. “He prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and extended his heartfelt sympathies to the grieving family. Congress Party leaders, local public representatives, and party workers also accompanied Parameswar Reddy to pay their respects and express their condolences to the family.

Immediate Release of Fee Reimbursement Arrears Demanded

“Students Extend Support to BJP's 'Fee Dues – BJP Fight' Campaign” “KHAMMAM, JULY 31 – Indian Clinical” “Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) Khammam District President Shasanala Sairam has demanded that the State Government immediately release the pending Fee Reimbursement and Scholarship arrears due to students. “As part of the statewide ‘Fee Dues – BJP Fight’ campaign launched by the BJYM Telangana State Unit, an awareness meeting was held on Friday at the Government Women's Degree College, Khammam. “Addressing the gathering, Shasanala Sairam said the delay in releasing fee reimbursement and scholarship dues has placed thousands of students in financial distress, making it difficult for them to continue their higher education. He alleged that the Government's negligence towards students' future is unacceptable and urged the immediate release of all pending dues. “During the programme, BJYM leaders explained the objectives of the campaign to students and conducted a signature collection drive. A large number of students also expressed their solidarity by participating in the Missed Call Campaign in support of the movement. “The leaders appealed to students across the State to support the campaign by giving a missed call to +91 82395 23455. “They



further asserted that the BJP and BJYM would continue to fight for the rights of students and intensify the agitation until all pending fee reimbursement and scholarship arrears are cleared.

Students across Telangana were urged to unite and participate in the movement to secure the immediate release of the pending educational assistance. “Indian Clinical

Karimnagar police crack Bhagatnagar house robbery Victim's son-in-law and grandson allegedly planned the crime; three associates arrested in Meerut and valuables recovered.



Karimnagar July 31 (Correspondent): The Karimnagar police on Friday claimed to have cracked the sensational house robbery reported from Bhagatnagar earlier this month, naming the victim's son-in-law and grandson as the alleged masterminds behind the crime and arresting three accomplices from Meerut in Uttar Pradesh. According to Police Commissioner Gaush Alam, the robbery took place during the intervening night of July 21/22 at the residence of M.D. Azmath Ali (80) in Bhagatnagar. A gang allegedly entered the house armed with dummy pistols and knives, threatened the occupants, tied their hands and legs and

decamped with cash, gold and silver ornaments and mobile phones. The accused also allegedly fled on two motorcycles belonging to tenants living in the same premises. Police said a case was registered immediately and special investigation teams were formed to examine CCTV footage, collect digital and technical evidence and trace the escape route of the suspects. Analysis of the evidence indicated that the accused travelled towards Huzurabad on the stolen motorcycles and later abandoned them near Peddapapayyapalli village. Based on the leads, four special police teams were sent to Meerut, where three accused were arrested on July 29 with the assistance of the local police. The arrested persons were identified as Salman alias Bhoore alias Yadav (22), Salman alias Viman (22) and Mohammed Haseen (19), all residents of Meerut. Police said they recovered ₹2.09 lakh in cash, 43.67 grams of gold ornaments and 64.98 grams of silver ornaments from them. The investigation allegedly revealed that Mohammed Razauddin (A1), the victim's son-in-law, and Mohammed Azeem Raza (A2), the victim's grandson, had conspired to commit the robbery after financial disputes with the family. Razauddin had reportedly stayed with the victim's family for some time and was familiar with the house and the places where valuables were kept. Police further stated that A1 and A2 have criminal antecedents in Meerut and are currently in judicial custody there in connection with earlier cases. Steps are being taken to secure their custody through transit warrants and bring them to Karimnagar for further investigation. The Commissioner commended the investigation teams for solving the case within a short period and also appreciated the cooperation extended by the Meerut police. He appealed to the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious persons or activities to the nearest police station or by dialling 100/112.

Varthana Aims to Expand Access to Quality Education

“Hyderabad, July 31 (Indian Chronicle) : Varthana's mission is to support private schools across India and expand access to quality education, said Jhansi Rani, Founder of New St. Mary High School, in a statement on Friday.

She said the school, which was established in 1998 with just eight students in three classrooms, has grown into one of the leading educational institutions in Hyderabad's Old City, providing affordable and quality education. Jhansi Rani added that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the school's academic services continued uninterrupted with the support of Varthana's COVID Express Loan and Un-



lock Bridge content assistance, enabling it to overcome the challenges posed by the crisis.

Political Parties Must Ensure Submission of Enumeration Forms by August 3 District Collector Divakar T.S

“Forms Not Submitted by Deadline May Lead to Deletion of Names from Draft Electoral Roll” “Booth Level Agents Asked to Extend Full Support to BLOs” “KHAMMAM, JULY 31 – Indian Clinical” “District Collector Divakar T.S. has appealed to all political parties to actively cooperate in ensuring that every eligible voter submits the Enumeration Form on or before August 3 as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. “The Collector made the appeal during a review meeting with representatives of various political parties held at the Collectorate Conference Hall on Friday in the presence of Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija. “Speaking at the meeting, the Collector said the Special Intensive Revision programme is progressing effectively across the district. He informed that 31,967 deceased voters, 10,060 duplicate entries, and about 94,000 voters who have permanently shifted to other places have been identified. He added that nearly 31,000 voters, a majority of them from Khammam city, are yet to respond to the enumeration process. “The Collector cautioned that voters who fail to submit the Enumeration Form may have their names removed from the draft electoral roll. If a voter's name is omitted, they will have to apply afresh through Form-6 with the required supporting documents. “He said Electoral Registration Officers are regularly sharing the necessary information with political parties and urged party representatives to motivate their workers and supporters to submit the forms within the stipulated time. He also advised political parties to verify whether voters who have permanently migrated have enrolled in the electoral rolls of their new places of residence. “The Collector stated that out of nearly 10 lakh Enumeration Forms received, the mapping of about 42,000 voters is yet to be completed. Notices will be issued asking them to submit any one of the 11 identity documents prescribed by the Election Commission of India. Those requiring verification certificates can apply online to obtain them. “Reviewing the progress of digitisation, he said that 100 percent digitisation has been completed in 677 out of



1,460 polling stations, while 544 polling stations have achieved 95 percent, and 158 polling stations have completed 90 percent digitisation. Efforts are underway to complete the process in the remaining polling stations at the earliest. “The Collector instructed Booth Level Agents (BLAs) to work closely with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to ensure that every eligible voter submits the Enumeration Form with accurate details. “He further informed that August 3 is the last date for submission of Enumeration Forms, the Draft Electoral Roll will be published on August 10, claims and objections will be accepted till September 9, disposed of by October 8, and the Final Electoral Roll will be published on October 12, 2026. “The meeting was attended by Khammam Municipal Commissioner Abhishek Agastya, Kallur Sub-Collector Ajay Yadav, Assistant Trainee Collector Paras Kumar, DRO C.H. Ramamurthy, Khammam RDO Srinivas, representatives of Congress, BRS, BJP, TDP, BSP, AAP, and other officials.”

Ramu Rathod's "Taj Mahal" Song Grandly Launched Under Sai Teja Music Production No.1“

“The launch event of the song ‘Taj Mahal’, produced under the Sai Teja Music Production No.1 banner, was held grandly in Hyderabad. Renowned choreographers Jani Master and Vijay Polaki Master attended the event as chief guests, officially launching the song and extending their best wishes to the entire team. “Speaking on the occasion, Jani Master said, ‘Sai Teja is like a brother to me. I sincerely wish him great success and hope he continues to create many more outstanding folk songs. I also look forward to collaborating with him on a wonderful folk song in the future.’ “Vijay Polaki Master shared, ‘Sai Teja has been my childhood friend, and I wish him many more achievements. I am delighted to see the tremendous response the audience has shown towards this song.’ “Producer Sai Teja Master expressed his gratitude, saying, ‘I sincerely thank the audience for showering immense love on our song ‘Taj Mahal.’ My heartfelt thanks to all the guests who attended the event and blessed our team with their presence.’ “Singer Ramu Rathod said, ‘While recording and performing ‘Taj Mahal,’ I was confident that the audience would love it. The

overwhelming response and massive views received by the promo have made us extremely happy. I thank everyone for their love and support.’ “Actress Sharvari Gurpude said, ‘We are truly grateful for the love and appreciation the audience has shown towards this song. Their encouragement has motivated us to do even better.’ “Choreographer Guru Master added, ‘On behalf of our entire team, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the audience for making ‘Taj Mahal’ such a well-loved song.’ “The event witnessed the presence of the film's team members, celebrities, and fans in large numbers, all wishing the song tremendous success.’ “Technical Crew: “Producers: Sai Teja Sappanna, Raju Reddy Garimilla, Abhilash Pabathi” “Lyrics: Suresh Kadari” “Music: Kalyan Keys” “Singer: Ramu Rathod” “Cinematography & Editing: Arun Jagati” “Choreography: Guru Master



Enhancing Safety Awareness Among Students is Our Goal: UPPAL ACP VENKAT REDDY, SHO Y. RAMALINGA REDDY



“UPPAL, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As part of its Community Policing initiative aimed at preventing crime and promoting public safety, the Uppal Police conducted an awareness programme at Little Flower Degree College, Uppal, on Friday. The programme focused on key issues such as drug abuse prevention, cyber safety, the "Mee Suraksha" initiative, and road safety. The programme was attended by Uppal ACP Venkat Reddy, Uppal Police Station SHO Y. Ramalinga Reddy, along with other police of-

ficers and staff. "Addressing the students, the officers urged the youth to stay away from drugs and other addictive substances, emphasizing that drug abuse not only destroys an individual's future but also has a serious impact on families and society." Speaking on cyber safety, they highlighted the increasing number of cybercrimes and advised students to remain cautious of unknown phone calls, messages, suspicious links, and fake websites. They warned students never to share OTPs, bank account details, ATM PINs, or other personal information with anyone. In case of any cyber fraud, they advised victims to immediately contact the 1930 Cyber Crime Helpline and report the matter to the nearest police station. "The officers also explained the "Mee Suraksha" initiative, encouraging every citizen to stay connected with the police and actively participate in ensuring community safety. They appealed to the public to promptly report suspicious persons, activities, or incidents to help prevent crime.

"Highlighting road safety, the officers stressed the importance of wearing helmets while riding two-wheelers and using seat belts while travelling in cars. They said strict adherence to traffic rules can significantly reduce road accidents. They also made it clear that minors should not drive vehicles and only licensed drivers are permitted to do so. "During the interactive session, students raised several questions on safety-related issues, and the police officers clarified their doubts. The college management appreciated the initiative, stating that such awareness programmes play a vital role in educating students about personal and public safety. The programme was attended by the college principal, faculty members, students, and Uppal Police personnel.

MY Bharat Telangana to Organise "Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat – Sankalp Abhiyan

on 2nd August 2026; Hon'ble Prime Minister to Virtually Interact with Youth at Over 10,000 "MY Bharat Telangana, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, is all set to organise the "Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat – Sankalp Abhiyan" across Telangana on 2nd August 2026, as part of the nationwide movement towards a Drug-Free India by 2047. "As part of the State-level campaign, MY Bharat Telangana will organise programmes at four major locations—Sreenidhi Institute of Science & Technology, Hyderabad; CMR Technical Campus, Rangareddy; Kaveri University, Siddipet; and Vaagdevi College of Engineering, Warangal—along with five district-level events, bringing together youth, educational institutions, government departments, volunteers, and civil society organisations to administer the Nasha Mukti Yuva Pledge and spread awareness against drug abuse. "The campaign is being organised in line with the nationwide initiative of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, during which the Hon'ble Prime Minister will virtually interact with youth across the country and administer the Nasha Mukti Yuva Pledge at more than 10,000 locations, mobilising over one crore youth. "The events in Telangana will feature mass pledge ceremonies, awareness rallies, youth interactions, cultural programmes, and community outreach activities aimed at educating young people about the harmful effects of substance abuse and inspiring them to become ambassadors of a healthy and drug-free society. "MY Bharat Telangana has undertaken extensive coordination



with District Administrations, Universities, Colleges, Schools, NSS, NCC, Youth Clubs, Government Departments, Spiritual Organisations, and Civil Society Organisations to ensure the successful implementation of the campaign across the State. "Shri Ch. Anvesh, State Director, MY Bharat Telangana, said, "The 'Nasha Mukti Yuva for Viksit Bharat' campaign is a nationwide youth movement to build a healthier, stronger, and drug-free India. We appeal to every young citizen, educational institution, government department, and community organisation in Telangana to actively participate in the campaign on 2nd August 2026 and take the pledge to stay away from drugs. Together, we can contribute meaningfully towards the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 through collective action and youth leadership."

AI Should Help CFOs Emerge as Strategic Leaders

-Telangana Chief Minister's Advisor K.Ramakrishna Rao "Hyderabad, July 31 (Indian Chronicle) : Telangana Chief Minister's Advisor and Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary K.Ramakrishna Rao called upon Chief Financial Officers (CFOs) to evolve into strategic leaders by leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), data-driven decision-making, and long-term vision. Speaking at the 8th CII Telangana CFO Conclave, alongside former Deloitte India Chairman P.R.Ramesh, Rao said CFOs should harness AI and sustainability to create long-term value for their organizations. He emphasized the need for leadership that can transform disruptions into opportunities and guide businesses through an increasingly dynamic environment. He further stated that CFOs must shape the future of their organizations through foresight, continuous learning, and innovation. The conclave was attended by M.V.Narasimham, CFO of



Dr.Reddy's Laboratories and Convener of the CII Telangana Finance & Taxation Panel; Gaurav Maheshwari, Managing Director of Signode India Limited and Vice Chairman of CII Telangana; along with senior government officials, CFOs, CEOs, and eminent personalities from industry, academia, and policy-making circles.

Complete the SIR Process 100%: Nelluri Koteswara Rao

Demands Appointment of a Regular Executive Officer for Jamalapuram Temple "Khammam/Errupalem, July 31 – Indian Clinical "BJP Khammam District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao urged party workers and officials to ensure that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls is completed 100 percent within the stipulated deadline. "On Friday, as part of the 24-hour SIR Pravas Programme in Errupalem mandal, he attended a review meeting with Shakti Kendra in-charges and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at Revidicherla. He later visited eight polling booths in the mandal to assess the progress of the SIR process. "Speaking on the occasion, Koteswara Rao said that the electoral roll is the foundation of democracy and stressed that every eligible voter must be included in the list. He called upon booth-level leaders to work in coordination and complete all pending applications without delay, ensuring that the process is carried out successfully and without negligence. "He noted that 90.6 percent of the SIR process had already been completed in the mandal and urged officials to finish the remaining work immediately to achieve the 100 percent target. "Later, he visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Jamalapuram, where he offered special prayers and expressed concern over the temple's administration. He said it was unfortunate that such a prominent pilgrimage center in the state was functioning without a full-time administrative setup. He demanded that the government immediately appoint a regular Executive Officer (EO) to improve services for devotees. "He also called for the allocation of special funds for the temple's development and improvement of basic infrastructure. He urged the Endowments Department to ensure that no activities violating temple traditions or Agama Shastra norms



take place. "Koteswara Rao further demanded the immediate closure of illegal liquor belt shops operating around the temple and nearby villages, stating that such activities disturb the spiritual atmosphere of the shrine and would not be tolerated. "He emphasized that every BJP worker should actively promote the Central Government's welfare and development programmes among the public. He also called for strengthening booth committees and reaffirmed that the BJP would always stand by the people in addressing public issues. "The programme was attended by Mandal President Anumolu Suresh, District SIR Convener Shyam Rao, Mandal In-charge Shyam Kiran, senior leader Nuthakki Narasimha Rao, Shakti Kendra in-charges, BLAs, party leaders, and BJP workers.

Green Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm at Shine High School



Khammam/Bonakal, July 31 – Indian Chronicle "Green Day celebrations were held with great enthusiasm at Shine

High School in Bonakal mandal on Thursday. The school campus came alive with colorful cultural performances, games, and various activities presented by the students. "On the occasion, saplings were planted to create awareness among students about environmental protection. Teachers emphasized that protecting nature is everyone's responsibility and encouraged students to play an active role in conserving the environment. "Speaking on the occasion, School Correspondent Sheikh Ansar Pasha said the school is committed to educating students about environmental conservation. He stressed the importance of conserving water, reducing the use of plastic, protecting trees, disposing of waste in dustbins, and maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings. "The programme was attended by School Correspondent Sheikh Ansar Pasha, Principal Aitipamula Swetha, Administration In-charge Degala Veladi, teachers, and students.

Complete Irrigation Development Works at the Earliest: DEE J. Pottayya

"Khammam/Nelakondapalli, July 31 – Indian Chronicle "The Irrigation Department is taking all necessary steps to expedite the completion of irrigation development works in the Nelakondapalli Sub-Division, said Sub-Divisional Deputy Executive Engineer (DEE) J. Pottayya. "Addressing a press conference at the Sub-Division Office in the mandal headquarters on Friday, he stated that the tender process for several development works has already been completed. These include ₹40 lakh worth of sluice repair works at Cheruvumadharam, ₹3.80 lakh for the canal culvert at Acharlagudem, ₹6.48 lakh for the Aregudem canal, and repair works to the Buddaram sluices. He said the works would commence shortly. "DEE Pottayya also informed that funds have been sanctioned for the Cheruvumadharam 1 and 2 Lift Irrigation Schemes under the Sub-Division. An amount of ₹3.82 lakh has been sanctioned for the first scheme and ₹3.33 lakh for the second. The works will be taken up immediately after the completion of the tender process. "Later, he held a special review meeting with irrigation lashkars and department staff. He instructed them to ensure that canal bunds remain free of garbage and encroachments. With the possibility of good



rainfall and increased water flow, he stressed the importance of cleaning and maintaining canals in advance. "He also directed the staff to undertake the removal of bushes and vegetation along the Mangapuram Thanda Major Canal as per the scheduled plan and perform their duties diligently. He warned that negligence in official responsibilities would not be tolerated. "The meeting was attended by Irrigation Assistant Engineers Naresh and Ruthvik, along with other departmental staff.

Bar Association Extends Solidarity to KTR at Nampally Court; ADVOCATE BANNALA PRAVEEN MUDIRAJ Announces Support

"UPPAL, JULY 31 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): BRS State leader and advocate Bannala Praveen Mudiraj alleged that the Formula-E case registered against former minister K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) was politically motivated and part of the Congress government's vendetta politics. "On the occasion of KTR's appearance before the Nampally Court in connection with the case, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, along with members of the Bar Association, expressed solidarity with the former minister. Addressing the gathering, Advocate Bannala Praveen Mudiraj said the Bar Association would extend its full support to KTR and stand by him throughout the legal proceedings. He expressed confidence in the judicial system and stated that the truth would ultimately prevail. "He further alleged that politically motivated actions were against democratic values and expressed hope that the facts of the case would soon come to light. Several advocates, Bar Association members, BRS leaders, and party workers participated in the programme and extended their support to KTR.



Every Home Should Flourish with Greenery

"Khammam/Nelakondapalli, July 31 – Indian Chronicle "Every household should be surrounded by greenery, said Acharlagudem Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Kolikapongu Uppalamma. "As part of the Haritha Haram programme, saplings were distributed to every household in Acharlagudem Gram Panchayat of Nelakondapalli mandal on Friday. "Speaking on the occasion, the Sarpanch said the entire village should become lush green. She urged residents not only to plant the saplings distributed to them but also to nurture and protect them. She emphasized that environmental protection is the responsibility of every citizen and called upon the people to grow more trees to ensure a clean and healthy environment for future generations. "She also suggested preparing an action plan to plant saplings on both sides of village roads so that they resemble a green carpet. Uppalamma appealed to the Panchayat governing body and the public to extend their full cooperation for the



successful implementation of the Haritha Haram programme. "The programme was attended by the Panchayat Secretary, Ward Members, village elders, and local residents.

Former Paleru Division ATMA Committee Chairman Passes Away



"Khammam/Nelakondapalli, July 31 – Indian Chronicle "Former Paleru Division ATMA Committee Chairman Joguparti Veerabhadraiah (85) passed away on Friday after a prolonged illness. "A resident of Anasagaram village in Nelakondapalli mandal, Veerabhadraiah is survived by one son and two daughters. "His demise has been widely mourned by people from the village and leaders from various political parties. They visited his residence to pay their last respects and conveyed their heartfelt condolences to

the bereaved family. "Among those who expressed their condolences were Congress District Official Spokesperson Bachalakuri Nagaraju, Youth Congress State Secretary Jerripothula Anjani, Mekala Venkateswarlu, Cherukupalli Rajesh, Jerripothula Satyanarayana, Kadiyala Naresh, and several other political leaders and well-wishers.

Khammam R&B department denies felling trees for CM Revanth's meeting

Khammam: Roads and Buildings Khammam division executive engineer MA Baseer claimed that the department had cut only branches of trees on Bonakal-Khammam road for Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's July 10 meeting at Mathkeppally in the district.

news item published in Telangana Today on June 29 with the caption 'Scores of trees cut down for CM Revanth's Khammam meeting,' he said a heavy crowd was expected for the meeting and a large number of vehicles had to pass on the road to reach the meeting spot. The trees were covering the carriageway on both sides of the road at very low height and could obstruct the free flow of traffic.

No bail for Bengaluru lawyer who took money to arrange gym trainer’s murder



GNS News Agency, July 31

A court in rural Bengaluru has rejected the anticipatory bail plea of an advocate accused of arranging the contract killing of a gym trainer for a real estate businessman, stating that practising lawyers should not involve themselves in crime as their duty is to reform society. “A practising advocate involved in murder cases is against his advocacy. An advocate should always work to reform society. Therefore, the offences alleged against the petitioner are non-bailable and also very serious in nature,” a Bengaluru district court ruled on July 22, while rejecting the anticipatory bail plea of advocate B Lokesh in the murder case. The 39-year-old advocate is accused of taking money from real estate businessman Prasad Rao, 50, to arrange the murder of gym trainer Vijay Kumar, 35, allegedly to end Kumar’s relationship with Rao’s daughter.

Kumar’s decomposed body was found in the Bannerghatta forest area on June 9. Police investigations have revealed that he was killed on June 6 after being lured to a drinking party by a gang hired by Lokesh. The gang was led by Sriram, a local gangster in the Anekal region, who was a legal client of the advocate, the police investigations have revealed. A district court had rejected the anticipatory bail pleas of Rao and Lokesh on July 22. The advocate has now approached the Karnataka High Court with an anticipatory bail plea. On Monday, the high court issued a notice to the state and posted the matter for August 12. Evidence shows advocate’s involvement in murder case: Court

According to the evidence placed in the district court by the police to counter the bail plea, Lokesh received funds from Rao and handed the money to the prime accused in the murder case through an associate to execute Kumar’s murder. The investigation papers presented in court “clearly go to show that since the deceased Vijay Kumar was giving trouble to the daughter of accused no.6 [Rao]”, he “gave supari to petitioner [Lokesh] to kill the deceased” by passing money through accused no.8 to accused no.1, the court noted. “According to investigation, it clearly reveals that in the WhatsApp/Face Time call conversation has been conducted between accused no.6 and petitioner,” the court said. The court also noted that Lokesh had gone missing, with his phone switched off, soon after the police arrested four accused on June 17. Lokesh was communicating with the main accused in the murder case before the murder of the deceased, “on the day of the murder, and after the murder,” the court said. “On perusing the materials available on record, the prima facie material shows the involvement of the petitioner in the above case by taking supari from the accused no.6, then he himself gave supari to other accused persons to commit murder,” the district court noted. “Taking supari to kill a person is not only a serious offence but also a heinous offence. From this act of this petitioner, the deceased was murdered by the other accused persons,” the court said. The probe has found that the advocate “gave money through accused no. 8 Anush, to A1, Sriram, a rowdy sheeter who was involved in several cases in the past. He (Sriram) and his friends killed the deceased Vijay Kumar,” the court recorded. Earlier this month, Lokesh moved the Karnataka High Court, seeking the removal of his name from the accused list. This was after the police sought to collect CCTV footage from his office to find visuals of his alleged meetings with the murder accused. The high court disposed of the matter on July 9, asking the advocate to seek bail from the court. Based on the call detail records of the victim and other evidence, the Bannerghatta police initially arrested four people—Sriram, Sumith, Venkateshaiah, and Babu, all residents of Anekal—for the murder. A fifth person was arrested for aiding the gang in disposing of the body.

Gujarat betters own record – 9 athletes from state earn India call-up for Asian Games in Japan

GNS News Agency, July 31

GUJARAT HAS scripted a new chapter in Indian sports, with as many as nine athletes — and one reserve player — from the state earning selection to represent India at the 20th Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from September 19 to October 4, 2026. The achievement marks a rise for the state, which had only three representatives at the 2014 Asian Games. Twelve years later, Gujarat has tripled that number.

Terming this a “proud moment” for the state, Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said on Monday that the achievement reflects the long-term investments made in sports development. “Former Chief Minister and now Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid a strong foundation for sports in Gujarat through initiatives such as Khel Mahakumbh and the Shaktidoot Yojana. The results of those efforts are now visible. Gujarat is steadily emerging as a global sports powerhouse,” Sanghavi said. The state’s sporting success is being attributed to sustained investments in grassroots development and athlete support over the past decade.

Highlighting the state’s sporting ambitions, the Deputy CM said Gujarat is focused on building a world-class sport-



ing culture. “Our goal is not just to train athletes but to build an entire ecosystem that enables them to excel on the international stage and bring glory to the nation,” he said. He also noted that Gujarat is preparing on priority to develop world-class sports infrastructure ahead of hosting the 2030 Commonwealth Games. All eyes will now be on Gujarat’s athletes as they look to make their mark on one of Asia’s biggest sporting stages. The nine selected athletes represent a wide range of sports, comprising a blend of experienced international performers and young talent.

RAF man fired ‘anti-riot gun’ twice at protesters on orders of senior Delhi cop



GNS News Agency, July 31

A Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel fired an Anti-Riot Gun (ARG) twice on orders of a Deputy Commissioner of Police-rank officer during the Cockroach Janta Party’s ‘Sansad Chalo’ march on July 20, official records show. An ARG falls in the same category as a pellet gun. At least three people who participated in the July 20 protest sustained pellet injuries: Irshad Sheikh, 25, who works in Gurgaon; Sahil Lochab, 19, a Delhi University student; and a 28-year-old journalist with Outlook magazine. One of them risks losing his eyesight. A comment from the Delhi Police is awaited.

The RAF had said it would inquire into the use of pellets by its personnel; the Delhi Police had categorically denied its usage. According to a General Diary entry — an

official log maintained at every police station which records all important events, information received, and actions taken by the police — filed at the Parliament Street police station, a RAF Deputy Commandant told the duty officer that he was deployed near Jantar Mantar with a DCP-rank officer from North Delhi district on July 20. The DCP had been called in to oversee law and order at the protest site, along with multiple IPS officers from other districts. As per the diary entry, an RAF officer claimed that on the DCP’s orders, he fired the ARG twice on protesters, along with 55 non-electrical shells, 15 electrical shells and five tear gas shells.

An ARG is not a pellet gun, but falls under the same category of ‘non-lethal’ weapons that can engage multiple targets with one shot. It is used to fire plastic or rubber pellets, tear gas shells, and other projectiles.

The Indian Express reported that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is learnt to have found that an RAF personnel deployed during the march fired at least seven rounds from his pellet gun. Five rounds hit protesters, while two struck the ground, sources had told. The CRPF had initiated an inquiry into whether pellet guns were used by RAF personnel during the crackdown on protesters. DG (CRPF) Gyanendra Pratap Singh had said: “Now, since the agitation has been called off, and assembled people have dispersed, we would make a professional post-event assessment, like we do after every major assignment, and then let you know the view of the Force headquarter.”

station after travelling from Baramati on January 25, 2016, when two persons approached her.

The girl was hungry. So the duo lured her in the pretext of giving her food. They took her to a tin shed in the parking area of Talegaon railway station and raped her repeatedly. An accused also took her obscene photos on his cell phone before leaving the spot, police said. A woman sweeper at the railway station saw the girl crying and took her to the police. A first information report (FIR) was lodged at the Pune Railway police station on January 27, 2026. Police said the victim had the mobile phone number of one of the accused. Based on clues obtained during the investigation, the police arrested the accused, Sharad Salve and Kancha, in this case. A team led by police sub inspector Shamshuddin Shaikh investigated the case and submitted a chargesheet against the accused on April 30, 2016.

With no family in India, 44 Somali pirates seek first-ever transfer home under treaty



GNS News Agency, July 31

A week after a Mumbai special court sentenced 44 Somali pirates to life imprisonment, the convicts have moved Indian and Somali authorities seeking a transfer to serve out their sentences in Somalia, under the 2017 India-Somalia Agreement on the Transfer of Sentenced Persons. If approved, they would be the first prisoners transferred under the bilateral treaty, which lets nationals convicted in either country serve their sentences at home, subject to consent from both governments and treaty conditions.

The representations, filed a day after the conviction, went to the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Embassy of Somalia in India and Somali authorities. The convicts, lodged in Talaja Central Jail, moved the applications through lawyers Samyak Gimekar, chief of the Mumbai Legal Aid Defence

Counsel System (LADCS), and Sumit Kokate. The special court sentenced the men on July 20 after finding them guilty under provisions including the Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022. All the accused had pleaded guilty. The convicts said they meet the treaty’s eligibility criteria and should be allowed to serve the rest of their term in Somalia, “subject to the fulfilment of all other statutory and treaty requirements.” “The object of the Agreement is to promote the social rehabilitation of sentenced persons by enabling them to serve their sentences in their country of nationality,” the representation states, adding that the transfer would let the convicts stay close to family while serving out their term in Somalia.

The MHA is the nodal authority for such requests, though transfer isn’t automatic and needs consent from both governments. Special Public Prosecutor Ranjeet Sangle had told the convicts after sentencing that they could apply through jail authorities if they wanted a transfer. The 44 men have said they want to serve their sentence in Somalia so their families can visit them in prison. Their representation asks both governments to begin the required consultations. India repatriated 117 Somali nationals in 2018 after they completed seven-year terms, but no one has been transferred under the 2017 agreement so far, making this the first such request. Nine of the convicts were arrested after the Navy intercepted an Iranian fishing vessel, carrying Pakistani crew, that they had hijacked in March 2024. Later that month, the Navy apprehended 35 more pirates for allegedly hijacking a merchant vessel. All were brought to Mumbai and arrested by Yellow Gate police.

FDA suspends license of Mumbai’s six-decade-old Udipi eatery Poornima Restaurant



The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has suspended the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licence of Poornima Restaurant, the iconic Udipi eatery in Mumbai’s Fort area, with immediate effect over multiple food safety and hygiene violations. Located in Raja Bahadur Compound, a short walk from the Bombay Stock Exchange and opposite Bombay House, the over six-decade-old restaurant is known for its loyal clientele, including executives from Bombay House and visitors to

the Bombay Stock Exchange and the Bombay High Court.

The suspension follows an inspection conducted on July 23 by Food Safety Officer R. S. Suryawanshi, which found serious violations of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and hygiene regulations that, according to the FDA, posed significant risks to public health. Among the key findings was fungal growth on stored raw vegetables, including drumsticks—a key ingredient in sambar—and bananas used to prepare the restaurant’s signature dish banana vada. “Considering the fact that idli and dosa batter is acidic in nature, fungal infestation in the kitchen may cause serious health hazards,” an FDA official said. According to the FDA, raw contaminated materials were stored alongside cooked and frozen food items. The inspection also found several flies, stagnant water, dirty drains without cockroach traps, and unhygienic walls and ceilings with flaking paint and rust. Other violations included the absence of medical fitness records and periodic health check-ups for food handlers, refrigeration unit doors that did not seal properly, and the use of non-food-grade plastic barrels to store pickles without the required compliance certification.

Air India’s new service: Clear immigration in Amritsar, fly worldwide via Delhi



GNS News Agency, July 31

Air India on Tuesday launched its ‘Easy Connect’ service from Amritsar airport, linking passengers from Punjab to 27 global destinations through Delhi. Under the new service, passengers clear immigration and check in baggage at Amritsar itself. They then transit through Delhi as international travellers without re-checking luggage or changing terminals. The service, inaugurated by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, introduces two daily flights—AI1113 at 9.10 am and AI1115 at 10 pm—that will enable passengers to transit through Delhi to destinations across North America, Europe, Australia, West Asia, and Southeast Asia within four hours of arrival. Naidu said the

move was a step toward “building an aviation network that serves a New India”. P Balaji, Group Head of Governance, Risk, Compliance and Corporate Affairs at Air India, added that the service offers seamless single-ticket journeys for Punjab’s large diaspora, allowing travellers to begin their overseas journeys “from their home city without any hassle”.

The initiative is part of a broader national rollout to shift long-haul connecting traffic back through domestic hubs like Delhi rather than overseas airports, with plans to expand inbound connections to Amritsar within two months. Air India’s ‘Easy Connect’ service first launched from Varanasi in June 2026 and is now being rolled out to multiple other Indian cities, including Amritsar, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kochi, Mumbai, Patna, Vadodara, and Visakhapatnam. However, local aviation groups have argued the plan weakens Punjab’s push for direct international flights. Gunbir Singh, president of the Dilbir Foundation, a non-profit welfare organisation in Amritsar, said Sri Guru Ram Das Ji International Airport, Amritsar, is being reduced to “a domestic spoke of the Delhi hub,” warning that passengers still face longer travel times despite easier immigration. Local stakeholders warned that despite being framed as a major connectivity boost, the framework risks diverting lucrative international passenger traffic away from Punjab, blunting decades of effort to establish direct, non-stop international flights for the region.

Three accused who fired at Mohali police arrested, two injured after encounter



GNS News Agency, July 31

Three accused who allegedly had attacked an anti-narcotics team on Saturday, injuring police personnel and rescuing their associates before fleeing, were arrested by Mohali police on Monday after an encounter in the Chao Majra area in IT city. During the encounter, two of the accused were injured, and police recovered two .32 bore firearms from them.

SSP Mohali Harmandeep Singh Hans said that an FIR had been registered in this case at the Sohana police station. The SSP said that on Saturday, the district anti-narcotics team received an input regarding drug trafficking. The team managed to apprehend two suspects, but during the operation, assailants arriving in another vehicle opened fire

on the police party and attacked them with swords. Two police personnel were injured in the attack, and the assailants managed to free their two associates and escape. He added that immediately after the incident, multiple teams led by SP (D), SP (Operations), SP (Rural), and DSP-rank officers conducted continuous raids across Punjab. During this period, two accused surrendered in court.

According to the SSP, the remaining three accused, Gagan, Jaskaran, and Lakhwinder, were tracked down near Chao Majra. As soon as they spotted the police, they opened fire, prompting retaliatory firing by the police. In the encounter, Jaskaran and Lakhwinder were injured, while Gagan was arrested on the spot. Police recovered two .32 bore firearms from the accused. A forensic examination will determine whether these weapons were used in the firing incident on Saturday. Empty cartridges were also recovered from the scene. The SSP said the accused are residents of Giga Majra and Tangori villages near Sohana in Mohali. Their criminal backgrounds and possible links to drug trafficking are being investigated. According to police, around 15 rounds of firing took place during the encounter. Of these, the accused fired five rounds, one of which hit an official vehicle of the SHO. Police also returned fire in response. The injured accused have been admitted to the Civil Hospital for treatment. After obtaining remand from the court, police will interrogate them to determine what narcotic substance they possessed on the day of the incident, where it was sourced from, and to whom it was intended to be supplied, the SSP said.

20 killed in JAAC Long March crackdown in PoK



GNS News Agency, July 31

Islamabad: At least 20 people were killed and dozens critically injured during the Long March organised by the Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC) in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), amid an escalating crackdown by Pakistani authorities on protesters in the region. The death toll is expected to rise, with several of those injured reported to be in critical condition.

Sharing the details in a post on X on Tuesday, JAAC said, "The Long March caravans have reached Rawalakot city. According to information received so far, the identities of 19 deceased individuals have been confirmed, while one person did not have identification documents and sustained a bullet wound to the head; his body is present at the Palandri Hospital. Thus, the total deaths have reached at least 20. In addition, other details are contingent upon daylight breaking and the restoration of communications." "The protesters are present at Chandni Chowk in Rawalakot city. Once daylight arrives, a gathering will be held at Shahid Chowk, where the future course of action will be announced," it added. This march was held after talks between JAAC and Pakistani authorities reportedly failed to produce a mutually acceptable outcome, prompting a renewed call for public mobilisation. It began from Mirpur Division on Sunday, with caravans converging at the Rawalakot sit-in before proceed-

ing with the march towards Muzaffarabad on Monday.

Meanwhile, the United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) on Tuesday drew the international community's attention to the mounting humanitarian abuses unfolding presently in PoK. Citing reports, the group alleged that Pakistani security forces on Monday evening launched a violent crackdown against peaceful protesters in Rawalakot, killing and injuring dozens through the use of live ammunition, heavy shelling, tear gas, and other forms of force against civilians. Expressing concern over the reported violence, it said, "shelling and the use of live ammunition continue, raising fears of further loss of civilian life."

The group called on the United Nations, international human rights organisations, and democratic governments to take immediate action by demanding an immediate end to the use of live ammunition, shelling, and excessive force against peaceful civilians by Pakistani forces. These ongoing protests across PoK have emerged as a direct challenge to Islamabad's long-standing control in the region. Pakistani forces have repeatedly unleashed a brutal crackdown, leaving several civilians dead and injured, while the region remains under a strict blockade, curfew, and a total communications blackout. Last month, India slammed Pakistan for unleashing a pattern of fake news and videos while making a "desperate attempt" to cover up its own failings and deflect attention away from its human rights abuses during the ongoing crackdown on protesters in PoK. Addressing a weekly media briefing, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India expressed hope that the international community would hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses. When asked about the ongoing protests and crackdown on protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Jaiswal responded, "There are reports of police brutality in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in which several people have been killed, and there are several more who have been injured. We hope the international community will hold Pakistan accountable for its misdeeds and abuses."

Netanyahu's first meeting with Trump since Iran war began is chance to smooth over strains



GNS News Agency, July 31

Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's meeting with President Donald Trump on Tuesday is the first since the two leaders launched a joint war against Iran and a chance for Netanyahu to smooth over strains in their relationship. The meeting comes as both face growing pressures at home. Netanyahu is up for reelection and is embattled in part because of his deteriorating relationship with Trump. Trump is under pressure to end an unpopular war that has wreaked economic havoc and driven prices higher ahead of midterm elections this November.

The two leaders also plan to discuss the framework agreement the US and Israel signed with Lebanon over the Israel-Hezbollah war and the expansion of the Abraham Accords, according to a White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the meeting. "We have a little difference," Trump said Monday when asked by reporters if he and the Israeli prime minister were on the same page with Iran. "But pretty close, yeah."

Trump has had a hot-and-cold history with Netanyahu over the years, but upon his return to the White House last year, their alliance seemed stronger than ever. When they started the war together in February, it was with a united front, touting their respective militaries as acting in lockstep to take out Iran's leadership and pave the way for a government more friendly to the West. But as Iran fought back – sending drones and missiles slamming into US bases and high-rises in cities in the Gulf, and choking off the Strait of Hormuz – Trump came under immense pressure both at home and by allies in the region to end the conflict. Since then, Netanyahu, who wanted to continue the fighting in Iran and against its ally, Hezbollah, in Lebanon, has been sidelined as Trump sought a deal with Tehran.

His visit to the White House this week comes as the disagreements with Trump and Vice President JD Vance have burst into the open over the war in Iran and more. "The Americans are making it clear to the Israelis they are the ones who are running the war," Israeli journalist and politi-

cal analyst Amit Segal wrote Monday in the daily newspaper, Israel Hayom. "It is clear to everyone that Israel has been put in the back seat." Netanyahu keeping focus on Iran's nuclear programme With US-Iran tensions flaring again in recent weeks, Netanyahu plans to share with Trump Israeli intelligence on Tehran's nuclear program, according to a person familiar with Netanyahu's visit, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

On Fox News Channel's "Sunday Morning Futures" with Maria Bartiromo, Netanyahu said he hoped to sit down with Trump "to hear what he has in mind" for Iran. "Because I think, in many ways, it's his decision" on how to move forward, Netanyahu said. "If he can do so without returning to intense military fighting, that's fine. Why not? "But one way or the other, they have to end their nuclear programme," he said of Iran. Netanyahu also used the interview to warn Iran against attacking his country, saying Israel's response would be "very forceful". Steps to allow other forces in Gaza, Lebanon But even as Netanyahu sees an opportunity, he also needs to persuade Trump that he won't play spoiler to US diplomatic and reconstruction efforts in Gaza and in Lebanon, where the president has previously complained that "too many people are being killed" by Israeli strikes. Israel has taken recent steps in both places. In Lebanon, where the Israeli military occupies much of the south, Israel agreed to allow the Lebanese army to deploy to some villages as part of a "pilot program" testing their ability to secure areas where Hezbollah once operated. The US State Department said Monday the next round of talks between Israel and Lebanon will take place next week in Rome with a focus on expanding the programme. On Gaza, Israel's security cabinet green-lit on Sunday a measure that would, in theory, grant entry to the first members of an international stabilisation force outlined last year in a US-backed ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas. Few countries have pledged troops for the force, and Israel would approve their entry into Gaza on a case-by-case basis. The troops – including from Morocco and Uganda – would only be allowed to operate in a small, desolate area in Rafah in the south, where the plan is to vet and house some displaced Palestinians. The Israeli military continues to carry out strikes it says target militants but that have also killed civilians. Israel has lost a significant amount of bipartisan support in the United States, particularly over its conduct in Gaza. In June, Vance warned Israeli officials that Trump was their only friend among world leaders. Vance is expected to attend the meeting with Netanyahu, according to a person familiar with the plan who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. An AP-NORC poll published earlier this month found a dramatic erosion of support among American adults for Israel. "We've lost America. Thank you, Bibi," wrote Ben Caspit, a political commentator for Israel's Maariv newspaper.

Iran has no standing to pretend to be a victim: Ukraine FM Sybiha rejects Tehrans accusations

Kyiv [Ukraine], July 28 (ANI): Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Sybiha has rejected Iran's allegations over a strike on an Iranian commercial vessel, calling Tehran's threats "unjustified and groundless" and accusing it of being a direct accomplice to Russia's war against Ukraine. In a post on X on Monday, Sybiha said that Iran had supplied Russia with weapons that have been used in strikes against Ukrainians since the beginning of Moscow's full-scale invasion in 2022.

"Iran's threats are unjustified and groundless. The regime in Tehran is a direct accomplice to Russian aggression against Ukraine, fuelling Moscow's criminal war with weapons that have killed Ukrainians since 2022," Sybiha said. The Ukrainian Foreign Minister also accused Iran of attempting to divert international attention from Russia's action in the Black Sea. "With its statements, Iran also tries to shift attention away from Russia's terror against civilian shipping in the Black Sea, which is threatening global food security. But it will not succeed," he said.

Sybiha said Russia's strikes on freedom of navigation were a key focus of an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council (UNSC) on Monday. "Russia's attacks on freedom of navigation will be at the spotlight of today's emergency UN Security Council meeting, and we expect strong

responses by the international community," he said. Sybiha's remarks came in response to a post by the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, which he shared on X with the words, "Iranian Lies". Earlier on Sunday, in a post on X, Araghchi alleged that Ukraine had attacked an Iranian commercial vessel, killing a sailor, and called the incident "a blatant UN Charter violation."

"Zelenskyy has attacked an Iranian commercial vessel, killing a sailor. A blatant UN Charter violation done at Israel's behest to drag Europe into its war," Araghchi said. He further said that in conversations with EU High Representative Kaja Kallas and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, he had made it clear that "what the freeloader in Kyiv did CANNOT GO UNANSWERED." Araghchi's remarks came after Iran on Sunday summoned Ukraine's acting charge d'affaires in Tehran to lodge a formal protest over the incident. According to Iran's official news agency IRNA, Assistant Foreign Minister and Director General for Eurasia Manouchehr Moradi conveyed Tehran's strong protest, calling the strike on the Iranian commercial vessel a "hostile and criminal act." Moradi said the strike violated the fundamental principles of the United Nations Charter, amounted to an act of aggression, and posed "a clear threat to the security of all littoral states."

Donald Trump says Iran seeks direct talks after US military action



Washington: US President Donald Trump said on Monday that Iran had requested direct talks with Washington after sustained US military action, expressing confidence that a deal remained possible while warning that military operations could quickly resume if diplomacy failed. Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Michigan, Trump defended the US campaign against Iran, saying it had fundamentally altered Tehran's position.

"We've pretty much destroyed their military. They want to meet, and we're meeting. We'll see what happens. There's a chance we could make a deal," Trump said. "Without what we did, they wouldn't even be talking to us." The President said Iran had sought the meeting "through their surrogates and directly", adding that the request reflected the effectiveness of the US military campaign. "They would not have requested the meeting if we were doing poorly. The only reason they want to meet is that we've been hitting them very hard," he said. Trump said he remained patient despite the continuing tensions. "I have plenty of time. Plenty of time," he said, adding that Iran's "whole shoreline's wiped out" and that discussions were continuing because Iranian officials had urged Washington not to launch further attacks while negotiations were under way. "I think there's a

good chance that something could happen. And if it does, good. If it doesn't, we go back to doing what we were doing two days ago," he said. Asked about Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's advice during the conflict, Trump dismissed suggestions of disagreements within his administration.

"No, I think he's done a great job," the President said. On military readiness, Trump rejected concerns that US weapons stockpiles had been depleted by support for Ukraine. "We have money. We have a lot of ammunition," he said, while acknowledging that the previous administration had transferred substantial quantities of military equipment to Kyiv. "We're building it very rapidly. Plants are being built. A lot of equipment's being built. The Patriots in particular are being built," Trump said. "Every one of our contractors is building four to five plants right now." He added that the United States remained well supplied but would like even larger inventories of advanced weapons.

"But, for some of the more sophisticated stuff, we'd certainly like to have more," he said. Trump also addressed reports that Russia may have provided Iran with satellite imagery of US military bases in the Gulf. "We'll find out if that's true. I'll ask Putin about it. We'll find out," he said, while arguing that any such assistance would have little practical effect because Iran's military capabilities had already been severely degraded. "If they have, it hasn't worked out because they have no Army, they have no Air Force. They have no Navy," Trump said. "If they have, it has been very unimpactful." Asked whether Saudi Arabia had indicated any willingness to join the Abraham Accords, Trump said the issue had not been discussed. The President also confirmed that he was scheduled to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, describing their positions on Iran as largely aligned. "We have a little difference, but we're pretty close," Trump said. "Iran took a beating over the last 14 days. They asked us very nicely, 'Please stop. Let's meet.' That's where we are right now."

India, China reaffirm importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity along border



GNS News Agency, July 31

Beijing: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Hua Chunying, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China, on Monday acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas during the former's official visit to China. "Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri met H.E. Ms Hua Chunying, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of China. They reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They discussed ways to advance the vision of the two leaders that India and China are partners in development and present opportunities for each other, including through mutually beneficial outcomes in trade and economic ties, culture, and people-to-people exchanges. Both sides

acknowledged the importance of maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas," the Embassy of India in China said in a post on X. Earlier in the day, Misri discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges between India and China at the political and people-to-people levels during his meeting with Hong Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), in Beijing.

"Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri met H.E. Hong Liang, Deputy Secretary General of the 14th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). They discussed ways to enhance bilateral exchanges at the political and people-to-people levels," the Indian Embassy in Beijing said in a post on X. Misri began his official visit to China on Monday with a meeting with Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. "Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri commenced his official visit to China today with a meeting with H.E. Sun Haiyan, Vice Minister of the International Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China. They discussed ways to deepen the implementation of the guidance provided by the two leaders for bilateral relations, including addressing issues of priority to both sides and promoting political, people-to-people, academic and think-tank exchanges," the Indian Embassy said.

Pakistani content creator's emotional take on CJP protests goes viral



GNS News Agency, July 31

A Pakistani content creator's emotional video on the CJP protests has gained traction on social media, adding a cross-border dimension to the online conversation. In a video widely shared on Instagram, Pakistani creator Bilal Hassan said, "I know hate has been spread between us, but we (Pakistanis) understand every sign, poster, inside joke from the protest... we see ourselves in this. After all we are children of a divorce." Expressing support for the students' protest in India, he added, "These are kids. They are so brave. They are just protesting for their country to have a better tomorrow. There's something beautiful about that." Hassan also ridiculed allegations circulating on social media that Pakistan funded the protests. "People say Pakistan funded the protests. We don't even have enough money to run our own country. How could we possibly fund them?" Hassan said in the video captioned, "From Pakistan to India". The creator also compared the treatment given to protesters in India and Pakistan, alleging that students in Pakistan face severe state action. In his parting message to the Indian students, Hassan said, "Aapke darmiyaan aapke amma-abba hain jo aapko bohat pyaar karte hain. Soch samajh kar risk lena. Aapas mey united rehna. Bik mat jaana." The video has generated significant engagement online, with users from both India and Pakistan praising Hassan's observations. A number of Indian celebrities also replied to Hassan's post.

Alia Bhatt's mother Soni Razdan wrote, "Wah kya baat hai. 'Children of divorce' is a powerful analogy. At the risk of being told to go to Pakistan – which I have been on many an occasion – your words reach the heart in ways that only a child from these divorced parents can understand. Beautifully expressed. Thank you on behalf of our children." Actor

Deepti Naval, comedian Sundeep Sharma, screenwriter Dhruv Sehgal and activist Ripu Daman Bevil all expressed gratitude to Hassan for his message. Another user commented, "Wo kehte hai wo mujhsa nah.. Phir bhi kyu apna sa lagta hai.. Kab hongi ye nafratein khatam." A third user wrote, "On behalf of Bangladeshis, many condolences to the injured Indian students and protesting brothers and sisters and best wishes for the days ahead."

US ahead of China in AI, says Trump amid scrutiny of Chinese AI models

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday asserted that the United States holds a substantial lead over China in artificial intelligence (AI), as his administration examines whether Chinese AI companies have benefited from American technology through unauthorised model distillation.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One en route to Michigan, Trump was asked about remarks by Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who said last week that the administration would investigate whether Chinese AI models were being trained using outputs from leading US systems.

Asked whether he believed China was stealing American intellectual property, Trump acknowledged the competitive nature of the technology race while insisting that the United States remained well ahead. "Well, you know, they're looking at us, and we're looking at them. But we're leading China substantially in AI. And we're gonna keep it that way," Trump said.

Artificial intelligence has emerged as one of the principal arenas of strategic rivalry between the world's two largest economies, with both governments investing heavily in advanced computing, semiconductor technology and next-generation AI models.

The latest remarks come as US officials increasingly express concern that Chinese developers may be using "distillation" techniques to train their own models by drawing on the outputs of advanced American AI systems. The practice has become a growing point of debate within the AI industry because it can allow developers to replicate capabilities without incurring the full cost of training frontier models.

Trump's comments also reflect the administration's broader effort to preserve America's technological edge in sectors viewed as critical to national security and economic competitiveness.

India closer to expanding its nuclear fuel base



New Delhi: India may be closer than ever to achieving long-term nuclear self-reliance, following a key milestone in its ambitious three-stage nuclear programme, according to an article. The report in the Vietnam Times described the development as a potential turning point in India's decades-old strategy to overcome fuel constraints and build a sustainable nuclear energy base.

According to the article, India has long faced a fundamental challenge — "India didn't have much uranium, the fuel most nuclear reactors run on." Even today, it is noted, the country remains dependent on imports, including major agreements with countries like Canada. However, India possesses "vast reserves of thorium or 25 per cent of the global total, buried in its sands," offering a unique long-term opportunity. The report says that thorium cannot be directly used as fuel and requires conversion, prompting India to adopt a long-term approach rather than quick fixes. "Instead of chasing speed, (Indian nuclear scientist Dr Homi J.) Bhabha chose something far more ambitious: a system that could turn this resource scarcity into self-reliance, even if it

took decades to get there." This vision led to India's three-stage nuclear programme—beginning with uranium, transitioning to plutonium, and eventually unlocking thorium. For years, the second stage remained incomplete. But that changed recently. "On April 6th, India's Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam... achieved criticality for the first time." The report underscores the importance of this moment, noting that "criticality is the point where a nuclear reactor becomes self-sustaining," the article said. While fast breeder reactors exist elsewhere, the Vietnam Times points out that "in most other countries, the efforts behind these reactors haven't exactly gone as planned". India's persistence, therefore, stands out, it said. "And yet, India didn't back down from this pursuit. It stayed committed to breeder reactors because they were essential." The significance of the milestone lies in its long-term implications. As per the Vietnam Times, "by achieving criticality, India has shown that it can run a reactor using plutonium-based fuel... bringing the country closer to... expanding its nuclear fuel base". These reactors can "produce more usable material than they consume", effectively transforming limited resources into sustainable fuel. The report also highlights the technological complexity involved, including the use of mixed oxide fuel and liquid sodium cooling, which "has to be sealed, monitored, and engineered with extreme precision". Despite the breakthrough, the report cautions that challenges remain. Nuclear energy currently accounts for just over 3 per cent of India's electricity generation, and "there's still a long way to go". However, if successful, the programme could significantly reduce dependence on imported uranium. Summing up the achievement, the report notes that India may finally be realising Dr Bhabha's long-held vision: "Running on fuel it already has instead of relying on the world for it."

India targets 100 GW nuclear power capacity by 2047

New Delhi: India is aiming to scale up its nuclear power capacity more than tenfold — from the current 8.8 gigawatts (GW) to 100 GW by 2047 — as part of its long-term energy transition strategy. Ghanshyam Prasad, Chairperson of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), has said. Speaking on the sidelines of a session focused on India's nuclear roadmap in the national capital, Prasad said the ambitious expansion would require a sustained and accelerated pace of development. "A detailed roadmap has already been prepared, outlining the steps needed to achieve the 100 GW target, with legislative reforms forming a key part of the plan," he noted. "One of the major milestones — the enactment of the Shanti Act — has already been completed," he said.

However, he added that significant work remains in framing rules, procedures and guidelines to operationalise the framework. "These efforts are currently underway, with a focus on incorporating stakeholder feedback and ensuring smoother implementation," Prasad mentioned. Prasad said ongoing deliberations are aimed at fast-tracking financial flows and policy execution, while also simplifying and standardising processes to make nuclear energy more cost-effective. He highlighted the need to address multiple aspects such as fuel security, site selection and development of skilled human resources to support the expansion. He also indicated that the sector is likely to open up to wider participation in the coming years. At present, nuclear power



generation is dominated by a single player, but Prasad said that 10 to 12 companies could enter the space in the future, significantly accelerating capacity addition. On the operational side, he underscored the reliability and stability of nuclear energy, describing it as a dependable source of baseload power that can run continuously for years. He added that nuclear energy remains one of the safest and most stable forms of power generation when managed properly. At the same time, Prasad pointed to emerging technologies such as Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as both an opportunity and a challenge, noting that these are still under development globally but could play a crucial role in cleaner energy solutions.

To make hosting less stressful, strive for connection and not perfection



Inviting friends and family members over for a celebration, holiday or routine dinner provides an opportunity for connection, but pressure to serve good-tasting food in a clean and welcoming environment can deter many people from hosting or prevent them from being fully present with their guests when they do.

But there are not only ways to reduce the stress of entertaining at home, but strong arguments for throwing a party, planning a game night or bringing guests together over a shared meal, according to mental health experts and experienced hosts. Without in-person social gatherings, adults can become increasingly lonely and isolated, especially as more work is done remotely and conversations take place via text messages. "Oftentimes, we expect someone else to reach out to us. But if the vast majority of people are expecting someone else to do it, then it's going to become a rare thing," said Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a psychology professor at Brigham Young University and the lead author of a 2023 U.S. surgeon general's report on the widespread health risks of loneliness. Seasoned party-planners say that striving to create meaningful interactions instead of for perfection alleviates some of the stress of hosting. Organizing activities that give guests a way to settle in or mingle, planning a simple menu and asking for help are some of the strategies they use to create an event that everyone, even the host, can participate in and enjoy, they say. "When we are more socially connected, we are not only happier, but we're healthier and live longer," Holt-Lunstad said. Madeline Johnson, 24, posts recipes, decoration tips and ideas for backyard parties on social media under the name Madeline May. She said she got into hosting because she was seeking social connection. "As an only child, I always wanted community," said Johnson, who hosted about a dozen large events with friends and at least five smaller gatherings with family members last year. "I started to realize if I wanted that village around me that I would have to build it on my own." Now, she wants to help other people build the courage to invite guests over and facilitate bonds between them. "There's just way too much unnecessary pressure that makes people feel like the bar to host is up here when it's much lower," Johnson said. As someone who is more naturally reserved, she likes planning an activity

for her gatherings, such as painting a flower vase or answering trivia questions, to reduce the initial anxiety of socializing, especially when the group includes people who don't know each other.

Asking guests to bring different foods or assigning them shared tasks like setting the table also can spark conversations and reduce work for the host, Holt-Lunstad said. "In the U.S., we are so time deprived and have over-scheduled everything that it is difficult to sit down and be present, but a meal allows us to do that. We should not underestimate the power of what food can do," she said. Shared appetizers like charcuterie and grazing boards, and meals that can be prepared in advance such as casseroles, soups and other dishes, are simplifying how people host, reducing time in the kitchen on the day of and making serving and cleanup easier. Oregon-based chef and cookbook author Josh McFadden, who is known for turning seasonal ingredients into approachable, shareable dishes, talks in one of his books about grazing-style eating having roots in communal farm tables. Butter boards, which involve spreading soft or whipped butter on a platter topped with honey, herbs or spices and dipped into with bread and crackers, are a modern interpretation that have gained popularity. "You can put a lot of variety and textures and different flavors into things in an easier way, showing off the seasonality of the food. It becomes a mobile meal," McFadden said in an interview with The Associated Press. "It also creates conversation, and it's just a fun way to eat." Serving food arranged for picking from a platter is a quick way to serve guests, he said. McFadden also suggests incorporating store-bought foods and asking guests to bring specific dishes or beverages as other ways hosts can lighten their loads. Katie Eu, 26, who lives in New Hampshire, says she loves a "bring your own" type of gathering, especially since hosting can get expensive if it's not a potluck or friends don't take turns playing host, like she and hers do. "It is pretty low pressure because what you are providing is not the food, but the space for people to gather," Eu said. Providing a setting for social connection matters more than how great the food is, what the decor looks like or how spacious a home is, said Richard Slatcher, a social psychology professor at the University of Georgia. "The other stuff is a bonus," Slatcher said. "It's really about the people." Inviting people into your home for the first time nevertheless creates a feeling of vulnerability since guests can learn a lot about the host's taste, interests and beliefs through the color scheme, the books on the shelves, and the art work and mementos on display. Try to remember that vulnerability also is an essential element in fostering authentic human connections, said Slatcher, who co-led research with Holt-Lunstad on how attending live events can combat loneliness. Guests also have a responsibility when it comes to making a social event fulfilling for themselves and their host, Holt-Lunstad said. "If you're passively being an attendee, you are not going to feel connected," she said.

Pune dermatologist explains how to decide what hair loss treatment is right for you: Hair transplant, PRP or GFC



For many, the first sign of a receding hairline or a widening part triggers a frantic digital search. In an era of viral before-and-after photos, patients often arrive at clinical consultations with a self-diagnosis but a deep sense of therapeutic confusion. Also read | What is hair transplant? Who is suitable candidate and how to find best hair transplant doctor: Here's a complete guideln an interview with HT Lifestyle, Dr Dhanraj Chavan, dermatologist, Clear Skin Clinics and HairMD, Pune, broke down the clinical logic used to navigate three prominent hair restoration paths: platelet-rich plasma (PRP), growth factor concentrate (GFC), and hair transplantation. "Most patients who come to me have already been through a cycle of confusion," Dr Chavan observed. "They have read about PRP on Instagram, seen a friend get a hair transplant, and heard GFC mentioned at a consultation somewhere. By the time they sit down with me, the question is not whether to treat their hair loss. It is about which treatment to choose, and whether they have waited too long," he added. How hair loss treatments differ

Understanding what happens beneath the scalp is the first step in managing expectations. Dr Chavan highlighted that while PRP and GFC are often grouped together, they serve a fundamentally different purpose than surgery. "PRP uses your own blood," Dr Chavan said. He explained, "We take a small amount of blood, then spin it to get the growth factors. After this, we put it into the scalp. This helps the hair roots you already have, even if they are weak or not growing. It will not make new hair roots." GFC is often viewed as a more refined version of PRP, designed for higher potency and stability. Dr Chavan shared, "GFC works in the same way. There are more activated growth factors in it. The way it is made reduces the risk of a reaction. For patients where PRP has plateaued or caused irritation, GFC is often the next step." When biology can no longer be stimulated, mechanics take over. "A hair transplant is a type of

surgery," said Dr Chavan. "In this, healthy hair roots from the back of the head are taken out. Then they are placed in areas with less hair or where hair no longer grows. Unlike PRP and GFC, the results in the treated areas are permanent," he explained. Also read | Stand-up comedian reveals what a year after a hair transplant really looks like; says it cost him ' ₹ 1 lakh' The choice isn't just about preference; it's about the current health of the hair follicle. Dr Chavan warned that injection-based therapies have an expiration date based on the patient's stage of loss: "The critical thing to understand is that injection-based therapies work on existing follicles. Once a follicle has completely stopped producing hair, no concentration of growth factors will revive it. The treatment window for PRP and GFC is real, and it closes."

"If you are in the early stages of thinning, where follicles are weakening but still present, PRP or GFC is where I start," Dr Chavan said. "The main idea at this stage is to slow hair loss and strengthen your hair. These treatments do not need surgery. You will not have a long recovery time," he added. When surgery becomes necessary For patients who have moved past the thinning stage into visible baldness, the conversation shifts toward reconstruction. "For patients in the moderate-to-advanced stages, where there is visible recession or bald patches, and some follicles are no longer active, a transplant becomes the relevant option," Dr Chavan explained. "It addresses what cannot be recovered through injections. But where the new hair is put is very important. This choice will affect you for years. So, you should not pick based on how much it costs or if you can get it right away. Think about it carefully," he added. Often, the best approach is a hybrid one. "In many patients, both phases are needed at different points," he noted, adding, "A transplant addresses the gaps; GFC or PRP maintains the surrounding native hair afterwards." The doctor's final advice

Before committing to any procedure, Dr Chavan insists on a diagnostic baseline to ensure the patient isn't wasting time or money on a treatment their scalp can no longer support. "Get a trichoscopy done before making any decision," he urged. "This scalp scan shows the condition of individual follicles and tells you how much active hair you have left. That single investigation shifts the conversation from guesswork to a proper treatment plan," he said. Dr Chavan's parting advice to those currently struggling with hair loss is rooted in timing: "Hair loss is progressive. The right treatment at the wrong stage either underdelivers or solves the wrong problem. Starting early, with accurate diagnosis, gives you the most options."

Longevity doctor shares 5 foods that directly target visceral fat: fatty fish, walnuts, berries, and more

All body fat is not the same. They are primarily differentiated into subcutaneous fat, which is present below the skin, and visceral fat, which is found around the internal organs. The latter is more difficult to lose and causes greater harm to our health. According to Dr Vassily Eliopoulos, a longevity expert trained at Cornell University and co-founder and chief medical officer of Longevity Health, when we think of fat loss, we often forget to take visceral fat into consideration, since it is not the fat that we can "pinch." In his words, "Visceral fat doesn't show up on a scale. It doesn't look a certain way. It sits deep inside your abdominal cavity, wrapped around your organs, producing inflammatory signals and disrupting insulin function every hour of every day. You can be a normal weight and carry dangerous levels of it. Most people have no idea." However, visceral fat responds to specific nutritional inputs faster than almost any other type of fat, shared Dr Vass. The foods that move it work through three pathways:

Taking to Instagram on April 18, he shared five such foods that help us target visceral fat in our bodies. They are as follows.

1. Fatty fish Fatty fish is rich in healthy omega-3 fatty acids, particularly EPA and DHA. It works in the following way: Suppresses inflammatory pathways Improves insulin sensitivity so glucose fuels muscle, not fat storage. One should ideally include fish like salmon, sardines, or mackerel two to three times every week. It can also be supplemented with two to three grams of EPA/DHA daily supplement, shared Dr Vass.

2. Walnuts Walnuts contain polyphenols and alpha-linolenic acid, noted Dr Vass, stating, "Gut metabolism of walnut polyphenols produces compounds that directly suppress fat cell formation." One should aim to have 28g every day for breakfast, snack, or on salads. According to the physician, swapping walnuts with other nuts will not work as the specific polyphenol profile of the nut matters. 3. Berries Berries are rich in anthocyanins. They work in the



following ways: Activate genes that enhance fat burning. Suppress genes involved in fat production and inflammation. Slow glucose absorption to reduce insulin spikes. Consuming 100 to 150 grams of berries every day suffices. It can be blueberries, strawberries, or blackberries, and frozen works just as well, shared Dr Vass. 4. Extra virgin olive oil Extra virgin olive oil is rich in compounds oleocanthal and oleic acid. "Oleocanthal inhibits inflammatory enzymes at therapeutic levels with daily use," stated Dr Vass. "Oleic acid improves cellular insulin sensitivity directly." The recommended quantity for daily consumption is two to four tablespoons. Dr Vass suggested replacing seed oils like canola and vegetable oils entirely, which he claimed negates the benefits of olive oil.

5. Green tea Green tea is loaded with EGCG (epigallocatechin gallate), a compound that activates fat oxidation pathways and improves insulin sensitivity. It works best when consumed daily and paired with regular strength training, shared Dr Vass. Green tea can be consumed three to four cups a day, brewed at home, he added. Foods to avoid to lose visceral fat Dr Vass further shared four food groups to avoid to better lose visceral fat. These undo the benefits received from the foods listed above. They include:

Hansika Motwani embraces spirituality with visit to Tirumala Temple

Mumbai: Actress Hansika Motwani, on Wednesday, visited the sacred Tirumala temple in Andhra Pradesh to seek the blessings of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

Dressed in traditional attire, the 'Koi... Mil Gaya' actress offered prayers at the revered pilgrimage site, reflecting her deep faith and spiritual connection. Hansika was seen dressed in an elegant white suit, paired with red bangles. She opted for a minimal makeup look and was spotted offering prayers with folded hands.

A few days ago, Kriti Sanon was spotted visiting the Tirumala Temple along with her family to seek blessings ahead of her film "Cocktail 2." The 'Heropanti' star and her family offered prayers and spent time in devotion, adhering to all temple customs and rituals. During the visit, devotees at the temple also gathered to take pictures with the actress. Meanwhile, speaking of Hansika's work front, she is gearing up for her OTT debut with the upcoming series "Gully," which is set to premiere on Prime Video. In the show, she takes on the character of Layla, which is said to offer her a completely fresh and different on-screen persona.

Speaking about her role, the actress had said, "For the dialogue part, I didn't have a dialogue coach. I worked on it myself, but we did sit together as a team and had work-



shops to get it right. Since the story is based in Hyderabad, around Charminar, I wanted to be more sure of my lines and understand the dialect properly." "It was something new and something that I have not explored before.

It turned out to be a really good experience, especially understanding the dialect and getting it right for the character. When you're working with a dialect like this, even a small mistake stands out, so I really wanted to be precise and do justice to the language."

Meta ‘disagrees’ with CCI fine over WhatsApp privacy policy, plans to appeal



A day after being fined by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), Meta said it “disagrees” with the body’s decision over WhatsApp’s controversial 2021 privacy policy update and plans to appeal it. On Monday night, India’s competition watchdog said it was imposing a Rs 213.14 crore penalty on the social media giant for “abusing” its dominant position in relation to the messaging platform’s privacy policy update from three years ago. The concerns revolved around how the privacy policy was implemented, and user data was collected and shared with other Meta companies. “...the 2021 update did not change the privacy of people’s personal messages and was offered as a choice for users at the time. We also ensured no one would have their accounts deleted or lose functionality of the WhatsApp service because of this update,” Meta said in a statement on Tuesday, following the CCI’s decision.

“The update was about introducing optional business features on WhatsApp, and provided further transparency about how we collect and use data. And since that time, WhatsApp has been incredibly valuable to people and businesses, enabling organisations and government institutions to deliver citizen services through COVID and beyond, and as well as supporting small businesses, all of which furthers the Indian economy. WhatsApp is able to do all of this because it offers services supported by Meta,” it added. Beyond the monetary fine by CCI, The Commission also issued cease-and-desist directions, asking Meta and WhatsApp to implement certain behavioural remedies within a defined timeline. As per the CCI’s order, WhatsApp will not be allowed to share user data collected on its platform with other Meta Companies for advertising purposes, for a period of five years. The CCI said it has concluded that the policy update on a “take-it-or-leave-it” basis “constitutes an imposition of unfair conditions” under the Competition Act. Regarding data sharing between Meta companies, the Commission said that sharing of WhatsApp users’ data between Meta companies for purposes other than providing the messaging service “creates an entry barrier for the rivals of Meta” and “results in denial of market access in the display advertisement market”. “Meta has engaged in leveraging its dominant position in the OTT (over the top) messaging apps through smartphones to protect its position in the online display advertising market,” in contravention of the Competition Act, the CCI said. The CCI also said that

WhatsApp’s privacy policy should include a detailed explanation of the user data shared with other Meta Companies, which should specify the purpose of data sharing, linking each type of data to its corresponding purpose. “Sharing of user data collected on WhatsApp with other Meta Companies... for purposes other than for providing WhatsApp services shall not be made a condition for users to access WhatsApp Service in India,” the CCI said. How WhatsApp’s 2021 privacy policy courted controversy In January 2021, WhatsApp had notified users that it was updating its privacy policy – which was mandatory for them to accept – with an expanded scope of data collection and data sharing between Meta companies. While users in India could not opt-out of the updated policy, WhatsApp’s users in the European Union could due to the bloc’s strong data privacy laws.

After the policy update caused furor – with several users quitting the app en masse to join rivals like Signal and Telegram – the CCI, in 2021, initiated suo motu proceedings and ordered its investigative arm, the Office of the Director General, to investigate the policy. WhatsApp and Facebook had challenged the probe in the Delhi High Court in 2021, saying that the issue related to privacy policy was already pending before the Supreme Court and High Court at the time. In 2022, the court junked further appeals filed by the companies challenging the probe, saying that WhatsApp occupies a dominant position in the market and has a strong lock-in effect which renders its users incapable of shifting to another platform despite dissatisfaction. The problems with WhatsApp’s privacy policy, especially since Meta (Facebook at the time) bought the platform in 2014, have existed since at least 2016. Two years after WhatsApp was acquired by Meta, WhatsApp announced that it would start some level of data sharing with Facebook including phone numbers and last seen activity. Users, however, had 30 days to opt-out of sharing data with Facebook for ad targeting purposes. Meta’s acquisition of WhatsApp was allowed in regions like the European Union on the basis of its commitment to preserve the privacy of its users. However, the European Commission believed the policy update could violate users’ privacy and fined the company €110 million for providing incorrect or misleading information during the Commission’s 2014 investigation under the EU Merger Regulation of Facebook’s acquisition of WhatsApp. The 2016 policy was challenged in India as well, but is currently pending at the Supreme Court. The 2021 policy update builds on the 2016 version, however, there was one key difference: when they were shown the update in January 2021, there was no longer an opt-out option, meaning that WhatsApp metadata sharing with Meta companies was all but mandatory. WhatsApp messages are end-to-end-encrypted, meaning that the platform can not see the messages being sent on the platform. However, with each message, there is metadata associated, which is not encrypted and could reveal sensitive information about a person. Due to Europe’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), WhatsApp has to allow users in the region to opt-out of the service. However, that was not available to users in India.

GDP growth to decline to 6.8% this fiscal, says Crisil

GDP growth to decline to 6.8% this fiscal, says Crisil. This growth estimate is lower than the 7.2 per cent growth estimated by the Reserve Bank’s Monetary Policy Committee earlier last month. Rating agency Crisil has said real GDP growth is likely to moderate to 6.8 per cent in FY25 from 8.2 per cent in FY24 with high interest rates and lower fiscal impulse (owing to reduction in the fiscal deficit) weighing on growth. This growth estimate is lower than the 7.2 per cent growth estimated by the Reserve Bank’s Monetary Policy Committee earlier last month. However, growth will become more balanced as agriculture and private consumption — last year’s laggards — are poised to rise, it said. “High rural demand and easing food inflation are expected to lift consumption,” Crisil said in a report on near-term interest rates.

Real GDP growth moderated to 6.7 per cent on-year in the first quarter this fiscal from 7.8 per cent in the previous quarter. Crisil expects CPI inflation, which was at 6.21 per cent in October, to soften to 4.6 per cent this fiscal from 5.4 per cent last fiscal. According to the rating firm, food prices should start easing at least sequentially in the second half of this fiscal given the healthy monsoon season. “Easing food inflation and benign non-food inflation is expected to bring down headline CPI inflation,” it said. CPI inflation accelerated to a 14-month high of 6.2 per cent in October from 5.5 per cent in the previous month. “We expect the MPC to cut repo rate by 25 bps in December. The MPC is waiting for food inflation to ease before cutting policy rates. Persistently elevated food inflation in September and October is a worry. The RBI will also monitor risks from geopolitical uncertainties and international commodity price movements. That said, the easing of food inflation by the end of this fiscal should initiate a rate cut,” Crisil said.



The MPC kept policy rates unchanged in its October meeting but changed the stance to ‘neutral’ from ‘withdrawal of accommodation’. The Union Budget has targeted a reduction in the Centre’s fiscal deficit to 4.9 per cent of GDP this fiscal from 5.6 per cent last fiscal. “In the first six months of this fiscal, the fiscal deficit stood at 29.4 per cent of the budget target, compared with 39.3 per cent in the same period last year. Capital expenditure as a proportion of budget target has been lower relative to last fiscal,” it said. Gross market borrowing is estimated at Rs 14 lakh crore for fiscal 2025, 9.2 per cent lower on-year. The government plans to make 47.2 per cent of the budgeted borrowings in the second half. In November, domestic G-sec yields are likely to be influenced by factors such as FPI inflows and outflows, crude oil price movements, the rupee-dollar equation and domestic inflows into the debt market. “The 10-year G-sec yield is expected to hinge on FPI flows, crude prices, global interest rates, the CPI inflation print, the policy decisions of the RBI’s MPC and the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), global cues and liquidity concerns,” Crisil said in its three-month view.

Vitamin B12 supplement containing cyanocobalamin is as toxic as cyanide

Whenever we come across any statement on social media that may impact health, we ensure to always get it fact-checked by experts. We did so again, this time when we read that vitamin B12 supplements containing cyanocobalamin are as toxic as cyanide. According to physician Dr Dennis Walker, if your B12 supplement ingredient says “cyanocobalamin”, throw it in the trash. “The ‘cyano’ portion of this is most disturbing. This breaks down into cyanide, which is deadly and toxic at high levels. Instead of cyanocobalamin look for vitamin B12 in the form of methylcobalamin, or hydroxycobalamin. No cyanide, and absorbs just as well,” said Dr Walker. Symptoms of vitamin B12 deficiency include anaemia, feeling tired or weak, trouble while walking, weight loss, irritability, poor appetite, and diarrhoea. Notably, vitamin B12 supplements are advised when one is found to have a deficiency. “It is believed that vitamin B12 supplement plays a crucial role in energy metabolism and nervous system function,” said Dr Aniket Mule, consultant internal medicine, Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road. Cyanide is a toxic, carbon-nitrogen chemical compound that is lethal and exists in many forms, including gas, liquid, or solid.

So, is there any truth to this claim?

Dr Vichar Nigam, consultant, internal medicine, Manipal Hospital, Kharadi, Pune, contended that cyanocobalamin is “safe” for long-term use. “There are two com-



monly used vitamin B12 supplements: cyanocobalamin and methylcobalamin. Cyanocobalamin is a synthetic form that is absorbed better than methylcobalamin, though it doesn’t stay in the body as long. This makes it helpful for conditions where vitamin B12 absorption is low, like pernicious anaemia,” said Dr Nigam. As for cyanide concerns, Dr Nigam said that the amount is negligible in B12 supplements. “Aluminum from B12 supplements can be a problem for people with kidney issues, but cyanide from cyanocobalamin isn’t a health risk,” stressed Dr Nigam. According to Dr. Harish Chafle, senior consultant intensivist chest physician, bronchoscopist, and sleep disorders specialist, Gleneagles Hospital Parel, cyanide binds in vitamin B12 so that it “does not serve as a source of cyanide exposure and cannot harm you.”

Ignoring family history and four other things cardiologists would never do



You (or the Internet) ask, and we try to get the answer. So, after telling you whether a woman in a coma gets periods, if you can get a heart attack during an angiography, and things a chiropractor would never do, we tell you five things a cardiovascular expert (in this case, Russian cardiologist Dmitry Yaranov) would never do. We double-checked with an Indian cardiologist. “Maintaining a healthy heart involves a multifaceted approach that includes regular exercise, a heart-healthy diet, and careful management of various risk factors,” said Dr Guru Prasad Sogunuru, senior interventional cardiologist, Gleneagles HealthCity Chennai.

Avoiding regular exercise and a heart-healthy diet: I wouldn’t lead a sedentary lifestyle or eat a poor diet. Most heart issues stem from lack of physical activity and unhealthy eating. I’d aim for at least 150 minutes of exercise weekly and focus on a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, lean proteins, and whole grains. Concurred Dr Sogunuru and shared, “Regular exercise strengthens the heart, improves circulation, and helps regulate weight, blood pressure, and cholesterol levels. Coupled with a heart-healthy diet rich in

fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins, exercise supports cardiovascular health by reducing LDL cholesterol and preventing plaque buildup.” Refuse proven preventive medications: I wouldn’t ignore medications like statins, blood pressure meds, or SGLT2 inhibitors, which have a proven record for preventing heart failure and improving heart health, especially for those with risk factors like diabetes. “Proven preventive medications, such as statins, are essential for individuals at high risk of heart disease, helping to manage cholesterol levels effectively,” said Dr Sogunuru.

Ignore family history and genetics: I wouldn’t overlook my family’s heart history. “Genetic screening, now widely available in primary care and cardiology offices, helps assess risk and guide personalized prevention strategies,” said Dr Dmitry Yaranov. Dr. Sogunuru agreed that, indeed, family history and genetics could influence heart disease risk, necessitating early screening and proactive measures if there is a familial tendency. Neglect sleep and stress management: I wouldn’t downplay the importance of quality sleep or stress reduction. Both are critical for long-term heart health and prevention, said Dmitry Yaranov. Poor sleep and chronic stress can elevate blood pressure and contribute to heart disease, said Dr Sogunuru. Using toxins like smoking and excessive alcohol: I would never use herbs, vitamins, or even medications without first eliminating toxins like smoking and excessive alcohol. Removing these toxins is the biggest bang for your buck regarding heart health. While smoking damages blood vessels and increases disease risk, excessive alcohol raises blood pressure and cholesterol, said Dr Sogunuru. Dr Sogunuru said that in addition to these measures, regular health check-ups, monitoring blood pressure and cholesterol, and maintaining a healthy weight further enhance heart health.

Whiskey-Drinking Rocker to West Africa’s Most Dangerous al Qaeda Leader



Ag Ghali went on to become the leader of one of the most dangerous al Qaeda franchises in the world, banning music in a swath of West Africa the size of Montana and commanding an army of extremists responsible for tens of thousands of deaths. Ag Ghali’s gunmen even ambushed Tinariwen band members and abducted the guitar player. “I could not believe it,” said the band’s former manager, Manny Ansar, who went clubbing with ag Ghali in Mali’s capital, Bamako, 30 years ago. “It was a huge shock when I saw footage of him walking over corpses.” Ag Ghali has turned West Africa into the primary battlefield where the West and local governments have clashed with Islamist extremists. His 6,000 fighters have rampaged through villages and battled French soldiers, American Green Berets and Russian mercenaries.

It is a fight the 70 or so year-old ag Ghali is winning. His militants have become so powerful that there is a risk that Mali, his home country, or neighboring Burkina Faso could become the world’s first nation ruled by al Qaeda. Ag Ghali’s journey from World Music promoter to Islamist warlord followed as unlikely a trajectory as his friends’ rise from fireside jam sessions to the global stage. This account of his transformation draws on interviews with former friends, Tuareg rebels, Tinariwen band members and managers and government officials, as well as U.N. reports, U.S. diplomatic communications and contemporaneous photos. Desert boys As a young man, ag Ghali was a Tuareg first and a Muslim second. The Tuareg, a Berber ethnic group, have been romanticized in the West for their indigo garb and nomadic lifestyle, wandering the Sahara with their camels, goats and sheep, across what is now Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Algeria and Libya. They resisted almost 70 years of colonial domination by France. After Mali gained independence in 1960, they staged a failed rebellion against the new government. Ag Ghali was nine years old when his father, prominent among Tuareg families, was killed in the uprising. As he grew up, ag Ghali joined a legion of Tuareg volunteers, under the patronage of Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi, seeking independence from Mali. A 1992 photo of Ibrahim ag Alhabib playing guitar in Mali. Gadhafi used the Tuareg to further his own geopolitical ambitions, dispatching ag Ghali and others to fight the Israelis in Lebanon and the French in Chad. In the 1980s, Gadhafi asked ag Ghali to supervise Tuareg recruits at a camp near Tripoli, Libya. Among the volunteers were musicians, including Ibrahim ag Alhabib, whose father, like ag Ghali’s, had been killed in the 1960s Mali rebellion. As a boy, ag Alhabib had been captivated by a guitar-strumming cowboy in a Western screened at a makeshift desert cinema. He fashioned his first guitar out of an oil can, stick and bicycle-brake cable. As he mastered the instrument, ag Alhabib absorbed the music of Elvis, James Brown, Malian star Ali Farka Touré and Arab pop musicians. Around the campfire at night, ag Alhabib and other Tuareg musicians forged their own desert-blues sound. Ag Ghali saw music as a way to rally support for Tuareg independence. He helped supply ag Alhabib and the musicians with electric guitars and amplifiers, a warehouse for rehearsals and a concrete stage to perform, said Philippe Brix, the band’s second manager.

Ag Ghali “understood the power of guitar music as a communication tool,” said Brix. “It was his masterstroke.” The musicians named their band Kel Tinariwen, the Desert Boys. Pierre Boilely, a Tuareg-focused academic, said he hosted ag Ghali at his Paris apartment in 1989, where his guest spent evenings sipping whiskey and plotting a Tuareg uprising. Ag Ghali eventually soured on Gadhafi, who put his own agenda ahead of Tuareg independence. “Gadhafi had promised for years to help,” Ansar recalled ag Ghali saying. “But he kept on sending us to fight other wars.” In June 1990, ag Ghali and his fighters left Libya and slipped into Mali. They raided military posts during the day and sang fireside at night.

Bootleg cassettes of “Bismillah” passed hand to hand in Malian settlements, and the song became an anthem of the Tuareg liberation movement. It was ag Ghali’s song, said Abdallah ag Alhousseyni, a guitarist in the group since its early days. “One can say Tinariwen was behind the up-

rising,” the band’s bass player, Eyadou ag Leche, later told the French newspaper Le Monde. After initial battlefield wins, ag Ghali negotiated a 1991 peace that led to increased Tuareg autonomy from Malian authorities. It was the start of a two-decade alliance between ag Ghali and the Bamako government. The fighting over, Malian President Moussa Traoré asked Ansar, a Tuareg and popular man-about-town in Bamako, to host ag Ghali for a dinner. Ansar archived Tuareg music as a hobby, and he hit it off with ag Ghali, who thought Tinariwen needed a manager. The following year, ag Ghali invited Ansar to the Algerian Sahara and introduced him to band members, who were playing guitar on a carpet in the shade of a tree. “I am entrusting this band to you,” Ansar recalled ag Ghali saying. Traoré was overthrown by the military in 1991, in response to the killing of pro-democracy protesters. The new president, Alpha Konaré, hoping to keep a lid on the restive Tuaregs, gave ag Ghali a spacious villa in Bamako. Soldiers involved in the 1991 putsch led by Malian Lt. Col. Amadou Toumani Touré against President Moussa Traoré. Both leaders cultivated ties with Iyad ag Ghali before he launched an Islamist insurgency against the government two decades later. Ag Ghali invited Tinariwen’s founder to live in the house. The band stayed up late rehearsing and Ag Ghali sang along, keeping the beat on a water can. President Konaré asked ag Ghali to join him on official trips to the United Arab Emirates, Algeria and elsewhere. The desert rebel began wearing a Rolex watch, Weston loafers and Smalto suits, gifts from their international hosts, Ansar said. Ag Ghali and Ansar cranked Bob Marley songs as they drove to nightclubs, where Ag Ghali chain-smoked Marlboros, but drank only orange juice, Ansar said. In 1999, a group of conservative Pakistani preachers arrived in ag Ghali’s hometown of Kidal, in northern Mali, and his life changed.

Ditch the Rolex The Pakistanis, bearded and dressed in white, marched through Kidal, exhorting residents to strictly follow the tenets of Islam. Some Tuareg women booed them. Ag Ghali, though, was intrigued and invited the Pakistanis to his home. Over the following months, he spent more time praying and reading the Quran. He grew a beard and began wearing the same white garb as the preachers. “I’m ditching my Rolex and my shoes,” Ansar recalled ag Ghali saying. “I can’t wear them anymore.”

Ag Ghali’s growing attraction to an extreme version of Islam and his love of Tuareg music coexisted peacefully for a while. In 1999, the same year the Pakistani preachers came to town, he urged Ansar to organize concerts of Tuareg music, which eventually morphed into the Festival in the Desert. Among those who attended the first festival in 2001 was U.S. Ambassador to Mali Michael Ranneberger. He was mesmerized by the swaying Tuareg dancers and starry nights in camel-skin tents, according to his written recollections. Later that year, “Bismillah” appeared on Tinariwen’s first commercially released album. Others are credited for the song, but band managers said ag Ghali wrote most of the lyrics. In 2003, Vicki Huddleston, then U.S. ambassador to Mali, arranged a meeting with ag Ghali, part of a Bush administration effort to track radicals after the Sept. 11 attacks. “We had intelligence al Qaeda was about to open a new front” in the region, said Huddleston, who suspected ag Ghali was behind the move. Huddleston was charmed by the charismatic, “good-looking guy” wearing a turban that “made him look the part of a romantic Tuareg.” But when he denied flirting with radicalism, she said, “I knew he was lying.” Ag Ghali eventually renounced the music festival he had championed. “Stop this,” Ansar remembered him saying. “You are bringing non-Muslims for debauchery.” The festival’s popularity, and Tinariwen’s, swelled. In 2010, the band performed alongside Shakira and Alicia Keys at the World Cup in South Africa.

Tinariwen performing at the FIFA World Cup Kick-Off concert on June 10, 2010, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In 2011, Tinariwen released its Grammy-winning album, “Tassili,” and Libyan leader Gadhafi was overthrown. Tuareg fighters left Libya and flooded into Mali. Many younger Tuareg turned on ag Ghali, seeing him as a sellout who lived in luxury and cozier up to Mali’s government. Sidelined by former comrades, ag Ghali founded his own Islamist militant group. The slow-motion implosion of West Africa soon followed. The last Festival in the Desert held in Mali took place on the outskirts of Timbuktu, where Tinariwen shared the stage with Bono, of the Irish band U2. The final curtain fell on Jan. 14, 2012. Two days later, ag Ghali’s former Tuareg rebel group launched a rebellion, later seizing Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal. Bono, in black shirt, with Manny Ansar, bottom, before flying out of Timbuktu, Mali, in 2012 after playing the Festival in the Desert with Tinariwen. Within months, ag Ghali’s new Islamist group and another extremist force, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, drove the Tuareg into retreat. After seizing Timbuktu, ag Ghali banned what he called the “music of Satan.”

US buyers could intensify supply chain scrutiny post Section 301 tariffs on India: FIEO



US buyers could intensify supply chain scrutiny post Section 301 tariffs on India: FIEOUS authorities, typically, consider products such as cotton, textiles, solar-panel polysilicon, seafood, metals, batteries and electronics vulnerable to forced-labour risks, particularly when linked to China's Xinjiang region. The country's top export promotion council, Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) on Monday advised exporters to maintain detailed employee data such as wage records, age verification and supplier declarations as strong labour and supply chain documentation would become a "commercial necessity" for exporters aiming to cater to the US market.

"Strong labour and supply chain documentation will become a commercial necessity. US buyers are likely to intensify supply chain scrutiny after Section 301 measures. Exporters should maintain employee and wage records, proof of voluntary employment, age verification, contractor or subcontractor details and supplier declaration," FIEO said. "High-risk inputs such as cotton, polysilicon, minerals and other sensitive material require traceability. Unsupported broad declarations should be avoided and any exception statement must cite precise Harmonised Tariff Schedule (HTS)..." the export promotion council told exporters while advising them on compliance and due diligence beyond tariffs.

This comes after the US last week replaced 10% global tariffs under Section 122 with new tariffs on 60 countries on grounds that countries have failed to take measures

to prevent imports of goods produced through forced labour. India is facing an additional 10% tariffs over the standard Most favoured nation rate (MFN). Concerns over fresh scrutiny come as the United States Trade Representative (USTR) claims that countries that import goods made by forced labour get an artificial cost advantage, forcing American workers to compete on an uneven playing field. Experts said forced labour tariffs are supply chain duty as the main target remains China and the US aims to nudge countries to reduce their dependence on China. Exporters brace for compliance

The US State department maintains that the Chinese government uses forced prison labour to produce goods in Xinjiang province and injects them into international supply chains, "spreading China's forced labor complicity around the globe". FIEO suggested that exporters should particularly focus on strengthening quality assurance, delivery reliability, component traceability and buyer-specific compliance documentation in case of electronics, electrical and technology products as Taiwan, Korea, Japan and Mexico have "supply chain advantages". "The US importer legally pays customs duty, but may seek price reduction, cost sharing and delayed orders or supplier switch. The commercial burden depends on bargaining power, purchase contract and alternate supplier and demand elasticity," the council said. The Commerce and Industry Ministry earlier this month prohibited the import of goods manufactured using forced labour. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), in an order dated July 13, inserted a new paragraph in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) regarding "forced labour", stating that the import of goods produced or manufactured, "wholly or in part", through the use of forced labour is "prohibited". Trade experts had said that the DGFT measure will take effect in 30 days, adding that the order establishes a legal framework rather than an immediate import ban and that its effectiveness will depend on how the government conducts investigations, the evidence required to establish forced labour, and the products it ultimately targets. US authorities, typically, consider products such as cotton, textiles, solar-panel polysilicon, seafood, metals, batteries and electronics vulnerable to forced-labour risks, particularly when linked to China's Xinjiang region.

CBDT issues guidance note on crypto reporting in line with OECD framework

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has come out with a 198-page guidance note on crypto-asset reporting obligations in a move that will help in global sharing of information on crypto transactions from next year. The guidance note has been released in line with the crypto asset reporting framework (CARF) outlined by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) putting greater onus on crypto exchanges for providing transactional information about crypto assets.

The CBDT said that guidance note intends to provide guidance to Reporting Crypto-Asset Service Providers (RCASPs) for compliance with the reporting obligations under section 509 of the Income-tax Act, 2025, and under Rules 241 to 244 and Form 167 of the Income-tax Rules, 2026. However, it pointed out that nothing in the guidance note and FAQs should be construed as affecting the permissibility, or the legitimacy of the transactions in crypto-assets as well as regulation for transactions in crypto-assets. In the note's foreword, CBDT Chairman Ravi Agrawal said the rapid growth of crypto-assets has brought with it a fresh challenge even as India's commitment to combating tax evasion and protecting its revenue base has remained steadfast. The note will help RCASPs in understanding and discharging their obligations under the Income-tax Act and Income-tax Rules in a clear and practical manner, he added.

The CARF defines "Crypto-Assets" as "a digital representation of value that relies on a cryptographically secured distributed ledger or a similar technology to validate and secure transactions", which includes cryptocurrencies, as well as cryptography-based tokens. The framework is expected to bring tax transparency to the crypto-asset sector as it will impose obligations on a new subset of service providers, RCASPs, which are the service providers collecting and reporting information on transactions of crypto-assets. The CARF requires RCASPs to identify their users and to report on specified transactions, with a view to ensuring the annualised reporting of tax-relevant information concerning certain activities in relation to crypto-assets, the note said. Once received by tax authorities, the information will be automatically exchanged with the tax authorities of the jurisdiction(s) of residence of the crypto-asset users, pursuant to an international agreement that provides a legal basis for the automatic exchange of such information for tax purposes, the note added.

The G20 had mandated the OECD to develop a dedicated framework for the automatic exchange of information on crypto-assets. "India has actively contributed to the development of these standards through its participation in the Global Forum's CARF Group and the OECD's Working Party. The obligation to report transactions in crypto-assets is now provided for under section 509 of the Income-tax Act, 2025, with the due diligence and reporting requirements prescribed under the Income-tax Rules, 2026. This guide-



ance note has been prepared to assist RCASPs in understanding and discharging their obligations under the Income-tax Act and Income-tax Rules in a clear and practical manner," Agrawal said. Such assets were capable of escaping the reporting obligations that apply to financial institutions under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and, under the Common Reporting Standard (CRS), thereby leaving a gap in the framework of global tax transparency, Prasenjit Singh, Member (Legislation), CBDT said. The Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF), developed by the OECD at the request of the G20, was conceived to address this gap by providing for the standardised and automatic exchange of tax-relevant information on transactions in crypto-assets between jurisdictions, he said.

Experts said though there is no additional filing requirement for taxpayers under this guidance note, the importance of accurate reporting and documentation has increased considerably because the tax authorities will have greater access to transaction-level information. "Taxpayers should continue reporting crypto income in accordance with the existing provisions of the Income-tax Act; maintain proper records of purchases, sales, transfers and wallet movements; preserve exchange statements and supporting documentation; and ensure that the information disclosed in their income-tax return is consistent with the records available with crypto exchanges."

Amit Agarwal, Senior Partner, Nangia & Co LLP said. With adoption of CARF, India is aligning its reporting standards with internationally accepted OECD norms, thereby strengthening cross-border exchange of crypto transaction information, Agarwal said. Since the CARF seeks to enable automatic exchange of crypto-related tax information among participating jurisdictions, it would imply greater transparency in tax reporting, he said. "Crypto transactions will increasingly come within the ambit of structured reporting and information exchange, similar to the existing FATCA and CRS framework. There will be better visibility for tax authorities as the objective is to bridge the information gap that existed because crypto-assets could be transferred or held outside the traditional financial system," he added.



Exchange. "Crude has fallen sharply, with Brent dropping as much as 7 per cent to below USD 90 and WTI nearing USD 85 per barrel, after the US quietly suspended its strike campaign late on Friday and Iran indicated over the weekend that it would also halt its attacks as long as Washington does the same," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities. However, he cautioned that the latest selloff reflects expectations of de-escalation rather than a lasting resolution.

New cervical cancer pill shows promise by stopping HPV from turning cancerous



Now, a capsule may be all it takes to halt cervical cancer in its tracks. While the oral therapy called SHetA2 cannot prevent the human papillomavirus infection — persistent HPV infection is known to cause 85% of cervical cancer cases — it can block the virus' cancer-causing proteins, thereby preventing pre-cancerous and cancerous lesions. Cervical cancer is one of the two cancers caused by infections and, therefore, is preventable through vaccination. It is the second most common type of cancer among women in India, affecting over 79,000 of them and killing 36,319 in 2024, according to Global Cancer Observatory data. Cervical cancer accounts for just over 10% of all cancers among women and 5.1% of all cancers in the Indian population, the data shows.

How does SHetA2 work?

SHetA2 is a small molecule therapy that is designed to stop an HPV infection from causing cancer. (Small molecule therapies are chemically manufactured, low-weight compounds that can easily be absorbed by the body. Manufacturing them is also easy and cost-effective.) This therapy targets three proteins in the human body called mortalin, heat shock cognate (hsc70), and glucose regulated protein 78 (Grp78). These are essential for the proliferation of the cancer-causing oncoprotein of the virus. "It works by breaking the connection between the HPV-E7 protein and a host protein inside human cells. Normally, this host protein protects E7 and allows it to keep damaging healthy cells. When SHetA2 breaks this connection, the harmful E7 protein is destroyed by the body's normal immune defences," explains Dr. Showket Hussain, senior scientist from ICMR National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research (ICMR-NICPR). This mechanism also ensures that the therapy selectively affects the cancer cells while sparing the normal ones.

Who needs to take it?

The therapy is meant for those who have developed precancerous lesions of cervical cancer. "Based on cur-

rent preclinical evidence, it has potential applications in treating high-grade cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (cancerous lesions that are highly likely to turn into cancer if left untreated) and invasive cervical cancer. But, phase II clinical studies will determine the exact patient population and stage at which it is most effective," says Dr Hussain.

In what form?

The therapy has, at present, been evaluated in an oral, capsule form. However, researchers are now exploring localised delivery mechanisms such as vaginal suppository. "This will maximise the concentration of the drug in the cervix while reducing exposure across the body," says Dr Hussain.

What stage of development is it at?

While the Stephenson Cancer Center, University of Oklahoma, discovered and developed the treatment, ICMR-NICPR evaluated its efficacy in pre-clinical studies and validated its mechanism of action. Both institutions collaboratively hold the intellectual property rights for therapy. After the pre-clinical and early clinical trials of the therapy, it has been transferred to Emcure Pharmaceuticals for further development. The company will now be responsible for carrying out larger human trials before making the therapy available in the market. "These trials may take up to five years," says Dr Hussain.

How much will the pill cost?

The final cost of the therapy is yet to be determined. It will depend on the cost of clinical trials, manufacturing, regulatory approvals and commercialisation strategies for the product. "However, as an orally administered small-molecule drug, it is expected to be considerably more affordable than many biologic or immunotherapy-based cancer treatments. It may reduce the need for hospitalisation, prolonged hospital visits, or infusion-based care, as the medication may be taken at home by many," says Dr Hussain.

Do you still need to get your HPV shot and pap smear test?

Yes. Tests such as pap smear, HPV DNA — or even the simple visual inspection with acetic acid — can detect the precancerous or cancerous lesions. Early detection is necessary for early initiation of treatment, which can improve the outcomes. The SHetA2 therapy, when it becomes available, is also likely to be given to patients who have been diagnosed with these lesions or cancer. A vaccine — which usually contains the four strains that are most likely to cause cancer — can actually prevent the HPV infection that can lead to cervical cancer. The government earlier this year rolled out HPV vaccination for all 14-year-old girls earlier this year.

Heart attack patients have higher levels of microplastics in their blood, says study

The findings suggest a strong association between the presence of tiny plastic particles in the bloodstream and acute heart attacks. The findings suggest a strong association between the presence of tiny plastic particles in the bloodstream and acute heart attacks. People who suffered a major heart attack had significantly higher levels of micro and nanoplastics (MNPs) in their blood than those with chronic coronary artery disease or even healthy coronary arteries, according to a new study published in the European Heart Journal.

The findings suggest a strong association between the presence of tiny plastic particles in the bloodstream and acute heart attacks. Researchers also found that smokers and people exposed to higher levels of air pollution had greater concentrations of these particles in their blood. The study does not prove that microplastics directly cause heart attacks. Instead, it highlights a strong association between environmental exposure, the presence of microplastics in the blood and different stages of coronary artery disease. The authors say the findings point to the need for more research into how these pollutants may affect cardiovascular health. "Our findings not only support the well-established link between fine particulate air pollution (PM2.5) and acute cardiovascular events, but for the first time connect PM2.5 exposure and smoking with the presence of micro- and nanoplastics across the spectrum of coronary artery disease," said Dr Pasquale Paolisso, clinical cardiologist at Sant' Andrea University Hospital in Rome and the study's first author.

Another risk factor for heart disease

Dr K Srinath Reddy, Chancellor of the Public Health Foundation of India Institute of Public Health Sciences (deemed to be a university) and former head of the Department of Cardiology at AIIMS, New Delhi, said the research adds another environmental risk factor to the growing list of contributors to heart disease. "This study suggests that microplastics may be one more factor causing long-term damage to coronary arteries and triggering acute heart attacks," Dr Reddy told. "The researchers also found a less strong, but still important, association between blood levels of microplastics and chronic coronary artery disease." Chronic coronary artery disease is a long-term condition in which fatty deposits gradually build up inside the coronary arteries, reducing blood flow to the heart. Over time, this can cause chest pain, breathlessness and increase the risk of a heart attack. A heart attack, by contrast, occurs suddenly when one of these arteries becomes completely blocked, cutting off blood supply to part of the heart muscle. Dr Reddy also pointed to the particularly strong association between smoking and higher blood levels of microplastics. "These may come directly from cigarette filters or be absorbed more easily because smoking damages the lungs' natural protective barriers," he explained. "This could be another hidden factor contributing to heart attacks, even in people who otherwise appear healthy."

What are microplastics?

Micro- and nanoplastics are extremely small plastic particles that have become widespread environmental pollutants. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), microplastics range in size from one nanometre to five millimetres. A nanometre is many thousands of times smaller than the width of a human hair, while five millimetres is about the width of a wedding band. These particles are now found almost everywhere — in the air, drinking water, soil and food. UNEP estimates that around 2.7 million tonnes of microplastics entered the environment in 2020, and that figure is expected to double by 2040 if current trends continue. People are exposed mainly by inhaling polluted air or ingesting contaminated food and water, and increasing evidence suggests that these particles can accumulate in human tissues. The researchers note that while people are routinely exposed to microplastics, little has been known about how much accumulates in the bloodstream during different stages of heart disease.

What the study foundThe multicentre study enrolled 61 patients undergoing coronary angiography, an imaging



The findings suggest a strong association between the presence of tiny plastic particles in the bloodstream and acute heart attacks. Researchers also found that smokers and people exposed to higher levels of air pollution had greater concentrations of these particles in their blood. The study does not prove that microplastics directly cause heart attacks.

procedure used to examine the heart's arteries. The participants were divided into three groups. The first included 19 patients with ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), the most severe type of heart attack caused by complete blockage of a coronary artery, who underwent emergency angioplasty (primary percutaneous coronary intervention or PCI). The second group included 20 patients with chronic coronary syndrome, a stable form of coronary artery disease caused by narrowed arteries, who underwent planned angioplasty. The third group consisted of 22 people whose coronary angiograms showed normal arteries and who served as the control group. Researchers collected blood samples both from the coronary arteries supplying the heart and from elsewhere in the body. They also recorded participants' smoking history and estimated their exposure to PM2.5 air pollution on the day of testing as well as over the previous two years.

Micro- and nanoplastics were detected in 84.2 per cent of patients with acute heart attacks, compared with 40 per cent of patients with chronic coronary artery disease and 31.8 per cent of those with normal coronary arteries. The most commonly detected plastic was polyethylene, which is widely used in packaging materials and everyday consumer products. Patients with acute heart attacks also had significantly higher concentrations of microplastics in both coronary and peripheral blood than the other two groups. Higher exposure to PM2.5 and a history of smoking were independently associated with greater microplastic levels in the bloodstream.

Why it mattersThe researchers say the findings add to growing evidence that micro- and nanoplastics are biologically active pollutants rather than simply inert contaminants. Laboratory and animal studies have suggested that these particles may trigger inflammation, damage blood vessels, accelerate the build-up of fatty plaques inside arteries and make existing plaques more unstable. These mechanisms could increase the risk of cardiovascular events, although this has yet to be conclusively demonstrated in humans.

The study also offers a possible explanation for how air pollution and microplastics may act together. Because both are primarily inhaled, PM2.5 particles may act as carriers, transporting microplastics deep into the lungs. Together, the two pollutants may damage the lung's protective barrier, allowing microplastics to enter the bloodstream and potentially contribute to inflammation throughout the body. The findings underscore the need to view pollution as a cardiovascular health issue, not just an environmental one. Reducing exposure to air pollution, tobacco smoke and plastic pollution should now become part of broader population-level strategies to prevent heart disease, rather than focusing only on individual risk factors such as cholesterol, diabetes and high blood pressure.

Commonwealth Games: Sarvesh Kushare bags silver in high jump



GNS News Agency, July 31

Indian national record holder Sarvesh Anil Kushare jumped 2.25m to win the men's high jump silver medal at the Commonwealth Games 2026 in Glasgow. This is his first major multi-sporting medal as he bettered the bronze medal won by his compatriot Tejaswin Shankar in the last edition. Sarvesh, who cleared 2.31m last month at Inter State Athletics Championships to create a new national record,

cleared the 2.25m mark in his final attempt but failed to clear the 2.28m in three attempts. His opponent Romaine Beckford failed to clear the 2.28m mark in three attempts but won the gold by the virtue of clearing the 2.25m mark at once. Sarvesh had a small scare at the 2.25m where he failed to clear in the first two attempts. But, he got the clearance in third attempt.

Starting at a low mark of 2.05m, Sarvesh cleared it smoothly. He was flawless till the 2.20m mark clearing all the marks in one attempt. He was constantly advised by former national record holder Tejaswin Shankar who retired from the event due to a dodgy knee. Tejaswin failed to clear the 2.05m mark. He retired after that in a move that looked like he wanted to protect his knee for the Decathlon event. Another Indian in the action, Aadarsh Ram started at 2.10m and cleared it in one go. He cleared 2.15m also smoothly but failed to clear 2.20m in three attempts and finished fifth in the event. In the men's 110m hurdles, Indian hurdler Tejas Shirse finished last with a timing of 15.40s. Starting in the first lane, he knocked the first hurdle and looked in pain throughout the race. Earlier, he had qualified after clocking 13.76s in the heats.

'I've decided to play on my terms': Samson on quitting India selection 'rat race'

GNS News Agency, July 31

Four months since steering India to T20 World Cup glory with his sensational knockout performances, Sanju Samson was supposed to build on the success at home, but has instead fallen out of the national side once again. Over a decade has passed since his international debut and his subsequent stop-start journey that eventually culminated in his first major contribution for the national side, earning him the Player of the Series award at the T20 World Cup. But the 31-year-old Samson revealed that he was done chasing the national team selection shortly before the World Cup when his batting form had hit a wall.

"I realised that there is a constant rat race in our country, and I decided before the 2026 T20 World Cup that I would not be part of it. I just want to enjoy the game. By God's grace, I have achieved a lot. I am 31 now, and I have a few years left. So, I have decided to play on my own terms. No one will tell me how to bat or what to do. Sanju will decide for Sanju," Samson told in a JioHotstar interview. Samson revealed that he will play out the rest of his professional career on his terms, stating that the returns of the 2026 World Cup had marked a cycle of fulfillment. "With all due respect, I will play, enjoy the game, be a good teammate, and support the group, but I will do it my way. After the 2024 World Cup, I didn't even expect to play in the 2026 World Cup. I wasn't in the 14- or 15-man squad at one point. So how can I plan for 2028? If I'm there, if the team needs me, and if I'm playing well, things will fall into place. If not, I am deeply grateful. No one can take this achievement away from me," he said.

World Cup turnaround Samson steered India past the West Indies in a must-win Super 8 match with an unbeaten 97 and backed it up with tall half-centuries in the semi-final against England and New Zealand. The Kerala batter in turn took down two of his key nemesis in Jofra Archer and Mitchell Santner in subsequent games. "When you score runs for the Indian team, you become more responsible,



knowing you have to keep scoring. Ahead of the T20 World Cup semi-final against England, our top order wasn't firing much. A lot of people were coming and telling me, 'It's England, Archer is bowling, he got you out 3-4 times previously, this happened, that happened.' But I was confident. I didn't say anything out loud. If you talk too much, you come across as arrogant, and that goes against my belief. So, I just gestured quietly, 'Yeah, we'll see.' But I had my plans ready. I knew that this Sanju Samson was not the Sanju Samson from a year ago. After that West Indies knock, I had a lot of self-validation, and I was very sure about myself. There was no room for doubt. I was going to do it for my country, and no one could stop it," the Chennai Super Kings batter added. "When you are confident, you don't mind taking your time. I played an over against Santner where I faced four dot balls in a World Cup final. But I was completely sure that even if I faced four dot balls there, I could hit two sixes later from the other end. I had absolute clarity." Samson featured in four matches on India's disastrous tour to Ireland and England, scoring 35 runs before being omitted from the T20I squad that tour Zimbabwe. Taking his spot, teenage sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma paired up top in the series that India swept 3-0.

Sharmila Dhankar wins gold, Shilpa Shyla bronze in para shot put at CWG 2026



Para-athlete Sharmila Dhankar clinched India's second gold medal in this edition of the Commonwealth Games in the Women's Shot Put F57 Final. Shilpa Shyla, the other medallist in the event walked away with bronze with a personal best throw of 7.26m. Sharmila, who was born in a zamindar family in Haryana's Chhithroli, ended India's 20-year wait for a Para Athletics medal at the Commonwealth Games with a season-best throw of 9.81m. She also became India's first-ever CWG Gold medallist in Para Athletics and the first Indian woman to win a Para Athletics medal at the Games. India has now won two medals in the same Para Athletics event for the first time at the CWG.

The now 40-year-old Sharmila had contracted polio at the age of two following a high fever. She completed her schooling at SDM School, Chhithroli. Despite facing signifi-

cant personal challenges, including an early marriage and domestic violence in her first marriage, she rebuilt her life with the support of her family. She is now happily married to Ajit Singh, a businessman from Rewari, and they have two children. Introduced to sports by her husband, Sharmila began her para athletics career in 2020 under the guidance of Coach Tek Chand. Within a year, she won the National Championship title in 2021 and has since emerged as one of India's leading para throwers in the Shot Put and Discus Throw (F57) events. Although her performance at the Commonwealth Games 2022 did not go as planned, she made a strong comeback through consistent performances, winning multiple international medals and setting several National Records. She qualified for the Commonwealth Games 2026 as India's Rank No. 1 athlete in her event and is currently preparing with the goal of winning the gold medal for India.

Shilpa, meanwhile, was born in Bengaluru, Karnataka, she comes from a financially modest family. At the age of four, she lost the use of her leg following a road accident, an event that shaped her journey of resilience and determination. Shilpa was introduced to para sports through the Secretary of Para Volleyball, which inspired her to take up para athletics. She currently trains in Bengaluru under the guidance of Coach Eshan S. D. Through consistent hard work and perseverance, she has established herself as one of India's emerging F57 shot put athletes and continues to strive for success on the international stage.

'Not his style': Sooryavanshi's batting free of milestone pressure, says Jaffer

GNS News Agency, July 31

In only his third international assignment, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi lived up to his billing and walked away as India's Player of the Series in their 3-0 win over Zimbabwe. After becoming the youngest international batter to slam a half-century in the opening T20I of the series, Sooryavanshi notched up another gear on Sunday, scoring a 49-ball 81 on the back of eight fours and four sixes. India eventually secured a 35-run win to wrap up the series, with Sooryavanshi's batting remaining a standout in the series. Former India opener Wasim Jaffer lavished praise on Sooryavanshi's ability to bat freely without the pressure of milestones setting in on his batting.

"Of course, we all want him to score big hundreds, but somehow that's not his style. He keeps playing his shots and goes for the big hits, and that's also the reason behind his success. It's really nice to see that the pressure of the scoreboard or individual milestones doesn't get into his head. Even today, he played some excellent shots, but unfortunately, the catch that dismissed him was absolutely brilliant." "He plays absolutely fearless cricket. We saw him in the IPL knockouts as well, where he missed out on two centuries after getting into the 90s. He could have easily played a few more balls and taken singles, but that's just



not his nature. That's not how he plays the game, and that's something to like about him." After an indifferent start to his international career in England earlier this month with scores, 13, 14 and 15, Sooryavanshi was dropped for a match before marking a successful return in Zimbabwe. "He (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi) played two outstanding innings, and even today it looked like he might go on to score his maiden hundred. He narrowly missed out on that first century, but he has produced two really good knocks in this series. One of the biggest positives has been him scoring runs.

Egypt conquered, Asia next: Anahat Singh plots her route to direct LA28 spot



Anahat Singh can't wait to meet her cousins when she returns home. It's the only way she feels she could make sense of the past few days. That, and catching the new Spiderman movie releasing at the end of the month. The 18-year-old, in her fifth and final attempt, won the squash Junior World Championship, a feat that ended 16 years of Egyptian dominance in the event, and landed a first-ever singles squash world title for a country that has produced world-level talent, but not quite like the teenager from Delhi.

"I don't think I've really had time to just sit down and actually understand what happened or exactly how it happened. I don't think it's going to sink in until I'm actually back home with my friends and family, and talking to them about it," Anahat told The Indian Express from Canada. The word 'pressure' being used by her repeatedly is a mark of the load of expectations being carried by the 18-year-old. Ranked 20th in the world, there is a genuine sense in the country that she could be a world-beater in her sport as the performances in the senior circuit start to improve, and the tour titles arrive.

In a way, this Junior World Championship was a farewell of sorts for her and a 'welcome to the big league' moment. Part of that is also her reluctance to be overawed by the might of the Egyptians, who have dominated the sport. Their presence is not a cause of worry for her. "The way they've been brought up since they've been kids, for them, it's like cricket for India. They've been brought up hearing about it, looking at squash all the time, playing squash all the time. I was there in Egypt a year ago for the World Jun-

Ajaya Babu wins silver, India's 6th weightlifting medal at 2026 CWG



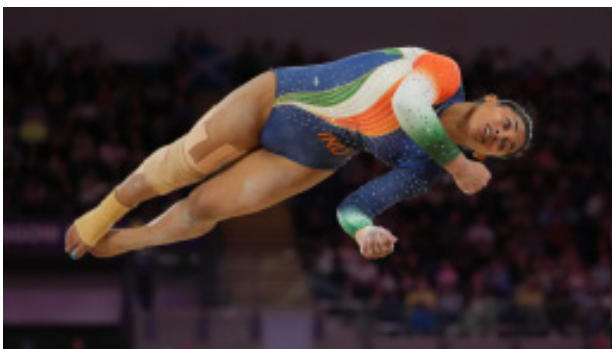
GNS News Agency, July 31 Ajaya Babu lifted a total of 330kg to win silver in men's 79kg weightlifting. Ajaya lifted 149kg in snatch and then 181kg in clean and jerk. Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad won gold with a total lift of 331kg, which was a Games record. England's Chris Murray won bronze after heaving 325kg. Hailing from Andhra Pradesh's Vizianagram district, Ajaya Babu lifted a Games record 149kg in snatch and 181kg in clean and jerk for a total of 330kg to win the second prize, narrowly missing out on gold to Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad, who totalled a Games record 331kg (147 + 184) during a gripping contest on Monday night.

This was India's sixth medal in weightlifting in the current edition of the Games. Rishikanta Singh opened the account first with a silver medal before Mirabai Chanu won her third consecutive CWG gold. Ayaya's silver is the third weightlifting medal for India on Monday alone, with Gyaneshwari Yadav having won silver and Bindyarani Devi winning bronze earlier in the day. First, Hidayat lifted 181kg

to smash the Games record, the Indian then bettered it within seconds by lifting 181kg in his final attempt to break the record again for 330kg. Hidayat did one better, breaking the record again with a lift of 184kg in his final attempt to win the gold medal.

Erry Hidayat Muhammad of Malaysia with his gold medal alongside Valluri Ajaya Babu of India with his silver medal, left, and Chris Murray of England with his bronze medal, right, after the Men's 79kg weightlifting competition during the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, Monday, July 27, 2026. (Steve Welsh/PA via AP) Erry Hidayat Muhammad of Malaysia with his gold medal alongside Valluri Ajaya Babu of India with his silver medal, left, and Chris Murray of England with his bronze medal, right, after the Men's 79kg weightlifting competition during the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, Monday, July 27, 2026. (Steve Welsh/PA via AP) Earlier, after a failed second attempt at 149kg, Ajaya Babu made a fine comeback to lift the weight in his final try and set a new Games record, finishing at the top of the heap at the end of snatch section ahead of England's Chris Murray (148kg) and Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Muhammad (147kg). He had 145kg listed as his first attempt and nailed it too easily. Entering the clean and jerk section on a high, Ajaya Babu looked confident of winning the top prize but his opponent from Malaysia edged the Indian out eventually. Seen as one of India's fastest-growing lifters, Ajaya Babu had in the past won the gold medal in the men's 79kg category at the 2025 Commonwealth Championships in Ahmedabad with a personal-best total lift of 335kg (152kg snatch + 183kg clean & jerk), breaking the championship records. That performance earned him his direct qualification spot for Glasgow 2026.

Could Protistha Samanta have scored high with low-difficulty vaults in the final



"Let's be very clear. For her Difficulty levels, Protistha did extremely well to reach the final," says former CWG medallist Ashish Kumar. "Even in the final, where scoring gets stricter than qualification, she didn't have any major deductions. Just a small step in landing. She did well. We can't expect more."

GNS News Agency, July 31

Protistha Samanta could not be faulted for how she performed in the CWG Artistic Gymnastics Vault final. On her two attempts with Difficulty values (D Score) of 4.4 and 4.0, the Indian finished with an average of 12.833. She had started 7th out of 8 gymnasts. She finished 7th, albeit Apparatus Finals tend to be scrutinised more than Qualification rounds by judges, and she scored lower than her Q score of 13.025. That incidentally was her career-best. So why was she never in medal contention?

The gold went to Canadian sensation Lia Monica Fontaine. Avg score: 14.000. Lia's vaults carried a starting Difficulty value of 5.0 and 4.8. Should she pull off a decent execution, 9.8 points were assured as D-Score. Protistha, on the other hand, was working with an 8.4 start, a full point less than the gold medallist. "Let's be very clear. For her Difficulty levels, Protistha did extremely well to reach the

final," says former CWG medallist Ashish Kumar. "Even in the final, where scoring gets stricter than qualification, she didn't have any major deductions. Just a small step in landing. She did well. We can't expect more." The answer is in the arithmetic, not the artistic. Consider the start values of the finalists who finished above Protistha. Silver medallist Abigail Martin (England, 13.799) – Combined D value of 9.8; Bronze winner Abigail Roper (Wales, 13.433) – 9; Emily Roper (Wales) – 9; Courtney McGregor (New Zealand) – 8.8; Georgia Godwin (Australia) – 8.8. The only gymnast to finish below the Indian was England's Ruby Stacey – D value of 8, 0.4 less than Protistha. She averaged 12. "I would go so far as to say, Protistha did better than anyone with those start values," Ashish says. On her first, a Tsukahara layout full, her half-turn block came a little earlier on the vault before the back twist. The bent hunched landing cost her precious execution decimals. The feet were also split off the board and there was no pointy precision. But 12.700 (8.300 + 4.4) wasn't a bad score. The second vault was far more impressive. A Handspring front, a low difficulty on 4.0. But the landing was near-perfect on the metrics of judging. Just a small step. Straight legs – for a pike, good elevation off the board; the shape in the parabola looked good even if the knee jutted in form slightly. Marked at 8.66 on Execution, Protistha picked the 0.2 bonus for variety as well.

All of India's gymnastics medals from 2010 and 2014 came because Ashish and Dipa Karmakar consciously chose high-difficulty routines. Ashish, in fact, had the highest D scores in the field even at the Asian Games. "Protistha has maxed her Execution. The only way to get into the medal zone is to increase D values. It's a long process. But she's strong and very good at vault," Ashish says. The learning phase and drills can take several months, he warns. On the Tsukahara, Protistha will need to upgrade from 360 to 720, i.e. add an entire second rotation on the stretch twist. "That D level is good enough for CWG. Competitive," Ashish says. On the front pike second vault, he suggests adding half a turn, at least. Going from 360 to 540 is equally challenging. "It's a blind landing where you are facing one way with the body moving in the opposite direction. That takes a lot of practice too." Gymnastics is demanding, and even half a turn requires biomechanically altering a lot of the movements. "She can do it. But the D Score can't be more than 0.1, 0.2 less than other top contenders. Making the finals was good here," Ashish ends.

Shekhar Suman on losing son to a ‘one-in-a-billion’ heart illness, believes he will return

Actor Shekhar Suman has opened up about the devastating loss of his son Ayush, who passed away at the age of 11 after battling a rare heart-related illness. In a recent conversation with Lehren, the actor revealed that he believes Aayush will return as the son of his younger son, actor Adhyayan Suman. Shekhar also recalled how the family discovered Ayush's illness and shared why he and wife Alka Suman have never truly gotten over his death. Shekhar revealed that it was his father, a doctor, who first noticed that something was wrong. "My father diagnosed Aayush's illness. He was playing with my son when he touched his stomach and told me, 'His liver seems enlarged. When you return to Mumbai, get it checked.'" The actor said they immediately followed up with medical tests and were shocked by the diagnosis. "We got check-ups and tests done, and then we found out that he had fibrosis of the heart, which is a one-in-a-billion case."

Recalling the moment he informed his father about the diagnosis, Shekhar said the response left him deeply worried. "When I told my father over the phone, there was complete silence on the other end. Then he said, 'Oh God.' That's when I realised it was a very serious illness. He told me, 'This is not a good disease.'" The family later learned that Aayush's condition was terminal. Speaking about the loss, Shekhar admitted that neither he nor Alka has been able to move on completely. "Alka and I have never gotten over him. We talk about him every day. We talk to him every day. We speak to his photograph. We remember him constantly." Shekhar also spoke about his spiritual belief that Aayush will return to the family in another form. "I feel he will return as Adhyayan's baby. Somebody predicted it, and many people have said that he will come back as Adhyayan's son. And I feel it will happen." He added, "I talk to him. I feel he is there. He may not be in physical form, but I can hear his voice." Shekhar Suman recalls a mysterious incident involving wife Alka. The actor also recounted an incident that took place in 2009 when Alka was visiting the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi while he was away campaigning during the elections. "Alka had gone to the Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi. I was campaigning during the 2009 elections. She called me while I was giving a speech. My phone kept vibrating and distracting me, so I told the crowd, 'One second, this is an important call.'" According to Shekhar, Alka sounded distressed on the phone.

"She said, 'Do you know what happened?' She was



panicking. At that moment, I should have asked if there had been an accident or what had happened. But my instant reaction was, 'Did you meet Aayush?' She told me that they were sitting in the car outside the temple, about to leave, when someone approached and asked for money. She gave him some. Then he said, 'Itne sey mera kya hoga?'" Shekhar said the phrase immediately reminded them of Aayush. "That is exactly what Aayush used to say when doctors had put restrictions on his diet. Whenever we gave him a small portion of rice or dal, he would say, 'Itne sey mera kya hoga?'" According to the actor, the voice and tone were identical. "It was the same voice, the same tone. She got frightened. She started taking out all the money from her bag to give him, but he was gone. She saw him for a moment and completely blacked out. He had come to give her darshan." The actor added that several priests had earlier told them that Aayush would one day appear before Alka. "Many priests had told us that he would appear before Alka once, and that happened." On the work front, Shekhar Suman recently revived his iconic talk show Movers & Shakers in a new digital avatar titled Shekhar Tonite. Returning after a 14-year gap, the show retains the humour, satire and candid conversations that made the original a fan favourite. The series streams on Shekhar Suman's YouTube channel and has been created by his son, Adhyayan Suman. This article touches upon deeply personal experiences of grief, loss, and spiritual beliefs following a tragic family bereavement. The reflections shared are deeply personal to the individuals involved and are intended solely for storytelling purposes rather than as advisory guidance on medical conditions or psychological recovery.

Vikram Bhatt on Haunted 3D beating Imtiaz Ali's film: 'Be careful of a franchise'



Vikram Bhatt's Haunted 3D: Echoes of the Past has emerged as the surprise winner at the box office among the latest Hindi releases. Despite arriving alongside Imtiaz Ali's Main Vaapas Aaunga and Kangana Ranaut's Bharat Bhagya Vidhata, the horror franchise film has managed to race ahead. According to the latest figures, Haunted 3D: Echoes of the Past has earned Rs 18.65 crore gross and Rs 15.90 crore net in India. In comparison, Main Vaapas Aaunga has collected Rs 14.60 crore gross and Rs 12.25 crore net so far. Speaking to Showsha, Bhatt said he was not surprised by the film's performance, even though many believed it had not been promoted aggressively. He said the marketing strategy was always targeted towards the audience most likely to watch the film.

"No, I'm not (surprised). Because the film was promoted. But it was promoted where we thought we should promote it. Fortunately or unfortunately, we didn't have the budget to carpet bomb. So we targeted that audience that we knew would come for the film." He added, "There were hoardings. But we didn't go overboard because we knew this was a mass film. We knew that's where we would get the ticket sales from. We were clear about that." He continued, "Maybe the trade pundits missed the promotion because it wasn't directed towards them. By that, I mean, it wasn't directed towards the major metros, or at least not on that level." Bhatt also said he always believed the Haunted franchise had a loyal audience. "Secondly, I knew that Haunted has an audience. And I knew that the audience would turn up. I didn't know how big that audience was. I didn't know if it was bigger than the other films that released with me. But I knew that certainly there is an audience to this. And they will come."

He added, "By God's grace, they really turned up and made me a happy man."

While the film's box-office performance has led to headlines comparing it with Main Vaapas Aaunga and Bharat Bhagya Vidhata, Bhatt said he takes no pleasure in seeing other films underperform. "Doesn't make me happy at all. Because I've been there too often. I don't want anybody to have bad numbers." He added, "Yes, I want myself to have good numbers. But not at the cost of someone else's numbers. And I believe that there is enough space in the country to have two successful films running at the same time, or three. I'm just happy that my film did well." The filmmaker also offered what he called an important takeaway from the film's success. "What I need to learn from this is that be careful of franchise films. Because it can beat star-cast films. It is not meant to put down anybody. It's just

meant to keep that study and understanding as a note to myself. Don't release your film with a franchise film, however big a star you may have." Bhatt added, "Of course, one is not talking about Shah Rukh or Salman. But even if it's a good star cast, be careful of the franchise film because it has a hidden audience. You don't see them, but they come out of the woodworks to see the film."

Vikram Bhatt on AI criticism The filmmaker also addressed criticism over the use of artificial intelligence in Haunted 3D: Echoes of the Past, arguing that audiences often mistake real locations for AI-generated imagery once a narrative takes hold. "First of all, the funny thing is a lot of people have taken the real locations also as AI. I think once a narrative is set during the promotion of a film that this is AI, then even the real locations will be looked at as AI. Whatever was shot in real is also AI to them, which is funny." Bhatt then defended his decision to use AI technology. "And say it is AI. Fine, we used AI. Are you coming to see a film and enjoy the story? Or do you think this is National Geographic and you're coming to see the real locations?"

He explained that AI allowed him to create a larger visual world within budget constraints. "I could not have made such a big film on the budget I had. So I used AI. And the people who are going to see the film are liking it." Drawing comparisons with traditional filmmaking techniques, Bhatt said audiences rarely object when films use elaborate sets or CGI. "Historically, we've had films shot on a set. Most of the time I can make out the set and the audience can also make out the set. Why don't you all say that the film was shot on a set and not in a real bungalow? 'What's the difference between AI and a set? It's the same thing.' Referring to films such as Avatar and Star Wars, Bhatt argued that visual technology should not overshadow storytelling. "Haunted is about a world of Manikdhar. And I had to create a separate world. That's why I used AI. It's supposed to be dreamy. It is supposed to be eerie and strange. The entire village is stuck in time." He joked, "Some people say the ghost is AI. How can I get a real ghost? Ghost is AI. Either special effects or CG or prosthetic. I can't get a real ghost. Like, I have a shift at 9 tomorrow, you come."

Farhan Akhtar reveals what drew him towards acting despite being a director

Mumbai: Actor Farhan Akhtar has opened up about his journey into acting. He revealed how a series of early opportunities eventually shaped his decision to step in front of the camera. Despite already being an established director, he said these experiences encouraged him to explore acting further. Reflecting on his initial experiences, Farhan told IANS that working on projects like "The Fakir of Venice" and "Rock On" played a key role in sparking his interest in acting and encouraged him to explore it further.

Farhan shared, "It was a combination of a few things that happened together. One was a friend of mine Anand Surapur, who was directing his film The Fakir of Venice. He was very adamant that I play the lead in his film. That was the first acting experience that I had. I enjoyed that experience." Then I met Gattu (Abhisek Kapoor) and Rock On!! happened. So out of the exploration of acting through those films is where I felt there is a lot of possibility to try and do more, which is why I subsequently did Luck By Chance, Bhaag Milkha Bhaag, and Dil Dhadakne Do." For the unversed, Farhan Akhtar began his career as a director with "Dil Chahta Hai," a coming-of-age film that went on to achieve cult status. He later directed "Lakshya," the action thriller "Don," and its sequel "Don 2."

Jason Momoa heaps praise on Vidyut Jammwal: 'One of the most beautiful looking men'

Hollywood star Jason Momoa has heaped praise on his Street Fighter co-star Vidyut Jammwal, describing him as "one of the most beautiful-looking men" he has ever seen. During a recent interaction while promoting his upcoming film Supergirl, Momoa spoke highly of Jammwal's talent, charisma and martial arts prowess as the Indian actor gears up for his much-anticipated Hollywood debut in Street Fighter. During an interaction with Zoom, Jason spoke warmly about working with Vidyut and said, "He's one of the most beautiful-looking men I've ever seen in my life." He further praised the Indian action star, adding, "He's so talented. He's unbelievable," shared the actor.

Hollywood star Jason Momoa also joked that Vidyut should help him get break in Indian cinema and said, "He should get me a job in Bollywood. He should have something set up for me. We should do something together. It'd be fun." Jason Momoa also expressed his desire to visit India in the future, saying, "And I said it, and I'm sticking with it. I can't wait to come (to India) one day." Earlier this year, Vidyut grabbed attention at CinemaCon in Las Vegas when he invited his international co-stars to join him on stage in chanting the sacred Gayatri Mantra during the launch of the film's global trailer. About Vidyut Jammwal's Hollywood debut Street Fighter marks Vidyut Jammwal's Hollywood debut, with the actor set to portray the character of Dhalsim from the legendary video game franchise Street Fighter. The casting has generated excitement among fans, given Vidyut Jammwal's expertise in martial arts and Kalaripayattu. Directed by Kitao Sakurai, Street Fighter features an ensemble cast including Noah Centineo, Andrew Koji, Roman Reigns, David Dastmalchian, Cody Rhodes



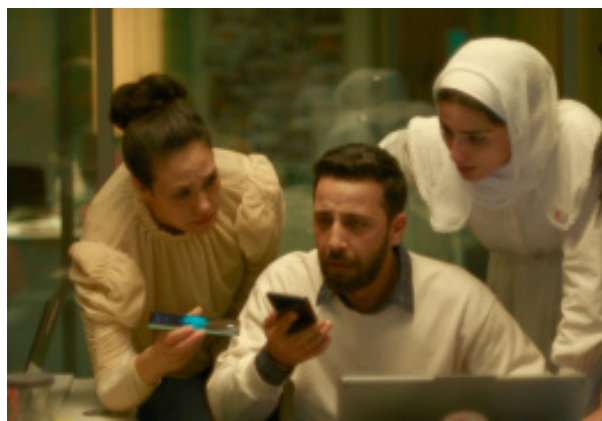
and Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson. The film is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on October 16. Meanwhile, Jason Momoa is currently promoting Supergirl, where he plays the fan-favourite anti-hero Lobo alongside Milly Alcock, who stars as Supergirl. Supergirl releases on June 26.

The Voice of Hind Rajab movie review: A potent anti-war statement, if ever there was one

The Voice of Hind Rajab movie review: Some films come carrying so much weight that they become hard to bear. Some films become testaments to their time. The Voice of Hind Rajab is one that does both: it lets us in on the agony of a small child left alone in the back of a car, her family members murdered, calling for help; it also asks us to bear witness. Director Kaouthar Ben Hania first heard the clip in which a five-year-old girl is heard sobbing, saying she is afraid of the dark, asking for help. The voice belonged to Hind Rajab who was travelling with her aunts, uncles and cousin in the Gaza strip when the car was strafed by Israeli forces. Everyone in the car is dead, the cousin is grievously injured: we learn that the latter dies too, leaving the terrified Hind hiding as best as she could behind the backseat.

When the volunteers of the Palestine Red Crescent Society realise the gravity of her situation—tanks are closing in on her even as she cries— their first reaction is the instant humanitarian one: to order an ambulance to go into the strip to rescue her. They are halted in their tracks by their superior, a man who goes by the book, who demands that the requisite multiple permissions are sought, and the journey cleared on all fronts, before the rescue operation can be launched.

In her tense reconstruction of those last hours of Hind Rajab, Ben Hania uses the actual voice of the little girl, with actors playing the Palestinian volunteers. Each one, especially the trio which does the heavy lifting, Omar (Motaaz Malheez) who is the first responder, and Rana (Saja Kilani) who offers constant encouragement and support even as they rage against the inaction of their supervisor, Mahdi



(Amer Hlehel), does their job with empathy, and grace. You can feel their growing helplessness as precious time is wasted, and the despair when they learn that she is no more is devastating, as much to them, as it is to us, watching in the theatre. The usage of the real voice, through recordings that flicker on the screen, is a decision that can leave you conflicted, in the way docu-fiction often can. "Please come, I am so scared," Hind Rajab cries out. We hope, heart in mouth, against hope. The film lasts 89 minutes. What it leaves us with is the anger and guilt of a lifetime, as we experience each minute being lost in the face of bureaucratic apathy and growing danger. Hind doesn't survive, and her not being in the world makes it, like so many lives lost to war, a lesser place. It is her voice which has survived, a potent anti-war statement, if ever there was one.

'Shame on you': Karan Kundrra defends seeking parents' advice before proposing to Tejaswi



Karan Kundrra defended discussing Tejaswi Prakash with his parents and revealed why the couple haven't tied the knot despite being engaged.

Karan Kundrra has responded to the criticism he faced after an episode of Desi Bling showed him discussing his relationship with Tejaswi Prakash with friend Dyuti Parruck and later seeking his parents' perspective before taking the next step in their relationship. The scene sparked a major argument between Karan and Tejaswi on the Netflix reality show after Dyuti informed her that Karan had spoken to his parents about her. The episode also triggered debate on social media, with some viewers questioning why Karan felt the need to consult his parents about marriage despite being in a relationship with Tejaswi for nearly five years. Now, in an interview with Siddharth Kannan, Karan has addressed the controversy and defended his decision to seek advice from both friends and family. Karan on asking friends and parents for advice

Explaining why Tejaswi was initially upset, Karan said it was an unusual situation for their relationship. "This happened for the first time, so Tejaswi found it strange. But I explained to her that, for the first time, I had friends I could actually ask for advice." The actor questioned why people were surprised that he sought his parents' opinion on a ma-

jor life decision. "If you won't ask your parents, if you won't ask your brothers, then who will you ask? Please explain that to me. If you want a third-person perspective, who are you supposed to turn to?" Karan also had a strong response for those who criticised him online. To everyone saying that I shouldn't have asked my parents, laanat hai tum pe (shame on you). If you expect your boyfriend or future husband to stop caring about what his parents think or what their perspective is, shame on you. They are your parents. They raised you. Just because someone new enters your life doesn't mean you forget their place and importance." He continued, "Jo log mereko comment kar rahe hain na ki you should not talk to your parents, bhai kon si duniya mein paida hue ho? Hindustan mein paida hue ho ki kahi Kardashians ke ghar paida hue ho tumlog (People commenting that I shouldn't talk to my parents — what world are you living in? Were you born in India or in the Kardashians' house?) I don't know where people are taking their reference points from." Stressing the importance of family in his life, Karan added, "I am an Indian. I will always respect my parents, and their advice means the world to me. Go to hell." Karan also addressed the question he is most frequently asked by fans — why he and Tejaswi have not tied the knot yet despite being together for several years. According to the actor, the issue is not whether they will get married, but when. "It is not a question of why; it is a question of when." Karan then said that as he proposed to Tejaswi during the filming of Desi Bling, and getting married before the show's release would have affected the impact of that storyline.

We shot Desi Bling, and I proposed to Teju towards the end of the show. If I had gotten married before that episode aired, the proposal would have looked strange." He added that neither of them expected the show to take a year to release. "We didn't know it would take a year for the show to come out. We are also professional artists. We had signed up for the show, and if the engagement and proposal were part of the story, all of that would have fallen short if we had gotten married before the show's release." About Karan and Tejaswi Tejaswi Prakash and Karan Kundrra have been together since 2021 after meeting on Salman Khan's reality show Bigg Boss 15. Their friendship on the show blossomed into a relationship, and they soon became one of the most popular couples among viewers, earning the nickname "TejRan." The couple recently gave fans a closer look at their relationship through Desi Bling, where their arguments and emotional moments sparked speculation about a possible breakup. However, Karan put those rumours to rest in the show's final episode