

Government decides to extend Hyderabad Metro Rail connectivity to Future City

Hyderabad: Telangana Government has decided to extend the Metro Rail network up from the airport to the Young India Skills Development University in Future City and the Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy directed the officials to prepare the final proposals accordingly.

The government already proposed to develop the Future City in an area of about 30,000 acres. In view of the future expansion needs of the city, the metro should be extended up to Mirkhanpet, he said, suggesting that a DPR with the necessary estimates should be prepared and sent to the central government.

Ayushman Bharat upholds dignity of elderly: PM Modi in Varanasi



GNS News Agency, April 11

Varanasi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the Ayushman Bharat Yojana not only guarantees free medical care for senior citizens but also ensures their dignity and peace of mind.Addressing a large public gathering in Varanasi, PM Modi shared his experience of distributing Ayushman Vaya Vandana Cards to elderly citizens."Just a short while ago, I had the opportunity to hand over Ayushman Vaya Vandana Cards to several elderly citizens here. The expression of satisfaction on their faces was, for me, the greatest success of this scheme," he said.

Highlighting the transformation in healthcare facilities across the region, he said, "The tension around treatment for the elderly is something everyone is aware of. The condition of medical facilities in Purvanchal before the last decade is also well known. Today, the situation is

different. My Kashi is becoming a health capital."The big hospitals of Delhi and Mumbai have now come close to your homes. This is true development -- when facilities come to people. In the last 10 years, we have not only increased the number of hospitals but also enhanced the dignity of patients. The Ayushman Bharat scheme is no less than a boon for the poor brothers and sisters. This scheme provides not just medical treatment but also trust," he said.The Prime Minister added that lakhs of people in Uttar Pradesh and Varanasi, in particular, have benefited from the scheme."When you gave us your blessings for the third time, we tried to return the favour through our service. It was my guarantee that the elderly would receive free treatment. The Ayushman Vaya Vandana Yojana is a result of that promise. This scheme is not only about medical care but also about ensuring the dignity of our senior citizens," he said."Now, every elderly member of a family above the age of 70, regardless of income, is entitled to free treatment. In Varanasi alone, nearly 50,000 Vaya Vandana cards have already been distributed to the elderly. This number is not just a figure -- it is a testament to the service provided by a servant of the people," PM Modi said."Now, don't worry about the money needed for medical treatment. It will now be taken care of by the government," the Prime Minister assured.PM Modi also praised animal keepers, especially women, of the Purvanchal region for setting an example for others.He lauded the efforts of Banas Dairy in Varanasi and its contribution to women's empowerment through the 'Lakhpatti Didi' initiative. He congratulated the dairy workers for the bonuses they received, calling them a "gift" for their hard work.

BJP, AIADMK reunite forming alliance for 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly election

GNS News Agency, April 11

Declaring the revival of ties between Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) in Tamil Nadu, BJP senior leader and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, alongside AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, announced the alliance between BJP and AIADMK for the 2026 Assembly election in Tamil Nadu, during a press conference at Chennai on FridayEdappadi Palaniswami will lead the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Tamil Nadu, said Mr. Shah.To get today's top stories from the State in your inbox, subscribe to our Tamil Nadu Today newsletterHe further stated that AIADMK did not place any demand or conditions (for reviving ties). When asked about the reinduction of expelled AIADMK leader O.



Panneerselvam and Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran into AIADMK, he said that there will not be any interference in the AIADMK's internal affairs.

TPCC chief dares KTR for an open debate on destruction of Govt lands

Hyderabad, April 11 Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud has publicly invited BRS working president KT Rama Rao to participate in an open debate regarding the alleged destruction of government lands during the ten years of BRS governance in Telangana.

During a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Friday, Mahesh Kumar Goud, accompanied by MP Anil Kumar Yadav and MLCs Addanki Dayakar, Balmoor Venkat Narsig Rao, Aamir Ali Khan, MLA Sri Ganesh, and Fahim Qureshi, the Vice Chairman of Minority Residential Schools, accused the former BRS government, led by then Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao, of selling off thousands of acres of land around Hyderabad for their benami persons. He claimed that more than 10,000 acres of land had been sold within the GHMC area.Former Minister KT Rama Rao has

entered into an agreement with Billy Rao, the owner of IMG company, concerning the HCU lands and reportedly negotiated a bribe amounting to 30 percent. However, KTR is now vocally expressing discontent following the unsuccessful deal," stated Mahesh Kumar Goud. "The Congress party has a longstanding commitment to safeguarding HCU lands from privatization. These lands are government property, and any government secures loans through institutions. The Congress government secured a loan of Rs. 10,000 crore via the TGILC and subsequently waived crop loans for farmers," he revealed.It's quite ironic that the BRS, which has been in power for a decade, is now criticizing the Congress administration while failing to take action to protect government lands. KTR needs to explain why the previous BRS government did not take measures to safeguard the remaining lands, aside from the disputed land at HCU," questioned Mahesh Kumar Goud.

KTR exposes Rs 10,000 cr. HCU land scam, accuses CM of masterminding financial fraud & environmental devastation

Hyderabad, Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has accused Chief Minister Revanth Reddy of orchestrating a massive Rs 10,000 crore financial scam involving Kancha Gatchibowli lands near Hyderabad Central University (HCU).Addressing media persons on Friday, KTR alleged that the Congress-led State government not only perpetrated a colossal economic fraud, but also caused irreversible environmental destruction, describing the episode as a "criminal conspiracy" and a "betrayal of Telangana's trust." He pointed to Revanth Reddy as the "architect, executor, and key player" behind the scandal, vowing that the BRS would pursue the matter relentlessly until justice is served. At the heart of KTR's accusations is the claim that the State government manipulated 400 acres of forest land adjacent to HCU to secure a Rs 10,000 crore loan from Banks. According to KTR, the land was illegally pledged without verifying ownership, conducting environmental assessments, or obtaining forest department approvals. The Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIC), he alleged, mortgaged the land despite lacking legal title, with no sale deed, mutation, or

alienation process to establish ownership.TR highlighted a glaring discrepancy in the land's valuation. Initially, the government valued the 400 acres at Rs 30,000 crore, issuing a GO in June 2024 that pegged the per-acre value at Rs 75 crore. However, five months later, in November 2024, a new valuation by another agency reduced the per-acre value to Rs 52 crore, and a subsequent open-market assessment further slashed it to Rs 41.6 crore, bringing the total value down. KTR questioned the rationale behind this drastic reduction, alleging it was a deliberate move to facilitate the transfer of the land to Revanth Reddy's associates at a fraction of the inflated value. Citing the Stamps & Registration Department, KTR noted that the market value in the Kancha-Gachibowli area is Rs 26,900 per square yard, translating to a total value of Rs 5,239.84 lakh for 400 acres. "How can land worth Rs 5,000 crore be inflated to Rs 30,000 crore and then conveniently reduced to Rs 16,640 crore? This is a textbook case of financial manipulation," he charged. He criticised ICICI Bank, accusing it of gross negligence in approving Rs 10,000 crore loan without verifying land ownership or conducting basic due diligence.

Cyberabad CP orders closure of wine & toddy shop

Hyderabad, April 11 Cyberabad Commissioner of Police Avinash Mohanty, IPS, in interest of public peace and tranquillity ordered that the Wine/Toddy Shops and Bars attached to Restaurants (Excluding Bars in Star Hotels and Registered Clubs) within the jurisdiction of Cyberabad Police Commissionerate, shall remain closed on April 12 between 10 am to 10 pm on account of Sri Hanuman Jayanthi Celebrations.

CM Revanth directs officials to expedite works of Musi rejuvenation project



Hyderabad, April 11 Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has instructed officials to accelerate the progress of the Musi rejuvenation project. He reviewed the bridge designs slated for construction over the Mir Alam Tank, as well as the Gandhi Sarovar planned for Bapughat.

Revanth Reddy emphasized, "Tenders for the bridge at Mir Alam Tank should be issued in June. Additionally, the Detailed Project Report (DPR) must be developed, incorporating the required surveys, reports, proposals, and designs."The Chief Minister held a review meeting regarding the Musi rejuvenation project at the Command Control Center here on Friday. During the meeting, officials showcased the prototype designs created by consultancies for the bridge over the Mir Alam Tank using a PowerPoint presentation.He urged the offi-

cials to construct the two and a half kilometer bridge in an impressive manner, prioritising designs that ensure the highest level of safety for visitors and passengers. In addition to the bridge, plans have been made to enhance three island-like areas around the Mir Alam Tank to draw in tourists.The Chief Minister recommended that these three islands be developed attractively, featuring elements such as a bird sanctuary and waterfalls, similar to the Gardens by the Bay in Singapore.

Designs should incorporate convention centers suitable for weddings, as well as an adventure park, a theme park, and an amphitheater. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) should include all necessary proposals for developing the island alongside initiatives to purify the tank's water. These proposals should follow a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model," instructed Revanth Reddy.The Chief Minister emphasized that the island area must be linked to the nearby zoo park, incorporating the Mir Alam Bridge, and instructed officials to enhance the zoo park in alignment with the development plan.Revanth Reddy recommended that all feasible options for the zoo's improvement be explored in collaboration with the zoo authorities, adhering to established regulations. He also urged that development proposals be formulated to increase its appeal to visitors.Government advisors Vem Narender Reddy and Srinivasa Raju, Principal Secretary Dana Kishore (Municipal), Musi River Development Corporation Joint Managing Director Gauthami and senior officials participated in the meeting.

CM Revanth inspects land for installation of Jyotirao Phule's statue

Hyderabad, April 11 Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy inspected a site for the installation of the statue of Mahatma Jyothirao Phule at Necklace Road -IMAX in Hyderabad on Friday.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLAs, GHMC Mayor Vijayalakshmi, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav, BC union leaders Jajula Srinivas Goud and others.The Chief Minister instructed the officials to conduct a survey at the site and submit a report with a complete plan. The officials have been asked to prepare the plans in such a way that no traffic and other problems arise with necessary precautions. Earlier, Revanth Reddy paid tributes Mahatma Jyotiba



Phule's statue at Amberpet on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

KCR extends greetings to people on Mahatma Phule's birth anniversary

Hyderabad, April 11 BRS party chief KCR today extended his greetings to people on socialReformer Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's birth anniversary . He said that Phule was an Indian social revolutionary, who fought for freedom from caste discrimination that was weakening the strong unity of the Indian society. KCR remembered the efforts and sacrifices made by him for the upliftment of the lower castes, equality and social justice.

He said that Mahatma Phule was a social visionary , who had sensed social ills like caste and gender two centuries ago and worked to solve them. He reminded that the first Telangana government had put Phule's ideals into action for the advancement of the productive castes and all sections of the state .KCR said that Telangana had become an example for the country in providing social justice. He said that the rural economy had been strengthened by the parallel implementation of key activities such as irrigation, free electricity, farmer-to-farmer crop investment and government purchasing of harvested crops through the construction of projects.

He said that the purchasing power of the poor had increased and their financial security had also increased.



He said that through this, a spin economy was created in the state economy and through the activities of the BRS government, the economic progress of the state played a key role in the progress of the country. He also said that this increased self-confidence among the backward classes, social stimulation took place and the social respect of the BC and SC castes was strengthened.KCR expressed happiness that the country had recognized the fact that the people of the castes .

BRS approaches HC against denial of permission for party's silver jubilee meeting

Hyderabad, April 11 The BRS party has approached the High Court after the police refused permission for its silver jubilee meeting in Elkathurthi of Warangal district. The court that took up the matter adjourned the hearing to April 17. The BRS party leaders have stated in their petition that the court should direct the police to grant permission for the meeting. They said the meeting would be held on April 27 from 10 am to 10 pm. The party's lawyer stated that it was being organized on the occasion of the party's silver jubilee celebrations. The BRS party has included Principal Secretary of Home Department, Warangal CP and Kazipet ACP as respondents in the case.Following this, the High Court has issued notices to the respondents. The Home Department's advocate sought time to file a counter. He requested that a deadline be given until April 21 to file the counter. The High Court told the advocate of the State government that the arrangements would have to be made for the meeting and asked him to file the counter by the 17th of this month and adjourned the matter.

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Go all out to expose Pakistan

The extradition of Pakistan-born Canadian citizen Tahawwur Rana, an accused in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, is a major milestone in India's persistent efforts to bring perpetrators to justice. On a broader note, it is a big diplomatic win for India's counter-terrorism strategies. Now that a key cog in the terror machinery is in India's custody, it is time to go all out and fire on all cylinders to expose Pakistan's role in scripting and directing the most horrific terrorist operation. During the upcoming trial, Rana is expected to spill the beans, not only about his involvement in planning and executing the 2008 attacks but also about the devious deeds of both state and non-state actors in Pakistan. Rana, who had worked as a doctor in the Pakistani army before migrating to Canada, should know precisely which Pakistani army officers were involved in the plot and how Lashkar-e-Taiba executed the plot. The chargesheet against Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving 26/11 terrorist, clearly mentioned that the Mumbai strikes were plotted in Pakistan by the LeT. In the days ahead, Rana will be questioned by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on his connections with the LeT. After years of painstaking efforts by intelligence, legal and diplomatic teams and a decisive push by the political leadership, New Delhi has succeeded in convincing the American authorities to extradite Rana to India to face trial. While the extradition of one of the key conspirators is certainly a defining moment for Indian diplomacy, the war against cross-border terrorism is far from over. Rana's interrogation should help India build a water-tight case to expose the involvement of Pakistan's deep state at multiple levels. Only then, the families of 166 people killed in the Mumbai terror attacks can get a sense of closure. The fresh leads from the probe agencies could strengthen India's case against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism on the global stage.

Sri Malayappa Swamy graces the Golden Chariot



April 11, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema coordinator""As part of the Tirumala Srivari Salakatta Vasanthotsavam, on the second day of the festival, Sri Malayappa Swamy, along with Sridevi and Bhudevi, graced the devotees by parading on the golden chariot through the streets of Tirumada on Friday morning. ""As part of this, thousands of devotees participated in the golden chariot festival, which was held in great splendor between 8 and 10 am, and pulled the chariot while chanting Govinda Nama. ""Devotees believe that by visiting the golden chariot festival, they will get wealth and happiness with the grace of Goddess Lakshmi, all grains with the grace of Goddess Bhudevi, and all auspiciousness and happiness with the grace of Srivari. ""TTD board member Jyothula Nehru, Deputy EO Lokanatham, VGO Surendra and other officials participated in the program.

Phule statue in Assembly non-negotiable: MLC Kavitha on Jyotirao Phule Jayanti

Hyderabad, April 11 BRS leader MLC Kavitha reiterated that a statue of Jyotirao Phule must be installed on the premises of Telangana Assembly, a rightful recognition of Phule's legacy and a reflection of the decades-long struggle for BC empowerment. "Until this demand is met, our fight will continue," MLC K. Kavitha asserted. Highlighting Telangana Jagruthi's continues role in championing social justice, MLC Kavitha recalled how, during the United Andhra Pradesh era, relentless protests led to the successful installation of Dr B.R. Ambedkar's statue in the Assembly. "We've done this before, and we will do it again," she asserted. Kavitha also demanded that the State government take a more proactive role in pushing the Centre to approve the pending BC reservation bills passed by the Assembly. She urged the State to lead an all-party delegation to Delhi in this regard. Referring to the recently conducted caste census, the BRS leader noted that thousands of families across the State have complained about their details not being collected properly. "The government must publish the caste census data village-wise to ensure transparency and accuracy," she added and affirmed that the struggle for 42% reservations for BCs will not stop in Telangana, it will continue in Delhi.

Jagtial district treasury office accountant in ACB net

Hyderabad, April 11 Today at noon, Arige Raghu Kumar, senior accountant in the office of District Treasury Officer, Jagtial was caught red handed on the premises of Integrated Collector Complex, Jagtial when he allegedly demanded and accepted Rs 7,000/- as a reward from the complainant for showing official favour i.e. "for processing a claim of Rs 1,04,000/- from CPS Account of the complainant". The tainted bribe amount of Rs 7,000/- was recovered from the possession of the accused. The fingers of both right and left hands of the accused yielded positive in the chemical test. Thus, the accused performed his duty improperly and dishonestly to obtain undue advantage. The accused was arrested and produced before the Special Judge for SPE & ACB cases, Karimnagar.

20,000 units of MG Windsor sold in 6 months! Becomes the fastest EV model in India to achieve this milestone



Hyderabad: JSW MG Motor India today announced that the MG Windsor, India's best-selling EV, has achieved another remarkable milestone. It has now become the fastest EV to register sales of 20,000 units in record time - within 6 months of its launch. The MG Windsor witnessed sustained high sales momentum from metros and emerging markets alike, evidently becoming a trend setter in the EV segment.

Commenting on the sales milestone, Rakesh Sen, Director Sales & Marketing, JSW MG Motor India said, "Since its launch, the MG Windsor has delighted car buyers with its exceptional value proposition. Customers have praised its futuristic design, intuitive tech features, spacious cabin, all combined with a sustainable and pocket friendly driving experience. In addition, with the MG Windsor, we have successfully addressed category barriers and dispelled several myths around EVs in India through our innovative approach. This has enabled newer customers to adapt to the EV lifestyle. These factors have propelled MG Windsor to become the fastest EV model to achieve 20,000 sales milestone in record time." The MG Windsor, India's 1st Intelli-

gent CUV has disrupted the EV segment and has emerged as a modern marvel in the automotive industry, capturing the essence of comfort, style, and technology. Offered with a starting BaaS price of INR 9.99L + INR 3.9/kms+, this CUV combines the expanse of a sedan and versatility of an SUV. The MG Windsor comes equipped with a 38 kWh Li-ion battery pack, delivering 100 KW (136ps) of power and 200Nm of torque. The CUV offers an impressive 332 km++ ARAI-certified range on a single charge.

The MG Windsor comes with a futuristic 'AeroGlide' design language, transcending the concept of traditional segmentation. Inside, the car is offered with business-class comfort that features 'Aero Lounge' seats reclining to 135 degrees providing utmost comfort. Additionally, the massive 15.6" GRANDVIEW Touch Display on the centre console, provides an intuitive driving experience.

* Wholesale Figures

About JSW MG Motor India

SAIC Motor, a global Fortune 500 company with a presence in over 100 countries and JSW Group (India's leading conglomerate with interests across B2B and B2C sectors) formed a joint venture - JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. in 2023. The joint venture aims to build an innovative and sustainable automotive ecosystem while continuing to stay focused on developing a diverse portfolio of vehicles to give car buyers better access to advanced technologies and futuristic products with attractive value propositions. JSW MG Motor India Pvt. Ltd. is committed to introducing world-class technology, strengthening the manufacturing landscape, best of innovation across its business operations, and generating significant employment opportunities through extensive localization.

1,460 CCTV CAMERAS INAUGURATED IN MALKAJGIRI ZONE

Hyderabad: G. Sudheer Babu, Commissioner of Police, Rachakonda, inaugurated 1,460 CCTV cameras across the Malkajgiri Zone. Of these, 410 CCTV cameras have been installed in 17 colonies, covering major roads and junctions, at a cost of Rs. 1.19 Crore (One Crore Nineteen Lakhs), including a two-year Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC), under a community initiative.

The remaining 1,050 CCTV cameras have been installed across 212 vulnerable temples as part of a special drive. These cameras will be integrated with the Command and Control Centre, where a dedicated team will monitor them 24/7. With this addition, a total of 5,260 Community CCTV cameras and 93,061 Nenu Saitam cameras have been installed and a total 98,321 Cameras geo-tagged within the Malkajgiri Zone. Speaking on the occasion, Sri G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, highlighted the crucial role of CCTV surveillance in enhancing public safety and crime prevention. He stated that CCTV cameras are instrumental in deterring criminal activities, assisting in investigations, enabling proactive policing, aiding in crime analysis, and promoting a secure environment. He emphasized that CCTV surveillance is a vital component of modern crime prevention strategies and noted that the Rachakonda Police have successfully solved several sensational cases with the help of CCTV foota. The Commissioner also appealed to colony and community elders to come forward and take the initiative to install CCTV cameras in their communities. He stressed that such efforts significantly contribute to public safety by de-



Rachakonda Police Commissioner G. Sudheer Babu

terrifying crime, monitoring suspicious activity, and assisting the police in investigations. The mere presence of CCTV cameras can act as a strong deterrent, fostering a safer environment for all residents. On this occasion, Sri G. Sudheer Babu, IPS, appreciated and felicitated the colony elders who actively supported the police in installing CCTV cameras.

Smt. P.V. Padmaja, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Malkajgiri Zone, Sri N. Venkata Ramana, Addl. DCP, Malkajgiri Zone, Sri S. Chakrapani, ACP, Malkajgiri Division, Sri T. Mahesh Goud, ACP, Kushaiguda Division, Sri J. Narendar Goud, ACP, IT Cell and All SHOs of the Malkajgiri Zone were participated in this programme

India's AI Breakthrough: Mivi Launches World's First Human-Like Artificial Intelligence



Hyderabad: Mivi, a leading Indian consumer electronics brand, today announced that it has created Mivi AI, the world's first human-like Artificial Intelligence, aimed at revolutionising the human-AI relationship. The company, through its independent research and development, has successfully developed the human-like AI that will make technology more integrated into people's daily lives, enhancing productivity and well-being by creating more meaningful and user-centric experiences.

While existing AI models operate in a simple on-screen question-response framework, Mivi has reimaged the interaction layer from the ground up. Leveraging the full reasoning capabilities of advanced LLMs, the company has successfully engineered a personalized conversation engine and trained its models to maintain context. Mivi AI is being introduced to consumers through the first-of-its-kind AI Buds, enabling seamless, on-the-go interactions. Simply say "Hi Mivi" to wake the AI and begin a natural conversation. As the first product built on the Mivi AI platform, the AI Buds mark the beginning of a broader ecosystem of intelligent devices. Trained on thousands of voice samples, Mivi AI is uniquely attuned to understand and respond to a wide range of Indian accents, ensuring a truly inclusive experience. Speaking about the breakthrough, Midhula Devabhaktuni, Co-founder and CMO, Mivi said, "With Mivi AI, we're not just launching a product — we're defining the next era of human-AI interaction. This marks a transformative leap in global innovation, where AI doesn't just respond, but truly understands, adapts, and connects on a deeply human level. It's about building technology that feels less like a tool, and more like a companion — intuitive, emotionally aware, and seamlessly present in everyday life." As the first of its kind, Mivi AI reflects our unwavering belief that world-class innovation can — and should — be built in India, for the world. This is more than a milestone for Mivi; it's a defining moment for Indian technology on the global stage. Mivi AI Buds is the 1st manifestation of Mivi AI, and it is the beginning of many advancements. We're proud to lead this revolution. This is India's AI moment." Introducing Mivi AI — watch the video here <https://youtu.be/>

LLydBYoE2FM The core technology behind Mivi AI leverages: Natural Language Processing (NLP): making AI proficient in understanding, interpreting, and generating human language in a way that feels fluid and natural. Emotional Intelligence: AI that can recognize and respond to the emotional tone of a conversation, enhancing user experience by making interactions feel more personalised and human.

Context Awareness: AI that can remember prior interactions and understand the broader context of a conversation or situation. Mivi AI's USP lies in its human-like approach rather than following predefined commands and providing rigid responses. It uses developed systems which are capable of mimicking human interactions, processing complex language, recognizing context, understanding emotions and engaging in dynamic conversations. Mivi's human-like AI can interpret finer nuances in the command language and adapt to various situations, similar to a human being.

SHIVA DHANURBHANGA “ALANKARAM MESMERISES”



""April 11, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema coordinator""The sixth morning of ongoing annual Brahmotsavam at Vontimitta witnessed Sri Ramachandra Murthy in Shiva Dhanurbhanga Alankaram blessing His devotees. ""Kerala Drums, Chekka Bhajans, Kolatam teams enhanced the grandeur of Vahanam procession. ""DyEO Natesh Babu, Superintendent Hanumantaiah, Temple Inspector Naveen and others were present.

Ganga Bhavani conferred with Doctorate



""April 11, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema coordinator""Shri Padmavati Mahila University, a research student of the English Department, has been conferred with a Doctorate, said the Dean of Examinations, Professor Jeevan Jyoti, in a statement. Ganga Bhavani submitted her research paper on the topic of Grammar in CBSE English Curriculum at Secondary Level An Analytical Study under the supervision of Professor Hari Padma

Ministers launch a top-tier garment manufacturing facility in Sircilla

Sircilla, April 11 : A cutting-edge garment manufacturing facility, "Punctuate World Private Limited," was officially launched at Peddur Apparel Park, located in the Rajanna Sircilla district on Friday. The inauguration was carried out jointly by Ministers Sridhar Babu, Tummala Nageswara Rao, and Ponnam Prabhakar, with an initial investment of Rs. 102 crores. Following the inauguration, job appointment letters were distributed to women who secured positions within the company. The facility currently offers employment to 1,600 women, with plans to create an additional 2,000 jobs over the next three years. Annually, the factory produces over 70 lakh garments and exports products worth Rs. 300 crores to international markets, including the United States and the United Kingdom. During the event, Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu emphasised that the State government is diligently working towards the comprehensive development of Telangana under the guidance of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The residents of Sircilla possess a strong social awareness. This region is abundant in enlightenment and consciousness. Numerous prominent figures have embarked on their paths from this very ground," he remarked. The Congress party has consistently supported the weavers and remains committed to their welfare. The earlier administrations failed to meet their requirements, providing nothing more than empty assurances. Approximately a year and a half ago, the leadership of this industry reached out to us. We have since addressed the challenges they encountered and promoted the growth of the sector," the Minister said. "Prior governments did not make any meaningful strides in developing the Vemulawada temple. In contrast, the current Congress administration is genuinely dedicated to its progress and has allocated specific financial resources for its enhancement," stated Sridhar Babu.

Amer Ali Khan to lead awareness rally from Adilabad to Hyd

Hyderabad, April 11: Congress MLC Amer Ali Khan will lead a two-day awareness rally from Adilabad to Hyderabad on April 14 and 15 to protest against the Waqf Amendment Act, which he has termed a serious attack on the constitutional rights of Muslims in India. The rally, being organised under the slogan "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan," coincides with the birth anniversary of Dr B.R. Ambedkar and aims to highlight the danger posed by the new law to the autonomy of Waqf institutions and the fundamental rights guaranteed to Muslims under the Constitution. Amer Ali Khan stated that the rally would begin on April 14 at 9 am from Adilabad and reach Nirmal by afternoon. The convoy would then proceed to Nizamabad at 3 pm. On April 15, the rally would move from Nizamabad to Kamareddy at 9 am and from Kamareddy to Hyderabad at 3 pm. The MLC said the Waqf Amendment Act, passed by the BJP-led Central Government, was not just a legal reform but a calculated move to weaken the Muslim community by stripping Waqf Boards of their authority and placing Waqf institutions under the control of the Centre. He said the Act violated Articles 25, 26, 29, and 30 of the Constitution, which guarantee religious freedom, cultural autonomy, and the right of minorities to manage their own institutions. Amer Ali Khan accused the Central Government of targeting the Waqf system because it represents one of the largest institutional structures of the Muslim community in India. He said Waqf properties, built over centuries through community donations and religious endowments, are now being eyed for commercial and political exploitation. He warned that the new law gives unchecked powers to the Centre and undermines the role of State Waqf Boards, leaving the community vulnerable to institutional disempowerment.

He said the Constitution of India guarantees every minority community, including Muslims, the right to preserve their religion, language, culture, and to manage their own educational and religious institutions. He said the Waqf Amendment Act is a direct violation of this constitutional promise. "What is at stake is not just Waqf - it is our identity, our heritage, our freedom. The community must not remain silent," he said. He chose April 14 - Ambedkar Jayanti - to begin the rally as a tribute to the architect of the Constitution, saying that Dr B.R. Ambedkar gave legal protection to minorities, and any attack on those rights is a betrayal of his legacy. He said the slogan "Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan" reflects the unity of Gandhian and Ambedkarite values, which stand for justice, equality, and religious freedom. He said the rally would remind the people of Telangana and the nation that the Constitution cannot be changed to suit one ideology. Amer Ali Khan stated that the two-day rally would involve ground-level engagement with local communities, students, lawyers, and religious scholars in Adilabad, Nirmal, Nizamabad, and Kamareddy. He said the objective is to create mass awareness so that the community can resist this move legally, socially, and politically. He appealed to Muslims, Dalits, backward classes.

Kasturba Gandhi's birthday celebrated under the auspices of P.C. Rayulu



April 11, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema coordinator
"Kasturba Gandhi Kendra Trust on local Gandhi Road hosted a function in honour of Guinness Book of World Record holder Dr. P.C. The 156th birth anniversary celebrations of Kasturba Gandhi were held with great pomp under the auspices of Rayalu. Tirupati City Deputy Mayor RC Munikrishna, TDP State Executive Secretary Mabbu Deva Narayana Reddy, BJP District President Samanchi Srinivasulu and BJP leaders were present as the chief guests for the program. On this occasion, first the guests garlanded the portrait of Kasturba Gandhi and paid homage. Later, the guests cut a cake and then donated food and clothes to a thousand people. On this occasion, Trust Chairman P.C. Rayulu said that we celebrate Kasturba Gandhi's birth anniversary regularly every year. Kasturba Gandhi was a great woman who fought for the rights of Indians along with Gandhi in South Africa. She participated in the Quit India Movement against the British government in 1942 and participated in many social movements. She has gone down in history as a figure of sacrifice, courage and

service. He informed on this occasion that many service programs have been organized under the auspices of the Trust for the last 20 years, especially for women. City Mayor R.C. Munikrishna, speaking, praised the continuous service programs of Dr. P.C. Rayulu and said that on this occasion, on the occasion of Kasturba Gandhi Jayanti, he gave food and clothes to poor women and expressed his great heart. Telugu Desam Party State Executive Secretary Mabbu Devanarayana Reddy, speaking, praised the services of Kasturba Gandhi and also thanked Trust Chairman P. C. Rayulu praised the service programs. BJP District President Samanchi Srinivasulu said that he is very proud that Dr. P.C. Rayulu is a person from our region. He said that for the last 20 years, he has been continuously providing service programs to the poor and weaker sections, especially women, through the trust. Today, on the occasion of Kasturba Gandhi Jayanti, he is very happy to participate in this program. Telugu Desam, BJP local leaders and Bandi Madhusudhan Reddy, Udayagiri Krishnamurthy, Umapati, and office staff participated in the program.

" FROM PHULE TO AMBEDKAR- A LEGACY OF SACRIFICE MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AND HONORED



— Putta Madhukar, Former "Legislator." "P.S. ASHOKAN"INDIAN CHRONICLE"MANTHANI"12-4-2025."Former Manthani MLA Putta Madhukar stated that understanding the struggles and sacrifices of social reformers who dedicated their lives to the upliftment of oppressed communities is essential to shaping a just and equitable future. Speaking on the occasion of Mahatma Jyotirao Phule's birth anniversary in Manthani, he paid floral tributes to Phule's statue and took an "Inspiration Pledge" along with local leaders, vowing to spread the values and ideals of legendary reformers across villages."He emphasized that until the thoughts and ideologies of great leaders are properly understood and internalized, the fight for social justice will continue. This year's pledge, being observed until Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14, involves participants wearing a symbolic dress code to raise awareness among the people. What began last year with 15 participants has now doubled, and Madhukar expressed hope that it will continue to grow in the coming years."He described Mahatma Jyotirao Phule as a pioneer of education for the Backward Classes, SCs, STs, and minorities—

communities long denied access to literacy. He praised Phule for sacrificing personal comforts for social good, even going so far as to decide against having his own children so that he and his wife Savitribai could dedicate their lives to educating the children of the nation."Madhukar also highlighted the sacrifices of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, who continued to fight for the rights of marginalized communities even in the face of personal loss. He stressed that if we fail to learn from the lives of revolutionary leaders like Ambedkar, Chakali Ailamma, Komaram Bheem, and Jagjivan Ram, we risk remaining trapped in cycles of social slavery, and future generations of Bahunians will continue to be deprived of opportunities."He criticized current governance in the Manthani constituency, pointing out that while some live in luxury, the vast majority still suffer in poverty and substandard living conditions. According to him, this is the result of systemic neglect by those in power. The lack of understanding of the Constitution and ignorance about visionary leadership, he said, is leading to social setbacks and exploitation."Although Ambedkar gave every citizen the right to vote, Madhukar lamented that elections have become a game of money and manipulation, where political parties buy votes with cash, stripping the democratic process of its true meaning. He called for a new wave of leaders who can make history in the same spirit with which Telangana was won through struggle."He also condemned the current Congress government in Telangana for imposing police rule under the guise of democracy, particularly during the commemorative month honoring great reformers. Instead of celebrating their legacy, he said, attempts are being made to suppress their remembrance."Referring to false accusations and the misuse of police power, Madhukar claimed that even peaceful protests for basic rights are being met with criminal cases. He questioned Rahul Gandhi's ongoing "Save the Constitution" campaign, asking why such constitutional violations in Manthani are being ignored. He accused local MLAs of bypassing constitutional principles and misusing authority to file cases against citizens unjustly."Madhukar described these developments as a direct threat to democracy and said the current situation mirrors the oppressive conditions that existed before the formation of Telangana. He asserted that the voices of opposition leaders are being stifled and that governance is being run without any real understanding of democratic values or constitutional ethics."He urged Rahul Gandhi to recognize the constitutional crisis unfolding in Manthani and pledged to continue his struggle to uphold the value of the vote, as envisioned by Dr. Ambedkar. Finally, he appealed to those who have taken the inspiration pledge to go door to door, dressed in symbolic attire, and spread awareness about the thoughts, values, and sacrifices of India's great reformers.

Rs. 6.60cr WORTH CROWNS DONATED



April 11,Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema coordinator"“The Chief of Penna Cement P Pratap Reddy along with his family donated three gold crowns on Friday."“The precious stones studded gold crowns weighing 07 kilos and worth around Rs. 6.60cr were presented

and after performing pujas were decorated to the main deities of Sri Sitarama Lakshmana in the sanctum sanctorum."“TTD Chairman BR Naidu and the EO J Syamala Rao honored the family members of Penna Cement "TTD officials and other devotees were also present.

News on the death of 100 cows in TTD is a fake



April 11, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator"“The news being spread by a few people on social media that nearly 100 cows have died in TTD Goshalas in the last three months is completely fake and is void from truth."“The pictures of dead cows referred were not related to TTD cowsheds and TTD seriously condemns this false propaganda that is being spread by a few people with malicious intention and thereby hurting the sentiments of devotees."“TTD appeals to devotees not to believe in such false propaganda.



Cyberabad Police Recover 1060 Stolen and Lost Mobile Phones Worth 3.18 Crore in 45 Days



Stolen Mobile Phones Handed Over to Respective Owners"“Cyberabad April 11 Indian Chronicle Under the supervision of DCP Crimes L.C. Naik, the CCS, IT Cell, and Social Media teams of Cyberabad Police successfully completed the 6th phase of mobile phone recovery. In the last 45 days, they traced and recovered 1,060 stolen and lost mobile phones using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal. The recovered phones, worth ₹3.18 crore, were handed over to their rightful owners today (11.04.2025) at the Cyberabad Commissioner Office."“The DCP emphasized, Mobile phones play a vital role in our daily lives, containing important information and cherished memories. Thieves are relentless, so the police must be equally persistent in their recovery efforts. Despite many people being educated, few are aware of how to prevent stolen mobiles from being misused. Installing CCTV cameras in your colonies and community areas is highly beneficial for ensuring safety and security."“He urged the public to report lost mobile phones either at their nearest police station or directly through the CEIR portal, which is accessible online across all States and Union Territories. He highlighted that using the CEIR portal helps prevent the misuse of stolen phones and facilitates their swift recovery."“During the event, DCP Crimes shared the zone-wise recovery details CCS Madhapur recovered 245 phones, CCS



Balanagar 225, CCS Medchal 200, CCS Rajendranagar 205, and CCS Shamshabad 185. The recipients expressed their happiness and thanked the police for their prompt and efficient action."“One of the recipients shared her experience, saying, "Two months ago, I had gone to the Kukatpally market early in the morning, where I lost my mobile phone. At the time, I was sure I would never get it back. I reported the loss at the nearest police station, and to my surprise, the Cyberabad Police swiftly recovered it and returned it to me. I am truly grateful to the Cyberabad Police for their remarkable efforts."“Another recipient shared, "I lost my mobile phone two months ago while returning home after dropping my child at school. The police received me politely and assured me they would try to recover it. Soon after, they informed me that my phone had been found and would be returned. I am truly grateful to the Cyberabad Police for their quick response."“DCP Crimes L.C.Naik, also commended the efforts of CCS ACP K. Shashank Reddy, IT Cell Inspector Anjaneyulu, Madhapur CCS Inspector Sanjeev, Rajendranagar CCS Inspector Prasanth, Shamshabad CCS Inspector Pavan, Balanagar CCS Inspector Raju, Medchal CCS Inspector Dalinaidu, Social Media SI Shashidhar, along with the ASIs, Head Constables, Women Police Constables, IT Cell team, and CCS team for their outstanding work in recovering the mobile phones.

New inauguration ceremonies at Sri Padmagiri Balagnana Dandayudhapani Swamy Temple.



"April 11,Indian Chronicle Rayalaseema co-ordinator"“Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani expressed his happiness that the temple development programs are being carried out only with the grace of Sri Padmagiri Balagyan Dandayudhapani Swamy."Chandragiri MLA Pulivarthi Nani and his wife inaugurated the newly constructed Kalyana Mandapam, Kalyana Katta and Chairman's Office in the premises of Sri Padmagiri Balagyan Dandayudhapani Swamy Temple in Thanapalli village of Tirupati Rural Mandal on Friday."

MLA Pulivarthi Nani and his wife, who had earlier visited the temple, were warmly welcomed by the temple priests and committee members with a Poornakumbha." Later, they participated in a special puja organized at the Sri Padmagiri Balagyan Dandayudhapani Swamy Temple. After visiting the Swamy, they received the blessings of the Swamy and received the Vedic blessings of the Vedic scholars. Speaking on the occasion, Pulivarthi Nani clarified that the temple development programs were possible only with the grace of the Swamy, as the blessings of Sri Padmagiri Balagyan Dandayudhapani Swamy were desired by the people. Temple staff, priests, leaders and activists of the coalition government participated in this program.



News on the death of 100 cows in TTD is a fake

Tirupati, April 11 (NSS): The news being spread by a few people on social media that nearly 100 cows have died in TTD Goshalas in the last three months is completely fake and is void from truth.

Ajit Pawar to Eknath Shinde to Devendra Fadnavis: How file movement in Maharashtra govt remained same despite role changes



GNS News Agency, April 11

Following leadership change in the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra from Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde to the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, the route for file movement has been amended, as per a recent government circular. However, Fadnavis, who was deputy chief minister in the previous government, has remained the last person to re-view the files before approval. Under the previous government led by Shinde, files were sent from the desk of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to the chief minister's desk, and then they were sent to Fadnavis. With Fadnavis now serving as the chief minister, this process has been amended.

On March 18, Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik issued a

circular which stated, "...and now revised orders are being issued as all the matters specified in the Second Schedule of the Maharashtra Government Rules of Procedure should be submitted to the Hon. Chief Minister for approval through the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister (Urban Development, Housing) after the Hon. Deputy Chief Minister and Minister (Finance)." This essentially means that a file will first go the desk of Deputy CM Pawar, who also holds the finance portfolio, as in the previous regime, and later to fellow Deputy CM Shinde, who also holds the urban development and housing portfolios. After this, it will be submitted to CM Fadnavis for final approval.

The Mahayuti alliance comprises the BJP, Shiv Sena and the NCP. By winning 132 seats in the 2024 Assembly polls, the BJP reaffirmed its status as leader of the coalition. The Shiv Sena and the NCP won 57 and 41 seats, respectively, in the 288-member Assembly.

The movement of files within an alliance government has always remained a key issue leading to checks and balances within the allies. With a three-party government in power and each department dependent on others for implementation of schemes, the smooth movement of files is of utmost importance. It avoids unnecessary friction and disputes within the allies. It also ensures that heads of all three parties are part of a major decision in the government and have scrutinised every aspect of it.

Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal discharged from hospital, says ‘our fight for MSP will continue’

GNS News Agency, April 11

Jagjit Singh Dallewal, the convenor of the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM, non-political), was discharged from Patiala's Park Hospital on Thursday morning and is headed to his village in Faridkot district, where he is likely to address farmers who have been protesting since March 20. Dallewal has been on an indefinite hunger strike since November 26 last year in connection with various farmers' demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops. "By lifting morchas from Khanauri and Shambhu borders, the Punjab government should not start believing that the farmers' protest is over. We will hold Kisan Mahapanchayats in all the districts, and the first one will be held in my village, Dallewal, today. Faslan da faisla taan kisan hi karega...MSP di ladai jari rahegi (Only the farmer will decide about the rates of crops...our fight for MSP will continue)," Dallewal said on Thursday, indicating that a fresh agitation led by his union, Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Sidhupur), is likely. "Sarkar aandolan ko ukhad sakti hai...mere dil ko nahi...aandolan phir se khada karenge (The government can uproot a protest, not my heart. We will rebuild our protest)," Dallewal, whose hunger strike entered the 137th day, said.

It has been more than a year since Dallewal returned to his village. He has been camping at the Khanauri border since February 13, 2024, and visited the Faridkot revenue department on November 25, 2024, to transfer his agricultural land in the name of his son, daughter-in-law and grandson before sitting on the hunger strike. The Bhartiya Kisan Union (Ekta-Sidhupur) has already announced a Kisan Mahapanchayat schedule from April 3-April 11 in various parts of Punjab. Dallewal himself will be addressing the



farmers. "Though all the Kisan Mahapanchayats will be organised by BKU Sidhupur, all the constituents of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM, non-political) and Kisan Mazdoor Morcha (KMM) will be taking part in it," Sukhjith Singh Hardojhande, president of Punjab Kisan Mazdoor Union, a constituent of SKM (non-political), said. "The leadership of SKM (non-political) and KMM will be meeting to discuss the next course of action," he added. The Kisan Mahapanchayats will be held at Dallewal village in Faridkot district on April 3, Ferozepur and Patiala on April 4 and 5, followed by Fatehgarh Sahib on April 6, and Barnala, Muktsar, Fazilka, Amritsar and Mansa on April 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, respectively.

Vulnerable witness deposition centre set up in Mumbai court: Who is a vulnerable witness? And how will the centre work?

GNS News Agency, April 11

A vulnerable witness deposition centre was set up at the Mumbai City Civil and Sessions Court on March 27, following directions from the Supreme Court that such centres be set up across district and subordinate courts in the country. Who are vulnerable witnesses, and why have such centres been set up? According to the Guidelines for Recording of Evidence of Vulnerable Witnesses, 2024, vulnerable witnesses include a child who has not completed 18 years of age, a child sexual abuse victim, sexual harassment and sexual assault victims, persons with disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, any witness suffering from mental illness as defined under the Mental Healthcare Act, 2017, any witness deemed to have a threat perception under the Witness Protection Scheme, 2018, or any other witness deemed to be vulnerable by a concerned court, including family courts, Juvenile Justice Board, civil and criminal courts or tribunals or forums. "The vulnerability of a witness may emerge from a range of circumstances which include, but are not limited to - nature of crime, threats and intimidation, fear of reprisal, age, developmental levels, gender identity, sexual minorities, ethnicity, religious identity, caste, physical and/or mental disability, lack of infrastructural support, language barriers, geographical location etc," the preamble of the guidelines states.

How will these centres be different from regular courtrooms?

Usually in a criminal court, an accused sits in an enclosure at the far end of the courtroom, and witnesses depose from the witness box, which is close to the bar, where lawyers make their submissions. In regular hearings, the victims can see the accused and vice-versa. When it comes to trials in sexual harassment, sexual abuse and child sexual abuse victims, there are safeguards in the criminal law, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. For instance, a child cannot be exposed to the accused at the time of recording of evidence. The accused has a right to a fair trial, too, hence, it should also be ensured that he is able to hear the statement and communicate with his advocate. Since the identity of the victim is to be protected in these cases, courts conduct in-camera proceedings that are not open to the public. The vulnerable witnesses deposition centres will cater not only to sexual abuse victims but also to others deemed vulnerable due to various circumstances.

The guidelines state that there should be a waiting area for such witnesses, where they can wait with their support persons and lawyers. Usually, victims have to wait in the corridors where they may face the accused or his families, which can cause trauma, fear or intimidation. It also recommends a safe passage into the centre from common areas of the court. The centre will have one-way mirrors to



ensure that they do not have to face the accused during their deposition. The witnesses may be permitted to depose, not necessarily while seated inside the witness box or the designated space for witnesses and can sit in a space comfortable for them. They may also be permitted to carry a comfort item and may be permitted access to support persons and testimonial aids, including translators and language interpreters. The guidelines also give various steps on how the evidence should be recorded, including giving time and sufficient breaks to the witnesses.

Why was a need felt to set up such centres?

In 2019, the Supreme Court was hearing an appeal filed by a rape victim seeking transfer of the criminal case against the perpetrator from Maharashtra's Thane district to a sessions court in Mumbai as she expressed concerns of not being able to depose freely. Considering her apprehensions, the Supreme Court directed the court in Thane to take necessary precautions, including police protection and in-camera recording of evidence. During her appeal, the court also took up the wider issue of the need to set up separate courtrooms for vulnerable witnesses. The Supreme Court then said that there have been prior judgments where the issue of providing a safe environment for victims has been discussed. Most of these discussions, however, were limited to the recording of evidence of victims of sexual abuse. In the 2019 case, the Supreme Court appointed an amicus curiae to facilitate suggestions on setting up centres, also referring to guidelines by the Delhi High Court for recording evidence of vulnerable witnesses. It was felt that vulnerable witnesses find their interaction with the legal process, especially the criminal justice process, particularly the courtroom experience 'intimidating'. Support persons working with victims of abuse often say that the victims end up facing 'secondary victimisation'. The term refers to victimisation that occurs not as a direct result of a criminal act but through the response of institutions and individuals to the victim. The centres and the guidelines are aimed at preventing this."

In 2025 ‘bird festival’ of Sundarban Tiger Reserve, watchers spot 154 species



GNS News Agency, April 11

The Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) has now also become a haven for birds. Recently, STR authorities made a report on the occasion of their third annual bird festival, which cites 154 sighted species of birds in the reserve — 12 of which are endangered. The festival, the first of which was in 2023, sees expert bird-watchers gather for two to four days in the forest area in January, and record birds. In 2023, 145 bird species were recorded. A total of 5,065 birds were seen. In 2024, 145 bird species were recorded, but 8,776 birds were spotted. In 2025, a total of 31,926 birds were recorded — with 51 migratory species and 103 resident species.

A senior STR official said, "Sundarban, the only mangrove tiger habitat, is an abode for avian biodiversity as well. Two important flyways overlap here, the Central Asian Flyway and the East Asia-Australasian Flyway. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is inundated under tidal influx on a daily basis, thereby creating various localized ecosystems and niches like the aquatic, shores, mudflats, and the mangrove forests." He said, "Sundarban is also a paradise for kingfisher birds. Pied Kingfisher, stork-billed kingfisher, black-

capped kingfisher, brown-winged kingfisher, collared kingfisher, common kingfisher and white-breasted kingfisher (which is the state bird of West Bengal) have nests in Sundarban areas. They eat fish, crab, shrimps, insects, and lizards which are easily available in these areas. Among these kingfishers, the Pied Kingfisher can hover like a helicopter."

According to the forest department's report, out of 154 bird species, 45 species of waders, mudflat birds and shore birds were recorded, and eight species of raptors, 91 species of forest birds, three species of waterfowls, and seven species of other birds were recorded. Chief Wild Life Warden of West Bengal Debal Roy said, "Sundarban is the resting point of the Central Asian Flyway and it is also the convergence area of the Central Asian Flyway and the East Asia-Australasian flyway. So here, huge bird diversity can be seen. However, it is a restricted place... We started to organise this festival so that every year at a particular time, at least bird-lovers can watch birds from the core area of Sundarban." About 12 species of threatened birds were spotted during the bird festival which are Eurasian curlew, brown-winged kingfisher, black-capped kingfisher, grey plover, lesser sand plover, terek sandpiper, common redshank, brown-headed gull, black-headed gull, common tern, lesser adjutant and osprey. In the core area of the Sundarban Tiger Reserve, 100 species of birds were recorded, while 90 were spotted in the buffer area of the reserve forest. Outside the protected area, 129 species of birds were seen by the bird-watchers. In the Matla forests of the Sundarbans, 108 species of birds were recorded, Kalas recorded 95 species, and Sajnekhali recorded 64 species (the lowest). In the National Park West area, 81 species were recorded, the National Park East area recorded 70 species, and the Basirhat area recorded 73 bird species.

From objective to analytical: How MPSC’s shift to descriptive format will affect State Services aspirants

GNS News Agency, April 11

Days after Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis reiterated that the State Services Mains examination will be in descriptive format from this year, the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) on March 18 issued the notification for the preliminary exam. In June 2022, the MPSC announced that it would switch from the existing objective pattern to a descriptive format for the State Services Mains examination, triggering protests from aspirants who sought more time to prepare for the new pattern. Consequently, a decision was made to postpone the descriptive pattern till 2025. Though there were renewed calls for further postponement, CM Fadnavis, told the Maharashtra Legislative Council on March 27 that the decision to hold the exam in descriptive format from this year was final.

"Although some coaching class operators have tried to confuse the students, there is no question of withdrawing it. Due to the descriptive method in MPSC, the students will be more capable of being successful in the Union Public Service Commission's (UPSC) Civil Services Examination," he said, adding that this change is necessary for the future of the aspirants. The date for the Mains examination, which is crucial for the recruitment to Group A and Group B posts in state administration, is yet to be released. As per the new changes, the MPSC Mains examination will have nine papers, instead of six, and will be of 1,750 marks, as against the previous 800. The marks obtained in two language papers of 300 marks each will no longer be included in the merit score. A candidate will have to score at least 25 per cent in each of the language papers (Marathi and English) to qualify for the merit score. There will be seven compulsory papers — one for essay, four for general studies and two from the optional subject. All these papers will be descriptive and will carry 250 marks each. The marks obtained in these will be considered for the final merit score. The MPSC State Services aspirants shared mixed reactions to The Indian Express on the upcoming changes in the Mains exam.

One among them, Vaishali Bolsure, welcomed the move, saying the descriptive format contains questions that emphasise to comment, elaborate, substantiate, and others. "This would help develop stronger analytical skills that are crucial for effective governance. Also, it will form a well-rounded personality that understands complex issues and requires to articulate solutions clearly," she said. "The intro-



duction of ethics papers (GS-IV) will help stress on core public service values like integrity, empathy, compassion, transparency and others may reduce corrupt practices in administration as well as help candidates prepare well for the civil services exam," said Chaitrali Mule, another applicant.

Rohit Narayankar, another aspirant, explained how the change could be an advantage for those candidates who found it difficult to transition from the MPSC State Services exam to UPSC Civil Services Exam (CSE). "From now, MPSC aspirants will be familiar with the CSE and they can appear for both exams in the same year, increasing their chances of getting through them. The descriptive pattern focuses on critical thinking abilities, as the questions demand different perspectives with justification of their arguments. And deeper analysis will encourage candidates to move beyond rote learning," Narayankar added. However, Dhanashree Landge feels that MPSC aspirants are used to objective-type questions, stressing facts and figures. Adapting to a fully descriptive format with analytical questions could be challenging, requiring time and effort to develop writing skills and exam strategy, Landge said. "Moreover, aspirants now need to start afresh with coaching specifically tailored to the CSE pattern. The syllabus is huge, and the study material is costly, too. I believe it will give a clear advantage to those preparing for the UPSC in the initial years after its implementation," added Landge. Rahul Mahale, a State Services aspirant, said, "Even candidates with a strong grasp of the subject matter will be at a disadvantageous position due to weak writing skills. As there will be pressure to present complex ideas clearly and concisely under time constraints."

MHADA to build 19,497 affordable houses in Maharashtra this fiscal; 5,199 to come up in Mumbai



GNS News Agency, April 11

The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) has outlined plans to construct 19,497 low-cost houses across key cities in the state, including 5,199 in Mumbai, during the 2025-26 financial year. As a part of its annual budget, MHADA has allocated Rs 9,202.76 crore for housing projects across its regional boards. According to MHADA officials, the approved budget for 2025-26 stands at Rs 15,951.23 crore, while the revised budget for 2024-25 was Rs 10,901.07 crore. The new housing units will be developed under MHADA's Mumbai, Pune, Konkan, Nashik, Amravati, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, and Nagpur boards. For Mumbai, MHADA has earmarked Rs 5,749.49 crore to build 5,199 houses, and Rs 2,800 crore for the redevelopment of Bombay Development Department's small, compact houses called BBP chawls in Worli, Naigaon, and Parel. Other projects include PMGP Colony redevelopment in Jogeshwari East for Rs 350 crore, Rs 205-crore Parigh Khadi project in Bandra West, and Rs 573-crore housing project in Siddharth Nagar, Goregaon. According to MHADA, additional allocations include Rs 57.50 crore for mill workers' housing and Rs 200 crore each for the Borivali Survey no. 160 project and the Sanjay Gandhi National Park rehabilitation

project. The authority said the Konkan board would construct 9,902 houses with a budget of Rs 1,408.85 crore, of which the key projects include 790 crore for the redevelopment of police housing in Vartak Nagar, Thane; Rs 115 crore for the Gothehar Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban); and Rs 33.85 crore for land development in Virar Bolinj. In Pune 1,836 affordable houses will be built at a cost of Rs 585.97 crore, while Nagpur will have 692 houses for Rs 1,009.33 crore. Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Nashik and Amravati will get an overall allocation of Rs 231.10 crore, Rs 86 crore, and Rs 65.96 crore respectively to build 1,608, 91 and 169 low cost houses. In Mumbai, major allocations include Rs 200 crore for the rehabilitation of Sanjay Gandhi National Park residents, Rs 177.79 crore for the Pahadi Goregaon project, Rs 50 crore for the Malvani slum improvement project, and Rs 85 crore for Magathane, Borivali. The Exar Borivali Coast Guard housing project has received Rs 30 crore, while Rs 20 crore has been set aside for hostel construction in Jijamata Nagar, Parel. "MHADA's focus on large scale housing aims to address urban housing demand while supporting infrastructure development. The budget approvals give the way for housing availability, particularly in Mumbai and surrounding regions," said a MHADA spokesperson.

Organs of brain dead man from Mahabubnagar donated

Hyderabad: Relatives of a 35-year-old private employee Vereddy Anand Kumar, a resident of Kalwakurthy in Mahabubnagar, who was declared brain dead by doctors, have donated his organs to needy patients, as part of Jeevandan organ donation initiative. On March 30, he collapsed after complaining of giddiness and was taken to a hospital for emergency treatment.

Kancha Gachibowli row: Price discrepancy in land valuation blows lid off potential scam



GNS News Agency, April 11

Hyderabad: Fierce student protests and timely intervention of the courts that halted the felling of trees in Kancha Gachibowli may have done more than just save green cover — they may have inadvertently blown the lid off a potential multi-thousand crore land scam.A stunning discrepancy of Rs 9,200 crore in the valuation of 400 acres of prime government land has raised serious questions about whether the Congress-led government was quietly paving the way for one of the biggest land scams in recent memory under the guise of industrial development.The Kancha Gachibowli land issue has grabbed nation-wide attention after students opposed clearance of the green cover for auction of the land. But long before this caught public attention, the Congress government had transferred the land to the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TGILC) in June last year, with reported plans to develop it into an IT hub. But a close look at the government documents, which ‘Telangana Today’ has accessed, hints at a whopping Rs 9,200 crore difference in valuation, raising questions over the government’s motives.The contentious 400 acres were handed over by the then erstwhile Andhra Pradesh government to IMG Bharatha in 2003 for development of sports facilities, but were reclaimed in 2006 due to non-use. Following a lengthy legal battle of more than 16 years including 10 years of BRS regime, the Supreme Court in May 2024 declared that the Telangana government was the sole owner of the land.Here is how the latest episode unfolds. Shortly thereafter, the 400-acre land was alienated to the TGILC with the land value pegged at a rate of Rs 75 crore per acre. The total value of the land is estimated at Rs 30,000 crore and the corporation was tasked to develop it and auction plots “for IT and mixed-use”. As per the Government Order (GO 54) issued on June 26, 2024, the price of Rs 75 crore per acre, was fixed after considering the land values at places like Kokapet (where one acre fetched Rs 100 crore in auction). Officials say that the current government’s plan was to promote “walk-to-work” concept where both office, commercial and residential spaces at the 400-acre site.

But in the meanwhile, the government faced an acute financial crisis and it proposed to raise Rs 10,000 crore ini-

tially through market borrowings and later, auction the land in five phases where part of the sale proceedings was meant, to clear the loan and utilise the remaining amount for infrastructure development. The TGILC, is tasked to develop the land for industrial purposes and allot them at incentivised prices to attract investments. But surprisingly, for the first time, the corporation was asked to auction the lands.Subsequently, to raise the Rs 10,000 crore, the government hired valuers Parish Rao Panse and Rao Associates, to prepare a valuation report of the land. The company, in November 2024, estimated the price at Rs 52 crore per acre. This was completely inexplicable as the earlier registration price was Rs 75 crore per acre (as mentioned in June, 2024). Thus, the total worth of land was Rs 20,800 crore which the company termed as “fair market value” based on the market price of lands in surrounding areas. This was in contrast to the total value of Rs 30,000 crore done in June with a difference of Rs 9,200 crore.This Rs 9,200 crore mismatch has set off alarm bells, questioning the intent behind such divergent figures. If the market value truly was Rs 75 crore as the government order states, why is the valuation report for mortgaging set around Rs 52 crore? Who stands to gain from the understatement?Here comes the interesting part. The GO 54 claims that the price of Rs 75 crore was determined based on “recent auction sales made in Kokapet and other nearby villages” and realtors too admit that the TGILC could have easily fetched the same price for auctioning the Kancha Gachibowli land, despite realty market taking a hit under the Congress regime. It is not clear what prompted the valuation report to cite local registration benchmarks and market sources to arrive at the significantly lower Rs 52 crore figure.Sources disclose that the Request For Proposals (RFPs) invited by TGILC was to auction the land in a phased manner with at least 100 acres in the first phase. While the undervaluation of the land itself raised numerous suspicions, sources pointed fingers at power-that-be, alleging that this discrepancy was not accidental, but a deliberate ploy to engineer a backdoor windfall by undervaluing public land.It is learnt that a major pharma-cum-real estate company had already been sounded to buy land in the first phase at reduced prices as part of a closed-door deal.“Assuming that even if the said 100 acre is auctioned at Rs 60 crore per acre, (while the actual value is Rs 75 crore per acre), the buyer would get benefitted by at least Rs 15 crore per acre, totalling to Rs 1,500 crore profit. Then, if the prices are raised for the auction of land in second phase, the land bought earlier would also get enhanced value and it would be a windfall deal for those who bought in first phase,” sources explained.Unless a clear official explanation reconciling both the GO and the valuation report is given, the perception of foul play will only deepen. The glaring valuation mismatch cannot be brushed aside as a clerical oversight — it reeks of a well-orchestrated land scam cloaked in official sanction.

Farmers leave tomatoes in fields as price drops to 2 a kg

GNS News Agency, April 11

Summer is the time when most fruits and vegetables get expensive. But in a twist of events, the price of tomatoes has crashed to as low as ₹2-₹5 per kg in Kolar district, which is a major vegetable growing belt in Karnataka. This has led to many farmers leaving the tomatoes in the field, unharvested during the onset of summer.The farmers said the selling price of one box (15 kg) of tomatoes is anywhere between ₹30 to ₹200 (₹2 per kg to ₹13 per kg) at the Kolar Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC).

“To get the labour to harvest the tomatoes and then transport them, we have to incur a cost of ₹70 per box. If what we are getting in the market is only ₹30 - ₹50 per box, we will go through a loss of ₹20 per box. There is no point in harvesting it and taking it to the APMC where we also have to pay a commission,” said Venkat Reddy, a tomato farmer from Kolar district. In both Kolar and Chickballapur districts, the situation is similar. Tomatoes have sold at record highs in the last couple of years and the current prices are the lowest they have been in a long time. So, what has caused the price crash? Farmers say the prices have been falling for almost six months, more so in the last two months and now in the last few days have hit their lowest. Increased production, inflow from neighbouring states and reduced quality are also other reasons why the price has taken a hit.“The exports have almost stopped in recent days due to the reduced shelf life of our tomatoes. We previously used to send them to Pakistan, Bangladesh, and many other



South Asian countries. To send them to these countries from Kolar would take two to three days. But tomatoes are getting rotten in that period. The overall yield has not been high due to binghi (leaf curl disease) in the last five years,” said Nalini Gowda, president, Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha, Kolar district.While farmers are struggling with the crashed prices, the selling price of tomatoes in Bengaluru markets was around ₹25-₹30 per kg. The traders say there is a mismatch in the prices due to the logistical charges they have to incur. “Transport charges have only gone up now with the diesel prices. We have to pay by the load and irrespective of the prices of the commodity, we have to pay those transport charges. Plus, we have to keep at least a small profit margin. Hence, we are selling at ₹25 per kg,” said Narayana a vegetable vendor in Yelahanka.

Pune woman’s death: probe panel finds hospital guilty of denying immediate treatment



GNS News Agency, April 11

A state-appointed probe committee has found Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Pune in violation of emergency care norms after it allegedly denied admission to a pregnant woman, Tanisha Bhise, due to the inability to pay a ₹10 lakh deposit. Bhise later died at another hospital after giving birth to twins.A State-appointed probe committee has found Deenanath Mangeshkar Hospital in Pune in violation of emergency care norms after it allegedly denied admission to a pregnant woman, Tanisha Bhise, due to the family’s inability to pay a ₹10-lakh deposit. Bhise later died at another hospital after giving birth to twins.The four-member committee, headed by Dr. Radhakishan Pawar, Joint Director of the Maharashtra Health Department, submitted its report to Pune police on Monday.

“without informing the management” after spending five-and-a-half hours on the premises, the panel stated that the hospital failed to provide essential emergency care or arrange for a safe transfer, as required under law.The committee has recommended that the Charity Commissioner take appropriate action against the hospital for breaching statutory obligations. The case has drawn widespread public attention as Bhise was the wife of the personal secretary of BJP MLC Amit Gorkhe.Meanwhile, Dr. Sushrut Ghaisas, a consulting gynaecologist at the hospital, has resigned. Confirming the development, the hospital’s medical director, Dr. Dhananjay Kelkar, said Dr. Ghaisas cited intense public pressure and threat calls as reasons for stepping down.

Two booked for abusing, assaulting woman forest officer in Mancherial

Mancherial: Two persons were booked for allegedly abusing and assaulting a woman forest beat officer in the Jannaram forest division on Monday.Jannaram Sub-Inspector Gundeti Rajyavardhan said a case was registered against Azajuddin and Riyazuddin from Kawal village for abusing and thrashing FBO Rubina for thwarting the duo’s attempt to illegally mine and transport sand from a stream in Barhanpet beat on April 4, based on her complaint received on Monday. He added that investigations were taken up.Earlier, Rubina and Forest Section Officer Hanumantha Rao, while addressing pressmen in Jannaram mandal centre said staffers of the forest department were discharging duties in Kawal Tiger Reserve facing assaults and abuses from the timber and sand smugglers at regular intervals.

India overtakes Germany to become 3rd-largest generator of wind, solar power: Report



GNS News Agency, April 11

India became the world’s third-largest producer of electricity from wind and solar energy in 2024, overtaking Germany, to according to a new report published on Tuesday (April 8, 2025).The sixth edition of global energy think tank Ember’s Global Electricity Review said wind and solar together generated 15% of global electricity last year. India’s share stood at 10%.The report said low-carbon sources, including renewables and nuclear power, together provided 40.9% of the world’s electricity in 2024. This is the first time the 40% mark has been crossed since the 1940s.In India, clean sources accounted for 22% of the electricity generation. Hydropower contributed the most at 8%, while wind and solar together accounted for 10%.Globally, renewables led the growth in clean electricity, adding a record 858 terawatt hours (TWh) in 2024 — 49% more than the previous record in 2022.

Solar was the largest source of new electricity for the third straight year, adding 474 TWh in 2024. It was also the fastest-growing power source for the 20th year in a row.In just three years, global solar power generation doubled to 6.9% of the electricity mix.

India, too, saw a rapid increase in solar power. Solar contributed 7% of the country’s electricity in 2024, the generation doubling since 2021.India added 24 gigawatts (GW) of solar capacity in 2024, more than twice the addition in

India’s aviation arbitration cases will still fly off overseas

GNS News Agency, April 11

In 1934, India’s skies were not its own. Under British colonial rule, the Aircraft Act of 1934 governed aviation in India, a law that was designed not to foster a burgeoning aviation sector but to ensure British control over airspace. The idea of ordinary Indians flying in commercial aircraft seemed like a far-fetched dream. Designed to control air traffic for military and administrative purposes, the Act soon showed that it was ill-equipped to handle rapid technological advancements, soaring passenger numbers, and the rise of private sector participation in aviation. Despite India’s growing aviation industry over the decades, the legal framework has remained stuck in the past.

This legal inertia has led to significant challenges for India’s aviation sector. Private and public airlines faced bureaucratic delays that hampered their growth. New ventures struggled to enter the market due to the cumbersome licensing process. Air traffic management was inefficient, and even fundamental issues such as passenger compensation for flight delays or cancellations were not adequately addressed. It became painfully clear that the old laws were no longer fit for a nation whose aviation sector had evolved far beyond what the Aircraft Act anticipated.Fast forward to 2024, where India has moved beyond its colonial past. The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024 marks a new era, introducing reforms and replacing the 1934 Act, and promising a future where Indian aviation can truly take flight. However, there is one issue that remains: Will India’s new aviation reforms also help its arbitration system align with global norms? Or will commercial aviation disputes continue to move to Singapore, London and Paris?A forward step but still incomplete

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 is a breath of fresh air for India’s aviation industry. By streamlining licensing procedures and tackling the inefficiencies of air traffic management, it aims to position India as a global leader in aviation. Passengers also stand to benefit, with enhanced rights and compensation mechanisms for delays and cancellations.However, despite these impressive reforms, there is one critical aspect that remains unaddressed: arbitration. While the Adhiniyam overhauls much of India’s aviation infrastructure, it has done little to modernise the legal framework to resolve international disputes. So, with the lack of specialised aviation arbitration in India, will the country continue to lose aviation cases to global arbitration hubs?India’s current framework for commercial arbitration, governed by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act of 1996, does not address the unique needs of aviation disputes. These often involve specialised issues that range from technical matters to international treaties. India’s courts and arbitration centres lack the expertise to handle such complex cases effectively without a dedicated aviation arbitration framework. This gap in expertise and specialisation means that aviation companies that deal with issues such as cross-border regulations, airline contracts, and aviation safety standards are unlikely to look to India as a preferred venue for dispute resolution.

India versus overseas centresDespite establishing institutions such as the Delhi International Arbitration Centre and the Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration, India has yet to make a significant mark on the global arbitration stage. The Singapore International Arbitration Centre currently handles around 90% of corporate arbitration cases involving Indian parties, a statistic that highlights India’s failure to build the necessary institutional support for high-stakes arbitration. This lack of infrastructure for specialised sectors such as aviation is why its arbitration sector remains underdeveloped. Without a dedicated focus on aviation disputes, cases will continue to move abroad. The issue is not about laws alone but about the right people, the systems and the infrastructure to handle complex international disputes.If India is serious about becoming a global leader in aviation, it must make a concerted effort to develop a specialised aviation arbitration framework. This would involve establishing dedicated institutions with panels of experts in aviation law, technology and international treaties. It is not enough to have a generic arbitration framework. Aviation disputes require a deep understanding of the sector’s unique challenges.

India should also look to jurisdictions such as Singapore and the United Kingdom, which have built strong and specialised arbitration systems catering to the aviation sector. India needs to adopt a similar approach by creating specialised arbitration panels, creating incentives for private sector involvement and focusing on building expertise

2023, becoming the third-largest market after China and the US.It also recorded the fourth-largest increase in solar generation globally, adding 20 TWh.“Solar power has become the engine of the global energy transition,” said Phil MacDonald, Ember’s managing director. “Paired with battery storage, solar is set to be an unstoppable force. As the fastest-growing and largest source of new electricity, it is critical in meeting the world’s ever-increasing demand for electricity.”The report, released on Tuesday (April 8, 2025) along with an open dataset on electricity generation in 2024, covers 88 countries that account for 93% of global electricity demand and includes historic data for 215 countries.Ember’s Asia Programme Director Aditya Lolla said the clean energy transition in Asia is accelerating, led by record growth in solar and other renewables.

“With electricity demand set to rise across the region, a robust clean energy market is crucial for the continued expansion of clean power. This will not only strengthen energy security and economic resilience, but also help emerging countries access the benefits of a new clean energy market economy.”Neshwin Rodrigues, Senior Energy Analyst at Ember, said India has made notable progress in adopting renewables but now faces a major challenge: ensuring its clean generation grows fast enough to meet rising demand.Calling India a “solar superpower”, UN climate change chief Simon Stiell in February said that fully embracing the global clean energy boom would accelerate India’s economic rise.As part of its climate commitments or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) submitted to the UNFCCC in 2022, India aims to achieve 50% of its installed electric power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.In 2021, the country also announced a goal of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030.While this target was not officially included in India’s updated NDCs, it remains a key guiding reference in national energy planning documents, including the 14th National Electricity Plan.The report from Ember in February said India will fail to deploy 500 GW renewable energy capacity by 2030 if the funding is not increased by 20% annually from current levels.



in aviation law. Law schools can play an important role in this.This arbitration exodus is a procedural economic and policy failure that affects India’s global standing. Every case that moves abroad means lost revenue for Indian arbitrators, law firms and legal institutions. More importantly, it sends a troubling signal to foreign investors and aviation companies — that India lacks the confidence and the infrastructure to handle high-stakes disputes. However, with a robust aviation arbitration system, India could attract more aviation businesses, increasing investments, economic growth and having a more substantial global aviation presence.India must ensure neutrality in arbitrator appointments. The government should appoint arbitrators only through mutual agreement or by an independent arbitration body. This is standard practice in leading arbitration hubs, and India must follow suit if it wants to be taken seriously. Further, India must reduce judicial and executive interference in arbitration. Indian arbitration awards often get dragged into long court battles. A stable and predictable legal environment is essential if India wants to attract more arbitration cases.

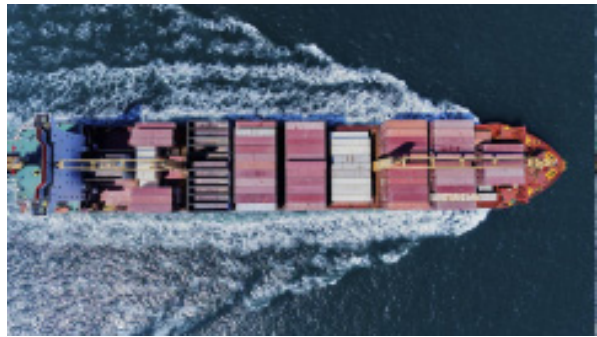
Key areas to focus onThe path forward is clear: India must prioritise neutrality, transparency, and institutional strength. It must align itself with the best global practices and eliminate provisions that create a perception of bias. The Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam 2024 is a landmark step but remains incomplete without arbitration reform. The Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 provides a general framework, but aviation disputes demand specialised expertise.Unless India builds a dedicated aviation arbitration ecosystem with expert arbitrators, specialised institutions, and global credibility, disputes will keep flying off abroad, and investments may follow suit. The time for reform is now.G.S. Bajpai is Vice Chancellor, National Law University Delhi. Garima Tiwari is Associate Professor, National Law University Delhi. Shrawani Shagun is Senior Research Fellow, National Law University Delhi. The views expressed are personal

Dentists demand establishment of dental departments in all Govt medical colleges

Hyderabad: Students pursuing Bachelor and Masters in Dental Surgery (BDS) and (MDS) and senior dental surgeons urged the State government to create dental departments and appoint qualified manpower in all the government medical colleges across Telangana.

Except for Gandhi Hospital and Osmania Medical College, none of the other tertiary medical colleges in the State have dedicated dental teaching and treatment departments. As a result, patients who cannot afford treatment at private dental care facilities, are forced to come to Hyderabad for treatment at Government Dental College, Afzalgunj.On Tuesday, members of All India Dental Students and Surgeons Association (AIDSA) met the Director of Medical Education (DME) and submitted a memorandum, urging the State government to establish exclusive dental departments in medical colleges as mandated under National Medical Commission (NMC) guidelines.As per the guidelines, every medical college with an intake of 100 MBBS students must have a dedicated department of Dentistry with at least one Professor, Associate Professor, Assistant Professor, Junior Resident and four Dental Technicians.“At present, Telangana has 38 government medical colleges and we urge the government to establish fully functional dental units as per NMC guidelines,” the AIDSA said.

China to ‘fight to the end’ as trade war with US escalates following Trump’s threat of additional 50% tariff



GNS News Agency, April 11

China threatened Tuesday (April 8, 2025) to take countermeasures against the United States "to safeguard its own rights and interests" in response to President Donald Trump's threat of an additional 50% tariff on Chinese imports. The Commerce Ministry statement said the U.S.'s imposition of "so-called 'reciprocal tariffs'" on China is "completely groundless and is a typical unilateral bullying practice." China has taken retaliatory tariffs and the ministry hinted more may be coming. "The countermeasures China has taken are aimed at safeguarding its sovereignty, security and development interests, and maintaining the normal international trade order. They are completely legitimate," the ministry said. "The U.S. threat to escalate tariffs on China is a mistake on top of a mistake and once again exposes the blackmailing nature of the US. China will never accept this. If the US insists on its own way, China will fight to the end." Mr. Trump threatened the additional tariffs on China on Monday, raising fresh concerns that his drive to rebalance the global economy could intensify a financially destructive trade war. Stock markets from Tokyo to New York have become more unstable as the tariff war worsens. Mr. Trump's threat came after China said it would retaliate against U.S. tariffs he announced last week.

"If China does not withdraw its 34% increase above

their already long term trading abuses by tomorrow, April 8th, 2025, the United States will impose ADDITIONAL Tariffs on China of 50%, effective April 9th," Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social. "Additionally, all talks with China concerning their requested meetings with us will be terminated!" If Mr. Trump implements his new tariffs on Chinese products, U.S. tariffs on Chinese goods would reach a combined 104%. The new taxes would be on top of the 20% tariffs announced as punishment for fentanyl trafficking and his separate 34% tariffs announced last week. Not only could that increase prices for American consumers, it could also give China an incentive to flood other countries with cheaper goods and seek deeper relationships with other trading partners, particularly the European Union. Trump frequently bragged about stock market gains during his first term, and the threat of losses on Wall Street was viewed as a potential guardrail on risky economic policies in his second term. But that hasn't been the case, and Trump has described days of financial pain as necessary.

"I don't mind going through it because I see a beautiful picture at the end," he said. Mr. Trump's officials have frequently appeared on television to make the case for his policies, but none of their explanations has calmed the markets. The only improvement came from a false report that top economic adviser Kevin Hassett said Mr. Trump was considering a pause on all tariffs except for China. Stock prices spiked before the White House denied it was true by calling the post "fake news." China is one of the U.S.'s top trading partners, especially for consumer goods, and the tariffs — essentially a tax on imports paid by U.S. companies — will eventually be passed on to the consumer. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell warned Friday that the tariffs could increase inflation, and he said, "There's a lot of waiting and seeing going on, including by us," before any decisions would be made. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the European Union would focus on trade with other countries besides the United States, saying there are "vast opportunities" elsewhere.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirms for first time that Ukrainian troops active in Russia’s Belgorod region

GNS News Agency, April 11

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy confirmed for the first time on Monday (April 7, 2025) that Ukrainian troops have been active in Russia's Belgorod region as they seek to protect Ukrainian towns near the border. Ukrainian troops remain in parts of the neighbouring Russian region of Kursk eight months after a cross-border incursion, though Russian forces have recaptured much lost territory. In his nightly video address, Mr. Zelenskyy said Ukraine's top commander, Oleksandr Syrskiy, had presented a report "on the front line, our presence in the Kursk region and our presence in the Belgorod region."

"We continue active operations in the enemy's border areas and this is absolutely justified. The war must return to where it came from. Our main objective remains the same: to protect our land and our communities in the Sumy and Kharkiv regions from Russian occupiers." He later referred to operations in the area by Ukraine's 225th Assault Regiment and congratulated the unit for its performance. Zelenskyy repeated Kyiv's long-held contention that despite Russia's recapture of areas of Kursk in recent weeks, the operation was successful in that it drew Russian forces away from the war's main front line in Ukraine's Donetsk region. "Due to the entire Kursk operation, we have managed to reduce pressure on other front-line sectors, particularly in Donetsk region," he said.



The president last month referred obliquely to "certain steps" undertaken by Ukraine's military in Russia "a little below the Kursk region", implicitly suggesting a presence in Belgorod region. Russian military bloggers had reported battles in Belgorod region between Russian and Ukrainian troops. On Sunday, Russia said its troops had seized the village of Basivka in Ukraine's northeastern Sumy region - opposite Kursk -- and were battering Ukrainian forces in different settlements. Russian President Vladimir Putin has repeatedly suggested that Russian forces carve out a buffer zone along the border. A Ukrainian military spokesperson issued a new denial on Monday that Basivka was in Russian hands.

Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia carried out most executions in 2024 as global figures surge to highest in 9 years

GNS News Agency, April 11

The number of people known to have been executed last year was the highest in almost a decade, with Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia responsible for most executions, Amnesty International said on Tuesday (April 8, 2025). A total of 1,518 executions were recorded worldwide in 2024, the most since 2015 when 1,634 people were killed, the rights group said in its annual report on death sentences. The figures represent a 32% increase in known executions compared to 2023. They do not include thousands of people believed to have been executed in China -- the world's leading executioner -- as well as in North Korea and Vietnam, Amnesty said. "The death penalty is an abhorrent crime with no place in today's world," said Amnesty's secretary-general, Agnes Callamard. The non-governmental organisation found that for the second year in a row the number of countries executing citizens remained the lowest on record at 15.

It said that Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia were responsible for 91% of known executions last year, with increases in death sentences in all three countries spurring the global rise. "While secrecy continued to shroud scrutiny in some countries that we believe are responsible for thousands of executions, it's evident that states that retain the death penalty are an isolated minority," added Callamard. Iran alone accounted for 64% of all known executions, executing at least 972 people, up more than 100 on the previous year. Saudi Arabia, where beheading was used, doubled its yearly total from 172 to at least 345, while Iraq almost quadrupled its executions from at least 16 to at least 63, Amnesty said. The rights group said that some states were "weaponising" the death penalty against protesters and ethnic groups. It said Iran "persisted" in its use of death sentences to punish participants in the "Women, Life, Freedom" protests of 2022, including for a youngster with a mental disability. Saudi Arabia continued to use the death penalty to silence political dissent and punish members of its Shiite minority, Amnesty added. "Those who dare challenge authorities have faced the most cruel of punishments, particularly in Iran and Saudi Arabia, with the death penalty used to silence those brave enough to speak out," said Callamard. The group also noted that 25 people were executed in the United States last year, up from one in 2023. Amnesty said that drug-related offences accounted for more than 40 percent of all executions globally, noting they were "prevalent" in China, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Singapore. It added that humanitarian law deems such executions unlawful because drug offences should not be deemed one of the "most serious crimes". The NGO warned that the Maldives, Nigeria and Tonga are considering intro-



ducing capital punishment for drug-related offences. It added the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burkina Faso have announced plans to bring back executions for ordinary crimes. At present 145 nations have either outlawed the death penalty or no longer use it, according to the rights group.

South Korea to hold snap presidential election on June 3

GNS News Agency, April 11

South Korea's government has approved June 3 as the date for a snap presidential election, following the removal from office of Yoon Suk Yeol last week over his short-lived declaration of martial law. The cabinet agreed on the date on Tuesday (April 8, 2025) after discussions with the National Election Commission since it needed to approve a public holiday for the election. Mr. Yoon was removed by the Constitutional Court for violating his official duty by issuing the martial law decree on December 3 and mobilising troops in an attempt to halt parliamentary proceedings. The law requires a new presidential election within 60 days if the position becomes vacant. South Korea has faced months of political turmoil since Mr. Yoon stunned the country by declaring martial law, triggering his impeachment by parliament and the impeachment of acting leader Prime Minister Han Duck-soo. Mr. Han's impeachment was later overturned by the Constitutional Court and he will continue in the role of acting president until the election. The power vacuum at the top of South Korea's government has overshadowed Seoul's efforts to deal with the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump at a time of spiralling U.S. tariffs and slowing growth in Asia's fourth-largest economy.

Trump plans to fine migrants \$998 a day for failing to leave after deportation order



GNS News Agency, April 11

WASHINGTON, The Trump administration plans to fine migrants under deportation orders up to \$998 a day if they fail to leave the United States and to seize their property if they do not pay, according to documents reviewed by Reuters. That was enforced for the first time in 2018, during President Donald Trump's first term in office. The Trump administration plans to apply the penalties retroactively for up to five years, which could result in fines of more than \$1 million, a senior Trump official said, requesting anonymity to discuss non-public plans.

The Trump administration is also considering seizing the property of immigrants who do not pay the fines, according to government emails reviewed by Reuters. In response to questions from Reuters, U.S. Department of Homeland Security spokesperson Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement that immigrants in the U.S. illegally should use a mobile app formerly known as CBP One - rebranded as CBP Home under Trump - to "self deport and leave the country now." "If they don't, they will face the consequences," McLaughlin said. "This includes a fine of \$998 per day for every day that the illegal alien overstayed their final deportation order." Emails reviewed by Reuters show the White House has pressed U.S. Customs and Border Protection to handle the issue of penalties, property seizures for migrants who don't pay, and the sale of their assets. The De-

partment of Justice's civil asset forfeiture division could be another option for the seizures, one email said. President Donald Trump kicked off a sweeping immigration crackdown after taking office in January, testing the bounds of U.S. law to increase arrests and deportations. The planned fines target the roughly 1.4 million migrants who have been ordered removed by an immigration judge.

Trump invoked the 1996 law during his first term to levy fines of hundreds of thousands of dollars against nine migrants seeking sanctuary in churches. The administration withdrew the penalties, but then proceeded with smaller fines of about \$60,000 per person against at least four of the migrants, according to court records. Scott Shuchart, a top ICE policy official under Biden, said migrants and their supporters could challenge the fines in court but that the threat alone could have a chilling effect. The proposed asset seizures against the migrants who fail to comply with final deportation orders could impact U.S. citizens or permanent residents in their households. The immigration advocacy group FWD.us estimates that some 10 million migrants with no legal status or temporary protections are living with U.S. citizens or permanent residents in what are known as "mixed status households." The steep fines could hit lower-income immigrants. An analysis of 2019 Census data by the non-partisan Migration Policy Institute 26% of households with unauthorized immigrants had incomes below the federal poverty line. Trump has said people with final deportation orders should be a priority for removal although many have families, jobs and established ties in the U.S. The White House National Security Council and Stephen Miller, deputy chief of staff for policy, have been pressing CBP to administer the fines and handle seizures, a CBP official wrote in a March 31 email reviewed by Reuters. But a CBP memo a day later, also reviewed by Reuters, argued for ICE to take on the task instead. The memo said that CBP's systems do not currently support this type of immigration fine and that upgrading it could lead to significant costs and implementation delays. The memo anticipated CBP would need at least 1,000 new paralegal specialists, up from the current staffing of 313. The start date for the fines remained unclear. DHS did not comment on Miller's involvement or the technical aspects of implementing the penalties.

EU border agency reviewing 12 cases of potential rights violations by Greece

ATHENS, GNS News Agency, April 11, The EU border agency said on Tuesday it was reviewing 12 cases of potential human rights violations by Greece, including some allegations migrants were pushed back across the frontier, a practice for which Athens has already been chastised in European court. Greece, for years a favoured gateway to Europe for migrants and refugees from the Middle East, Africa and Asia, has been accused by human rights groups of forcefully returning asylum-seekers on its sea and land borders, a practice it denies. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here.

"There are currently 12 active Serious Incident Reports related to Greece under review by the Fundamental Rights Office. Each is being examined thoroughly," Chris Borowski, spokesperson for EU border agency Frontex, said on Tuesday. He said some of the cases referred to allegations of illegal pushbacks at the border but gave no further details of the circumstances. Two of the incidents occurred in 2025, nine in 2024 and one in 2023. Officials at the Greek coast guard and police, responsible for the sea and land borders, were not immediately available to respond to questions about the 12 cases. A coast guard official said staff operate "with a high sense of responsibility, and with full respect for human lives and human rights". Of human rights by Greece over a case at its land border with Turkey, referring in its ruling to a "systematic practice of pushbacks".

Any disciplinary action over rights violations would be up to the Greek national authorities. Frontex, which has also



been accused by rights groups in the past of complicity in illegal pushbacks, is undergoing reforms and has warned states including Greece that if they fail to report potential rights violations co-financing may be withheld. Greece's coast guard has rescued over 250,000 people since 2015 when the country was at the frontline of Europe's migration crisis. Thousands of others have died at sea, according to the U.N refugee agency. Frontex's financing of Greek maritime operations was cut last year due to broader operational budget constraints but the agency still engages with Greek authorities, insisting on reforms, said Borowski. "Frontex has changed how it engages with member states. We no longer supply resources unquestioningly," he said. "(We) insist on standards and expect action."

Pentagon's Hegseth to visit Panama Canal after Trump threatens to take it back

PANAMA CITY, GNS News Agency, April 11, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth is expected to get a close-up look at the Panama Canal on Tuesday, as he kicks off a rare visit to a Central American nation still unsettled by President Donald Trump's threats to take back the canal. Hegseth, the first U.S. defense secretary to visit in decades, arrives at a particularly delicate moment as Panama wrestles with deep U.S. concerns about Chinese commercial investments around the canal. The Reuters Tariff Watch newsletter is your daily guide to the latest global trade and tariff news. Sign up here. He is also visiting following reports that the Trump administration has requested options from the U.S. military to ensure access to the canal, which the United States built more than a century ago and handed over to Panama in 1999. Given Trump's tough rhetoric about retaking the canal, the stakes are high for Hegseth's visit. Panama will be watching for signs of the direction he wants to take the U.S.-Panama security relationship, and for the canal itself, along which the United States once had a network of military bases.

"On the whole, this hasn't been a winning issue for the United States in terms of public diplomacy in Panama," said Ryan Berg, director of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. Still, current and former U.S. officials and experts say the United States has found a willing partner in tackling Chinese influence in Panama's president, Jose Raul Mulino. In February, Mulino announced Panama's formal move to exit China's Belt and Road Initiative and he has aided Trump's crackdown on migrants. He has accepted deportation flights of non-Panamanians and worked to stem migration from South America by those crossing through his country's dangerous Darien jungle. Hegseth made no public remarks as he arrived in Panama late on Monday.

But he has enthusiastically backed Trump's southern-focused security agenda, by means such as dispatching U.S. troops to the U.S. border with Mexico and offering military aircraft for deportation flights. Trump has falsely claimed that China is operating the canal and that Chinese soldiers are present. But experts acknowledge U.S. security concerns, particularly regarding espionage, with an expansive Chinese commercial presence in Panama that also includes plans by Chinese firms to build a bridge over the canal. Last month, Trump celebrated a deal led by U.S. firm BlackRock to buy most of the \$22.8-billion ports business of Hong Kong conglomerate CK Hutchison, including its ports on either end of the Panama Canal. Trump said the



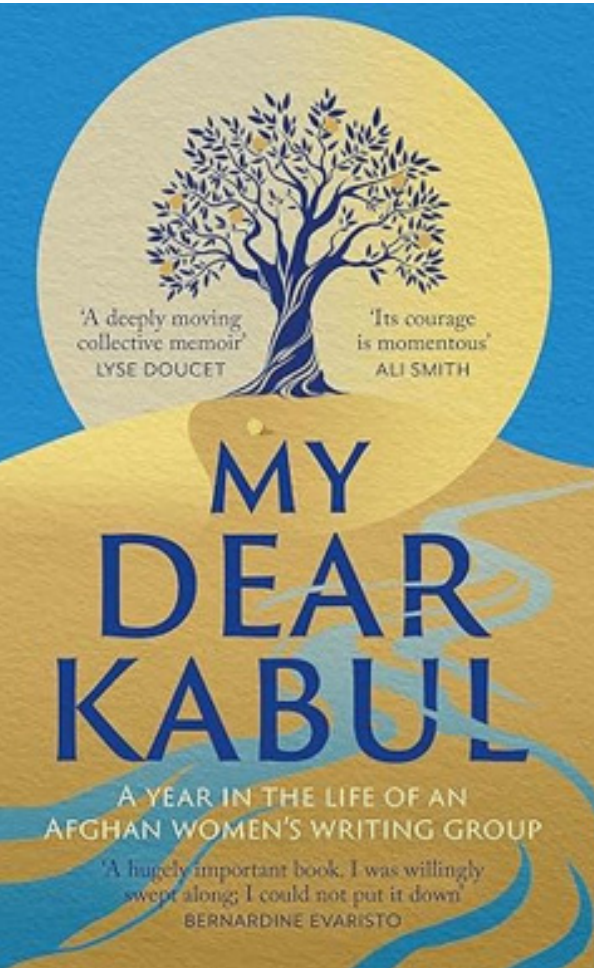
Hegseth, the first U.S. defense secretary to visit in decades, arrives at a particularly delicate moment as Panama wrestles with deep U.S. concerns about Chinese commercial investments around the canal.

purchase was an example of how the United States was "reclaiming" the canal.

But China has criticized it, with the market regulator saying it will carry out an antitrust review of the deal. Current and former U.S. officials say the Panama Canal would be critical for the passage of U.S. warships during any future conflict in Asia, since Navy vessels would transit from the Atlantic to the Pacific to support the war effort. Even without blocking the canal, China could have an enormous advantage by being able to surveil vessels passing through it.

Still, John Feeley, who was U.S. ambassador to Panama from 2015 to 2018, disputed the Trump administration's assertion that China's presence in Panama was a violation of the U.S.-Panama treaty. "What's not legitimate about the way Trump has gone about this is the bullying tactic that he's used, which is to claim that there has been a violation of the neutrality treaty. There hasn't been," Feeley said. Mulino has defended Panama's administration of the canal, saying it has been handled responsibly for world trade, including that of the United States, and that it "is, and will continue to be, Panamanian." More than 40% of U.S. container traffic, valued at roughly \$270 billion a year, transits the Panama Canal, accounting for more than two-thirds of vessels passing each day through the world's second-busiest interoceanic waterway.

Behind the veil: recounting the lives of Afghan women in books



The Taliban government's Morality Ministry in their November 2024 decree banned women from speaking to one another. They not only disallowed women from singing or reciting but also introduced a “vice and virtue” law that imposed sweeping behaviour codes, including the mandate that women's voices, like their bodies, should be “concealed” when outside their homes. This disturbing move even prompted Oscar-winner Meryl Streep to address the issue at a United Nations event, drawing a stark comparison by stating that “even a cat in the country has more freedom than the women.” In a recent move by the Taliban, the authorities on December 30 ordered the closing down of all national and foreign non-governmental groups in Afghanistan employing women, allegedly because they didn't wear the Islamic headscarf correctly. However, for centuries, Afghan women have displayed remarkable courage as their country endured invasions and upheaval.

Voices of heartbreakMy Dear Kabul (2024) is a vivid portrayal of a year in the life of an Afghan women's writing group, translated from Dari and Pashto by Parwana Fayyaz and Dr. Negeen Kargar. A group of 21 women writers came together in August 2021 as the Taliban closed in on Kabul. The various authors — a final-year university student, a lawyer, a teacher, and many others — joined a WhatsApp group to share their everyday experiences of horror, uncertainty, and despair.

What unfolds is a collective narration of brutality and heartbreak yet tinged with resilience and hope. Sadaf, a teacher, writes to Maryam, a law graduate from the University of Kabul: “I don't know who sold this country again. But I saw that some named it's price.” Her anguish is palpable as she confronts a reality where the President has fled, paving the way for the Taliban's return. Marie, another mem-

ber, in her plaintive observation writes, “The barbaric Taliban won't follow any rules,” encapsulating the shared fear of what the future holds. In The Bookseller of Kabul by Norwegian journalist Asne Seierstad, readers gain a profound understanding of the impact of Taliban rule on Afghan women's lives. Even after the Taliban's fall in the early 2000s and the establishment of democracy, women continued to live as second-class citizens. Seierstad, who spent months with the family of Sultan (a pseudonym for a bookseller in Kabul), poignantly recounts the stark differences in the lives of men, women, and children. Walking through the streets of Kabul in a burka, she describes: “Burka-women are like horses with blinkers; they can only look in one direction. Where the eye narrows, the grille stops, and thick material takes its place; another trick by the burka-inventor: a man must know what his wife is looking at.”

Unequal societyThe book also reflects on pivotal moments in Afghanistan's history, like in 1959, when then-Prime Minister Prince Daoud's wife appeared in a national daily without a burka, sparking a wave of women abandoning the purdah (veil). Women stepped out in long coats and hats, and by the 1970s, they were wearing skirts and working shoulder-to-shoulder with men in various professions.

Yet, Seierstad's account of early 2000s Kabul reveals the grim inequality that persisted within households. Behind four walls, women had little autonomy, with the man of the house reigning as the ultimate authority. While some may argue that Seierstad's perspective is shaped by a Western lens, the discomfort at the systemic denial of even the simplest joys of life to women based solely on gender is undeniable. The book also equally depicts the challenges faced by the men, often caught between ambition and duty, and battling a lack of opportunity in a broken economy. However, to explore the compelling history and enduring mystique of Afghanistan, one can turn to Shadow City: A Woman Walks Kabul by Taran N. Khan. In this deeply personal narrative, the Indian author recounts her experience of Kabul through a series of extended visits spanning eight years. Her journey captures a city in flux — taking tentative steps toward recovery from decades of conflict, only to spiral back into instability. Discovering Kabul on foot

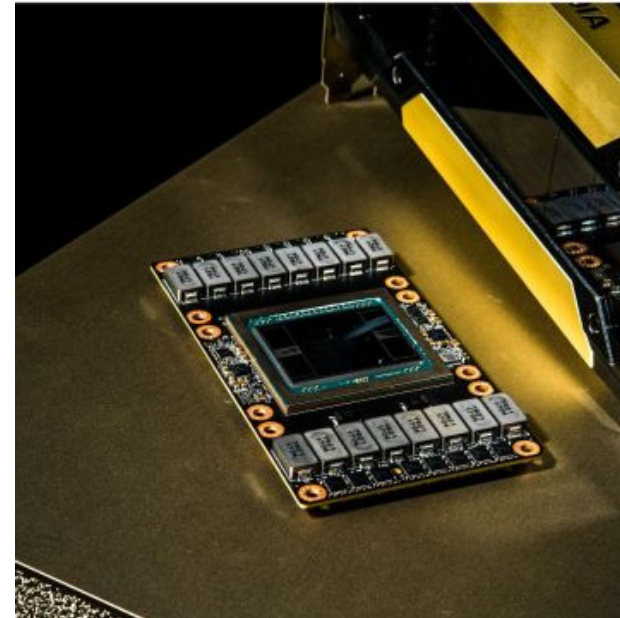
Arriving in Kabul five years after the Taliban's initial fall, the author navigates the city on foot, inviting readers to join her as she uncovers its layers. From the muddy paths leading to ancient Buddhist monasteries to the vibrant yet chaotic markets, she paints a vivid picture of Kabul's streets and its resilient spirit. Through bullet-pocked windows, she witnesses a city shaped by both history and hardship. Khan's narrative offers a sharp and heartfelt exploration of a nation trapped in a cycle of destruction and renewal, portraying Kabul as a place of both profound beauty and enduring tragedy. While all the books mentioned here are non-fiction, there are hidden gems like The Taliban Cricket Club by Timeri N. Murari, which weaves a fictional yet hard-hitting narrative about the life of a woman striving to survive atrocities by the Taliban and ultimately escape her beloved country. In times like these, when every day brings a new challenge and another freedom is stripped away, forcing women to the margins of life, perhaps Afghanistan needs its own Svetlana Alexievich. The Nobel laureate, in her moving work The Unwomonly Face of War, gave voice to over 200 women whose bravery and sacrifices during World War II were long forgotten. As we begin a new chapter in the new year, it's crucial to keep reading and remembering the stories of Afghan women who continue to fight, endure, and resist in the face of unimaginable hardship. Let us hold on to the message of Afghan sprinter Kimia Yousofi, who held a placard after completing the women's 100m at the Paris 2024 Olympics: “Education, Sport, Our Right.”

New US AI export rule excludes India from benefits of closest allies. What could be the impact?

Days before demitting office, the Joe Biden administration has released an expansive regulatory framework on the export of artificial intelligence (AI) hardware such as graphics processing units (GPUs), which could have far-reaching consequences for India's AI ambitions. In an “interim final rule”, titled ‘Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion,’ the US government has proposed to create three tiers of countries with specific restrictions on the export of AI chips and GPUs for each. India is in the middle tier of this classification and will face some restrictions on the number of GPUs it can import from the United States. That could impact the ongoing process of procuring 10,000 GPUs to build up India's domestic AI computing capacity. The first tier, which includes 18 of the closest allies of the United States, has almost no export restrictions. The third tier has countries of concern to the US, to which the export of technology is all but prohibited. The rules seem intended to keep advanced chips and AI models under the control of the US and its closest allies. Their enforcement, however, will depend on the incoming administration of President Donald Trump. The three tiers of countries

TIER 1: The first tier comprises 18 of the closest allies of the US: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, and the United Kingdom. US companies can deploy as much computing power as they like in these countries, and the security requirements are relatively straightforward. TIER 2: The vast majority of countries in the world, including India, are in this category. These countries will face a limit on how much computing power they can import from American companies, unless that computing power is hosted in trusted and secure environments. There are caps on the levels of computing power that can go to each of these countries: roughly around 50,000 advanced AI chips through 2027, although that can double if the state reaches an agreement with the US. India is trying to procure 10,000 GPUs for its IndiaAI Mission, and it remains to be seen how this classification could impact large companies looking to build large AI data centres. Smaller firms are not likely to be impacted. TIER 3: Export of US technology to these countries — including Russia, China, Libya, North Korea etc. — will be almost prohibited.

Special provision for India, China Apart from this tiered classification, the law also envisions a special review called the General Validated End User. This list includes only two countries: India and China. Indian companies that get this authorisation can use the exported items for civilian and military purposes, but not for nuclear use. Chinese companies with this authorisation can only use the technology for civilian use. Nvidia's criticism of the rules Nvidia, which has a near monopoly on AI GPUs currently, has released a scathing statement against the AI diffusion rules. “In its last days in office, the Biden Administration seeks to undermine America's leadership with a 200+ page regulatory morass, drafted in secret and without proper legislative review,” the



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company said in a statement. “This sweeping overreach would impose bureaucratic control over how America's leading semiconductors, computers, systems, and even software are designed and marketed globally,” it said. The statement compared the difference in approach between the Biden and Trump administrations, contributing to the visible trend of tech companies seeking to reach out to the incoming President. “The first Trump Administration laid the foundation for America's current strength and success in AI, fostering an environment where US industry could compete and win on merit without compromising national security,” Nvidia said. “Rather than mitigate any threat, the new Biden rules would only weaken America's global competitiveness, undermining the innovation that has kept the US ahead.”

OYO's new policy may be at the cost of rights



Payal Kapadia's award-winning film All We Imagine As Light depicts the journey of a young couple, Anu and Shiaz, struggling to find a private space. They may be fictional, but their problem certainly is not. Across the country, young people in pre-marital relationships have long found it difficult to come by privacy. This issue is likely to be exacerbated by policies such as the one recently implemented by OYO. Last week, OYO announced that unmarried couples would be disallowed from accessing its partner hotels. The hotels have been given the discretion to implement this policy in accordance with local sensibilities. Going forward, all couples will be required to present ‘valid proof of relationship’ while checking in. Explaining the reason for its move, OYO stated that civil society groups and citizens had requested it to institute this rule.

Initially, the policy will apply only to hotels in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, but reports suggest that OYO may expand its application to other cities. Beyond the practicalities of providing ‘valid proof of relationship,’ it is clear that OYO is encouraging partner hotels to discriminate against customers based on their marital status. The burning question, however, is whether those adversely affected by this policy may find legal redress either in the Constitution or otherwise. In various decisions, the Supreme Court has recognised individuals' right to enter pre-marital relationships. In Shafin Jahan vs Asokan K.M. (2020), the court held that Article 21 of the Constitution includes the right of individuals to choose their partners ‘whether within or outside marriage’. Similarly, in Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India (2018), the court recognised the right of all individuals to physical, emotional, mental, and sexual companionship. Other decisions of the apex court have affirmed that the rights to privacy, dignity, and autonomy — emanating from Article 21 — mean that people have the freedom to engage in consensual, intimate, or sexual relationships and to cohabit with their partners if they choose. At their core, these decisions acknowledge the freedom to conduct oneself in a manner of one's choosing. For many unmarried couples, accessing hotel services is one way to exercise these rights. Individuals in pre-marital relationships apart, persons of different genders who are friends, colleagues, or cousins may also travel together and require OYO's services.

How India can become the world's leading startup ecosystem

India's startup ecosystem has witnessed extraordinary growth, transforming from a fledgling stage to becoming the world's third-largest hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. With over 1,30,000 recognised startups today — up from approximately 400 in 2015-16 — India's progress is remarkable. During this period, startup funding grew 15 times, the number of investors increased nine-fold, and the number of incubators rose seven-fold. This transformation owes much to India's robust digital public infrastructure, which has addressed pressing global challenges such as achieving Sustainable Development Goals, combating climate change, fostering financial inclusion, and improving agricultural productivity.

India stands at the threshold of a technological revolution, presenting immense opportunities in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), big data, energy transition, electric vehicles (EVs), quantum computing, genomics, 3D printing, robotics, drones, and space exploration. The government has actively fostered this progress through initiatives like the National Quantum Mission, India AI Mission, and Semiconductor Mission, alongside allocating Rs 1 lakh crore for research and development (R&D). Progressive policies have opened up new sectors, including space, geospatial technology, defence, and drones, encouraging startups to venture into cutting-edge domains. Realising the full potential of these advancements requires collaboration between policymakers, entrepreneurs, and educational institutions. Despite their success, Indian startups, particularly in deep tech sectors, face challenges in accessing patient capital. The Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS), launched in 2016, has been a game changer. With Rs 11,688 crore committed through 151 AIFs, it has catalysed a capital pool of Rs 81,000 crore, creating a significant multiplier effect. However, India needs a specialised fund of funds for deep tech startups that require long-term investments. Increasing domestic capital sources is also essential. Although Indian startups raised over \$12 billion in 2024, about 75 per cent of this funding came from international sources. Large domestic institutions like insurance companies and pension funds can allocate a portion of their surpluses to support startups, while family offices and businesses should take on more active roles as angel investors. Private equity (PE) and venture capital (VC) have significantly shaped India's startup ecosystem. Funding from these sources grew from \$19.7 billion in 2015 to a peak of \$77.07 billion in 2021, and in early 2024 alone, it stood at \$49.54 billion. Over 50 per cent of India's unicorns have been backed by PE and VC investments.

To ensure sustainability, domestic funds must grow and focus on long-term value creation. A shift toward profitability, quality over quantity, and more robust business models can help startups achieve sustainable growth. In designing Startup India, we prioritised avoiding excessive regulations that could hinder startups. India's startup ecosystem thrives on minimal regulatory interference, fostering innovation. However, recent incidents of corporate mismanagement in startups such as Byju's, Dunzo, and BharatPe have raised concerns. Startups must adopt self-regulation frameworks that emphasise accountability, transparency, and ethical conduct. This involves strong mentorship, professional boards, and sound financial management. Venture capitalists and angel investors play a vital role by ensuring governance and mentoring startups to balance growth with long-term stability.

India's premier educational institutions, including the IITs, IIMs, and IIITs, are integral to the startup ecosystem, producing skilled professionals and fostering innovation. To keep pace with emerging needs, curricula must address skill shortages in areas such as product development, data science, and AI-ML. Collaboration between academia and industry is vital to ensure that educational programmes align

Under the constitutional scheme, fundamental rights enshrined in Part III of the Constitution are ordinarily enforceable against the State and its instrumentalities, not against non-State actors. In other words, citizens may seek constitutional remedies from courts when the State infringes upon their fundamental rights but not when a private party hinders their exercise. This is because constitutional rights are generally thought to apply “vertically” (i.e., against the State) and not “horizontally” (i.e., between private individuals or entities). However, the Constitution contains three express provisions which depart from the traditional “vertical” mode of rights: Article 15(2) stipulates that no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, place of birth, or any of them, be prevented from accessing shops, public restaurants, hotels and places of public entertainment or using wells, tanks, bathing ghats, roads, and places of public resort funded by the State or dedicated to public use; Article 17 forbids the practice of untouchability; and Article 23 prohibits human trafficking and forced labour. In Kaushal Kishor vs State of Uttar Pradesh (2023), the Supreme Court travelled beyond this schema of horizontal rights by holding that the right under Article 21 could be enforced even against private parties.

While Article 15(2) would prevent OYO from denying its services to customers based on caste, religion, or the other grounds listed, it may not readily constitute a bar against discrimination on the ground of marital status. Separately, the effect of the decision in the Kaushal Kishor case remains to be seen — commentators have criticised it for being unclear, and in the absence of coherent and consistent jurisprudence on this subject, it is uncertain whether unmarried individuals can enforce their rights under Article 21 against OYO. Apart from constitutional rights and remedies, statutes may provide a model for the exercise of fundamental rights in transactions between private parties. While some enactments confer certain rights on women irrespective of marital status, the time may have come for lawmakers to enact an anti-discrimination law which protects individuals (regardless of their gender) against discrimination based on marital status, in the private sphere. The full and free exercise of our rights as citizens depends not only on State (in) action but on private actors — be it as a member of the public, a family unit, a business undertaking, or a corporation — creating the conditions for their exercise. This applies not only in the context of individuals in pre-marital relationships who may seek commercial services but also more broadly, say, to people who may wish to rent homes, who apply for employment in private establishments, or who make offers to purchase land — but are denied access on the basis of their marital status, caste, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or other attributes. The tyranny of the majority is often nowhere as evident as in the private sphere. An act may not meet with social approval but the Constitution guarantees our right to do it anyway. The law — regardless of the form it takes — must protect this right.



India stands at the threshold of a technological revolution, presenting immense opportunities in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning (ML), big data, energy transition, electric vehicles (EVs), quantum computing, genomics, 3D printing, robotics, drones, and space exploration

with market needs. Programmes for internships, apprenticeships, and recruitment can attract talent to startups and bridge existing skill gaps. As new technologies disrupt industries, regulators must adapt to the changing landscape. India's regulatory framework must balance innovation with oversight, enabling startups to thrive while mitigating risks associated with unregulated growth. Pro-innovation policies will be crucial in maintaining India's competitive edge. India produces approximately 24,000 PhD graduates annually, driving advancements in science and engineering. However, the country paid \$14.3 billion in IPR royalties in 2024, while earning only \$1.5 billion, highlighting a significant gap. Greater innovation and breakthroughs are essential to bridge this gap. Creating a vibrant ideas ecosystem, one that rewards and protects intellectual property, can establish India as a global hub for innovation. Startups must lead this charge, contributing to advancements in science, technology, and intellectual property.

most read India's startup ecosystem is no longer confined to metro cities like Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Delhi. Nearly 50 per cent of the country's startups originate from Tier II and Tier III cities, including emerging hubs like Indore, Jaipur, and Ahmedabad. With nearly half of India's urban population living in smaller cities, these regions offer immense potential for growth. Tech companies are increasingly establishing operations in cities such as Chandigarh, Visakhapatnam, and Ahmedabad. Supporting these regional hubs with infrastructure, educational opportunities, and inclusivity — especially by increasing women's representation in leadership roles — will unlock untapped talent and drive innovation. India is well-positioned to become the world's leading startup ecosystem. Favourable policies, a thriving culture of innovation, and collaborative efforts across sectors provide the foundation for scaling startups into global enterprises. As India works towards its vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047, startups will play a pivotal role in driving economic growth, creating jobs, and positioning the country as a leader in innovation.

A chemical invasion that people need to stop to save their health



A typical day in most households could look like this. The non-stick pan is made ready in the kitchen to make a delicious morning dosai or paratha. Snacks for the day come out of plastic wrappings. The dishes in the kitchen sink are washed with dish soap. After a nice meal, the family members settle down on the glistening furniture in the living room. The floors of the house are swept clean with a conventional cleaning product.What is common to all these actions? The answer: harmful chemicals or Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs). Quietly, but surely, these chemicals have embedded themselves in every facet of our living environment and related products.

On April 7, 2025, as we celebrate World Health Day, it is time to pause, reflect and take stock of how these products, and in turn the chemicals, have infiltrated our lives. Chemicals such as Per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) — often called “forever chemicals” — found in non-stick cookware, water-resistant clothing, food packaging, and cosmetics, silently creep into our surroundings and affect us through food, water, air and dermal contact. Consumer product usage from household cleaning products to indirect exposure to industrial waste or chemicals unknowingly gets into our food systems and can cause irreparable damage to overall health. These chemicals derail the immune system, the nervous system and, more specifically, the liver and kidneys.

These contaminants termed Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), are toxic chemicals that resist degradation, persist in the environment for decades, and accumulate in the food chain, leading to long-term exposure risks. These compounds include pesticides (DDT, Chlordane), industrial chemicals (Polychlorinated biphenyls or PCBs, PFAS) and unintentional by-products (dioxins and furans). They have been linked to cancer, reproductive disorders, immune dysfunction, neurological diseases, and endocrine disruption.Industrial production, agricultural practices and waste incineration generate POPs. The long-lasting nature of the POPs make them persist in ecosystems long after their intended use. While some of the pesticides and agricultural chemicals such as DDT, aldrin, and dieldrin have been banned, their residues persist in soil and water, exposing communities through contaminated food and water. Similarly, household and consumer products such as flame retardants in furniture, non-stick cookware, and plasticisers in packaging materials pose a threat to human health. Several banned substances persist in older products and landfill sites, where they continue to leach into the environment.

The extent of damage these chemicals can have on our health is alarming. But more than being alarmed, the need of the hour is awareness backed with intentional action. Let us look at the multitude of ways in which these chemicals can hurt our health. Many of these chemicals and certain pesticides cause endocrine disruption as they

mimic hormones, leading to reproductive disorders, developmental issues, and even some types of cancers. Prenatal exposure to endocrine disruptors has been linked to birth defects, reduced fertility and neurodevelopmental disorders such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).Some of the pollutants can mimic or interfere with hormones, particularly estrogen and testosterone. Exposure to these chemicals and pesticides has also been linked to infertility, menstrual irregularities, and birth defects. Fetuses and young children are especially vulnerable, with prenatal exposure leading to congenital disabilities, neurological impairment and increased risk of miscarriage. The list goes on and on. From the suppression of the production of white blood cells to heart disease, diabetes and obesity, these villains are responsible for increased cholesterol, hypertension, and insulin resistance. Chronic inflammation, which is a key driver of metabolic syndromes and cardiovascular conditions, is perpetuated by these chemicals.

It is not only humans but also animals that are highly impacted by these harmful chemicals. Multiple organ systems in animals are affected, leading to chronic diseases, reproductive failure and population decline. Endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs) found in POPs mimic or interfere with hormones, leading to infertility, birth defects and skewed sex ratios in affected populations. The industrial chemicals accumulate in the fatty tissues of animals and persist for decades. Species such as whales, polar bears, and birds of prey at the top of the food chain experience the highest concentrations and have led to their population declining. These chemicals cause cognitive deficits, learning difficulties, and altered behaviour. In marine mammals, it impairs their ability to communicate, hunt, and navigate. Studies on seals and dolphins have linked this chemical exposure to high mortality from viral and bacterial infections. In birds, they cause eggshell thinning, reducing hatching success. PCB contamination spreads globally through air, water, and soil, and gets deposited in colder regions, such as the Arctic.

There needs to be awareness and actionDespite international efforts to regulate these substances, they continue to affect millions worldwide, particularly in under-resourced countries. Thus, urgent action is needed to eliminate these chemicals from the environment and protect the health of millions of people. The harmful effects of human industrial activity must be prevented. Current waste disposal technologies should improve, and those managing these technologies should be trained in cutting-edge techniques. Research organisations have a key role in tracking the presence, levels, and degree of pollution in air, water, soil and biota. Environmental protection and consumer protection have to get more teeth. Best practices from similar contexts around the world can help others learn from mistakes and replicate success stories.With growing evidence of their dangers, regulations for these emerging pollutants should be strengthened all over the world and this includes India. Cost-effective, environment-friendly alternatives such as bio-pesticides should be used instead of traditionally used pesticides. We need to focus on enhanced monitoring of these chemicals, improve wastewater treatment, and implement policy reforms to mitigate their health impacts. Policy changes, public awareness and scientific research must drive sustainable solutions to safeguard human health and the environment.Girija K. Bharat is MD, Mu Gamma Consultants in Gurugram, India and works towards the management and the mitigation of contaminants of emerging concern. Venkatesh Raghavendra is a philanthropy adviser and a global social entrepreneur working on access to safe water, youth entrepreneurship

What will the doctor-patient relationship be like in 2028?



1968: I entered Medical School 57 years ago. Trained in the BC era, my generation today, belongs to the Near-derthal Age. I injected air into the brain, and dye directly into a major artery going into the brain. Displacement of normal anatomical structures was a surrogate marker for a possible brain tumour. Getting the patient's consent for surgery was a one-sided conversation. No questions were asked. Such was the faith and trust reposed in the surgeon. The role of patient and family in the decision-making process was minimal. We could not share our responsibility with anyone. We were both Amicus Curae and Devil's Advocate rolled into one. We entered the brains of our patients, even before surgery, trying to understand what he/she and their families would want, and took a surrogate decision on their behalf, in their interests. It was a one-to-one personal relationship between a patient and a doctor, involving primarily, diagnosis and treatment. I am not sure if today's medical students are reminded of Sir William Osler's observations 150 years ago “ --- the good physician treats the disease, the great physician treats the patient who has the disease,” and “Listen, listen, listen- he is telling you the diagnosis”. Will such doctor-patient relationships become history ?

2028: Digital Health will be 5P (Predictive, Personalized, Precision, Participatory, and Preventive) medicine with Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a major component. Powerful AI techniques are already unlocking clinically relevant information, hidden in massive amounts of data. Digital Health has a Healthcare Provider, a beneficiary, a 12-digit unique ABHA number, insurance policy coverage, and so on. Preventive healthcare, very early diagnosis, keeping people healthy and promoting wellness – the ‘e-way’ will be tomorrow's mantra. Digital doctors are experts in deploying telemedicine. They handle connectivity issues, video conferencing systems, apps on smartphones, digital manipulation (pun intended!) UPI, EMR, PHR, HIS etc. The tech-savvy AI-enabled Digital Health clinician runs the risk of becoming dehumanised and depersonalised – no longer the family physician of yesteryear, the be-all and end-all of a family.In a few years, technology-enabled remote healthcare will be centre stage. Building patient rapport, confidence and trust is vital in a teleconsultation. 5G, 200

Mbps bandwidth, user-friendly intuitive software at both ends, real time access to all relevant medical records, super smartphones or giant screens will help in making the experience of a virtual personal touch, truly memorable. Customer delight should not be the prerogative of virtual shoppers on Amazon alone! Technology is only a means to an end. A fool with a tool is still a fool! SoPs and protocols are at best, guidelines. In healthcare, one size does not fit all. We need to cater to the specific wants and needs of the individual beneficiary, whom we are seeing on a screen.Producing a “wow” effect during a teleconsult: Infrastructure alone will not suffice. Communication is a dynamic, complex process, a multi-dimensional, multi-factorial phenomenon related to the environment in which an individual's experiences are shared. Self-learning chatbots and humanoid's competing with humans to display empathy and sympathy perhaps may be available in the future - only if the powers-that-be give appropriate weightage to this.Healthcare is personal: To get 10/10, those treating you from a distance must introduce themselves, make eye contact and communicate what they are doing and why. Recommending cutting-edge, technologically-advanced treatment alone, in a teleconsult is insufficient. A patient's goals and requirements also need to be factored in. Patients do not care how much you know. They want to know how much you care. 80% of communication is non-verbal, through body posture, voice intonation, the way one looks/ sits, attire used, movement of hands and arms and spontaneous smiling. “Bedside” manners need to be upgraded to “webside” manners. Exercising clinical judgement and wisdom contextually, customised for the individual beneficiary, in every single teleconsult, is critical.The unbelievable progress of digital health globally and particularly in India (one wag opined that AI stands for And India, Always India, Anytime India) should be supplemented with what a doctor has always stood for – “To cure sometimes, to relieve often, and to comfort always”. In my lifetime, using Haptic technology, I may perhaps be able to actually wipe the tears off my patient, in another continent, virtually. I need to understand that even for Gen Alpha born in the digital health era, a comforting word will still make all the difference. This may not come up as a pop screen on the display. This must come spontaneously from the heart (or brain to be precise!).

Indian nurses in great demand, says Indeed India data

Hyderabad: Trained Indian nurses are in huge demand abroad and across India, especially in the tier-2 towns and smaller cities, new data released by Indeed India, the job listings portal, on Tuesday indicated.

Nursing job postings in India have grown 44 per cent since March 2020, with jobseeker interest surging 75 per cent. “The data tells us that India has the potential to lead the world in supplying skilled, compassionate healthcare talent,” says Sashi Kumar, Head (Sales), Indeed India.

All you need to know about: dysthymia



A therapy memoir by Korean author Baek Sehee, ‘I Want To Die But I Want To Eat Tteokbokki’, has, in recent years, sparked an important conversation about a mental health condition that is often overlooked: dysthymia. Dysthymia, or persistent depressive disorder (PDD), is understood as a ‘milder’ form of depression, but it is no less serious than its more severe counterpart.In the 2018 bestseller, the author, through her interactions with a psychiatrist, describes her struggle with dysthymia — how it affects her self-esteem, relationships, and work. The book narrates the ups and downs of her considerably long and tedious journey toward recovery, emphasising that it is far from linear.

That’s the thing about dysthymia: though perceived as ‘low-grade’ depression, differentiating it from a major depressive disorder, which has far severe symptoms ranging from lethargy to suicidal thoughts, dysthymia can last for two years or more in adults. It can also occur alongside major depression, leading to what is known as ‘double depression’.Dysthymia is common, according to research, but its epidemiology is not studied enough, and it often goes undiagnosed and untreated. Here is all you need to know about the condition:

Dysthymia is essentially marked by a chronic depressed mood that lasts for at least two years in adults and one year in children and adolescents, according to the American Psychiatric Association.Symptoms of the condition include changes in eating habits, such as poor appetite or overeating, as well as sleep disturbances like insomnia or excessive sleep. People with dysthymia may also experience low energy, poor self-esteem, difficulty focusing or making decisions, and a lingering sense of hopelessness. To be considered dysthymic, individuals must experience

at least two of the symptoms mentioned above, for most of the time.Both dysthymia and major depression share similar symptoms, but the latter also includes two additional symptoms not typically seen in dysthymia: anhedonia (the inability to experience joy) and psychomotor symptoms (like agitation or slowness), according to a Harvard Medical School article. To be diagnosed with major depression, an individual must experience at least five symptoms, and the episode must last for a minimum of two weeks, unlike dysthymia, which has a longer duration.Studies also show dysthymia has a more gradual onset and does not necessarily have distinct triggers.

Who is affected by dysthymia?

It is unclear what causes dysthymia, but chemical imbalances in the brain are largely attributed to be behind it. Besides this, research shows that like major depression, dysthymia is influenced by stress and trauma experienced in both childhood and adulthood, as well as social conditions, particularly isolation and a lack of support. While dysthymia appears to run in families, it is unclear how much of a role genetic factors play in its occurrence.The condition also tends to affect women more than men, according to a Harvard Medical School study from 2007. Further, people with dysthymia may suffer from chronic physical illnesses or other mental health conditions, such as anxiety disorder or alcoholism.

What are the treatment options?

Because it requires fewer symptoms for a diagnosis, unlike major depression, dysthymia is often considered less serious, resulting in inadequate treatment. But without proper treatment, symptoms can last for several years.Like major depression, dysthymia is treated with therapy and medications. Common medications include selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or dual-action antidepressants.Therapy options may vary, from supportive and cognitive therapies to behavioural, psychodynamic, and interpersonal therapies. Their purposes differ, but the idea is to address negative thought patterns, improve social skills, work through unresolved trauma, especially from childhood, and manage stress, among other aspects.Studies also suggest that recovery from dysthymia can be a lengthy process, with symptoms often reappearing over time.

Comprehensive sex education: Overcoming cultural barriers and enhancing safety for children

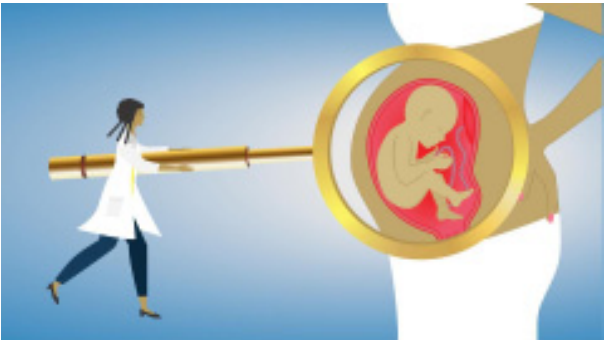
The National Education Policy (NEP) places sex education within the broader category of “ethical and moral reasoning.” This component aims to support “basic health and safety training, as a service to oneself and to those around us.” It offers limited references to topics such as consent, harassment, respect for women, safety, family planning, and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), with even less emphasis on digital safety.NCERT textbooks introduce the ideas of “good touch” and “bad touch” in early Environmental Studies (EVS) classes. Experts have questioned whether this terminology is sufficient or appropriate.Psychologist and counsellor Ms. Akhila Phadnis said, “Sex education should not be associated with morality. What happens when unsafe touch feels good to the child? How are we teaching them consent and ‘No’ means ‘no.’ Both parents and schools should guide children in understanding their boundaries and encourage them to communicate safely with trusted adults. We need a generation that is well-equipped with knowledge about health, hygiene, and safe expressions of sexuality.”

She added, “In today's world, it is essential to equip children with the right tools to stay safe and ensure they have a trusted adult to talk to — whether it's about their bodies, online predators, or offline threats. As adults, we must provide them with the right information and resources so they are informed rather than fearful.”Many schools in India do not provide adequate sexual education. Teachers often lack the training and resources required to handle the subject effectively. Some schools address only the biological aspects in a clinical manner, while others exclude the topic altogether, replacing it with general workshops on health and hygiene, Ms Phadnis says.Sex educator Ms. Swati Jagdish said, “It is crucial to train both parents and teachers, as they are the primary sources of culturally sensitive education for children. The current curriculum is highly clinical, whereas sexual education involves emotions, hormones, bodily intelligence, and discussions on boundaries. Parents also require a support system to openly discuss these topics. Celebrity endorsements can amplify these movements.”

The environments in which students grow up — both at school and at home — play a significant role in shaping their understanding of sexual education. Researchers Tripathi, N. and Sekher, T. V., in their article “Youth in India Ready for Sex Education? Emerging Evidence from National Surveys,” argue that sex education should be implemented at the school level in a culturally sensitive manner. Their work underscores the importance of a curriculum that reflects the link between social change and sexuality.Sexual education includes more than just lessons on reproduction. Topics such as gender identity, interpersonal relationships, and social justice are also integral. Instruction in consent, personal boundaries, and abuse prevention aims to foster a more equitable society. India has over 2.5 million people living with HIV, the second-highest number globally, according to the World Health Organization. Public health outcomes may be improved by educating young people on STIs, HIV/ AIDS, and the consequences of unprotected sex.

Counselling psychologist Ms. Namrata Thomas said, “Comprehensive Sexuality Education covers more than periods and safety. The curriculum includes age-appropriate topics such as health, hygiene, consent, hormones, digital literacy, substance use, and risky behavior. Engaging children through art, music, and brainstorming enhances learning. Parents should be aware of the content their children consume and create an environment where open discussions are encouraged.”Child psychologist Ms. Ektha YP said, “Sex education is not just about intercourse; it encompasses bodily changes, hormones, and emotions. Children will inevitably receive information online or from peers, which may be inaccurate. Providing them with age-appropriate, factual knowledge is essential. Consent should be taught from an early age, beginning with simple interactions like asking for permission before helping a child change. With the rise of digital communication, parents and schools must educate children on online grooming and recognizing red flags. This can be done through conversations, behavioural observations, and understanding children's mindsets.”

Counter-intuitive benefitsStudies indicate that comprehensive sexuality education can delay the onset of sexual activity, reduce its frequency, and reduce the occurrence of risky sexual behaviour. It can also improve awareness and acceptance of individuals within the LGBTQA+ community. Improved understanding may enhance relationships and communication across gender identities.



Research also shows that implementing sex education in schools can influence gender dynamics both in homes and communities. Respect, mutual understanding, and open communication are outcomes associated with well-designed sex education programs.

Access to sex education is affected by social structures. Students from lower castes may face barriers such as discrimination, harassment, and school-based violence, limiting their access to reproductive health information. Differences in cultural beliefs between caste groups may also influence perspectives on gender roles and sexuality.Gender-based barriers persist. Studies show that girls often face more significant restrictions than boys due to stigma, safety concerns, and mobility issues. Transgender and non-binary students frequently encounter exclusion, as curricula and delivery methods do not always reflect gender diversity.Volunteers at Karpom Karpipom, an NGO working in the area of child safety and comprehensive sexuality education, have developed a curriculum for government schools in Tamil Nadu.Ms. Subhashini, a volunteer, said, “Children are curious but often do not know whom to turn to for answers.” She added that social conditioning begins early, and children start perceiving the world through a gendered lens even at a young age.Mr. Sharath Kumar, also a volunteer, stated, “Eighty percent of our work involves educating adults on how to listen to children when they express concerns about safe and unsafe behaviour.

We developed a curriculum tailored for government schools in Tamil Nadu by referencing UNESCO Heritage materials, Netherlands school frameworks, and Samacheer Kalvi textbooks. This approach helps us engage children in discussions on stigma, myths, patriarchy, and social conditioning.”He added, “I regularly talk to students about bodily changes, self-esteem, handling rejection, gender identity, and character assassination.”

POCO launches C71 smartphone first sale on Flipkart for Rs 6,499

New Delhi: POCO, India's leading performance-driven smartphone brand, on Tuesday launched the first sale of its blockbuster C71 smartphone on e-commerce site Flipkart for Rs 6,499. The POCO C71 redefines the smartphone experience with a 6.88" HD+ 120Hz display combined with wet touch display support and triple TUV certification for eye protection.It also features a 32MP dual camera and a massive 5200mAh battery — all at an unbelievable price.The POCO C71's 4GB RAM + 64GB storage model is available for Rs 6,499 and a 6GB RAM + 128GB storage model for Rs 7,499, making flagship-level features more accessible than ever.POCO C71 has the segment's largest and smoothest display — 6.88" HD+ 120Hz display for ultra-fluid scrolling and gaming.It is sleek and sports a stylish design and features a golden ring camera deco and a distinctive split-grit design for a bold, eye-catching look. The smartphone is just 8.26mm in size and is available in three colours: Desert Gold, Cool Blue, and Power Black.The smartphone is Triple TUV certified and comes with blue light reduction, flicker-free display, and low motion blur for the safest screen experience.With 12GB dynamic RAM (6GB + 6GB virtual) and an Octa-Core processor, the smartphone aces in seamless multitasking, ensuring a power-packed performance.

How countries are responding to Trump’s game of chicken over tariffs: Why Asian markets are betting on Japan’s move over China’s playbook

There are three differing templates emerging of how countries are responding to US President Donald Trump’s retaliatory tariffs. On one end is the Chinese playbook of “resolute opposition” and tit-for-tat retaliation.China’s Commerce Ministry has thrown down the gauntlet, vowing to take countermeasures to safeguard its own rights and interests against Trump’s threat that he would impose an additional 50 per cent duties on imports by the US from China, if Beijing did not withdraw the 34 per cent tariff imposed on American products last week to match the levy slapped by Washington earlier.

Japan seems to be on the other end of the spectrum, getting ready to dispatch a team to negotiate with Washington — one of the early movers in this game. US President Trump said Monday that he had spoken with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba and confirmed that Japan is dispatching a team to negotiate on trade with US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, Reuters reported.Japan’s stock markets seem to have taken cue, with the benchmark Nikkei 225 surging over 6 per cent and the Topix up nearly 7 per cent in early trade. Other Asian markets tracked gains in Japanese equities. After witnessing heavy selling pressure for the last three trading sessions, the Sensex and Nifty too recovered by over 1 per cent in the opening trade on Tuesday.

The optimism in the Asian markets is pegged on the belief that the Japanese could crack the negotiations and get Washington DC to pipe down on the tariffs imposed on Tokyo, in turn allowing Trump to claim victory. That could set the template for others to follow. There are those that are keen to submit, with Bangladesh, the world’s second-largest ready-made garment exporter after China, now offering to buy various US farm products, including cotton, duty-free in an effort to avoid reciprocal US tariffs. Cambodia and Vietnam too are reported to be looking at the conciliatory option. Whether European and American markets will take the cue from early gains in Asian equities is something that holds the key to whether market players in the West genuinely buy into Trump’s mood to negotiate.

The response from the European Union slots somewhere in between the reactions from Japan and China. The trade ministers of the 27-nation bloc had gathered in Luxembourg to discuss their response to Washington’s new trade regime. Given that the trans-Atlantic trade relationship is the biggest in the world, worth about 1.5 trillion Euros, there is considerable worry across European capitals. EU officials, however, came out to say that they would rather negotiate than fight the US on tariffs, but in parallel, they are preparing a potential list for retaliation and other measures for retaliation. A negotiated solution, though, is the preferred option, as voiced by some of the attendees at the Luxembourg meeting, and unusually seconded by Trump’s ally in Washington, Tesla CEO Elon Musk.India has largely maintained a studied silence for the better part of the last 48 hours, other than a bare-bone basic statement that it was examining the American tariff order. Responses since then



have been piece-meal, with individual ministries playing down the impact on their respective constituents. Privately, though, officials have indicated that New Delhi has opted for negotiations, rather than a “retaliatory approach”, a sharply different strategy from the approach taken during the first Trump administration when New Delhi responded to American steel and aluminium tariffs with countermeasures of its own.

In the case of China, the American tariffs have pushed the Chinese markets deep in the red, with Hong Kong’s Hang Seng plunging the most in almost three decades. The concern in that part of the world is that Trump has slapped tariffs multiple times, with the threat of new ones looming on the horizon. The first set of 10 per cent tariffs on Chinese goods were imposed in February, plus another 10 per cent in March, plus 34 per cent announced last week, and now the threat of an additional 50 per cent, which altogether effectively doubles the import cost of all Chinese goods to the US. That would effectively create an economic blockade between the world’s two biggest economies where there is just going to be no trade. Trump has given Beijing time till Wednesday afternoon to withdraw its 34 per cent tariffs.Between the US and China, it does seem that Beijing could have greater leverage and the staying power in managing an escalatory tariff spiral, at least in the short term. Unlike Trump, Chinese President Xi Jinping is not faced with elections anytime soon, there is very little internal opposition to his management of the economy at this point in time, and the country is already in the middle of a stimulus package roll out that includes a combination of fiscal and monetary measures. China has far more staying power when it comes to continuing its fiscal stimulus package well into the future. Beijing also has the option of stepping up its internal project of deepening the country’s domestic consumption market, something that will take in some of its export surpluses if the tariff war were to be long drawn out.The United States is at a disadvantage in all of this. There is little firepower on the fiscal side, except the prospect of an extension of corporate tax concessions that Trump had promulgated in his last term. Worryingly, there is also an impending showdown that the Trump administration is likely to have with the US Federal Reserve on the issue of cutting interest rates, which Fed Chair Jerome Powell has indicated is unlikely to happen anytime soon.

Asian stocks zoom in early trade as hopes of Trump tariff negotiations gain pace

A man walks past an electronic screen displaying Japan’s Nikkei share average outside a brokerage in TokyoA man walks past an electronic screen displaying Japan’s Nikkei share average outside a brokerage in Tokyo. Asian stocks bounced and US stock futures were markedly higher Tuesday, as markets took a break from panic selling after hitting 1-1/2-year lows on hopes that Washington may indeed be willing to negotiate some of its aggressive tariffs.

Yields of US Treasury, a safe-haven asset, continued rising after plumbing a six-month low. Gold was near a 2-1/2-week low, while crude oil recovered from a nearly four-year low, as traders began shifting back to riskier assets from traditional safe havens.Leading the rebound was Japan’s Nikkei 225, up 5.6 per cent, with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Trade Representative Jamieson Greer tasked with leading trade negotiations with US ally Tokyo.American business leaders have also begun speaking out about the damage to the economy and financial markets that could be wrought by President Donald Trump’s global trade war. JPMorgan Chase CEO Jamie Dimon issued a warning on Monday that Trump’s sweeping tariffs could spark inflation and push the US economy towards a slowdown.

Trump, though, dug in his heels over China, even promising 50 per cent additional levies if Beijing does not withdraw retaliatory tariffs on the US. Beijing said on Tuesday it will never accept the “blackmail nature” of US threats.But, on Tuesday’s morning trade, Hong Kong’s Hang Seng



climbed 1.7 per cent. Mainland Chinese blue chips added 0.6 per cent. Yuan, the Chinese currency, has weakened to 7.36 per dollar in the offshore market, the weakest in two months.“Importantly, a little ray of sunshine is starting to emerge that gives hope that the US is genuinely open to trade negotiations, ... the most significant being Japan with Treasury Secretary Bessent,” said Tapas Strickland, head of market economics, National Australia Bank.Strickland, however, noted volatility remains extremely elevated, with the “rare event” of the VIX index, which tracks market volatility, climbing to 60 overnight.South Korea’s KOSPI added 1.3 per cent and Australia’s equity benchmark gained 1 per cent.Taiwan’s equity benchmark though sank 3 per cent, which followed its worst day ever on Monday, when it tumbled 10 per cent. The major semiconductor producer faces a 32 per cent duty from Washington.

India flexible on bilaterals with developed world: Piyush Goyal

At a time of flaring global economic tensions and increasing protectionism in the world’s largest economies, Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Monday signalled to Western countries that India is open to bilateral trade agreements, stating that India has “a lot of elbow room” when working with developed nations.

The Indian industry is very competitive. They can beat any competition in the world if everyone sticks to the rules of the game. It’s the irregularities and unfair trade practices where we need protection through tariffs. So I have absolutely no hesitation in saying that, bilaterally, we have a lot of elbow room when working with developed countries—where India has equal opportunities,” Goyal said at an industry event.Goyal’s comments come as a potential India-US trade war could lead to significant trade diversion—offering opportunities for India and several other countries. Former US President Donald Trump’s tariff policies are also expected to accelerate India’s trade negotiations with various countries and blocs, including the UK and the European Union.

While China has responded to US tariffs with retaliatory measures, sending global markets to historic lows, the European Union has maintained its openness to dialogue. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on Monday that Europe is “always ready for a good deal”, noting that the EU has already proposed a zero-for-zero tariff deal on industrial goods to Washington—a move pre-

sented as strategic cooperation, not concession.Goyal added that India is well positioned to turn the current global scenario into an opportunity—just as it did during the Covid-19 pandemic and the late 1990s, when the Indian IT sector capitalised on the Y2K bug crisis to emerge on the world stage.“We’re all in this together. All well-meaning countries and businesses must address these challenges collectively and turn them into opportunities. We need to support each other and maintain a nationalist outlook,” he said, urging Indian businesses to adopt a spirit of collaboration and shared purpose.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi’s 1931 address to FICCI, the Minister said Indian industry should place nationalism at the heart of its work. “Prime Minister Narendra Modi truly embodies this spirit through his vision of Viksit Bharat, inclusive growth, and delivering economic progress to the last person in the queue,” he added, according to a statement released by the ministry.“Low-cost goods may seem attractive today, but in the long run, they can hurt businesses and economies. We’ve seen this play out in several parts of the world, where supply chains have collapsed due to over-dependence on a single geography,” Goyal said.Ravi Dutta Mishra is a Principal Correspondent with The Indian Express, covering policy issues related to trade, commerce, and banking. He has over five years of experience and has previously worked with Mint, CNBC-TV18, and other news outlets. ... Read More

‘It was a lot of fun’: Milind Soman, who ‘used to drink a lot till my late 20s’, opens up about his relationship with alcohol

Fitness icon and actor Milind Soman recently took to Instagram to share a moment from his ‘favourite bar’— a monkey bar—reflecting on his changing relationship with alcohol. “People often ask me if I drink, the answer is very rarely,” he wrote.“I used to drink a lot till my late 20s, almost every day, and it was a lot of fun ?? but if you really want the best out of life, then choosing good habits is an ongoing and lifelong effort!!! #keepmoving”

His message resonated with many who are re-evaluating their lifestyle habits as they grow older—and science supports his philosophy.Why cutting down on alcohol mattersAccording to Dr Rakesh Gupta, Senior Consultant in Internal Medicine at Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, “It’s never too late to reduce your alcohol intake. Even if someone has had a history of heavy drinking in their 20s, the body can still heal in many ways once alcohol consumption is significantly reduced or stopped.”Here’s what happens when you cut down, Dr Gupta explained.Liver Health: Your liver is one of the most affected organs when it comes to alcohol. While early-stage damage like fatty liver can be reversed, Dr Gupta warns that more advanced conditions like cirrhosis may be irreversible.“But even then, stopping alcohol can slow further damage,” he adds.Reduced Cancer Risk: Alcohol has been linked to cancers of the liver, breast, colon, and more. Reducing intake dramatically lowers this risk. “It’s one of the lesser-known but major benefits,” says Dr Gupta.Heart Health: Moderate-to-heavy drinking can raise blood pressure and increase the risk of heart disease. Cutting back leads to improved cardiovascular function and a reduced risk of stroke.Brain Boost: “Many people don’t realise how much alcohol affects the brain. Reducing intake can lead to better memory, improved focus, and a more stable mood,” Dr Gupta notes.Better Weight Management: Alcohol adds empty calories to your diet. Reducing or eliminating it can support weight loss and improve metabolic health.In the last two years, GIFT City

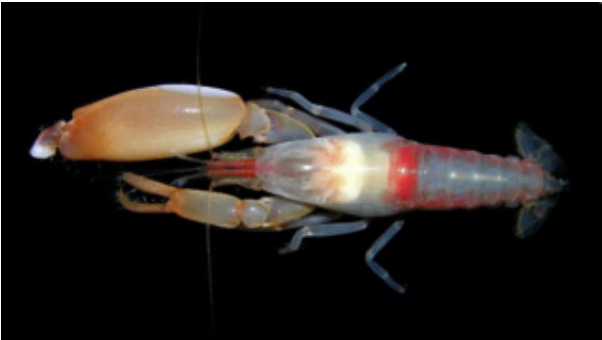


in Gujarat has recorded the sale of 3,324 bulk litre spirits, 470 bulk litre wine, and 19,915 bulk litre beer. Even if someone has had a history of heavy drinking in their 20s, the body can still heal in many ways once alcohol consumption is significantly reduced or stopped. (File Photo)

So how much should you cut back? Dr Gupta said not everyone needs to go completely teetotal to feel the benefits, but moderation is key.Abstinence may be best if you’ve had serious health issues related to alcohol.Moderation means up to one drink a day for women and two for men, as per WHO guidelines.Gradual reduction works best for heavy drinkers, as sudden withdrawal can cause symptoms that require medical supervision.

Who should reconsider their drinking habits? Dr Gupta lists several groups who would especially benefit from cutting down or quitting alcohol:As Milind Soman shows us, making healthier choices doesn’t mean giving up fun—it just means living smarter and longer. His journey reminds us that we can reinvent our habits and still enjoy life to the fullest.

Meet the marine creature that snaps like a gun: How the pistol shrimp shoots bubbles at nearly the speed of sound, creating shockwaves as hot as the Sun



In the depths of our oceans lives one of nature’s most fascinating creatures — the pistol shrimp. Despite measuring only 3-5 cm in length, this diminutive crustacean packs a punch that rivals some of Earth’s most powerful natural phenomena.The pistol shrimp, also known as the snapping shrimp, possesses an extraordinary weapon — an oversized claw that can “fire” underwater bullets made of bubbles. These aren’t ordinary bubbles — they’re created through a process called sonoluminescence, “in which water is energised with specific vibrations causing emission of light through bubbles,” according to a report by the Fountain Magazine. The resulting temperatures can reach an astounding 4,400°C — nearly as hot as the surface of the sun.“The sounds produced when the pistols of these shrimps are fired are among the loudest sounds that can be heard in the oceans,” notes the magazine. In fact, these tiny creatures “compete with larger sperm whales and beluga whales for the title of the loudest animal in the oceans.” The sound reaches an incredible 218 decibels — louder than a gunshot, typically around 140-175 decibels.

The pistol shrimp primarily uses this powerful weapon to catch prey. When hunting, it hides in its burrow, waiting for prey to come within range before firing its claw with remarkable speed and precision.Anatomy of a pistol shrimpWhat makes this remarkable feat possible? The pistol shrimp’s specialised anatomy is a natural weapon of sur-

prising sophistication.According to Fountain Magazine, “The pistol shrimp has two claws, one larger than the other. The larger claw, which is as large as half of the shrimp’s body, is the pistol.” This asymmetrical design is crucial to its function. Unlike typical shrimp claws with symmetrical pincers, the pistol claw has “two parts, one fixed (propus), the other moving (dactyl). The dactyl has a plunger which helps with the shrimp’s move.”When the shrimp snaps this specialised claw shut, it does so with such tremendous speed and force that it creates a cavitation bubble—a phenomenon where rapid changes in pressure create a void in the water that quickly collapses upon itself. This collapse generates the deafening sound and intense heat that make the pistol shrimp so remarkable.The remarkable speed The timeframe in which this remarkable process occurs is almost incomprehensibly brief. Viterbi Magazine notes that “the whole process, from the snapping of the claw to the popping of the bubble, occurs within 15 microseconds. That’s 15 millionths of a second.”In this infinitesimal moment, temperatures briefly reach solar levels. As Alexander Ramirez, a biomedical engineering major, explains: “The temperatures get to that of the sun. Imagine what can happen if we can harness that power given off by tons of energy in just microseconds.”During this rapid process, the bubble creates sound and heat and emits light as it implodes. However, as Fountain Magazine explains, “the flashing of light is so sudden that the resulting light is not visible to the naked eye.”

While its powerful claw is primarily a hunting tool, the pistol shrimp employs this natural weapon for various other purposes.“Besides hunting their prey, pistol shrimps may also use their sonic pistols to dig burrows into rocks,” reports Fountain Magazine. “The impact from the firing up of their pistols is so powerful that they can dig proper burrows into hard basalt stones.”In a behaviour reminiscent of Wild West shootouts, these shrimps also “fire their pistols against each other at a close range to assert dominance.” During these duels, they may lose their claws, but remarkably, “lost claws are re-grown.”

‘Utni akkal nahi hoti thi logon ko’: Shalini Passi on outsmarting boys asking for her number in school after her mother’s warning; effects of overly strict parental rules

Fabulous Wives vs. Bollywood Wives star Shalini Passi recently shared a story from her younger days, recalling the strict rules she faced regarding interactions with boys. In an interview with Hauterrrrf, she revealed, “My mother said ki if you... if any boy calls you, I will send you to boarding house. So I told everybody, ‘If you want me to go to boarding then you call me.’” She added, “I used to give them the number with one digit missing. Always. Because sometimes they would keep asking, baar baar wahi poochhte the number. Toh main ek digit miss kar deti thi. Because mujhe at least mera number toh yaad hai... par last wala number nahi yaad hai (They kept asking for my number again and again. So I would leave out one digit. Because at least I know my number... just not the last digit).”

When the host asked if they hadn’t tried any permutation or combination to reach her, she jokingly replied, “Utni akkal nahi hoti thi logon ko (People weren’t smart enough to figure it out).”Passi’s story sheds light on the rigid norms many children, particularly girls, grow up with, often driven by parental fear or societal expectations.While these measures are often implemented with good intentions, they can inadvertently create barriers to open communication between parents and children. Such restrictions may also impact a young person’s ability to navigate relationships or assert boundaries in a healthy way. Potential long-term effects of overly strict parental rules on a child’s emotional development and confidencePsychologist Anjali Gursahaney tells indianexpress.com, “Strict parenting or overly rigid rules can have significant psychological impacts on children. Constant criticism or denial of autonomy can lead to low self-esteem, as children may internalise the belief that they are not good enough. This environment often stifles



independent decision-making, leaving children dependent on external validation and unsure of their own choices. The resulting resentment can manifest as rebellion, sometimes in unhealthy ways, as children push back against perceived constraints.”

Be Curious, Not Intrusive: Ask open-ended questions like, “What do you like about your friend?” or “How do you feel about that?” to encourage sharing without prying.Share Your Experiences: Normalise their feelings by sharing age-appropriate stories from your own life to show empathy and relatability.Avoid Punishment for Honesty: Ensure they know they won’t face harsh consequences for opening up, even if their experiences go against parental expectations.Establish Regular Check-Ins: Make casual conversations about relationships a routine part of daily interactions, so it doesn’t feel forced or awkward.“Teach children about healthy relationships by modeling respect, empathy, and clear boundaries in your own interactions,” highlights Gursahaney.

‘Is it a scoop or a pull?’ Gavaskar goes ga-ga over Jitesh Sharma’s stunning six



GNS News Agency, April 11

Jitesh Sharma ended up with a combination of a hockey-style drag-flick and scoop, mixing it with the cricketing sweep shot to send the white ball flying into the night sky. (BCCI)Jitesh Sharma ended up with a combination of a hockey-style drag-flick and scoop, mixing it with the cricketing sweep shot to send the white ball flying into the night sky. (BCCI)There were 25 sixes in the thriller between RCB and Mumbai Indians on Monday night at the Wankhede stadium but there was one shot from Jitesh Sharma that was very special in its conception and execution.

It came in the first ball of the 19th over bowled by Trent

Boult, who had served it up really full and well outside off. Jitesh had shuffled across the stumps, bent his knee to swoop low. The length and the line demanded those acrobatic yogic pose but the end result wasn't still quite obvious. As he sunk to his knee, he realised he had to keep going down to get under the ball, but now with a deep midwicket fielder in place, he had to also get enough power from his wrists to send the ball soaring over to the stands. He ended up with a combination of a hockey-style drag-flick and scoop, mixing it with the cricketing sweep shot to send the white ball flying into the night sky. Sunil Gavaskar voiced the question in the minds of those who watched it: 'Is it a scoop or a pull?' His co-commentator Ravi Shastri would add, 'it's also a sweep'.

It was a shot reminiscent of what Pakistan's Moin Khan would often deploy during his international career. Great fast bowlers such as Allan Donald and Glenn McGrath have suffered the fate from Moin's hands, and he would occasionally end up being sprawled on the ground on completion. It was a shot necessitated by Mumbai Indians's strategy to bowl well outside off, almost at the wide line. Both Hardik Pandya and Boult tried it, but both were smashed around by the adventurous duo of Jitesh and Rajat Patidar. It was left to Jasprit Bumrah who bowled at the stumps, mixing near-yorkers with surprise bouncers to keep the batsmen at bay, yielding just 14 runs in his final two overs.

Krunal Pandya is a thinking cricketer, says Gavaskar

GNS News Agency, April 11

Hyderabad: "I've always admired him (Krunal Pandya of Royal Challengers Bengaluru) for the sharpness with which he plays his cricket and in his thinking. He makes up with his temperament for any minor deficiencies he might have — and frankly, he doesn't have too many," says legendary Sunil Gavaskar after Krunal played a key role in the team's win against Mumbai Indians in the IPL league match on Monday night.

"When he bowls, he actually reminds me of how Vinoo Mankad used to be. Mankad wasn't a huge turner of the ball, but he had subtle variations — line and length, changes of pace, occasional bounce and even a high full toss kind of beamer," Gavaskar said on Kuhl Fans Match Centre Live on JioHotstar.

"Rajat Patidar (RCB captain) certainly seems liberated as the leader, and he knows he's got a solid group around him. He has seniors who are always willing to lend a hand, and a strong support staff. Someone like Dinesh Karthik — people don't talk enough about his influence," Gavaskar said. "Seventeen years without a title, and now RCB understands what needs to be done to win. With a relaxed, laid-back captain, others are also stepping up with their experience to help move the team forward," the former India opener said. On Virat Kohli's batting, Gavaskar said the big difference over the last season and a half had been his in-



tent to play lofted shots much earlier. "The first and foremost thing was seeing Jasprit Bumrah come in steaming and bowling at his usual pace — over 140 km/h. I believe that with a few more games under his belt, he'll likely hit 150 km/hr as he gains more confidence in his back and feels secure enough to bowl at full tilt," Gavaskar said. On Rohit Sharma, Gavaskar said even if he doesn't get a big score immediately, if he can bat through the power-play into the 8th or 9th over and score a steady 30-40, that will help build confidence. "I believe his shot selection needs a bit of tempering. If he finds that balance, he'll be back to scoring big runs again," Gavaskar said.

Power-play a concern, says Jayawardene

GNS News Agency, April 11

Hyderabad: "The powerplay is a concern for us with the ball and the bat. In the last few games as well, we were leaking too many runs with the ball in the power-play as well," says Mahela Jayawardene, head coach of Mumbai Indians after the team lost to Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the IPL league match in Mumbai on Monday night.

We got an early wicket today as well — first over — but then they counter-punched, played some good shots, and we just did not react well to that. These are the margins and then they had a big sixth over, which really hurt us in that powerplay," he said. "With the bat as well, I thought we had a good start but just couldn't continue. We lost those two wickets and then we had to consolidate a little bit and lost a bit of momentum there. We had a few big overs in between but we just weren't in the game in that first ten overs. The margins are small in this competition and we're not hitting our strides and that is a concern," Jayawardene explained. "I still back the senior pros and all the guys I put out there. They have the skill. It's just that we need to be a bit more ruthless," he said. "At times, we're missing out on those one or two overs where we lose our discipline. So that's with the bat as well as with the ball. That's something that



we need to rectify," the Sri Lankan great said. "The guys who have the experience know how to handle tough situations and be mentally stronger going forward. So that's something that we will bank on and make sure that we really focus on getting the group together and be positive and play the next game," he said. Jayawardene backed former captain Rohit Sharma after yet another low score. "I'm sure Rohit's been working on it, he's been practicing hard and he's a very experienced player," he said.

I was angry, frustrated and in tears in Champions Trophy, says Shreyas Iyer

GNS News Agency, April 11

Iyer was one of India's best batsman in CT 2025, playing key knocks which enforced him as a reliable asset in the middle-order. (BCCI)Iyer was one of India's best batsman in CT 2025, playing key knocks which enforced him as a reliable asset in the middle-order. (BCCI)

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer who played a key role in India's Champions Trophy triumph has admitted that he was in tears during the first practice session in Dubai wondering how he can turn things around. Shreyas had headed to Dubai on the back of a strong show against England at home and was expected to keep the momentum going, but was left angry, frustrated and in tears during India's first practice session as he struggled to get used to the conditions there. Speaking on Kandid



with Kings show, Shreyas was asked when was the last time he cried and much to everyone's shock, the batsman picked the Champions Trophy. "Last time I cried was during the Champions Trophy, first practice session. Like literally crying, crying. Because I batted in the nets, and it didn't go well. I was so angry with myself that I started crying. And I

was also shocked at the fact that I don't cry that easily," he said.

But once the tournament began, Shreyas was one of India's best batsman, playing key knocks which enforced him as a reliable asset in the middle-order. With 243 runs in 5 innings, he was India's leading run-scorer in the tournament, which India won undefeated.

But when he landed in Dubai, Shreyas spoke about the struggles. "I thought I would carry the same flow with me (from England series), but the wickets were different and to adapt on the first day itself was an arduous task. When the practice ended, I wanted to practice a little extra and I did not get the chance to do it, so I got angry," he said.

Mohun Bagan makes fourth consecutive ISL final with last-minute goal



GNS News Agency, April 11

Mohun Bagan Super Giant pulled off a thrilling last-minute victory over Jamshedpur FC in a tense second-leg semi-final clash in the Indian Super League (ISL) on Monday. The spectacular turnaround was made possible due to two goals, both scored in the second half. Jason Cummings scored a penalty in the 55th minute to tie things up on aggregate, after which Lalengmawia Ralte put his side in front in the final moments of injury time.

Mohun Bagan went in to the game trailing 1-2 on aggregate, owing to an impressive showing by The Men of Steel at home in the first leg. However, like all two-legged semi-finals, the game between MBSG and JFC on Monday too had its own set of surprises and developments. As expected, Mohun Bagan got to business from kick-off, pit-

ting the visitors back in to their own penalty area for the majority of the game. The Mohun Bagan attack, led by Jamie MacLaren and Jason Cummings unleashed shot after shot at the opposition goal, with Albino Gomes and his defence scuttling to make saves and goal-line clearances. The first breakthrough came from an unexpected refereeing decision, as the match official pointed to the penalty spot for handball after a corner and showed Jamshedpur captain Javi Hernandez a yellow card for protesting his decision. Cummings sent JFC keeper Gomes the wrong way as his penalty found the net in the bottom right corner. The minutes that followed saw Jamshedpur put men on the line of fire, denying the hosts any chance of wrapping things up in normal time. However, with less than two minutes to go till the final whistle, Mohun Bagan's No.45 picked up the ball outside the penalty area, and with a shot worthy of winning any game, curled the ball past Gomes into the top right corner. Following the game, Mohun Bagan boss Jose Molina said, "The players believed in me and stuck to the plan until the last moment". The 54-year-old has now made two ISL finals in just two seasons in the highest division of Indian football (in 2016 with Atletico de Kolkata and now with Mohun Bagan in 2024/25). In the opposition camp, Khalid Jamil came tremendously close to being the first Indian coach to lead his side to an ISL final. As the only Indian manager to take his team to the playoffs this season, the manager and his resolute side are one of the biggest stories of this season's ISL. The final showdown is set to be played on the 12th of April at 7:30 PM IST as Mohun Bagan hosts Bengaluru FC at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata.

‘I’m someone who lets instinct take over during game time’: Rishabh Pant

GNS News Agency, April 11

Lucknow Super Giants captain Rishabh Pant who is going through a rough patch in the ongoing Indian Premier League season, said in an interaction on Monday that his philosophy for dealing with tough times was to back the process and trust his instincts. Pant, who was bought by LSG for a record Rs 27 crore in the IPL mega auctions last year, has scored just 19 runs at an average of 4.75 and strike rate of 59.38 this season. "We should be following a certain process and that is part of my day-to-day life. When you keep it very simple, like if you are watching a wicket, how it's going to play, what this batsman is going to do, what we can execute in a better way," Pant said in a chat during CII Eastern Region's interactive session — 'India@100: Leadership Insight from the Sports Economy'.

"Like Mahi bhai (MS Dhoni) said, if you can keep it simple for longer period of time, I think you're going to get the fair result. I'm someone who lets that instinct take over during the game time. Because, in pressure situations, what happens is that you don't back your decision sometimes. So I feel that is really important for me," he added. For Pant, leadership is about keeping the team like one big family.

"The word 'team' means just one family. We always



talk about how we can create an environment where everyone feels comfortable. "A team for me is like having one goal — collective people having one goal and working towards one goal." Cricket has also taught him to back people during their worst days. "Everyone on the field will not have the greatest of day. But at that moment, can you give that guy enough confidence, so he can deliver? You know, one ball matters. One extraordinary something. One extraordinary catch. One extraordinary run out."

‘It’s a real honour’: Harry Brook named England white ball captain

GNS News Agency, April 11

Harry Brook England captain He has played 26 ODIs scoring 816 runs at an average of 34.00, with a top score of 110. In T20s, he has earned 44 caps and a highest score of 81 and was part of the team that won the ICC T20 World Cup in 2022. Harry Brook, who recently pulled out of the 2025 Indian Premier League to concentrate on his country's matches, was on Monday appointed England's white-ball captain, replacing Jos Buttler, who had stepped down after the Three Lions' disastrous Champions Trophy campaign.

The 26-year-old made his debut in 2022 and has been a key part of England's white-ball set-up since, spending the past year as the vice-captain in both ODIs and T20Is. He also led England in the ODI series against Australia last September in Buttler's absence. "It's a real honour to be named England's white-ball captain. Ever since I was a kid playing cricket at Burley in Wharfedale, I dreamed of representing Yorkshire, playing for England, and maybe one day leading the team. To now be given that chance means a great deal to me," Brook said. He has played 26 ODIs scoring 816 runs at an average of 34.00, with a top score of 110. In T20s, he has earned 44 caps and a highest score of 81 and was part of the team that won the ICC T20 World Cup in 2022. Last month, Brook was banned from the IPL for the next two years, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has informed England and Wales Cricket Board



(ECB). As per the board's new policy, Brook cannot enter auction for two more years, as he has decided to skip this IPL season at the last moment. "An official communication has been sent to ECB and Brook about BCCI banning him for two years as per its policy which was informed to each player before they registered their name for IPL auction last year. It's a policy set by the board and each player has to oblige to it," a BCCI official had confirmed to The Indian Express. According to a new rule introduced by the IPL, "Any player who registers in the auction and after getting picked, makes himself unavailable before the start of the season, will get banned from participating in the tournament and player auction for 2 seasons."

‘RCB ready though heat and travel of 6 matches in 20 days will test our squad strength’: Coach Andy Flower

GNS News Agency, April 11

Travel and match days for 6 games over the next 20 days in an intense phase of competition will test the squad strength of Royal Challengers Bengaluru, according to coach Andy Flower. The Red & Blues' Gaffer told RCB's Game Day that though the schedule had started out easy, it was about to explode for one of the most followed IPL teams. The got summers could impact the pacers, he added. RCB are third on points with 2 wins from 3 games, and MI are 8th with 3 losses. "The schedule I think has been a good one for us actually. It's a gentle start. It does ramp up pretty soon. And we've got a block of about 6 games in 20 days with travel. So the wear and tear particularly on quick bowlers when you playing in hot humid conditions that tests your resources and sometimes tests your squad strength. That'll be an interesting second phase for us in the tournament," Flower said.

While RCB batters obviously find themselves under the glare lights, their bowling unit is looking pretty competent to complement the famous batsmen this season. Bowling coach Omkar Salvi, who coaches Mumbai Ranji too, told Game Day, "Basically when we bowl, we bowl in a pack. We hunt in pairs. When all bowlers work together that variation itself is a natural variation. We have bowlers who can swing the ball, bowlers who are deceptive. This pitch is more batting friendly but the amount of talent we have in this group. Whatever challenge comes our way these bowlers can face it." Rajat Patidar returns to where it might have potentially all started. Last year his 70 odd was crucial to RCB at Wankhede, and he has since risen to be appointed captain. "Last year Rajat Patidar played an incredible innings here



last year of 70 odd when we were in trouble. We have many batsmen that can play that kinda innings," Flower added. The Zimbabwean fan fave also said this was just the beginning for RCB. "We have got a very powerful talented batting unit. And we want to play them to their strengths. Experience, quality and talent. Over the tournament we will see some incredibly exciting batting and we haven't even hit our straps yet, three games in. We will see some pretty impressive cricket from our guys," he said.

RCB big framed giant Tim David added that their bowlers can put batsmen under pressure. "We know what MI are gonna come up with. So we will put them under pressure," he told RCB Game Day. The Wankhede pitch is conducive to shot making, has good pace and bounce and isn't a big outfield. The Monday mania with T20 World Cup big names Jasprit Bumrah, Virat Kohli, Hardik Pandya, Rohit Sharma and Surya Kumar Yadav is an explosive start to the week.

Hrithik Roshan’s fans, who paid Rs. 1.2 lakh for the actor’s meet-and-greet in Dallas, complain about mismanagement: ‘Kids crying, fans were pushed off stage’



Actor Hrithik Roshan, who is on a tour in the US, recently attended a fan meet-and-greet event in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday. However, the attendees didn’t have the best experience and slammed the organisers for poor management. In fact, several fans took to social media and Hrithik’s own Instagram handle to complain about the event. Many photos and videos of the actor from the event have been surfacing on social media, where un-

happy fans can be seen expressing disappointment.Hosted by Sophie Choudry, Hrithik Roshan made sure to entertain his fans with some spectacular dance moves. However, the people expected something more. A fan who claims to have spent more than Rs 1.2 lakh (approximately \$1,500 per person plus general admission) to meet Hrithik has gone viral on the internet for expressing their frustration after being tuned down a photo with him.The fan wrote in the Reddit post, “Spent \$1500 + general admission tickets for each person to meet Hrithik Roshan and I didn’t even get a picture. Refused to take pictures with half the meet and greet line and turned us away even though we spent so much money. We waited 2 hours in line just to get refused??”In the comments section of a post, a fan wrote that a few kids were looking forward to performing with Hrithik Roshan on stage but were pushed away. They were shocked and started crying on not being allowed to meet him. “Seeing my kid’s excitement turn into confusion and then heartbreak was devastating (She is only 10). We expected better,” another fan commented.During his US tour, Hrithik Roshan will cover several cities, such as Atlanta, Houston, New Jersey and Chicago. Meanwhile, on the work front, he recently announced his debut as a director in Krrish 4.

Archana Puran Singh’s son asks her if they can exchange dad Parmeet Sethi: ‘Non-PJ father mil sakta hai?’

Archana Puran Singh and Parmeet Sethi challenged their sons – Aaryamann and Ayushmaan, for a cooking face-off in their latest ‘Ghar pe masterchef’ vlog. On public demand, the duo cooked their own special dishes while spending some quality family time in the kitchen. In the Youtube video, both of them joked with their parents by faking knife cuts on their hand, which made Archana furious.

In the beginning of the vlog, Parmeet said, “This is a practice round for them (sons) to become good husbands. Their wives will be really lucky.” Archana instantly cited her example and said, “Jaise ise fayda hua hai. I don’t know how to cook anything, but I am a good wife.” Parmeet added, “Ise fayda hua hai, kyunki main cook karna jaanta hu (She has benefited because I know how to cook).”While Ayushmaan took the challenge to make his special dish of pumpkin sauce pasta, Aaryamann, on the other hand, kept it simple by cooking a three-cheese sandwich with pesto dip. In the video, as Ayushmaan listed his ingredients, including smoked paprika, Parmeet interrupted and joked, “Non-smoking kahan hai?” After which his son replied, “Non-PJ father mil sakta hai? (Can I get a father who doesn’t crack poor jokes)”

As both their sons started chopping the vegetables, Aaryamann tried to prank his parents by faking a cut on his hand. He turned around unharmed and said, “April fool”. Archana got worried and asked him not to pull off such practical jokes. “Oh My God, its a joke na? Yaar aise mat karo, bahut darr gayi main. (I got scared, please don’t do this)” The actor took a sigh for a second and Ayushmaan was quick to join his brother in the prank. He screamed, grabbed his scared mother’s attention, and started laughing. He immediately kissed his mom, cherishing the adorable moment. Archana said, “Terrible children ya. You



people say that they are good kids, they aren’t.”Towards the end of the vlog, it was judgement time for their parents. Archana and Parmeet found the pasta and sandwich equally tasty, and couldn’t announce a winner. Both Aaryamann and Ayushmaan received a sweet standing ovation from their parents.Meanwhile, Archana Puran Singh is also a part of Kapil Sharma’s show on Netflix. It is currently on a break and will return with its third season soon.

‘Never believed I have it in me just because I come from a certain family,’ says Shashi Kapoor’s grandson Zahan Kapoor

The latest Kapoor on the block wears the mantle of his surname lightly, brushes off talk about his legacy and says he was actually scared to step into the world of acting. Zahan Kapoor is clear he wants to carve out his own space and not just as Shashi Kapoor’s grandson.Zahan, who made a splash with his role in the web series Black Warrant could barely speak Hindi growing up. But you’d never know hearing him speak.

“I couldn’t speak Hindi when I was a child. I started learning it when I was 18-19 and started doing theatre. It was the time I started getting interested in acting,” the 33-year-old told PTI.“I believe language is a weapon for actors and I have a lot of interest in literature and poetry. I’m always reading something or the other. I read it in Devanagari . It enriches your imagination. It is also like riyaaz for me,” he said.To get it just right, Zahan said he worked with a diction coach to learn the lilt of the Hindi dialect spoken in a middle-class Delhi family for “Black Warrant”.His parents Kunal Kapoor and Sheena Sippy had told him he was on his own. In fact, the film genes came from both his parents with his maternal grandfather being “Sholay” director Ramesh Sippy. The fear factor was even more given his lineage.“It was like a door that was there, but it was entirely up to me whether to open it and step inside. And even after that, I had to walk the path on my own. My parents told me that this journey demands hard work, so I have to figure it out myself,” he added.

Zahan made his movie debut with Hansal Mehta’s “Faraaz” in 2022. Then came the much acclaimed performance as former Tihar jailer Sunil Gupta in Vikramaditya Motwane’s Netflix series “Black Warrant” which premiered in January.“I never believed I knew it all. And that’s why I was scared when I was getting into this field. I have tried to learn everything and that is an ongoing process,” he added.“I realised that there are many dangers and I should trust myself more than others... Aur uske liye main prayaas karoon, abhyaas karoon aur jitna ho sake apne aap ko taiyyar karoon” . I never believed, and this is a part of my upbringing, that I have it in me and I can do it because I have a name or I come from a certain family or it is in my blood. I have genuinely worked hard for it.”Nepotism is a much debated term in the Hindi film industry and Zahan, from arguably Hindi cinema’s most prominent family, has somehow been able to navigate these tough waters carefully without controversy.

“My mother is a photographer and my father is an ad filmmaker. He also runs a theatre company and we used to discuss theatre and performance a lot. We never discussed the past work, it was more about contemporary things. So

I think that was the influence.”The actor was deeply involved in Prithvi Theatre, which Shashi Kapoor built in the memory of his father, actor-theatre personality Prithviraj Kapoor.He enjoyed participating in plays in school but it was just for fun at the time, Zahan said. Always interested in reading and writing, he wrote a short film and his father taught him about film production.“I started assisting in films, theatre and in advertising after junior college. I was really involved in craft and the filmmaking process during that time. I realised that I was on a film set and there was a reason for me to be there. I found it satisfying that I’m able to contribute to something which is bigger than me.”His parents are a little more accepting towards his work than a regular family would be given the uncertain nature of the profession, Zahan said.

“I have a very supportive structure, even though there are still fights about what I should be doing.”What are his memories of Shashi Kapoor, a huge commercial star who also had a successful parallel cinema career?According to Zahan, his grandfather’s cinema and theatre legacy was a “beautiful garden with all kinds of flowers” and he has beautiful memories of spending time with him.

“I have not seen all of his films but I have seen ‘In Custody’, it is a beautiful movie. I think his influence is there somewhere even with my father. This thought process, the value system and his passions are my legacy, not fame and wealth,” he said.He is happy “Black Warrant” has been received warmly and his work in it has been appreciated. Feedback, whether good or bad, helps an actor evolve, the actor said.“I don’t think about the end result. If someone is thinking about where the film will go or what impact it will create, then I don’t know how to have that conversation. I am more about the process, the intention behind a story and the people I collaborate with.”It is just a coincidence that both his projects were inspired by true events Faraaz on the 2016 Holy Artisan Bakery attack in Dhaka and Black Warrant on what transpired in and around Tihar Jail during Gupta’s tenure.“I want to do everything. I love watching feel-good, commercial, big films as well as historical drama, period drama, even romantic films. When we talk about intimate stories in the independent filmmaking world, then we can emphasise those ideas. And I believe there is a place for every kind of story,” he said.

“I’m open, I’m looking and I’m trying to find something that is made with an honest intention. And the people attached with the project see it as a service to the story, even if it is entertainment.”

John Abraham on The Diplomat being banned in the Middle East: ‘This is not an anti-Pakistan film...’



When John Abraham’s The Diplomat hit the screens on March 14, Vicky Kaushal-Laxman Utekar’s Chhaava was still going very strong at the box office. Although there weren’t many Hindi films released during that period, The Diplomat had a slow start, earning just Rs 13.3 crore in its opening weekend and Rs 19.15 crore in its first week. However, the movie picked up pace and has even weathered the Sikandar storm, which hit theaters on March 30.Despite The Diplomat gaining momentum, the film ran into trouble as it was banned in several Middle Eastern countries. However, John, in an interview to Hindustan Times, reiterated that the makers were sensitive about the portrayal of people and countries in the movie. “Ritesh Shah wrote a banger of a script, but credit to Shivam Nair too. I told him that we don’t have to put down another country or another

person to show that we are better or bigger in any way,” said John, who pointed out that many recent films walked this line of jingoism. He also said that it was important to understand that there are good and bad people everywhere, and makers should be sensitive about the portrayal of people and countries. “We didn’t cheat anybody or sell our souls for the film.”

Despite his thorough consideration, The Diplomat faced a ban in the Middle East, and John Abraham expressed his shock and surprise about the myopic vision of a few. “This is not an anti-Pakistan film. If at all, we showed that the judiciary system in Pakistan is honest. We showed an honest Pakistani lawyer and an honest Pakistani judge. Even the patrolling cars that are taking us to the border had honest policemen. They are actually fighting against the other guys. So, we’ve in no way demeaned anybody.”Talking about how the film found its audience during the release despite the loud silence surrounding The Diplomat, John said, “No one knew when The Diplomat released. There was absolutely no confidence around the film from the partners involved in it.” However, he expressed his gratitude to his critics and audience for keeping the film alive. “Audience always finds the good films.”The Diplomat, directed by Shivam Nair, revolves around John Abraham’s JP Singh, Deputy High Commissioner of India in Pakistan, and Sadia Khateeb, who plays Uzma Ahmed, the woman seeking repatriation to India. When asked about how he seems to be at ease playing a secondary role in a woman-fronted narrative, John said, “You have to be secure as an actor and you need to know what is your intention? Do you want to keep playing a glorified lead or do you want to tell a good story? There’s nothing wrong with either, but I want to do the latter. You have to be a carrier of a good story, which is something that we must reinvent in our industry.”

Ajay Devgn on the Hindi film industry’s dull phase at the box office: ‘Bollywood, Hollywood, South, everywhere the situation is the same’

The Hindi film industry is currently facing a rough patch, with more flops than hits. Even recent release Sikandar, starring Salman Khan, has failed to make a significant impact at the box office. At the trailer launch of Raid 2 on Tuesday, Team SCREEN asked Ajay Devgn if gauging the audience’s pulse had become more challenging. He agreed, acknowledging that it’s a tough time for the entire film industry.

Ajay said, “It’s not like only Bollywood films are not working today. This is the case with films all over the world. Some are not working, and some are really working. Bollywood, Hollywood, South, everywhere the situation is the same.”He added, “Right now we are struggling, and not very sure what the audience would come in for. But we think we have an idea about how the audience has evolved and changed. During the pandemic, there was too much exposure to international content. We are adapting to the change in audience preferences, and that’s how we are also changing. But nobody is very sure as yet.”

When asked if soaring ticket prices are also a reason behind dropping footfalls in theatres, Ajay Devgn said, “It has nothing to do with the ticket prices. I think today the audience is deciding which film they should watch and which



one they shouldn’t. The audience isn’t attracted by the kind of promotions but by the content. It all boils down to whether they are getting what they want to see in the trailer or not.”Raid 2, produced by Panorama Studios and T-Series, also stars Vaani Kapoor, Riteish Deshmukh and Saurabh Shukla in prominent roles. The movie will hit theatres on May 1.

Gautami Kapoor addresses her video where she threw shade at Ektaa Kapoor, denies claims husband Ram Kapoor took Ozempic: ‘Not out of vengeance’



Television actor Ram Kapoor’s wife, Gautami Kapoor, has responded to the speculation of a rift between them and producer Ektaa Kapoor. In a recent interaction, she also addressed claims about Ram Kapoor taking Ozempic for his drastic weight loss.Earlier, Ektaa Kapoor had taken an indirect dig at Ram Kapoor — without naming the actor — for denying the use of Ozempic, hinting that he was lying. After Ektaa’s cryptic Instagram post, Gautami had shared a video mimicking Ektaa.

In a recent interaction with Vicky Lalwani, Gautami discussed Ektaa’s comment and said, “Ram has been alleged of doing many things in the past. That doesn’t make it true. Just because somebody is saying it, doesn’t make those things true. And Ram is the kind of person, if he has done anything, he will say it. He doesn’t hide anything.”When Gautami explained Ram’s stance, she was again quizzed about her video mimicking Ektaa, which she shared around the same time, presumably to hit back at Ektaa. However Gautami denied such claims and explained her stance. She said, “I have not done this with any kind of vengeance, or any kind of revenge or vested interest. Ye social media ne isko itna hype kar diya hai. Logon ke beech mein ab ye debate chal rahi hai. Maine is attitude se ye kiya hi nahi hai,

ki mujhe badla lena hai, ya mujhe kuch vengeance hai kisi ke saath. Aisa kuchh bhi nahi hai (Social media has given it so much hype. Now there’s this debate going on among people. I never had this attitude of wanting to take revenge or get back at anyone. I never had any such intentions).”

She added, “I have done it in the spirit of fun. I have done it so that when people see it, people laugh at it. Not say that ‘Are they having some rivalry? Is there a fallout?’ There’s nothing like that guys. Everyone needs to chill. It’s not about rivalry all the time. It’s also about fun. It’s a 30 second video, look at it, laugh at it and move on! People are taking it more seriously than me and Ekta, I think.”Gautami revealed that putting out the video was her sole decision and Ram had no role to play in it. She also shared how Ram refused to get involved in the matter. She said, “When he came back, he was inundated with thousands of messages from all over the world. Then he saw it obviously, and he was like ‘Good for you. Don’t drag me in the middle of this because this is between you, Ekta and social media. Don’t drag me into this.”

Scientists genetically engineer extinct dire wolf

Washington: Three genetically engineered wolves that may resemble extinct dire wolves are trotting, sleeping and howling in an undisclosed secure location in the US, according to the company that aims to bring back lost species.

The wolf pups, which range in age from three to six months old, have long white hair, muscular jaws and already weigh in at around 80 pounds — on track to reach 140 pounds at maturity, researchers at Colossal Biosciences reported.Dire wolves, which went extinct more than 10,000 years old, are much larger than gray wolves, their closest living relatives today.

Independent scientists said this latest effort doesn’t mean dire wolves are coming back to North American grasslands any time soon. “All you can do now is make something look superficially like something else” — not fully revive extinct species, said Vincent Lynch, a biologist at the University at Buffalo who was not involved in the research.