

Metro Rail expansion: Hyderabad loses steam, other city Metros gain pace

Hyderabad: As uncertainty looms over the approval of Metro Phase II and the takeover of Phase I by the State government, Hyderabad is lagging behind in the expansion of its Metro rail network while several other cities are adding significant stretches. This comes amid the BJP-led Central government's indifference towards Telangana. At present, Hyderabad Metro Rail covers a 69.2-km network across three corridors. In 2021, the previous BRS government submitted a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Metro Phase II covering 26 km from BHEL to Lakdikapul and a 5-km extension from LB Nagar to Nagole. Besides this, it also proposed a Mass Rapid Transit System for the Kokapet area and the Warangal Neo Metro.

Nation sought apology, he ‘forgave country’: Congress jibe at PM Modi

New Delhi: The Congress on Friday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his video message, saying he wanted to forgive children who abused him during the Jantar Mantar students' protest and remarked that while the country was asking the PM to apologise, he had instead "forgiven the country". Modi on Friday said he and even his late mother were subjected to abusive language at Jantar Mantar during the protests over alleged NEET irregularities, but asserted that dragging such "misguided children" into court would not resolve the problem and hence, he wanted to forgive them. Legislative Branch

Rs 50 lakh fine, 10-year jail: Amended anti-paper leak law kicks in with Prez nod

New Delhi, August 1

The amended law empowering states to set up fast-track courts for the speedy trial of those accused in paper leak cases, while also enhancing fines and prison terms, has received President Droupadi Murmu's assent.

In a gazette notification issued on July 31, the Law Ministry said President Murmu had given her assent to the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Amendment Bill, 2026, after it was passed by both Houses of Parliament earlier this week.

The Act seeks to further strengthen the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, by providing for fast-tracked investigations, speedy trials through special fast-track courts, the appointment of special public prosecutors, time-bound disposal of appeals and stricter penal provisions aimed at deterring unfair practices and organised malpractices in public examinations.

It also enhances the punishment for those resorting to unfair means by increasing the term of imprisonment to not less than five years, extendable up to 10 years, as against the existing provision of imprisonment for a term of not less than three years, extendable up to five years. The maximum fine has also been raised from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 50 lakh.

LoP Rahul Gandhi and MPs Pappu Yadav and Awadhesh Prasad have been booked in Varanasi for allegedly hurting religious sentiments

over their skit on the Ram Temple donation theft at Parliament complex.

According to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the amendment aims to bring greater transparency, fairness and credibility to the public examination system.

"In recent years, there have been incidents of question paper leaks and malpractices in examinations conducted by public examination authorities, which have affected the transparency and fairness of the public examination system," it states.

The law also empowers states and Union Territories to appoint one or more special public prosecutors to conduct trials in such cases and mandates day-to-day hearings to ensure completion of trials within three months of the filing of the chargesheet.

Amid nationwide protests, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on July 23 announced the establishment of fast-track courts and tougher legal penalties for examination paper leak cases.

The law covers examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS) and the National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducts the NEET examination.



Telangana Among Top Economic Performers

Hyderabad: Telangana has emerged as one of India's best-performing state economies, according to latest Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 'Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy 2025-26', showing sustained growth in the economy and a sharp rise of more than 10 per cent in per capita income.

Welcoming the RBI findings, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said they reflected Telangana's emergence as one of India's top-performing states after the Congress assumed office in December 2023. In a post on X on Saturday, the Chief Minister said Telangana had reached "new horizons and newer heights", with the state's per capita income increasing by nearly ₹38,900 in one year.

He attributed the achievement to his government's emphasis on economic growth, attracting investments, generating employment, balanced development across sectors, policy-based governance instead of ad hoc decision-making, regular reviews, attention to detail and continuous engagement with stakeholders.

The Chief Minister said the government had reversed a decade of failed governance of previous BRS regime and restored optimism. He asserted that women, farmers and youth were the biggest beneficiaries of Telangana's economic progress and expressed confidence that the state would witness even greater economic success in the coming years.

RBI data showed that Telangana's net state domestic product (NSDP) at current prices increased to ₹16,14,771 crore in 2025-26 from ₹14,57,913 crore in 2024-25. The state's economy maintained a steady upward trajectory over the last five years, rising from ₹10,17,251 crore in 2021-22 to ₹16,14,771 crore in 2025-26. The report highlighted Telangana's impressive growth in per capita NSDP. Per capita income at current prices rose from ₹3,80,031 a year prior to ₹4,18,931 — up over 10 per cent. The state had recorded ₹2,69,000 NSDP per capita in 2021-22 and the increase placed Telangana among the country's leading states in terms of income levels.



Telangana in per capita income was second only to Karnataka, which recorded ₹4,33,326. The state outperformed Tamil Nadu (₹4,08,027), Gujarat (₹3,57,531), Maharashtra (₹3,47,903) and Andhra Pradesh (₹2,94,507), reflecting the state's strong economic performance and higher income levels.

In terms of the size of the economy, Telangana ranked seventh among the country's major states with a gross state domestic product (GSDP) of ₹16,14,771 crore, with Maharashtra leading the pack at ₹44,84,537 crore.

The other states ahead of Telangana were Tamil Nadu (₹31,60,206 crore), Karnataka (₹29,80,634 crore), Gujarat (₹26,36,003 crore), West Bengal (₹17,99,664 crore) and Rajasthan (₹16,85,118 crore).

The RBI handbook indicated that Telangana has continued to outperform several larger states on income indicators, reflecting sustained industrial growth, expansion in the services sector and higher economic productivity. Welcoming the RBI findings, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy said the RBI figures reflected Telangana's emergence as one of India's top-performing states after the Congress assumed office in December 2023. In a post on X on Saturday, the Chief Minister said Telangana had reached "new horizons and newer heights", with the state's per capita income increasing by nearly ₹38,900 in one year.

Students need PM's apology, not his forgiveness: Rahul



Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Saturday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his remarks about "forgiving" students, saying they did not need the Prime Minister's forgiveness but that he owed them an apology. He alleged that the government had failed to understand the pain and struggles of students and their families affected by examination irregularities.

"India's students do not need his forgiveness. He owes them an apology," Rahul said in a post on X.

His remarks came after PM Modi, in a video posted on Instagram late on Friday night, said he had forgiven students who had abused him and his late mother. He added that it was society's responsibility to "guide the misguided".

Referring to the hardships faced by aspirants following cancelled examinations and paper leaks, Rahul said behind every student's suffering was a family forced to bear a lasting emotional burden.

"Leaked papers. Cancelled exams. Years of preparation destroyed overnight. Our students are told to work honestly in a system that is not honest with them. And the PM has the audacity to speak of forgiving students," he said.

He added: "Nothing is more painful than seeing a parent grieve their child. Behind every young life lost is a family carrying pain that will never leave them, while raising serious questions about a broken education system."

Rahul further alleged that the PM had not met families mourning the loss of their children or students whose careers had been disrupted by paper leaks.

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) HNo. 2-54 SAWAPUR, Dist. Adilabad 504309 Telangana. **DECLARATION**
Place: SAWAPUR SAWAPURE PRANEETH KUMAR
Date: 01-08-2026 S/O SAWAPURE VIJAY KUMAR



Modi Sees Vizag As Top Economic Hub In Asia

VIZAG, AUGUST 1

Framing VER as the centrepiece of Andhra Pradesh's growth strategy, the Prime Minister said every new facility in the region is contributing to the unified mission of transforming VER into a premier Asian powerhouse.

"Our ultimate target is to ensure that the Visakhapatnam Economic Region becomes the most prominent economic hub in Asia," the Prime Minister underlined, positioning the day's events as a turning point in the state's development trajectory. He described the newly inaugurated international airport, named after the legendary freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju, as a runway for growth and launchpad for the youth's future.

Highlighting the rapid expansion of civil aviation, the Prime Minister pointed out that India's operational airports have risen from 74 in 2014 to 166 today, in the process democratising air travel to smaller towns. He credited the UDAN scheme for enabling even the poorest families to fly and announced the launch of UDAN second phase with an investment of ₹29,000 crore. He referred to the success of the spoke airport model in Kashi, now extended to Amritsar, linking Punjab to over 25 international destinations.

Modi outlined a comprehensive vision for Andhra Pradesh's growth, detailing plans to fortify the Blue Economy by modernising heritage ports from Visakhapatnam to Krishnapatnam and building new maritime hubs at Mulapeta and Ramayapatnam. He highlighted the importance of expressway projects, such as the Visakhapatnam-Raipur corridor and announced rail-

way projects worth ₹1 lakh crore, including complete electrification and modernisation of 70 stations. These, he said, would seamlessly connect the region to national industrial centres under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, optimising logistics and boosting ease of doing business.

The Prime Minister stressed the need to harness young talent in futuristic industries, citing the foundation stone for a semiconductor plant in Visakhapatnam as a major step. He pointed to Google's \$15 billion campus announcement and the upcoming Pharma Park in Nakkapalli as evidence of global interest in the region. He highlighted the renewable energy investments exceeding ₹5 lakh crore in Rayalaseema, underscoring the government's commitment to sustainable growth.

Modi said the projects launched would serve as pillars for fulfilling the twin visions of Swarna Andhra and Viksit Bharat. The investments would directly translate into employment, exports, and improved living standards.

"When employment increases, people's incomes naturally rise, and the everyday lives of families significantly improve," the Prime Minister observed, expressing confidence that the myriad projects initiated would secure a prosperous future for Andhra Pradesh and firmly place the Visakhapatnam Economic Region on the Asian map.

Modi lauded the performance of over 13,000 tribal women and students who staged the Dhimsa dance, calling it a magnificent display of indigenous heritage and a cultural record alongside the infrastructural milestones.

tinue to adjust to supply risks arising from geopolitical tensions.

On July 1, the OMCs reduced the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by up to Rs 183.50 across major cities. The decision to reduce prices comes after commercial LPG rates witnessed multiple increases amid rising global energy prices triggered by the West Asia conflict. Earlier, the government relaxed LPG supply restrictions for commercial and industrial users after fuel availability improved. It restored 50 per cent of supplies to customers whose allocations had earlier been suspended as part of measures to prioritise domestic household demand. During the conflict, the government had issued orders under the Essential Commodities Act requiring C3-C4 streams to be utilised exclusively for LPG production, diverting them from petrochemical and other downstream uses

OMCs slash commercial LPG cylinder prices by over Rs 200

New Delhi: State-owned oil marketing companies (OMCs) on Saturday reduced the price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders by over Rs 200 across major cities, providing relief to restaurants, hotels and other commercial establishments that depend on the fuel for cooking.

The price of 19-kg commercial LPG cylinders has been reduced by more than Rs 200 in Delhi and Kolkata. The latest revision, which took effect on August 1, saw the price of a commercial cylinder fall by Rs 202 in Delhi and Rs 209 in Kolkata.

In Kolkata, the revised price of a 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder stands at Rs 2,872.50. The reduction, however, is limited to commercial LPG users.

However, the prices of 14.2-kg domestic LPG cylinders used by households remain unchanged.

The reduction comes as global energy markets con-

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Can lie detectors really detect lies?

Perched high above the lush Indrayani Valley, Lohagad Fort is known for its breathtaking views, mist-covered hills, and dramatic green landscapes. The historic hill fort is a well-known weekend trekking destination in the Mumbai-Pune corridor. The fort's beauty was overshadowed by an alleged murder that took place there. On June 18, a 26-year-old man fell to his death from Lohagad Fort while visiting the site with his fiancée. Initially believed to be an accident, the case later turned into a murder investigation, with police arresting the woman and her friend for allegedly pushing him to his death. The investigation has relied on CCTV footage, digital forensics, crime-scene reconstruction, witness examination and physical evidence to determine whether the death was accidental or homicidal. With no eyewitnesses or direct proof, police are now seeking the help of AI-assisted forensic gait analysis and a polygraph test to examine conflicting accounts, assess alleged premeditation and identify concealed information. Although polygraph results can only be used as an investigative aid and are not admissible as conclusive evidence in court, they can help guide further forensic and digital evidence collection. Polygraph tests have been used in several high-profile Indian investigations, including the RG Kar Medical College rape case, the Hathras case, and the Aarushi Talwar-Hemraj deaths. In the Sheena Bora murder case, Indrani Mukerjea offered to undergo a polygraph test, but the CBI declined, stating that it already had sufficient evidence. A polygraph test, commonly called a lie-detector test or a test to detect deception, is a forensic investigative technique used to record a person's physiological responses while they answer a series of questions. The origins of polygraph testing can be traced back to the 19th century, when Italian criminologist Cesare Lombroso used a hydrosphygmograph to record changes in the blood pressure of criminal suspects during questioning.

Breakfast Scheme Launched with Grandeur at Medipally Government Schools



--Telangana Government Initiates Nutrition Drive for Students' Health"Nutritious and Tasty Breakfast to be Served Daily""MEDIPALLY , AUGUST 01 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):"The Telangana Government's prestigious Breakfast Scheme, introduced to improve the health and nutritional status of students studying in government schools, was inaugurated with great enthusiasm on Saturday in government schools across Medipally Mandal. "On the occasion, L. Satya Prasad, Headmaster of ZPHS Medipally and Complex Headmaster, visited MPPS Medipally and MPPS Kamalanagar, where he participated in the inauguration of the scheme. He inspected the quality, hygiene, menu, and serving process of the breakfast being provided to students and offered necessary guidance to teachers and cooking staff to ensure the effective implementation of the programme. "Later, the Breakfast Scheme was formally launched at ZPHS Medipally. "Speaking on the occasion, L. Satya Prasad said that, as the saying goes, "Health is Wealth," students can achieve academic excellence and grow into responsible citizens only when they are healthy. He stated that today's students are the strong foundation of tomorrow's India. He added that the Breakfast Scheme would not only improve students' health and nutritional levels but also enhance their attendance, concentration, and overall academic performance. Headmasters, teachers, cooking staff, students, and members of the School Management Committees (SMCs) of the respective schools participated in the programme.

Friendship Day Celebrated with Joy at Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Mamillagudem Branch"



"Khammam, August 1 (Indian Chronicle):""Friendship Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by the pre-primary students of Sri Chaitanya Techno School, Mamillagudem Branch, on Saturday. ""On the occasion, the tiny tots exchanged colourful friendship bands and enthusiastically participated in songs, dances, games and other fun-filled activities that highlighted the importance of friendship. Teachers explained the values of friendship, love, sharing, kindness and helping one another, encouraging children to develop these qualities from an early age. ""Speaking on the occasion, Principal Mrs. Neeraja said that strong friendships formed during childhood help children develop love, cooperation, discipline and self-confidence, contributing to their overall personality development. ""The programme was attended by School Chairman Mallampati Sridhar, Director Sri Vidya, AGM Chetan, Pre-Primary Coordinator Gauthami, Pre-Primary In-charge Geetha, teachers and students, who made the celebration a memorable event.

Director-Producer Tammareddy Bharadwaj Launches 'Amma Kosam' Song from Abadameva Jayathe



"The emotional song "Amma Kosam" from the upcoming Telugu entertainer Abadameva Jayathe was officially launched by renowned director-producer Tammareddy Bharadwaj. On the occasion, he extended his best wishes to the film's team and expressed hope that the movie would become a grand success. ""Speaking at the launch, Tammareddy Bharadwaj said, "The song 'Amma Kosam'

carries deep emotions and has been beautifully composed to touch every listener's heart. I wish this film, which comes with a unique and meaningful concept, earns the love and appreciation of the audience. ""Set to release in 2026, Abadameva Jayathe is written and directed by Karthik Konda, while Konda Sandeep is producing the film. ""The film revolves around a husband whose wife is pregnant. Believing that having a baby girl is a punishment for people who tell lies, he decides to live a completely truthful life without uttering a single lie. Built around this unusual premise, the film promises wholesome entertainment while delivering a thought-provoking message. ""The movie stars Babu Mohan, Pravanya Reddy, Sushanth Yashki, Bhanu Prakash, Vikas, and Vijaya in prominent roles. ""The makers revealed that "Amma Kosam" has already received an encouraging response from those associated with the film, and they are confident that audiences will also embrace the song with great appreciation. The team also announced that the teaser, trailer, and more exciting updates about the film will be unveiled soon.

BJP Conducts SIR Mandal Pravas Abhiyan in Habsiguda; Reviews Special Revision of Electoral Rolls: TALLA BALAKRISHNA GOUD

"HABSIGUDA , AUGUST 01 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As part of the SIR Mandal Pravas Abhiyan launched under the directions of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) state leadership, Habsiguda Division Convener (In-charge Coordinator) and BJP District Council Member Talla Balakrishna Goud undertook an extensive tour of Habsiguda Division on Saturday. "During the visit, he held meetings with BLA-2 representatives of polling booths No. 295 to 321 across various colonies in the division and reviewed the implementation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. "Reviewing the progress of the voter list revision, Balakrishna Goud instructed party functionaries to ensure that the process is carried out in a transparent and efficient manner without causing inconvenience to the public. He also offered several suggestions and guidance to the BLA-2 representatives for the smooth execution of the revision exercise. "The programme was attended by former GHMC Councillor and BJP Uppal Assembly constituency Toli member Thinderu Hanumantha Rao, BJP Uppal Toli member Ogirala Naga Siddharth, senior BJP leaders and Shakti



Kendra in-charges Gaddam Sai Kiran and Chelloju Ellachari, District OBC Secretary Pesari Shankar, Pentapalli Venkanna, Thinderu Surekha, and BLA-2 representatives Poojari Somaiah Goud, Ragilatha Reddy, Avula Sudhakar, Musigampala Shiva Goud, Lakshman, Venkatesh, Puchula Ashok, Govind Box, Haribabu, Aravind, Soma Srinivas, Kothapalli Ramesh Balasubrahmanyam, Varla Balaraj, Ogirala Sai, Abhishek, Sai, and others.

Abhaya Anjaneya Temple Development Committee Takes Oath; MANDUMULA PARAMESWAR REDDY Attends as Chief Guest

"UPPAL, AUGUST 01 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Members of the Temple Development Committee of the Sri Abhaya Anjaneya Temple at NGRI took the oath of office on Saturday in the presence of devotees and dignitaries. "Uppal Congress Party In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy attended the ceremony as the chief guest and extended his best wishes to the newly inducted committee members. "The members who took the oath as part of the Temple Development Committee included Bikkumala Anjaiah Gupta, Eega Anjaneyulu Mudiraj, Bazaar Ramaraju Goud, Bhoosam Raghunath Reddy, Tummala Devi Reddy, Varakala Madan Goud, Tadi Sushila, Rodla Damodar Reddy, Alugubelli Venkata Reddy, Subba Rao, Bhukya Kishan Naik, Kadapa Nursing, Santosh Kumar Nanda, and Babulal Harish Kumar Sharma. "The event was attended by Temple Executive Officer Venkanna, Chief Priest Ravi Kumar Sharma, senior Congress leaders Kandi Aagi Reddy, Chan Reddy Raghupathi Reddy, Bazaar Jagannath Goud, Boppanapalli Sudhakar Reddy, Ganesh Naik, Kandi Sravan Reddy, Akiti Agam Reddy, Lingampalli



Ramakrishna, Manda Murali Krishna Reddy, Srikanth Yadav, Baburao, Bottu Rajesh, Bhaskar Reddy, Bikkamala Ramesh Gupta, Dharmender Naik, Raju Naik, Rajanna, along with several Congress leaders, local dignitaries, and devotees.

Demand for RTC Bus Services from Manthani to JNTUH College"Students and Staff Submit Representation to Minister Sridhar Babu and RTC Officials"



"Manthani Peddapalli District, August 1 (Indian Chronicle): "Students, parents, and staff of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad University College of Engineering, Manthani, located at Pannur village in Ramagiri Mandal, have appealed to Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu and Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) officials to introduce regular bus services from Manthani Bus Stand to the college during the beginning and end of college hours. "A representation was submitted to the Minister and the Manthani RTC Depot Manager in Manthani. Copies of the memorandum were also sent via WhatsApp to the Karimnagar RTC Regional Manager and Deputy Regional Manager. "Speaking on the occasion, students, parents, and staff said that nearly 20 students, around 25 assistant professors, and other employees travel daily from Manthani and surrounding areas by RTC buses up to Pannur X Road. From there, they are forced to walk nearly 1.5 kilometres to reach the college campus. "They stated that walking such a distance during summer, monsoon, and winter causes severe inconvenience, particularly to women staff and girl students, who often struggle to reach classes and duties on time. "The issue was brought to the notice of the college Principal, Dr. B. Vishnu Vardhan, who immediately responded by forwarding representations through students' parents and staff to Minister Sridhar Babu, the Karimnagar

RTC Regional Manager, and the Manthani Depot Manager. He requested that an RTC bus service be operated from Manthani to Peddapalli via the JNTUH College campus. "In his representation, the Principal pointed out that a significant number of students and staff depend on public transport for their daily commute between Manthani, Peddapalli, and the college. The lack of proper bus services and unsuitable schedules has been creating serious transportation difficulties, especially for women employees and girl students. "He further explained that passengers currently have to get down at Pannur X Road and walk a considerable distance to the campus, making the journey both difficult and unsafe. He urged RTC authorities to consider the genuine needs of the college community and introduce regular TGSRTC bus services via the college campus during morning college hours and evening closing hours on both the Manthani and Peddapalli routes at the earliest. "Those who participated in the programme included Assistant Professors Singarapu Siva Rama Krishna and S. Kumar; parents Pendyala Ram Kumar, Chennouju Ramesh, and Eruvaka Srinivas; students Pendyala Srinidhi and Chennouju Akhila; staff members Madishetty Laxmi Narayana, Challa Manohar Reddy, Tirupati, and several others.

Fake 2BHK Allotment Racket Busted,

Hyderabad Police Arrest One""Hyderabad correspondent, August 1 (Indian Chronicle): A fake government housing allotment racket was busted after the Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force and Moghalpura Police arrested Syed Salman, 27, for allegedly cheating people by issuing forged allotment orders under the State's 2BHK Dignity Housing Scheme. Police said the accused posed as a person with links to officials and collected money from victims on the promise of securing 2BHK flats. He allegedly duped over 50 people, collecting several lakhs of rupees before handing them forged allotment letters.

Heavy Police Deployment in Mudigonda Revives Memories of 2007 Land Struggle



"Khammam (Mudigonda), July 31 – Indian Chronicle""Heavy police deployment in Mudigonda on Thursday brought back memories of the tragic 2007 land struggle police firing that claimed several lives during the statewide agitation for land rights. ""The deployment coincided with the commencement of the long-pending road widening works in the Mandal headquarters. The state government, which had been holding discussions on the road expansion project for the past two years, finally initiated the works. ""As part of the security arrangements, police personnel from the Khammam Rural Sub-Division, along with additional forces from Khammam, were deployed in large numbers. The area surrounding the Martyrs' Memorial (Amarula Stupam) witnessed a tense atmosphere as security was tightened. ""The large-scale police presence near the memorial reminded local residents of the events of July 28, 2007, when police firing during the statewide land rights movement left an unforgettable mark on Mudigonda's history.

ASEEM, Adalah urge colleges not to withhold students' certificates

Organisations say delay in release of scholarships and fee reimbursement cannot be a ground for denying educational documents.



Karimnagar August 1 (Correspondent): ASEEM and Adalah (Access to Justice Network) have urged colleges across Telangana not to withhold students' original educational certificates over pending fee reimbursement dues, stating that students should not be penalised for delays in the release of government scholarships. The organisations said they had received several written complaints from students in Karimnagar district alleging that colleges were refusing to issue transfer certificates, degree certificates, provisional certificates, consolidated marks memos and other original documents unless pending fees were paid.

According to the organisations, the dues had arisen because post-matric scholarship and fee reimbursement amounts were yet to be released by the Telangana government to educational institutions. A delegation of ASEEM and Adalah visited Vageshwari Degree & PG College on Saturday and submitted a representation seeking immediate release of the certificates.

The college management assured the delegation that the original certificates of the affected students would be released on Monday, the organisations said. In a statement, ASEEM and Adalah said original educational certificates were essential for higher education, employment and competitive examinations, and should not be retained for recovery of fees arising from delayed government reimbursement. The organisations also referred to advisories issued by the Telangana Council of Higher Education against harassment of students over delayed fee reimbursement and said courts had repeatedly held that original educational certificates could not be withheld for fee recovery. They further noted that the issue of non-release of scholarships and withholding of certificates was under consideration before the Telangana High Court in PIL No. 70 of 2025 filed by ASEEM and SIO Telangana. The delegation comprised M.A. Mujeeb Ayyub, Amar Latifi, Waseem Akram, Syed Touseef, Zeeshan Mirza, Mohammed Nehal and several affected students.

CARE Treats Drug-Resistant Epilepsy with VNS"



"Hyderabad, August 01 (Indian Chronicle) : CARE Hospitals has successfully performed Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) therapy on a 34-year-old woman, Pratima, from Warangal who was suffering from drug-resistant epilepsy, according to a statement issued on Saturday by Abhinav Joshi, Chief Operating Officer, CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills. Speaking along with Dr. Shashank Jaiswal, Consultant Neurologist and Epileptologist, Joshi said that the patient has experienced a significant reduction in seizure episodes following the VNS therapy, leading to a marked improvement in her overall health.

He said CARE Hospitals is offering advanced VNS therapy to provide effective treatment for patients suffering from complex and drug-resistant epilepsy, helping improve their quality of life.

Telugu Pageant UK 2026 Winners Meet Media in Hyderabad After Creating History in the United Kingdom“



culture internationally.”“TELUGU PAGEANT UK 2026 – OFFICIAL WINNERS”“Kids Category”“Winner: Sriansh Eeswarawaka”“1st Runner-Up: Ethan Yandrapati”“2nd Runner-Up: Shanaaya Virivada”“3rd Runner-Up: Shanaya Pallerla”“Teens Category”“Winner: Krissy Yandrapati”“1st Runner-Up: Vibhaas Urusula”“2nd Runner-Up: Sloka Karra”“3rd Runner-Up: Dhriti Thota”“Miss Category”“Winner: Sthitha”“1st Runner-Up: Sanjana”“2nd Runner-Up: Aaryaa Reddy”“Mr. Category”“Winner: Chakri”“1st Runner-Up: Raj Namala”“2nd Runner-Up: Anoop Chanda”“3rd Runner-Up: Uday Kalyanapu”“Mrs. Category”“Winner: Sowjanya Mirudoddi”“1st Runner-Up: Suparna”“2nd Runner-Up: Sri Sudula”“3rd Runner-Up: Shravani Chennaboina”“4th Runner-Up: Hima Venkata”“Official Winners Present at the Hyderabad Meet & Greet”“Representatives from several categories attended the Hyderabad media interaction and shared their experiences.”“Kids Category”“Ethan Yandrapati – Runner-Up”“Shanaya Pallerla – Runner-Up”“Teens Category”“Krissy Yandrapati – Crown Winner”“Sloka Karra – Second Runner-Up”“Miss Category”“Sanjana Pappu – Runner-Up”“Mrs. Category”“Sowjanya Mirudoddi – Crown Winner”“This Is Just the Beginning” – Preti Pulipaka”“Addressing the media, Preti Pulipaka, Founder of Desi Events and Organiser of Telugu Pageant UK, expressed her gratitude to the contestants, celebrity guests, sponsors, judges, volunteers, media partners and members of the Telugu community whose support contributed to the success of the inaugural edition.”“Speaking on the occasion, Preti Pulipaka said:”““Telugu Pageant UK was created with the vision of providing an inclusive international platform where confidence, talent, culture and individuality are celebrated without limitations. The overwhelming response from the Telugu community across the United Kingdom has been truly inspiring.”““She further added:”“““Successfully hosting a Telugu movie promotion in the UK through our platform is another proud milestone that reflects our commitment to connecting Telugu culture and cinema with global audiences. This is just the beginning, and we look forward to taking Telugu Pageant UK to even greater heights in the years ahead.”““Taking Telugu Talent and Culture to Global Platforms”“With its successful inaugural edition, Telugu Pageant UK has positioned itself as an emerging international cultural and talent platform for the global Telugu diaspora, bringing together pageantry, fashion, entertainment, cinema and Telugu culture under one roof.”“Following the success of the 2026 edition, Desi Events aims to further expand the initiative through larger international collaborations and global platforms, creating new opportunities for Telugu talent while promoting Telugu culture and entertainment to audiences worldwide.

Everyone Must Join Hands in Building a Drug-Free India“– District Medical & Health Officer Dr. D. Rama Rao“



“Khammam, August 1 (Indian Chronicle): District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO) Dr. D. Rama Rao has called upon everyone to actively participate in eliminating drug abuse and building a healthy society.”“A pledge was administered to the officers and staff at the District Medical and Health Office on Saturday as part of the "Viksit Bharat – Drug-Free Youth" initiative.”“Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rama Rao said that the use of intoxicating substances has a serious negative impact not only on an individual's

health but also on families, society, and the nation's development. He urged the youth to stay away from tobacco, alcohol, ganja, and other narcotic drugs and adopt a healthy lifestyle.”“He explained that the use of addictive substances can lead to severe health problems, including heart disease, cancer, liver disorders, and mental health issues. He advised parents to closely monitor their children's behaviour and urged schools, colleges, village-level institutions, and voluntary organisations to conduct extensive awareness programmes on the harmful effects of drug abuse.”“Dr. Rama Rao appealed to everyone to put into practice the message, "Say No to Drugs – Say Yes to a Healthy Life." He emphasized that building a drug-free India is the responsibility of every citizen and stated that as the youth are the future of the nation, every section of society must work together to protect their health and secure their future.”“The programme was attended by Additional DM&HO Dr. L. Praveen, PO (MHN) L. Venugopal Reddy, PO (NP-NCD) Dr. A. Arunadevi, PO (IDSP) Dr. I. Mothya, DEMO Subrahmanyam, Deputy DEMO Venkateswara Raju, DPHNO Sheshu Padma, Office Superintendent Ravi Kumar, Upender, SO Veeranna, DDM Nagaraju, BSO Venumadhav, DDM Krishnamohan, DPMO Krishnamurthy, HEO Pullaiah Satyanarayana, Health Educators Khader and B. Geetha, along with the office staff.

Government bears significant responsibility for improving teaching standards and creating job opportunities for engineering graduates in Telangana:

Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy”“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau – Indian Chronicle – August 1): Bhuvanagiri MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy stated that during a recent meeting on the education sector, Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy did not single out students for criticism. Instead, the Chief Minister highlighted the need to improve teaching standards in Telangana, noting that many engineering graduates struggle to secure employment due to a lack of necessary skills. His intention was to emphasize the need to align the education system with industry requirements and focus on skill development.

However, KTR is attempting to distort the Chief Minister's remarks for political gain. Reddy reminded KTR that he entered politics riding on his father's political legacy. Furthermore, he pointed out that great historical figures like Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill are remembered not for their formal higher education, but for their leadership, foresight, and determination. "Leadership is defined



not merely by educational qualifications, but by the capacity to work for the people, vision, and the trust of the public," he said.

Youth Must Enter Politics and Shape the Nation's Future“

“AIYF Telangana 3rd State Conference Logo Unveiled”“Hyderabad, August 1 (Indian Chronicle)““Communist Party of India (CPI) Telangana State Assistant Secretary and AIYF State Organising In-charge E.T. Narasimha called upon the youth to actively participate in politics and play a decisive role in shaping the future of the country. He urged young people to join democratic movements to resist the anti-youth policies of the Central Government.”“He was speaking after unveiling the logo of the AIYF Telangana 3rd State Conference, which will be held on September 8, 9 and 10 at Yadagirigutta in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.”“Addressing the gathering, E.T. Narasimha said that although India has one of the largest youth populations in the world, the Centre's policies are promoting privatisation, contractual employment, outsourcing and the weakening of public sector institutions instead of creating employment opportunities, strengthening education and ensuring social security for young people. He alleged that while the government speaks about a National Youth Policy, it has failed to implement concrete measures for permanent jobs, quality public education, affordable healthcare, skill development and democratic participation.”“He said the youth should not remain away from politics, as lasting solutions to public issues can only be achieved through active political participation. He called upon young people to question those in power and take the lead in protecting constitutional values, secularism, democracy and social justice. He stressed the need to strengthen movements for the right to employment, education, healthcare, labour rights, women's safety, farmers' welfare and the promotion of a scientific outlook.”“AIYF State President Vali Ulla Qadri and State General Secretary Kalluri Dharmendra said the AIYF Telangana 3rd State Conference would serve as a historic platform to provide a new



direction for the youth of the state. They said the conference would deliberate on issues including unemployment, filling government vacancies, protection of public education and healthcare, democratic rights, social justice, peace and scientific socialism, besides formulating the organisation's future course of action.”“They appealed to youth and students from across Telangana to participate in large numbers and make the conference a grand success.”“Among those present were AIYF State Working President Nerlakanti Greakanth, State Office Bearers Bijja Srinivasulu, Lingam Ravi, Nanabala Ramakrishna, T. Satya Prasad, Peraboyina Mahender, Sriman and Yugandhar, State Committee members R. Balakrishna, Salman Beg, Shaik Mahmood, Ellanki Mahesh, P. Shiva Kumar, Nayeem, Rajesh, Madhu, Manas Kumar, Raj Kumar, Shekhar, Chintala Ramesh, Srinivas, Ramu, Mahender and several other leaders and activists.

Withdraw GO No. 12Immediately: IFTU District Secretary Guguloth Patel

“Khammam, August 1 (Indian Chronicle)““The District Committee meeting of the Progressive Building and Other Construction Workers' Union (IFTU) was held at the IFTU District Office in Khammam on Saturday under the chairmanship of Kota Raju.”“Addressing the meeting as the chief guest, IFTU District General Secretary Guguloth Patel demanded the immediate withdrawal of GO No. 12, stating that its implementation from July 24, 2025 has caused severe financial hardship to construction workers. He alleged that while nearly ₹150 crore was spent on workers' welfare, around ₹200 crore had benefited private agencies, resulting in significant losses to the labour community.”“Patel also criticised the implementation of CSC Health Tests, alleging that nearly ₹750 crore had been spent on unnecessary medical tests, placing an additional burden on workers. He urged the State Government to immediately cancel the CSC health testing programme.”“Referring to the May Day celebrations held in 2026, he said that for the first time such programmes were organised at Collectorates under the TOMCOM initiative. During the programme, officials announced that children of registered construction workers would receive language training and skill development support to enable them to secure employment in overseas companies, with all expenses to be borne by the Welfare Board. He requested the government to implement the scheme immediately for all eligible workers' children.”“Patel pointed out that although 2.85 million construction workers are registered with the Welfare Board, only 1.55 million have re-



newed their registrations. He alleged that around 1.3 million workers were being declared ineligible without proper reasons and demanded that the State Government take responsibility for completing all pending renewals.”“He further demanded the establishment of labour shelters with drinking water and toilet facilities, a monthly pension of ₹10,000 for construction workers above the age of 50 years without any conditions, and the immediate release of all pending welfare claims. He appealed to both the Central and State Governments to address these issues without delay.”“Among those present were Ubbani Dasu, Teegala Lazar, Padishala Veerababu, Shaik Pasha, Kuntla Satish, Maloth Rupu, Dasari Anil, Ubbani Israel, Ubbani Babu, Ubbani Madhu, Bhaskar, Upender and several other IFTU leaders and construction workers.

Everyone should participate in Vana Mahotsav and save the environment



Bhuvanagiri Constituency MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy”“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 1):- Bhuvanagiri Constituency MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy participated as the chief guest in the Vana Mahotsav program organized in the premises of the Local Government Girls Junior College in Bhuvanagiri town and planted saplings. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Kumbham Anil Kumar Reddy said that they are undertaking wide-ranging programs with the aim of planting 5 to 6 lakh saplings across the Bhuvanagiri constituency. He stated that Vana Mahotsav programs are being organized with the aim of planting 60 thousand saplings in Bhuvanagiri town. The MLA said that human survival is safe only if the environment is good, and clean air and a healthy environ-



ment will be available through increased greenery. He called on everyone to voluntarily come forward and participate in this program and contribute their part to environmental protection. "It is not only our responsibility to plant plants, but also to protect and grow them," the MLA said. He urged everyone to work hard to protect every plant planted today and provide a green and healthy environment for future generations. Bhuvanagiri Municipal Chairperson Tangallapalli Srivani-Ravikumar, Municipal Vice Chairperson Pothamsetty Manjula-Venkateswarlu, Municipal Commissioner Chandrasekar Reddy, District Library Chairman Aves Chisthi, District Forest Officer (DFO) Sudhakar Reddy, Bhuvanagiri Urban Congress President Kura Venkatesh, Municipal Councilors, Forest Department officials, Municipal officials, College faculty, students, party leaders, activists and others participated in this program.

Telangana State Government Whip Beerla Ayilaiah presents appointment letter to Enagandla Sudhakar as Chairman of ATMA Committee

“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 1):- Enagandla Sudhakar, a senior Congress party leader from Chaudharpally village of Bommaramarama mandal of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district, has been appointed as the Chairman of the Black Farmers Advisory Committee (BFAC) set up under the auspices of the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA).”“On this occasion, on Friday, at the Banjara Hills Minister's Quarters in Hyderabad, Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya presented the appointment letter to Enagandla Sudhakar, felicitated him with a shawl and wished him well. Speaking on the occasion, Enagandla Sudhakar expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya for trusting him and providing him with the opportunity to be the Chairman of the ATMA Black Farmers Advisory Committee (BFAC).”“He said that he will carry out the responsi-



bilities entrusted to him with commitment and will work to ensure that the government's agricultural schemes are implemented effectively at the field level,

Government Whip Beerla Ayilaiah paid a courtesy call on Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.. Key discussion on the formation of Kuruma Corporation



Sangam State Chairman and former MLC Egge Mallesham. On this occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was felicitated with a shawl and various issues related to the Kuruma community were discussed extensively. In particular, the issue of the formation of Kuruma Corporation in the state was brought to the attention of the CM, and Government Whip Beerla Ayilaiah said that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had assured that the Kuruma Corporation would be formed by August 15th. He stated that this decision will be a fulfillment of the long-awaited aspiration of the Kuruma community and that the Kuruma community is happy about the assurance given by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. On this occasion, Government Whip Beerla Ayilaiah and Kuruma Sangam State Chairman Egge Mallesham expressed special gratitude to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy on behalf of all the Kuruma castes. He expressed hope that the government is committed to the welfare and socio-economic development of the Kurumas and that through the formation of the corporation, more welfare programs will be available to the community.

“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 1):- Telangana State Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was paid a courtesy call on Telangana State Government Whip, Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilaiah, Kuruma

Funds Sought for Development Works in Balaji Enclave Colony; MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy Responds Positively

UPPAL , AUGUST 01 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Residents of Balaji Enclave Colony, under the leadership of BRS State leader Bannala Praveen Mudiraj, submitted a representation to Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, requesting the sanction of funds for pending development works and the early resolution of civic issues in the colony. Earlier, Bannala Praveen Mudiraj visited the colony along with the newly elected Colony Association President and executive committee members to inspect the local issues. During the visit, they identified the need for reconstruction of damaged CC roads, construction of stormwater drains, installation of additional electricity transformers, provision of a three-phase power supply, and development of greenery along the footpaths on the main road. Subsequently, the delegation met MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy and urged him to sanction funds and ensure the early execution of these development works. Responding positively, the MLA immediately spoke over the phone with Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials from his residence and directed them to prepare the necessary proposals for the requested works without



delay. He assured the Colony Association members that Balaji Enclave Colony would be developed comprehensively and that all the proposed works would be taken up and completed at the earliest. The meeting was attended by Balaji Enclave Colony Association President Venugopal Reddy, General Secretary Omkar Singh, and association members Shankar, Praveen, and others.

Teej festival celebrations in Boinipalli Thanda.. MLA Government Whip Beerla Ayilayya dances with enthusiasm



“(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 1):- Teej festival celebrations, which symbolized Banjara traditions, were held in Boinipalli Thanda, Bommalararamam Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District. Telangana State Government Whip and Aleru MLA Beerla Ayilayya participated as the chief guest at the invitation of Sarpanch Bhukya Rajitha Ramesh Nayak. On this occasion, the women and young women of Thanda performed special Teej festival dances and cultural programs in traditional Banjara attire, while the government whip Beerla Ayilayya participated in a traditional dance along with the people of Thanda and created a buzz. His enthusiastic dancing along with the people of Thanda impressed the people there. The locals welcomed him with joy and affection. Speaking on the occasion, Government Whip Birla Ayilaiah said that Teej festival is a great festival that symbolizes Banjara culture and traditions. He said that it is a special

tradition for women to celebrate this festival with utmost devotion while worshipping nature and for family prosperity, happiness, good rains and abundant crops. He said that the Telangana government is giving utmost priority to the preservation of tribal culture and traditions and is undertaking many programs to pass on their customs and traditions to future generations. He said that along with the development of the tribes, the government is committed to the comprehensive development of tribal areas in all sectors such as education, healthcare, drinking water, roads, electricity and employment. On the occasion of Teej festival, the leader extended his heartfelt greetings to all the people of Thanda and wished for good health, wealth and happiness in every family. A large number of public representatives, Congress party leaders, representatives of tribal associations, women, youth, Thanda elders and villagers participated in this program.

Centre Gives Top Priority to Khammam's Development



Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, expressing gratitude to the Central Government for prioritising the district's development. Speaking on the occasion, Nelluri Koteswara Rao said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is emerging as a global leader and one of the world's fastest-growing economies. He stated that the Central Government has been making significant efforts for the development of Telangana, particularly Khammam district. He described the Thallampadu-Devarapalli Greenfield Highway, sanctioned under the prestigious Bharatmala Pariyojana, along with the Nagpur-Amaravati Highway, as valuable gifts from the Centre to the people of Khammam district. Koteswara Rao said the Greenfield National Highways, being developed at an estimated cost of over ₹3,700 crore, would transform the district's transportation network and significantly boost industrial, commercial and agricultural development. He thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on behalf of the people of Khammam district and the Bharatiya Janata Party for sanctioning and executing these major infrastructure projects. The programme was attended by BJP State Official Spokesperson Namburi Ramalingeswara Rao, District General Secretary Gutta Venkateswarlu, District Secretary Srirama Nenimani, Mahila Morcha President Manda Saraswathi, BJP leader Ravi Rathod, Regan Pratap, BJYM leaders, local BJP functionaries and party workers

“BJP Leaders Celebrate Inauguration of Khammam-Devarapalli Greenfield Highway” Khammam, August 1 (Indian Chronicle) “Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders and workers in Khammam celebrated the inauguration of the Khammam-Devarapalli Greenfield Highway by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday. Marking the occasion, BJP leaders led by Khammam District President Nelluri Koteswara Rao performed a ceremonial milk abhishekam to the portraits of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union

Collector Directs Officials to Expedite Issuance of SADAREM-UDID Cards



“Ensure Every Eligible Person with Disability Receives the Card” Khammam, August 1 (Indian Chronicle) Khammam District Collector Divakar T.S. has directed officials to expedite the issuance of SADAREM-UDID (Unique Disability ID) cards and ensure that every eligible person with disability receives the certificate without delay. The Collector participated in a video conference conducted by SERP CEO Divya on Saturday to review the progress of SADAREM-UDID card issuance. The meeting, attended by District Collectors, Additional Collectors, District Rural Development Officers and Chief Medical Of-

ficers from across the State, was joined from the Khammam Collectorate by Collector Divakar T.S. along with Additional Collector Dr. P. Srija. During the review, the SERP CEO assessed the progress of UDID card issuance, district-wise applications, pending cases, the functioning of assessment centres and the availability of infrastructure, while issuing necessary directions to officials. Following the video conference, Collector Divakar T.S. reviewed the matter with district officials and stated that the State Government is giving top priority to the SADAREM-UDID programme. He instructed officials to speed up the issuance of disability certificates for all eligible Thalassemia and Sickle Cell Disease patients and ensure that every eligible person with disability receives the UDID card. The Collector also directed officials to make full use of the facilities available at the district's UDID assessment centre, including specialist doctors, required medical equipment and data entry operators, to clear pending applications at the earliest. He noted that the newly established SADAREM Centre in the district has streamlined the certification process and instructed all concerned departments to work in close coordination to ensure timely issuance of SADAREM-UDID certificates to all eligible beneficiaries. The meeting was attended by Trainee Assistant Collector Paras Kumar, DRDO Sriram, CPO Srinivas, District Hospital Superintendent Dr. Narendar, and other concerned officials.

Hyderabad Police Bust Inter-State Drug Network, Seize Narcotics Worth Rs 13.24 Lakh

Hyderabad correspondent, August 1 (Indian Chronicle): Hyderabad Police will continue its relentless crackdown on drug trafficking and dismantle every network involved in the illegal narcotics trade, Task Force and H-NEW DCP Vaibhav Gaikwad said after an operation led to the arrest of two alleged drug traffickers and the seizure of narcotics worth Rs 13.24 lakh. Acting on specific intelligence, the Hyderabad Narcotics Enforcement Wing (H-NEW), in coordination with Hussaini Alam Police, arrested local peddler Mohammed Saif (31) of Charminar and drug transporter Sameer Babubhai Waghela (25) of Mumbai. Police seized 120 grams of hydroponic cannabis (OG), five grams of cocaine, 27 LSD blots, two mobile phones and a Maruti Suzuki Baleno car. Investigators said Saif allegedly sourced the contraband through Sameer from a Mumbai-based supplier, identified as Aditya, who remains absconding. The drugs were reportedly distributed to consumers across Hyderabad through a local network. Police said Saif was previously involved in two criminal cases registered at Abids and Afzalgunj police stations. Efforts are underway to trace other members of the inter-state supply chain. The



Hyderabad Police appealed to the public to remain vigilant against drug abuse and trafficking and urged citizens to share credible information with H-NEW or the nearest police station, assuring complete confidentiality of informants.

ACTION AGAINST CYBER CRIME DCP ARVIND BABU PURELY A VENDETTA ACT BY THE CONG GOVT; BJP

Hyderabad, Aug 1 : Telangana BJP today strongly condemned Congress government's decision to relieve Cyber Crime DCP Arvind Babu from his duties and attach him to the DGP office for lawfully registering a case against those who posted morphed videos severely insulting Prime Minister Narendra Modi on social media. BJP state party chief official spokesperson and Media in-charge N V Subhash, in a statement, said the state government's decision is highly objectionable. This incident is yet another example proving that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is acting very cheaply, rather than conducting himself like the Chief Minister of a state. He said it was matter of serious concern that the Congress government has removed a police officer from his duties, instead of standing by its officers and taking action against those making insulting and hateful posts against the Prime Minister who holds a constitutional post. The government's crackdown on an officer for discharging his duties is shameful and CM Revanth Reddy must answer for the reasons behind this decision, Subhash demanded. He questioned when two women journalists were arrested and remanded for making inappropriate remarks about Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, does the government reward those who troll the Prime Minister of the country. Is there one standard of justice for Revanth Reddy and another for the Prime Minister. Is this the respect you give to the Constitution. Is the Constitution written by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar in forced in Telangana or are the laws of Rahul-Revanth Reddy (RRR) running the state?, Subhash asked. If no action is taken against those who insult the country's Prime Min-

ister in Telangana, one can easily understand what would happen to common citizens who face threats. When Congress and MIM goons, as well as foreign forces, attack BJP workers, will there be no response even if a complaint is lodged? Does this mean giving them a license to attack us. Revanth Reddy is acting today in the same manner as supporting Akbaruddin, who once said, If the police are removed for 15 minutes, we will finish off the Hindus, he reminded. Chief official spokesperson launched a scathing attack on Revanth Reddy government and said in the state, criminals and anti-social elements have the freedom to launch attacks, but do common people lack the freedom to file a complaint, and officers lack the freedom to receive it. A pathetic situation has arisen in the state where permission from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) is required even to register an FIR. Honest officers who refuse to toe the line are being harassed under the guise of transfers. Revanth Reddy, who boasts 20 years of political experience, lacks even basic knowledge of governance. When students ask for fee reimbursement, he labels them criminals, he said adding that the CM demeaned Osmania University students by calling them drunkards. Revanth Reddy is speaking without dignity, forgetting his stature as a Chief Minister. Keeping the law and the police system under his control while aiding anti-social elements, Revanth Reddy is completely unfit to hold the Home Minister's portfolio, Subhash said. The BJP demanded that Revanth Reddy immediately resign from his posts as Chief Minister and Home Minister who is unable to deliver governance with dignity.

Gayatri Vidyaniketan Celebrates Vanamahotsavam; 1,050 Saplings Distributed to Students and Parents



Peddapalli , Aug.1 (Indian Chronicle): Gayatri Vidyaniketan in Peddapalli town celebrated Vanamahotsavam with great enthusiasm on Saturday by distributing around 1,050 saplings to students and their parents, promoting environmental awareness and tree plantation. The saplings included flowering, fruit-bearing, and medicinal plants such as rose, hibiscus, oleander, guava, sapota, fig, mulberry, Indian gooseberry (amla), custard apple, and several other varieties. Speaking on the occasion, Gayatri Educational Institutions Chairman Allenki Srinivas said that the institution has been organizing Vanamahotsavam every year to instill a sense of love for nature, environmental responsibility, and ecological awareness among students from an early age. He said that parents have been giving positive feedback as students are planting and nurturing the saplings at their homes and enjoying the flowers and fruits they produce. This encouragement, he added, has inspired the institution to continue the initiative with greater enthusiasm every year. Correspondent Allenki Rajani Devi said that the

programme was aimed at encouraging children to develop a close bond with nature from a young age. As the monsoon season is the most suitable time for plantation, the institution chose the occasion to distribute saplings. She urged every student to plant at least one sapling and take responsibility for its care and protection. Teachers, students, and parents participated enthusiastically in the programme. The students pledged to plant the saplings they received and nurture them responsibly. Organised under the slogan “Green Trees... Steps Towards Progress,” the programme received widespread appreciation from participants and parents alike.

Old City Bonalu celebrations to begin in Hyd on Sunday

Hyderabad: The stage is set for the much-awaited Old City Bonalu celebrations, which will commence on Sunday and continue throughout the week before culminating in the grand Bonalu procession on August 11. Thousands of devotees are expected to participate in the annual festivities, one of Hyderabad's most vibrant and revered religious and cultural events. The highlight of the celebrations is the Bonalu festival at the historic Simhavahini Mahankali Temple at Lal Darwaza, where devotees, particularly women dressed in traditional attire, offer bonam to Goddess Mahankali as an expression of gratitude and devotion during the Ashada month.

Karimnagar first district to complete sheep breeders' union elections after reorganisation

Bhashaveni Mallesham Yadav elected president unanimously; 12-member district union committee chosen without contest.



Karimnagar August 1 (Correspondent): Karimnagar has become the first district in Telangana to complete the elections to the District Sheep Breeders' Cooperative Union after the reorganisation of districts, Election Officer Jalaluddin Akbar said on Saturday. Addressing the media after the completion of the election process, Mr. Akbar announced that Bhashaveni Mallesham Yadav was elected

president and Chigurla Srinivas Kuruma vice-president unanimously. He said the election was conducted without contest.

The following were elected unanimously as directors: Agita Ravinder, Kalva Suresh, Choutapalli Ranjith, Jillella Parashuramulu, Dadi Anjaneyulu, Dadi Sadayya, Dane Odelu, Bandi Mallayya, Mukker Sadananandam and Sandaveni PrasadMr. Akbar said elections to the sheep breeders' cooperative societies in the erstwhile Karimnagar district were last held nearly 14 years ago. Following the reorganisation of districts, fresh elections to the district union were conducted in Karimnagar.

The election notification was issued on July 22, and nominations were received from July 27 to 29. A total of 21 nominations were filed, of which nine were withdrawn, resulting in the unanimous election of the remaining 12 candidates, he added. The elected members were later administered the oath of office. Speaking after his election, Mr. Mallesham Yadav thanked the presidents of the primary sheep breeders' cooperative societies, members of the Yadav and Kuruma communities, and community elders for extending support. He said he would work for the welfare of sheep breeders with the cooperation of all stakeholders. Assistant Registrar Vamsi Krishna, Senior Inspector Sardar Preetpal Singh, members of the cooperative societies and officials concerned participated in the election process. The newly elected committee members and the Election Officer later paid a courtesy visit to District Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Officer Linga Reddy.

Mock Election Held at Kakatiya High School to Create Electoral Awareness Among Students

"Manthani Peddapalli District, August 1 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "A mock election was successfully conducted at Kakatiya High School on Saturday with the objective of promoting democratic values and creating awareness among students about the electoral process. "The programme simulated the procedures followed by the Election Commission of India, including nomination filing, election campaigning, secret voting, ballot box polling, vote counting, and declaration of results. Students enthusiastically exercised their voting rights and actively participated in every stage of the election. "The elected student representatives are: "Head Boy: B. Kaushik"Head Girl: Vishwashree"Sports Secretary: Omkar"Deputy Head Boy: Sri Nagachaitanya"Deputy Head Girl: Anjali Priya" The chief

guest, social activist Kanukuntla Swamy, addressed the students and explained the electoral process followed by the Government of India. He highlighted the importance of the right to vote and encouraged students to become responsible citizens. "School Principal Pradeep Reddy said the mock election was organised to educate students from an early age about democracy, the value of voting, and the responsibilities of good citizenship. "Teachers stated that the activity helped students gain first-hand knowledge of the election process and understand the significance of every vote. They added that such initiatives play a vital role in shaping informed and responsible future citizens. "The programme was attended by the school's directors, teachers, and students, who contributed to making the mock election a grand success.

Talasanani Assures Lasting Civic Solutions During Sanath Nagar Inspection



"Hyderabad correspondent, August 1 (Indian Chronicle): "Every civic issue affecting residents will be addressed through permanent solutions, and no genuine public grievance will be ignored," former minister and Sanath

Nagar MLA Talasanani Srinivas Yadav said after inspecting Rajarajeshwari Nagar on Saturday. Interacting with residents during a field visit with officials from various departments, the MLA reviewed complaints relating to overflowing drains and stormwater congestion. Observing that the drainage problem required a long-term solution, he directed officials to prepare proposals for laying a new drainage network. Responding to complaints of anti-social activities during night hours, he assured residents that CCTV cameras would be installed in the colony. Talasanani also instructed electricity officials to replace ageing iron electric poles with cement poles to eliminate safety risks. He urged eligible voters to participate in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise before the August 10 deadline and asked colony representatives to create awareness through door-to-door outreach. He also directed them to identify eligible pension beneficiaries and submit their details to the authorities.

Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar Invited to Sri Ganga Lakshmi Bhavani Ammavari 14th Annual Festival

""UPPAL, AUGUST 01 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The 14th Annual Festival of Sri Sri Ganga Lakshmi Bhavani Ammavari will be celebrated with great devotion from August 3 to August 9, the temple festival committee announced. "As part of the festival preparations, the temple committee members met Telangana Minister for BC Welfare and Transport, Ponnamp Prabhakar, and formally invited him to attend the celebrations by presenting the official invitation. "Representatives of the temple committee, under the leadership of the Telangana Gangaputra Association, briefed the Minister about the week-long festival. Extending his best wishes, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar expressed hope that the celebrations would be conducted successfully and in a grand manner. "The meeting was attended by Deeti Malliah, Temple Committee President Poosa Sathaiah, committee members Poosa Sailu, Bairi Ganachari, Vempati Ramana, and others. "According to the organizers, several prominent leaders are expected to participate in the festivities, including former Minister Chamakura Malla Reddy, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, Musheerabad MLA Mutha Gopal, former MLA



NVSS Prabhakar, Uppal Congress Constituency In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, along with State Ministers, public representatives, former MLAs, former corporators, leaders from various political parties, and representatives of the Gangaputra community. Temple Committee President Poosa Sathaiah appealed to devotees to participate in large numbers in the special rituals, cultural programmes, Annadanam (free community meal), and distribution of Theertha Prasadam, and seek the divine blessings of Sri Ganga Lakshmi Bhavani Ammavari. "

Demolition of Velugumatla Houses is Unconstitutional: Dr. Bhimrao Yashwant Ambedkar

"Provide Houses to All Remaining Velugumatla Bhoodan Victims""We Will Lay Siege to Rahul Gandhi's Residence if Justice is Denied""Khammam, August 1 (Indian Chronicle): "A massive protest rally was organized in Khammam under the leadership of Ketavarapu Krishna Rao and the BC-SC-ST JAC, demanding that all remaining Bhoodan land victims of Velugumatla be provided houses at the same location. Thousands of people participated in the rally carrying JAC flags, followed by a public meeting. "Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Dr. Bhimrao Yashwant Ambedkar, grandson of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, strongly condemned the demolition of houses belonging to families who had been residing on Bhoodan land for the past 15 years. He described the action as inhuman and unconstitutional. "He alleged that the demolitions reflected social discrimination and demanded that the local MLA take responsibility and resign. He urged the state government to immediately provide houses to all the remaining victims in Velugumatla itself. Failing that, he warned that they would organize a protest at the residence of Rahul Gandhi. He also stated that their Members of Parliament would raise the issue in Parliament and seek accountability from the Khammam MP. "Dr. Ambedkar further said that he would personally meet the President of India and demand the immediate suspension of officials and public representatives responsible for carrying out the demolitions without proper legal permission. He also demanded that the compensation for the demolished houses be recovered from those responsible. "Former Justice Chandra Kumar, another guest at the meeting, said a fact-finding committee had found that certain land grabbers allegedly pressured officials to carry out the demolitions. He assured continued legal support to the victims and warned that if the remaining families were not rehabilitated in Velugumatla, cases would be filed in the High Court and, if necessary, taken to the



Supreme Court. "Dr. Vishardan Maharaj, who had earlier undertaken an indefinite hunger strike demanding justice for the victims, said the government's decision to allot 311 houses was the result of the sustained agitation by the JAC. He demanded that the remaining eligible families also be given houses in Velugumatla, warning that otherwise a padayatra would be launched to the residence of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. "BC-SC-ST JAC State Secretary Podakanti Rambabu alleged that shifting the remaining beneficiaries to another location was part of a conspiracy. He demanded that all eligible families be rehabilitated in Velugumatla itself and warned that the movement would intensify if the government failed to act. "The programme was attended by RPI Telangana In-charge Major Chandrakant, JAC State President Thotla Mudiraj Raghavendra, Telangana Vitthal, senior advocate Panjakula Lakshminarayana, district JAC leaders, Bhoodan victims, and representatives of various people's organizations. "

Thinsa Dance from Vizianagaram Earns Guinness Recognition; A Matter of Pride for Telugu People: Pitta Srinivasa Reddy



"HYDERABAD , AUGUST 01 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): "Supreme Court advocate and BJP Legal Cell national leader Pitta Srinivasa Reddy has said that the Thinsa tribal dance, performed by around 13,000 tribal artists at Bhogapuram in Vizianagaram district, has received nationwide appreciation and brought great pride to the Telugu community. "He stated that the Guinness World Record achieved through the grand performance reflects the rich culture, traditions, and heritage of the Telugu tribal communities. The participation of thousands of tribal men and women in the traditional Thinsa dance has become a proud moment for all Telugu people, he said, adding that Telugus and Indians across the world are celebrating this remarkable achievement. "Pitta Srinivasa Reddy further said that the inauguration of the state-of-the-art Bhogapuram International Airport, built at a cost of several thousand crore rupees by the coalition government, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi marks a significant milestone in the development of North Andhra. "He appreciated the efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N.

Chandrababu Naidu, and Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu for their contribution to the project. "He also praised Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare Minister Gummidhi Sandhya Rani and the officials concerned for their efforts in securing Guinness recognition for the Thinsa dance, which has showcased the grandeur of tribal culture to the world. He added that people from all sections of society have expressed happiness and pride over this remarkable achievement. "

1.5 lakh electors face deletion in Nirmal, Adilabad

Nirmal/Adilabad: The process of Special Intensified Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has reached the final stage. A massive number of duplicate voters are likely to be deleted from the rolls. Commenced on June 25, the objective of SIR is to delete fake voters from electoral rolls and to ensure eligible voters are included in the list of electors. The last date for submitting forms has been extended to August 10. Eligible voters submitted enumeration forms to booth-level officers as part of the process. Omission of fake votes, migrants and deceased persons is underway. For instance, Nirmal district comprising Nirmal, Khanapur and Mudhole Assembly constituencies has 7,55,344 voters as per the 2002 voter list. However, 6.70 lakh electors have submitted the enumeration forms till now. Digitalisation of the forms has been completed. The remaining 85,000 voters have not submitted the forms till now. Their names are likely to be deleted from the rolls. Similarly, Adilabad district, which contains two segments,



Election Commission of India Secretary Naveen Kumar "Review Meeting on SIR Implementation with Ranga Reddy District Officials" Meeting Held at District Collectorate; Followed by Field Inspection "In view of the Election Commission of India's decision to extend the deadline for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Electoral Rolls till August 10, Election Commission of India Secretary Shri Naveen Kumar directed officials to utilize the additional time exclusively for improving the quality of the revision process. "The Secretary reviewed the implementation of the SIR programme during a meeting held at the Ranga Reddy District Collectorate on Saturday. He was received by District Collector and District Election Officer Shri C. Narayana Reddy, along with Additional Collectors Smt. K. Kiranmayi and Shri Chandra Reddy. "Addressing the officials, Shri Naveen Kumar appreciated the efforts made by the district administration and election machinery so far. He commended the voter awareness campaigns and Form Filling Melas conducted across the district, stating that these initiatives had strengthened public confidence in the electoral process. He noted that his visit was initially intended to review the pace of digitization, as the district had earlier been below the State average. However, he expressed satisfaction over the significant improvement achieved. "He stated that with the Election Commission granting an additional seven days, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) should thoroughly re-verify all digitized Enumeration Forms to ensure that details, photographs and supporting documents have been uploaded accurately and without any errors. Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) were instructed to conduct surprise inspections to ensure quality standards are maintained. "The Secretary emphasized that the polling station rationalization exercise should be carried out with utmost care. Officials were instructed to physically inspect every polling station and ensure that it conforms to the norms prescribed by the Election Commission. Government buildings should be utilized as polling stations wherever available, while private buildings should be used only in unavoidable circumstances. "He further directed officials to undertake a fresh field verification of voters reported as deceased, shifted or untraceable by consulting family members and gathering local information. Such thorough verification, he said, would help reduce objections and notices at a later stage. He also advised that additional Assistant Electoral Registration Officers may be deployed wherever necessary to ensure effective management of the workload. "Referring to complaints received by the Election Commission regarding voters being unable to locate their names in the electoral rolls and the non-availability of BLOs, Shri Naveen Kumar instructed BLOs to extend full cooperation to the public, receive applications promptly and create greater awareness about the electoral process. "Expressing satisfaction with the coordinated efforts of the district adminis-



tration and election staff, he urged officials to maintain the same commitment and complete the remaining SIR activities with the highest standards of quality. "Speaking on the occasion, District Election Officer and District Collector Shri C. Narayana Reddy said that the SIR programme is being implemented in the district in a transparent manner, strictly adhering to the Election Commission's guidelines and with a strong focus on quality. "He informed that the district has 3,501 polling stations and 36,99,743 electors, with an average of 1,056 voters per polling station. He stated that the mapping exercise has been particularly challenging in urban Assembly constituencies such as Serilingampally, L.B. Nagar, Rajendranagar and Maheshwaram due to the high concentration of voters. In addition, some villages and polling stations fall under the jurisdiction of two districts, requiring close coordination among officials. "The Collector stated that 63.53% of the mapping process has been completed so far. While rural constituencies have shown good progress, special attention is being given to pending mapping, anomalies, duplicate entries and no-mapping cases in urban areas. He welcomed the extension of the Enumeration Form submission deadline till August 10, stating that it would greatly benefit the district in ensuring thorough verification of every case. "He further informed that pending cases would be jointly verified by BLOs and Booth Level Agents (BLAs), and voters would be contacted directly wherever necessary to collect accurate information. He said that extensive meetings had already been conducted with representatives of political parties to address misconceptions, and additional meetings would be organized at the ERO level to expedite the remaining work. "The Collector also stated that proposals are being examined to establish polling stations within gated communities, wherever feasible, instead of at distant locations, with the objective of making polling more convenient for voters. He added that the district has received an encouraging response from the public due to the extensive awareness campaigns, special camps and Form Filling Melas conducted since the launch of the SIR programme. He assured that every eligible voter would be enrolled in accordance with the Election Commission's guidelines and that the revision process would be completed with the highest standards of accuracy and quality. "Following the review meeting, Election Commission of India Secretary Shri Naveen Kumar, accompanied by Additional Collector Smt. K. Kiranmayi, conducted field inspections of the ongoing SIR process at Kongara, Bongulur and L.B. Nagar. He interacted with BLOs to review the implementation process, understand operational challenges and assess public response. "The meeting was attended by Additional Collectors Smt. K. Kiranmayi and Shri Chandra Reddy, Zonal Commissioners, Electoral Registration Officers (EROs), district officials, election officials and officers of the concerned departments. "Issued by: "District Public Relations Officer" Ranga Reddy District

A murder in Delhi, a headless torso in Mumbai: Inside a 30-year hunt for two fugitive brothers



GNS News Agency, August 1

The 27-year-old wholesale clothes trader stretched his back inside a rented room in Raghurbi Nagar after spending the day buying second-hand clothes at a trading market about 2 km away. He had travelled from Moradabad with his four brothers for the wholesale trade.Raghurbi Nagar, part of West Delhi's Rajouri Garden, was then one of the capital's busiest shopping hubs, known for its textile markets as much as its chole-bhature stalls.

Ishtiaq had been at work since 5 am, haggling with traders while bidding for bundles of clothes. "He and his brothers were at the market along with their neighbour from Moradabad, Shah Nawaz, also a clothes trader," said a police officer.Shah Nawaz and one of Ishtiaq's brothers, Sharafat Ali, had their eyes on the same saree. What began as a bidding war escalated into a verbal spat, followed by pushing and shoving.

"Shah Nawaz threatened Ishtiaq and his brothers with dire consequences for taking that saree from him. He said he would be back," Sharafat told the police in his complaint.Back at their rented room, around 4.30 pm, Ishtiaq heard a knock at the door. It was Shah Nawaz with three men — his brothers Firasat Ali and Arshad Ali and their associate Jahangir Khan."They forced their way in, armed with knives, and launched a deadly attack on the occupants," said a police officer.According to police reports, the attack resembled a gang hit.Police said Firasat and Shah Nawaz went for Ishtiaq. Jahangir held one of Ishtiaq's brothers, Riyasat, so Arshad could stab him repeatedly in the chest."The injured men had been taken to DDU Hospital, where Ishtiaq succumbed to his injuries. Based on Sharafat's statement, an FIR was registered. Murder charges were added after Ishtiaq's death," said DCP Sanjeev Yadav.

Ishtiaq's murder marked the beginning of a case that would span three decades, two cities and a second killing. Convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment, Shah Nawaz and Firasat Ali secured bail in 2000 while their appeal was pending and vanished. Sixteen years later, the Delhi High Court upheld their conviction, but the brothers never surrendered.Investigators alleged Firasat resurfaced in Mumbai and carried out a contract killing before Delhi Police finally tracked down both brothers earlier this month.A torso in Bhindi Bazaar

On May 14, 2006, nearly 1,400 km away in South Mumbai's Bhindi Bazaar, a vendor arrived at the neighbourhood's mutton market to find a plastic bag on his

cart. Inside was a human torso. He immediately alerted the JJ Marg police.Bhindi Bazaar, a maze of narrow lanes lined with chawls, ageing colonial-era buildings, Irani cafes and wholesale markets, had long been associated with the underworld. Once a stronghold of Dawood Ibrahim's D-Company, it was by then witnessing the decline of organised crime's old order.

Police said the lucrative supari, or contract-killing, business had become increasingly decentralised, with freelance hitmen replacing tightly controlled syndicates.At JJ Marg police station, officers got to work."The head, limbs... everything apart from the torso was chopped off, so the victim couldn't be identified. It looked like the work of someone who knew what they were doing," said a police officer.Gulabrao More, then an Assistant Sub-Inspector at Nagpada police station, joined the investigation.Despite collecting DNA samples, investigators drew a blank. The victim could not be identified and no missing person complaint matched the remains.More than a decade later, an informer called More, by then an inspector with MRA Marg police station, while he was on his morning walk at Mahalaxmi Race Course.The informer claimed to know the identity of the victim."I was the first one to get the tip about the body. The deceased was Kishan Kharva, who would have been 57 years old at that time. The caller said that the killer was someone named Firasat Ali, and his brother Shah Nawaz," More told.Within days, Mumbai Police traced and arrested the brothers. They refused to speak about the murder, prompting investigators to trace Kharva's family.

They found that Kharva lived in Kamathipura with his wife, Bansiben, and their four children.Questioning Bansiben led investigators to what they alleged was the motive: she had allegedly hired Firasat to kill her husband.Police said Bansiben sold utensils door to door, often accepting old clothes in exchange. Once she had collected enough, she sold them to wholesale traders. That, police said, was how she came to know Firasat Ali."Kisan was addicted to alcohol and used to physically assault and abuse his wife besides frequently accusing her of infidelity. Owing to this, Bansiben gave a contract to kill her husband, paying Rs 2 lakh to Firasat and Arshad. Firasat murdered Kisan, dismembered the body, and disposed of the severed body parts at different locations," said DCP Sanjeev Yadav.Firasat remained in jail until January 2021, when he was granted bail by the Bombay High Court. He disappeared again.Nearly five years later, Delhi Police's Anti-Robbery and Snatching Cell (ARSC) of the Crime Branch received fresh intelligence on the brothers' whereabouts.Investigators learnt that Firasat had returned to his hometown of Moradabad, while Shah Nawaz was living in Godda, Jharkhand. Two teams led by Inspector Robin Tyagi were formed."On July 4, both teams simultaneously conducted raids at Moradabad and Godda to prevent either accused from alerting the other or escaping. Both were successfully apprehended from their respective hideouts," said DCP Yadav.Police said the brothers had continued to lead seemingly ordinary lives while expanding their clothes business. Firasat handled supplies from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, while Shah Nawaz oversaw operations in Jharkhand and Maharashtra.Both are now lodged in Tihar Jail. Delhi Police have informed Mumbai Police about Firasat's arrest.

Human head found near Bengaluru cricket ground, body near railway tracks

GNS News Agency, August 1

Bengaluru human head, Bengaluru railway accident, Kodathi cricket ground, Whitefield police, Bengaluru crime news, severed head Bengaluru, Railway Police Bengaluru, unidentified body Bengaluru, Kodathi village, Indian Express news, Bengaluru newsThe Bengaluru police said dogs may have carried remains from the railway tracks and that the identity of the victim is yet to be confirmed. (File Photo)It was a puzzle most macabre.

Police suspect the dogs dragged the head from the tracks to the ground, and left a grisly present – disfigured and almost impossible for police to identify – for locals out for their morning walk.Unofficially, the body and head are believed to be that of a 28-year-old man from Andhra Pradesh, who may have been the tragic victim of a railway accident."We have registered a case of unnatural death. The severed head recovered near the playground belongs to the same person. We believe stray dogs dragged it from the railway tracks to the playground. We are yet to ascer-



tain the deceased's identity," Saidulu Advavath, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Whitefield, said.Following the recovery, personnel from the Railway Police, Varthur Police, the Scene of Crime Officer (SOCO) team, and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) team visited the spot and conducted a detailed examination.

Panjab University gets officiating VC a day after scholar's electrocution



The Vice-President of India, in his capacity as Chancellor of Panjab University (PU), has directed Prof Meenakshi Goyal, Dean of University Instruction (DUI), to discharge the responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor with effect from the forenoon of July 29, following the completion of Prof Renu Vig's four-month extension as Vice-Chancellor.

GNS News Agency, August 1

The Vice-President of India, in his capacity as Chancellor of Panjab University (PU), has directed Prof Meenakshi Goyal, Dean of University Instruction (DUI), to discharge the responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor with effect from the forenoon of July 29, following the completion of Prof Renu Vig's four-month extension as Vice-Chancellor.According to an order issued by the Secretariat of the Vice-President of India on July 28, Prof Goyal will discharge the responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor "until alternative arrangements are made or until further orders, whichever is earlier."Confirming the development, Panjab University Director Public Relations Vineet Puniya said that, as per the orders of the Vice-President of India-cum-Chan-

cellor of Panjab University, Dr Meenakshi Goyal would discharge the responsibilities of the Vice-Chancellor till further orders.

Prof Renu Vig's four-month extension as Vice-Chancellor ended on July 28.The administrative change comes a day after the death of a PhD scholar on the university campus triggered widespread protests and demands for accountability from the university administration.Jyoti Yadav, a fourth-year PhD scholar in the Department of Microbiology from Rewari in Haryana, died on Tuesday after she was allegedly electrocuted while crossing a waterlogged stretch near Girls' Hostel No. 8 on the university's South Campus.

The incident sparked protests outside the Vice-Chancellor's office, with students accusing the university administration of negligence and seeking action against officials, a campus-wide infrastructure safety audit, compensation for the victim's family, suspension of the Chief Security Officer and the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor.

Late on Tuesday evening, the protests intensified as students broke through the gates of the Vice-Chancellor's office after negotiations with the university authorities failed to break the deadlock. The agitating students and Jyoti's family refused to accept the university's initial offer of Rs 16 lakh compensation and a non-teaching job for her brother, demanding enhanced compensation and action against senior university officials.An FIR has been registered in connection with the student's death, while police and university authorities are investigating the circumstances leading to the incident. University officials have maintained that the exact cause of death is yet to be established, although students have alleged that she suffered an electric shock while walking through stagnant rainwater on the campus.The Vice-President's order appointing Prof Goyal as the officiating head of the university does not mention any reason for the arrangement and follows the scheduled conclusion of Prof Vig's extended tenure.

How military engineer John Blakiston shaped Bengaluru's Cantonment



Most discussion of colonial Bengaluru is split between the Pete, the original walled portion of the city, and the Cantonment, the centre of British influence and everything that came with it. But while the Cantonment region eventually grew to represent many aspects of British high society — from elegant homes to clubs catering to the elite of the time — it began as a purely military establishment. As such, its construction was overseen by a military engineer, John Blakiston, who served in the East India Company military from 1802 to 1814.As it happens, Blakiston also wrote one of the earlier accounts of Bengaluru in the period immediately following the Anglo-Mysore Wars – as part of his personal memoirs, 'Twelve Years Military Adventure in Three Quarters of The Globe'.

Blakiston's first impressions of the Bengaluru region border on the stereotypical — like virtually every other Englishman of the time writing about the region — he noted its capacity to grow fruits and vegetables. Arriving near the old Nundydroog fort some 30 miles north of the city, he had pointed out that, "The climate here is considered to be cooler than in any part of the peninsula . . .all the vegetables or fruits of Europe can be grown with facility." He also had an unfortunate first impression of the district's monsoon rains, when a mud hut collapsed on his head during a downpour.

In the early 1800s, he was ordered to Bengaluru to prepare the establishment of a cantonment on a "large scale". Initially, it was modeled after the existing cantonment in Madras. As Blakiston himself noted, "In less than a year . . .had completed barracks for two regiments of Europeans, five regiments of natives, and a proportion of artillery, besides hospitals and other requisites . . .before I left, it had grown into the first military station on the Madras establishment; while its climate, situation, and productions

contributed, with its extensive society, to render it by far the pleasantest and most agreeable residence in the peninsula."He went on to praise it as having later grown into the largest and finest cantonment of India — something that points to the fast growth of Bengaluru's Cantonment area from a purely military setup. Blakiston published his memoirs in 1829, not very long after his military service in 1814. Blakiston also gave us early insight into the culture of the cantonment, at least from a British point of view. He has noted, "Besides the general amusements of cricket, and other similar pastimes, which the mildness of the climate for the greater part of the year enables the officers and soldiers to enjoy in perfection, meetings are held annually, at which the best horses in India contest the prizes."

However, it was not all a paradise. Blakiston lamented the prevalence of "gaming" or gambling for stakes in Bengaluru. Apart from bets on horse races, which still exists as a legal phenomenon in Bengaluru, it seems he was referring to card games.Several fascinating incidents relating to this are recorded by Blakiston — such as one case where a senior British official lost several thousand pounds to a young officer in a fluke. Worried over the fact that the young man's lack of skill at cards might ruin him in the future, the senior official gave him his winnings on the sole condition that the officer would not play for high stakes again. Another incident ended less happily — an argument over gambling debts between two officers escalated into personal insults and then a duel over personal honour – leaving one of them dead.Perhaps presciently, Blakiston seems to have noted a growing gap between the native and European soldiery and certain sources of discontent. "Here was too evident a desire to copy the European regiments, in matters not really essential to the discipline of the native corps . . .tending to produce discontent, and to diminish their attachment to the service. For instance, the frequent drills, parades and roll calls . . .though absolutely necessary to preserve the Europeans, whose habits were anything but temperate or quiescent, in any degree of order, were by no means so to the sober and domestic sepoy."He also noted that British officers, "carried themselves too high with the native officers, and did not encourage their visits". Indeed, Bengaluru witnessed its very own mutiny in the cantonment much before the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857, although the British discovered the plot and crushed it after being tipped off by a loyal Indian soldier.

Ahead of Independence Day, Intel flags ISI-backed plan of petrol bomb attacks in Punjab



Intelligence inputs have flagged a sharp escalation in Pakistan's ISI-driven terror strategy in Punjab, with petrol bombs emerging as a key new weapon in planned attacks timed for Independence Day 2026 and the weeks leading up to it.Described as low-grade, easy to fabricate and yet highly effective for spreading terror, these devices form part of an expanded arsenal that also includes remote-controlled RDX-based prefabricated IEDs, alongside traditional RDX tiffin bombs, hand grenades, automatic weapons and small firearms.

In the early hours of the night of July 25-26, two miscreants hurled petrol bombs at the BJP district office in Sangrur. One bottle struck the outer wall near the kitchen area, causing burn marks and a low-intensity fire, while a second fell outside. Punjab Police officials say the attack was carried out on the instructions of Pakistan-based gangster Shehzad Bhatti, acting on the orders of ISI.The assessments, drawn from recently busted terror modules, tech-based espionage cases and cross-border recoveries of weapons and narcotics, point to a recalibrated multi-pronged approach intensified after Operation Sindoor in May 2025.The aim remains to destabilise law and order and communal harmony in the state. Pro-Khalistan terrorist nodes, mainly Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), as well as transnational organised criminal networks operating from Germany, France, Portugal, the UK, Canada, the US, Malaysia and elsewhere, are expected to receive large consignments of militant hardware for these operations. ISI is also preparing direct strikes through its own operatives disguised under pseudo pro-Khalistani entities to ensure deniability.

Senior Punjab Police officials say targets have widened beyond police, CAPF and defence establishments, serving and retired Punjab Police personnel linked to counter-terror work, and right-wing party offices and leaders. Plans now include random attacks on police personnel, railway and other critical infrastructure in Punjab, and locations with high public footfall.In 2026 alone, till July 27, Punjab Police has busted 10 terror modules through intelligence-led operations, arresting 137 persons. Recoveries include 7 automatic rifles, 76 revolvers/pistols, 12 RDX-based prefabricated IEDs, 3,756 kg of RDX, 9 detonators, 49 hand grenades, 1 RPG with launcher and 7 walkie-talkie sets. Six cases of tech-based espionage involving solar-

powered CCTV cameras relaying live feeds to Pakistan have also been neutralised, while 183 drones have been recovered.

These successes mirror a series of recent foiled plots. On July 26, Counter Intelligence Jalandhar and Jalandhar Rural Police busted an ISI-sponsored BKI module, arresting key operative Satbir Singh of Padiana village, Adampur, and seizing a 1.3 kg-IED packed with high explosives, shrapnel and ball bearings meant for a high-impact strike. An FIR was registered under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Explosive Substances Act and Arms Act; investigations into foreign handlers and local networks continue.Earlier in July, police dismantled another network linked to a suspected IED plot on the Ferozepur-Jammu train, arresting 17 people with a UK-based handler under scrutiny; recoveries included an IED and a pistol. Multiple other 2026 operations across the state have yielded additional remote-controlled RDX devices, grenades, pistols, an RPG, explosives and overseas handler links, underscoring the persistent drone-enabled push from across the border."Security agencies remain on high alert. Punjab Police has reiterated its commitment to dismantling terror networks, curbing organised crime and safeguarding peace across the state in the run-up to August 15. We will defeat the nefarious designs of Pakistan's ISI to foment trouble in Punjab," said a senior police officer.

Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorist Shehzad Bhatti, widely described by security agencies as an ISI proxy, has been actively directing plans to promote instability in Punjab through a hybrid network of local recruits, cross-border smuggling and low-intensity attacks. Operating remotely via social media and encrypted channels, Bhatti recruits unemployed youth with monetary incentives, tasks them with reconnaissance of police stations, public places and political targets, and facilitates the supply of arms, ammunition and explosives smuggled by drones across the Punjab border.

His network has already been linked by the NIA and state police to multiple incidents in the state, including the March 2025 grenade attack near influencer Roger Sandhu's residence in Jalandhar and the November 2025 grenade assault on a Gurdaspur police station, as well as broader efforts to radicalise and arm operatives under fronts such as Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan.Intelligence assessments indicate Bhatti's ongoing strategy centres on sustaining pressure through targeted killings of security personnel, petrol-bomb and IED strikes on police establishments and political figures, and the use of narcotics proceeds to fund further disruption, all while maintaining deniability for his Pakistani handlers. Recent operations have uncovered modules under his direction that used Punjab as a transit hub for weapons destined for attacks elsewhere, while also planning local actions to demoralise law enforcement and stoke communal tensions.Agencies continue to dismantle these cells through coordinated raids and arrests across Punjab and neighbouring states, underscoring the persistent threat posed by his cost-effective, gangster-terror model aimed at undermining peace in the border state.

Rain continues to lash Hyderabad, more showers likely through the day

GNS News Agency, August 1

Hyderabad: Spells of rain that commenced Tuesday in Hyderabad continued on Monday morning. A cloudy weather ushered in the day even as drizzles kept returning with brief intermissions.The rain that disrupted normal life in the city and led to severe commuting woes on Tuesday evening is likely to repeat the pattern today too.

Students and employees returning home in the evening are likely to face hardships if the rain continues to lash. Despite civic body and police efforts to ensure smooth traffic flow, water logged roads and open manholes are going to be an issue of concern.Weather forecasts suggested moderate rain in the city through the day while the temperatures dropped considerably. Yesterday the maximum tem-



perature recorded was 29 degree Celsius while by night it dropped to 22 degree Celsius.

US, Saudi forces launch airstrikes on Iran-aligned groups in Iraq after drone attacks



GNS News Agency, August 1

Washington: US and Saudi Arabian forces carried out precision airstrikes against Iran-aligned groups in eastern Iraq on Tuesday (local time) after more than 30 drone attacks targeted American troops and Saudi energy infrastructure, the US Central Command said.US and Saudi fighter aircraft struck several logistics and weapons sites used by the groups, according to CENTCOM. It described the operation as a response to aerial attacks conducted over the previous 72 hours under the direction of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

"The unwarranted attacks against U.S. forces were not successful," CENTCOM said.The command did not

identify the groups targeted or disclose the locations of the strikes beyond saying they occurred across eastern Iraq. It also provided no information about casualties or the extent of damage caused by the operation.CENTCOM said Iran-aligned militias in Iraq had attempted more than 600 attacks against US citizens and facilities between February and April 2026.

"The IRGC and its terrorist proxies must cease these attacks to avoid further U.S. military response," it said.The joint strikes came on a day of heightened military activity across the Middle East. CENTCOM said the IRGC launched several ballistic missiles from Iran at 5.45 p.m. Eastern Time in what it described as an attempted surprise attack on US forces stationed in the region. "All Iranian missiles were successfully intercepted," the command said. "U.S. forces remain vigilant and at a high state of readiness."CENTCOM did not say how many missiles were fired, where they were intercepted or which US bases appeared to have been targeted. It also did not identify the defence systems used to stop them. The command separately said more than 20 US Navy warships were operating across the Middle East in support of military missions. Those operations included what it called strict enforcement of America's "steel wall blockade" against Iran.As of July 28, CENTCOM said it had redirected 18 commercial vessels, disabled two and boarded another two to enforce compliance. It did not identify the ships, their owners, their cargo or the waters in which the encounters took place.

Iran to get Chinese shoulder-launched missile systems in weeks, sources say



Iran is expected to receive within weeks a first shipment of up to 400 Chinese-made shoulder-fired air-defence missile launchers, three sources familiar with the deal told Reuters, as it rebuilds its defences amid war with the United States.The purchase, valued at \$60-70 million, is one of Tehran's largest-known efforts to strengthen its short-range air defences since the outbreak of its war with the U.S. and Israel, which exposed gaps in Iran's ability to protect military sites and strategic infrastructure.Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.

The contract covers the purchase of between 300 and 400 man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS), including Chinese-made QW-12 and FN-16 missiles, the sources said.The deal was signed with Zhongqing Baoshang International Investment, a Hong Kong-based company that the sources said was acting as an intermediary between the Iranian side and the Chinese supplier.The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. Iran's foreign ministry did not immediately reply to a request for comment.

China's Foreign Ministry said: "The relevant reports are completely groundless. China has consistently played a role in promoting peace and ending the conflict."Beijing-based Zhong Qing Bao Shang Group, the parent company of Zhongqing Baoshang International Investment, did not immediately respond to an email request for comment on Tuesday.Iran needs to rearm after months of fighting in which the U.S. and Israel have struck facilities linked to its missile, drone and air-defence programmes, and Tehran responded with barrages of ballistic missiles and drones.

The conflict has highlighted the challenge of defending fixed military and strategic sites against advanced aircraft and precision-guided weapons.Washington abruptly suspended two weeks of bombardment on Saturday, but President Donald Trump said strikes would resume if negotiations failed to end the five-month-old conflict, which has in

theory been in a state of ceasefire since April.The delivery of hundreds of MANPADS would significantly expand Iran's inventory of short-range air-defence weapons and underscore how military ties with China are deepening.The sources cautioned that, although the agreement had been signed, delivery schedules, quantities and other implementation details could still change.Under a plan agreed by the parties, deliveries will initially be by air from Urumqi in western China, then transiting through Pakistan to Iran, according to the sources, who did not clarify whether the transfers would take place by air or by road.Pakistan's military public relations wing ISPR said: "Speculations of Pakistan being involved in supply of Air Defence weapons to Iran from China are absolutely concocted and false." A spokesperson for the Pakistani Foreign Ministry did not respond to requests for comment.

CHINA AND IRAN EXPLORE LAND ROUTES FOR DELIVERY, SOURCES SAYWhile Iran has invested heavily in the past two decades in missiles, drones and radar, military experts say portable air-defence systems are important because they can be dispersed quickly, operated by small teams and relocated frequently, making them less vulnerable than fixed air-defence batteries.A European security source said authorities in his country were aware of several contracts under discussion involving the possible sale of QW-series MANPADS to Iran, including QW-12, QW-18 and QW-19 systems.A second security source, in the Middle East, said Iran had been seeking to purchase QW-12 and QW-18 missiles, but they were unaware that a deal had already been concluded.The QW-12 and FN-16 are shoulder-fired, infrared-guided surface-to-air missile systems designed to engage low-flying aircraft, helicopters and drones. Their mobility allows them to be deployed rapidly around military installations, energy infrastructure and other sensitive sites.Defence analysts regard the QW-12 as less capable than newer QW variants, including the QW-18 and QW-19, but say the systems can still provide an effective layer of short-range protection against drones and low-flying targets.Two Western intelligence sources and an Iranian official said Tehran had also explored the use of overland routes to move Chinese military supplies and dual-use components more discreetly and reduce the risk of disruption.

The procurement highlights the Islamic Republic's continuing reliance on a combination of domestic weapons production and foreign suppliers despite years of sanctions and restrictions on defence-related imports.Reuters previously reported that Iran was close to securing a separate agreement with China to acquire anti-ship cruise missiles, according to people familiar with those negotiations. Reuters could not determine whether the agreement went through.Additional reporting by Liz Lee in Beijing, Clare Jim in Hong Kong and Rick Noack in Islamabad Writing by Parisa Hafezi; Editing by Kevin Liffey

US says it intercepted Iranian ballistic missiles in attempted surprise attack

GNS News Agency, August 1

Washington: The US military said that it intercepted multiple ballistic missiles launched from Iran in what it described as an attempted "surprise attack" on American forces in the Middle East."At 5:45 p.m. ET today, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps forces launched multiple ballistic missiles from Iran in an attempted surprise attack on U.S. forces based in the Middle East," the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) wrote on X.All Iranian missiles were successfully intercepted," it said, adding "US forces remain vigilant and at a high state of readiness."Iran launched no more than four ballistic missiles, CNN reported, citing a US official. There was no immediate comment from Tehran on the US claims.



Earlier Tuesday, the CENTCOM said the US military had redirected 18 commercial vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, disabled two and boarded two others to enforce what it described as a naval blockade on all Iranian ports.CENTCOM also said in a separate post that more than 20 US Navy warships are operating across the Middle East in support of military missions.

"There are more than 20 U.S. Navy warships operating across the Middle East supporting military missions, including strict enforcement of America's steel wall blockade against Iran. As of July 28 CENTCOM has redirected 18 commercial vessels, disabled 2, and boarded 2 to ensure full compliance."Earlier on July 26, the central command said that the US naval blockade against Iran remains in full effect. "As of July 25, CENTCOM has redirected 12 commercial vessels trying to run the blockade, disabled 2 that didn't comply, and boarded 2 to ensure total compliance."The strikes from Iran came hours after Trump met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, their first in-person meeting since the two countries launched strikes against Iran on February 28.US President Donald Trump said Monday he had decided to pause US strikes on Iran to give negotiations another chance, while warning that he could order further strikes if talks fail.

Iran rules out Omani proposal to manage Strait of Hormuz



DUBAI/CAIRO, GNS News Agency, August 1 Tehran has ruled out Oman's proposal for regional joint management of the Strait of Hormuz, a senior Iranian official told Reuters on Wednesday, scuppering hopes for a resolution to the impasse that has choked off Gulf trade for months.Oman proposed a new regional deal aimed at resolving the conflict over the critical strait, through which about a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas flowed before the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in February.Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.

However, Tehran ruled out Oman's proposal for regional joint management of the strait, saying it had no chance of success.The U.S. and Saudi Arabia are trying to pressure Oman to advance their "unrealistic plans" regarding the strategic strait, the official told Reuters. Iran insisted the entire inbound route through the strait and part of the outbound route must be under Iranian control, the official added.A 50-50 joint control arrangement with Oman would not serve Iran's interests, though Tehran considers Oman a valuable neighbour, the official said.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards (IRGC) said on Wednesday its forces struck three oil tankers in the strait and forced them to stop after they ignored warnings for taking an "unsafe and illegal route".The IRGC Navy said in a statement that it continued to maintain full control over the strategic waterway and warned that "unlawful U.S. military interference" and instructions to vessels in the region would not go unanswered.Oil prices rose over \$3 a barrel on Wednesday as attacks intensified once again.

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia launched strikes on Iran-backed groups in Iraq on Wednesday, saying they were responsible for drone attacks on Saudi oil facilities, prompting Iran to warn that blaming it for such attacks was a "major miscalculation".The U.S.-Saudi strikes in eastern Iraq occurred just hours after the U.S. military said its air de-

fences had averted a surprise Iranian attack on U.S. troops in the region. The IRGC said on Wednesday it had fired several ballistic missiles at U.S. military installations in Jordan.Jordan's military said its air defences intercepted and shot down five Iranian missiles targeting the kingdom on Wednesday.Back-and-forth attacks in recent days have ended a brief pause in the fighting, after U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly called off a two-week U.S. bombing campaign and Iran appeared to follow suit.Saudi Arabia said on Tuesday that its air defences destroyed several drones targeting oil facilities in the kingdom's Eastern Province. Iran-backed militias launched the attacks from Iraqi territory, Saudi Defence Ministry spokesperson Turki al-Maliki said.Later in the day, U.S. Central Command and Saudi Arabia's Defence Ministry said the two countries hit multiple sites across eastern Iraq that they said had been used by Iran to direct drone attacks.Iraq's Popular Mobilisation Forces said a number of its official headquarters in different parts of Iraq were attacked on Wednesday by what it described as U.S. and Saudi forces. The PMF said preliminary reports indicated several people were killed and others wounded, with damage to a number of its buildings and facilities.Speaking to state TV in Iran, an Iranian defence official strongly denied any connection between projectiles fired from other countries toward Saudi targets.The unnamed military official, quoted by state broadcaster IRIB, said attributing attacks on U.S. interests in the region to Iran was a "major miscalculation".

In an effort to resolve the conflict over the Strait of Hormuz, Oman had presented Iran with a plan backed by Gulf states to manage the waterway that would include collecting voluntary fees from ships, a Gulf source and a Western diplomat told Reuters on Tuesday.Under the Omani proposal, Iran would not exercise sole control and fees would be voluntary, the Gulf source and the Western diplomat briefed on the matter told Reuters.The system would be analogous to one in place on Asia's Strait of Malacca, where Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore ask ships to pay voluntary contributions to fund navigation, environmental protection and search-and-rescue operations.Iran effectively shut the strait after the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. A deal last month between the U.S. and Iran partially reopened the strait, with future talks planned to resolve larger issues including Iran's nuclear program. But the agreement collapsed in early July after Iran fired on vessels using a shipping channel it does not recognise.Reporting by Timour Azhari, Parisa Hafezi, Doina Chiacu, Ahmed Tolba, Kanishka Singh and Reuters bureauaux; Writing by Michael Perry and Joseph Ax; Editing by Lincoln Feast.

Trump holds separate White House talks with Zelenskyy and Netanyahu



Washington: US President Donald Trump held separate White House talks on Tuesday with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the United States confronted two wars and difficult diplomatic choices.Both meetings took place behind closed doors in the Oval Office. The White House did not open either session to the press.

"President Trump has concluded his meetings in the Oval Office with President Zelensky and Prime Minister Netanyahu. Both meetings were positive and productive" White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said on X.Zelenskyy arrived at the White House at about 9:40 a.m. and entered through a side entrance of the West Wing. Netanyahu departed shortly after 12:25 p.m., according to reports.The Israeli prime minister's office later released photographs showing Netanyahu and Trump together. An Israeli official described their meeting as "very positive".Their talks were expected to focus on the war with Iran, negotia-

tions involving Lebanon and efforts to expand the Abraham Accords, according to a White House official.Netanyahu was also expected to present intelligence about alleged Iranian activity at Pickaxe Mountain, an underground facility believed to be connected to Tehran's nuclear programme.Trump, however, appeared irritated that the Israeli leader had publicly signalled his plan."I heard Bibi announce that," Trump told Fox

News, using Netanyahu's nickname. "I said, 'Why don't you just tell it to me? Why do you have to announce it to the world?'"The US president has signalled that he favours renewed diplomacy with Tehran, while Israel has pushed for sustained pressure on Iran. Trump acknowledged differences between the allies on Monday."We have a little difference, but pretty close," he said.Trump again warned Iran on Tuesday that the United States could strike bridges and power plants if Tehran failed to reach an agreement.Zelenskyy's meeting centred on US support for Ukraine and efforts to revive peace negotiations with Russia.

The Ukrainian leader said afterwards that he had discussed air defence systems and renewed diplomacy with Trump.Zelenskyy arrived in Washington seeking progress on sanctions against Russia, a drone agreement, Patriot air defence systems and peace talks. He was also expected to meet lawmakers and address a gathering of the full Senate.The White House said Trump remained focused on ending the Russia-Ukraine war. "The president and his team remain committed to continuing to play a constructive role in ending the war between Russia and Ukraine, and he remains optimistic that we'll ultimately get a peace deal done," it said.

Samsung to debut India-specific AI features in next Galaxy smartphone, says CEO

New Delhi/London: Samsung Electronics will introduce artificial intelligence features developed specifically for Indian consumers in its next Galaxy smartphone, as the company expands the role of its research and development centres in Noida and Bengaluru to build localised AI capabilities for one of its fastest-growing markets, Samsung Southwest Asia CEO and President J B Park said.The South Korean electronics maker said its India R&D teams are studying the persona of Indian consumers and developing AI features suited to benefit local consumers, including an AI-powered bill payment reminder that can identify recurring bills from emails and alert users before due dates.The initiative is part of Samsung's strategy to differentiate its AI offerings beyond features already available across smartphone brands by studying the consumer persona."We are trying to understand our users, and if we detect anything that can better your lifestyle, we will provide the solution, whether it's financial, or controlling your home devices, or alerting your elderly if they have a health issue. So, there are many personas that our team in Noida and Bengaluru are studying with the objective of giving a better solution," Park said at a roundtable with Indian journalists in London.

Park said the Noida R&D centre has ideated an AI feature to help Samsung users by automating repetitive bill payment using AI. The artificial intelligence feature, which is currently in the works, is that AI will know which date and which email to look at and then alert users to make the bill payment without you having to incur a late fine.

"These are the kind of daily routines that consumers want to get out of and have a personal assistant AI do that job for you. The idea came from Noida R&D centre. And, this feature was engineered exclusively for Indian consumers, and we are going to introduce it in our next Galaxy device," Park said in response to a question from PTI. Samsung's latest foldables 'Z8' series phones, priced between Rs 1.25 lakh and Rs 2.60 lakh, are currently available for pre-booking for Indian markets and will be available in stores from August 7.Samsung's Galaxy Z Fold8 lineup comprises the Galaxy Z Fold8 Ultra (for immersive content viewing and multitasking), Galaxy Z Fold8 (a passport sized phone with Flex window for shortcuts) and Galaxy Z Flip8 (the sleekest flip smartphone yet, designed for self-expression and quick interactions while on the move).Park had last week said that the Z8 series are made in India, supported by R&D centres in the country.

Russia charges Telegram founder Pavel Durov with aiding terrorism

GNS News Agency, August 1

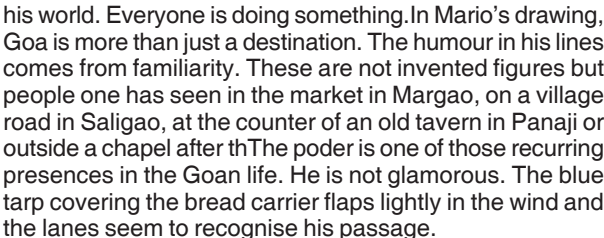
Moscow: Russia's main domestic security agency said Wednesday that Pavel Durov, founder of the messaging app Telegram, has been charged with "aiding terrorism" and put on an international wanted list.

Telegram's administration has not removed "numerous channels, chats and bots" that are "actively used by Ukrainian intelligence agencies, terrorist, and extremist organisations to prepare and coordinate acts of sabotage and terrorism, mass murder, and cyberfraud" in Russia, the agency said in a statement Wednesday.Charges against Durov come as Russia restricts Telegram, one of the most popular messaging apps in the country. Durov earlier this year announced that the Russian authorities opened a criminal investigation against him and accused them of fabricat-



ing pretexts to restrict access to Telegram as part of an attempt to "suppress the right to privacy and free speech."

The problem in India is not unemployment but unemployability



Born in Loutolim in 1926, Mario did not turn Goan life into postcard scenery. He turned it into a crowd. The frames of his sketches filled with poders, fisherwomen, tavern regulars, market women, priests, porters, children and gossiping neighbours, all caught in a state of motion. He had an eye for the kind of details that most people overlooked — the tilt of a head, the roundness of a belly, the careful way a woman balances a basket on her head, the tired swagger of a man with a drink in hand. Nobody stands still for long in

Born in Loutolim in 1926, Mario did not turn Goan life into postcard scenery. He turned it into a crowd. The frames of his sketches filled with poders, fisherwomen, tavern regulars, market women, priests, porters, children and gossiping neighbours, all caught in a state of motion. He had an eye for the kind of details that most people overlooked — the tilt of a head, the roundness of a belly, the careful way a woman balances a basket on her head, the tired swagger of a man with a drink in hand. Nobody stands still for long in

paper leak, CBSE on-screen marking glitches, Dharmendra Pradhan, NEET UG 2026 paper leak, National Testing Agency NTA, NEET UG 2026 cancellation, NEET paper leak Rajasthan, NTA NEET re-exam date 2026, NEET investigation, WhatsApp app guess paper leak, CBI probe NEET leak, WhatsApp paper leak syndicate, Nashik medical student Shubham Kharinar, Private Mafia WhatsApp group, NEET guess paper controversy, exam paper leak India, Sikar NEET coaching hub, multi-state exam scam India, NEET chemistry paper leak Sikar, CBI probe NEET 2026, medical entrance exam cancelled India, 22 lakh students NEET re-test, Indian express It is heartbreaking to think of how disadvantaged Indian children will be when they go out into a world where the competition could be AI children. AI-ready, we have 'graduates' who cannot find jobs because they have left college without being able to articulate an idea or solve a simple equation.

It is astonishing that it has become fashionable to talk about education. For the wrong reasons maybe, but at least we are discussing the most undiscussed and, in my view, the most vital reform that India needs. So far, all talk has been about NEET and leaked papers and the venality that has been revealed in the CBSE exam system. Desperate young students have been driven to suicide because of these corrupt practices. This alone should shame those responsible. So, when the noise and drama of these events die, please, please let us continue talking about the rot in our education system. Maybe this time we will talk about it a little longer because of India's newest political party making leaked papers their first cause. By the time you read this, the leader of the Cockroach Janata Party should have landed in Delhi and probably been arrested before he manages to hold a protest rally at Jantar Mantar. It is my fervent hope that even if the protest fails, the cause that he claims has brought him back home will not be forgotten. There must be accountability and heads must roll. He has demanded the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan, and if this man had any self-respect, he would have already resigned, but this will solve nothing.

The rot goes deep and has spread from the top to the very bottom. The reason why our political leaders and high officials never send their children to government schools is because they know that they have built schools that offer not real learning but barest literacy. When Indian children from Tamil Nadu and Himachal competed in the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2009, they came second last. In this exam, 15-year-olds were tested for their skills in reading, mathematics and science. Alarm

The El Niño phenomenon is fairly well known in India, thanks to widespread discussion in the media in connection with its impact on the Indian monsoon. El Niño Southern Oscillation, or ENSO, is a large-scale ocean-atmosphere interaction playing out in the Pacific Ocean region that happens to be the biggest cause of year-on-year variations in global climate. It has profound impacts on weather events everywhere, including the Indian monsoon.

What is much less known is that this global phenomenon, at least the atmospheric component of this ocean-atmosphere interaction, was first discovered by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) in the early 1920s. It was British mathematician Sir Gilbert Walker, working as head of IMD, a position that was at that time described as Director General of Observatories, who had noticed the see-saw behaviour of air pressure between the east and west Pacific Ocean, something that became known as the Southern Oscillation, or SO. While working to develop a reliable forecast model for the Indian monsoon, Walker, who had a nearly 21-year tenure at IMD from 1904 to 1924, had decided to look at external influences, having realised that the monsoon was not an isolated phenomenon over the Indian region. Meticulously going through all the weather observation data that used to be collected at the time, Walker noticed three large systems, two in the Pacific and one in the Atlantic Ocean, in which the atmospheric pressures periodically oscillated between being very high and very low at the opposite ends. The Southern Oscillation was so named because it was relatively south of the other two, which were called the North Atlantic Oscillation and North Pacific Oscillation.

He found the Southern Oscillation to be the most persistent and also the most likely to have an impact on the Indian monsoon. Decades later, Norwegian-American meteorologist Jacob Bjerknes linked the Southern Oscillation to the periodic warming and cooling of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, or El Niño. Natives of the western coastline of South America, in the countries of Peru and Ecuador, were aware of this periodic change in sea surface temperatures for centuries. But it was Bjerknes who showed in the late 1960s that the two processes, the ocean phenomenon of El Niño and the atmospheric phenomenon of Southern Oscillation, formed a feedback loop in which one reinforced the other.

This discovery gave the scientists their first understanding of this complete process. El Niño and La Niña, the two opposite phases of ENSO, are now known to influence every large-scale weather phenomenon in the world. In the El Niño phase, the equatorial Pacific Ocean, off the coast of South America, gets warmer than normal, while in the La Niña phase, it gets cooler. El Niño has a general warming impact on the planet. It is known to suppress rainfall over the Indian and Australian region, including southeast Asia, but causes bountiful rains to happen over the North Ameri-

bells should have gone off across India but if our babus have one superpower, it is knowing how to keep bad news from reaching the ears of their political masters. We did not need an international test to establish that schools run by the Indian state are abysmal. If our prime ministers have had one thing in common, it is their neglect of education. Jawaharlal Nehru built the IITs but appeared not to notice that the only children able to get into them were from upper caste, middle class families. He also did not notice that on his watch was created a higher education system that was so tightly controlled by the government that it killed all chances of excellence or research. One reason is meddling officials. If there is to be reform, then it should start with the abolition of the University Grants Commission. It is an unneeded busybody that gives officials unneeded power.

Before writing this piece, I had a chat with Michel Danino who knows from the inside how the system works. He worked in the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and recently got into trouble with the Supreme Court for telling the truth about corruption in the judiciary in a school textbook. When I asked him what were the three most important reforms that needed to be made in the school system, he said that for a start, instead of students being treated as a 'passive sponge', they need to be encouraged to participate. In other words, less rote learning.

The second reform he recommends is the setting up of proper teacher training institutes. And third, that there be investment in school infrastructure. Government schools lack such basic things as libraries, playgrounds, clean water and toilets. I have visited village schools in many states and seen some that are just empty sheds. So, I could not agree more. The irony is that the one reform that has been made is for teachers to be paid hefty salaries. These are sometimes ten times higher than the paltry salaries teachers earn in the thousands of private schools that have sprouted across rural India. It is heartbreaking to think of how disadvantaged Indian children will be when they go out into a world where the competition could be AI children. Already, we have 'graduates' who cannot find jobs because they have left college without being able to articulate an idea or solve a simple equation. It has been said more than once that the problem in India is not unemployment but unemployability.

In 2013, when I was a passionate Modi-bhakt and hoped with all my heart that he would be able to bring the changes India so desperately needs, I was once summoned to meet him. He was still Chief Minister of Gujarat but knew in his heart that when the general election came the following year, he would be prime minister. He asked me what I felt were the things that most urgently needed to be done. And, I said he needed to rectify the mistakes that Congress prime ministers had made, which was to neglect education and healthcare. We talked uninterrupted for more than an hour at the end, of which I was convinced that I had made my point. Clearly, I had not or by now we should have seen a revolutionary improvement in government schools that are in states governed by BJP chief ministers. Today that includes all major Hindi-belt states, Maharashtra and now West Bengal. Will the Cockroach noises bring some urgency? It is my sincerest hope that this will happen.

India, Nepal partner to advance multilingual AI and digital public infrastructure

New Delhi: BHASHINI's open Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) model has the potential to transform digital access for millions of citizens across South Asia, Amitabh Nag, CEO, Digital India BHASHINI Division, has said.

The Digital India BHASHINI Division (DIBD) under IT Ministry, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kathmandu University's Centre for Digital Public Infrastructure & Artificial Intelligence (DPI-AI), Nepal, to establish a collaborative framework for advancing Language AI multilingual digital public infrastructure, and inclusive digital ecosystems across India and Nepal. According to Nag, this collaboration will help us extend that vision beyond India's borders, strengthening our shared linguistic and cultural heritage while building the next generation of multilingual AI for the Global South. The exchange of the MoU took place in the presence of External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S. Jaishankar, and Shishir Khanal, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal. The occasion underscored the shared commitment of India and Nepal towards strengthening cooperation in emerging technologies, Digital Public Infrastructure, and inclusive digital transformation. Under the MoU, the two institutions will collaborate on the development of high-quality Nepali language datasets, speech corpora, and multilingual AI resources including speech-to-text, text-to-speech, machine translation, and multilingual conversational AI capabilities. The partnership will also support the preservation and digitisation of linguistic and literary heritage of low-resource and underrepresented languages across the India-Nepal region, ensuring that communities whose languages risk digital extinction have access to AI-enabled tools and services in their mother tongue,

bihar sir, SIR data, bihar SIR data, bihar income flags, Supreme Court judgment bihar SIR, Bihar ration card lists trimmed, Bihar ration card list, ration cards, SIR of electoral roll, nationwide SIR, Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Assembly elections, Assembly polls, nationwide Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, nationwide SIR of of electoral rolls, Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls, SIR of of electoral rolls, Election Commission, Election Commission of India, Indian express news, current affairsThe conclusion exposes the hollowness of the ECI's claims and the inaccuracy, unreliability and lack of credibility of the SIR exercise. After ECI's blessings, will democracy survive? As a lawyer, I understand that if two honourable judges speak for the Court, it is the Supreme Court of India (SC) which speaks. The Supreme Court is a Constitutional court, it is also the final appellate court, it has original jurisdiction in some matters, it has superintendence over all courts, it can review and overrule its own judgments, it can take up a cause suo motu, it has the power to constitute a Special

Investigation Team (SIT) or a Commission, it has the power to refer a matter for investigation to a police agency, it can refer a civil or commercial dispute to mediation or arbitration, it can transfer a matter from the jurisdiction of a High Court to the jurisdiction of another High Court, it can pronounce a man and a woman divorced, it has the power to punish a person for contempt of court, its interpretation of the Constitution of India is the final word, and it has the power to pass any order to "do complete justice". It is said that the SC is the most powerful court in the world. Among its vast powers, one stands out. In *State of Madras vs V G Row*, the Supreme Court described itself as the sentinel qui vive – a watchful guardian of the Constitution. What does the Constitution say about elections? Article 324 vests in the Election Commission of India (ECI) the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for,...and the conduct of all elections to, Parliament and the Legislature of every State. Article 326 prescribes that elections to the House of the People and the Legislative

Investigation Team (SIT) or a Commission, it has the power to refer a matter for investigation to a police agency, it can refer a civil or commercial dispute to mediation or arbitration, it can transfer a matter from the jurisdiction of a High Court to the jurisdiction of another High Court, it can pronounce a man and a woman divorced, it has the power to punish a person for contempt of court, its interpretation of the Constitution of India is the final word, and it has the power to pass any order to "do complete justice". It is said that the SC is the most powerful court in the world. Among its vast powers, one stands out. In *State of Madras vs V G Row*, the Supreme Court described itself as the sentinel qui vive – a watchful guardian of the Constitution. What does the Constitution say about elections? Article 324 vests in the Election Commission of India (ECI) the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of the electoral rolls for,...and the conduct of all elections to, Parliament and the Legislature of every State. Article 326 prescribes that elections to the House of the People and the Legislative

LPG price hike: Despite increase, OMCs incurring under-recovery of Rs 700/cylinder, says government



Despite the hike in price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for households from Sunday, public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs) continue to absorb under-recoveries of about Rs 700 per 14.2-kg cylinder as the market-linked price of the fuel is over Rs 1,600 per cylinder, the Petroleum Ministry said. It also said that the price of domestic LPG in India continues to be lower than in neighbouring countries as the government and the OMCs have been shielding households from spiralling international prices amid the West Asia crisis.Effective Sunday, the price of LPG for households, or domestic LPG, was hiked by Rs 29 per 14.2-kg cylinder to Rs 942 in Delhi, with corresponding changes in other parts of the country. This is the second revision in LPG prices since the West Asia war began on February 28. On March 7, domestic LPG prices were hiked by Rs 60 per cylinder.

The latest LPG price hike follows increases in the price of other fuels like petrol, diesel, and compressed natural gas (CNG) in recent weeks. The OMCs—Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum, and Hindustan Petroleum—are grappling with financial strain as they have been selling consumer fuels below market price. Like in the case of domestic LPG, the companies continue to incur losses on the sales of petrol and diesel, despite the recent price hikes.“The prices of petroleum products in India are linked to the corresponding prices in the international market. The Government, however, continues to modulate the effective price to the consumer for domestic LPG. Any household can buy as many cylinders as it needs at Rs 942. A PMUY (Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana) beneficiary will additionally receive the direct benefit transfer of Rs 300 a cylinder on the first four refills each year (down from nine a year)...and so pays an effective Rs 642 on those refills; this support is unchanged. Even a non-PMUY household would pay about Rs 700 below the market-linked cost of the cylinder,” the Petroleum Ministry said Sunday.

There are over 33 crore households with domestic LPG connections, including 10.6 crore households that avail under the PMUY, which provides an additional subsidy of Rs 300 per cylinder. The international LPG price benchmark—Saudi Contract Price (CP)—has risen sharply through the West Asia crisis. It has gone up to \$790 per tonne in June from \$542.50 in February, marking an increase of about 46%. India depends on imports to meet about 60% of its LPG consumption, and 90% of those imports came via the

West Asia conflict: Spot market gas purchases by power plants jump over 300%

Spot market gas purchases, power plants Spot market gas purchases, Spot market gas purchases by power plants jump, US-Israel war on Iran, LPG supply disruptions, LPG shortage, oil supply, LPG supply, LPG supply crisis, LPG crisis, empty lpg cylinders, LPG distribution supply crisis, LPG distribution, LPG crisis, global energy costs, cooking gas price, west asia war, Israel-US-Iran war, Iran conflict, west asia conflict, iran and israel war, iran and israel, us israel war, war in iran, iran us, us israel iran, us israel, us iran war, iran us war, us war, israel news, israel iran war news, war news, israel iran news, israel war news, iran war news, war on iran, iran israel war today, war in iran and israel, iran attack israel, israel iran, israel us attack iran, attack on iran, iran attack on us, us and iran, us attack in iran, did iran attack us, us to attack iran, us and israel, us and israel attack iran, us attack iran today, us iran news, iran us news, us news, iran attack news, iran attack today, Khamenei newsThe purchase from the spot market further increased to 28,99,900 MMBtu from May 1 to May 26, compared with 5,88,550 MMBtu during the corresponding period last year, marking a nearly five-fold increase of 392.7%.

With Iran war hitting the imports under long-term contracts, gas-based power generators in India have sharply jacked up natural gas purchases from the spot-market this summer to fill the void.Between April 1 and May 26, power-sector entities purchased 44,67,850 million Metric Million British Thermal Units (MMBtu) of natural gas from the spot market. This was 336.5% higher than the corresponding period in 2025, more than double the volume purchased in 2024, and nearly 140 times the level recorded in 2023.Data released by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) shows that none of the country’s 16 gigawatts (GW) of gas-grid connected capacity received imported LNG under long-term arrangements in April. Domestic gas availability also remained constrained.Although 30.18 million standard cubic metres per day (MMSCMD) of domestic gas was allotted to this 16 GW of gas-grid connected capacity, actual supply in April stood at just 4.33 MMSCMD.

Most of this was supplied to state government owned generating stations, while private-sector plants received only 1.07 MMSCMD, all of it supplied to a single gas-based power station. Conflict in West Asia has cast a shadow over availability of gas for the country’s gas-based power plants with the government deciding to prioritise certain sectors during the shortage.While gas accounts for only a small share in India’s overall generation mix, it plays a crucial rebalancing role during evening peak hours, especially during summer, when solar output drops. Typically, around 10 GW of gas-fired capacity is relied upon during peak summer — making any disruption a significant gap that needs to be filled.

Despite a sharp rise in imported LNG prices, spot-market purchases by gas-based generators reached the highest levels in recent years during April and May, data provided by Indian Gas Exchange (IGX) — the country’s leading gas-trading bourse — shows.In April, power sector companies purchased 15,67,950 MMBtu of natural gas, a year-on-year increase of 260.5% from 435000 MMBtu in April 2025. The sharp increase came against the backdrop of a significant shift in fuel sourcing. In April 2025, gas-based power plants met nearly 38% of their LNG requirement through imports under long-term contracts, alongside spot-market purchases.The absence of imported LNG under long term contracts was also reflected in lower utilisation levelsThe Plant Load Factor (PLF) — a measure of actual generation as a percentage of installed capacity — of the country’s 16 GW of gas-grid connected capacity stood at 11% in April, down from 15.3% in the same month last year.

Strait of Hormuz, where maritime traffic has been effectively halted since early March. The strait’s closure has led to a surge in international oil and fuel prices as the water-way accounted for a fifth of global crude oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG) flows.“The commercial cylinder used by hotels and businesses is revised automatically every month, because its price is a direct pass-through of the international benchmark. The domestic cooking cylinder is not. India used to import 60 per cent of its LPG requirements, and the landed cost of that import tracks the Saudi Contract Price (CP) that Saudi Aramco sets at the start of each month. This is an external price over which the Indian consumer has no control,” the Petroleum Ministry said.

Under-recovery is the gap between the international price of LPG and the regulated retail price in the country. It is absorbed by the OMCs and compensated partly by the government. The cumulative under-recovery on LPG in 2025-26 (FY26) was Rs 60,000 crore, up from Rs 41,338 crore in FY25. In August of last year, the government approved Rs 30,000 crore in budgetary support to the OMCs to partly offset their losses on domestic LPG sales.

“The under-recovery now absorbed on each domestic cylinder is about Rs 700. The scale of this is visible in the fully market-priced commercial cylinder: the 19 kg cylinder used by hotels and restaurants sells in Delhi at ₹3,113.50, about ₹164 a kg, after five increases during the West Asia crisis. The domestic household, by contrast, pays about ₹66 a kg after the revision. Commercial gas carries a higher rate of tax and larger margins, so it sits above the household’s cost-reflective level; even so, the import-linked cost of a domestic cylinder works out to over Rs 1,600,” it added.According to the Petroleum Ministry, domestic LPG prices in India are lower when compared to neighbouring countries like Pakistan (Rs 1,046 per cylinder), Nepal (Rs 1,207), Bangladesh (around Rs 1,225), and Sri Lanka (Rs 1,241). In the developed world, LPG prices have shot up even further—for instance about Rs 1,755 in the US, around Rs 1,765 in Australia, and about Rs 2,411 in Canada—as per the government.

The Strait of Hormuz disruption has forced India to ration LPG supplies to industrial and commercial consumers in a bid to prioritise crores of households that depend on the fuel to run their kitchens. As a demand management tool, the minimum gap between LPG refill bookings by households has also been increased. India’s LPG consumption stood at about 90,000 tonnes a day before the war. But with the disruption in flows through the Strait of Hormuz and seasonal dip in demand, LPG consumption has declined to about 72,000 tonnes a day, according to recent estimates.Moreover, domestic refineries have been maximising domestic LPG production to partly offset the loss in imports, and refiners are scrambling for LPG cargoes from alternative geographies like the US, Australia, and Russia, among others. Through diplomatic efforts, India has also managed to get a number of its LPG tankers stuck in the Persian Gulf. Domestic LPG production currently stands at about 50,000-52,000 tonnes a day, which is meeting 70% of the domestic demand, up from 40% before the war.



The purchase from the spot market further increased to 28,99,900 MMBtu from May 1 to May 26, compared with 5,88,550 MMBtu during the corresponding period last year, marking a nearly five-fold increase of 392.7%.

The rise in purchases came despite a sharp increase in spot-market gas prices amid supply disruptions due to the conflict in West Asia. The average spot gas price stood at Rs 1,606 per MMBtu in April, up 43.5% from Rs 1,119 per MMBtu a year earlier. Prices rose further to Rs 1,856 per MMBtu in May, a jump of 77.4% over Rs 1,046 per MMBtu in May last year.Struggling gas plants

Power generated from gas-based units is typically more expensive than coal and renewable energy. However, due to their flexibility, they are generally used during high-demand periods to meet evening peak demand.In the past, the government has invoked emergency measures to ensure utilities operate both gas and coal plants at full capacity when soaring temperatures push electricity consumption to record levels.However, the utilisation of India’s gas-based power plants has been steadily declining, largely due to high fuel costs.

Mcap of 7 of top-10 most valued firms erodes by Rs 1.25 lakh cr

New Delhi: The combined market valuation of seven of the top 10 most-valued firms eroded by Rs 1.25 lakh crore last week, with Reliance Industries taking the biggest hit, in-line with a bearish trend in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex declined 532.4 points, or 0.71 per cent, and the NSE Nifty dipped 181.05 points, or 0.76 per cent.“Persistent FII selling remained the key drag on market sentiment despite supportive developments such as cooling crude oil prices and a recovery in the rupee against the US dollar. Concerns regarding the pace of monsoon advancement also weighed on investor confidence,” Santosh Meena, Head of Research at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said.From the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bajaj Finance, Larsen & Toubro, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion from their valuation, while HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and State Bank of India were the gainers.The market valuation of Reliance Industries dropped Rs 39,718 crore to Rs 17,47,321.40 crore.TCS faced an erosion of Rs 20,134.66 crore from its valuation, which stood at Rs 7,95,346.09 crore.Bharti Airtel’s market valuation dived Rs 18,736.04 crore to Rs 10,96,150.49 crore and that of Larsen & Toubro tumbled Rs 16,880.2 crore to Rs 5,43,956.44 crore.

Why do sad songs feel heavier and more overwhelming when you’re already upset?



Most people have felt it: you’re already low, a sad song comes on, and suddenly the emotions feel bigger, deeper, almost impossible to contain. What might have sounded simply melancholic on a normal day now feels intensely personal—as if the music is speaking directly to your inner state.Psychiatrists say this reaction is not coincidental. Music and emotion share deep neurological pathways, which is why songs can amplify whatever we’re already feeling.

According to Anitha Chandra, Consultant–Psychiatry at Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru, emotional vulnerability lowers the mind’s ability to regulate feelings in the moment. “When an emotionally vulnerable person listens to a very sad or emotional song, it feels overwhelming because their mind is already full of strong feelings, and the music acts like a trigger that opens those emotions even more deeply, making them feel everything at once,” she explains.

Ankur Warikoo will fire anyone who creates urgency at work, but can your job actually function without it?

“If someone creates urgency in my company, they are fired the next day.” That is entrepreneur and content creator Ankur Warikoo’s rule when it comes to workplace culture.Speaking on the KaashSeAkash Podcast, Warikoo argued that most workplace emergencies are self-created.“Kuch urgent nahi hai. Kisi ki zindagi mein kuch nahi fatega agar humara video kal nahi gaya... agar humara course kal launch nahi hua. Sabki zindagi waisi hi chalti rahegi (Nothing is urgent. Even if our video goes live tomorrow or the course launches later, nobody’s life will be affected),” he said, explaining that his company consciously avoids inflating its own importance.Warikoo’s comments struck a chord with many professionals online who pointed out that late-night emails, “urgent” requests during leave and a constant sense of panic around routine tasks are common experiences in the corporate world.For many professionals, the word “urgent” has slowly lost its meaning. What was once reserved for genuine emergencies now appears on everything from presentation decks to routine follow-up emails.But is Warikoo asking workplaces to throw urgency out of the window altogether? Is that even possible? Or is it an oversimplification of an ideal workplace?When urgency becomes the defaultWhile many internet users instantly gave Warikoo’s stance the green light, some questioned whether businesses can really function without urgency.

“I think there’s a clear difference between panic and urgency,” Diva Bhansali, founder of DBound Media, tells indianexpress.com.According to Bhansali, Warikoo’s approach may work well for creator-led businesses where audiences can wait a day or two for content, but industries such as communications, public relations and brand management often operate in real time.“We live in a world where news, conversations, and public perception move in real time, and if a brand doesn’t tell its story quickly, someone else often will,” says the entrepreneur.At the same time, she agrees that urgency should not come at the cost of a healthy work culture.“The best teams are disciplined and responsive without operating in a constant state of alarm. Clients hire agencies and communication partners to maintain consistency, reliability and timely execution, so while panic is counterproductive, responsiveness and speed of

Music does not just entertain; it activates memory, mood, and bodily sensations. Certain melodies or lyrics can pull up stored emotional experiences with surprising clarity. “Music connects directly to memory and emotion in the brain, so it can bring back past moments, fears, losses, or changes very clearly, almost like reliving them,” Dr Chandra says. When someone is already upset, this recall becomes more intense because the brain is primed to focus on emotionally similar material.That’s why sad songs can feel less like background sound and more like an emotional mirror. Instead of processing one feeling at a time, the brain layers personal sadness with the mood of the music. “When someone is already sensitive, their emotional control is lower, so the sadness in the song blends with their own thoughts and creates a powerful wave of feelings,” she adds. The result may be tears, a heaviness in the chest, or the sensation of being emotionally flooded.Interestingly, this overwhelm isn’t always harmful. For some people, leaning into sad music can act as a safe emotional release—a way to process feelings that were already present. Crying or sitting with intense emotion can provide relief once the wave passes. The key difference lies in awareness: if the music deepens reflection and release, it can be cathartic; if it traps someone in rumination, it may worsen distress.In simple terms, sad music hits harder when you’re already upset because your emotional system is wide open. The song becomes a catalyst, intensifying what’s already there. Understanding this connection helps explain why certain tracks feel almost too powerful—and why choosing what to listen to can shape how we ride emotional moments.



execution remain essential.”For professionals working in communications and reputation management, that distinction becomes even more important.“You cannot look at Ankur Warikoo’s perspective in isolation,” says Aakanksha Gupta, founder and CEO of The Other Circle.“Urgency isn’t a universal villain. In PR and communications, a crisis doesn’t wait for business hours, and a missed window in the press can cost a brand months of reputation work.”According to Gupta, the real skill lies not in eliminating urgency altogether but in distinguishing genuine pressure from manufactured panic.“We don’t need to create chaos. But we do need to stay sharp enough to pre-empt it.”Not all urgency is created equalFor Karthik, a growth strategy manager, that distinction is exactly what many workplaces get wrong.“Warikoo said something that needs to be said more often. He’s completely right. False urgency isn’t work ethic. It’s a control mechanism. Mediocre leaders manufacture pressure to feel relevant. The team pays for it—morale, quality and trust.”He believes leaders often confuse movement with progress, creating pressure around tasks that carry little real-world consequence if delayed.“A surgeon missing a window is urgency. A cardiac monitor flattening is urgency. A video going live Tuesday instead of Monday? A calendar preference.”Maybe that is why Warikoo’s comments have resonated with so many people. Not because workplaces don’t need urgency, but because many employees can instantly think of a task that was labelled “urgent” — only to be forgotten about a day later.

Can you eat UP’s famous dahi-jalebi combo daily for breakfast? Nutritionist answers



Whether you are strolling through the colourful lanes of Varanasi, or taking a dip in Prayagraj, one breakfast staple that you’ll come across in many Uttar Pradesh cities is the unusual combination of dahi-jalebi. Many shops start settling in even before sunrise, frying sugary jalebis, ready to be dunked in curd. The two delicacies are completely opposite in almost every aspect – temperature, taste, and texture. While the breakfast is a “must-try” indulgence, does it qualify a nutritionist’s test for a breakfast staple?Dahi jalebi may look like a simple, comforting breakfast on Uttar Pradesh streets, but nutritionally it is a mix of a high-sugar, deep-fried sweet and a protein-calcium-rich dairy food. A typical plate pairs 1-2 jalebis with a katori of full-fat dahi, delivering a quick energy rush, moderate protein, and a fair amount of fat.

Nutritional breakdownNutritionist Rhea Sharma estimates that 100 g of jalebi provides around 270-300 kcal, 60-70 g of carbohydrates (mostly sugar), 4-5 g of fat, and minimal protein. In contrast, 100 g of plain dahi offers about 60-100 kcal, 3-4 g of protein, 3-4 g of fat, and 4-5 g of carbohydrates, along with calcium in the range of 80-130 mg. Put together, a modest breakfast of 75-100 g jalebi plus 100 g dahi can easily cross 350-400 kcal, with sugar making up the bulk of the energy.

Dahi brings protein, calcium, and beneficial bacteria to the plate, making the meal more satiating and slightly better balanced than jalebi alone. “Curd provides protein and calcium that support bone health and muscle recovery, which is why many people feel it ‘settles’ the stomach after a heavy or spicy meal,” says Sharma. The fat and protein

in curd also help slow down the absorption of sugar from the jalebi, potentially blunting extreme sugar spikes to some extent.From a metabolic lens, jalebi remains the dominant player. “Even with curd on the side, jalebi is still a deep-fried, sugar-dense food, so frequent breakfast portions can add up in terms of calories and triglycerides,” cautions Sharma. The combination is especially concerning for people with diabetes, insulin resistance, or high cholesterol, who are advised to reserve such meals for rare indulgence and keep portions small.Sharma suggests a few tweaks: opt for a smaller serving of jalebi, increase the portion of plain, unsweetened dahi, and avoid adding extra sugar on top. Pairing dahi-jalebi with some protein or fiber later in the morning, such as nuts or fruit, can also help balance the day’s overall nutrient profile.

Vikrant Massey says cycling can transform health and help save the environment

Mumbai: On the occasion of World Bicycle Day, actor Vikrant Massey has highlighted the importance of cycling as a simple yet effective solution to rising pollution and health concerns.Speaking exclusively to IANS, the ‘Chhapaak’ actor emphasized that adopting cycling not only helps reduce carbon emissions but also promotes a healthier lifestyle.

Vikrant encouraged, especially the younger generation, to embrace it as a daily habit. He shared, “If we ride a cycle, there will be no pollution. And that is the solution to our pollution. Your health will also improve. The government is also incentivizing it.”He added, “If we ride a bicycle, carbon emissions will be reduced. Health will also improve. So, I hope for this movement, especially the younger generation. Today, the youngest rider we have is a 20-month-old boy. He is not even 2 years old, but he is trying to ride a cycle. He is pedaling. It’s a wonderful thing.”

India summons Meta’s global executives after PM Modi’s video briefly blocked



Narendra ModiIn the video, PM Modi acknowledged the paper leak issue as “serious”. The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has summoned Meta’s global policy heads after a video posted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi was briefly withheld by Facebook in India, sources said. The ministry intends to also discuss Meta’s compliance with India’s technology-focused laws, and deepfakes on its various social media platforms. The summons are understood to have been sent, via email, to Meta’s global affairs president, Joel Kaplan, and Instagram’s chief, Adam Mosseri.

“We have been having various meetings with Meta’s India-based policy executives to convey our issues over the company’s non-compliance with the Information Technology Rules, and the prevalence of deepfakes on platforms like Instagram and Facebook. But we don’t think our message was being conveyed properly to their main teams in the US, so we decided to reach out to them directly. Of course, we will also seek an explanation as to how the PM’s video was blocked,” a senior government official said. The video in question was uploaded by Modi Thursday night, at the height of the then ongoing students’ protest, in which he said that the Union Cabinet would work on a tough new law for stricter penalties for those involved in paper leaks.

A Meta spokesperson said that the video was removed in error and has since been restored. Queries sent to the IT Ministry remained unanswered until publication. In the video, Modi said, “Friends, I am well aware that the issue of paper leaks is not a small matter. It causes immense distress to lakhs of students and their parents. Consequently, numerous measures have been taken over the past two-and-a-half months following these incidents, and the culprits have been apprehended and are currently in jail.”

“Working tirelessly, late into the night, the departments have already submitted a draft proposal to me. This draft, which includes provisions for fast-track courts and stricter penalties, will be discussed in the Cabinet tomorrow. It will be finalised after incorporating suggestions from Cabinet colleagues, and efforts will be made to pass the Bill in the House as soon as possible, starting with the second week of the Parliament’s session this coming Monday,” he added. This particular video, shot in a vertical frame, was largely seen by many as an effort by the Prime Minister to communicate with young people on social media platforms like Instagram, where short videos, primarily in a vertical layout, are extremely popular.

To be sure, after the students’ protest ended last week, following the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan as education minister, a number of content from the stir that the government found objectionable, including videos that contained slangs being used for senior leaders in the Indian administration, but also several videos documenting violence that took place during the protests, were ordered to be censored from popular social media platforms. Meta, which owns popular social media platforms like Instagram, WhatsApp, and Facebook, has been in the crosshairs of the Indian government for various issues in the last few weeks. That a significant amount of commentary and documentation surrounding the recent students’ protest happened primarily on Instagram is now well documented. Before that, Instagram had drawn the government’s ire over promotional material on child sexual abuse material on the platform, and WhatsApp was facing scrutiny over its usernames feature. Earlier this month, the government had asked Meta-owned WhatsApp to not roll out its upcoming username feature over concerns of impersonation and fraud. In a notice issued to the company, the IT Ministry gave WhatsApp three days to furnish a detailed explanation on the username feature. In its notice, the government is understood to have told WhatsApp that the feature may materially increase the incidence of online fraud, phishing, digital arrest scams and impersonation attacks, by enabling bad actors to solicit and message unsuspecting users. The government has also flagged that the feature may facilitate impersonation of individuals, public authorities, financial institutions and government agencies, by permitting the adoption of usernames closely resembling those of genuine people and institutions.

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 complianceThe 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.

Billionaire club growing: More than 500 Indians earned over Rs 100 crore in FY25

The number of individuals who reported a gross total income of at least Rs 100 crore crossed 500 in Assessment Year 2025-26, up 39% from the previous year, the Ministry of Finance said in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha on Monday. The finance ministry data showed the number of rupee billionaires as per their income has quadrupled in four years to 576 from 142 in AY 2021-22. Assessment Year refers to the 12 months after the year in which income is earned, or the financial year. As such, AY 2025-26 is 2024-25, or April 2024-March 2025.

“There is no statutory definition of the term ‘billionaire’ either under the Income-tax Act, 2025 or under the erstwhile Income-tax Act, 1961,” Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said in response to a question by Congress Member of Parliament Murari Lal Meena asking if the government is aware that there has been a significant increase in the number of billionaires in the country. Chaudhary went on to provide details of the number of individuals who had reported gross total income of at least Rs 100 crore in the Income-tax Returns (ITRs) filed for the last five Assessment Years. Usually, the government releases these figures as part of its income tax return statistics. The last year for which data is available is AY 2023-24. This was released in July 2024.

There is no official measure of incomes in India, with researchers relying on Income Tax return statistics, released by the finance ministry with a lag. However, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) is currently conducting the first-ever National Household Income Survey. Started in April, the survey will end in March 2027, with the results expected to take a few more months to be processed before their release. Latest GDP data



shows that India’s per capita gross national income in 2025-26 was Rs 2.41 lakh in current prices, up 8% from 2024-25. In addition to measuring household income, the maiden income survey is supposed to also assess the impact of adoption of technology on wages. According to Forbes, India has 229 ‘dollar billionaires’ as per their net worth. Since one US dollar is equal to around 96 rupees, dollar billionaires have a net worth of at least Rs 9,600 crore. Meanwhile, the Bloomberg Billionaires Index – also based on net worth, not annual income – estimates there are 23 Indians in the world’s richest 500 people. In his answer in Lok Sabha on Monday, Pankaj Chaudhary said the government does not maintain data on aggregate wealth of taxpayers. Further, in response to Meena’s question if the government has conducted any study on the impact of the increasing concentration of income and wealth on income inequality, investment, employment generation, and inclusive economic growth, Chaudhary said data from the latest House

India’s HIV fight has changed: Why ageing, diabetes and new hotspots are the next big challenge



India’s HIV programme is often held up as a public health success story. New infections and AIDS-related deaths have fallen sharply over the past decade, millions of people are receiving life-saving antiretroviral therapy and viral suppression rates are among the highest in the world. But as people with HIV live longer, the country’s battle against the epidemic is entering a new phase. Doctors are now grappling with an ageing population living with HIV, many of whom are developing diabetes, hypertension, heart disease and other non-communicable diseases that require integrated care. At the same time, fresh HIV transmission hotspots linked to injecting drug use have emerged in states such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Punjab, underscoring that the epidemic continues to evolve. Dr Sanjay Pujari, Director and Chief Consultant at the Institute of Infectious Diseases, Pune, will be speaking on clinical strategies for integrating HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and non-communicable diseases at the International AIDS Conference being held in Rio de Janeiro. He spoke to The Indian Express about India’s changing HIV landscape, the country’s role in the global response and the priorities for ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

What is the current burden of HIV in the country, and what concerns you the most?

India’s HIV response has come a long way. By the end of 2023, an estimated 2.54 million people were living with HIV, with an adult prevalence of 0.20%. Over the past decade, we’ve seen encouraging progress; new HIV infections have fallen by 44.2% since 2010, while AIDS-related deaths have dropped by 79.2%. Today, around 1.8 million people receive free antiretroviral therapy (ART) through the national programme, with 94% treatment retention and 97% viral suppression, which is a significant public health achievement. But success brings a new set of challenges. Because people with HIV are living longer, we’re now seeing more of them develop age-related conditions such as diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease. The proportion of people living with HIV, who are over 50, has risen from 17% in 2000 to 37% in 2023, and is expected to cross 50% by 2030. This means our focus must shift from treating HIV alone to managing HIV alongside other chronic illnesses. Another area of concern is the emergence of HIV transmission hotspots in states such as Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Punjab, where infections are being driven largely by needle sharing among people who inject drugs.

What unique perspective does India bring to this year’s global HIV agenda?

India’s experience shows that a nationally owned and predominantly domestically-funded HIV programme can be both sustainable and resilient. At a time when many countries are grappling with shrinking international support, that is an important lesson for the global HIV community. The second major contribution is India’s role as the pharmacy of the world for HIV medicines. Nearly 80% of the antiretroviral drugs used globally are manufactured by Indian pharmaceutical companies. As discussions increasingly turn to equitable access to treatment and newer pre-

Jaundice was just a symptom. 45-year-old Delhi man’s cautionary tale



A middle-aged man walked into my clinic convinced he had jaundice. His family had already started home remedies, cut down his diet to little more than sugarcane juice, and were waiting for the yellow colour in his eyes to disappear. But jaundice wasn’t his diagnosis — it was simply his body’s way of announcing that something was wrong. The real problem turned out to be hepatitis B, and by the time he arrived, his liver had already begun to fail. This is perhaps the biggest misconception surrounding jaundice. “It is not a disease in itself but a symptom — a visible signal that the liver or the body’s handling of bilirubin is under stress. Sometimes the cause is relatively harmless and resolves on its own. At other times, jaundice is the first clue to a serious liver disease that needs urgent attention. The challenge lies in recognising when it is simply part of a routine illness and when it is warning of something far more dangerous,” says Dr Ashok Choudhury, hepatologist and liver transplant physician, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), Delhi.

Hepatitis, in most cases, follows a fairly predictable course: fatigue, loss of appetite, mild jaundice, and then gradual recovery over a few weeks. But sometimes the liver stops coping the way it should, and what begins as a routine infection can rapidly progress to cirrhosis, acute-on-chronic liver failure (ACLF), or even hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC). This transition doesn’t always announce itself dramatically. It may unfold over days, and recognising the warning signs early can mean the difference between recovery and a life-threatening emergency. Equally important is knowing who is at risk, understanding how hepatitis B and C spread, recognising high-risk behaviours, and identifying the symptoms that warrant immediate medical attention. “Prevention, early diagnosis, timely treatment and vaccination can prevent complications and allow people to lead long, healthy lives,” says Dr Choudhury. Excerpts:

Who is at risk of Hepatitis B or C? Who needs vaccination?

In India, hepatitis B is commonly acquired at birth from an infected mother. A family history of hepatitis, liver disease or liver cancer — particularly on the maternal side — also increases the risk. Other important risk factors include unprotected sex, multiple sexual partners, intravenous drug use, tattooing with unsterile equipment, unsafe injections and surgeries or blood transfusions involving infected

vention tools, India’s manufacturing capacity becomes even more critical. The same is likely to hold true for innovations such as long-acting injectable prevention medicines like lenacapavir. How is India incorporating newer HIV prevention strategies, such as long-acting PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) into its public health programme? India already has national guidelines for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) but access to these medicines has not yet been expanded as part of a large-scale public health programme.

One of the most exciting developments in HIV prevention is lenacapavir, a long-acting injectable that offers protection with just one injection every six months. It has not yet been approved by Indian regulators because additional country-specific safety and efficacy data are needed. However, Gilead Sciences has already signed voluntary, royalty-free licensing agreements with four Indian generic manufacturers. Once regulatory approval is granted, lenacapavir could become a valuable addition to India’s HIV prevention strategy.

Does stigma and discrimination continue to affect people living with HIV?

The situation has improved considerably over the years, but stigma has certainly not disappeared. Many people living with HIV continue to struggle with internalised stigma, which calls for sustained counselling and psychosocial support. At the same time, discrimination still exists within families, communities and, unfortunately, even in some healthcare settings. Health insurance is one area where significant gaps remain. People living with HIV are often denied adequate insurance coverage despite advances in treatment that allow them to lead long and productive lives. India has an important legal safeguard in the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Act, 2017, which prohibits discrimination in employment, healthcare, education and other areas. The challenge now is ensuring that these protections translate into meaningful change on the ground.

Looking ahead to 2030, what do you see as the biggest opportunity—and the biggest challenge—in ending HIV as a public health threat in India?

As people living with HIV age, healthcare must evolve with their needs. We need models that integrate HIV care with the management of diabetes, cardiovascular disease and other chronic conditions. While there have been examples of programme-level integration, the next step is to develop standardised clinical pathways so that care is organised around the individual rather than around separate diseases. The biggest opportunity lies in India’s generic pharmaceutical industry, which is well placed to shape the future of the global HIV response by making both affordable treatment and long-acting preventive medicines more widely available. At the same time, if India is to achieve its goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030, it will need to sharpen its focus on prevention and treatment in the geographic hotspots where HIV prevalence remains higher than the national average.

As international HIV funding becomes more constrained, how should India adapt its HIV response?

Fortunately, India is less vulnerable to international funding cuts than many other countries. According to UNAIDS, we have relatively low dependence on PEPFAR funding and are grouped with countries such as South Africa, Thailand and Brazil. That doesn’t mean funding reductions will have no impact. Community-based organisations and research projects supported by the US government and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) could face disruptions, which may affect some services and ongoing research. However, the national HIV programme itself is built largely on domestic funding, making it far more resilient to these global financial shifts.

blood. Anyone with these risk factors should consider getting tested. Even if the test is negative, vaccination against hepatitis B can provide lifelong protection. Every pregnant woman should be screened for hepatitis B, and every newborn should receive the hepatitis B vaccine at birth, one of the most effective measures to prevent chronic liver disease later in life. The jaundice that doesn’t behave

A slight yellowing of the eyes is something doctors commonly expect in hepatitis. When it is accompanied by dark, mustard oil-coloured urine, loss of appetite and fatigue, it usually reflects liver inflammation. This should never be ignored and warrants prompt medical evaluation. Self-medication, including over-the-counter drugs or herbal remedies, should be avoided until the cause is identified. However, when jaundice continues to worsen, is accompanied by severe itching, or is associated with pale or clay-coloured stools, it may indicate more significant liver dysfunction or blockage of bile flow. These are warning signs that require urgent medical assessment. When the mind starts acting strange This is often the first change families notice, even before they realise what it means. Someone who was speaking normally the previous evening suddenly appears unusually sleepy, confused, forgetful, or begins saying things that make little sense. Some patients develop a characteristic flapping movement of the hands when they stretch out their arms and spread their fingers — a sign doctors call asterixis. This condition, known as hepatic encephalopathy, develops because a failing liver can no longer remove toxins effectively from the bloodstream. If not treated promptly, it can progress rapidly to unconsciousness and coma. It should never be dismissed as fatigue, stress, or old age. Bleeding that shouldn’t be ignored Vomiting blood or passing black, tarry stools are medical emergencies. In patients with hepatitis, these symptoms often indicate bleeding from enlarged veins in the food pipe or stomach due to advanced liver disease. At the same time, unexplained bruising, persistent bleeding from the gums, or prolonged bleeding after minor injuries may reflect the liver’s inability to produce enough clotting factors. These symptoms demand immediate hospital care. The most deceptive aspect of hepatitis is how quickly it can change. A patient who seems to be recovering may deteriorate within a day or two. There is no universal timeline, making it essential to seek medical attention immediately if jaundice worsens, confusion develops, bleeding occurs or swelling of the abdomen appears. Waiting for symptoms to settle on their own can cost valuable time. The takeaway Jaundice is never the disease — it is the body’s alarm bell. Most people with hepatitis recover completely with appropriate care, but a small proportion develop life-threatening complications because the warning signs are missed or ignored. Recognising these red flags, identifying those at risk, getting vaccinated where appropriate, and seeking timely medical attention remain the most effective ways to prevent a manageable illness from becoming a medical emergency.

Julius Yego on CWG gold, javelin's rise and friendship with Neeraj Chopra



GNS News Agency, August 1

Julius Yego is an Olympic silver medalist and a former World Champion. However, the most memorable reception he received on returning home to Kenya was after winning gold at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. The victory in Scotland's largest city was special because it put Kenya on the javelin map of the world. The country erupted in joy; Yego got unforgettable memories — including a helicopter ride to his village in the Rift Valley. "After the Commonwealth Games, I had a huge reception back home. Even my school, Kapsabet High School, had a big reception. A helicopter took me to my village (Cheptonon). There was a huge crowd in my village. They wanted to see me and also see a helicopter landing in the village. I was young back then; people didn't expect me to win the Commonwealth Games gold in javelin. It was a big story," Yego told from Glasgow.

There was no electricity in his village and no tarred roads, but Cheptonon had a champion athlete. "Even now, in some areas of my village there is no electricity. But we do not have a water problem because there are streams. Rich people have tap water, but others drink stream water because they believe it is clean," 37-year-old Yego said. The roads are still basic. "There are small roads but not tarmac roads. I moved to Eldoret for my training, but I still go back to my village," Yego said. Yego's stardom continued to grow in Kenya, the East African nation known for its distance runners, when he won a World Championship gold in Beijing a year later. He was the first from Kenya to become a world champion in a field event. A hip-hop musician, Khaligraph Jones, made a song titled "Yego" to celebrate his achievements. Like Yego, the song is still popular. "I am a big football fan, and I support Arsenal. Sometimes, when I go to social places, people see me, and they play the song and have fun. I like it because it reminds me of what I have achieved," he said. Even before social media became a thing, a young Yego, without a coach, was on YouTube learning how to throw the javelin. When he travelled outside Kenya for the first time — for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi — he didn't have a coach, but

he had YouTube to fall back on. Once he became famous, the moniker Mr. YouTube stayed.

"It is used (YouTube) more now. Maybe, in the beginning it was to know what you have to do, but now you can watch and correct yourself as well. I get lots of questions from India, I do respond and give comments when I have time on Instagram." The father of three, two sons and a daughter who just turned one, Yego wants to keep going till the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. As much as aiming for another podium finish, he also wants to do his bit towards more athletes taking up sports. "I think, at the moment, I'm looking to motivate more athletes in Kenya to pick up the sports, not just javelin. I can see this happening in my time, when I am still active. This will also motivate me to make it to LA." Yego has been around long enough to see the change in the sport, from European dominance on the podium to medals being spread out across the globe. "That's what I like about this sport. It is no longer set in one place. When I was starting the sport, it was being won by athletes from Europe. At the moment, every part of the world is being represented in javelin. Athletes come saying, 'we can do it'. Keshron Walcott (Trinidad and Tobago) won in 2012 (Olympics), but nobody expected it. I won in 2015 (World Championships). Anderson Peters from Grenada won. Neeraj (Chopra) has won. It shows the sport has changed and it has gone global. We changed the thinking of the sport, 'yes, everybody can win.'" The competition at the Commonwealth Games will be tough with Chopra, Olympic Champion Arshad Nadeem from Pakistan, Sri Lanka's Rupesh Tharanga Pathirage and Yego in the fray, but the Kenyan says the camaraderie in javelin is strong.

"Yes, Neeraj is a good friend. I have a good relationship with him. We try to make our sport friendly. If you don't win, then your friend will win, then you clap for him. And when I win, they clap for me. When your friend is down, you cheer him up. Put a smile on your face. We talk normally when we are in the competition, maybe correct each other, like say 'maybe do this'. You compete of course, but after the competition the friendship remains.

"Yego hopes to leave Glasgow, his Commonwealth swansong, with a medal. "I won't be competing in India (in 2030). If I win this championship, I will be so happy. I will say bye-bye Commonwealth Games and I will see you next time in some other capacity. It has been fun and amazing to compete at the Commonwealth Games." Working as an inspector of police in the Directorate of Criminal Investigation, Yego is also an anti-doping crusader. Like India, Kenya too has a doping problem, and Yego wants to help to clean up the mess. "I posted a video a few days ago saying it is a historic moment (fifth CWG) for me to be at the Games and in Glasgow again. My message was to compete clean, respect your opponent, and it is ok to lose if you compete fairly."

'People spoke about the short ball': Ashwin lauds Sooryavanshi with Ponting comparison



Former India spinner R Ashwin lauded Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's impressive returns in the Zimbabwe series after failing to live up to the billing in his debut series in England. As India blanked Zimbabwe 3-0, Sooryavanshi emerged as the standout batter in the side, finishing the series with a mature 49-ball 81 with seven fours and four sixes. The short ball had previously emerged as a problem for the 15-year-old in the T20I series in England, where he aggregated scores of 13, 14 and 15 in three outings.

Ashwin, however, claimed that Sooryavanshi had nothing to alter in his technique to find success at the international level. Comparing the Bihar prodigy to Australia leg-

end Ricky Ponting, Ashwin said: "There was nothing different about him. He is the same player. And there is no need for him to show himself differently. Why do we want that? He is a good player as he is. People spoke about the short ball stuff. Did Ricky Ponting never get out to the short ball? We must understand that someone has different strengths and weaknesses. All these things are common. How many times has Vaibhav played Jofra in England before? These are all experiences. We cannot write off anybody just like that. The problem is that expectations from him have skyrocketed, so we want him to perform every game," he said on his YouTube channel. "I liked the fact that the wicket was a bit slow and the ball was also spinning. He adapted so well. He was going at a much lesser strike rate. He was stepping out and hitting the spinners.

All those are very commendable qualities. A small kid can't hit a spinner while standing on this wicket, so he used his feet. This is a very mature thing. His learning curve is so good that if he sits outside and observes all this, he will become an even stronger player. "He is going to be a phenomenal player. Let him evolve, give him time." Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to win a Man of the Series award as Shreyas Iyer registered his first T20I series win as skipper last Sunday.

After India coaching exit, Ryan ten Doeschate joins KKR as Strategy Head



Ryan ten Doeschate has joined KKR after his exit as India's assistant coach. (BCCI) Ryan ten Doeschate has joined KKR after his exit as India's assistant coach. (BCCI) Just weeks before India's Test tour to Sri Lanka, assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate vacated his post to join former Indian Premier League (IPL) champions Kolkata Knight Riders on Wednesday. The three-time IPL winners announced Ten Doeschate's appointment as their new Head of Cricket Strategy. "In his new role, Ryan will lead the strategic direction for scouting, player recruitment, squad planning and performance evaluation across the Knight Riders network. He will work closely with the coaching teams to help build a consistent cricketing philosophy and approach

across all Knight Riders franchises. As part of his role, he will also serve as Assistant Coach for Trinbago Knight Riders in the CPL, Abu Dhabi Knight Riders in the ILT20 and Los Angeles Knight Riders in the MLC," KKR said in its statement.

Ten Doeschate was previously associated as a player with KKR in 2011 and was subsequently part of their title-winning squads in 2012 and 2014. He returned to the franchise as a coach in 2022 and became a part of KKR's third IPL triumph in 2024 before taking on the role as India's assistant coach. "I'm excited to be back with the Knight Riders in this role. This is a unique opportunity to work with the coaching & analytics teams across our global franchises to strengthen our scouting/player development systems, and to build a long-term cricket strategy," Doeschate said. While Ten Doeschate had the option of seeking an extension like India bowling coach Morne Morkel, it is understood that the former Netherlands captain was keen on exploring opportunities on the franchise circuit. Besides Ten Doeschate, India have also relieved fielding coach T. Dilip from his role after a year's extension. "Ryan and Dilip's contracts have ended and we are not extending them," Saikia told The Indian Express. "Dilip was already on a one-year extension, which ended on June 8, and Ryan's ended on June 10. In another two-three days, we will name their replacements," the secretary added.

'World Cup not FIFA's to sell': UEFA slams world body's private investment plans

European football's governing body, UEFA, on Tuesday issued a stern threat to FIFA after reports surfaced that FIFA was seeking private investment in the World Cup and other events hosted by the world body. FIFA said on Tuesday that it plans to create a semi-private subsidiary, FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE), to sell minority, non-controlling stakes in the business operations of the World Cup and other tournaments. While retaining majority control, FIFA aims to raise \$4.2 billion from long-term investors later this year.

British newspaper The Times reported that FIFA president Gianni Infantino stood to profit from the scheme after his proposed next term at the helm of the world body runs out in 2031. Reports have also stated that discussions with potential investors were already underway. It comprises Thrive Capital, an investment company founded and led by Joshua Kushner, brother of US President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared and a subsidiary of JP Morgan Chase, the US bank that unsuccessfully attempted to bankroll the European Super League. In its statement, UEFA voiced a sharp riposte, stressing that FIFA's initiative had "crossed a line." "This crosses a line that football's governing institutions should never cross. UEFA takes it extremely seriously." "The soul and governance of football are not assets to trade — especially with zero transparency as to who gains financially. None of us are the owners of football.



It is not FIFA's to sell," the UEFA statement read. Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter also took to social media to highlight his successor's swelling American connection. "The close relationship between the FIFA President and the US President has reached a financial dimension that is deeply damaging football. No one has the right to sell our game," wrote Blatter. Estimating an equity valuation of 20 billion dollars for the FFE, FIFA said that it "would retain sole control of FFE and exclusive authority over football governance, competitions, match calendar, and all regulatory and sporting decisions". FIFA added that each of its 211 member associations (MAS) would be given the chance to take a one-off stake of 20 million dollars in the FFE.

PAK legend backs Rohit, Kohli to play 2027 World Cup: 'Age shouldn't be a factor'



GNS News Agency, August 1

While their futures in the ODI side remain under a cloud, India stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have found firm backing from legendary Pakistan batter Zaheer Abbas. The former Pakistan skipper, renowned as the 'Asian Bradman', backed Kohli and Rohit to spearhead India's batting at the ODI World Cup next year, slated to be held in Africa. Apprehensions have been raised in the cricketing circles in India as Rohit will be 40 and Kohli 39 during the World Cup. While Kohli remains supremely agile and fit, Abbas cautioned Rohit to work closely on his fitness. The 79-year-old, however, said India will benefit from the experience of the duo who have appeared together in the last three World Cups since 2015.

"Both are very, very good in terms of skill and, given their experience, I don't see any reason why they should not play the World Cup. Age should not be a factor as long as they are fit and continue scoring runs," Abbas was quoted as saying by PTI in a Pakistani television channel. While Kohli endured a subdued run in the recent England series that India lost 1-2, Rohit sparked with his 34th ODI century amid rumours of his retirement during the final match of the series. Chasing a record score of 388 against England at Lord's, Rohit became the first Indian ODI centurion at the venue, smashing 138 off 110 deliveries. Rohit also became only the second man to smash eight centuries in the ODI format in England, second only to Joe Root. "I watched Rohit

score a hundred against England, and it is still a pleasure to watch him bat. He plays so effortlessly and with such sweet timing," Zaheer said.

Indian women's hockey team leaves for Europe ahead of FIH World Cup 2026

Hyderabad: The Indian women's hockey team departed for Europe early Wednesday morning, beginning its journey to the FIH Hockey World Cup Belgium and Netherlands 2026, scheduled to be held from August 15 to 30. The team travelled from Bengaluru to Mumbai before boarding its onward flight to Frankfurt, Germany, where it will undergo the final phase of preparations ahead of the showpiece FIH event. During its stay in

Frankfurt, the Indian team will play two practice matches against Germany on July 31 and August 1 to fine-tune combinations and adapt to European conditions. Following the training camp, the team will depart for Amsterdam on August 2 to continue its World Cup preparations in the Netherlands. India will begin its campaign against China on 16 August, followed by matches against South Africa and England in Pool D. Ahead of the team's departure, captain Salima Tete expressed confidence in the team's preparations and said, "The entire squad is looking forward to the challenge ahead. We've had a good training block, and now it's about carrying that momentum into the practice matches and then the World Cup. Facing China in our opening game will be an important test, and we want to start the tournament on a positive note. As a team, we are determined to give our best and make the country proud." With months of preparation and valuable training coming up in Germany, including two practice matches against the hosts, the team is eager to start well.

'I think very highly of him': Ashwin on Sundar's replacement in India Test squad

India spin legend R Ashwin has heaped praise on Madhya Pradesh off-spinner Saransh Jain, who received his maiden Test call-up on Tuesday. The 33-year-old Saransh was named as a replacement for the injured Washington Sundar as India unveiled their 15-man squad for their two-Test tour to Sri Lanka, starting August 15. Saransh's call-up presents a rare case in Indian cricket, with the Indore-born spinner becoming only the third man after Murali Vijay and Mohammad Shami to be named in the national squad without an IPL contract. Ashwin lauded Saransh's call-up and heaped praise on his skill sets. "I am very happy for him. I have seen him. I think very highly of him. He bowls wide off the crease. He attacks. He is a different type of off-spinner. His job is to take wickets. He has done a very commendable job. I hope he gets a chance. Manav will play. Jadeja and Kuldeep will play, so he might have to sit out too. But I really hope because he has it in him to perform," Ashwin said on his YouTube channel.

Ashwin added that he was unclear about Sundar's role in the Test side, insisting that the team management must decide what is his primary position is in the longest format. "Sundar's performance has been good. But again, in Test cricket, I want to ask Sundar's role definition. He is



a very good batter, I agree. More than handy spinner. But India has to decide and communicate to Sundar what is his first role. Is he a top six batter or is he one of my top 4 bowlers? He is a match-winning bowler. He has to bat in the top six. If I am there, I am going to tell him to bat in the top six. It is important to define his role. If India loses, the question will come whether he is a batter or a bowler. He gets criticised, but I would question how he has been used," he explained. India have named four spinners in the Test side, with veteran Ravindra Jadeja returning to the fold alongside Kuldeep Yadav, Manav Suthar and Jain.

'People spoke about the short ball': Ashwin lauds Sooryavanshi with Ponting comparison



Former India spinner R Ashwin lauded Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's impressive returns in the Zimbabwe series after failing to live up to the billing in his debut series in England. As India blanked Zimbabwe 3-0, Sooryavanshi emerged as the standout batter in the side, finishing the series with a mature 49-ball 81 with seven fours and four sixes. The short ball had previously emerged as a problem for the 15-year-old in the T20I series in England, where he aggregated scores of 13, 14 and 15 in three outings.

Ashwin, however, claimed that Sooryavanshi had nothing to alter in his technique to find success at the international level. Comparing the Bihar prodigy to Australia legend Ricky Ponting, Ashwin said: "There was nothing different about him. He is the same player. And there is no need for him to show himself differently. Why do we want that? He is a good player as he is. People spoke about the short ball stuff. Did Ricky Ponting never get out to the short ball? We must understand that someone has different strengths and weaknesses. All these things are common. How many times has Vaibhav played Jofra in England before? These are all experiences. We cannot write off anybody just like that. The problem is that expectations from

him have skyrocketed, so we want him to perform every game," he said on his YouTube channel. Ashwin highlighted Sooryavanshi's ability to adapt rapidly to the slower surfaces in Zimbabwe. "I liked the fact that the wicket was a bit slow and the ball was also spinning. He adapted so well. He was going at a much lesser strike rate. He was stepping out and hitting the spinners. All those are very commendable qualities. A small kid can't hit a spinner while standing on this wicket, so he used his feet. This is a very mature thing. His learning curve is so good that if he sits outside and observes all this, he will become an even stronger player. "He is going to be a phenomenal player. Let him evolve, give him time." Sooryavanshi became the youngest player to win a Man of the Series award as Shreyas Iyer registered his first T20I series win as skipper last Sunday.

Priya enters Commonwealth boxing semifinals, assures India medal

Glasgow: Indian boxer Priya stormed into the women's 60kg semifinals at the Commonwealth Games 2026 after defeating Scotland's Niamh Mitchell 4-1 on points in the quarterfinals on Tuesday. She joined fellow pugilist Preeti in assuring a medal for India.

Competing in front of a partisan home crowd, Priya showed remarkable composure after losing the opening round on four of the five judges' scorecards. She bounced back strongly to dominate the second and third rounds with sharp combinations, effective counter-attacks and superior ring control. Four judges scored the contest 28-27 in Priya's favour, while the fifth awarded her a 29-26 verdict, sealing a convincing 4-1 split-decision victory.

The women of Omkara make it the crown jewel of Vishal Bhardwaj's Shakespeare trilogy



Maqbool, it is. For millions, it will always be Vishal Bhardwaj's feverish reimagining of Macbeth, with career-cementing performances by Irrfan and Tabu. And, arguably, rightly so. Maqbool was perhaps the trilogy's boldest act of reinvention, while Haider remains its most searingly political work. But for me, it will always be Bhardwaj's Moor of Meerut, Omkara. It is the one that has never loosened its grip on me. There is something inexhaustible about it, something that never stops becoming. It is the most cerebral, the most dramatically volatile, and, undoubtedly, the sexiest.

Needless to say, it is Bhardwaj's earthy re-imagining of Othello, where Venice gives way to the dust and violence of Uttar Pradesh, and perhaps the first mainstream Hindi film to plunge audiences into the Hindi heartland in all its grime and glory. Its language was not ornamental, but simply organic. Its characters did not live in the world; the world had already lived in them. That is why Omkara walked, so that the likes of Gangs of Wasseypur, Mirzapur, and an entire generation of heartland storytelling could run.

But beyond all of this lies what truly makes Omkara the film it is: its women. In a world overwhelmingly inhabited by men, and in a story governed by their appetites, egos, and insecurities, it is the women who become its moral centre. Omkara can be read in many ways, but to me, it will always remain a story of marriages, or rather, of the tragedies that marriages so often become under patriarchy. Dolly (Kareena Kapoor), Indu (Konkona Sen Sharma), and Billo (Bipasha Basu) are written with a depth that far exceeds their Shakespearean counterparts. Through them, Bhardwaj arrives at a simple realisation: that Shakespeare's men may be vain, vile, and often devastatingly dumb, but it is the women who are condemned to inherit their violence and, all too often, their murders. Omkara The film frames Dolly through two opposing ways of seeing.

Even before we begin to truly know Dolly, Bhardwaj tells us how she will be seen. Her father warns Omkara (Ajay Devgn): "May you never forget the two-faced monster a woman can be." And then comes a remarkable visual passage. We see two Dollys. One through Omkara's eyes, filtered through the tinted glass of a car window, where she appears distant, elusive, almost inscrutable. The other is free of his gaze: no tinted glass, no distortion, just Dolly in her innocence. For the rest of the film, she sways between these two images, much like the swing in her kitchen: between her own truth and the fiction men spun about her, and, consequently, between freedom and the cage built around her. Just as the film frames her between two selves,

Dolly herself exists between two worlds. She stands at the cusp of modernity, yet never entirely relinquishes tradition. Take, for instance, the moment she chooses Omkara. It is captured in one of Bhardwaj's most visceral images. Standing before her mirror, Dolly gently caresses the kameez stained with Omkara's blood, while her hands, adorned with fresh mehndi, hints at her arranged marriage that is yet to come. It's a shot where blood and bridal red become indistinguishable. Dolly is modern enough to choose the man she loves, yet traditional enough to believe that very man's anger must somehow be her burden to bear. She is modern enough to claim love for herself, yet traditional enough to surrender herself to the sanctity of marriage. Omkara Billo's independence is tempered by her desire for the stability afforded by a heterosexual union. However, Bhardwaj reaches his most profound register when he frames Dolly through the figure of Sita. Much like Sita, who was compelled to prove her chastity to Ram, Dolly, too, is condemned to prove her innocence. It is an intriguing invocation of mythology, one that reveals how marriages are so often built upon the insecurities of men. The idea finds its most vivid expression in a plot point revolving around a kamarband. When Dolly misplaces the heirloom gifted to her by Omkara, the loss threatens to become an affront to the husband's honour, suggesting a failure to command his own household. Bhardwaj reveals how little it takes for patriarchy to unravel. A missing kamarband becomes enough for Omkara to put Dolly's fidelity on trial.

Very much like Dolly, Billo, too, yearns for the comfort that the institution of marriage promises. She, too, is a woman of contradictions, her public persona forever at odds with the life she inhabits in private. As the audacious performer, she commands every gaze in the room, holding her audience spellbound. But in her private life, it is her breath that is held by Kesu (Vivek Oberoi). Once again, Bhardwaj exposes the paradox of these women. For all their strength and defiance, their lives remain tied to the men they love. However, unlike Dolly, Billo is not confined by domestic spaces. Her prison is less visible, but no less real. It is built by the social sanctity accorded to marriage, and by the expectation that a woman's life must eventually find its meaning within it. Omkara In the climactic moment, Bhardwaj invokes the iconography of Durga through Indu. And then there is Indu, the film's fiercest woman. Bound within the conventions of a traditional marriage to Langda (Saif Ali Khan), she is, paradoxically, the freest soul in Omkara. She fears no man. Not her husband, not even her brother. Time and again, she emerges as the film's moral conscience, nowhere more powerfully than when she holds a mirror to Omkara and reminds him that no matter how much a woman loves, sacrifices, or endures, men inevitably find a way to put her character on trial. But Bhardwaj's most radical departure from Shakespeare arrives in the film's final act, where he lets Indu reclaim the story. By killing Langda, in a moment that invokes the imagery of Durga, she does not simply avenge Dolly; she restores a measure of justice to a world corrupted by masculine vanity. Shakespeare might have called it a tragedy. Bhardwaj knows it is simply patriarchy.

Harshad Chopda, Shreya Kalra recall childhood abuse on Lock Upp: '99% kids go through it'



This week on Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa has been an emotional one for the contestants. After Shilpa Shinde and Ram Kapoor revealed their secrets for the weekly budget task, Harshad Chopda and Shreya Kalra also shared traumatic incidents from their childhood. In the latest episode, both contestants spoke about surviving childhood sexual abuse, leaving fellow contestants Ram Kapoor and Shivangi Joshi visibly emotional. Shreya also said she had long kept her experience private because she feared it could affect her family.

Harshad Chopda recalls childhood sexual abuse On the Farah Khan-Riteish Deshmukh-hosted show, Harshad had already revealed his two secrets. And in the latest episode, he gave out the third and last one too. Getting emotional, Harshad shared, "I was 9 or 10 years old. Parents sometimes trust people and leave their kids with them. Once my parents also did that; they left me with some trusted people. I was a submissive kid. At night, somebody was rubbing himself on me. While the clothes were on, I was lying down, and somebody was on top of me. I didn't know what was happening; I was scared, so I acted like I was sleeping. No one knows this." Harshad was harassed by a gay at the age of 9. Everyone judged him when he made some remarks about gay. This is the reason why he feels uncomfortable around gay. #HarshadChopda #LockUpp2 pic.twitter.com/ljPaJbXlX7

"He once called me to the balcony on the pretext of showing me something; he lifted me, and again did something. I didn't question it because I was scared. I just want to request all parents: don't leave your kids anywhere, and speak to them regularly so that they can share feelings with you. For people like me, we should always inform parents about it, so that the abusers are called out. Those people are still around, hale and hearty, and I am here with my fear. Because of this, even though I don't hate gay men, I am scared of them," Harshad added. Learning about Harshad's story, Ram Kapoor cried and said, "All parents should listen to this. This is so common; boys are abused as much as girls." A few weeks back, Ram had also opened up about facing sexual abuse as a child. Shivangi Joshi also got emotional and said, "This is so disgusting, but it's so common." While talking to her and Akanksha Chamola, Harshad Chopda added, "99 percent of kids go through this. We are the future parents, and we will stop it. Just imagine, you went through something, and you are unaware of it. So you are not really harmed or scarred like that." Akanksha Chamola added, "It's not about being physically harmed; it is the mental and emotional harm which is worse than physical scars." Shreya Kalra recalls abuse by a cousin

Shreya Kalra also got very emotional as she shared her secret. She said, "I wanted to protect my secrets not because I want to go in the finale, but because it can ruin a lot of things in my family. I have been molested by one of my cousins. Only my boyfriend knows about this. I was 13; I used to go to my grandmother's house, where we slept in the living room. This cousin, who was 3-4 years older than me, would grab me; I didn't know what was even going on." "I would be the last person to victimize myself. I didn't want my mother to know this, because the guy who did this had lost his mother, and my mother took care of him for almost three years. Also, my real brother is getting married in November, and his previous engagement broke off because of me. I didn't want this to come out; I blame myself to date for his engagement being called off because I was in this industry and had some controversies. Finally, he is getting married and has a chance to be happy, and I think I am going to ruin it again," Shreya Kalra added.

"Honestly, I don't even know why it happened with me. I feel bad that while I fight to stand up for myself, I couldn't expose him ever. I want to attend that cousin's wedding with my family. My mom will break down hearing this," Shreya concluded. Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa will conclude with its grand finale on August 5. The show streams on Netflix India every day at 8 pm. Disclaimer: This article discusses childhood sexual abuse and trauma based on personal experiences shared by contestants on Lock Upp: Sach Ya Sazaa. The accounts have not been independently verified by the publication. If you or someone you know has experienced abuse or is struggling with trauma, consider reaching out to a trusted person, a qualified mental health professional, or an appropriate support service.

Srinidhi Shetty's role unveiled in Trivikram's AK 47

Hyderabad: The makers of director Trivikram's eagerly awaited entertainer, 'Aadarsha Kutumbam House No: 47 - AK 47', featuring one of Telugu cinema's top stars Venkatesh in the lead, have now released a video clip introducing the character of actress Srinidhi Shetty in the film.

Production house Haarika & Hassine Creations, which is producing the film, took to its X timeline to share the introductory video of Swarna, actress Srinidhi Shetty's character in the film

It wrote, "Ee Aadaliki Attitude thapa Gratitude undadhu! - Chittibabu (These women only have attitude and no gratitude - Chittibabu). Meet the beautiful @SrinidhiShetty7 as "Swarna" from the world of #AadarshaKutumbam #AK47OnOCT2nd | #AK47 | #Venky77 | #VenkateshXTrivikram."

The video shows Chittibabu (Venkatesh) cribbing about his wife to another person. He says, "These women only have attitude and no gratitude." Just as he says this, he looks up and notices that a woman standing on the balcony opposite his home is smiling and waving to him.

'Parents didn't even have money for food, washed utensils to survive': Shivangi Joshi



Actress Shivangi Joshi has always safeguarded her personal life. However, on the latest episode of Lock Upp Sach Ya Sazaa, she revisited some traumatic chapters from her childhood. During a task, Shivangi revealed two of her secrets. The Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai actress recalled how her father suffered a huge loss in his business, and it brought them to the streets. The actress recalled surviving on bread and butter as the family couldn't afford food. She even recalled how one of her maternal uncles tried to sexually assault her. Shivangi Joshi on family's financial crisis

Revealing her secret, Shivangi Joshi shared, "My father had a transport business with a relative. Everything was going great. But then some issues happened between him and my father, and he dumped all the losses on my father. The loss was so huge that my father had to sell everything that he had. We were literally on the streets. We had no money to even buy food. A few relatives bought us bread and butter to eat and survive. We didn't have the money to even light a stove. After that, my parents worked very hard." Also Read: Harshad Chopda, Shreya Kalra recall childhood abuse on Lock Upp: '99% kids go through it'

Shivangi revealed her first secret ??

She revealed her father lost everything and they don't have money for even food, "They worked at a canteen to earn money; they would stitch people's clothes, and even washed utensils at the canteen. They always felt ashamed about not being able to provide food to the family. I am the only one who earns in my family, and I take care of every-

body. After going through that phase, I decided never to go through it again," Shivangi Joshi added.

Shivangi opens up about her uncle abusing her The Bade Acche Lagte Hai 4 actress also recalled how her mother's namesake brother tried to sexually abuse her on multiple occasions. "I never imagined I would get the courage to talk about this, but seeing Ram Sir and Harshad, I want to share this. I was also molested as a kid. My mother had a namesake brother; he was a very reputed man. When the discussions were going on about me coming to Mumbai to become an actor, he misused that," Shivangi shared. She added, "Since he was like a brother, my mother trusted him blindly, and at times he would pick us up from school. Initially, I didn't understand. He said, 'Since you are going to Mumbai to become an actor, you should know how to drive. He would ask me to sit in his lap on the front seat and hold the steering wheel. I would sit, not knowing what his intentions were. I complied, but never liked it. A few days later, I refused to learn driving from him. There were a few days left; train tickets were booked for Mumbai, my parents must have told him, and they had to go somewhere. That night he came home and started explaining how it works; suddenly he held me close. Then he mentioned that I should be prepared to do kissing scenes on screen; he joked that your mother kisses you on the forehead, similar things would happen on the shoot."

Shivangi got emotional as she shared, "He kissed me on the forehead, then on my cheeks, and I felt weird. He wanted to kiss me on my lips, and I just told him it felt dirty and he should stop. When I pushed him away, I accidentally slapped him. He got so angry that he pinned me to the floor. I don't know what would have happened that day; somehow, my parents came back right then. Dad heard me screaming, so he came inside and saved me. They beat him up and threw him out, but after this, for several days I couldn't go out of the house, didn't go to school, and my parents couldn't leave me alone. Since they have seen this, my parents, especially my mother, are very protective of me."

Lock Upp Sach Ya Sazaa streams on Netflix India every Monday to Sunday at 8 pm; the show's grand finale will happen on 5th August. Disclaimer: This article contains sensitive personal accounts of severe financial hardship, emotional trauma, and childhood sexual abuse shared within an entertainment show context. The claims and views expressed are personal narratives and have not been independently verified. If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional distress or seeking support regarding past trauma, please reach out to a mental health professional or contact one of the helplines below.

Shehnaaz Gill still has to 'fight' for fair pay, recalls working for free: 'Izzat nahi mili'



No matter how high a woman soars, fair pay is something she needs to fight tooth and nail for, regardless of the field — ask actor-model Shehnaaz Gill, and she would attest to the same. Even after her widely popular stint on Bigg Boss 13, where she emerged as the second runner-up, and subsequent appearances in several films and music videos, Shehnaaz recently noted that she still has to fight for a commensurate salary.

"Money gives you respect": Shehnaaz Gill on demanding what she deserves "Money is very important. It gives you respect. When I ask for what I deserve today, I sometimes get that, sometimes I don't. Sometimes it's less than what I quote for myself. But har kisi ko apne haq ke liye ladna chahiye (everyone should fight for their rights). I work really hard, and I have been through a lot to reach the place that I'm in today," she said during a conversation with News18. Must Read | Kangana Ranaut vs Saurav Das: BJP MP blasts CJP spokesperson over age, work, Gen Z pro-

tests

Interestingly, during an appearance on The Kapil Sharma Show in 2023, Shehnaaz had revealed that she received the least remuneration on Bigg Boss 13. "Usme toh payment mujhe bohut hi kam mili thi. Sabse sasti main hi thi aur sabse meghengi ban ke nikli hu (I was paid very little in that show. I was the cheapest hire but came out as the most expensive one)," she shared. During the News18 interview, the actor-model further revealed that she had to take up quite a few jobs in her initial years without any pay. However, Shehnaaz no longer does anything for free, fully aware of her worth. "There was a time when I did a lot of work for free. But uski mujhe izzat nahi mili. Maine logo ke liye itna kuch kiya hai (I didn't get the respect I deserved. I've done so much for people). But now, I do fight for what I deserve. I compromise only on occasions when the film that I've been offered is really good," she added. "Sometimes, you know that they won't pay you well, but you still get into it knowing that the script is meaningful. But if you ask me if I've ever done a project just for money by compromising on the quality of the work, I'll have to tell you that I've never done that," Shehnaaz maintained.

Shehnaaz Gill's journey from Punjabi cinema to Bollywood After a handful of appearances in Punjabi films such as Sat Shri Akaal England (2017), Kala Shah Kala (2019), Daaka (2019), and Honsla Rakh (2021), she stepped into Bollywood by playing a supporting character in Salman Khan's Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan (2023). She subsequently portrayed a key role in the Bhumi Pednekar-led Thank You for Coming (2023) and also made a special appearance in a song in the Rajkumar Rao-Triptii Dimri starrer Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video (2024). She was most recently seen in the Punjabi romantic-drama Ishqnama.

Abhishek Bachchan-Karisma Kapoor relationship was fiery, had too many arguments: Suneel Darshan

Filmmaker Suneel Darshan has revisited one of Bollywood's most talked-about relationships, Karisma Kapoor and Abhishek Bachchan's broken engagement, saying he was present at her home when the wedding was called off and was left puzzled by Karisma's sudden decision to marry industrialist Sunjay Kapur. Speaking to Hindi Rush, the filmmaker, who worked with Karisma in films such as Jaanwar, Haan Maine Bhi Pyaar Kiya and Ek Rishtaa: The Bond of Love, refused to blame anyone for her breakup with Abhishek Bachchan.

"I was at Karisma's house when her wedding with Abhishek was called off. Recalling Karisma and Abhishek's romance, Darshan said the relationship had begun before Ek Rishtaa went on floors and had steadily grown stronger. "Their relationship had started even before Ek Rishtaa began, and it kept growing deeper. By the time I planned Haan Maine Bhi Pyaar Kiya, it had already been decided that they would get married. They were an attractive pair — Amitabh Bachchan's son and Raj Kapoor's granddaughter. Ironically, the only film they were destined to do together was Haan Maine Bhi Pyaar Kiya." Darshan said he was present when news of the broken engagement reached Karisma's home.

"Coincidentally, I was at Karisma's house when the engagement was called off. It's unfortunate that the wed-

ding was called off. I don't think anyone can fully analyse the backlash or emotional turmoil that followed. Then she went to Bangkok for New Year's celebrations, and suddenly I heard she was going to marry Sunjay. I never understood that decision." Asked about the reasons behind Karisma and Abhishek's split, Darshan refused to hold anyone responsible.

"People blame Babita ji, Jaya ji, Karisma or Abhishek, but I think these things should be left to destiny. They had a fiery relationship. Love manifests differently for different couples, and every relationship has its own dynamic. There were a lot of disagreements between the two." Karisma and Abhishek got engaged in 2002 after making their relationship public during Amitabh Bachchan's 60th birthday celebrations. However, the engagement was called off just a few months later in early 2003. Neither family has publicly disclosed the exact reason behind the split. Darshan also spoke cautiously about Karisma's marriage to the late businessman Sunjay Kapur, saying he did not want to comment extensively because their children were involved. "Someone has passed away, and they have children. I don't think I have the right to speak about that. If anyone has that right, it is Karisma." He added that he had known Sunjay's family through Karisma's childhood friendship with his sister.