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Cautious monetary policy continues

The global economic landscape remains fraught with uncertainty, forcing emerging economies such as India to navigate an increasingly volatile external environment. Persistent geopolitical tensions, elevated energy prices, fragile supply chains and unpredictable financial markets have compelled the Reserve Bank of India to continue its cautious monetary policy approach. Reflecting these concerns, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has unanimously decided to keep the benchmark repo rate unchanged at 5.25% for the fourth consecutive policy review. The decision underscores the RBI's preference for prudence over premature policy action. With the global outlook clouded by the prolonged West Asia conflict, renewed inflationary pressures and trade uncertainties, the central bank has chosen to preserve policy flexibility until there is greater clarity on the trajectory of inflation and global growth. The RBI has projected a healthy GDP growth of 6.7% for 2026-27, an improvement over its previous estimate, despite external headwinds. The decision to continue the neutral policy stance reflects the central bank's preference to wait for greater clarity on inflation and global developments before making its next move. Elevated oil prices pose inflationary risks for India, as the country imports a significant portion of its crude oil requirements. By holding the repo rate steady, the RBI aims to balance the need to support economic growth while ensuring that inflation remains within its target range amid an uncertain global environment. The RBI has flagged risks to the agriculture sector, which employs over 46% of the workforce and contributes nearly 18% to the country's GDP.

Communists' Goal is to Fight for People's Issues:



V.S. BOSE“CPI Launches Padayatra Against Pro-Corporate Policies”“UPPAL, AUGUST 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): CPI State Secretariat Member V.S. Bose alleged that the BJP-led Central Government has pushed the lives of common people into crisis by handing over the country's wealth to a handful of corporate companies while burdening citizens with rising prices, unemployment, privatization, and cuts in welfare schemes.“Responding to the call given by the CPI National Committee, the CPI Uppal Constituency Committee on Thursday launched a padayatra from the ECIL GHMC Office to Ambedkar Junction, Kamalanagar, and Kushaiguda, distributing pamphlets and interacting with the public.“Addressing the gathering, V.S. Bose said that turning fundamental constitutional rights such as education, healthcare, and employment into commercial commodities reflects the failure of the ruling governments. He criticized the governments for failing to resolve the problems faced by workers, farmers, youth, students, and women, and asserted that the CPI would never tolerate pro-corporate policies that allow profits to be made at the expense of the people's hardships.“He stated that the padayatras are being organized across the Uppal constituency from August 6 to August 14 to directly understand public grievances and mount pressure on the government for their resolution.“The key demands of the campaign include controlling the prices of essential commodities, strengthening government education and healthcare, filling vacant government jobs, ensuring women's safety, protecting the rights of workers and farmers, and safeguarding the Constitution and democratic values.“Bose reiterated that the Communist Party's primary objective is an uncompromising struggle for the people's issues and appealed to the public to actively participate in the padayatras and make the people's movement a success.Among those who participated in the programme were CPI State Committee Member G. Damodar Reddy, AIYF State Secretary K. Dharmendra, CPI Constituency Executive Members Nara Narasimha, Giribabu, Venkatesh, Narsing Rao, Mallesh, Sudarshan, Vijay, and Suresh, AISF Uppal Mandal President Md. Azeem Pasha, Sameer, Irfan, and several other party leaders and activists.

Food Safety Officials Respond to Complaint Call; Conduct Extensive Inspections in Nelakondapalli

“Khammam Nelakondapalli, August 6 Indian Chronicle:““Officials from the Food Safety Department conducted extensive inspections in Nelakondapalli mandal on Thursday following a complaint made to the Food Safety Commissioner regarding the sale of substandard and expired food products in the area.“Acting on the complaint, the Commissioner directed district food safety officials to carry out immediate inspections. Accordingly, a team led by District Food Inspector V. Sharath inspected several bakeries and food establishments in the mandal headquarters.“During the inspections, officials collected samples of various food products for laboratory analysis. They also checked the weight and prices of food items, examined food packets, and verified manufacturing details, labels, and expiry dates to ensure compliance with food safety standards.“Local residents alleged that some food items were being prepared without adhering to quality standards and that expired products were being sold in the mandal. They urged the authorities to conduct regular inspections instead of occasional raids and to take strict action against violators to ensure that consumers receive safe and quality food products.



Dhandha is Genz mass” “Or““80%



movie directors might fail if they attempt a microdrama” “Or“Making micro dramas is much harder than films “Or“I always used to thought I should make my debut at 28 and I did““‘Dhandha’ director Aditya Devulapally”““The series ‘Dhandha’, which emerged from Chai Shots in the vertical storytelling space, has turned out to be a sensational hit. With Dhandha, director Aditya Devulapally has impressed audiences widely. In this context, he shared several insights about his cinematic journey and background. Here’s what he said:““Tell us about your background?”“Even though I was a topper in studies, I’ve loved films since childhood. That passion led me to drop out of engineering in a radical decision. Later, I told my family about my interest in cameras, and they bought me a small one. I didn’t know anyone in the industry. I am a 100% outsider, a lot of people claim they are but they are somehow related to someone in the industry. I am not. I learned photography and came here. I joined Mass Communication at St. Mary’s College. There, my professor Amrit sir was also passionate about cinema. Because of him, I was exposed to world cinema, including French and English films. Later, I entered journalism and built contacts. I eventually narrated a violent story to Anurag anna from Chai Biscuit. “How did your entry into Chai Shots happen?”“Anurag anna liked my story a lot. He said such a story wouldn’t normally be produced in Telugu. Later, he called me again to discuss it. Around that time, I was in journalism and he had just started Chai Shots and asked me to join as a creative producer. I worked on several shows there, but I felt it was becoming too routine and not exciting anymore. That’s when I went straight to Anurag anna and said I will direct a crazy show for him. That’s how Dhandha began. “How much was your involvement in the story of ‘Dhandha’?”“The original story was written by Vijay Kumar, but it had several issues. I rewrote it entirely and brought completeness to it. I made about 40% changes, including the backgrounds of Ganesh Thakur, Aravind, and Prakash Thakur. Later, Dora Sai Teja joined the project. “What about the appreciation ‘Dhandha’ is receiving?”“So far, Dhandha hasn’t received a single negative review. Everyone is praising its fresh making style and strong content. Many are talking about the music too. Not a single person has said the entire series is bad. Even Anurag anna is receiving calls from major celebrities appreciating it. They say every scene is fast-paced and engaging “Why did you choose ‘Dhandha’ to debut as a director instead of your own story?”- I love directors like Puri Jagannadh, Ram Gopal Varma, and Upendra. While working at Chai Shots, I listened to hundreds of scripts. When I read Dhandha, I saw myself in it. It felt like my raw style. Vijay wrote it brilliantly. I have no ego about giving him writing credit, and neither does he. He was alright with me reshaping the story. I wanted to direct and create a strong impact in vertical storytelling. When I presented a demo in Chai Shots office, everyone went gaga over it. Since vertical content lacked strong storytelling, I decided to bring a cinematic trend into it with

Dhandha. “What research did you do for vertical content?”- Micro dramas are being widely consumed. In vertical storytelling, every scene must be gripping. In regular films, highs and lows come at intervals and climax, but in vertical format, every scene should feel like a climax. Making vertical series and micro dramas is actually harder than making mainstream films. 80% great movie directors might also fail if they attempt a microdrama because of its pacing. There is no time for setup. Every scene must keep the audience hooked. It’s a very exciting journey. “Tell us about the dialogues?”- The dialogues emerged from Aravind’s character journey. Being in a library and observing people from a young age gives him depth. That character inspired us constantly to write better and fresher lines. “How did you select the cast?”- I considered many actors for Aravind’s role before finalising Dora Sai Teja. Initially, I had concerns due to the conversations around him, but after meeting him, I realised he’s a terrific person. He was surprised after hearing the story and immediately started discussing marketing and numbers. He is that clear and long-term vision oriented. He gave him his blind trust for Dhandha in a way most lead actors probably won’t. I also narrated the story to Nithin Prasanna, and he agreed to join. “Tell us about the music and camera work?”- I am the kind of filmmaker who likes to craft every single thing in my project right from camera shots to music instruments. So it was important for me to work with people who understand my vision and work with me. I have many friends in Kerala, through whom I met Aswin Lenin. I explained Dhandha to him, and he designed the entire color palette based on currency notes and used excellent lenses. I also share a great bond with Rishi M, who composed outstanding music. In fact, most of the music was completed even before the shoot began. Rishi is so cool that even if I suggest specific instruments to him, even if I outrightly reject what he makes, he takes it in stride and comes back with great music in minutes. He is a new crazy talent that TFI needs in terms of music. “Did Rajamouli garu do a cameo?”- (Laughs out) Rajamouli sir is a legend, he is the GOAT. I had a tiny wish for him to be part of any project I direct, but I don’t have the means to approach him directly. So I used an awareness video he did on cybercrime as a tribute in the series. “Did you intend to convey a message through ‘Dhandha’?”“I made Dhandha with the aim of providing 100% entertainment. But I also felt it would be good if it raises awareness for society. It’s ultimately a win-win. So I told the story highlighting cybercrime through their perspective. Cyber criminals are looting thousands of crores, yet we struggle to catch them. Even a simple OTP can lead to huge losses. We wanted to educate people about this and show the true face of such criminals through the protagonist but mainly by entertaining them with him. “Tell us about the heroine’s role?”- No one has focused much on showing a girl’s feet (laughs). Aravind’s character always stood on the ground as a kid, and that perspective may have influenced him to look at feet often. Even when I met Akshara, I asked her about this aspect (laughs). She performed brilliantly. Teja as Aravind and Akshara as Neeru are perfect fits. “Tell us about Teja?”- Teja is very grounded in life. He has the hunger to reach a level where people would pay even ₹200 or ₹250 just to watch him. He believed strongly in Dhandha and gave me 1000%. He has blind trust in the sense that he doesn’t even look at the monitor. People might have not seen him as an actor, but in the 28th episode, that monologue was a single take. He impressed the hell out of me. He is a great actor and will become a star in the TFI, this is my guarantee. He’s always busy with work yet he is fully dedicated on set. I will undoubtedly make a full-length film with him and it will be wilder than Dhandha “What was your parents’ reaction to the success of ‘Dhandha’?”- I got this fire from my mother. A line she often says -“A stubborn man is stronger than a king” - was used in the series. My father loves heist films. He has watched Money Heist many times. When I narrated this story, he immediately said it would be a hit. “Finally, what would you say about ‘Dhandha’?”- If you want to know what Gen Z mass feels like, watch Dhandha. Not even a second feels wasted. After watching it, you’ll remember all of us. Start watching by underestimating microdrama and my series will change your opinion. “What about your upcoming projects?”- I’m currently writing a story centered around a 50-year-old criminal. It’s shaping up really well. An official announcement will be made in the next two to three months.

New Drinking Water Pipeline Sanctioned for Satyanagar, Lakshmi Srikanth Nagar and Ravinder Reddy Nagar Colonies



:AKARAPU ARUN PATEL “Uppal, August 6 (Indian Chronicle): Development works have received a major boost in Venkat Reddy Nagar Division of the Uppal Assembly Constituency with the sanction of a new drinking water pipeline for Satyanagar, Lakshmi Srikanth Nagar and Ravinder Reddy Nagar colonies. Local residents expressed happiness over the approval of the long-pending project.“During a recent visit to the area by Big TV Narsayya Tata, residents said that their colonies had remained neglected for

several years and that they had been facing severe problems due to inadequate drinking water supply, poor drainage and damaged roads.Speaking on the occasion, Congress youth leader and Uppal Constituency Youth Congress President Akarapu Arun Patel said that after the formation of the people’s government, public grievances were identified through the Basti Bata programme by visiting every colony. He said these issues were brought to the notice of Uppal Constituency Congress In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy, who took up the matter with the concerned senior officials.”

As a result of these efforts, approvals were secured for several infrastructure projects, including improvement of the drainage system, construction of new roads and the sanction of a new drinking water pipeline for the colonies, he added.Residents stated that development in their locality had accelerated like never before. They expressed satisfaction that substantial funds had been sanctioned over the past three years, leading to a visible transformation in the colonies’ infrastructure and overall living conditions.Congress Party leaders, party workers and local residents participated in the programme.



duce, then who should?“The affected farmers are urging the Yadadri District Collector, Additional Collector, Rythu Bazar officials, and Estate Officers to take legal action regarding this incident and impose severe punishment on those responsible.

5.617 Million Sanctioned for 190 Temples in Uppal Constituency Government Whip Adi Srinivas Distributes Cheques to Temple Committees



“UPPAL, AUGUST 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Telangana Government Whip Adi Srinivas said the state government is giving top priority to conducting the Bonalu festival in a grand and traditional manner across the state. He stated that all necessary arrangements are being made to ensure devotees can offer Bonalu and seek the blessings of Goddess Mahankali without inconvenience.“He said the Telangana Government has allocated over ₹20 crore for Bonalu celebrations across the Greater Hyderabad region. The funds will be utilized for improving infrastructure in temples, sanitation, electricity, drinking water facilities, and other essential amenities required for the smooth conduct of the festival.“On the occasion, he announced that the government has sanctioned ₹56.17 lakh (₹5.617 million) for 190 temples in the Uppal constituency to facilitate the successful conduct of Bonalu celebrations.The cheque distribution programme was held on Thursday at the MGRI Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy Temple in Uppal. Government Whip Adi Srinivas, Uppal MLA Bandari Lakshma Reddy, and Uppal Congress Constituency In-charge Mandumula Parameshwar Reddy jointly distributed cheques to representatives of various temple committees.“Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said the state government is committed to the development of temples and is working to provide better facilities for devotees. They described Bonalu as a symbol of Telangana’s rich culture and traditions and assured that the government would extend all possible support to make the festival more vibrant and successful.“They also directed officials of the concerned departments to work in coordination to ensure adequate infrastructure, security arrangements, sanitation, illumination, drinking water facilities, and other essential services in view of the expected rush of devotees during the festivities.“Representatives of the temple committees expressed their gratitude to the Telangana Government for sanctioning the funds and said the financial assistance would help them conduct the Bonalu celebrations in a grand manner.Former Corporators Bonthu Sridevi (Cherlapally) and Swarnaraj Shivamani (Kapra), Endowments Department Executive Officer Venkanna, officials of the Endowments Department, representatives of temple committees, Congress and BRS leaders, party workers, and a large number of devotees attended the programme.

Telangana Distributes 6 kg of Free Fine Rice Per Ration Card Holder Every Month:



Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy “Khammam Kusumanchi, August 6 Indian Chronicle:““Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that the state government is providing 6 kilograms of free fine-quality rice every month to every ration card beneficiary as part of its commitment to ensuring food security for poor families.“On Thursday, the Minister, along with Khammam District Collector Divakar T.S., distributed three months’ supply of free fine rice to ration card holders at the Fair Price Shop in Eshwar Madaram village of Kusumanchi mandal.“Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said that after the formation of the present government under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the state introduced the distribution of quality fine rice through the Public Distribution System (PDS). He stated that Telangana is the only state in India providing free fine-quality rice through the ration system.

“He explained that in the past, many beneficiaries either sold the coarse rice supplied through ration shops or it was diverted for illegal recycling, resulting in a waste of public funds. However, the newly supplied fine rice is of much better quality, and beneficiaries are now using it for household consumption. He added that people have become more aware and even question dealers if there is any shortage in the quantity supplied.“The Minister said the government’s objective is to ensure better food security and provide nutritious, quality rice to economically weaker families.“Beneficiaries expressed satisfaction with the quality of the rice, stating that they had previously sold the ration rice due to its poor quality, but are now using the fine rice for their families. They appreciated the government’s initiative and said it has significantly benefited their households.“The programme was attended by Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, District Civil Supplies Officer Chandan Kumar, Panchayat Raj SE Venkat Reddy, RDO Srinivas, Tahsildar Saidulu, local public representatives, officials, Fair Price Shop dealer Y. Saidi Reddy, villagers, and beneficiaries.

Fulfilling People's Aspirations is the Government's Goal: Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy



“Minister Lays Foundation Stones for Development Works Worth ₹6.19 Crore in Kusumanchi Mandal – Joins Farmers in Traditional Ploughing”
Khammam/Kusumanchi, August 06 (Indian Chronicle): “Telangana Revenue, Housing, Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said that the State Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, is committed to fulfilling the aspirations of the people by implementing welfare and development programmes at a rapid pace.”
“The Minister, accompanied by Khammam District Collector Divakara T.S., visited Kusumanchi Mandal on Thursday and laid foundation stones for several development projects. He inaugurated the construction of a BT road from Eshwaramadaram to Bhadru Thanda at an estimated cost of ₹1.76 crore and another BT road from the Eshwaramadaram-Bhadru Thanda road to Thallagadda Thanda costing ₹50 lakh.”
“Later, he laid the foundation stone for a High-Level Bridge at Choutupalli village to be constructed at a cost of ₹3.20 crore and a BT road from the R&B road to Lingaram Thanda costing 1.28 crore.”
“Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that dur-

ing his tenure as a Member of Parliament he had adopted Choutupalli village and initiated several development works. After becoming a Minister, he considered it his responsibility to complete all the remaining development works in the village.”
“He stated that development works worth ₹5.45 crore were being taken up in Lingaram Thanda and instructed officials to complete street lighting, drinking water facilities, BT roads and other basic infrastructure at the earliest. He assured that the government is giving top priority to the development of tribal habitations.”
“The Minister said that the State Government has issued new ration cards to all eligible poor families and is supplying fine rice free of cost to ration card holders, a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country. He also highlighted the government's welfare measures, including 200 units of free electricity per month and free bus travel for women in RTC buses.”
“He said that under the Indiramma Housing Scheme, the government has sanctioned 8 lakh houses in total, including 4.5 lakh in the first phase, 2.5 lakh in the second phase and 1 lakh houses for Hyderabad. The selection of beneficiaries for the second phase will begin shortly.”
“Stating that farmer welfare is the government's priority, the Minister said that Rythu Bharosa assistance has been credited to farmers' accounts and that a ₹500 bonus per quintal is being provided for fine paddy. He assured that land-related issues across the State would be resolved in phases and that eligible farmers would receive Pattadar Passbooks after the completion of the re-survey.”
“Later, at Lingaram Thanda, the Minister joined farmers in the field and personally participated in traditional bullock ploughing, interacting with farmers and enquiring about their agricultural activities and issues.”
“Additional Collector P. Srinivas Reddy, Panchayat Raj Superintending Engineer Venkat Reddy, DYSO Sunil Reddy, R&B officials, RDO Srinivas, Tahsildar Saidulu, local public representatives, officials, villagers and beneficiaries participated in the programme.

Leaders Pay Grand Tributes to People's Poet Gaddar on His 3rd Death Anniversary Under the Leadership of IRSHAD KHAN (UPPAL KHAN)



“UPPAL, AUGUST 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): Leaders and local residents paid rich tributes to renowned people's poet, balladeer, and social activist Gummadi Vittal Rao (Gaddar) on the occasion of his third death anniversary at a commemorative program held on Thursday at Raghavendra Colony Crossroads under the leadership of Irshad Khan (Uppal Khan). The event began with floral tributes to Gaddar's portrait, followed by a two-minute silence in his memory. Speaking on the occasion, Irshad Khan said that Gaddar dedicated his entire life to the cause of people's rights, social justice, and equality. He noted that through his revolutionary songs, Gaddar inspired millions of people

and played an unforgettable role in the Telangana movement. He described Gaddar as a people's poet, singer, and social reformer whose ideals would continue to inspire future generations. Irshad Khan also appreciated the Congress government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for taking several initiatives to preserve Gaddar's legacy. He particularly lauded the institution of the "Gaddar Awards" to honour individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the fields of art, literature, and culture, calling it a fitting tribute to the legendary artist. He further stated that the Congress government remains committed to upholding the values of social justice, equality, and democracy, and urged everyone to carry forward Gaddar's ideals for future generations.”
“Among those who attended the programme were Congress Ramanthapur Division Coordinator Bazar Jagannath Goud, State SC Cell General Secretary Sandeep Bhushan, senior Congress leaders Dr. Yedla Anjaiah and Nagaraju, Assistant Professor of Economics Dr. Dubba Ranjith, Dr. R.N. Shankar (Ph.D. Economics), Dr. Kiran Sukine (Ph.D. Commerce), Satish (Ph.D. Commerce), Dr. Rajeev (Ph.D. Telugu), Dr. Gorre Raju (Ph.D. Business Management), youth leader M.D. Ashraf, Pawan, Srikanth, along with Congress leaders, party workers, and a large number of local residents, who paid heartfelt tributes to Gaddar.”
“At the conclusion of the programme, Irshad Khan (Uppal Khan) expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who attended and contributed to the success of the memorial event.”

Boeing Announces BUILD Programme Winners



“Hyderabad, August 06 (Indian Chronicle) : Boeing India has announced the winners of the 2025-26 BUILD Programme. The selected startups are Aerosearch Technologies, Alchemy Carbon, Dyasol Private Limited, EarthSprint Solutions Private Limited, Orjioy MedTech Private Limited, Stellix Dynamics, and SWRN Systems Private Limited. Each winning team will receive a grant of ₹10 lakh, along with mentorship and strategic guidance from Boeing and its incubation partners, said Salil Gupte, President, Boeing India and South Asia, in a statement issued

on Thursday. Gupte said the BUILD Programme has received more than 7,000 applications to date and has supported over 35 startups, fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across the country. Stacy Sire said the BUILD Programme serves as an important platform for young innovators to develop and scale their ideas. The programme is being conducted in partnership with SINE-IIT Bombay, FITT-IIT Delhi, IIT Gandhinagar Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, IIT Madras Incubation Cell, FSID-IISC Bengaluru, T-Hub Hyderabad, and KIIT Bhubaneswar-Technology Business Incubator (TBI).

300 Screened at CARE Vascular Health Camp

“Hyderabad, August 06 (Indian Chronicle) : CARE Hospitals, Banjara Hills, conducted free vascular health screenings for 300 people as part of the observance of National Vascular Day, the hospital's Zonal Chief Operating Officer, Abhinav Joshi, said in a statement on Thursday. The camp was conducted under the supervision of leading vascular surgeon Dr.P.C.Gupta, Clinical Director and Head of the Department of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery. During the screening, suspected varicose veins were identified in 70 participants, peripheral arterial disease (PAD) symptoms in 50, and diabetic foot complications in 20 individuals. Doctors recommended advanced diagnostic evaluation for 20 patients, while five were advised to undergo surgery. Dr.Gupta also highlighted the importance of early screening and creating awareness about vascular diseases to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment.



Breastfeeding is a Baby's First Protection – World Breastfeeding Week Observed at Adarsh Nagar Anganwadi Centre



“UPPAL, AUGUST 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): As part of World Breastfeeding Week, an awareness programme was held on Thursday at the Adarsh Nagar Anganwadi Centre under the Allayal Project in the Uppal Sector. The programme was organized as part of the week-long celebrations being observed from August 1 to August 7. ICDS Supervisor Venkataramana of the Uppal Sector attended the programme as the chief guest and created awareness

among pregnant women, lactating mothers, and other women on the importance of breastfeeding. “Speaking on the occasion, she said that the first milk (colostrum) produced immediately after childbirth is a priceless natural protection for newborns. She explained that colostrum is rich in nutrients and disease-fighting antibodies that play a vital role in strengthening a baby's immune system and ensuring healthy growth.”
“She stressed that every mother should feed her baby the first milk immediately after birth and provide exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months. After six months, complementary foods should be introduced while continuing breastfeeding up to two years of age, as it greatly supports the child's physical and mental development. She also educated the participants on the importance of a balanced diet during pregnancy, maintaining personal hygiene, undergoing regular medical check-ups, taking iron and calcium supplements, and following a healthy lifestyle for the well-being of both mother and child. Pregnant women, lactating mothers, and mothers of young children actively participated in the programme and clarified their doubts regarding maternal and child health.”
“Anganwadi Teacher Anitha, helper Radhika, along with several pregnant women and mothers, participated in the awareness programme.

Blood Donation Camp Held at Little Flower Degree College



Uppal Indian Red Cross Society Collects 45 Units of Blood
UPPAL, AUGUST 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): A voluntary blood donation camp was successfully organized on Thursday at Montfort Hall of Little Flower Degree College, Uppal, under the joint aegis of the National Service Scheme (NSS) Unit, Life Club, and the Indian Red Cross Society. The camp was inaugurated by the College Director, Rev. Brother John Kallarakal, and Principal P. Jayanthi Reddy. Speaking on the occasion, they described voluntary blood donation as one of the noblest forms of humanitarian service, emphasizing that a single unit of donated blood can help save multiple lives. They also encouraged students to actively participate in community service initiatives.”
“Later, Dr. Rama Subba Reddy and the medical



team from the Indian Red Cross Society explained the eligibility criteria for blood donation, conducted health screenings, and supervised the blood collection process. “Following the medical examinations, students, faculty members, teaching and non-teaching staff enthusiastically participated in the blood donation drive. NSS volunteers efficiently managed registrations, guided donors, and coordinated the overall conduct of the camp.”
“A total of 45 units of blood were collected and handed over to the Indian Red Cross Society. According to the organizers, the donated blood will be used to support patients suffering from thalassemia, cancer, and other medical conditions requiring blood transfusions.”
“The programme concluded with the presentation of appreciation certificates to the blood donors, while organizers reiterated the message that “Every Blood Donation Can Save a Life.”

Pochamma Ammavari Ghatam Procession at Ramanthapur Polytechnic Basti Receives Grand Welcome

Avulagadda Srinivas Yadav Welcomes the Sacred Ghatam
“May Goddess Pochamma Bless Everyone with Good Health, Prosperity and Happiness”: Avulagadda Srinivas Yadav
RAMANTHAPUR, AUGUST 6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Pochamma Ammavari Ghatam procession at Ramanthapur Polytechnic Basti was held with great religious fervour and grandeur on Thursday. The procession passed through Aravind Nagar, Rajendra Nagar, Bharat Nagar, and Netaji Nagar, where a large number of devotees, women, and youth gathered to offer a warm and devotional welcome to the Goddess.”
“On the occasion, senior Congress leader and Chief Advisor of the Aravind Nagar Colony Welfare Association, Avulagadda Srinivas Yadav, accorded a special welcome to the sacred Ghatam and performed special prayers. The programme commenced with the offering of Shakam (traditional offering) and special rituals to the Goddess. Devotees filled the atmosphere with chants of “Jai Pochamma Thalli”, creating a spiritually vibrant environment throughout the locality. The Ghatam procession was conducted in a disciplined and devotional manner under the leadership of Raju, Shankar, and Narasimha. Accompanied by traditional drum beats, folk music, and devotional songs, the sacred Ghatam was taken through the main streets of the locality. Residents welcomed the procession by offering Harathi, while women presented Bonalu and fulfilled their vows with devotion.”
“Speaking on



the occasion, Avulagadda Srinivas Yadav said that the festivals of Goddess Pochamma symbolize the rich cultural heritage and traditions of Telangana while promoting unity, harmony, and devotion among the people. He prayed that the blessings of the Goddess remain with every family, bestowing good health, peace, prosperity, and happiness upon all. He also wished for abundant agricultural harvests and the overall well-being and prosperity of every household in the state. Colony elders, representatives of youth associations, women devotees, and a large number of local residents participated in the Ghatam procession, making the event a grand success.

Mother's Milk Boosts Immunity: Sarpanch Maloth Kalavathi



“Khammam Kothakothuru, August 6 Indian Chronicle: “Mother's milk is equal to nectar and plays a vital role in strengthening a child's immune system, said Kothakothuru Sarpanch Maloth Kalavathi.”
“World Breastfeeding Week was observed at the Anganwadi Cen-

tre in Kothakothuru village on Thursday. The programme began with an Aksharabhyasam (initiation into learning) ceremony for children.”
“Speaking on the occasion, the Sarpanch said that breastfeeding significantly improves a child's immunity, while colostrum (the first milk) protects newborns from diseases and supports healthy growth. She noted that the government is taking steps to strengthen Anganwadi centres and urged pregnant women, lactating mothers, and parents to make full use of the nutritious food provided through these centres.”
“She also stated that the government has introduced several welfare programmes to ensure the health and well-being of mothers and children.”
“Deputy Sarpanch Vallala Radhakrishna, Panchayat Secretary Ravi, Ward Member Thakur Ram Singh, ANM Ramana, ASHA worker Aruna, Anganwadi Teacher Swathi, and parents of children participated in the programme.

Mahesh Kumar Goud denies rift with CM Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad: Rejecting speculation of differences within the Telangana Congress, TPCC president B Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted that he shares a cordial relationship with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and dismissed reports suggesting the AICC-appointed Coordination Committee was creating a divide between the party and the State government. Responding strongly to reports that the Chief Minister was keeping him under surveillance, Goud challenged those making the claims to release any supporting

evidence. “A section of the media has reported that the Chief Minister is maintaining surveillance on me. If there are any videos or audio clips, they should be released. What is this dadagiri (intimidation) and blackmail politics? I am not afraid,” he said. Reiterating that he enjoys a cordial relationship with the Chief Minister, Goud said they speak over the phone every day and discuss all important issues. He was speaking to media persons in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Power Department Employees Pay Rich Tributes to Acharya Kothapalli Jayashankar on His 92nd Birth Anniversary



Khammam, August 6 Indian Chronicle:““Employees of the Power Department in Khammam paid rich tributes to Telangana ideologue Acharya Kothapalli Jayashankar on the occasion of his 92nd birth anniversary by garlanding

his statue.“Speaking on the occasion, Telangana Electricity Association state leader Badavath Babu Naik, DE C.H. Nageswara Rao, DE (TRANSCO) M. Radhakrishna, SC (TRANSCO) V. Rambabu, DE (Wyra) Y. Ramesh, and SCE Srinivasachari described Acharya Jayashankar as a visionary who dedicated his entire life to the cause of a separate Telangana state. They remembered him as a distinguished intellectual who upheld the self-respect and aspirations of the people of Telangana.“The speakers emphasized that it is the responsibility of every citizen to carry forward his ideals and inspire future generations. They also pledged to work in the spirit of Acharya Jayashankar’s vision by delivering better public services.“Power Department officials, engineers, and employees participated in the tribute ceremony. Among those present were TEEA Khammam Branch representatives, TG TRANSCO and TGNPDCL officials and staff, including G. Madhu (AE), D. Sambasiva Rao (ADE), N. Nagaratnamma (DE), M. Satish (ADE), G. Kavitha (ADE), Rakesh (ADE), and others.

Congress Leaders Submit Representation to Boduppal Deputy Commissioner Seeking Removal of Encroachments on Sai Priya Nagar Parks

“Remove Park Encroachments and Take Up Beautification Works: TUNGATHURTHI RAVI““MEDIPALLY, AUGUST6 (INDIAN CHRONICLE):“Congress leaders submitted a representation to the Deputy Commissioner of the Boduppal Circle under the Malkajgiri Municipal Corporation on Thursday, urging the immediate removal of encroachments on parks in Sai Priya Nagar.“The representation was submitted by Tungathurthi Ravi, President of the Medipally Division Congress Party and Chairman of the RV Foundation. He appealed to the municipal authorities to clear all encroachments from the parks and undertake beautification works using municipal funds.“Speaking on the occasion, Ravi said that the parks in Sai Priya Nagar are being encroached upon, depriving residents of valuable public spaces. He urged officials to develop the parks into clean and pleasant recreational areas where children, women, and senior citizens can spend time in a healthy environment.“He further requested the authorities to take immediate action



in the larger public interest to protect the parks and ensure their proper maintenance and development.“Among those who participated in the programme were Sudarshan Reddy, Nagaraju, Sairam Goud, Raj Kumar, and other Congress leaders.

Development programs should be implemented with innovative ideas so that villages can achieve self-sufficiency and create sustainable sources of income



Special Chief Secretary of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department Dana Kishore““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 6): - Special Chief Secretary of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development Department Dana Kishore suggested that development programs should be implemented with innovative ideas so that villages can achieve self-sufficiency and create sustainable sources of income. Special Chief Secretary Dana Kishore, District Collector Anurag Jayanthi, Additional Collector of Local Bodies Bhaskar Rao, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Commissioner Wesley, Joint Commissioner Narasimulu, and District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy participated in the Gram Panchayat Comprehensive Development Plan (GPDP) implementation program held in Anantaram village of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district on Thursday. The plan prepared by Anantaram Gram Panchayat on the implementation of the Gram Panchayat Comprehensive Development Plan was explained through a PowerPoint presentation. Speaking on the occasion, Special Chief Secretary Dana Kishore suggested that each Gram Panchayat should prepare a comprehensive development plan scientifically keeping in mind the village development of the next three years. He said that comprehensive information related to various departments should be collected in the planning process, the needs of the village should be discussed with the people and development works should be identified in order of priority. He said that a comprehensive plan is the foundation for the economic development of villages. He said that Anantaram village has been selected as a pilot project as part of this program. He made it clear that the funds received by the Gram Panchayat should be used only for village development, and the GPDP should not be limited to documents but should be effectively implemented at the field level. He called for sarpanches, panchayat secretaries and officials to work in coordination and take village development forward with the participation of the people.As part of the VBG Ram-Ji program, it was suggested that steps should be taken to conserve every drop of water by constructing cisterns and spring ponds in the villages. He said that water conservation programs should be given top priority to increase groundwater and prevent water shortage. District Collector Anurag Jayanthi said that they are preparing necessary plans for the development of Gram Panchayats and utilising the funds provided by the government and completing development works at a fast pace. He said that they are strengthening the rural economy by implementing innovative programs through women’s self-help groups. District Rural Development Officer Nagi Reddy said that the construction of VO buildings useful for women’s groups has been completed. He said that there are 63 Sangha Bandhas and 616 members in Anantaram village and loans are being provided through Strinedhi. He said that loan facilities have been provided through women’s groups for the construction of Indiramma houses. Later, the officials inspected the cisterns built in the houses in the village. The uniforms of the students of the Zilla Parishad High



School were inspected. On the occasion of Vanamahotsavam, saplings were planted in the school premises and the foundation stone for the construction of farm ponds in the village was laid. ZP CEO Shobharani, Additional DRDO Suresh, Additional DRDO (SERP) Jangareddy, Deputy CEO Srinivas, District Panchayat Officer Srinivas Reddy, District Education Officer Bikshapati, Mandal Special Officer Shyamsunder, Sarpanch Nagarani, District and Mandal Federation Presidents, Ward Members, Sangha Bandha Members, Officers and others participated in this program.

Every youth should come forward to achieve the aspirations of Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar



- Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Revenue Additional Collector Venka Reddy““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 6):- District Revenue Additional Collector Venka Reddy said that the aspirations of Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar should be conveyed to the future generations.“On Thursday, on the occasion of the 92nd birth anniversary of Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar, District Revenue Additional Collector Venka Reddy lit a lamp and offered floral garlands to the portrait of Professor Kothapalli Jayashankar and paid tributes to him. Administration Officer Anji Reddy, district officials and concerned officials participated in this program.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Sanctions 30 Lakh for Gopalapuram Primary School: District Collector Divakar TS



“Khammam, August 6 (Indian Chronicle):““Responding promptly to a news report highlighting the poor condition of the Government Primary School at Gopalapuram village in Tirumalayapalem mandal, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy sanctioned ₹30 lakh for the school’s development, District Collector Divakar TS announced.““Acting on the Chief Minister’s instructions, the District Collector visited the school on Thursday, inspected the building and the facilities available to students, and interacted with teachers and children.““Speaking on the occasion, Collector Divakar TS said the school building had become unsafe

and was on the verge of collapse. Since the required development works under the Amma Adarsha Pathashala programme could not be taken up earlier, Headmistress Nimmathota Indra constructed a temporary shed at her own expense of ₹40,000 to ensure that students’ education continued without interruption.““The Collector said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy appreciated the Headmistress’s dedication, commitment, and concern for the welfare of the students. During the visit, the Collector felicitated Nimmathota Indra with a shawl in recognition of her exemplary service and praised her commitment to government school development.““He further stated that the Chief Minister had sanctioned ₹30 lakh for the overall development of the Gopalapuram Mandal Parishad Primary School. The funds will be utilized for constructing additional classrooms and carrying out other essential infrastructure works.“

“The District Collector instructed Panchayat Raj Engineering officials to prepare and submit detailed proposals for the school’s renovation and development immediately. He emphasized that, as the Chief Minister is personally monitoring the project, all works should be completed swiftly while maintaining high quality standards.““The visit was attended by Tahsiladar Wilson, MPDO Silar Saheb, Panchayat Raj SE Venkat Reddy, Education Department Planning Coordinator C.H. Ramakrishna, AMO, MEO, and other concerned officials.

Farmers should cultivate nutritious food crops and get high profits

General Manager Saptagiri from Unicorn Naturals Private Limited Company““To get more profits with less water, farmers should cultivate the very best.. nutritious.. crops.. and get high profits.... General Manager Saptagiri from Unicorn Naturals Private Limited Company““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District “Bureau..Indian Chronicle..August 6) :- Farmers should cultivate more crops and get big profits... There will be subsidy for farmers to cultivate this crop. We are providing completely free plants and drip system through the government.. We will also buy the harvested crop ourselves.. If the farmers are interested, they should meet the relevant officials, otherwise they should meet us or our staff directly, said General Manager Saptagiri from Unicorn Naturals Private Limited Company. Learning about the government’s promotion of fenugreek cultivation in Yadadri district, General Manager Saptagiri from Unicorn Naturals Private Limited Company politely met the farmers and said that they will come forward to buy the harvested crop by providing seeds and organic fertilizers for the fenugreek crop grown in natural farming. Speaking on the occasion, General Manager Saptagiri from Unicorn Naturals Private Limited Company.. He urged the farmers to cultivate fenugreek crop in large numbers, which has more than 90 percent nutrients, by growing more crops with less water. He said that about 25 acres have been cropped in Dattaipalli village of Turkapalli mandal in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district and another 100 acres of gardens have been planted with



munagak crop, and there is also a processing center in this area. He said that any other farmers can get free seedlings by calling his Unicorn Naturals Private Limited Company Coordinator, Madhukar, Mamilla Amarender Reddy cell number..9 4 91 36 9407 and farmers who want munagak plants can call him and order. Similarly, to grow more crops, women’s groups.. or FPOs can buy green munagak directly from the farmers and dry them, which will add value to them. In this way, women’s groups/FPOs can also get self-financing. District officials Nagireddy (DRDA), Venkata Ramana Reddy (DAO), DHSO and other officials, Unicorn members, and members of Yadadri Agro Processing Center LLP participated in this program.

Breastfeeding – The first right of the child, the best nutrition.. Every woman should breastfeed her newborn baby immediately



ICDS Project CDPO Shailaja““(Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District Bureau.. Indian Chronicle.. August 6):- An awareness program was organized at Basti Primary School, Kakinada on the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week.“With the slogan “Breastfeeding – The first right of

the child, the best nutrition.” It was explained that breastfeeding every single baby within an hour of birth.. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months provides the baby with complete nutrition and immunity. It was informed that breastfeeding is the best food for the physical and mental development of the baby and is also very good for the mother’s health.“It was stated that by promoting breastfeeding, a healthy family and a healthy society can be built.““Inner Wheel Club Activities:- It was explained that the club is continuously organizing social service programs for women empowerment, mother-child welfare, health awareness.“ They said that their goal is to provide services to needy families, participate in health programs and work for community development. DDAC Activities:“They said that DDAC is working to create awareness among the people about the ill effects of alcohol, tobacco and other intoxicants and to build a drug-free society. ICDS Project CDPO Shailaja Anganwadi Supervisor Padma, Anganwadi teachers, Bhuvanagiri Inner Wheel Club President Swathi, Secretary Uma, Treasurer Subhashini, as well as Coordinator Hema Reddy and Bhagyalakshmi from District Drug Detoxification Center (DDAC) participated in this program.

Handloom Expo Draws Crowds at Uppal Mini Shilparamam



“Anandamayi Nrityalaya Students Mesmerize Audience with Kuchipudi Performance““UPPAL, AUGUST 6(INDIAN CHRONICLE): The Handloom Expo-2026, being held at Uppal Mini Shilparamam, is attracting a large number of visitors. A wide range of handloom sarees, including Bhagalpuri, Bengali Cotton, Banarasi, Gadwal, Pochampally, Narayanpet, Block Print, and Kalamkari varieties, are drawing enthusiastic buyers.“As part of the expo, cultural programmes organized on Thursday entertained the audience with vibrant performances. The students of

Anandamayi Nrityalaya captivated spectators with a series of classical Kuchipudi dance performances.“The programme commenced with Ranga Puja, followed by beautifully choreographed presentations of Ananda Nartana Ganapathim, Vara Veena, Narayanathe Nammo Nammo, Shyamale Meenakshi, Jathiswaram, Rama Kodanda Rama, Marakata Manimaya, and Tillana, earning widespread appreciation from the audience.“The performers, including Shravya, Tejaswini, Vaishnavi, Swara, Dakshini, Tanmayi, Aruna, Divika, Dharani, Jahnavi, Harika, Shruthika, and Madhuri, showcased their talent and received applause for their graceful performances.“Along with an impressive display of handloom products, the daily cultural programmes have become a major attraction for visitors to the Handloom Expo.

YSRCP alleges pregnant woman walked 4 km due to poor roads

Amaravati: A pregnant woman in labour had to walk four kilometres to reach a point where she could board an ambulance to reach the hospital in Andhra Pradesh’s Alluri Sitharama Raju district, the main opposition YSR Congress Party said on Wednesday, terming the incident a painful reminder of the hardships faced by people in remote villages of the state.“Shanthi, a pregnant woman from Tenkabuddi village in Alluri Sitharama Raju district, developed labour pains on Monday night. As there is no proper road to the village, the ambulance could not reach her.

BMC’s mega concretisation challenge



GNS News Agency, August 6

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is working on an ambitious project to concretise city roads, holding a promise of “pothole free” Mumbai. However, it has left Mumbaikars in a state of repulse with nearly every nook and corner — from interior lanes to main swathes — being dug up.Data from the civic body shows that at present one in every four kilometres of roads in Mumbai are dug up to pave way for the new roads.

While Mumbai has a road network of 2,050 km — less than that of the national capital as well as other Metro cities in India — over 25 per cent or 525 km is dug up at present by the authorities and the BMC has set an ambitious target of completing all the ongoing works by May 31.Already beleaguered with a weak road network, the rampant digging up of roads has raised concerns over the civic body’s decision to dig up several roads simultaneously. Despite being the financial capital with the highest vehicular density, Mumbai’s overall road network is the lowest among other Metro cities — Delhi has 33,000 km, which is 16 times more than Mumbai; Bangalore has 12,800 km, which is six times more than that of Mumbai, and Kolkata has 4,018 km — double of what Mumbai has — and Chennai has 2,780 km.The civic body is also racing against time to achieve its goals along with tackling complaints on substandard work, deteriorating air quality and delayed pace, while contractors are raising concerns over Mumbai’s unmapped utility network and constant footfall at worksites.The project is unfolding at a time when the city is witnessing massive infrastructure changes and the worst hit are the ones one whose life it promised to improve — its residents. Negotiating through a maze of rubble, citizens have been left grappling with the rising dust and noise pollution along with traffic congestion, damaged utility lines, tree-felling and clogged streets.With only two months left for the onset of monsoon, and considering civil works can’t be taken up for four months during rains, the BMC has set the target of concretising over all the roads dug up at present by May 31, while the entire project, which entails concretising of over 700 kilometres, is slated to be completed by December 2026.In June 2022, when former Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who had just taken charge, announced plans to make Mumbai’s roads “pothole-free” within two years by concretising the existing asphalt roads. Following the announcement, the civic body issued tenders and awarded contracts for the work orders in two phases, seeking to concretise nearly 700 kilometres of roads across the western, eastern suburbs as well as the island city at a total cost of Rs 17,733 crore.Of the total network of over 2,050 kilometres in Mumbai, 1,224 km are already concretised. The tenders for the first phase were awarded in January, 2023, while the tenders for the second phase were awarded in August 2024.Mumbai roads, indian express Road works at Lower Parel in Mumbai. (Express Photo by Ganesh Shirsekar)Of the two phases, the civic body has set a target of concretising 321 kilometres, amounting to 700 roads, in the first phase while the second phase seeks to concretise over 381 kilometres of roads equivalent to 1,421 roads.So far, the civic body has achieved 21 per cent of its target in the first phase, having completed works on 68 kilometres. The second phase — the work for which took off in October 2024, has been slower with only 20 roads, amounting to 2 km, concretised so far.Data accessed by The Indian Express shows that nearly 525 kilometres of the total roads are currently dug up amid unfolding work.

Of the total dug up stretch, as a part of the first phase, the BMC is currently undertaking concretisation works on 197 kilometres of road length, which amounts to 310 roads. Besides this, the civic body is also conducting concretisation on a running stretch of 161 kilometres. According to senior officials, these kilometres comprise lanes where work on half patch is executed while half (80.5 km) is yet to be concreted.Under the umbrella of the phase II works, meanwhile, nearly 774 roads are dug up with work underway on 223 km. In around 51 km, work is partially complete — leaving roughly 25 km of roads yet to be concretised.The civic body has now issued an order banning new excavations, urging the public to report any new cases of excavation with their local ward office. However, with nearly 525 kilometres of swathes dug up and awaiting concretisation, nearly one in every four kilometres of the city is already excavated in the city.

Ahead of May 31, officials stated that the BMC is expected to complete concretisation of 203 km in phase 1 and nearly 121 km in the second phase.Speaking to The Indian Express, Abhijit Bangar, additional municipal commissioner (Projects) said, “Primarily, our objective is to complete works on all the ongoing roads by May 31. We are aiming to complete all the roads that are currently dug up end-to-end.However, in some cases, where the road length is too long, our goal is to at least complete work from junction to junction, in a bid to avoid any inconvenience.”In a review meeting on March 25, BMC commissioner and state-appointed administrator Bhushan Gagrani directed officials to ensure micro-planning and specific deadline for completion of targeted roads.On April 4, the civic chief and top officials from the BMC also chaired a meeting with the contractors, where the target of completing all works before May 31 was reiterated. During the meeting, the BMC said that if any road is found in an incomplete condition, strict action will be taken against the contractor.Mounting problemsThe concreting of roads involves disinterring of the existing road surface in a bid to fill them up with precast concrete layer. This process, however, has come at an expense — toppling of trees, destroying utility supply lines and in some grave situations, human lives.Data from the civic body shows that as many as 2,413 trees have been damaged in Mumbai since the road concretising works commenced. Of these, at least 26 trees collapsed during the digging works.So far, at least 378 notices have been served by the BMC’s tree and garden department to the civic roads department, and other utility agencies for hampering roots of trees. More recently, the civic body on March 25 slapped a contractor with a penalty Rs 50,000 after inspection revealed that root zones of as many as 50-60 trees in Prabhadevi — most of which were nearly 35-40 years old — were weakened due to unscientific digging work.According to an official from the civic tree and garden cell, the tree department was not consulted before initiating concretisation work. “The contractors are digging the edge of the roots, causing immense damage by making their base weak. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines mandate that no digging should be done within the one-metre radius of a tree. So technically the way these officers are digging these roads is a violation of rules in general,” the official added.Dilip Shenai, an ecology and biodiversity ex-

pert told The Indian Express that the BMC’s choice of planting exotic trees on the roads of Mumbai are among a reason to be blamed. While trees such as Gulmohar grow fast, they don’t have a proper rooting system, making them susceptible to being uprooted easily, he said.

“There’s contractor apathy as well. They don’t care about trees as they are more concerned about finishing the project within the given deadline. To avert such situations, one needs to have experts on board,” Shenai told Express.Several fire incidents were also reported after gas pipelines were damaged during road digging. On March 9, one person lost his life, while two other persons were injured after a gas pipeline was damaged in Andheri. The road was being dug by a JCB when the PNG pipeline passing beneath damaged, resulting in vehicles on the road above catching fire.Following the incident, civic officials issued a statement saying that while concreting work on that particular road was underway, the damage to the pipeline was not caused by the contractor who had taken up concretising work.

On February 27, a blaze erupted in Mahim West after a PNG pipeline was damaged. While no injuries were reported in the incident, a JCB parked at the site caught fire.When The Indian Express reached out to the Mahanagar Gas Limited (MGL), seeking to know the methods implemented by the agency to tackle the issue of frequent pipeline burst incidents, the agency did not respond.Among all the woes that concretisation work brings, residents say the major lapse has happened on civic amenities. On April 2, a gas leak occurred in Santacruz West during the course of road works, spreading the smell spread far and wide and leaving residents panic-stricken. Over 250 flats of the nearby buildings received no gas supply throughout the day.Recalling the works in their narrow lane near Diamond gardens, Rajkumar Sharma, a resident of Chembur, said that even as traffic was manageable, utility lines took a major hit.

During the work in our lane, which went on for months, the streetlights were removed and had to be replaced later. On one occasion, the electricity cable was destroyed during the work, leaving us without electricity for over a day. The trenches they dig up were filled with water and that further sparked concerns of mosquito breeding in our area,” said Rajkumar Sharma.

Madhu Poplai of Pali Hill Residents Association (PHRA) said lack of coordination is leading to the work unfolding in a haphazard fashion.“The area is facing many problems and sewage has been worst affected with the concrete blocks entering sewage lines, leaving them choked. Even the quality of the material being used for works has been substandard with the top coat coming off in many places,” said Poplai.The civic body has issued several directives to execute works in coordination with the BMC’s hydraulic engineers, storm water drainage and sewage departments as well as other authorities and agencies involved.In the absence of elected representatives amid no civic polls, Poplai said that proper monitoring has also been absent.Residents of several pockets, including Pali Hill, have opposed concretisation, appealing to the civic body to leave their lanes untouched. Their reason: the lanes are already in good condition and require no intervention. Taking cognisance of the complaints, BMC administrator Gagrani — during the unveiling of the civic budget of this fiscal — also said that the civic body would defer its decision to concretise a road in case of opposition from locals.The concretisation work has thrown up several challenges for the BMC itself as well as stakeholders, including contractors and utility providers. According to the civic top brass, finding solutions to prevent repeated digging of concretised roads has emerged as a key challenge for the BMC. Meanwhile, ensuring standards of quality works has also posed a hurdle. In the past months, reports of cracks surfacing on freshly concretised roads left the civic body red-faced, forcing them to issue penalties to the contractors and ramp up inspections.Abhijit Bangar, AMC (Projects), told The Indian Express that a sum of over Rs 3.5 crore has been imposed on contractors, wherever bad quality of concretisation works has come to light.

With reports of substandard works coming to light, the BMC has also taken to surprise visits to RMC plants. On April 1, AMC (Projects) inspected the RMC plant at Turbhe in a surprise visit to review concrete mix, water temperature and computerised control system among other works. On March 22, during an inspection visit at an ongoing work site at Mankhurd in the eastern suburbs, Bangar found out that the concrete that was used for the road works were not up to the standards.“Comprising the quality of road works will not be tolerated. We have roped in experts from IIT — Bombay as advisors for the project. Wherever we are noticing any kind of discrepancy related to the quality of work, we are taking strict action. We have also mandated the presence of BMC engineers on the spot when work is ongoing,” Bangar said.Meanwhile, contractors from several agencies who have been roped in for the works also pointed to an array of challenges ranging from the network of utility supplies running beneath the road surface to traffic congestions.

A spokesperson from a contractual firm said that they do not have adequate charts mapping locations of utility lines such as gas, cable and fibre optics, often resulting in damage of lines. “In the past few months, three separate incidents of gas pipeline damages were reported in Mumbai since the workers were unaware that utility lines were passing from there. Once such an incident happens, we need to cease work to repair the damage, fulfil legal obligations and identify the remaining alignment of the pipeline. Factors like these cost us additional time, slowing the pace of work,” added the spokesperson.A representative from another contract agency pointed out that unlike highway projects where work entails reclaiming of land parcels and then construction, the ongoing project involves repairs of roads which are operational, slowing down the pace of works. “Since traffic in Mumbai is round the clock, we face challenges in digging roads in entirety. As we are compelled to take up work in patches, it is taking more time than usual. If on a highway project we can achieve 2-3 kilometres of work in a day, in Mumbai, achieving 1 km of work takes us 2-3 days,” the spokesperson said.Contractors also said that in Mumbai, work cannot be taken up for four months during the monsoon, that leads to an added pressure on finishing the work at a faster pace.Even though work orders for the first phase of work were issued in January last year, the BMC is yet to achieve 50 per cent of its target so far. Speaking on the slow pace of work, the civic authorities maintained that since Mumbai records heavy rainfall during monsoon, all civil and infrastructure related works are usually stalled between June and October.“During the rains, the soil particles become loose and you can’t roll on them and the cement used for making the concrete also loses its strength, for which we have to stop the work during the monsoon,” Bangar said.“Although work orders were issued in January 2023, the actual work could only begin by October. The process of acquiring traffic NOCs for diverting vehicle movement on the roads took a lot of time. However, the pace picked up from October last year and we have taken a steadfast approach where civil works are taken up at a mammoth scale.

Special machines to clean sewers, CCTVs to check desilting of drains: Delhi preps for monsoon



GNS News Agency, August 6

The Delhi government will deploy specialised sewer cleaning machines before the onset of monsoon to prevent waterlogging, Public Works Department Minister Parvash Sahib Singh said on Sunday. The department will also use

Bengal readies advisory to pharmacists over fake drugs — from QR codes of medicines to licence cancel

GNS News Agency, August 6

West Bengal fake medicines crackdown, Bengal fake medicines, Bengal medicines QR code verification, bengal drug license cancellation, bengal spurious drugs seizure, bengal Health Department advisory, west bengal, west bengal news, bengal newsLast month, a large amount of spurious and substandard medicines was recovered during a raid by state and central drug control officials at a warehouse in Titagarh, North 24 Parganas.In the wake of a recent seizure of a large amount of fake and substandard medicines from a warehouse in Titagarh, the West Bengal government is going to issue a strict advisory to all the pharmacists in the state.Sources in the state Health Department said that during a recent high-level meeting, it was decided that any wholesale medicine supplier or pharmacist found selling fake medicines would have their licence cancelled.

“The medicine shops will be told to put on display the QR codes of the medicines so that the customers can have an idea if the drugs they are purchasing are genuine or not. They will also get information of about 300 types of suspected medicines,” an official of the Health Department said.“The Drug Control General of India has already sent QR codes to the state Health Department. The Directorate of Drug Control in West Bengal has already published phone numbers so that people can directly call these numbers to draw the attention of the authority if they suspect any strips of medicine or bottles to be fake,” the official said, adding the numbers are 033 2225-2213/ 033 2225-2214.

On BJP’s 46th foundation day, Nadda honours 98-year-old former MCD mayor

GNS News Agency, August 6

As the BJP celebrated its 46th foundation day and held events across all 14 districts of Delhi, party president J P Nadda honoured 98-year-old former mayor Shakuntala Arya on Sunday to mark the occasion. A women’s rights activist, Arya was the MCD mayor in 1997.

Nadda met Arya at her Lajpat Nagar home and presented her with a party scarf and a shawl. He also hoisted the party flag at her residence.Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, meanwhile, said her government was committed to social upliftment. In an address at the foundation day celebrations at the party’s state unit office, where she hoisted the national flag, Gupta said, “We always put the nation first, the party second, and ourselves last. Our government will work for the welfare of all sections of the society.”Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva was also present at the event, alongside Union Minister Harsh Malhotra, MPs Manoj Tiwari and Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, and MLAs, councillors, and party

CCTV cameras to verify that the desilting of drains has been completed.Delhi saw unprecedented flooding last year during the monsoons, with three UPSC aspirants dying as the basement of a coaching centre in Rajinder Nagar filled up with water.Singh alleged that most of the drains and naalas in Delhi were not desilted for the past 10-20 years.“Our effort now is to have state-of-the-art machines in every Assembly constituency to ensure thorough cleaning,” said the Minister while inspecting a trial run of a recycler machine in South Delhi’s Greater Kailash area.According to officials, the machine has been brought from Mumbai and is capable of deep and thorough sewer cleaning without requiring any manual entry into the system.“One of the key features that make this machine far superior to the traditional ones is its ability to simultaneously extract silt and dirty water from the sewer. The extracted water is treated within the machine and reused for jetting, thereby drastically reducing water consumption,” the government said in a statement.



A few weeks ago, the West Bengal government sought the cooperation of the Bihar and Uttar Pradesh governments in its investigation of spurious drugs recovered from various places, including in North 24 Parganas and Malda, stating that many such medicines were made in these two states.Last month, a large amount of spurious and substandard medicines was recovered during a raid by state and central drug control officials at a warehouse in Titagarh, North 24 Parganas.In February, spurious medicines worth around Rs 17 lakh were seized from a godown in Howrah’s Amta area. The office of the agency was sealed, and its owner arrested.In Kolkata, authorities had uncovered a Rs 6.5-crore racket dealing in life-saving medicines that were found to be spurious. At least 44 types of low-quality and spurious medicines have flooded the market, according to sources.

She was to be married, planned to start wedding shopping soon: Sister of woman who fell to death from rollercoaster



GNS News Agency, August 6

Nikhil Singh, a 26-year-old chef at a supermarket in Cyprus, recently returned to his home in West Delhi’s Najafgarh to marry Priyanka Rawat, 24, his fiance of two years.After the wedding, the couple wanted to settle in the Middle Eastern nation.“They had planned to start shopping for the wedding soon,” recalled Priyanka’s sister Geetanjali, 28.A visit to an amusement park this week, however, turned out to be their last outing together.On Thursday, the couple visited Fun N Food Water & Amusement Park in South-west Delhi’s Kapashera. They decided to take a ride on the rollercoaster — but Nikhil wasn’t comfortable.“Nikhil said he was scared and asked the operator to ensure they would be safe. The operator said he had been doing it for 18 years. When the ride started, Nikhil closed his eyes for 10-15 seconds. He then suddenly heard screams... he opened his eyes to see that Priyanka had fallen off the rollercoaster,” said Geetanjali.Priyanka, who suffered serious injuries from the fall, was rushed to Manipal Hospital where she was declared dead on arrival. Her body bore visible injuries — a lacerated wound on the right leg, a puncture wound on the left leg, and multiple abrasions on the right forearm and left knee, as per the medico-legal case (MLC) report received by the police from the hospital.Fiance heard screams, saw she had fallen: Sister of woman who fell off rollercoasterThe sole breadwinner in her family, Priyanka worked as a relationship manager for an insurance company.

Sitting outside their modest servants’ quarters in Chanakyapuri, provided to their father, Geetanjali said, “Both my parents work as cooks for civil servants. My father has been given a house. But it was Priyanka’s salary that was running the house. She paid our younger brother’s college fees as well. She also took a loan for my marriage and was still paying the installments.”Her 48-year-old mother is in shock. “I shudder at the thought of entering the house. My mother is in shock and has fainted several times since she got to know of my sister’s death,” a helpless Geetanjali shared.The body was handed over to the family after a post-mortem examination, said police.On Sunday, Priyanka’s younger brother Manoj, 20, was in Haridwar, Uttarakhand, to immerse her sister’s remains.

“She was cremated yesterday... today I immersed her ashes in the Ganga.”Police said following a preliminary inquiry, an FIR was registered in the matter under sections 289 and 106 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), dealing with negligent conduct with respect to machinery and culpable homicide not amounting to murder, respectively, against unknown persons.Geetanjali, meanwhile, blamed the management of the amusement park for her sister’s death. She said nobody from the park had approached the family yet.“How can someone just fall off a ride? We want to see the CCTV footage of the incident ourselves,” she demanded.Santokh Singh Chawla, 64, who owns the amusement park, said that he stopped short of visiting the family as “it’s a very sensitive moment for them”. “

We plan on visiting them soon. Any help we can provide, we are open to it,” he told Reacting to the allegations of mismanagement by the family, Chawla said he has been in the business for around 30 years and such an incident has happened for the first time.“We provided the CCTV footage. The police have come here and checked the entire amusement park, which we have closed now. We have nothing to hide. We have operators ensuring safety at every ride. We are waiting for the investigation to conclude and for the post-mortem report. But our sympathies are with the family,” he added.No arrest has been made in the case yet, said DCP (South-west) Surender Chaudhary said on Sunday. “The investigation is in progress,” he added.

US and Iran having 'very good discussions', Trump says



DUBAI/WASHINGTON,t GNS News Agency, August 6U.S. President Donald Trump said his administration had "very good discussions" with Iran during all-day negotiations ?on Tuesday, fuelling expectations of an imminent end to the five-month conflict.Oil prices fell and stocks jumped in Asian trade on Wednesday ?after Wall Street hit record highs on hopes that a deal could soon be reached to re-store traffic through the blockaded Strait of Hormuz.

The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here. "They had an all-day negotiation," Trump told Fox News " @ Night" show. The Strait of Hormuz "is going to be open very soon," Trump added. "If they back out again, they are going to get hit really hard." "Trump has ?often threatened massive strikes if Tehran did not reach an agreement and then cited progress in talks that have so far failed to ?end hostilities.Axios, citing two regional sources and a U.S. official, reported the U.S. and Iran are closing in on an ?interim agreement to reopen the strait with the agreement of Oman, which controls part of the waterway. The report said Washington was aiming for an announcement on Wednesday.However, Iranian state media, citing an informed source, said an agreement with Oman on the strait, which normally carries about a fifth of global ?oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, will be delayed "as long as the United States continues to threaten Iran."

PoK unrest leaves Lashkar, Jaish, Hizbul leaderships on backfoot; weakens Kashmir narrative



New Delhi: The ongoing confrontation between security forces and protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has left several terror outfits increasingly frustrated.Groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, which have long kept their focus on Jammu and Kashmir, are understood to believe that the situation in PoK needs to be resolved so that their attention can shift back to their primary area of operation.The Pakistan establishment has attempted to use these terror groups to incite violence in the region and shift the blame onto the local population, which has largely been holding peaceful protests. However, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin has appealed for restraint, urging both the protesters and the Pakistan establishment to step back and resolve the issue through dialogue.

An official said that these terror groups believe the prolonged protests and the repeated use of force by the security forces are undermining their broader agenda. "Today (Wednesday) marks seven years since the abrogation of Article 370, and there is a massive difference when it comes to Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the official pointed out.The official said the terror groups were created by Pakistan with the primary objective of targeting Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). Over the years, they allegedly sought to incite violence in the region and, through separatist networks, propagated the narrative that they were fighting for the interests of the people and that Jammu and Kashmir should be separated from India.Another official said that post the abrogation of Article 370, a lot has changed in J&K. "The people are happy that violence has come

Gulf shipping traffic steady amid uncertainty of peace talks



SINGAPORE, Shipping traffic at the key Middle Eastern maritime chokepoints of the Strait of Hormuz and the Bab el-Mandeb was little changed on Tuesday from the previous day, ship-tracking data showed.Eight vessels transited the Strait of ?Hormuz, including five tankers and three bulk carriers, shipping data from Kpler showed, the same as the previous day. Six of the vessels, three tankers and three bulk carriers, were entering the strait, while a gas ?carrier and a tanker were exiting.The Reuters Iran Briefing newsletter keeps you informed with the latest developments and analysis of the Iran war. Sign up here.

Roughly 130 to 140 ships would typically transit the waterway before the U.S.-Israeli war with Iran began on February 28 and Iran responded by closing the strait.Additionally, a liquefied natural gas tanker controlled by Abu Dhabi ?National Oil Co reappeared outside the Strait of Hormuz on Tuesday, carrying a cargo loaded from ?Das Island, according to LSEG and Kpler data.The tanker Mubarak departed Das Island, United Arab Emirates, on July 14 after picking up a cargo there, both LSEG and Kpler

QATAR ALSO CITES PROGRESS IN TALKSTrump has yet to achieve the objectives he set out at the start of the war: dismantling Iran's nuclear programme, curbing its ability to attack regional rivals and creating conditions for Iranians to overthrow their clerical ?rulers.Item 1 of 4 People walk past an anti-U.S. billboard on a street in Tehran,Iran has halted most traffic through Hormuz while Washington maintains a blockade of Iran-related shipping and ports.Qatar had earlier said mediators were making progress in ?efforts to end the conflict, even after Tehran denied that talks were underway.Trump and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani discussed efforts to narrow differences between Washington ?and Tehran ?and improve the prospects for a lasting settlement during a phone call on Tuesday, Qatar's Emiri office said.Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Esmail Baghaei, said talks with Oman over transit through the strait were positive and continuing, and were focused on establishing safe shipping lanes, state media reported. He added the route being negotiated was aimed at ensuring the sovereign rights and national security of both Iran and Oman.Iran has long demanded control over the Strait of Hormuz, which ?it says it should share with ?Oman on the opposite shore. But ?Tehran rejected an Omani proposal last week that would have allowed shared oversight and the collection of voluntary fees from ships.Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthis have also imposed a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, further restricting oil export routes. A projectile struck an Indian-flagged vessel near Yemen, causing it to capsize and sink, but all 14 ?seafarers on board were rescued, Indian officials said, in an attack Yemen blamed on the Houthis.The United Nations' International Maritime Organization has reported at least 17 deaths of seafarers from 64 incidents in the Strait of Hormuz since the war started on February 28.Those are in addition to the Iranian government's toll of 50 people killed and 500 ?wounded by U.S. strikes since hostilities renewed in late June, a figure reported before Iran said a ?U.S. strike on Qeshm in late July killed a husband and wife and their 2-year-old son.In all Iran has reported more than 3,400 deaths since the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28, while the U.S. has reported 18 military personnel dead.

down and the tourism sector is thriving. If J&K remains peaceful and PoK is marred by violence, then these terror groups cannot push their agenda.If these terror groups try to push their agenda, the people of J&K could turn round and see the PoK situation as an example of what they do not want," the official said. The agenda that J&K would be better off if separated from India and aligned with Pakistan loses credibility in the face of the continuing violence in PoK, the official said.

An Intelligence Bureau official said the story today is one of two Kashmirs and the widening contrast between them. "This automatically punctures the agenda of the Inter Services Intelligence-backed terror groups. This explains their desperation and the appeals that are being made to restore peace in PoK," the official said. While the Hizbul Mujahideen chief has been vocal about the issue, the heads of the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed are relatively quiet.The official said that although no public statements have been issued, there is growing disquiet within the leadership and cadres of these terror groups over the developments in PoK. Salahuddin in his appeal said that the loss of lives, damage to property and forced disappearance of people of the region is inflicting severe damage on the morals of the Kashmiris.He even said that due to the violence, the borders are becoming vulnerable to enemy infiltration.

The officials say that while the Hizbul Mujahideen chief may have appealed for peace, the borders are not vulnerable as India does not indulge in infiltrations of terrorists into Pakistan. That is what the Pakistanis do, the official said, adding that Salauddin is trying to drag the Kashmiris (of J&K) into this.Violence in PoK has been going on unabated for over the past two months. The Joint Action Awami Committee (JAAC), which has been leading the peaceful protests, has been demanding better infrastructure and also affordable living conditions. The security forces have, however, taken violent action by killing nearly 40 people and enforcing forced disappearances.Indian officials say that there are no signs of the situation calming down. Unless the Pakistani establishment sincerely addresses the grievances of the people of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and resolves them, the protesters are unlikely to return to their homes, the official said.

reported. It was last seen inside the strait on July 16, according to the ship-tracking data.The tanker is currently off the western coast of India, both companies' data showed. LSEG data shows a discharge location of India's Dahej terminal in Gujarat, ?with an arrival date of August 5.This is the third time the Mubarak LNG tanker has exited the strait carrying cargoes from Das Island since the war began. The previous two cargoes were delivered to China and India.In response to a request for comment, ADNOC said the company does not comment on the position, movements, or routing of its vessels as a matter of policy.In the Bab el-Mandeb, 20 vessels crossed the strait on Tuesday, with 10 entering and 10 exiting the waterway. Kpler data showed, the same as the previous day.Six tankers, ?three dry bulk carriers and a gas carrier entered the Bab el-Mandeb, while seven tankers and three bulk carriers exited, the data showed.Some vessels may still be sailing with their transponders turned ?off, which ?are not considered in the counts.Qatar said on Tuesday that mediators were making progress in efforts to end the U.S.-Iran war, driving oil prices lower, although Tehran has denied President Donald Trump's assertion that talks are already under way.

PoK unrest leaves Lashkar, Jaish, Hizbul leaderships on backfoot; weakens Kashmir narrative

New Delhi: The ongoing confrontation between security forces and protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) has left several terror outfits increasingly frustrated.Groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Hizbul Mujahideen, which have long kept their focus on Jammu and Kashmir, are understood to believe that the situation in PoK needs to be resolved so that their attention can shift back to their primary area of

Yemen condemns Houthi attack on Indian cargo vessel in Red Sea



Aden: Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates on Wednesday strongly condemned the Houthi attack on the Indian commercial cargo vessel MSV Faize Noore Oliya in the Red Sea, describing it as a "terrorist attack" and a "flagrant violation of international law and the rules of international maritime law."In a statement shared on X, the ministry expressed Yemen's solidarity with India and its continued coordination with the relevant Indian authorities, while extending necessary support and facilitation to the vessel's crew members."The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Republic of Yemen strongly condemns the Houthi terrorist attack targeting the Indian commercial cargo vessel 'MSV Faize Noore Oliya' using an explosive laden boat while it was sailing in the Red Sea, resulting in the vessel's complete sinking.This constitutes a flagrant violation of international law and the rules of international maritime law, and poses a direct threat to the security and safety of navigation and the freedom of trade along international waterways," Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X.

Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs' statement comes after India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) condemned the attack on the MSV Faize Noore Oliya and said that 13 Indian nationals have been rescued.In the statement, Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs praised the swift rescue operation conducted by the Yemeni Coast Guard in the Red Sea, with the participation of the Yemeni Navy, which successfully rescued all 14 crew members, includ-

Turkey to unveil draft law that would bring PKK peace



ANKARA, Turkey's ruling alliance is expected to submit a draft ?law to parliament on Wednesday that would facilitate the disbandment of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) by allowing the return of thousands of former militants, aiming to end a decades-old conflict, according to state ?media and a party leader., is ?focused on managing the return of PKK fighters and civilians from hideouts in northern Iraq, setting out how they will be processed through the justice ?system and reintegrated into society.The Reuters Inside Track newsletter is your essential guide to global

Taiwan launches major war games to test command flexibility

TAIPEIGNS News Agency, August 6 Taiwan began major military drills to test commanders' ability to fight on the fly when enemy movements defy expectations, while temporarily limiting internet access ?for the first time, senior Taiwanese officials said.The 10-day annual Han Kuang exercise began early in the morning after an underground command centre in Taipei issued the drill order, triggering combat-readiness moves that will include fighter jet dispersals and emergency naval deployments, two senior Taiwan officials briefed on the matter told Reuters.Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.

Taiwan will ?also incorporate for the first time a so-called "backbrief" approach modelled on U.S. military practice, in which junior officers receiving orders restate mission details to commanders — a move aimed at improving coordination, the officials added, requesting anonymity due ?to the sensitivity of the matter.The move, one of the officials said, is to "ensure commanders and subordinates are in sync on operational ?intent."The drill will also focus on a key wartime concern: that China, which claims Taiwan as its own despite the island's objections, would ?try to paralyse command centres, ports, logistics and defence industry sites early in an attack.China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment. China has never renounced the use of force to bring Taiwan under its control.WARTIME RELOCATIONHeld annually since 1984, the drills will include for the first time the ?deliberate slowing of mobile internet speeds to test how civilians would communicate if bandwidth became scarce.The military will simulate the wartime relocation of a major ?arsenal, mobilise civilian factories and run escort drills off Taiwan's Pacific coast, as concern grows that Beijing may be rehearsing how to sever the island's Pacific ?supply lines ?from allies as Chinese military pressure intensifies."These are all part of a series of toughening exercises — this is no longer a laboratory-like exercise in a vacuum," said a third senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity due to the sen-

ing 13 Indian nationals, and safely transported them to the Port of Mocha."The Ministry of Foreign Affairs stresses that this attack is part of a continuing pattern of crimes and assaults perpetrated by the Houthi terrorist militia, ranging from targeting cities, bombing airports and oil facilities, disrupting exports, and depriving the Yemeni people of vital sources of income thereby exacerbating the humanitarian catastrophe resulting from the Houthi coup to threatening ports and maritime navigation in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden, as well as jeopardizing economic and commercial interests in a manner that undermines regional security and stability," Yemen's Ministry of Foreign Affairs posted on X.The ministry reiterated that the establishment of the multinational defensive maritime coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, represents a strategic initiative whose importance continues to grow amid escalating maritime threats.

It stated that the coalition is essential for securing international trade routes and global energy supply lines and for safeguarding freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, the Bab al-Mandab Strait, and the Gulf of Aden, in line with the provisions of international law.On Tuesday, the MEA condemned the attack on the Indian flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen. The Ministry confirmed that all 13 Indian nationals have been rescued and the Indian Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni authorities for the safety and security of the crew."We condemn the attack on the Indian flagged commercial vessel, MSV Faize Noore Oliya, that sank in the Red Sea, off the coast of Yemen on August 4, 2026. All 13 Indian nationals have been rescued. Our Embassy in Riyadh is closely monitoring the situation and proactively coordinating with the Yemeni authorities for the safety and security of the crew. We thank the Yemeni authorities for their support," the MEA said."The continuing incidents of attacks on commercial shipping in the region are deeply worrisome. The targeting of commercial shipping in the region must end, and free and unimpeded navigation and commerce through the international waterways in the region, in keeping with international law, must be restored at the earliest," it added.

sports news. Sign up here.Lawmakers are expected to approve the legal framework this week, ?marking a leap towards ending an insurgency that has killed more than 40,000 people since 1984, sown deep discord at home and fuelled violence across borders in Iraq and Syria.

The bill has broad support in parliament, even though polls show some scepticism that it will bring a lasting peace and sensitivities around the return to Turkey of former PKK members.President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AK Party (AKP) ?and its nationalist MHP allies have signed the draft legislation, dubbed "national solidarity and social integration", while the pro-Kurdish DEM Party and most other parties, including the main opposition, have voiced support for it.Abdullah Guler, the AKP's parliamentary group head, told reporters the bill will be submitted on ?Wednesday.The peace process between Turkey, which has NATO's second-largest army, and the PKK began in late 2024, but earlier this year due to the Iran war and concerns about broader regional instability.The PKK decided in May last year to disarm and disband after an appeal from its jailed leader Abdullah Ocalan. It is designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European ?Union.It launched its insurgency in 1984 and initially ?sought an independent Kurdish state in southeast Turkey, but later re-focused on seeking autonomy and Kurdish political rights.



sitivity of the operation."You are entering a real field environment, facing real bottom-line conditions. We hope the final phase of training reaches that state," the defence official said.That is part ?of Taiwan's ongoing effort to ?make its exercises more realistic, ?following past criticism that some drills were too highly staged.RESILIENCE DRILLS

The effort has included resilience drills testing how local officials would keep the government running during cascading crises, from earthquakes to a Chinese invasion."If the ?situation does not match the original enemy scenario, what should he do? How should he reassess, readjust, ?and quickly issue ?orders?" the defence official said, referring to field commanders who will be tested with "unexpected scenarios" during the drills, which end on August 14.The drills will also mobilise more than 20,000 reservists.On the sports field of a Taipei high school on Wednesday, dozens of reservists gathered to practise using mortars and ?taking up rifle positions.The military will also introduce an "embedded reporter" mechanism to assess wartime ?frontline news releases and efforts to counter enemy disinformation, the officials said."The emphasis will be on how our entire population, the Republic of China as a whole — especially ?our citizens — should face war," the defence official said, using Taiwan's official name.

use of force by the security forces are undermining their broader agenda. "Today (Wednesday) marks seven years since the abrogation of Article 370, and there is a massive difference when it comes to Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir," the official pointed out.The official said the terror groups were created by Pakistan with the primary objective of targeting Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

How teletherapy empowers patients with access and affordability



The advent of teletherapy has meant a compound metamorphosis for the paradigm of mental health. This trend has precipitated a discourse among mental health professionals and patients regarding the relative efficacy of teletherapy versus face-to-face psychotherapy. With the Indian government’s Tele-MANAS scheme gaining increasing momentum and popularity, the delivery efficiency of teletherapy is being scrutinised even more than before. There is no doubt that there are a number of benefits that teletherapy brings, to enable access and reach more people than physically possible, advantages that seem particularly dear, after the pandemic. However, while acknowledging the reach, it is important to have a sense of the not-so ameliorative effects as well. Technology-assisted therapy has made it possible for therapy to be delivered remotely aka teletherapy. This means that one does not have to drive down, or make the journey to the therapist’s clinic, but can access therapy from the convenience of their home. Teletherapy can reach those individuals from underserved areas, and has been efficacious in catering to those who have mobility issues. Teletherapy also helps those with hectic schedules who may not find the time to travel to therapy sites or people with a phobia of new places, or those with social anxiety. At the heart of the issue is this: a therapeutic relationship is an intricate, intimate one. The one receiving therapy is in a space of emotional vulnerability, to be able to reap fruits from the sessions. This means that the encounter with the therapist can go very well, or go south. It may take a few tries, before finding the therapist with whom you fit in well with a seamless working relationship. If someone in Mumbai was to find the right therapist for themselves from Chennai, a lengthy commute or relocation is overcome with the ease teletherapy provides. The vulnerability in receiving therapy is sometimes compounded by an individual’s apprehensions about being subject to shame or stigma. Although India has made strides in making mental health help more accessible and socially acceptable, there is still a long way to go in terms of getting rid of the stigma of consulting a doctor for mental health issues. Here, teletherapy allows the convenience of an added layer of anonymity, alleviating concerns about being seen accessing mental health services.

There are definitely advantages. For instance, Karan, a 30-year-old doctor from Kerala, struggled with the stress of being in the frontline during the pandemic. He struggled with a diagnosis of depression, anxiety and work burn-out. He was able to make full and complete use of the Indian government’s Tele-Manas online counselling scheme from the comfort of his home, he says. Another 35-year-old home-

maker from Maharashtra who lost her 7-year daughter to COVID-19 was able to cope with the loss of her child with the help of this helpline, which came at the right time, providing her with a solution when she found it difficult to meet too many people. The traditional paradigm, the stalwart of mental health treatment for several decades now, has been face-to-face psychotherapy. This also calls for a conventional, stereotypical therapist couch, with the person getting help sitting or lying, speaking about what troubles them most. The benefits are many. To begin with, being face to face with your therapist enhances access and receipt of your therapist’s personable, empathic energy output. Similarly, the therapist can read the patient’s non-verbal cues such as body language, gestures, and so on which deeply complement the patient’s verbal accounts of their feelings and thoughts about things. The therapist gets to hear the unspoken, and can gain a holistic understanding of the patient’s problems. The success of a fruitful therapy relies heavily on a well-founded therapeutic relationship. This comes from trust and a smooth rapport. These are positively fostered in face-to-face interactions. A therapeutic session is tailor-made to an individual’s needs. Although the principles of therapy can be used as a generic template for all patients, no two patients present with the same needs and therapy is always individualised. This means that the sessions must be made more personalised, interactive, or delivered in specific ways to support the patient receiving this. An individual struggling with PTSD from being displaced from their homeland due to war will present with significantly different needs to another individual struggling with PTSD from being the victim of long-term domestic violence. Although both present with the same diagnosis, the approach, the way the communication and conversations are structured, will be different. It is more likely this happens with face-to-face therapy. If you are considering teletherapy, some of the questions you may want to consider are: Do you prefer to have an in-person connection tinged with deep rapport? Would you be comfortable with limited availability of sessions and sometimes changes to appointments based on weather or transport issues? Do you find yourself financially stable to be able to pay recurrent, high rates? If the answer to all this is a yes, then you would benefit the most from face-to-face psychotherapy. Are you someone who loves the convenience of accessing things from the comfort of your home? Do you enjoy flexibility in contrast to regimented schedules? Do you live in a rural area, yet would like to receive therapy from a professional based in a neighbouring city? Do you find yourself struggling with paying the usually high prices for in person therapy sessions? If the answer to all this is a yes, then you would benefit from teletherapy. The Indian government launched the brilliant initiative, the Tele-MANAS scheme in 2020. MANAS stands for Mental health Assistance and Networking Across States. This initiative is aimed at expanding the reach of teletherapy to millions of Indians across the country. The effectiveness and success of this scheme have been applauded by many experts, apart from patients who have benefitted from the online counselling/therapy it offers. While keeping these factors in mind, it is possible to evaluate if teletherapy would indeed work for you. The goal, however is to access mental health care, either in person or online, and not let distance or affordability come in the way of getting such care.

What are the safe levels of iodine for pregnant women and general health?



Hyderabad: What are the safe iodine intake levels for an average individual or pregnant woman? Does consuming iodized salt cause thyroid problems, especially among women? With the market getting flooded with pink salt, are they more beneficial for pregnant women?

Noted developmental pediatrician from Hyderabad Dr Sivaranjini Santosh on Friday said that an appropriate amount of iodine is extremely important for the normal functioning of the human body. “Anything in excess is bad for the

body. Consuming 6 to 10 times more than the recommended intake of iodine, taking separate iodine supplements, and eating too much salt will definitely create health problems. However, an appropriate amount of iodine is absolutely essential for everybody, especially pregnant women,” Dr Sivaranjini Santosh said. The daily requirement of iodine in the diet varies from 90 micrograms per day to 200 micrograms per day based on age and pregnancy status. Iodine is extremely important for the normal functioning of the thyroid gland. Low thyroid hormone levels (hypothyroidism) cause serious health problems. Iodine is also abundant in certain food products such as fish, dairy, and eggs, prunes, potatoes etc. Taking an appropriate amount of salt is also important for the normal functioning of the thyroid glands, the noted pediatrician added.

“Thyroid hormones are very important for the growth of the fetus in terms of brain development, as well as physical growth. Only if the iodine intake is 6 to 10 times the recommended intake, then it may cause problems with thyroid functioning. Now, most iodized salts have 15 micrograms of iodine per gram of salt. The daily maximum recommended salt intake is 2.3 grams per day for an adult. So, even if we consume double the recommended intake, we will still be getting only 75 micrograms of iodine from the iodized salt,” Dr Sivaranjini said. The pediatrician made it clear that trace amounts of minerals, which are claimed to be present in pink salt, do not add great value to the average person’s diet. “These salts are sold at a price 3 to 5 times the price of the normal iodized salts. Make an informed choice based on this information,” she said.

Why we have FOMO for events that are not even fun

New York: Imagine you’ve planned the trip of a lifetime for your animal-loving family: a cruise to Antarctica with the unique opportunity to view penguins, whales and other rare wildlife. Your adventure-loving kids can kayak through fjords, plunge into icy water and camp under the Antarctic sky. But rather than being ecstatic, as you anticipated, your kids whine about skipping an after-school scout meeting at a neighbour’s house. Missing this ordinary weekly event triggers such intense FOMO – “fear of missing out” – for them that they don’t want to go on your amazing expedition. If this kind of debacle sounds familiar to you – or at least if you find it perplexing – you’re not alone. Over the years, researchers learned what really drives intense feelings of FOMO – which explains why a run-of-the-mill meeting might feel more crucial than an over-the-top vacation. People use the term FOMO in many different ways. In the research, the social scientists focused on a very specific type of FOMO: the kind that occurs when people miss out on events that involve valued social connections. With this kind of FOMO, they found that the pain of missing out is not related to missing the actual event or opportunity – although that could be there as well. The FOMO, they studied happens when people miss the chance to bond with friends, co-workers or teammates they care about. So, the critical part of FOMO is missing out on interactions with people you value. FOMO about a group dinner at a restaur-

ant isn’t really about the food and great lighting. Nor is FOMO about a concert just about the band’s performance. Instead, it’s about the lost opportunity to connect and make memories with people who are important to you.

Why is this upsetting?

Imagine the scenario where all your best friends go out to dinner without you. They bond and make lasting memories with each other – and you’re not there for any of it. If they get closer to each other, where does that leave you? What happens to your social relationships and your sense of belonging? Do you become a less important friend? Less worthy of future invites? Or even kicked out of the group altogether? The anxiety of FOMO can begin to spiral. People with what psychologists call an anxious attachment style chronically fear rejection and isolation from others. Because FOMO involves anxiety about future social belonging, it may not come as a surprise that people who are naturally more anxious about their friendships tend to get more intense FOMO. When people were asked to scroll social media until they encountered something social they missed, we found that the more anxiously attached a participant was, the more intense FOMO they experienced. Getting FOMO for an amazing event you can’t attend makes sense. But if FOMO is less about the event itself and more about the social bonding, what happens when you miss something that’s not really fun at all?

A thief in the crowd, a match on screen: How Delhi Police is using face-tech to fight crime



Three days later, the district police fed a screengrab of the robber from the camera’s footage into their Facial Recognition System (FRS) and got a hit. The man was Mohammad Ali; he had been involved in two similar robbery cases. While unique, facial recognition technology isn’t a new phenomenon

On March 17, Ajmal Bhai Ganesh (49) was heading home after collecting Rs 80 lakh in cash from a firm. He’s an Angadia trader — an informal sector courier boy of sorts for a traditional form of banking system. Unbeknownst to him, he was being followed. Suddenly, near North Delhi’s Fateh Puri, a masked man pointed a gun at him. Petrified, Ganesh handed over the cash.

Three days later, the district police fed a screengrab of the robber from the camera’s footage into their Facial Recognition System (FRS) and got a hit. The man was Mohammad Ali; he had been involved in two similar robbery cases. While unique, facial recognition technology isn’t a new phenomenon. The Delhi Police has been using the technology, an Israeli software, since 2018. Delhi hardlook, Delhi Police, Delhi Police surveillance, AI-powered surveillance, facial recognition tech across Delhi, facial recognition tech, Delhi facial recognition tech, Delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs A Facial Recognition System van parked in Northwest district.

Since then, it has been acquired by two police districts — North and Northwest — for more localised scanning. Currently, FRS vans, armed with cameras and computers, are stationed in different parts of the two districts every day, scanning faces and alerting them of potential hits. In the Northwest district alone, the FRS has enabled the police to nab at least 200 criminals since April 2024. This February, police in the district solved two burglary cases using the software. On a warm spring afternoon, the Northwest district’s FRS van, with the Delhi Police logo emblazoned on the sides, stands conspicuously in front of Deep Market in Ashok Vihar. “Jis din camera wali gaadi lagti hai uss din area mein crime down ho jaata hai (On days the van is stationed somewhere, the crime in the area goes down),” says Constable Mukesh Kaushik, one of the two policemen manning the van that day. The van has six CCTV cameras — four outside and two inside — along with two Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR) cameras which have been configured to scan faces instead of licence plates. Inside the van, the set-up is tight: A desk sits in the middle with two screens, and a couch is pushed towards the back. On the screens, feed from the CCTVs plays as the ANPR cameras scan people passing by. People appearing on-camera are projected with green squares around their faces. A small text above the square shows the software’s estimates of the person’s age and height. Age: 30-39, Height: 5-5.5 feet, it reads for one. The screen is split into two halves, with one half showing possible matches to suspects. “We have set the limit to 60% and above; anything with a match rate higher than 60% will

All of a sudden, a red square appears on the screen and the other half pops up with the picture and dossier number of a criminal from their database. “Oh, looks like we’ve caught someone,” says Constable Kaushik. He walks over to the van’s window, spots the man in question, and calls him over. As the man enters the van, Kaushik asks, “Have you ever committed a crime before?” He denies it. Kaushik then enters the dossier number provided by the system. “Is this you? Were you arrested in 2019 under the Excise Act?” Kaushik points at the mugshot on the screen, his voice has a harsh edge to it now. The man wipes his brow and says, “Yes, but the case was dropped in 2020... my boss got into trouble, I was only working in the bar.” Kaushik asks for the man’s Aadhaar card details and notes them down in a register. “Go to the police station with the court order and get your name removed from the dossier,” he says. According to DCP (Northwest) Bhisham Singh, the software is sophisticated enough to recognise faces despite age or disguises. It can also recognise faces behind masks or beards. While the van has been in use in the Northwest district since April last year, the Delhi Police has been using FRS for security for at least six years. Following a High Court order, Automated Facial Recognition Software (AFRS) was acquired in March 2018 by the Delhi Police to identify lost and found children by matching photos. Since then, it has been used to scan crowds for possible suspects during high-profile events. The Indian Express earlier reported that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Ramila Maidan rally in December 2019 was the first political rally where police used the software to screen the crowd. Come June, the Delhi Police hopes to expand the ambit of the FRS to all of Delhi.

The initiative, part of the ‘Safe City’ project, will see the installation of 10,000 high-resolution cameras across the Capital whose live feed will be beamed directly to a command centre at the Police Headquarters. Over time, the feeds will be integrated with CCTV footage from “legacy networks” such as the New Delhi Municipal Council, Residents’ Welfare Associations, Market Welfare Associations, Railways, etc. “We will ask them to share their footage but there are storage concerns over replicating such vast amounts of footage,” says B S Jaiswal, who was Joint Commissioner (Tech and PI). He has recently been transferred to his next assignment as Joint CP (Central Range). Apart from fixed cameras, Prakhars Vans with mobile cameras scan crowds and crime-prone areas. Currently, 88 Prakhars Vans — each equipped with four CCTVs — are in use across the city, said Jaiswal. The city-wide project, however, will not be using the Israeli software. Instead, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing, an R&D organisation of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, has undertaken the massive project. It is in charge of not only training AI models for more accurate results on facial recognition but will also be responsible for setting up the Integrated Command, Control, Communication & Computer Centre — C4I — where integrated video feeds will be beamed. C4I will also have a data centre, that will store collected video feeds, and two Emergency Operation Centres which will flag and deal with crimes taking place in real-time. For this to be possible, district headquarters and police stations will be equipped with command centres where they can view live CCTV footage of their jurisdictions. All video analytics (VA), including facial recognition and ANPR, however, will be managed centrally at the C4I data centre. “The centre will

also be enabled to play footage from 1,000 cameras simultaneously, which will include those from legacy networks,” said Jaiswal. Alongside this, the Picture Intelligence Unit (PIU) will keep track of VA data — it will not store actual video or incident data but will maintain audit logs to help in investigations. The PIU will be given access to various government databases such as passport, CCTNS (Crime & Criminal Tracking Network & Systems), prisons, AMBIS (Automated Multi-Modal Biometric Identification System), ZIPNET, criminal dossier, and other sources. It will then collect and categorise photos from police sources, such as newspapers, raid images, and photos sent by the public, tagging them with features like gender, age, scars, and tattoos, creating a repository for the FRS. However, there are significant challenges to be surmounted before the lofty heights of such technology can be reached. “Facial recognition has worked 100% of the time when we have tried them in constrained environments,” says Jaiswal. “Take DigiYatra for instance. There is good illumination, the angle of the person’s face is straight, the camera is fixed and at a certain height and distance... it’s easier for the system to recognise and pinpoint the identity of the person.” However, CCTVs face a multitude of issues — the illumination of the area, angle of the camera’s placement, the subject’s distance from the camera, weather conditions, motion blur in the footage because of wind shaking the camera, and the camera’s quality — making it a challenge to get high confirmation rates with FRS. Similarly, changes in the subject — disguises, aging, a beard or a lack of one, masks and sunglasses — can also bring false negatives in the FRS results. Nonetheless, Jaiswal assures the bugs will be ironed out before the rollout in June. However the real challenge, he says, is training machines to read data in real-time. According to the project proposal, ideally, the machine should take less than five seconds to pinpoint matches from an input given. “Foundation models of FRS are mammoth systems trained on mammoth datasets... these become the backbone of the models that are used for security apparatus,” says Jaiswal.

He also explains how models exported from other countries are usually trained in recognising faces from those countries, and often get confused or flag high false rejection or false acceptance rates when inputs are from other demographics. “A model used in India needs to be trained specifically on demographics,” he says. “... we can’t scrape pictorial data from the internet anymore because of privacy concerns. There used to be publicly available datasets that one could use before but those have been withdrawn because of privacy issues,” he adds. But even training an FRS model with tailor-made datasets presents problems. “If we put all the pictures available to us and feed it to the system, it already knows what to look out for... it’s like training a student for an exam with a set of questions that he knows will be the only one asked,” Jaiswal says, explaining that fresh inputs, outside the datasets, would again lead to higher rates of false acceptances or rejections. The sweet spot, the officer says, would be a range between false acceptance and rejection rates — an equal error rate. Simply put, an Equal Error Rate (EER) is the point where a biometric system makes mistakes at an equal rate, meaning false acceptance and false rejection rates occur equally. A lower EER indicates a more accurate and efficient biometric system, especially in facial recognition technology. Additionally, what can help improve the EER is enhancing AI and machine learning capabilities. For this, the Delhi Police has plans as well. For its AI-based video intelligence platform, the police plan on using machine learning for systems to estimate the number of people in a crowd in dense environments such as rallies and festivals, identify jaywalkers, identify people who collapse suddenly, and, most interestingly, identify a person in distress.

“Over time, we can develop the capability of the system in sending alerts to the local police if a person is waving their hands for help or if they seem to be in trouble... machines learn like how beat officers learn — over time, beat officers learn on the job about spotting anomalous situations. It’ll be the same with machine learning...,” says Jaiswal. While technological hurdles remain, Apar Gupta, co-founder of the Internet Freedom Foundation, argues that the more urgent concerns are legal and ethical. “India currently lacks a comprehensive legal framework governing use of facial recognition,” says Gupta.

At a minimum, we need a robust, bespoke law that addresses its deployment. This includes a data protection law recognising facial data as sensitive personal information, with strict rules on how it’s collected, stored, and used. It also requires an electronic surveillance law dedicated to regulating technologies like FRT, setting out clear limits and independent oversight for law-enforcement agencies,” he says. Experts have warned that the increasing integration of such technology across platforms may come at a cost. “Facial recognition technology is a quantum leap in the state’s ability to identify and monitor individuals. Unlike conventional CCTV, which captures footage but still preserves a degree of anonymity, FRT can instantly put a name to every face in a crowd, eliminating the practical obscurity we once had in public,” says Apar Gupta, co-founder of Internet Freedom Foundation, a digital rights organisation.

“This technology creates a biometric map of one’s face — a unique identifier as precise as a fingerprint — and links it to databases in real-time. Modern FRT systems can be integrated with analytics platforms that draw on multiple databases — social media, call detail records, vehicle registrations, and more — building an instant, 360-degree view of a person’s life. That transforms ordinary cameras into powerful tracking tools, with a chilling effect on civil liberties,” Gupta adds. He says integrated command centres being developed across India represent a step toward predictive policing: “Some vendors even propose ‘emotion analysis’, claiming to detect intent or agitation from facial expressions — an area of research widely questioned for its scientific reliability.”

Gupta adds that such systems are notorious for reflecting and amplifying existing biases in law-enforcement data. “If the underlying data is skewed — disproportionately targeting certain neighbourhoods or communities — the algorithm’s ‘predictions’ will be equally skewed. This can result in further over-policing of marginalised groups, creating a feedback loop where these communities are constantly singled out for scrutiny.”

False matches, too, can have devastating consequences, he says. “If the police treat a poor match as a positive identification, an innocent person can be pulled into an investigation or even detained. At one point, the Delhi Police considered an 80% match as ‘positive,’ meaning a one-in-five chance of error was deemed acceptable. Even lower matches might not be discarded entirely, putting people who only vaguely resemble suspects on watchlists.” He cites the Northeast Delhi riots as an example of where the deployment of facial recognition created real danger. “A false match can lead to wrongful arrests, criminal charges, and denial of bail. Socially, once someone is mistakenly labeled a ‘criminal’ or ‘rioter,’ their reputation may suffer permanent damage.”

The common painkiller mistake that can put your liver at risk



When hundreds of millions of young people devote this volume of attention each day to algorithmically curated feeds, then we must not ignore one disturbing fact that the content that reaches them is not a neutral reflection of reality, the article states. It equates these algorithms with highly paid attention merchants. They do not ask what is true or what is good for society. They ask only one question, that is, what will keep this person scrolling longer so that more advertisements can be sold. "The core issue is that algorithm driven social media is not a neutral mirror of reality but it is, rather, designed to maximise engagement and that design often rewards outrage, polarisation and emotionally charged content. In practice, this can distort public debate, suppress inconvenient information and even intensify real world political violence. These platforms have become the most efficient propaganda tools ever invented," states the article by Lt Gen (retired) Abhay Krishna. The article highlights that in the US, the Twitter Files and related disclosures have suggested that platform decisions around the Hunter Biden laptop story were influenced by internal policies and outside government pressure, raising concerns that information was managed rather than simply moderated.

Why Bumrah's absence for Sri Lanka tour leaves India with more than one headache



GNS News Agency, August 6

India are yet to board the flight to Sri Lanka for a crucial two-Test series, but even before they land on the Emerald Isle, they have suffered a massive setback. The surfaces are likely to assist spin, but even in those conditions, Jasprit Bumrah's importance could not be understated. On Sunday, the 32-year-old was ruled out of the series after failing to recover in time from the knee injury he sustained in England. India are fifth on the World Test Championship (WTC) table and the two Tests in Sri Lanka are crucial to keep their WTC final qualification hopes alive. A fragile batting unit on turning tracks notwithstanding, India will have to take on Sri Lanka without their pace spearhead.

Ever since Bumrah injured his left knee (via impact in the game), the expectation was that he would be available for the series starting in Galle on August 15. When the BCCI named the squad for the series, they added an asterisk to say that Bumrah's availability was subject to fitness. The hope that the 32-year-old would play at least one of the Tests has also evaporated. The Indian Express understands that the impact injury he sustained at Cardiff has only aggravated the knee issue that has been persisting since the T20 World Cup. While Bumrah did recover from that injury and was cleared to feature in the IPL without any trouble, the blow he suffered in England aggravated the underlying issue. Understands that as per the rehab programme, after taking an injection, Bumrah was expected to resume bowling over the weekend and gradually build his workload ahead of the Tests. But that is unlikely to happen any time soon with the pacer advised to rest. Given his importance, India were even ready to wait for a week and fly him to Sri Lanka, where they will first play a three-day warm-up fixture from August 7 at Colombo. If not, the idea of training and recovering with the team was also explored, but the medical team

at the Centre of Excellence has preferred to tread cautiously, keeping the long-term future in mind. Instead, the focus has shifted towards finding a long-term solution rather than merely managing the injury. "The solution is not a stop-gap. If we rush him now, then there is a strong chance he could break down again," sources in the know revealed. The 50-over World Cup next year, along with the New Zealand tour in October and the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in January, remains top priority.

India are hesitant to take any risks with Bumrah by hurrying him up. Since suffering a career-threatening back injury, he has managed his workload with utmost care, preferring not to rush. Bumrah remains firm on playing all three formats, and the decision not to hasten his return has been taken with an eye on future challenges. File image of Jasprit Bumrah during the India vs West Indies Test cricket match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi in October last year. (Express Photo by Praveen Khanna) File image of Jasprit Bumrah during the India vs West Indies Test cricket match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi in October last year. (Express Photo by Praveen Khanna) Bumrah's absence means India will have to alter their plans significantly in the bowling department. With Washington Sundar already ruled out of the first Test and doubtful for the second, they will no longer enjoy the luxury of batting depth. The question that confronts them is, in case Sri Lanka opt for flat decks that start turning later on in the Test, who will partner Mohammed Siraj? Beyond him, the other options available in the squad are Prasidh Krishna and Gurnoor Brar, with Jammu and Kashmir's Aqib Nabi being the front-runner to replace Bumrah. While Prasidh's natural length may not be suited to the conditions in Sri Lanka, he has worked, off late, to rectify the issue. If India prefer to go with a pacer who takes conditions out of the equation, then they might turn to Brar, as his raw pace can be a factor across conditions. Nabi, if he joins the team, offers something unique, but whether they play him straightaway remains the question. Though Bumrah featured in all four Tests at home last year against West Indies and South Africa, he played in only three out of the five Tests in England last year. Given his back trouble, he didn't play successive Tests, and in Sri Lanka, there is only a three-day gap between the two matches that will be played in Galle and Colombo's SSC. India leave for Sri Lanka on Tuesday, having not played Test cricket since the home series against South Africa in November. A short camp and a three-day warm-up fixture in Colombo will precede the opening Test in Galle, where they will have to adapt quickly to life without Bumrah.

Glasgow restaurant's Instagram account deleted after Lovlina calls out incorrect India map

GNS News Agency, August 6

A Glasgow-based restaurant said that it will change its logo after a video of boxer Lovlina Borgohain pointing out that it depicted an incorrect map of India went viral. Minutes after putting the statement out on its Instagram handle, the outlet deleted its account on the social media platform. The Indian boxing contingent had a celebratory dinner at Mister Singh's India, The Home of Curry in Glasgow on Saturday following India's historic haul of 10 boxing medals — seven gold and three silver — at the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Olympic medallist Lovlina had won silver in women's middleweight.

"Mr Singh's India, is very proud of our Indian heritage and ancestry, for almost 32 years we have served, for India and around the world," the restaurant had said in the statement. "First and foremost, we would like to unequivocally apologise for the depiction of the wrong map of India. We will take immediate steps to correct this. Once again our sincere apologies, we never wanted to offend anyone rather wanted to serve with pride to Indian contingent. The statement the restaurant put out before its Instagram handle was deleted. The statement the restaurant put out before its Instagram handle was deleted.

"We will change the logo with proper map. It was our humble privilege and honour, that we served team India, after their fantastic, achievements in the Commonwealth Games. All athletes and guests thoroughly enjoyed their evening, these memories will last with us for India. Team



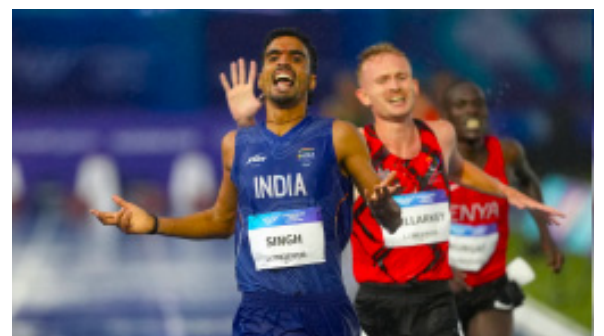
Mr Singh India" In the video that went viral, Lovlina can be seen holding up the restaurant's napkin that had the logo, which she said depicted an Indian map without the North Eastern part of the country. "Please don't take this the wrong way. I felt a little hurt by this. In the map of India, our North East is missing. Yes, even outside, the map that's displayed has cut off the North East. As someone from the North East, that really hurts us. That's all I wanted to say. Please keep this in mind next time. Thank you so much," Lovlina can be heard saying in the video. Boxing Federation of India president Ajay Singh had earlier said that there was no confrontation with the owners of the restaurant. "There was no confrontation. It was an aberration and we pointed that out, me and Lovlina. They accepted their mistake and assured us that it will be corrected," Singh told

Gulveer Singh's Glasgow double signals India's arrival in distance running

Days after dazzling the Scotstoun Stadium in Glasgow with a silver medal in the 10,000m, Indian distance runner Gulveer Singh produced another stellar performance in the men's 5,000m, claiming bronze to become the first Indian to win a medal in the event. With medals in both the 10,000m and 5,000m, Gulveer also became the first Indian to finish on the podium in two track events at a single Commonwealth Games.

Gulveer clocked 13:24.95 to finish third, edging Kenya's Cornelius Kemboi in a photo finish. "I am happy with the bronze medal. But I want to win more medals. My hunger is still not quenched," Gulveer said in the mixed zone. The achievement was all the more remarkable because of the quality of the field. Just as in the 10,000m, Gulveer found himself up against some of the world's best distance runners, including 2024 World U20 champion Andrew Alamisi of Kenya, Tokyo Olympic medallist Mohammed Ahmed of Canada and 10,000m champion Ky Robinson of Australia. Yet, much like his silver-medal run earlier in the week, Gulveer stuck to a simple but effective race plan — hugging the inside rail with the lead pack, conserving energy before unleashing a powerful finishing kick over the closing stages. "We followed the same strategy as the 10k — run the shortest possible distance by staying inside, stay in touch with the front pack and position well for the last 400 metres to finish strongly," his coach Scott Simmons told The Indian Express from Glasgow. Far from being a flash in the pan, the performance underlined Gulveer's steady rise over the past three years. The Army runner from Sirsa, who trains out of Aligarh, has established himself as India's premier long-distance track athlete. What has changed over the past two years is not just his results, but his transformation from a promising runner into a genuine contender on the world stage. While Gulveer has dominated Asian competitions, his two medals in Glasgow — won against traditionally dominant African runners — have strengthened his credentials as an athlete capable of challenging the world's best. Making of Gulveer

When Gulveer first began training under Simmons, he struggled to keep pace with the likes of multiple Olympic medallist Paul Chelimo during training sessions. In Glasgow, however, he finished ahead of several World and Olympic



medallists. The journey from there has been built on relentless consistency. "The biggest key behind Gulveer's transformation into a medal winner has been consistency in training. He has been doing the same things over and over to get that perfect result," Simmons said. The coach also believes Gulveer has evolved tactically. In the 10,000m, he repeatedly found gaps to move through the field whenever he risked losing contact with the leaders. "He has become a smart runner. That has come from training, but mostly from international racing. You can't beat the world if you only compete in India," Simmons explained.

Since 2024, Gulveer has raced in India only at the Inter-State National Championships. Most of his competitions have been in Europe and the United States, where he has broken a succession of national records. "In India, I don't get much competition. It is important for me to compete outside because I learn so much. Races outside India put me in difficult situations, and those experiences help me later," Gulveer had told this paper. The finishing kick in distance running, the finishing kick often separates medallists from the rest of the field. Gulveer's closing burst earned him medals in both the 10,000m and 5,000m, but Simmons insists there is still room for improvement. "We have been working to improve his finishing speed for four years. And we still have some more to improve," he said. One of Gulveer's biggest lessons came at the 2025 World Championships, where he was running fourth with a kilometre remaining in the 5,000m heats before fading to ninth and missing out on a historic place in the final.

Sunil Chhetri urges Jamshedpur FC stay in ISL, avert 'a disaster with no alternative'



Sunil Chhetri, India's record goalscorer and former captain, has urged Jamshedpur FC's team management to reverse their decision to pull out of the Indian Super League (ISL). The club, who had won the ISL Shield in the 2021/22 season, announced on Friday that it will not be part of the league from the next season onwards. It was a decision that has left their players in a lurch and Chhetri, while acknowledging it "takes a lot to be a stakeholder in Indian football", urged the Tata Group, which owns the club, to reconsider their decision. "To know that Jamshedpur has folded first team operations is a punch to the gut. The players and staff will be without clubs, and they might find one by the end of it all. The League will have a team less, but the season will go on. However, not having the TATA group involved in the top tier of Indian football — that would be a disaster with no alternative," said Chhetri in a lengthy statement that he posted on X. It takes a lot to be a stakeholder

in Indian football. It has been like that for some time now. But when everything around looks like it will crumble, you bank on family to hold on to each other. And more often than not, it is the elders in the house that you turn to, for... "I understand that some tough decisions in sport are down to what makes sense in the board room. But I can only request and hope that the think tank at TATA picks their heart over head and reconsiders this call. It might be a poor business decision, but it will be the one Indian football needs the most at this hour." Jamshedpur will be the latest name to have exited the league. Pune City FC folded under financial strain, Delhi Dynamos relocated to become Odisha FC, while Hyderabad FC too succumbed to prolonged monetary trouble, relocating to Delhi to become Sporting Delhi FC. However, club captain Pronay Halder said that Jamshedpur's exit feels different because the owners also operate the TATA Football Academy — which has produced players like Renedy Singh and Subrata Paul — and is known for a rich history of nurturing footballers. "I have been a professional footballer for 16 years, and this is the most difficult thing I have ever faced. All of us knew that Indian football is struggling at the moment, but no one could imagine that a club like Jamshedpur FC would withdraw from the top league. This club is run by TATA, who have a rich history of contributing towards Indian football. Even during Covid, when other clubs were struggling to pay salaries, all of our needs were taken care of. So this news has caught us blindsided. We believed that regardless of the difficulties, this is one club which will never fold. Turns out, the assumption was wrong," he had told

Jasprit Bumrah set to miss Sri Lanka Tests with knee injury

When the BCCI released the squad for the two-match Test series, Bumrah's inclusion was subject to him clearing fitness test. With nearly four-week break before the first Test, India were hoping that Bumrah would regain full fitness by then and were keen to take him on board even if it is unlikely to feature in the warm-up fixture. However, during the rehab process, Bumrah is understood to have felt discomfort in his knee and as a result his comeback is expected to take time. While there is a chance that Bumrah could be available for the second Test, India are unlikely to take any risk with the fast bowler. Rushing players in the past in desperate situations have only resulted in them suffering long-term setbacks, which India are keen to avoid. Bumrah was expected to start bowling this weekend, but the setback he suffered during the rehab process means, it could take another couple of weeks.

Though Bumrah has played 52 Tests, his career continues to remain stop-start because of injuries. Having overcome a career-threatening back injury, India have been managing his workload carefully. Last year in England, he played only three of the five Tests, but played in all four home Tests against West Indies and South Africa. Given India are struggling in terms of qualifying for the World Test Championship final, Bumrah's unavailability is a big dent in



Sri Lanka. For India to be in the race for the final, they need to win at least three of their four Tests in Sri Lanka and New Zealand. With his ability to take the conditions out of equation, Bumrah's absence is a huge blow to India which is also fretting over the availability of Washington Sundar. Bumrah's unavailability means, India will have to work around their pace pack which will now be led by Mohammed Siraj. Alongside Siraj, there is Prasidh Krishna, but none of them have the experience of playing Test cricket in Sri Lanka.

Why does Arshdeep Singh say 'Sorry' to R Ashwin? 'I'll personally message you...'

Indian cricketer Arshdeep Singh named his top five bowlers, placing Kuldeep Yadav and Yuzvendra Chahal above legendary spinner Ravichandran Ashwin. He named Bhuvneshwar Kumar as his top bowler. The fast bowler has been in superb form in the recently concluded Indian Premier League 2026 season. Arshdeep placed Mohammed Shami at number two and his Punjab Kings teammate Yuzvendra Chahal at number four.

"Bhuvni bhai is at the top because he is my personal favourite as well. I really like him, so I'm a little biased. I'll rate all the fast bowlers first. At number two, I'd go with Shami bhai because, as you know, he can seam the ball on any wicket. His bowling is excellent, and he presents the seam perfectly," Arshdeep said on Krishnank Atrey's YouTube channel. "Third would be Kuldeep Yadav because he has a very rare skill set, a left-arm Chinaman. Then there's Yuzi bhai, as we are teammates in the Punjab team, and his record is also excellent. He has taken so many wickets. I wouldn't want to rate Ash bhai last, but there were no positions left, so he comes in at number five. He is great, but Ash bhai was also my first captain in the IPL, Punjab. Sorry, Ash bhai, I'll personally message you," he added. The left-arm seamer picked Sachin Tendulkar and Gautam



Gambhir as his openers, with Rahul Dravid taking the number three slot. The middle-order was distributed among Virat Kohli, who is numbered to bat at four and Man of the Tournament at the 2011 World Cup, Yuvraj Singh at five, followed by Rohit Sharma at six. MS Dhoni was chosen as the wicket-keeper of the side and placed at seven. Picking bowlers, he opted for Harbhajan Singh as the spinner. He also included two left-arm seamers, Zaheer Khan and himself, in his bowling arsenal, and the final spot went to Jasprit Bumrah.

Ankur Bhattacharjee wins Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships men's singles title



Hyderabad: Ankur Bhattacharjee emerged a deserving 4-3 winner over Payas Jain in the men's singles final of the Commonwealth table tennis championship at the Thyagaraj Stadium in Delhi on Sunday. Payas looked set for victory after opening a 7-4 lead in the deciding game. However, Ankur called a timeout that disrupted his opponent's rhythm, fought back to level at 8-8, and then edged ahead 10-9. He eventually sealed the title 11-9 when Payas' final return drifted long, capping a dramatic comeback and earning his biggest international crown.

It was so near, yet so far. Payas Jain came close and lost another title at home after doing so last year at the Senior Nationals in Surat, where he lost to Manush Shah, whom he accounted for today in the semifinals. Earlier, Yashaswini Ghorpade delivered a commanding performance to defeat Sreeja Akula 4-1 in the women's singles final and claim the title. India dominated the championships, winning all but one of the gold medals on offer. The lone title to elude the hosts

came in the men's doubles, where Malaysia's pair pulled off an upset by defeating the Indian combination of Manav Thakkar and Manush Shah in the final. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta gave away the medals and prize money to the medal winners.

India begins countdown to the 2030 Commonwealth Games

Glasgow: As the curtain falls on the 2026 Commonwealth Games on Sunday night, the spotlight will shift from Scotland to India in a symbolic moment that could define the future of Indian sport. At the closing ceremony inside Glasgow's OVO Hydro, the Commonwealth Games flag and the host baton will be formally handed over to Amdavad, the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games, marking the beginning of India's journey towards staging the historic centenary edition of the Games. For India, the handover is much more than a ceremonial tradition. It represents the passing of responsibility from one host to another, while also signalling the country's growing stature as a global sporting destination. Two decades after New Delhi hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games, India is ready to welcome the Commonwealth once again, this time with far greater ambition and on an even bigger stage. The Glasgow Games themselves have reflected India's emergence as a sporting powerhouse. Indian athletes delivered one of the country's finest overseas Commonwealth performances, winning medals across boxing, athletics, weightlifting, judo and para-sports.

Spider-Man: Brand New Day reminded me of Alag, a flawed Hindi film ahead of its time



Watching Spider-Man: Brand New Day in a packed theatre, amid the excitement surrounding the latest chapter in the Marvel franchise, my mind unexpectedly wandered to a Hindi film that released nearly two decades ago and disappeared without leaving much of a cultural footprint. That film was Alag (2006).Made on a reported budget of around Rs 8 crore, Alag was a massive box-office failure—and for reasons that are not hard to fathom. The film was uneven, its writing often simplistic, its execution far less sophisticated than its ambitious premise demanded, and its visual effects did not always support the scale of the story it wanted to tell. It was not a well-made film, and its failure cannot simply be blamed on audiences being unwilling to accept experimentation.

Yet, watching Spider-Man: Brand New Day, I found myself thinking about the core idea behind Alag: a young person born with extraordinary mental abilities, isolated from the world because of those powers, and eventually treated as an object of scientific experimentation.Tejas possesses both telepathic and telekinetic abilities, while Jean and Sara from Spider Man: A Brand New Day share extraordinary telepathic powers. The similarities are not exact, and the two films are very different in tone, scale and storytelling. But the thematic overlap is difficult to ignore.Tejas: A life spent hidden from the worldIn Alag, Tejas, played by Akshay Kapoor, is born with extraordinary telepathic and telekinetic abilities. Fearing how the world may react to his son, Tejas's father keeps him hidden in a basement for 18 years. His isolation is presented as protection, but it also leaves him completely unfamiliar with the world beyond the walls of his home.After his father's death, Tejas is forced to step outside and experience life on his own. His innocence and curiosity make him vulnerable, and his powers soon bring him to Dr Richard Dyer, a scientist who wants to study him.Dyer claims that understanding Tejas's abilities could lead to breakthroughs in treating conditions such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. But behind the language of scientific progress lies a far more troubling ambition. The doctor has already experimented on human beings, causing several deaths, and Tejas is meant to become his next subject.In Spider-Man: Brand New Day, Jean's journey begins from a very different emotional place. She is searching for her sister, Sara, who, like her, possesses extraordinary telepathic powers. Both Jean and Sara were abandoned by their mother because they were different (alag). Sara was later taken by Dr Metzger for experimentation and lost her life as a result. When Jean comes looking for her, she too becomes a target.

Jean's telepathic abilities allow her to read and enter other people's minds. She is trapped and studied under the familiar justification of the "greater good," with her powers treated as something that must be understood, controlled and potentially used for the benefit of others. But the experiments meant to contain her instead awaken a new level of strength.

When telepathy becomes a means of saving livesThe similarities between Tejas and Jean are not limited to the fact that both can read and enter other people's minds. Before their powers become a source of fear and exploitation, both characters use their telepathic abilities to help save lives.In Alag, Tejas uses his powers to enter the mind of the wife of his rehabilitation centre's owner, who has been in a coma for years. By understanding what is holding her consciousness back and communicating with her through telepathy, Tejas helps bring her out of coma.Jean, too, uses her telepathic abilities to keep Spider-Man alive while he is undergoing treatment. By entering and staying connected

to his mind, she helps him hold on during a critical moment.The circumstances are different, but both scenes present telepathy as an act of empathy rather than simply a superpower. Tejas and Jean do not merely read minds; they use their abilities to reach people when conventional medicine and communication seem to have failed. In both films, their powers first become a means of healing before they are turned into something to be studied, controlled and exploited.Different journeys, the same fear of being exploitedThis is where the journeys of Jean and Tejas begin to converge. Jean's rage is rooted in the loss of her sister and the cruelty inflicted upon her. Tejas's anger comes from witnessing the suffering caused by Dr Dyer's experiments. While Jean is driven by personal grief, Tejas is transformed by the pain of strangers who became victims of scientific ambition.Both characters are treated less like human beings and more like extraordinary subjects whose minds and bodies can be studied in the name of progress. Both are placed under observation. Both are tested to understand the limits of their abilities. And in both stories, the very experiments meant to control them become the trigger for their evolution.There is even a visual similarity that stayed with me. As Jean's powers expand, she is able to reach beyond the limits she once faced, affecting multiple people and objects at once. Tejas, too, reaches a new level of strength after being subjected to electric shocks. Overwhelmed by rage and the pain of the people who died because of Dyer's experiments, he unleashes his telepathic and telekinetic abilities, shattering the glass around him and affecting everyone within his range. Jean too shatters the glass wall built around her.The comparison does not mean Alag predicted Spider-Man: Brand New Day, nor does it suggest that the two films tell the same story. Stories about extraordinary people, scientific experimentation and the fear of the unknown have existed in science fiction for decades. The resemblance is better understood as shared storytelling DNA. But it also raises an interesting question about how we view ideas in cinema.

When familiar ideas receive the scale to become spectacularWhen Hollywood revisits familiar superhero and science-fiction themes, it often does so with massive budgets, advanced visual effects, carefully built franchises and years of audience investment. Even a story built around familiar ideas can feel new because of the scale and polish with which it is presented. Alag had none of those advantages.Made on a modest budget of around Rs 8 crore, the film attempted to tell a story about telepathy, telekinesis, isolation, scientific exploitation and the emotional cost of being different. It imagined a protagonist whose powers were not merely a spectacle but also a reason for fear, loneliness and exploitation. That was an unusually ambitious idea for a mainstream Hindi film of its time.Ambition alone could not save AlagThe problem was that ambition alone could not save the film. Alag struggled with its execution. Its storytelling did not always match the emotional complexity of its premise, and its visual treatment often made the film feel smaller than the ideas it was trying to explore. The film also failed to create the kind of emotional connection needed for audiences to fully invest in Tejas's journey. Its box-office failure was not an injustice waiting to be corrected; the film had genuine weaknesses.But perhaps its failure also meant that its central idea was forgotten too quickly.Nearly two decades later, watching a major Hollywood superhero film explore themes of extraordinary mental powers, sibling loss, scientific experimentation, institutional control and rage unlocking greater abilities made me revisit Alag with more curiosity. The Hindi film may not have executed these ideas well, but it had attempted to explore them at a time when such stories were far less common in mainstream Indian cinema.Maybe the difference was never simply the idea. The difference was the writing, the resources, the visual language and the faith given to the idea. Hollywood can take familiar themes and make them feel monumental because it has the machinery to build worlds around them. Indian cinema, meanwhile, has often experimented with ambitious concepts but failed to give them the craft and scale needed to survive.Alag was a flawed experiment that failed—and, in many ways, failed for valid reasons. But its failure should not erase the uniqueness of its premise.Watching Spider-Man: Brand New Day reminded me that sometimes the most interesting ideas are not the ones that succeed. Sometimes they are the ones that arrive early, stumble in execution and disappear before audiences are ready to look back at them.And perhaps that is what makes Alag worth revisiting today: not because it was better than the films that came after it, but because beneath its flaws was an idea Hindi cinema had dared to imagine long before it had the tools to fully realise it.

also caused his downfall. "My last film, the bilingual Gramam/Namma Gramam, won many awards, but I struggled to release it. I had to spend on theatres, publicity, and posters myself. My budget went way over; it soared up to Rs 2 crore instead of the planned Rs 1.25 crore."

To clear the debts, he even had to sell off his home in Poes Garden, a posh residential locality in Teynampet, Chennai, which he bought at the advice of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. "My house was in Poes Garden, right next to Jayalalithaa's house. I bought that place because she told me to. One day, at AVM Studios, she was sitting outside reading something. I went and greeted her. Seeing me, she told me a good housing project was coming up in her neighbourhood of Poes Garden and advised me to buy a 2,500 sq ft flat there. I bought it based on her word. In the end, I had to sell it to settle my debts."

Mohan Sharma further noted that he shared a warm bond with Jayalalithaa until her demise and was the last person from the film industry to meet her at her residence."One day, her maid told me she (Jayalalithaa) was unwell and that it was serious. She was being admitted to Apollo Hospitals. I went to her house. She asked why I looked so anxious. I told her I heard she was seriously ill. She replied, 'No, Mohan, I'm just going to Apollo for two days, and I'll be back.' I was the last person from the film industry to see her at her home as she never came back from Apollo. That was a huge blow to me. I was deeply affected by her death. It hurt me both mentally and physically. I couldn't handle it," he recalled.As the conversation continued, Mohan Sharma praised Rajinikanth and thanked him for helping him without him even asking. "Rajinikanth saved me by entering my life like a god. He called me and asked for my bank account number. He sent me Rs 1 lakh the next day.

Amy Adams shakes things up in series remake of Martin Scorsese thriller



Cape Fear review: For skeptics wondering whether we needed another remake of Cape Fear, there are enough reasons to say yes. Executive produced by Hollywood's most formative filmmakers — Martin Scorsese and Steven Spielberg — the series adaptation of the psychological revenge thriller on Apple TV is a worthy update on the former's 1991 film, starring Robert De Niro as the menacing chief antagonist, Max Cady.In the series adaptation, Javier Bardem steps into the role of Max Cady. He matches up to Robert De Niro's iconic intense, brooding character with a signature unpredictability, enhanced by his towering physique and a formidable buzzcut look. He also makes Cady seem ambiguously innocent yet consistently frightening. It helps that Bardem doesn't hold back, but embraces the show's pulpy Southern Gothic treatment sans abandon — punctuating every grin, every gaze, and every move with his evident ill intentions.Nick Antosca, who has adapted the series, cleverly keeps the foreboding suspenseful and the proceedings eventful by not placing Cady in the trial box. It's of little consequence whether he's guilty of what he was jailed for or whether he was framed by his lawyer. Whether he has a role to play in everything untoward happening to the Bowden family upon his release also has little bearing. We know he's guilty — not because we're shown what preceded it, but because that's a futile narrative to begin with. So, Bardem doesn't hold back on the histrionics, fully embracing Cady's unhinged appeal.

The wild card in the series adaptation, thus, is Amy Adams' Anna Bowden, who served as Max Cady's defense lawyer instead of her husband Tom Bowden (Patrick Wilson), as was the case in all the previous interpretations. Her addition to the dynamic shakes up the plot at multiple layers. First, as a mother, Anna helps make the Bowden family feel more wholesome as the ideal American unit, waiting to be wrecked by an intruder. Second, as a lawyer herself, her ethics are under question — did she turn on her client because she was attracted to the lawyer she was

Yash Chopra dropped Sudesh Berry for Shah Rukh Khan in Darr: 'Felt I couldn't punch Sunny Deol'



Although Shah Rukh Khan made his feature film debut in director Raj Kanwar's Deewana (1992) and grabbed attention instantly, it was Abbas-Mustan's Baazigar (1993) and Yash Chopra's Darr (1993) that truly propelled him to great heights. Interestingly, Shah Rukh played grey-shaded roles in both the films, which helped him not only hone his skills but also showcase his range before the audience.Darr also marked the beginning of the actor's partnership with legendary director-producer Yash Chopra, following which they joined forces in several movies, such as Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Dil To Pagal Hai (1997), Mohabbatein (2000), Veer-Zaara (2004), Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi (2008), and Jab Tak Hai Jaan (2012).

However, did you know that Shah Rukh Khan wasn't the first choice for Darr? Yes, you heard that right. In fact, Yash Chopra had almost zeroed in on another up-and-com-

peting with, who eventually became her husband?Adams, as usual, does a fine job of striking a balance between concealing her guilt and using her righteous fortitude as her shining armour. Her riffing with Javier Bardem is impeccable, both feeding into the unspoken tension shared by the two. With her restraint, Adams is the perfect yin to Bardem's overbearing yang. Adams' inclusion also allows for a more sensitive, female gaze-driven perspective, where crimes against women are not given the grave, gratuitous lacing that Martin Scorsese's adaptation did in particular. Eliminating sexual assault from the narrative keeps the focus on the core conflict at hand and breach of trust.

Nick Antosca also milks 10 hour-long weekly episodes to play around with that conflict by injecting just the right dose of tension in each episode. He embraces the South Gothic aesthetic — which, let's admit, is a tough one to warm up to in 2026, 35 years after Martin Scorsese's film. But he also leans into the suspense that comes embedded with that style, making the plot unravel slowly and surely like a surgical knife. However, given the exhaustingly long gestation period, patience does wear off time and again, only to be restored with one sumptuous twist after another. The series can prove to be a tiring sit, but the pressure-cooker finale leaves you wanting for more.Speaking of the Cape Fear finale, it's titled The Executioners, an ode to the original source material. But unlike John D MacDonald's 1957 book, Cape Fear doesn't end in murder. James R Webb adapted The Executioners into the first Cape Fear movie. Released in 1962, directed by J Lee Thompson, and starring Gregory Peck as Sam Bowden, that film's morally upright ending comes closest to that of the series adaptation. Sam and Anna, having finally gained the upper hand over Cady, have the option to serve as his judge, jury, and executioner, or let the law run its course instead of hampering it like they might have previously.

The ending of Martin Scorsese's 1991 adaptation felt like a copout — with Max Cady drowning after being handcuffed to the wreckage of the sinking houseboat, singing "On Jordan's Stormy Banks I Stand" as Sam Bowden watched. For the heinous crimes he committed, it felt like justice was shortchanged. But it also allowed Robert De Niro's portrayal to become as immortal as the character itself. However, in Nick Antosca's adaptation, which also has Scorsese's blessing as an EP, there's no end to the ending. It's of little consequence what fate Cady meets — whether he's buried or put behind bars. For the ultimate truth has more to do with the perpetrators than the victim(s) — Anna Bowden goes back to being a mother of the ideal American family, but can she ever stop looking over her shoulder?

ing actor of the era, Sudesh Berry, for the role of Rahul Mehra, and even had costumes ready for him before changing plans and casting SRK. This was because the director ultimately felt that a comparatively lesser-known actor like Sudesh wouldn't be able to hold his own against a bigger star like Sunny Deol."I was offered the role in Darr, and even my costumes were ready. What happened afterwards was... the person who was supposed to play the other character (the male lead) was always a bigger actor. Initially, it was Rishi Kapoor, then Aamir Khan was considered, and then they finally cast Sunny Deol," he revealed during an appearance on the Accompany Akki podcast.Don't Miss | Cape Fear review: Amy Adams shakes things up in series remake of Martin Scorsese thrillerWhy Yash Chopra reconsidered casting Sudesh Berry opposite Sunny Deol

"Towards the end, there's a shot of my character punching the other person. Whoever played the other character, it appeared as if a bigger actor was being punched by Sudesh Berry. This is what I heard; I haven't seen the movie to date. Yash ji was a maker too, and makers are always a bit passionate. They are able to make such good movies because of that passion," Sudesh shared, noting that the director felt he was too new to be playing such a role.Opening up about his contemporaries, like Shah Rukh Khan and Aamir Khan, Sudesh Berry noted that luck also aided them, along with their hard work. "They are all destiny's children. They are all lucky. Everyone worked hard; I did too. But they are lucky and blessed. All eat from the same plate, and all are birds from the same branch.""But Shah Rukh Khan is a blessed child of God... Mainly because Gauri putr Ganesh is by his side. Let's not forget that his wife's name is Gauri. And when you have Lord Ganesh's blessing, you will never fall. The same can be said about Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Ajay Devgn, and Akshay Kumar; they're lucky first because they got a chance," he added.

NIT Warangal hosts first Industry Conclave for career launch

Warangal: National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal, through its Centre for Career Planning and Development (CCPD), organised the Industry Conclave: Career Launch Summit 2026.It was the first-ever industry conclave of its kind held at NITW to help students understand industry expectations and the skills required for graduating students ahead of the upcoming placement season.In his online address, the NITW Director, Prof. Bidhyadhar Subudhi, appreciated the pioneering initiative and encouraged students to actively participate and benefit from the thoughtfully designed sessions by the CCPD team.Dean (Student Welfare) Prof. Kiran Kumar emphasised the importance of holistic development, urging students to remain focused, adaptable, and proactive in preparing for their careers. The CCPD head Prof. P. V. Suresh presented the objectives and background behind the conceptualisation of the conclave. It was designed as a platform for early engagement with industry, enabling students to gain clarity on evolving job market trends, required competencies and career pathways. The placement brochure for academic year 2026–27 was released providing a comprehensive overview of the institute's academic programmes, student demographics, placement statistics, recruiter information and key highlights of student achievements.The two-day



conclave featured sectoral leadership talks, panel discussions, and alumni interactions, with participation from leading organisations such as HPCL, ExxonMobil, Micron and Truvela. Industry leaders and recruiters directly interacted with students, sharing valuable insights and highlighting sector-specific skills and competencies required in areas such as core engineering, consulting, semiconductors, energy, and AI-driven industries.NIT alumni serving in the above organisations also actively participated, sharing their real-world experiences and offering practical perspectives on transitioning from campus to corporate environments, said a release here