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TGBIE declares summer holidays for intermediate colleges across Telangana till June 1

Hyderabad: The Telangana Board of Intermediate Education (TGBIE) declared summer holidays for all intermediate colleges across the state till June 1. The fresh academic year will commence on June 2.

All intermediate colleges, including government, private, and aided institutions, have been instructed to strictly adhere to the vacation schedule. The Board urged students to utilize holidays time productively for self-study and skill development. Any institution found conducting unauthorised classes during the holiday period would face strict action as per the guidelines of the Board, said S Krishna Aditya, Secretary TGBIE.

'Uber for Teens' rolls out in Hyderabad, other major cities

New Delhi: Ride-hailing major Uber on Wednesday announced the launch of a new service called 'Uber for Teens' in India, which, the company claimed, is designed to offer safe and reliable transportation options for teenagers aged 13 to 17 years in the country. This service has been rolled out across 37 cities in the country, including Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Kolkata, among others. The service comes with a set of strict safety protocols, including GPS tracking, real-time ride tracking, and an in-app emergency button. "This is to ensure that both teens and their parents feel secure while using the service," claimed the company. A key feature of 'Uber for Teens' is that it allows parents to have oversight on the rides their children book.

S C rebukes Revanth Reddy over statement made in Assembly



GNS News Agency, April 2

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday rebuked Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy over his statement made in the state Assembly, saying he was making mockery of the anti-defection law. The Chief Minister had stated that there would be no by-elections even if the MLAs of the opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) defect to the ruling Congress."If this is said on the floor of the house, your Hon'ble CM is making a mockery of the 10th Schedule," the bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and A.G. Masih, slamming the Chief Minister while hearing petitions filed by BRS leaders, seeking disqualification of BRS MLAs who defected to Congress last year. BRS MLA P. Kaushik Reddy had filed the petition seeking the disqualification of MLAs T. Venkata Rao, Danam Nagender, and Kadiyam Srihari for defecting to the Congress after winning the election on BRS tickets. The Telangana High Court, in November last year, directed the Speaker of the Telangana Assembly to decide on the disqualification petitions within a "reasonable time." Later, Kaushik Reddy and another BRS MLA K. Pandu Vivekananda and BJP MLA A. Maheshwar Reddy filed separate petitions in the Supreme Court, seeking direction to the Speaker to decide on the disqualification petitions in a time-bound manner.

Working President K T Rama Rao, seeking the disqualifi-

cation of seven other BRS MLAs who switched loyalties to Congress. During the hearing on the petitions on Wednesday, counsel for the petitioners C. Aryaman Sundaram brought to the court's notice the statement made by the Chief Minister in the Assembly on March 26. Appearing for the respondents, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi argued that Assembly proceedings were not in question in the present case. Justice Gavai suggested that the senior lawyer warn the Chief Minister against making such controversial statements in the legislature."We know we are slow in issuing contempt notices, but we are also not powerless," he said. The bench observed that statements made in legislatures have sanctity."When politicians say something in the Assembly, it has got sanctity. In fact, the judgments say that when we interpret laws, the speech given on the floor of the House can be used for interpreting," it said.Justice Gavai told Rohatgi to warn the Chief Minister against repeating the mistake. The judge was apparently referring to the CM's remark made in August last year about the bail granted to BRS MLC K Kavitha in Delhi liquor policy case. Revanth Reddy had reportedly stated that Kavitha could secure bail within five months as the vote bank of the BRS was transferred to the BJP. "Do we pass our orders in consultation with political parties? We are not bothered about which party politicians belong to; We are not bothered by politicians' criticism of our orders. We do our duty as per the Constitution and our oath,". Justice Gavai had said while addressing Rohatgi and Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Revanth Reddy. After the Supreme Court faulted the Chief Minister for his remarks, he unconditionally expressed his regret. Speaking in the Assembly last month, the Chief Minister told BRS MLAs who switched loyalties to the Congress that they need not worry as by-elections will not be held. The Chief Minister stated that during the BRS rule, turncoats took oath as ministers and no by- elections were held in the previous government. "How will by-elections be held now?" he asked. The Chief Minister's statement drew a strong reaction from the BRS leader Rama Rao, who had said

land debate. While the party falsely accuses the BRS of tavouring intiuential tigures like ivlyHome Hamesnwar Hao, it lacks the courage to investigate or act against them. Instead, Congress focuses on disrupting HCU, punishing the

She said the Congress government in Telangana is making a brazen attempt to seize the University of Hyderabad (HCU) land, despite a clear court verdict affirming that the land rightfully belongs to the university. This land, originally given by Indira Gandhi and protected by the BRS, has been the centre of a prolonged legal battle for 25 years. The court has now ruled in favour of HCU, yet the Congress government is manipulating the outcome to claim that the land belongs to the government, not the university. The BRS leader said if the Congress administration truly seeks land for infrastructure development, it should utilize the 397 acres previously allocated to Hyderabad Central University, compensating the 400 acres. Instead, it is targeting HCU's 2,500-acre campus, threatening its rich biodiversity and peaceful academic environment. Hyderabad already has ample land for development, and bulldozing HCU land only reveals Congress's disregard for environmental preservation and academic sanctity, she added. Kavitha said the government must respect the court's decision and preserve HCU's land and environment. Twisting facts and bulldozing educational institutions only reveal Congress's true priorities—favouring the elite at the expense of the common people and nature. (NSS)

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): BRS leader MLC Kavitha today slammed Congress party's selective bulldozing. It shields the rich, targets the poor and weakens amidst HCU

poor and vulnerable while shielding the powerful, she said.

Bhopal's Muslims burst firecrackers in support of Waqf (Amendment) Bill

legacy: MLC Kavitha

GNS News Agency, April 2

Bhopal: A large number of Muslims in Madhya Pradesh's capital, Bhopal, burst firecrackers on Wednesday to express their support for the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, which was presented in the Lok Sabha earlier in the day. People from various organizations and groups, including women and children, gathered at a central location in the city to welcome the central government's decision to introduce the Bill. Many were seen holding posters, placards, and banners supporting the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The celebration came as a surprise to many, as the Muslim community has been vocal in its opposition to the Bill. Even during the holy month of Ramadan, protesters were seen wearing black armbands during namaz as a mark of protest. The Bill is currently being discussed in the Lok Sabha as the central government pushes for its passage amid strong resistance from opposition parties and Muslim

organizations, including the All India Muslim Personal Law Board. If cleared in the lower house, the Bill will be tabled in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday (April 3). On Tuesday, opposition parties staged a walkout from the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting, chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, protesting against what they called inadequate time for discussion.

While they had demanded 12 hours for debate, only eight were granted. Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju presented the government's stance while tabling the Bill and addressed concerns during the discussion.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently said in an interview that the Waqf (Amendment) Bill aligns with constitutional provisions and that "no one should be afraid of the proposed legislation."The opposition, however, has claimed that the government is bulldozing the legislation. The Bill aims to streamline the Waqf Board's functions, ensuring the efficient administration of these properties.

The Supreme Court is also hearing the petition of BRS that they would bring this to the court's notice. Rescue operations at SLBC tunnel are progressing swiftly: Ponguleti



Nagarkurnool, April 2 (NSS): Minister for Revenue and Housing Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has announced that the rescue efforts at the SLBC Tunnel are progressing swiftly, following the directives of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. He stated that these operations are expected to be completed within the next 10 to 15 days.Minister Ponguleti on Wednesday inspected the site of the SLBC tunnel accident near Domalapenta village in the Nagarkurnool district. He later addressed the media in Srisailam.Ponguleti noted that nearly 800 specialists

from various organisations have been involved in the rescue operations over the past 40 days. He emphasized, forts. However, extracting mud from the tunnel has become challenging and hazardous due to the presence of iron and other materials entangled with the heavy drilling machinery."The Minister announced that the State government has made all necessary arrangements to prevent any disruptions in the relief efforts. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy has instructed that the Collector, Special Monitoring Officer, Disaster Management Officer, and SP, among others, must always be available. Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, accompanied by his wife, visited the Srisailam Mallikarjuna Swamy temple. Upon their arrival at the temple's Rajagopuram, the couple received a warm welcome from the temple's executive officer. Srinivasa Rao, who adorned them with garlands and facilitated their darshan. The priests chanted Vedic hymns and bestowed blessings upon them within the temple grounds. During this visit, Minister Ponguleti made a contribution towards the development of the Srisailam Devasthanam by donating a cheque for Rs. 10,11,116 to the temple's executive officer. (NSS)

KTR, BRS leaders condemn lathi-charge on **UoH students, question Congress Govt policies**



GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad: The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) condemned the police brutality against students of the University of Hyderabad (UoH), who were protesting against razing of trees in 400 acres inside the university campus for development. They charged Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy with encroaching on green spaces to promote real estate development while ignoring student concerns and environmental damage.BRS working president KT Rama Rao questioned the government's decision to encroach on green spaces when large tracts of land were available elsewhere. "When 14,000 acres of land in 'Future City' are readily available for IT parks and economic activity, why target Hyderabad's environment and destroy the present city for future generations?" he asked.

Former Minister and MLA G Jagadish Reddy condemned the assault on the students who had fought for Telangana's statehood."Congress came to power with the support of students and youth, but today, it is repaying them with cases and police batons," he said. He stated that Revanth Reddy was trying to finish the incomplete work left by his mentor and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu who gave away the lands to private entities. He said there was a secret Congress-BJP nexus, as the Centre remains silent on the issue. "If union Minister G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay are sincere, why don't they stop the police from entering UoH?" he asked.Former Minister and MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy criticised the Congress for "selling government lands to corporate giants," under the guise of develop-

CM Revanth Reddy Pays Tribute to Sardar Sarvai Papanna

GNS News Agency, April 2

New Delhi: Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy today paid tribute to Bahujan warrior Sardar Sarvai Papanna, hailing him as a leader who opposed autocratic rule and fought for social and political equality. On the occasion of Papanna's death anniversary, CM Revanth Reddy garlanded his portrait at his residence in Delhi on Wednesday, honoring his legacy. Speaking on the occasion, he highlighted Papanna's contributions, stating, "Centuries ago, he united different sections of society and fought for justice and equality.'

MLC Nagababu pays courtesy visit to CM Chandrababu after oath

GNS News Agency, April 2

In a significant political development, newly-elected Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) Nagababu officially took his oath of office at the office of the Chairman of

the Legislative Council. Following the ceremonial oath-taking, he paid a courtesy visit to Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu at the Secretariat.

During the meeting, Nagababu and Naidu discussed various pressing

issues facing the state and explored potential avenues for collaboration to enhance governance and public welfare. The courtesy call signifies the new MLC's commitment to working closely with the Chief Minister to address the needs and aspirations of the constituents.



Telangana High Court stays all work

on Kancha Gachibowli land

GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad: The PIL bench of the Telangana High Court comprising acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara on Wednesday issued directives staying all work, including felling of trees or any other action, on the disputed 400 acres of land at Kancha Gachibowli, over which the University of Hyderabad and the State government have been trading arguments for almost a week now. The stay is till the hearing, which will continue on Thursday, is completed. The bench had taken up hearing of the case pertaining to the proposed act of the State government in putting up 400 acres at Kancha Gachibowli in Serilingampally mandal for auction through the Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC). Kalapala Babu Rao, a retired scientist from the twin cities had filed the writ plea seeking a court direction to declare the State's action in razing 400 acres of forest land, in pursuance of GO Ms No 54 dated June 26, 2024 issued by the Revenue department, as unlawful and in violation of the Forest Conservation Act 1980. The petitioner had also complained about the inaction of authorities in not constituting an Expert Committee under Rule 16(1) of the Forest Conservation Rules

2023 for the preparation of a consolidated record of for-

est lands, including forest-like areas, as unlawful, arbitrary and unconstitutional. Further contentions were raised, stating that the State was acting in violation of the directions issued by the Supreme Court in the case of Ashok Kumar Sharma versus union of India.He had also alleged that the State's actions were disastrous and sought court directions to declare the forest land admeasuring Ac 400-gts in Sy No 25, Kanche Gachibowli village, as a National Park under Section 35 of the Wildlife Congress bulldozes HCU's

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Balancing trade

With the April 2 deadline ending today, the US is set o impose reciprocal tariffs, arguing that India's 100 per cent duty on American agricultural goods is among the nany unfair trade practices harming its economy. While New Delhi is expected to take a trade hit, its diplomatic nanoeuvring signals a broader strategy. By proposing amendments to its nuclear liability law, India is looking beyond immediate trade friction to secure long-term economic and strategic gains.

President Trump's aggressive tariff policy aims at enforcing reciprocity, a doctrine he has long championed. His latest move is being framed as a correction to perceived economic imbalances. However, India's tariff structure is rooted in the need to protect its domestic industries and rural livelihoods. A sudden rollback without corresponding US market access could hurt Indian farmers and manufacturers. India exported goods worth \$77 billion to the US in 2024, making it its largest export desination, while importing \$55 billion worth of American goods, resulting in a trade surplus of \$22 billion. The latest tariff retaliation, which could impact over \$10 billion worth of Indian exports, is a sharp escalation in trade tensions.

Yet, while India resists trade concessions, it appears nore willing to accommodate US interests in another critical domain — nuclear energy. The Modi government's plans to amend the Civil Liability for Nuclear Damages Act mark a significant shift from its earlier stance. If the changes align with US expectations, they could revive stalled nuclear deals with US energy group Westinghouse, unlocking \$20 billion in investments. France's EDF, too, stands to benefit, making this a move of geopolitical and economic significance. India's strategy is clear: absorb the trade shock in the short term but yiden the field by offering nuclear incentives.



Under the supervision of Kolan Hanumanth Reddy, the Qutbullapur in-charge of the Congress Party, a photo of A. Revanth Reddy was washed with milk at the Kaiser Nagar ration shop. "The event was attended by senior leader Sanjeev Reddy, 125 Division President MD Layak, Minority President of 125 Division Syed Shafi, State Joint Convener of the Minority Department Sameer Khan, along with MD Gaffar, Ajay, MD Asif, MD Azeem, and others.

Activists demand allotment of Kancha Gachibowli lands to HCU



Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Several environmental ac tivists today demanded that the State government hand over the controversial 400-acres of land to Hyderabad Central University without making any changes to its topography. Addressing media persons at city based NSS Arunodaya Cultural Federation president Vimalakka, along with the president of World Environmental Organisation Bhadra and PDSU leader Vijay expressed her angst that the protest programs of the students of the university for the last 15 days had damaged the educational eco system in the University. She alleged that the Congress government had turned its eyes on the lands of all the universities of the State and added that there was a need for the people of the State to oppose the plans of the auction of the 400 acres of land by the State government to protect the environment. She said there was also a need to protect the biodiversity of the HCU. She demanded that the State government stop lathi-charge and withdraw cases filed against the students. She also demanded that the State government remove all the police force from the university cam-

Dhanvantari Victims Forum demands govt to take action against Kamalakar Sharma

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Dhanvantari Victims Forum convener Giriprasad Sharma has demanded legal action against Kamalakar Sharma, who is committing fraud by setting up a trust in the name of Dhanvantari Foundation International. Speaking to media persons at the Hyderguda based NSS on Wednesday, Giriprasad Sharma alleged that Kamalakar Sharma, who has been defrauding 3,000 people of crores of rupees at high interest rates for two decades, had been in jail and was still committing financial crimes even after being released on bail. He alleged that investors were being mentally disturbed as he was warning them of dragging them to court. He said the CCS had seized Kamalakar Sharma's accounts due to his involvement in financial crimes but added that he was withdrawing money from banks even after coming out of jail. He alleged that Kamalakar Sharma, who was involved in a corruption case of Rs 1400 crore last year, and his wife Jayashree were released from jail on bail and were currently trying to free themselves from this case by paying Rs 100 crore to the Telangana government. He demanded that CM Revanth Reddy, the State DGP and top police officials take strict action against Kamalakar Sharma, who committed financial crimes and cheated, even though he went to jail and

came out on a clean chit. (NSS)

Take measures to ensure that the city is free from construction waste: Commissioner N. Maurya





"April 2,(Indian Chronicle)"Rayalaseema co-ordinator ""Municipal Commissioner N Maurya has directed the officials to ensure that there is no construction waste or garbage piles anywhere in the city from time to time. On Wednesday morning, the commissioner along with officials inspected green park apartment, D.R. Mahal Road, Hare Rama Hare Krishna Marg, transfer station in New Balaji Colony and Anna Canteen in the city""Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner said that there is construction waste in many places in the city and directed the town planning officials to clean them up immediately. Sweeping at night and removal of garbage heaps should be done every day. She also directed the officials to ensure that the garbage management point set up at the Green Park apartment is done at the same level as at the apartments and create awareness that the hotels should do the same as they are producing gas with wet garbage at iskcon kitchen"The staff was instructed to keep the Anna Canteen clean and serve food items at the right times. On this occasion, the quality of the food items was inspected. The Commissioner was accompanied by Superintendent Engineer Shyamsunder, Municipal Engineers Tulasi Kumar, Gomathi, Health Officer Dr. Yuva Anvesh, DEs Mahesh, Ramana, Madhubabu, ACP Balaji, Sanitary Supervisors,

The Supreme Court stays proud of the judgment of the rape case..



Just Rights for Children Alliance to argue on behalf of the victim """Warangal, April 2, Indian Chronicle: """Share NGO Director G Gopalareddy said that.. the Supreme Court is proud to stay on behalf of the victim. He revealed the details of the Supreme Court's stay challenging the verdict of the Allahabad High Court. The Indian Supreme Court on Wednesday stayed on the controversial verdict of the Allahabad High Court not attempting to rape her under her culvert and pulling her under the culvert. Gopal Reddy, director of the Society for Health Awareness Rural

Enlightment), said the decision was an important share for the protection of children's rights. Speaking on Wednesday .The Supreme Court has agreed to file a special 05 petition filed by the Just Rights for Children's Alaits challenging the verdict of the Allahabad High Court and has been allowed to represent the victim. Just Rights for Children Alliance is fighting with a network of over 250 NGOs in 416 districts for children's protection and rights, Share NGO Director Warangal, Hanumakonda and Mahabubabad district are working for the protection of children's rights in the district and that the country should not be unfair in the country. How sensitive the Supreme Court is dealing with the rights of children. We are understandable by interfering with this case. The Supreme Court has said that the verdict was shocking and ineffective by the Allahabad High Court's decision. He conveyed the main matters in this caseThe verdict, especially in the verdict, said that the verdict in the paragraph 21, 24 and 26 was not fully sensitive, and the verdict after nearly four months of negotiations was illegal. He said that no FIR has been registered for more than three and a half years and has been in place for more than three years without an official investigation. The court has recognized that this long passive and severe injustice was done to the poor and vulnerable child victim. Share NGO representatives and Sirisha were present at the event.

Govt protected 400 acres of land from being acquired by private individuals: Jupally

GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Minister for Tourism Jupally Krishna Rao has reiterated that the State government has not taken any land from Hyderabad Central University (HCU) and In fact, he stated that the government has successfully preserved 400 acres of land that could have been lost to private individuals. During a press conference at Gandhi Bhavan on Wednesday, the Minister clarified that the 400 acres located in Survey Number 25 at Kanche Gachibowli does not belong to HCU. He noted that the land had been legally reclaimed by a private entity that was involved in ongoing litigation. Nevertheless, the State government demonstrated its legal ownership of the land in court and ultimately secured it through a legal process. "The presence of trees in an area that has been empty for two decades does not constitute a forest," he remarked. The Minister noted that there are several misunderstandings concerning the land of Hyderabad Central University (HCU), and some forces are actively working to sow discord and confuse both students and the people for their own political interests. Jupally



Krishna Rao explained that the State government is focused on reclaiming lakes in Hyderabad that have been encroached upon for many years, and there will be no necessity for the government to acquire land from Hyderabad Central University. He further commented, "Opposition parties are engaging in misleading propaganda simply to provoke students." (NSS)

UHTA organizes protest against auction of UoH land & detention of students



Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): University of Hyderabad Teachers' Association (UHTA) president Dr Bhangya Bhukya today called protest against the auction of 400 acres of land and detention of students. More than 200 faculties, non-teaching staff and around 700 students participated. A protest rally was organized from Dr BR Ambedkar Auditorium to East campus (The site of 400 acres of disputed land). However, procession was stopped by the police and some of the protesting students were brutally caned by the police. Then the procession moved towards University main gate where teachers and students' representatives addressed the media and marched towards Administration to make a representation to the Vice Chancellor and Registrar of the University. The UHTA demanded that the State Government immediately withdraw police force from the campus and stop the mindless destruction of green cover using earthmovers immediately. It also demanded release of the arrested students unconditionally and no charges be filed against any student The UHTA demanded an assessment of destruction of the forest cover of the disputed 400 acres land in the University by the State Government and it should be done by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India immediately. The

University should submit a representation to the Forest

Department to declare the forested areas as a Bio-heritage reserve, it said, adding the University should go to the court and demand that the State Government compensate 137 acres of land taken (given to housing societies) and 18 acres taken for road development according to the MoU signed between the University and the State Government.

Even though the State Government claims that it owns 400 acres of land, ownership doesn't give rights to violate laws by cutting down green cover, and by destroying habitat of animals. University has been custodian of this land for the past 50 years and preserved the biodiversity intact. The rights of the University as the custodian cannot be overridden by the State Government, he said and added that the original 2324 acres of land allotted to the University clearly mentions that this land should be utilized only for educational purposes. However, the State Government's plan was to auction it for commercial, a multi-utility purpose which violates the original order, Dr Bhangya Bhukya added. (NSS)

India Art Festival on April 4 at Kings Crown Convention

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): India Art Festival is set to commence in Hyderabad with a grand inauguration on April 4 at 11 am at Kings Crown Convention, Pillar 68, PVNR Expressway, Rethi Bowli, Attapur, Hyderabad.

The opening ceremony will be graced by Patel Ramesh Reddy, Chairman, Tourism Corporation, as the chief guest. The event will also witness the esteemed presence of guests of honour Laxman Aelay, eminent artist, Jagadish Chinthala, eminent sculptor and artist, Tudi Devender Reddy, former president, Jubilee Hills International Club (JHIC) and Prayag Shukla, senior writer & curator. (NSS)

Surya Prabha Vahanam held



"April 2,(Indian Chronicle) Rayalaseema co-ordinator "The annual Brahmotsavam at Sri Kodandarama temple in Tirupati witnessed Sri Ramachandra Murty taking a divine ride on Surya Prabha Vahanam to bless His devotees. "Both the Pontiffs of Tirumala, DyEO Nagaratna and other temple staff were also present. "On April 03, the famous Rathotsavam will take place from 9:15am onwards."

Sheikh Chand Pasha meets PAC Chairman Gandhi



""Serilingampalli April 2 Senior Congress party leader from Serilingampalli constituency Sheikh Chand Pasha met PAC Chairman Arikepudi Gandhi on the occasion of Ramzan and extended their greetings. Congress party leaders Baling Gautam Goud, Dhatri Goud, Katakam Ramu and Zaheer participated.



As per the invitation of the temple committee, Kolan Hanumanth Reddy, the Congress Party in-charge of the Qutbullapur constituency, attended the Parvati Parameshwara Kalyanam as the chief guest at the Brahmotsavam celebrations of Sri Sri Sri Venkateswara, Shiva, and Veeranjaneya Swamy Temple in Gajularamaram, 132 Division, Qutbullapur constituency. ""He performed special prayers for the deities, seeking the well-being and happiness of the people of the constituency. Later, he participated in the Annadanam (food donation) program. ""The event was attended by DCC Vice President Dhammani Shravan Kumar, Division President Beku Srinivas, Balappa, Praveen, Mahila President Sujatha Yadav, Ashwini, Shobha Reddy, Jayamma, and members of the temple committee.

Viatris Certified as a Great Place to Work in India for the Fourth Consecutive Year

Hyderabad: Mylan Laboratories Limited (a Viatris Company) has been recognized with the Great Place to Work® Certification™ in India for the fourth consecutive year. This recognition highlights Viatris' unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of inclusivity, engagement, and employee wellbeing.Great Place to Work® is the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience, and the leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, employee retention and increased innovation. As part of the assessment, Great Place to Work® Institute measured the perceptions of Viatris India colleagues using the Great Place to Work® Trust Index© Employee Survey. The results speak for themselves – 85% of Viatris India colleagues who were part of the survey shared that they think Viatris India is a great place to work!"Great Place to Work Certification is a highly coveted achievement that requires consistent and intentional dedication to the overall employee experience," says Sarah Lewis-Kulin, the Vice President of Global Recognition at Great Place to Work. She emphasizes that Certification is the sole official recognition earned by the real-time feedback of employees regarding their company culture. "By successfully earning this recognition, it is evident that Viatris stands out as one of the top companies to work for, providing a great workplace environment for its employees." Anupam Bhatt, Head of Human Relations, Viatris India, says, "Receiving the Great Place to Work Certification for the fourth consecutive year is a proud moment for us. This milestone is a direct reflection of our people-first philosophy and our efforts to create an environment where employees feel valued, empowered, and supported in their career growth. At Viatris, we continuously invest in wellbeing, inclusivity, and development to help our employees thrive. This recognition is a testament to our dedicated team and strengthens our commitment to enhancing the employee workplace experience."Viatris Inc. (NASDAQ: VTRS) is a global healthcare company uniquely positioned to bridge the traditional divide between generics and brands, combining the best of both to more holistically address healthcare needs globally. With a mission to empower people worldwide to live healthier at every stage of life, we provide access at scale, currently supplying highquality medicines to approximately 1 billion patients around the world annually and touching all of life's moments, from birth to the end of life, acute conditions to chronic diseases. With our exceptionally extensive and diverse portfolio of medicines, a one-of-a-kind global supply chain designed to reach more people when and where they need them, and the scientific expertise to address some of the world's most enduring health challenges, access takes on deep mean-

SCR gets highest-ever revenue through sale of scrap



Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): South Central Railway accomplished a significant achievement in the 'Mission Zero Scrap' by registering Rs 501.72 crore which is the highest-ever revenue through sale of scrap during the financial year 2024-25. The zone has surpassed the target set by Railway Board (Rs 430 Crores) for the financial year and has recorded an increase in revenue as compared to the previous financial year (2023-24) which was Rs 411.39 crore. SCR has been spearheading in optimal utilization of resources by mobilising scrap sales and undertaking sales through e-auction conducted online through Indian Railways E- Procurement System (IREPS) portal.

The e-auction process has improved the transparency and competitive bidding amongst the Bidders across India and has ensured paperless transaction, as part of Digital India concept. This has further cut down the erstwhile middlemen who existed during the manual auctions. E-auctions have improved participation and reduced grievances of purchasers drastically.

The Materials Management Department of SCR has shouldered the Project, "Mission Zero scrap" and has been ensuring that no scrap is accumulated for more than a month's time or a truck load quantity. This has contributed to cleaning up of workshops, various Railway units and premises, converting every scrap material into financial resource for the exchequer. This project also largely contributed to the "Swatch Bharat Abhiyan" of Government of In-Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, SCR complimented the Materials Management Department officials and staff for their commendable efforts in achieving this significant milestone. He stated that the e-auction process had a transformative impact in enhancing transparency and streamlining business operations. He stated this digital approach has narrowed the gap between Railways and bidders. Further, the General Manager urged officers and staff to persist in their endeavours, aiming for even greater accomplishments in the future. (NSS)

GHMC liberalises process of issue of building/layout permissions

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Town Planning Wing of GHMC deals with the development planning and development regulatory related works. As part of development planning; building / layout permissions and occupancy certificates are issued for construction of various types of buildings and development of layouts. The process of issue of building/layout permissions and occupancy certificates is completely through online based application under which for individual residential buildings with height up to 10mts in plot area up to 500 sq.yds, there is self-certificate system viz., Instant Registration and Instant Approval. The Citizen himself can generate the building permission order instantly online through self certification system and post verification is carried thereafter for issue of work commencement letter.

Recently, the Government, with a view to improve further more efficiency and transparency in delivery of services to the citizens and in order to have citizen centric approach has launched BuildNow application powered with Al based technology enabling quick and hassle-free issue of building / layout permissions. In the financial year 2024-2025; 13,421 building / layout permissions and occupancy



certificates were issued by GHMC. The category-wise issue of permissions and occupancy certificates are as below: Instant Registration – 523; Instant Approval- 8377; Single Window- 2422; Layout with Housing Under Gated Community -6; Layout with Open Plot- 5; Occupancy Certificate – 2088. GHMC has received revenue of Rs 1138.44 crore as revenue during the financial year 2024-2025 towards issue of building/layout permissions and occupancy certificates. The maximum height of residential building permitted this year was at Kondapur (V), Serilingampally (M) consisting of 4-Cellar, Ground+49 upper floors (Tower 1 to 8) with height of 165.95 m. (NSS)

BC Associations demand 42 pc reservation

New Delhi /Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Backward Class (BC) groups, under the auspices of the Backward Class Welfare Association National Committee, staged a dharna at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Wednesday, demanding that the Union government implement 42 per cent reservation by including it in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. The BC groups have invited all parties, including the Congress, to join the dharna. Telangana Chief Minister a Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, Ministers Konda Surekha and Ponnam Prabhakar, Government Whip Adi Srinivas, Senior Congress leader V Hanumantha Rao, and others participated in the protest. Moreover, AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi, MPs Kanimozhi, Supriya Sule, and other leaders also attended the protest to express their solidarity. The leaders insisted that the Bill passed by the Telangana Legislative Assembly, which raises BC reservations to 42 percent, should also be approved and implemented in Parliament. They also called for a caste census to be conducted in conjunction with the national population census and proposed the establishment of a sub-quota for BC women within the existing 33 percent women's reser-

During the event, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy remarked that in order to secure reservations in local bodies and legislative Assemblies, it is essential to understand the population census. He also highlighted that this issue of reservations had been communicated to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. He noted that the courts have stated that reservations cannot be granted without a known population count. Consequently, the Congress party has made the decision to carry out a caste census alongside the population census. Revanth Reddy emphasised that the Mandal Commission recommended allocating 27 percent reservation to the 52 percent of disadvantaged groups. However, he ac-



cused the BJP of conspiring against the Mandal Commission and initiating a Kamandal Yatra in opposition. He mentioned that a demonstration was organised in New Delhi to amplify the concerns of the backward classes (BCs). The Chief Minister remarked that if the Centre decides to raise reservations. Congress leaders will gather with 10 lakh supporters to honour Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He indicated that it is ultimately the Prime Minister's decision regarding the potential increase in reservations nationwide. Revanth Reddy urged the Prime Minister to consider granting Telangana the opportunity to enhance its reservations. "We have come to the national capital solely for the purpose of advocating for BC reservations. That said, we will not come to Delhi on this matter again. Instead, we will continue to protest on the streets and stage a significant demonstration at the Parade Grounds with 10 lakh participants," Revanth Reddy warned.(NSS)

68 students of TGSCSC shine in Group-1 exams

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): The Principal Secretary to Govt, SCDD and president, Telangana Scheduled Castes Study Circle (TGSCSC) Hyderabad N. Sridhar, IAS, has stated that in the recent results announced by the TGPSC for Group-1 General Ranking List of Main Examination on March 30, 2025, (68) students of TGSCSC secured more than 400 marks. Out of these, more than 40 students are expected to get selections in Group-I, including many selections to Deputy Collector, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Commercial Tax Officer and so on.

He also said the Study Circle students have secured top General State Ranks B. Vanaja (38th Rank), R. Mery Gold (56th Rank), M. Raviteja (66th Rank), Kishan Patel

(72nd Rank), E. Rakesh (78th Rank), B. Sravan (84th Rank), D. Praveen (105th Rank) and State Ranks 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 10th Rank in SC category, 2nd Rank in ST category and 10th Rank in BC-D category. In this context, the President, TGSCSC, expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for providing timely funds to run such Coaching Programmes for the unemployed youth belonging to SC, ST, BC, PWD Community so as to train them well for Competitive exams and ensure more candidates are selected into the State and Central Govt. Jobs from weaker sections. He also congratulated all the students who are selected for Group-I Services and conveyed his best wishes. (NSS)

BDL registers record turnover

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Bharat Dynamics Limited



(BDL) has achieved turnover of over Rs 3,300 Crore (provisional & unaudited) during the 2024-25 financial year against the pre-

vious year's turnover of Rs 2,369 Cr registering a record growth of around 40%. This includes, highest-ever export turnover of over Rs 1200 Cr (Provisional & Unaudited) during FY 2024-25 as against the previous year's export turnover of Rs. 161 Cr, registering a record growth of over 640%.

In the fiscal year 2024-25, BDL secured orders worth Rs 6668 Cr and order book position (Provisional & Unaudited) of the company as on April 1, 2025 is around Rs 22700 Crore. (NSS)

KCR holds discussions with Medak, Nizamabad party leaders



Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): BRS party chief KCR today held a preparatory meeting with the party leaders of the joint Medak and Nizamabad districts at his Erravelli residence on Wednesday ahead of the party's silver jubilee celebrations.

In this program, BRS Party Working President KT Rama Rao, Former Medak District Minister and the party

MLA Harish Rao, MLC Deshapati Srinivas, MLA and Siddipet District Party President K. Prabhakar Reddy, Sangareddy District Party President Chinta Prabhakar, Manik Rao, Medak District Party President Padma Devender Reddy, MLC Dr. Yadav Reddy, MLA Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, former MLC Sherry Subhash Reddy, former MLAs Kranthi Kiran, , Bhupal Reddy, party leaders Jaipal Reddy, Adarsh Reddy and others participFormer Minister and MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy, former MLAs Bajireddy Govardhan, Ganesh Bigala Gupta, Gampa Govardhan Jajula Surender, Hanumant Shinde, Nizamabad District Party President Ashanna Garijeevan Reddy, Kamareddy District Party Presidents Mujeebuddin and Ayesha Shakeel Ahmed and others participated from the joint Nizamabad district. Speaking on the occasion, KCR gave directions to the party leaders on what should be done for the successful organisation of the mega event. He asked the party leaders to highlight all the failures of the State government during their interactions with the people of the State and explain them about the steps being taken by the BRS party to support them. (NSS)

Role of linemen and artisans in electricity dept is crucial: Sultania

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): The work of linemen and artisans in the electricity departments is vital. Regardless of the measures implemented by the government or upper management to guarantee consistent power supply to all consumer groups, the organisation's success and reputation hinge on the actions and conduct of the personnel working on the ground, stated Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Principal Secretary of the Energy Department. In response to the rising demand during the summer season, various measures have been implemented over the last three months, including the installation of new power transformers, distribution transformers, and extra feeders to maintain a reliable supply in Greater Hyderabad. Several meetings have taken place in the past with the Deputy Chief Minister, Chief Managing Directors, as well as multiple discussions with Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers to address preparations for the summer. Continuing this effort, it was decided to hold special meetings with field-level staff in all circles to prepare linemen and artisans, who represent the electricity department at the field level. As part of this, a review meeting was held at the GENCO auditorium in GTS Colony with all staff within the Banjara Hills Circle jurisdiction. In this meeting, suggestions and advice were taken from the workers. On the occasion, Sultania mentioned that during this Yasangi season, the power demand has reached 17,162 megawatts. He credited the staff and officers of the electricity departments for ensuring supply without any issues despite the increased demand. With the yasangi season demand now decreasing, the power demand in rural circles is going down, while in urban circles, it's gradually increasing due to the summer impact. The Meteorological department has forecasted that maximum temperatures might increase even more this summer compared to last year. Thus, there's a possibility of a significant rise in power



demand in Greater Hyderabad during April and May. Last year, the peak demand in Greater Hyderabad was recorded at 4,352 megawatts, but this year, it could exceed 5,000 megawatts. The government is ready to meet this demand, and field-level staff were advised to be vigilant and maintain good relations with every consumer. Musharraf Faruqui, Chairman & Managing Director of the Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited, speaking on summer preparedness, stated that all arrangements have been made considering past experiences.

He mentioned that review meetings will be conducted in all circles within Greater Hyderabad in the coming days. Telangana Transco CMD Krishna Bhaskar, TGSPDCL Directors Dr. Narasimhulu, Sai Baba, Nanda Kumar, Sudha Madhuri, Chief Engineer Chakrapani, Superintending Engineers, Divisional Engineers and all staff of the Banjara Hills Circle have participated in the meeting. (NSS)

BJP's day-and-night protest held at Freedom Park, Bengaluru

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Today, Dr Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, former MLC and BJP National Coincharge of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, participated in BJP's day-and-night protest (AhoRatri Dharna) at Freedom Park, Bengaluru, against the Congress Karnataka government's misrule. The protest, led by B.Y. Vijayendra, MLA and KNBJP State president, in the presence of B.S. Yediyurappa, former CM, R. Ashok, Chalavadi Narayana Swamy, Dr C.N. Ashwathanarayanan, C.T. Ravi, Viswanath Reddy, MLA, Gali Janardhan Reddy, MLA, former minister, Byrithiv Basavaraj, MLA, Araga Jnanendra, ex-home minister, along with party MLAs, MLCs, senior leaders, and cadres. Addressing the gathering, Dr Sudhakar Reddy exposed the Congress government's failures, rampant corruption, price hikes, scams, and a complete collapse of law and order. He criticized the government's anti-people policies, highlighting that the prices of water, milk, electricity, metro, registration charges, excise tax, and even garbage collection have surged, along with a diesel price hike. Over the past two years, large number of farmers and five government servants, have given their own lives due to government pressure. Karnataka faces a health emergency, more number of maternal deaths, several newborn deaths, and severe staff shortages in government hospitals. Law and order has collapsed, crimes against women are rising. police are left unprotected, and criminals roam free. 4% res-



ervation for Muslim contractors, no infrastructure development, no FDI, and Bengaluru has been reduced to Dr Sudhakar Reddy said BJP will launch a Statewide campaign against price rise and misgovernance, urging all affected citizens to join, regardless of party lines. "Ram Rajya is ours, Ravan Rajya is theirs." He confidently mentioned that if elections were held anytime from now, BJP would emerge Knbjp president BY Vijayendra, attacked the Antipeople policies, misrule of Karnataka Congress government and declared Statewide agitational programmes in the coming days against the failures of Kn Congress R Ashok, Lop leader and other leaders, including BS Yediyurappa, former CM, CT Ravi spoke on the occasion. (NSS)

Revanth Reddy cheated BCs again: Kishan Reddy

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Union Minister for Coal and Mines and BJP Telangana President G. Kishan Reddy today said they were seeing the protest by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy in Delhi under the guise of a protest by BC organizations in Delhi by citing BC reservations, as an attempt to evade the implementation of 42% BC reservations. "What we have been saying since before that Revanth Reddy is not sincere in providing the BC reservations has now been proven once again. Revanth Reddy, who sees the BCs only as a vote bank, has no intention of using them for as long as he wants, and their development will not be possible. How can you now blame the Centre for promising to increase BC reservations to 42 percent? If the increase in BC reservations is not within your purview, how did you promise? Revanth Reddy is playing this drama because he does not want to increase the BC reservations. Revanth Reddy is the real BC traitor.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is the one who is playing these dramas from behind. The BCs have not forgotten the fact that Rahul Gandhi, unable to digest the fact that a BC person is the Prime Minister, rudely criticized Narendra Modi. Everyone knows that Rahul Gandhi openly expressed his opposition to the BCs by saying that all those with the surname Modi are thieves," he alleged. He also alleged that the Congress had been blocking the BC reservations since the beginning and added that The first Prime Minister Nehru blocked the BC reservations and another former PM Indira Gandhi also blocked the implementation of the BC reservations "If the then Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh tried to implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, then Rajiv Gandhi strongly opposed it in the



Parliament. Rahul Gandhi has filled his heart with anti-BC sentiments through their legacy. Rahul Gandhi is playing dramas by putting Revanth Reddy in front to block BC reservations in the state. Revanth Reddy has not implemented any of the promises made to BCs. In the Kamareddy BC declaration, he said that the BC reservations would be increased within 6 months of coming to power, but later he forgot about it. Due to severe pressure from the people, especially from the BCs, the 42 percent BC reservation bill was passed but not for the welfare of the BCs," he alleged. Reddy said that The Narendra Modi government was working tirelessly for the welfare and development of BCs. "It is the Modi government that has given constitutional status to the BC National Commission. Modi is strictly implementing BC reservations in education and jobs. Scholarships have been increased for BCs and self-employment opportunities have been improved through many schemes. Due to the initiative of the Modi government, the representation of BCs in education, employment, jobs and politics has increased significantly. BC traitors Rahul Gandhi and Revanth Reddy are declaring hypocritical love for BCs..(NSS)

Arrested Bengaluru hawala dealer received smuggled gold from Ranya Rao at least 3 times: DRI



GNS News Agency, April 2

A Bengaluru businessman arrested for allegedly facilitating the purchase of gold smuggled into India from Dubai by Kannada actress Ranya Rao had received smuggled gold from the actress on at least three prior occasions before her arrest, according to the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). The investigations by the DRI following the March 26 arrest of businessman and hawala dealer Sahil Sakariya Jain, 40, who has a prior history of dealing with smuggled gold, including an arrest in Mumbai by the DRI in 2019-20, revealed that Jain possibly received a 14.5 kg gold consignment valued at Rs 11.55 crore allegedly smuggled by the actress on January 11.

The DRI has indicated, based on data extracted from electronic gadgets belonging to Jain and the actress, that Jain was possibly the intended receiver of the 14.2 kg of gold worth Rs 12.56 crore that the actress was caught with by the DRI at the Bengaluru Airport on March 3, 2025, on arrival from Dubai. The DRI has indicated its findings of the links between the businessman and actress in court filings since the arrest of Jain.On Saturday, the DRI approached a special court for economic offences in Bengaluru for a further five days of custody of Jain to conduct a deeper probe of his links to the gold smuggling racket that has been unearthed since the probe started with the March 3 arrest of the Ranya Rao alias Harshavardini Ranya, the stepdaughter of a senior Karnataka police officer.

"The instant application discloses the complainant agency during the course of search at the business premises of accused No.3 (Jain) situated at Cubbonpet, Bengaluru having recovered incriminating materials so also, accused No.3 having assisted and abetted the accused No.1 (Rao) in disposing the gold more than 3 occasions as per his voluntary statement dated 25.03.2025," the court stated while granting five more days of custody of Jain to the DRI.Jain, who was arrested after he was summoned for questioning by the DRI on the basis of an analysis of data from the electronic gadgets of Ranya Rao, had earlier been remanded to four days of DRI custody by the special court on March 26. Jain, who was reportedly introduced to the actress by a person of Kerala origin last year, is alleged to have been in touch with the actress when she was in Dubai to bring gold on March 3 and is also alleged to have facilitated hawala transfers of funds to the actress in Dubai and India after purchase of smuggled gold in India.

reportedly stored in a coded form on the actress's phone to indicate that he was an "Au"/gold dispatcher in Bengaluru. "From the examination of the papers it transpires that the accused No.3 (Jain) is alleged to have assisted and abetted the accused No.1 (Rao) in smuggling the gold by facilitating the hawala transaction contrary to the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962," the special court for economic offences stated on Saturday while granting DRI's plea for extended custody of Jain. "The claim of the agency to investigate on the basis of the leads by confronting the forensic extracts of accused No.3 and also to investigate regarding involvement of other persons in the syndicate certainly inclines the court to permit the agency to investigate the case on hand," the court observed. Sahil Jain, who earlier worked for his father's textile business, later ventured into the business of hawala money transfers by starting a firm in the old city area of Bengaluru in May 2024. In 2019, he was reported to have been arrested in Mumbai by the DRI after allegedly being identified by a gold smuggling gang from Kolkata as the recipient of a 6.96 kg consignment of gold that was intercepted in Mumbai by the DRI.

A Mumbai court granted Jain bail on February 1, 2020, in the Mumbai case where four pieces of gold bars weighing 6.96 kg valued at Rs 2.71 crore were recovered from a gold carrier who transported the gold from Kolkata to Mumbai to allegedly hand over to Jain. The DRI alleged the gold seized in 2019 was part of a big parcel smuggled via Bangladesh. Apart from Ranya Rao and Sahil Jain, the DRI also arrested Telugu film actor Tarun Konduru Raju alias Virat Konduru, 36, an associate of the actress, in the gold smuggling case. Konduru was arrested on March 9, six days after the actress was intercepted at the Bengaluru airport. A forensic analysis of the actress's mobile phone and laptop revealed links. The DRI accuses Ranya Rao of having financed the purchases of gold consignments in Dubai by Konduru and utilized the US passport of Konduru to pass gold consignments through Dubai customs before wrapping the gold bars on her person for smuggling to Bengaluru. During a bail hearing for Konduru on Saturday in a sessions court in Bengaluru, the counsel for the Telugu actor argued that he was a businessman involved in the gold trade who purchased gold from different parts of the world and brought it to Dubai for sale and that he had nothing to do with the gold smuggling activities of the arrested Ranya Rao

Ranya Rao is alleged to have travelled to Dubai 27 times in 2025 alone. She and Konduru are alleged to have made 25 single-day trips to Dubai to bring back gold for sale in India. The actress is alleged to have availed police protocol services available to her DGP rank stepfather at the Bengaluru airport to evade scrutiny by customs officials. Sources familiar with the probe said that efforts are currently being made to track down the persons who facilitated the link-up of the "gold dispatcher" and hawala operator Sahil Jain with the film actress Ranya Rao to enable the gold smuggling and disposal. Jain has claimed that he received a commission of Rs 55,000 to facilitate purchases of the smuggled gold, sources said.

Instagram user booked for uploading AI-generated video of UP cop dancing with woman accused of killing her husband

GNS News Agency, April 2

The Meerut police in Uttar Pradesh have booked an Instagram user for allegedly uploading an AI-generated video of a police inspector in uniform dancing with a jailed murder accused woman. The video, which was shared widely on social media platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram, purportedly showed Muskan Rastogi, 26, who is accused of killing her husband Saurabh Rajput, with the help of her boyfriend Sahil Shukla.

Ayush Vikram Singh, Superintendent of Police (SP), Meerut city, said the video was created with the help of Al, and the police traced the ID through which it was uploaded on social media. Sub Inspector Karamveer filed an FIR in the matter at the Brahmpuri police station Saturday evening. "The Instagram ID is registered with the name Priyanshu Rocks, who has been booked under the Information Technology Act Section 66 (computer-related offences). The inquiry has been handed over to the cyber cell of the Meerut police," said Vikram Singh. "The video was uploaded in poor taste and has the potential to tarnish the reputation of the UP Police. This is why we have decided to pursue legal action against those responsible for such malicious activities," added Vikram Singh. "Police action will be taken soon against those who created the video and those

who uploaded it. Furthermore, anyone other than those already charged by the Brahmpuri police found to be sharing false videos regarding murder accused Muskan and Sahil will face similar consequences," he said. Muskan Rastogi and Sahil Shukla are now in the Chaudhary Charan Singh Jail in Meerut for the murder of Saurabh Rajput. They have been accused of killing him and dismembering his body parts on the night of March 3 at her rented apartment in the Brahmpuri locality. The police later recovered his body parts from a cement drum and arrested the duo on March 19.

Meanwhile, the family members of the deceased have filed a complaint on the UP chief minister's portal. They allege that the Meerut jail administration is biased and is protecting his killers within the jail. They demand that both accused be transferred to a prison in the eastern part of the state. "There is no question of being partisan about any of the inmates. They have submitted letters to us demanding that government lawyers should take up their case in the local court. They claimed their family members would not hire a lawyer to pursue their case. We have sent the letters to the court as per the standard procedure in the jail manual, and the court has appointed two lawyers for them," said Viresh Raj Sharma, Senior Superintendent at the Meerut jail

Waterlogging to traffic: Soon, one centre likely to monitor all issues facing Delhi

GNS News Agency, April 2

The "third eye", which keeps tabs on the safety and 'smart' administration of Lutyens' Delhi, and is credited with the smooth execution of the G20 Summit two years ago, is soon likely to focus on the entire Capital. A state-of-the-art Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC), which functions 24×7 performing tasks ranging from monitoring feeds from a network of hundreds of CCTV cameras to ensuring efficient vehicular traffic management at the core of the Smart Cities Mission, was so far limited to areas under the jurisdiction of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) in Central Delhi. It is likely to be taken over by the BJP Delhi government. According to sources, the centre's first task will be ensuring the city is not brought to its knees by waterlogging-related woes just like in the monsoon of 2023. "The Delhi government is likely to take over NDMC's ICCC before the onset of the monsoon season later this year. It will progressively become the focal point as far as monitoring the entire city through a network of lakhs of CCTV cameras is concerned," a senior member of Delhi's Council of Ministers said. "Representatives from various government agencies such as the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Public Works Department, and Delhi Police among others will be added to the current deployment of NDMC employees at the ICCC to spot and resolve issues from waterlogging, traffic congestion, monitoring law and order to sanitation," the minister added. In her Budget speech, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta announced a proposal to establish an ICCC for real-time monitoring of other significant aspects related to the city such as environmental parameters — air and water quality, noise levels — and waste management

to improve environmental governance and public health. The



CM had also announced Rs 15 crore for developing a 'Delhi 311 App' for effective redressal of grievances under various departments of the Delhi government, similar to the NDMC's 311. She also announced a call centre under the 'Delhi 311' app, for receiving complaints after integration with the Delhi government helpline number 1031. "Former Delhi Chief Secretary Naresh Kumar first mooted the idea of an integrated ICCC for the entire city; it is more feasible now given the shared interface between the BJP governments at the Centre and Delhi," a senior government official said. Admitting that Delhi was "highly vulnerable to various (environmental) disasters", Gupta had added that the Capital lacks a unified command and control centre to coordinate disaster response among various agencies. She proposed a state-of-the-art Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to provide a single emergency number for better crisis management, allocating Rs 30 crore to set up Command Control Centres and an EOC under the Delhi Disaster Man-

'Overall management of Covid pandemic in Delhi was impressive': Paraguay Ambassador



GNS News Agency, April 2

Food, heritage, diversity, and the kindness of people Fleming Raul Duarte Ramos, Ambassador of Paraguay to India, has been in Delhi for seven years, enough time to develop a fondness for the city. Delhi has impressed him for several reasons, including the resilience it demonstrated during the pandemic. An alumnus of the Harvard Kennedy School and an economist, he has, for more than 25 years, participated in several negotiations on trade facilitation, and designed finance programmes for value chains, including budgeting, programme planning, project management, staff training, and development. In Paraguay, he served as the president and CEO of the National Petroleum Corporation; director of the Central Bank; and as the country manager in Development International and Multilateral Organisation. He was instrumental in the creation of the first Country Development Bank in the South American nation. I've been in Delhi for more than seven years. The two places I love to visit are Aravalli and Nehru Park. I love to exercise outdoors... especially in places with a lot of greenery. I also like the fact that the climate here is somewhat similar to Paraguay. My first impression of Delhi was the absence of rain during most of the year. This is very different from Paraguay. The second thing was the traffic. It is chaotic here...unlike my country. The third thing that impressed me a lot was the impressive recovery and overall management of the Covid pan-

How do you personally deal with pollution?

This is the only negative aspect in Delhi that is difficult to manage. I rely on visiting other great places in India, es-

caping from Delhi, and spending time indoors mostly with good air filters. But I do not like staying indoors. In Paraguay, pollution is not a problem. Our electricity is almost entirely — close to 95% — generated from renewable energy, mainly hydropower. I'm impressed that India is also making a shift towards renewable energy.

What about the traffic?

Well, this is something very unique to Delhi. Most auto drivers driver are like Formula 1 racers. Even though I love to drive, I have no other option but to avoid it due to traffic. But I do take time on Sundays to drive when the roads are relatively less crowded.

Favourite food in the city?

This is quite a difficult question. I like most food that is mild as opposed to spicy. India has a very diverse and rich culinary heritage. Some dishes that stand out for me are rice with curries, butter chicken, paneer, and dosas.

Are there similarities between any place in Paraguay and Delhi?

I definitely would say that one similar thing is the greenery. Our capital, Asuncion, has a lot of trees just like Delhi. We have a national tree called the Tajibo in our national Guarani language. During spring, Tajibos look like a natural carpet that covers the entire city. Overall, with India, I feel Paraguay has some other similarities too. One thing is that both countries are very creative with their hands...they both have a rich history of artisans producing various artworks.

How is Delhi different from other cities where you've stayed?

Delhi is very different from other cities where I've stayed, due to its size and diversity. What also makes it stand out is the fact that there is no downtown area.

Memories or encounters in Delhi that you'll never forget?

Something very special for me was the time I got to spend with my mother. She came on a short visit and got stuck here for almost two years due to the pandemic. This was perhaps the only positive thing that came out of it. People of course. People here are filled with kindness. I will also miss playing tennis and golf with my friends here on weekends.

MCD recovers Rs 25 crore in crackdown on property tax defaulters

GNS News Agency, April 2

property tax defaultersMCD has announced that all property tax offices at zonal offices and headquarters will remain open until the deadline between 10 am and 5 pmln a crackdown on property tax defaulters, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has attached 88 properties and 87 bank accounts across various zones for non-payment of dues which has resulted in the recovery of approximately Rs. 25.75 crore in outstanding property tax.

Three properties were sealed in Keshavpuram zone, leading to a recovery of Rs 5.7 lakh, according to the statement. In the City SP zone, 22 properties and 19 bank accounts were attached, resulting in a recovery of Rs 65.24 lakh. A total of 45 properties and nine bank accounts were attached in Civil Lines Zones, leading to a Rs 187.46 lakh recovery. In Rohini, four bank accounts have been attached, recovering Rs 66.21 lakh. The civic body has warned property owners to clear their dues before the March 31 deadline to avoid similar action. "MCD reiterates its commitment to ensuring tax compliance and urges all property owners



and occupiers to file their property tax returns and pay their dues by March 31, 2025," the MCD underlined in its statement to the press. With the financial year coming to an end, the deadline for filing property tax returns and making payments has been set for March 31, 2025. In an attempt to facilitate the taxpayers, MCD has announced that all property tax offices at zonal offices and headquarters will remain open until the deadline between 10 am and 5 pm.

Protest in Jaipur over temple vandalism, mob tries to set petrol pump on fire; suspect arrested

GNS News Agency, April 2

Members of Vishva Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal along with locals on Saturday morning held a massive protest over vandalism at Tejaji temple on Tonk Road in Jaipur's Sanganer area, police said. According to locals, unidentified miscreants damaged the temple's idol around 3 AM. As news spread, a crowd gathered, demanding the immediate arrest of those responsible. In protest, people blocked Tonk Road for nearly three hours and burnt tyres near the temple. They also tried to set a petrol pump on fire, but police took prompt action and removed them. "A catastrophe was averted by a quick action of the police," DCP East, Tejasvini Gautam said, adding that at least 20 people were detained.

Despite strong efforts to disperse the gathering peacefully, mild force had to be eventually used to clear the blockade. Given the severity of the incident, over 10 police teams were deployed to investigate the matter.Later, at a press conference in the evening, the DCP revealed details of the arrested suspect. The suspect was identified as Siddharth Singh (34), a native of Bikaner, who currently resides in Rajapark area of the state capital. Police checked CCTV footage and identified a suspicious car near the temple at approximately 2:30 AM. By tracing its route through nearly 100 cameras, investigators tracked the vehicle to the InterContinental Hotel on Tonk Road. The car was linked to



Siddharth Singh, who had been visiting a friend at the hotel. According to the DCP, Singh was returning to his place on Friday night after having liquor with his friend when he stopped near the temple and vandalised the temple in a fit of rage over financial losses. "He stopped his vehicle and entered the temple. After spending some time there, he lifted the idol and threw it. Singh said that he was disturbed due to financial losses," DCP Gautam said, adding that the accused was identified on the basis of CCTV footage. Upon his arrest, Siddharth confessed to the crime. His phone contained a photograph of the temple taken at 3:18 AM, supporting his confession. Siddharth realised the gravity of his actions only the next morning when his fiancée informed him about the incident and the protests, police said.

IAF gives green signal to Adilabad Airport: Komatireddy

Hyderabad, April 2 (NSS): Minister for Roads and Buildings Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has announced that the Indian Air Force (IAF) has approved the establishment of a civil airport in Adilabad. During a statement made on Wednesday, the Minister expressed his satisfaction that the Telangana government, which previously secured permissions for Mamunur Airport, has now also received clearance from the IAF for the Adilabad Airport project. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy noted that receiving approvals for two airports in just six months is a testament to the relentless efforts of the Telangana government.

He also mentioned that IAF officials have shown interest in developing the Adilabad Airport and providing civil aviation services at this location. Furthermore, they indicated in a letter that they are exploring the possibility of establishing an Air Force training center there in the future. Komatireddy also mentioned that Air Force representatives have communicated to the Telangana government via a letter that they are providing the required approvals to



initiate civil aviation services. The Minister indicated that, since the Airports Authority of India has asked for comprehensive proposals to be submitted to the Indian Air Force to secure all essential permits for the airport, the State government will soon compile a detailed report and present it to the Central government and the appropriate departments. (NSS)

From losses to triumph: A Marginal Farmer's humble journey in goat breeding to becoming Punjab's goat-farming tycoon



GNS News Agency, April 2

Balwinder Singh Mann, a marginal farmer with just 10 kanal (1.25 acres), lost Rs 1.15 crore in the past two decades but didn't lose his heart, nor did he ever consider taking extreme measures. Instead, the 48-year-old farmer from Tungwali village in Bathinda district defied all odds to become one of the region's most successful goat breeders, turning his farm into a thriving business worth several crores of rupees and doubling his holding from 1.25 acres to 2.50 acres. Mann started breeding with just nine goats, and his hard work and tenacity turned his goat farm into Punjab's first and the largest 'Goat Mandi' (market), particularly for Beetal goat breeding, drawing people from across the country and neighbouring countries to his goat farm.

"I started with an investment of not more than Rs 2 lakh and just nine goats purchased from local villages in late 2016," Mann told .. In the past eight years, however, he not only sold goats worth several lakhs of rupees, selling nearly 150 goats a year but also maintains a herd of around 300 goats at his farm at any given time. Even in 2020, when one of his goat sheds was destroyed by devastating winds, killing 72 goats and damaging properties worth Rs 65 lakh, he refused to give up. To begin with, in 1992, after completing his 10+2, Balwinder became a beekeeper with just a few boxes and gradually expanded his operation to 870 boxes. However, soon, he lost all 870 beehives -worth Rs 50 lakh— in a theft. Shattered, Mann collected himself and ventured into dairy farming, which was enough to sustain his family but not enough to thrive beyond basic survival."I was earning just enough for two meals a day from my dairy business after facing a loss in beekeeping. Then, in 2016, I came to know about goat farming," Mann recalls. Determined to turn his fortunes around, he ventured into goat farming with just nine goats and recovered within

a year the money he had invested in setting up his first small goat farm.

He also took training from the Animal Husbandry Department and visited various farms in Punjab and beyond to learn the intricacies of goat breeding. Mann focused on the Beetal variety of goats, known for their impressive size, beauty, and high-quality milk. Beetal goats can fetch between Rs 25,000 and Rs 50,000 each, a lucrative price that encouraged Mann to expand his operation, "Some of my goats were even sold for Rs 1 lakh and above," he said. With his first nine goats, Mann quickly saw results — these goats, all mature and pregnant at the time of purchase, gave birth to 18 kids within seven months, tripling his stock and allowing him to recoup his initial investment. Over the next few years, his farm flourished. By the second year, the number of goats on his farm had grown to 40. Now, he proudly owns 300 goats, maintaining a steady number despite selling a substantial number of goats every year. With goats reproducing twice in 14 months and averaging two kids per goat, Mann was able to expand rapidly. He sells nearly 150 goats annually, generating Rs 60 to Rs 70 lakh per year. In addition to goat farming, Mann has diversified into sheep breeding, cattle farming, and even dairy production, maintaining a herd of 35 cattle, including five buffaloes."I am further diversifying and running a sheep farm with 100 sheep for breeding and sale purposes," Mann said. He plans to start processing goat milk into paneer and packaged milk. "Goat milk is highly sought after due to its medicinal properties. People are buying goat milk for Rs 80 to Rs 600 per kg and paneer for Rs 5000 per kg, as goat milk is recommended by doctors for chronic conditions like dengue fever and even cancer," Mann said. "It is important to enter the processing sector to capture the value of a product," he explained. Mann is regularly invited to schools and colleges to lecture students on how they can earn with goat farming while studying and inspire others to consider goat farming as a viable career path. His farm has provided full-time employment to several individuals. In 2023, he was awarded the Chief Minister's Award by GADVASU (Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University), along with several other accolades from various organisations. He is also rearing horses and has set up a small stud farm where he breeds 'Nukra,' an indigenous white horse, and Marwadi horses, which are typically black. Mann said, "My story is meant to inspire those who have even the humblest beginningsstarting with just one goat can lead to extraordinary achievements with passion and hard work and earnings much be-

'File pe file': At Delhi's digital courts, why massive pendency of cases gives staff sleepless nights



GNS News Agency, April 2

In a cramped room at one of Delhi's courtrooms, the first thing one notices is the sheer number of files stacked from floor to ceiling — some in iron cabinets, some bundled into cloth, and others just piled on the floor. Scanning through the endless labyrinth of brown- and khaki-coloured files is an ahlmad (record keeper). "Agar kaidiyon ko saza deni hai to unse humara kaam karwana chahiye... asli saza to hume mil rahi hi, wo to bas jailo me jaate hain (I think for some convicts, a suitable punishment would be to do the tasks that are assigned to us... it feels like we're the ones being punished — they're only being sent to jails)," he says in frustration.

"Hum Sunday wale papa ban ke reh gaye hain (We have become the father who only gets to see their children on Sundays)," the man laments as his eyes glance at the clock. It is way past 5 pm, beyond their official duty hours. This is an Ahlmad room, assigned to a digital courtroom to deal with cases under the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act (or cheque bounce cases). Its staff, including ahlmads and readers, are tasked with ensuring no file goes missing and that the court functions effectively. visits three such Ahlmad rooms at court complexes where staff complain of a major issue — a massive pendency in cases. At these three courts, the average pendency is 7,000. Every day, between 80 to 120 cases are heard. The issue isn't just limited to these courts. At the 12 court complexes across the Capital, with a total of 671 judges, there are close to 15 lakh pending cases (2.16 lakh civil and 12.73 lakh criminal cases); each court has a pendency of 2,200 cases on average.NI Act courts, however, have a pendency as high as 13,000 cases — six times the average. As per the Act, cheque bounce cases ought to be disposed of within six months. On any given day, NI Act courts are hearing a minimum of 50 cases and a maximum of 100 cases.

Take Patiala House Court, for instance, where there are five physical NI Act courtrooms and three such digital courtrooms. "Cases keep pouring in. We dispose of 50 and 100 new files come. Late dates will obviously have to be given," says a court staff working in an NI Act Court in Patiala House Court.Across multiple courtrooms, no Ahlmad room, usually attached close or next to the courtroom, is open - not because the doors are locked, but because there are almirahs with files on the other side blocking the entrance. Those rare courtrooms fortunate enough to have a relatively low pendency have enough almirahs to store the files. Other, not-so-fortunate ones see files stacked on top of each other outside in the open. "Every time an administrative official does rounds and spots these files, we are scolded. Now you tell us... is there any way out?" asks a record keeper. Most record keepers work 12 hours, from 8 am till 8 pm. "You won't find a single person here who isn't mentally or physically troubled...," says another ahlmad, rapidly flipping pages of a case file. "There isn't enough space to sit and operate... sometimes, we spend the whole day standing and scanning through papers. When a paper goes missing, there will be an inquiry against us."

Owing to the paucity of space, people take turns entering or exiting these Ahlmad rooms; there is barely enough space to place two chairs and a table. "For us with protruding bellies, it is sometimes not even possible to enter... I

even got stuck once," an ahlmad says wryly. Various court staff tell The Indian Express they wrote letters to the Principal District and Sessions Judge requesting an almirah to store files. Some even physically appeared before the judge to make the request. Even when the judge granted their request, the caretaking branch told them no almirahs were available. "No one even listens to our plea, because we're not judges or senior advocates... due to the burden of work, around 350 court staff have taken voluntary retirement over the years," a reader claims.

The Indian Express also visits a physical court made solely to deal with NI Act cases. A separate Ahlmad room doesn't exist here. There is just a makeshift arrangement inside the courtroom dividing it into two — one where the judge sits and lawyers argue and the other where the court staff sits sifting through files. Here too, the pendency is over 7,000 cases. Pointing to dozens of stacks of files, a court staff says, "I've joined here recently. Just look at the files here. Is there any space for us to sit? We work for 11-12 hours a day... Sometimes a stubborn lawyer will ask me for a file and won't budge if I tell him to come tomorrow. Looking for one file instantly is a headache. He just waits there for half an hour - sometimes an hour as I search." Advocate Pravesh Dabas, who has over 200 cheque bounce cases, explains that the case load isn't the only reason for pendency. "There are several other factors causing delay as well such as delay in servicing summons, issues of territorial jurisdiction, and so on... In one case that I'm fighting, the opposite party has not appeared for six years. It is an uphill battle to serve a summons to an accused person who is sitting in another state. Non-service of summons delays many such trials," he added. The work overload, however, is not limited to ahlmads. Recently, various Principal District and Sessions judges issued circulars highlighting the shortage of stenographers.

"This is to bring to the notice of all that currently, Rouse Avenue District Court, New Delhi, is experiencing an acute shortage of Senior PAs/PAs (Stenographers). The requisitions for substitute Stenographers being received on almost daily basis from different courts, however, are more than the number of stenographers available in the Office Pool," read one such circular issued in December 2024 by Principal District and Sessions Judge-cum-Special Judge Anju Bajaj Chandna of Rouse Avenue Court. A similar circular was issued on November 28 last year by the office of the Principal District and Sessions Judge (Headquarters) Sanjay Garg.

Rajasthan man booked for killing infant daughters; 'wanted a son'

GNS News Agency, April 2

Rajasthan murder, Rajasthan man kills infant daughters, Rajasthan man murders infant daughters, Rajasthan man kills daughters, Rajasthan man kills infants, Indian express news, current affairsA case of murder has been registered against the father, and further investigation is ongoing and the role of others in his family is still being investigated.

A man in Neem ka Thana in Rajasthan's Sikar district has been booked for allegedly killing his five-month-old twin daughters after being driven by the desire to have a male heir, police said Saturday. According to the police, the suspect, Ashok Yadav, would join his family in taunting his wife Anita for having had twin daughters. On March 27, the family had yet another argument over it, his wife Anita told the local media. That day, I was feeding my daughters when my mother-in-law began taunting me again. My husband came to my room and started yelling at me.

'Delay sowing of sugarcane crop by one month to increase production': Gujarat Sugar Federation



GNS News Agency, April 2

Aiming to increase the production, the Gujarat State Federation of Co-operative Sugar Factories (GSFCSF) has directed 15 sugar cooperative factories in the state to delay the sowing of the sugarcane crops by a month, sources familiar with the matter said Saturday. The Federation's directive to 15 co-operative factories to sow sugarcane crops from October 1 onwards instead of September 1 was based on the research work done by the scientists at Navsari Agricultural University (NAU). The farmers are members of sugar co-operative bodies and carry out the sowing and crushing of the crops based on the instruction of sugar bodies. It is to be noted that the farmers of different districts in South Gujarat had earlier raised the issue of less sugar production before the cooperative bodies. The GSFCSF had requested the NAU's Sugarcane Research Centre to "study the reason behind the low production of sugarcane". Following this, a four-member panel from NAU, including research centre head Dr Shailesh Mali and professors H M Viradiya (agronomist), K D Patel (soil scientist), Jayesh Pastagiya (entomologist), carried out their research at Chalthan Sugar Co-operative factory and Bardoli Sugar Cooperative factory in Surat district. The team also collected data in connection with their respective productions, said sources. The team also spoke to over 25 farmers of Chalthan and Bardoli factories while examining the agricultural land where the sugarcane farming was being done, said sources. A few days back, the research team submitted their report to the GSFCSF. On the basis of the findings, the GSFCSF directed all 15 sugar co-operative mills to intimate farmers "to do sowing (plantation) of sugarcane October 1 onwards instead of following the routine September 1". Providing more details, research centre head Dr Shailesh Mali said, "As per our findings, the farmers generally sow (plant) sugarcane in the fields on September 1. For the last five years, September has witnessed heavy rainfall which affects the production, so sugarcane crops should be sowed from October 1 onwards". "One month's delay will help the land to dry up entirely. We have found that the majority of the farmers skip practices like ploughing or use cultivators on the land to make it ready for sowing. During the summer season, the farmers carry out the ridges and furrow farming on the land and keep it for a longer time, as a result of which weed starts growing. The farmers use weedicides to control weeds, affecting the land's productivity," added Mali.

"The farmers also skipped doing green manure in their fields in June and July to increase land fertility. We have also suggested that sowing should be done per month, with 25 per cent sowing to be done in September, followed by the same percentage in the remaining months. Due to monthly sowing, the harvesting (of the crops) can also be done within the same time schedule after 13 months," Dr Mali said further. "Generally, if 50 per cent sugarcane crops are planted on September 1 and the remaining on the next day, it takes 16 to 17 months for harvesting. There are lakhs of farmers who sow their crops on the same day (on September 1), so they have to wait for their turn to crush the crops since the crushing in all the fields is done by the sugar co-operative bodies," Dr Mali added further.

There are 15 sugar co-operative factories in Gujarat, including Bardoli (Surat), Madhi (Surat), Chalthan (Surat), Pandvai (Surat), Kamrej (Surat), Sayan (Surat), Mahuva (Surat), Kantha Vibhag (Surat), Vatariya (Bharuch), Gandevi (Navsari), Valsad, Coper (Tapi), Ukai (Tapi), Dharikheda (Narmada) and Gandhar (Vadodara).

According to the figures received from GSFCSF, in 2021-22, sugarcane was grown on 1,41,486 hectares of land, and production was 79.11 metric tons per hectare. Similarly, in 2022-23, sugarcane was grown on 1,34,601 hectares of land, and production was 74.19 metric tons per hectare. In 2023-24, sugarcane was grown on 1,10,628 hectares, and production was 80.86 metric tons per hectare.GSFCSF chairman Hansot Ishwar Patel told The Indian Express, "We have instructed the sugar co-operative bodies to inform the farmers to do sowing activity on October 1 or month-wise." "We have also found that the land area on which sugarcane was grown five years ago has gone down. The government should do something about this issue."

'IIM-Ahmedabad will launch its first international campus in Dubai in September': Director

GNS News Agency, April 2

The Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad is all set to launch its first international campus in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in September this year, said IIMA director, Professor Bharat Bhasker

He made these remarks during the 60th convocation ceremony of the institute, held at Louis Kahn Plaza in man of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Dr S Somanath. Notably, IIM Ahmedabad will be the first institute of the IIMs to establish a presence outside India. While stating that the placements this year were better compared to all previous years, the IIMA Director announced that six students decided to become entrepreneurs and had been enrolled in the Mavericks Fellowship Programme. Asserting that "education can be a significant financial burden", Professor Bhasker said that 68 students had received full tuition waivers and 128 had received partial tuition waivers. He said that IIMA was committed to "increase the number of tuition waivers". He said, "This year for the PGP (Post Graduate Programme) batch, the tuition waiver letter will be sent to the students along with the acceptance letter."

Professor Bhasker also announced the establishment of a new 'Madan Mohanka Centre of Excellence in Case Method of Learning', backed by Madan Mohanka, a prominent industrialist and an alumnus of IIMA from PGP 1967. During the convocation, 630 students were awarded degrees. The list included 22 scholars from the Doctoral Programme in Management (PhD), 405 students from the two-year Post Graduate Programme in Management (MBA-PGP), 45 students from the two-year Post Graduate Programme in Food and Agri-business Management (MBA-FABM), and 158 students from the one-year Post Graduate Programme in Management (MBA-PGPX).

Five students were awarded gold medals by the Chief Guest in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. These included Abhi Bansal, Ishaan Jain, and Aanchal Chadha from MBA-PGP; Yogesh Kumar R from MBA-FABM; and Aashruth Rangarajan from MBA-



PGPX.The students received their degrees from the chairman of the Board of Governors of IIMA and Chairman of Zydus Lifesciences, Pankaj Patel. Addressing the gathering, Patel said, "With rapid technological advancements and data-driven decision-making, businesses are constantly evolving. There is an increased demand for business professionals who can keep up with the latest trends. Your ability to adapt to situations, embrace change, and learn new skills will be your biggest strength and will set you apart in the crowd."While sharing that he was also an IIMA alumnus, former ISRO chairman and chief guest, Dr S Somanath said, "To truly unlock the potential of our nation, we must continue to innovate and collaborate". "Innovation requires a culture of curiosity, strength to face failure, and an insatiable hunger to seek answers. At ISRO, we faced numerous challenges over the years, but each failure only strengthened our resolve to try again, to find better solutions, and to reach greater heights," he said. "India is now at the cusp of a technological and scientific revolution. The future holds immense possibilities, in space exploration, artificial intelligence, sustainable development, and beyond. The responsibility to shape that future lies in your hands. I urge you to cultivate the spirit of innovation and apply your knowledge to solve real-world problems whether in science, humanities, or social sciences, because innovation has a place everywhere," added Dr Somanath.

The Indian Express the contract of the AG and the law of-

ficers is for one year. However, the governments prefer not

to replace them during their five-year tenure and the con-

tract is renewed every year. A source in the government,

meanwhile, said that the AAP dispensation was not happy

with the performance of the AG's office especially after the

government had lost several cases in the courts. The high

court's quashing of FIRs against former Congress minister

Bharat Bhushan Ashu and another former minister Sunder

Sham Arora in alleged scams had caused embarrassment

to the government. Before that the government was also

not able to defend its decision to dissolve the panchayats

prematurely last year. The government had to withdraw its

notification of dissolving the panchayats. This had also

caused embarrassment to the state government. At that

Gurminder Singh resigns as Punjab Advocate General; 4th to quit post in AAP's 3 years

Advocate General of PunjabGurminder Singh was appointed as AG on October 6, 2023 after Vinod Ghai had stepped down citing "personal reasons" Senior Advocate Gurminder Singh 'Gerry' Saturday resigned as Advocate General of Punjab, 18 months after he was appointed to the post. Gurminder Singh is the fourth person to resign from post of the AG in Punjab in three years of the Aam Aadmi Party government. Gurminder Singh was appointed as AG on October 6, 2023 after Vinod Ghai had stepped down citing "personal reasons". While Gurminder Singh was not available for comments, a senior government official confirmed the development to "His resignation has been accepted. Within two-three days, the government will appoint a new AG," said the official.

Sources said that Gurminder Singh's resignation was waiting to happen especially after the Bhagwant Mann-led dispensation, on February 21, asked all 236 law officers on its payroll to submit their resignation. Dispelling the speculation that the he too was asked to quit, Gurminder Singh had then said, "I am not resigning." A law graduate from Chandigarh-based Panjab University, Gurminder Singh, is a first generation lawyer, who started his practice in 1989 and was designated senior advocate in 2014. Among others he remained standing counsel for Medical Council of India, Dental Council of India, Union Service Public Commission, Punjab Vidhan Sabha and other boards and corporations of the state. He specialises in service litigation, constitutional and criminal matters and has appeared before the Supreme Court apart from high courts in Chandigarh, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh.

time, CM Mann had put under suspension two senior IAS officers blaming them for the fiasco.

Last month, the government removed 1993-batch IPS officer Varinder Kumar as the chief director of the state Vigilance Bureau, and attached him to the office of the director general of police. At that time also, senior officials had claimed that the move was linked to the embarrassment that the government suffered in Ashu and Arora cases.

When the AAP took over the reins of the state in March

When the AAP took over the reins of the state in March 2022, DS Patwalia was the AG. Within two days of new government taking charge, Patwalia resigned as AG. The government then appointed Anmol Rattan Sidhu as the AG, Sidhu, however, resigned just four months later on July 30, 2022. The same day, the government appointed Vinod Ghai, who stayed in the office till October 5, 2023. On October 6, the government had appointed Gurminder Singh as AG.

An official in the Punjab AG's office had earlier told

One Tech Tip: Don't give your email to strangers, use a decoy address instead



GNS News Agency, April 2

So much of the internet now requires that you hand over your email address before you're able to use any services — from an app you've downloaded to signing up for a newsletter or redeeming a special offer online. But who says you have to give your real email address? Next time you're asked, consider using an email mask. There are a growing number of services that give out disguised email addresses and relay any messages to your actual address. Experts say this can be a powerful tool to safeguard privacy and security. Here are some pointers on the whys and hows of email masking:

The idea behind email masking is simple. The masking service gives you a randomized address you can use as a decoy instead of your actual email. It can be a series of unrelated words, or a string of letters and numbers. When someone sends a message to the burner email, it will be automatically routed to your address without anyone knowing. Providers include privacy-focused search engine DuckDuckGo's Email Protection service, Firefox Relay from browser maker Mozilla, email service FastMail and independent services like Addy.io. The encrypted service Proton Mail offers email masking with its password manager and standalone SimpleLogin service. There are many others.It's one of the features Apple offers users subscribing to its iCloud+ or Apple One services. When you're using the Safari browser app on your iPhone and need to input your email, you can tap the field above the onscreen keyboard to "Hide My Email," which then creates a random address as a substitute. It's also available on Mac computers with the desktop Safari browser or Mail app. If you're using a different browser or app, you can still manually create a random email address by going into your iCloud settings. Most services have a free version with basic options and a premium tier with more features. Some free services can only receive emails but not reply to them. However, an important feature users should look for is the ability to do both, said Proton CEO Andy Yen. "Maybe you never reply to a newsletter and that's fine," said Yen. But it's a problem if, for example, you used your email alias to buy something online and there's an issue with your order that the site needs to ask you about. "Then the ability to reply is actually pretty important," he said.

Most masking services have a dashboard control panel where you can view the various alias addresses you've activated. If you notice one starting to get a lot of

spam, just turn it off. Mask your email when you want to add an extra layer of privacy or protect yourself from data leaks or unauthorized information sharing. An email mask is a "general-purpose tool that can be used in any context," says Santiago Andrigo, principal product manager at Mozilla. However, he recommends using it in two key situations. The first is when you're unsure what a website will do with your email address. "Masking your email gives you - if you start receiving unwanted messages, you can easily block any emails coming to that email mask," Andrigo said. The second scenario is "when your association with a service could reveal sensitive personal information," he said. For example, if you join an online community for a specific medical condition or a minority group, a data breach could expose your participation. There are myriad reasons not to give out your email address to anyone who wants it.It could be sold to marketers or shady data brokers, eroding your privacy by helping them build a profile of you for legitimate or nefarious purposes.

If your address ends up on the wrong mailing list, it could result in more junk or phishing emails. And if an online service is hacked, attackers could make off with logins, passwords and other personal information. Using unique passwords for all your online accounts — typically with the help of a password manager — is good cybersecurity practice. "But the real pain point for any user is actually not the password getting leaked, but actually the email getting leaked," said Yen.Changing your password after a data breach is standard practice but it's a lot harder to change another piece of sensitive information, your email address unless you're using a mask. There are other so-called hacks that you might have heard about. You could set up a throwaway account with a free email service like Gmail or Yahoo. But it's tedious to do this. Some Gmail users add a plus sign and an extra phrase or combination of characters between their username and the @ sign. It helps track who's sharing your address as well as filter messages.

But "from a privacy standpoint, that does nothing," said Yen. "Because people can just simply take away the plus and get your original address." Email masks use their servers to relay message traffic between the sender and the recipient. So how can you be sure those servers are private?Look for reputable providers that promise not to keep your messages. If you're shopping around for an email masking service, Yen advises checking if it has "proper terms and conditions," a privacy policy and is based in a jurisdiction where it could be legally held accountable. "We state very clearly we're not keeping a copy of anything that passes through our servers," Yen said. Firefox Relay says in its FAQs that it does not "read or store any of your messages."In the event that an email cannot be delivered to you, we will keep it on our servers and delete it after it has been delivered (in no event will we hold onto it for more than three days)," it says. Apple says it "doesn't read or process any of the content" in email messages that pass through Hide My Email except for standard spam filtering. "All email messages are deleted from our relay servers after they're delivered to you, usually within seconds," the iPhone maker says.

Protesters rebelling against Elon Musk's purge of U.S. government swarm Tesla showrooms

Crowds protesting billionaire Elon Musk's purge of the U.S. government under President Donald Trump began amassing outside Tesla dealerships throughout the U.S. and in some cities in Europe on Saturday (March 29, 2025) in the latest attempt to dent the fortune of the world's richest man. The protesters are trying to escalate a movement targeting Tesla dealerships and vehicles in opposition to Mr. Musk's role as the head of the newly created Department of of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, where he has gained access to sensitive data and shuttered entire agencies as he attempts to slash government spending. The biggest portion of Musk's estimated \$340 billion fortune consists of his stock in the electric vehicle company, which continues to run while also working alongside Trump.

After earlier demonstrations that were somewhat sporadic, Saturday marked the first attempt to surround all 277 of the automaker's showrooms and service centers in the U.S. in hopes of deepening a recent decline in the company's sales. By early afternoon crowds ranging from a few dozen to hundreds of protesters had flocked to Tesla locations in New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Maryland, Minnesota and the automaker's home state of Texas. Pictures posted on social media showed protesters brandishing signs such as "Honk if you hate Elon" and " Fight the billionaire broligarchy." As the day progressed, the protests cascaded around the country outside Tesla locations in major cities such as Washington, Chicago, Indianapolis, Cincinnati and Seattle, as well as towns in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Colorado. Smaller groups of counterprotesters also showed up at some sites. "Hey, hey, ho, ho, Elon Musk has got to go!" several dozen people chanted outside a showroom in Dublin, California, about 35 miles (60 miles) east of San Francisco, while a smaller cluster of Trump supporters waved American flags across the street.A much larger crowd circled another showroom in nearby Berkeley, chanting slogans to the beat of drums. "We're living in a fascist state," said Dennis Fagaly, a retired high school teacher from neighboring Oakland, "and we need to stop this or we'll lose our whole country and everything that is good about the United States.

The Tesla Takedown movement also hoped to rally protesters at more than 230 locations in other parts of the world. Although the turnouts in Europe were not as large, the anti-Musk sentiment was similar. About two dozen people held signs lambasting the billionaire outside a dealership in London as passing cars and trucks tooted horns in support. One sign displayed depicted Mr. Musk next to an image of Adolf Hitler making the Nazi salute — a gesture that Musk has been accused of reprising shortly after Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration. A person in a Tyrannosaurus rex costume held another sign with a picture of Mr. Musk's straight-arm gesture that said, "You thought the Nazis were extinct. Don't buy a Swasticar."

"We just want to get loud, make noise, make people aware of the problems that we're facing," said Cam Whitten, an American who showed up at the London protest. Tesla Takedown was organized by a group of supporters that included disillusioned owners of the automaker's vehicles, celebrities such as actor John Cusack, and at least one Democratic Party lawmaker, Rep. Jasmine Crockett from Dallas. "I'm going to keep screaming in the halls of Congress. I just need you all to make sure you all keep screaming in the streets," Crockett said during an organizing call this month. Another Democratic lawmaker, Rep. Pramila Jaypal, showed up at a protest in Seattle, which she repre-



The protesters are trying to escalate a movement targeting Tesla dealerships and vehicles in opposition to Musk's role as the head of the newly created Department of of Government Efficiency

sents in Congress.

Some people have gone beyond protest, setting Tesla vehicles on fire or committing other acts of vandalism that U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi has decried as domestic terrorism. In a March 20 company meeting, Musk indicated that he was dumbfounded by the attacks and said the vandals should "stop acting psycho." Crockett and other Tesla Takedown supporters have been stressing the importance of Saturday's protests remaining peaceful. But police were investigating a fire that destroyed seven Teslas in northwestern Germany in the early morning. It was not immediately clear if the blaze, which was extinguished by firefighters, was related to the protests. In Watertown, Massachusetts, local police reported that the side mirror of a black pickup struck two people at a protest outside a Tesla service center, according to the Boston Herald. The suspect was promptly identified by police at the scene, who said there were no serious injuries.

A growing number of consumers who bought Tesla vehicles before Mr. Musk took over DOGE have been looking to sell or trade them in, while others have slapped on bumper stickers seeking to distance themselves from him. But Mr. Musk did not appear concerned about an extended slump in new sales in the March meeting, during which he reassured the workers that the company's Model Y would remain "the best-selling car on Earth again this year." He also predicted that Tesla will have sold more than 10 million cars worldwide by next year, up from about 7 million currently. "There are times when there are rocky moments, where there is stormy weather, but what I am here to tell you is that the future is incredibly bright and exciting," Mr. Musk said. After Mr. Trump was elected last November, investors initially saw Mr. Musk's alliance with the President as a positive development for Tesla and its long-running efforts to launch a network of self-driving cars. That optimism helped lift Tesla's stock by 70% between the election and Trump's Jan. 20 inauguration, creating an additional \$560 billion in shareholder wealth. But virtually all those gains have evaporated amid investor worries about the backlash, lagging sales in the U.S., Europe and China, and Musk spending time overseeing DOGE. "This continues to be a moment of truth for Musk to navigate this brand tornado crisis moment and get onto the other side of this dark chapter for Tesla," Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said in a recent research note.

American woman held in Afghanistan by the Taliban has been released



GNS News Agency, April 2

An American woman detained for weeks in Afghanistan by the Taliban has been released from custody, ac-

cording to a person familiar with the matter and a social media post on Saturday (March 29, 2025) from a longtime U.S. diplomat.Faye Dail Hall, who was detained in February on charges of using a drone without authorization, was released on Thursday (March 27, 2025) as part of a deal that Qatari negotiators helped broker, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the negotiations.

In a post on 'X', a former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, confirmed Hall's release with a photograph of her and said she would "soon be on her way home." Ms, Hall is believed to be the fourth American released from Afghanistan since January. Earlier this month, George Glezmann, an airline mechanic from Atlanta, was freed after more than two years in custody. That release follows a separate deal, executed on the final day of the Biden administration and also mediated by the Qataris, that secured the releases of Ryan Corbett and William McKenty. Officials in Kabul, the Afghan capital, said recently that the United States had lifted bounties on three senior Taliban figures, including the interior minister, who also heads a powerful network blamed for attacks against Afghanistan's former Western-backed government.

Scientists have have discovered the oldest meteorite impact crater on Earth, in the very heart of the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

GNS News Agency, April 2

We have discovered the oldest meteorite impact crater on Earth, in the very heart of the Pilbara region of Western Australia. The crater formed more than 3.5 billion years ago, making it the oldest known by more than a billion years. Our discovery is published today in Nature Communications. Curiously enough, the crater was exactly where we had hoped it would be, and its discovery supports a theory about the birth of Earth's first continents. The very first rocks The oldest rocks on Earth formed more than 3 billion years ago, and are found in the cores of most modern continents. However, geologists still cannot agree how or why they formed. Nonetheless, there is agreement that these early continents were critical for many chemical and biological processes on Earth.

Many geologists think these ancient rocks formed above hot plumes that rose from above Earth's molten metallic core, rather like wax in a lava lamp. Others maintain they formed by plate tectonic processes similar to modern Earth, where rocks collide and push each other over and under. Although these two scenarios are very different, both are driven by the loss of heat from within the interior of our planet. A few years ago, we published a paper suggesting that the energy required to make continents in the Pilbara came from outside Earth, in the form of one or more collisions with meteorites many kilometres in diameter. As the impacts blasted up enormous volumes of material and melted the rocks around them, the mantle below produced thick "blobs" of volcanic material that evolved into continental crust

Our evidence then lay in the chemical composition of tiny crystals of the mineral zircon, about the size of sand grains. But to persuade other geologists, we needed more convincing evidence, preferably something people could see without needing a microscope. So, in May 2021, we began the long drive north from Perth for two weeks of fieldwork in the Pilbara, where we would meet up with our partners from the Geological Survey of Western Australia (GSWA) to hunt for the crater. But where to start? A serendipitous beginningOur first target was an unusual layer of rocks known as the Antarctic Creek Member, which crops out on the flanks of a dome some 20 kilometres in diameter. The Antarctic Creek Member is only 20 metres or so in thickness, and mostly comprises sedimentary rocks that are sandwiched between several kilometres of dark, basaltic lava.

However, it also contains spherules – droplets formed from molten rock thrown up during an impact. But these drops could have travelled across the globe from a giant impact anywhere on Earth, most likely from a crater that has now been destroyed. After consulting the GSWA maps and aerial photography, we located an area in the centre of the Pilbara along a dusty track to begin our search. We parked the offroad vehicles and headed our separate ways across the outcrops, more in hope than expectation, agreeing to meet an hour later to discuss what we'd found and grab a bite to eat. Remarkably, when we returned to the vehicle, we all thought we'd found the same thing: shatter cones. Shatter cones are beautiful, delicate branching struc-



tures, not dissimilar to a badminton shuttlecock. They are the only feature of shock visible to the naked eye, and in nature can only form following a meteorite impact. Little more than an hour into our search, we had found precisely what we were looking for. We had literally opened the doors of our 4WDs and stepped onto the floor of a huge, ancient impact crater. Frustratingly, after taking some photographs and grabbing a few samples, we had to move on to other sites, but we determined to return as soon as possible. Most importantly, we needed to know how old the shatter cones were. Had we discovered the oldest known crater on Earth?

With some laboratory research under our belts, we returned to the site in May 2024 to spend ten days examining the evidence in more detail. Shatter cones were everywhere, developed throughout most of the Antarctic Creek Member, which we traced for several hundred metres into the rolling hills of the Pilbara. Our observations showed that above the layer with the shatter cones was a thick layer of basalt with no evidence of impact shock. This meant the impact had to be the same age as the Antarctic Member rocks, which we know are 3.5 billion years old. We had our age, and the record for the oldest impact crater on Earth. Perhaps our ideas regarding the ultimate origin of the continents were not so mad, as many told us.

Serendipity is a marvellous thing. As far as we knew, other than the Traditional Owners, the Nyamal people, no geologist had laid eyes on these stunning features since they formed. Like some others before us, we had argued that meteorite impacts played a fundamental role in the geological history of our planet, as they clearly had on our cratered Moon and on other planets, moons and asteroids. Now we and others have the chance to test these ideas based on hard evidenceWho knows how many ancient craters lay undiscovered in the ancient cores of other continents? Finding and studying them will transform our understanding of the early Earth and the role of giant impacts, not only in the formation of the landmasses on which we all live, but in the origins of life itself. Tim Johnson is a field and metamorphic geologist with expertise in phase equilibria and the generation, segregation and migration of melt in the lithosphere. Professor Chris Kirkland is leader of the Timescales of Mineral Systems at Curtin University. Jonas Kaempf is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the Curtin Frontier Institute for Geoscience Solutions (C-FIGS). This article is republished from The Conversation.

Drone strikes kill 11 TTP members, 9 civilians in Pakistan

Mardan: In a first-of-its-kind operation, the Pakistan military carried out drone strikes to target suspected militant hideouts in Babozai village in Katlang tehsil of Khyber Pukhtunkhwa (KP) province's Mardan district, killing at least 11 militants of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and, reportedly, nine civilians. Following Saturday's operation, security sources claimed that the attack was carried out after credible information based on intelligence of TTP hideouts and the militants gathered in the Katlang mountains with a plan to carry out attacks during the upcoming Eid-ul-Fitr festivities and prayers. Security sources also alleged that the air strikes killed 11 TTP militants, while a total of 25 TTP militants were neutralised in the military operation. However, after the incident, the locals and the government officials confirmed that civilians, including women and children, had also been killed in the airstrikes, stating that the locals staged a protest against civilian casualties. Locals stated that the drone strikes killed at least nine members of a shepherd family, who they said were civilians. The KP provincial government also confirmed the incident, adding that there were also civilian casualties. "An Anti-terror operation was conducted in the Karlang mountainous area of Mardan district based on credible information about the presence of terrorists. According to reports, this location was being used for the hideout and movement of terrorist elements," said Barrister Saif, spokesperson for the KP provincial government."It is regrettable that unarmed people were killed in the operation, including women and children," he added. On the other hand, after receiving reports about civilian casualties and protests by locals of the area, who kept the dead bodies of the deceased on the Swat Expressway and blocked two lanes for traffic, the KP government has ordered a high-level inquiry into the incident and announced a compensation of Rs 5 million for each

victim.Local sources revealed that the nine victims of the family, killed in the drone strike, belonged to Shamozai Tehsil of Swat district and used to migrate from Swat along with sheep and goats during the winter season to settle in the foothills of Babozai and Shamozai villages in Mardan district. The death of civilians has sparked a wave of anger and outrage among the locals and has raised many questions concerning the credibility of the intelligence reports about the TTP hideout targeted in the drone strikes. While the security forces reject the claim of civilian casualties, stating that all the killed in the air strikes belonged to TTP, stressing that no civilian could have been living in the mountainous ranges of Katlang tehsil, locals have also released the names of the killed victims in the strike, establishing the claim that they were civilians and not TTP militants. Amjad Ali Khan, Housing Minister of the KP government, claimed that he had known each victim killed in the drone strike personally, asserting that they all were civilians. "All the nine people, including two women and two children, who were killed in the drone attack in Katlang were 200 per cent innocent people. I knew each one of them personally as they belonged to my native town in Shamozai in Swat," he said. "I personally visited the site where they were killed and assured their relatives of a proper inquiry into the incident," he added. The KP government also issued a press release on the incident, assuring that an investigation into the incident has been initiated. "This is an immensely painful and regrettable development. Every effort is made during such operations to avoid collateral damage. However, the complex terrain, the deliberate tactics of militants to embed within civilian populations, and the fog of war can sometimes lead to unintended consequences," read a statement issued by the KP government."

Access to abortion, foetal viability, and the laws thereof: women are caught in the crossfire

As people on the inside, we have heard, too often to ignore, doctors bemoan abortions — having to perform them, counselling women who approach them, the very concept of it. Not all, but enough of us would say, "They're basically making us commit murder," in a dozen different ways, each more or less as unempathetic. The image seared into memory from medical school is of a woman in tears, undergoing a surgical procedure with minimal sedation to undergo an abortion at 14 weeks, as the service provider, a consultant, kept muttering under her breath, 'making me a culprit in her crime, and now she has tears? 'These statements, it seems, grow stronger, and more vitriolic, the later the abortion is scheduled. It seems that the more advanced the gestation is, the stronger are these ethical pangs that healthcare providers feel.

In the debate over abortion rights, few concepts are as legally and ethically contentious as foetal viability — the point at which a fetus can survive outside the womb. The problem is that there is no single, definitive moment when viability occurs. Though several different definitions of foetal viability have existed over time and across cultures, it is safe to say that the foetus' right to life grows stronger as the period of the pregnancy progresses. However, this vagueness of viability lends itself to legal and ethical arguments surrounding abortions across the world. India can consider itself somewhat lucky. In the same year that the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade and set abortion rights back by half a century, the Indian apex court delivered a momentous judgment. It noted that single "unmarried" women, who often struggle to access abortion care within the health system, are naturally granted reproductive choice as part of their personal liberty. These rulings are generally praised for giving women bodily autonomy for abortions amended from 20 weeks up to 24 weeks in 2021.

What happens after 24 weeks? That's where the question of foetal viability enters, and the ethical argument surrounding abortions heat up. The most recent amendment to The Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (MTP Act) allows abortions to be conducted by one registered medical practitioner (RMP) until 20 weeks, and two RMPs up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. From 24 to 30 weeks of pregnancy, all abortions must be reviewed by a medical board. Medical boards that rule upon these abortions are governed by strict laws. They can only approve cases where the foetus has abnormalities that are incompatible with life, or if continuing the pregnancy would significantly harm the pregnant person's health. "Even if a foetus has some serious illness but can be medically managed with available facilities, even if the life expectancy is limited in a foetus with thalassemia, we do not recommend (an abortion)," says Jyoti Bunglowalla, an obstetrician practicing in Indore. This reflects the general medical doctrine, where the sanctity of life outweighs the quality of life. "Late-term abortions are mostly in cases of assault, especially cases of minors,

where the victim doesn't really come out about the pregnancy until it is at an advanced stage," says Dr. Bunglowalla. "We have to remember that these are not common cases. We have great legislations protecting both women and doctors for abortions upto 20 weeks."The decision-making process for these abortions is on a case-by-case basis, and guided by the members of the Medical Board — doctors specialised in gynaecology, paediatrics, anaesthesiology and other specialties, among other notified government officers. Their decisions can be appealed in a court of law, and here, the subjectivity of law deepens even more.

In 2023, a 27-year-old mother of two did not discover her pregnancy until almost 25 weeks. This was due to lactational amenorrhea, a condition where breastfeeding mothers do not resume their menstrual cycles. Her previous pregnancy a year back, had led her to develop postpartum depression and psychosis, which was being managed on medication. With a breastfeeding infant and a serious mental health condition, she sought an MTP, and as per law, a medical board was set up. While the MTP was initially allowed, a member of the medical board emailed the court. At this late stage, they stated, they would either have to deliver a preterm baby who would need intensive care, or would have to stop the heartbeat to complete the abortion. This email was sent five days after the MTP had been allowed, and the petitioner was now 26 weeks pregnant. Despite the fact that "stopping the heartbeat" is a routine procedure in late-term abortions for fetuses with congenital anomalies, this case was dependent on morality. The woman was asked if she would want to "stop the heartbeat", without considering the moral and emotional burden it placed on her outside the medicolegal context. No, she said, but she was resolute in not wanting the child either. The court ruled for her to continue the pregnancy.

Others have been denied late-term abortions since then. The law accedes to women their reproductive choice, but it may also favour the unborn child's right to live — as long as they do not show any obvious congenital anomalies. This, despite the fact that most of these judgments explicitly state that the foetus would almost certainly suffer physical or mental harm if the pregnancy were to be terminated at that point. "While it is possible to resuscitate and manage a 24 weeker in a state-of-the art private facility, it is rare," says Shruti Kashyap, a paediatrician. "When you think of Indian set-ups, with the scarcity of infrastructure and resources, with best possible efforts, maybe a 26 week (foetus) can be managed, given the best possible care." The 24-week limit is based on the theoretical concept of viability, rather than an absolute. So what happens as medical advancements allow us to resuscitate foetuses at an even earlier period? Will abortion rights be based on neonatal medicine developmentsPhilosophically speaking, one could argue for or against the rights of the foetus, depending on one's own beliefs. Ethics in medicine are led by the premise



of primum non nocere-"first, do no harm". This, arguably, should prioritise the rightsof the pregnant person, and the harm that she may incur. "Now the problem (beyond 24 weeks) is that even if one terminates the pregnancy, they'll have a premature delivery. The news makes it sound like doctors are denying abortions. At that point we have to consider both the foetus and the mother's life. Even the case of the 14-year-old (who approached the court) at 30 weeks her abortion was not carried out because there was a high risk to her life if the abortion is carried out at that stage. If there is any risk, how can one conscientiously agree (to provide an abortion)?"However, cases like the 2023 judgement show that the courts can, and do, prioritise foetal life over the mother's mental and physical health. Late term abortions are not requested commonly- and this case may have set a precedent, showing that women can be compelled to carry pregnancies, even if they vouch that the pregnancy is unwanted and dangerous to their well-being. Studies have consistently shown that most women do not believe that abortion is a method of family planning, and a majority believe it is a sin. Given this context, it can be surmised that abortion is often a last measure, not a first choice. Why, then, does the general opinion among providers seem to paint all women as ignorant beneficiaries? One must remember that the MTP Act doesn't provide abortions on request. It is an exception to the law against abortions, to protect providers from the Indian Penal Code (now Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita), but only in very specific cases. This means that doctors often seek to protect themselves from civil and

criminal lawsuits. "When providers attend to an unmarried person seeking an MTP, they ask for consent — but this is usually because they want to protect themselves against lawsuits, in case any complications arise," says Sita Srinivasan, a gynaecologist practicing in Assam. This fear is not unfounded — anecdotes of legal action against providers do exist, making doctors hesitant to provide abortions.

A government hospital in Mumbai files "emergency police reports" in cases when unmarried women undergo abortions, just in case a sexual assault case is filed later. "Doctors are also afraid of performing an abortion for a woman with two daughters, because of the implication of sex-selective abortions and the legal consequences of it," she adds. "Usually, negative counselling is done when a woman first seeks termination," says Dr. Srinivasan. "Doctors can be disrespectful— Kyun chahiye? Kya zarurat hai' (Why do you need an abortion?) This is also the result of overworked, underpaid doctors working round the clock." It does feel like the system is rigged, and seeking an abortion can be daunting. What can be done to improve the situation? "Doctors are more liberal now, and are not as judgmental as they were 20 years ago," says Dr.Bunglowala "Access to MTP pills can be made easier, with removal of administrative barriers- and improved sex education can be mandated. Instead of imposing preconditions of sterilisation, abortion needs to be viewed as a health care service. Maybe these things, slowly but surely, will improve abortion access over time.

Silver for the goddess | Why Cuttack's GI-tagged Tarakasi art form is facing a precarious future

In the old town of Cuttack, Raghunath Patra begins his day at work by placing silver balls on a wooden table and pressing them into wires or tara. The molten wires are then carved into patterns to create beautiful silver filigree work known as Rupa Tarakasi — an art form that has been a part of Odisha's cultural heritage for over five centuries. As early as March, the city's artisans begin preparations for the Durga Puja season in October-November, when grand chandi medhas (silver filigree tableaux) adorn puja pandals. Last year, Cuttack's Rupa Tarakasi was granted a GI (Geographical Indication) tag, with the Odisha government pledging to make Odisha the 'Tarakasi hub' of India.

A year later, artisans say "none of the promises have materialised". Workers remain underfunded, and they also face challenges with fake Tarakasi products from Kolkata and elsewhere flooding the market. "Customers are often unaware of the difference and lean towards products that are cheaper. The Tarakasi work from Kolkata lacks intricacy and does not float on water, unlike authentic Odisha craftsmanship," says Patra. The price of Tarakasi from Cuttack ranges between 700 and 12,000 depending on the size and work involved in the design. Traditional Rupa Tarakasi work involves making silver ornaments and crowns for the Durga idol in time for Durga Puja festivities in October-November in Cuttack.In one of the narrowest lanes of Cuttack's Mohammadia Bazaar is Jayant Sahu's shop. His family has been in the business for over 100 years. "My father had the licence to export Rupa Tarakasi artefacts to the U.S. and the U.K., but it was cancelled during the Emergency," says Sahu. He is joined by his son, who holds an MBA degree but works to keep the Tarakasi art form alive Sahu's workshop has four artisans who sit crosslegged on the floor as they work on the designs. The medha season brings a renewed sense of purpose for these artisans. "This is the only time of the year when we see stable income," says Sahu. Ventilation in the room is minimal and the dim lighting makes it more difficult for artisans to work. The traditional Rupa Tarakasi silver filigree work that adorns Durga Puja pandals in Cuttack, Odisha. The traditional Rupa Tarakasi silver filigree work that adorns Durga Puja pandals in Cuttack, Odisha. | Photo Credit: Wiki CommonsIn the 1970s and 80s, Sahu's father Iswar had 25 artisans working under him but now the number is down to a single digit. For generations, this art form and its know-how have been passed down in the family but things are changing. "The children of artisans have shifted to cities to take up jobs in the IT sector," says Patra. Adapting to a younger audience

A certain type of Tarakasi involves women creating jewellery with the help of safety pins. This has become rare today and "traditional pieces like the Douma necklace have disappeared with time as the women stopped making them", adds Sahu. Jewellery shops sell different varieties of Tarakasi necklaces, earrings and bangles, but the art form goes beyond just these. There are traditional designs such as the Sindura Pharua(container used by married women to store sindoor or vermillion powder) and sindoor sticks, which are not sold much in the market due to a lack of demand. "There is no money in this art form. If we go to the jewellery shops and ask for better prices for our designs, they refuse outright," says Sahu. Evolving market trends have prompted artisans like Sahu to introduce newer designs — in minimalistic patterns and geometric shapes instead of the elaborate animal or flower motifs — to cater to younger audiences. "I have come up with cocktail rings, hairpins and so on; we must adapt," he explains. Tarakasi is traditionally limited to silver but there is space for innova-



tion, say artisans. Many of them believe that silver filigree can adapt to changing times if integrated with precious stones. Tarakasi artisans are prone to several occupational health risks as a result of sitting, standing and bending for long periods of time, leading to high risk of musculoskeletal disorders. According to a 2023 study by The Pharma Innovation Journal, over 95% of artisans report pain in various body parts, including lower and upper back, neck, shoulders, hands, knees, fingers and legs. These occur due to the involvement of repetitive and focused manual activities that demand static effort and precision, the study says. While 64% of workers experience mild to moderate discomfort, a notable 12% suffer from acute pain. Interestingly, 5% of workers report no pain, likely due to long term adaptation to incorrect postures. Workers keep sitting or standing with their backs bent for long hours to produce Rupa Tarakasi artefacts. The immediate need, as highlighted by artisans, is for incentives from the government. "Whenever the government of Odisha presents gifts to foreign delegates, they prefer the traditional craft of Tarakasi," says Prakash Dash, who has been in the occupation for decades. Artists like him ask for subsidising of silver prices, grants for workshops and creation of dedicated hubs, "A small patch of land could act as a hub for artisans so that we can teach the craft to newcomers as well," says Dash. Despite diminishing profits. Cuttack's Tarakasi craftsmen hope for a better future. Many have now taken to social media and other online platforms to showcase their creations. Will the wheel of fortune turn in their favour? Only time will tell.

There's probably an ant near you right now

Ants are among nature's greatest success stories, with an estimated 22,000 species worldwide. Tropics in particular are the global hotspots for ant diversity. But if ants are so successful out in nature, why do they so often turn up in our homes and even upper-level apartments? And what can we do to keep them out? Ants dominate the planet in terms of sheer abundance. At any given moment, there are an estimated 20 quadrillion ants alive — that's 20 followed by 15 zeros. In fact, for every human being, there are roughly 2.5 million ants.

Ants owe much of their success to their highly social nature. Within the colony, some individuals (female queens and male drones) are responsible for reproduction, while others (workers) are busy caring for the young, cleaning or foraging for food. Workers ants are always female.

The rise of senior living communities in India is reshaping the retirement landscape

For generations, the idea of ageing in India has been tied to the family home, with adult children expected to care for their parents in their later years. The thought of senior citizens living in dedicated retirement communities has often been seen as a departure from familial responsibility and is still met with hesitation. But with lifestyle and perception changes about old age, child-rearing and autonomy, society has made space for these communities to co-exist and thrive. V Jayanth, a 70-year-old retired journalist, moved into Ziva Retirement Homes in Mamallapuram 10 months ago, after living in Chennai all his life, "Both my children are married, and it took me almost a year to convince them to let me move here," he says, adding that the property is set along the scenic East Coast Road. "I go for daily walks, exercise in the outdoor gym, get my newspapers and brew my own coffee," he adds.

A recent report by JLL (a global real estate and investment management company Jones Lang LaSalle) and the Association of Senior Living India (ASLI) states that India's senior living housing sector is projected to skyrocket over 300% by 2030, hitting the \$7.7 billion (?64,500 crore) mark. This upward trend is expected due to a demographic shift in the population. The senior citizen population is predicted to almost double by 2050, and this will make India home to the world's second-largest elderly population after China. The most pressing issue is to improve the quality of life and well-being for this growing segment of society, and South Indian cities such as Chennai, Coimbatore, and Bengaluru have emerged as the epicentre of the country's senior living boom, commanding almost 60% of the market share. Far from being the last resort, these spaces offer structured support, and a way for elders to lead fulfilling lives on their own terms. Along with providing around-the-clock maintenance care and emergency medical services, these communities host activities ranging from dance classes, game nights, movie nights, and the celebration of festivals, birthdays, and anniversaries. "We have a poetry club, which was formed by those of us who have either taught English or has studied English literature, and we are 12-15 of us in this. Apart from this there are satsang and bhajan meetups, there's a bridge club, and so much more happening in the community. You just have to make contact with what interests you," says Jayanth.

Communities host activities ranging from movie and game nights, to trips to nearby tourist destinations, to even exhibitions and pop-ups set up within the premises. While residents are encouraged to take part in actives and keep busy, they are free to do as they please. "There is a carrom club, some regularly play cards, others go to the library or gym by themselves. This is their home, and they can do what they want to do," says says Sabitha Muralikrishnan of The Chennai Homes, adding that all residents are required to inform the caretakers if they are stepping out or going out of station, just so everyone is aware of their whereabouts, but there is no restriction of movement. In the early stages, it was difficult for us to make people understand that this is not an old age home in the traditional sense. The mindset has changed because these communities cater to more than just security and medical services. They are more like resorts with a social life built into them," says Umamaheshwari Yuvaraj, joint managing director, Ananya Group, which operates the Nana Nani senior living communities in Coimbatore.

The demographic that seems most at ease with this living arrangement is women since they are freed from obligations like cooking and care taking. "I have observed that women are the most social group on most of our properties, and they are able to be free and social because they are free of responsibilities. Many women have told me that it is freeing to not have to worry if the maid will show up on



time," she laughs. With well-equipped care facilities, curated social activities, and a network of peers, communities like these create an environment where elders can engage meaningfully with their surroundings. These spaces provide more than just care — they foster independence while ensuring support is always within reach. Rama Swaminathan (84), who has been staying at Puducherry's Serene Pelican, says that since she moved into the community almost two years ago, she has been able to indulge in her interest in cooking. "I did a diploma in cooking and I enjoy it a lot, but I was a school principal and did not have the time to do it much. Now I cook at leisure, talk to my plants, read books and relax," she says.

In the Indian landscape, one of the major concerns that arises in assisted living communities is the food. Dietary preferences are nuanced and impacted by beliefs and religion. "We understand that elders have some very specific food preferences. Some don't consume onions and garlic, and even from the health perspective, a lot of them have needs. We provide customisation of diets and even have doctors who monitor their daily food intake," says Sabitha Muralikrishnan. "Every morning after we clock-in, we visit each resident and go through a check-list. Have they had enough sleep, did they face any difficulties during the night, have they taken all their medication on time, did they speak with their family members, these questions are essential because they help us gauge an oncoming emergency," says Devi, 35, a nurse who has been in the healthcare industry for the last 18 years, and now works with Coimbatore-based CovaiCare. Beyond daily care, these communities also step in to help with end-of-life care and last rites according to the residents' customs. "We take care of all the logistics so that the family doesn't have to worry about them during the grieving period. We have tie-ups with hospitals and mortuaries which will hold the mortal remains until the families arrive in case they are abroad," says Sabitha. While these communities prioritise providing a safe and scenic environment for the retired demographic to take a back seat, Colonel Achal Sridharan, 76, founder of retirement CovaiCare, is of the strong belief that the golden generation belongs right in the cities with all the youngsters instead of on the outskirts. "Retirement communities are the need of the hour because of the longevity of life and the unavailability of facilities for the elderly. These communities provide not just safety, but things like food, housekeeping and more."To rebuild a life at a much later stage is definitely a challenge for those who decide to move into these communities, despite the many advantages it provides. "This becomes a large investment at the age of 70. I have to uproot my life and come to some other place and find

to uproot my life and come to some other place and find new surroundings and new people, all for basic facilities. Only 2% of urban senior citizens live in organised senior living communities. So this sector needs to be much more developed and accessible," he says. Despite the challenges these communities offer something far more meaningful—a sense of belonging among peers. For 93-year-old G N Rajagopal, finding a fellow retro Hollywood film enthusiast

Ranga Reddy **THURSDAY 3 APRIL 2025 INDIAN CHRONICLE**

How to pay for the poor world to go green



The trickiest issue facing the climate negotiations at COP29, which began in Baku on November 11th, goes by the opaque name of the "new collective quantified goal" (NCQG), mainly because that is more dignified than "bigger pile of money". The NCQG is meant to replace the longstanding goal of an annual \$100bn a year in climate finance from richer countries to poorer ones. It is supposed to be in place by next year, when all countries are expected to say what they are going to do to cut emissions in the next ten years. A small NCQG, say some developing countries, means less ambitious plans. The chances of a large one, though, look slim. In part that is because rich countries dragged their feet over the old smaller goal. In part it is because Donald Trump, America's president-elect, is a climate sceptic who wants to spend less abroad. And in part it is because negotiators from all sides tend to make the optics dire whether or not there is progress to be made.

If the negotiators can get their act together, though. there is a significant win to be had. Paying for poor countries to go green should cost less than is widely thought. Moreover, robust channels exist to raise and deploy the money. To estimate the developing world's requirements in climate finance, economists add together three financing needs. One is the amount of public money necessary to spark enough private investment in renewable energy. Another comprises compensation paid to poor countries for shutting coal plants (which pollute a lot) while keeping rainforests untouched (allowing for carbon to be stored). Both are crucial to keep net emissions under control. The third bucket—which includes "adaptation" funding to cope with a warmer planet—pursues a different goal. It is obviously necessary; it is also an inherently fuzzier category, and one where developing and developed countries sit far

Excluding adaptation finance from this budget makes the picture clearer. Take the funds to foster renewables first. One of the developing world's problems is that building lots of solar farms and wind turbines requires a great deal of upfront capital that private investors, cagey about putting money into risky markets, are unwilling to provide. Commercial lenders, for their part, often charge extortionate rates. The good news is that, in many of these countries, a little help from public backers can go a long way towards luring investors and slashing borrowing costs. The Energy Transitions Commission (ETC), a think-tank, estimates that yearly climate investments in the developing world (excluding China) need to triple to \$900bn to keep global temperatures from rising by more than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Most of this will come from governments and the private sector, but development banks' green subsidies will also need to rise, from \$50bn now to \$144bn. This is not a benefit that can be achieved by simply lending to renewable ventures at bargain rates. That would lock in a lot of capital in each transaction and create opportunity costs. Better to provide commercial lenders and investors with guarantees, where a public entity offers to take losses should a project fail to make its promised returns. Those instruments are in fashion: in February the World Bank launched a fund to double loan guarantees to \$20bn by 2030. Regional development banks have also clubbed together to provide insurance for green projects and ease repayment

To encourage developing countries to ditch coal power and keep trees alive—the second aim—rich countries have few options other than offering money. The ETC reckons that, to stick to 2°C of global warming, such handouts must reach \$300bn by 2030. Together with subsidies needed to jumpstart renewable projects, this means rich countries must mobilise around half a trillion dollars each year by the end of the decade. Some of this would end up not being spent, as guarantees are intended only as safety-nets. Yet most estimates reckon that adaptation needs could end up doubling the amounts required. How should climate funds be disbursed? A package of bilateral deals between rich and developing countries would expose funding to geopolitical whims and make it hard to track total commitments. It would probably be wasteful, too, as rich-world governments seek a return on their investments by demanding that the money is used to purchase their own equipment. Creating new multilateral institutions, on the other hand, could end in failure, as rich countries hesitate to trust them and would-be shareholders squabble over terms and conditions. Specialised institutions launched in recent decades are struggling to take off: the Green Climate Fund, the biggest such venture, has disbursed only \$16bn since it opened in 2010. It would be wiser to entrust the World Bank with such a mission. That would require the lender to grow: the ETC's recommended climate-finance pot is worth about six times what the bank doles out in a year. The institution could borrow a bit more against its equity without damaging its credit rating. On October 15th Ajay Banga, its president, announced that it would decrease its equity ratio to 18% of its borrowing, down from 19%, which, along with his other reforms, will free up \$15bn a year. The bank would need a mighty capital injection, too. Geopolitical tensions complicate the task. China is unlikely to be more generous without more of a say, and America refuses to give up its veto over the institution's decisions. Sticking with the status quo would be a huge wasted opportunity. Rich countries would get a much bigger bang for their buck—in terms of global emissions reductions—by spending money in the global south. The financial channels and the instruments exist, and the will is there. In an interview with The Economist, Mr Banga says he wants 45% of its lending to go to helping poor countries reduce emissions rather than alleviate poverty (triple the current ratio). On November 12th, multilateral development lenders including the World Bank pledged to increase their climate finance to \$120bn by 2030 (including \$42bn for adaptation). In Baku, a breakdown of talks over climate finance would be an abdication of responsibilities. It would also be a massive failure of imagination.

Birthing targets must go beyond maternal survival

One of India's greatest public health successes has been the dramatic fall in maternal and infant mortality throughout the 21st century. The Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in India - maternal deaths per 100,000 live births — that was 384 in 2000 had fallen to 103 by 2020. There is much more access to modern health care. In 2019-2021, 89% of babies were born in hospitals and other health care institutions, compared to just 41% in 2005-2006. The quality of care has improved within institutions as well, saving even more lives.

But is it enough that more women and infants survive?

As United-Statesbased maternal health expert Neel Shah says, survival is just the floor of what people deserve during childbirth. We should be aiming for the ceiling - not only survival, but also good health and quality of life; dignified, respectful, and positive birthing experiences; and memories of fulfillment and joy at the arrival of a new family member. To get to that aspirational ceiling, we have to understand the three key challenges in India's maternal health landscape. First, we must address the problem of 'too little, too late,' that is, inadequate care, or delayed care. For example, not having access to skilled health care providers, medical facilities, ambulances, or drugs. Despite overall national progress, vast swathes of the country still suffer from too little, too late. We are still losing too many mothers and babies.

Second is the issue of 'too much, too soon', which refers to the problem of routine over-medicalisation; unnecessary use of harmful and non-evidence-based interventions; and the use of interventions that can be lifesaving when used appropriately, but detrimental when overused. Pregnancy and childbirth are physiologic processes, not an illness.



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Too much, too soon leads to unnecessary morbidity for the mother and newborn. In India, this can be seen in extremely high rates of Caesarean-sections (C-sections), labour inductions, augmentations, and episiotomies. Public health research suggests ideal C-section rates are in the range of 10-19%. India's nationwide private sector C-section rate is 47%, and many states and districts cross 80%. Third, Disrespect & Abuse (D&A) of pregnant women and women in labour is rampant across India, with an estimated prevalence of around 71%. D&A is an inherent violation of human rights. It takes several forms, such as physical and verbal abuse, a lack of informed consent, a lack of privacy, and a lack of confidentiality. It is present in varying degrees based on the facility type, and is compounded by factors like caste and socioeconomic status. Widespread D&A leaves women feeling disempowered. It

also reduces willingness to

seek institutional health care, which, in turn, drives up mortality. Neither poor quality of care, nor D&A, are limited to low-income settings. Usage of harmful, outdated practices happens across India, and even privileged women thus bear a lot of unnecessary morbidity. Moreover, women in elite urban hospitals also experience D&A, particularly through a lack of informed consent and a lack of bodily autonomy. While they may be consenting to procedures and interventions in a legal sense, this is often after being misled through fearbased consent processes in which the true benefits and risks are not conveyed.

The barriers women face in maternity care are complex. It is an issue that suffers from sitting at the intersection of India's challenges in both women's disempowerment and health care. Women suffer from public health shortcomings, just as men do, but face additional mistreatment. More-

over, women often have low

respectful

demand high-quality or respectful care.We need to situate the maternal health conversation within the larger feminist debates on bodily autonomy and women's rights. With growing recognition of mistreatment, abuse, and neglect of women giving birth in facilities, what we need is a paradigm shift.We must stride towards a world in which women not only survive, but also receive high-quality care that is compassionate, empowering. Childbirth need not just be something to tolerate in order to have a baby. Positive birthing experiences, protection of human rights in childbirth, and optimum health for mothers and babies should become the norm. It is time to transform birthing.Janhavi Nilekani is founder and chairperson, Aastrika Foundation and Aastrika Midwifery Centre. The views expressed are

bargaining power within their

own households, which

makes it difficult for them to

Why world must call for peace in Ukraine



Russia's war on Ukraine completed a thousand days on Tuesday. That it has continued so long makes it a standing testimony to the ineffectiveness of international bodies such as the United Nations. Since February 24, 2022, when Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a full-fledged invasion of Ukraine, at least 12,162 civilians, including 659 children, have been killed in Ukraine, as per the UN human rights office, OHCHR. Thousands of Russian and Ukrainian combatants have also been killed in the fighting. Cities such as Mariupol have been bombed to dust and at least six million Ukrainians have sought refuge in other countries. The war indicates a stalemate in global power politics: Russia has weathered the sanctions storm with help from allies such as China — and even India, which has refused to stop doing business with Moscow despite the nudge from the West — but it failed to defeat Kyiv's over-stretched army, which, of course, has been embel-

lished with weapons from Nato nations. The global economy has been hit by the Russian blockade of Ukrainian ports affecting wheat supplies and Nato sanctions on Russian oil and gas. Now, the war may have entered a deadlier phase. Recently, the outgoing US president, Joe Biden, gave the nod to Kyiv to use American long-range missiles that can strike inside Russia, which Ukraine did on Tuesday. The same day, Putin endorsed a nuclear doctrine that allows Moscow to launch nuclear weapons at non-nuclear powers. Clearly, neither power is willing to de-escalate or factor in a possible nuclear catastrophe. European nations, which have now become frontline States in the war, a first since World War II, have much to lose if the conflict escalates. The global community must talk with Russia, address its fears about Nato, and negotiate peace with Ukraine. Moscow should realise it would only be enhancing its status as a responsible power if it listened to voices of reason.

How SC read the right to property and its limits

The Constitution of India is a document of compromises, which was drafted by a Constituent Assembly whose members had diverse — and sometimes — competing sets of interests. One of the starkest examples of the compromise nature of the document — when it was enacted — could be found in its property rights clauses. The Constituent Assembly was aware of the deeply unequal property structures that the country was inheriting from its colonial history, and the urgent need for land reform. This is reflected in various provisions of the Directive Principles of State Policy, which mandate the State to undertake policies that would lead to a more egalitarian distribution of resources among the country's people. At the same time, however, the Constituent Assembly was wary of radical change: They wanted incremental change that could be controlled from above. The Constitution, therefore, also contained a set of enforceable rights that would serve as guardrails within which the legislature could pursue its reformatory policies — but not beyond. These included a fundamental right to property, a requirement that land acquisition only be for a public purpose, and accompanied by

The initial years of the Constitution saw multiple amendments to the text, as Parliament saw its land reform laws often stymied by Supreme Court judgments that held that the property clauses had been violated. However, Parliament continued to keep the basic structure of the property clauses intact, even as it tried to exclude judicial review over its laws. This position changed with the advent of the 1970s. There were two reasons for this. The first was the rise to power of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, whose main plank was top-down economic populism, with little patience for institutions that stood in the way. The second was a change in the composition of the Supreme Court: The 1970s saw the appointment of judges who were either unwilling to confront Indira Gandhi, or were largely in agreement with her ideology. In this decade, therefore, the government-driven constitutional amendments grew broader and more sweeping, attempting to undo the property rights framework of the original Constitution; at the same time, the Court's interventions grew more limited, although they did not die out (this was the decade when the Court articulated the famous basic structure doctrine).

The high water-mark of this era came in a judgment called State of Karnataka vs Ranganatha Reddy. In this case, Justice Krishna Iyer held that when Article 39(b) of the Constitution (a Directive Principle) directed the State to ensure "that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to sub serve the common good", the term "material resources of the community" included all private property that served any material need. This holding was important because Article 31C of the Constitution stipulated that laws directed towards securing the purposes of Articles 39(b) and (c) of the Constitution were immune from scrutiny under Articles 14 (right to equality) and 19 (rights to freedom). In laypersons' terms, this holding granted sweeping immunity to nationalisation including the nationalisation of private property.

The irony, of course, is that Justice Krishna lyer's judgment was soon overtaken by events. Soon after, the Indian State began to move away from a command-and-control economy, a break that was formalised in 1991. Thus, Ranganatha Reddy stood as something of an anachronism: It vested broad powers in the State, but the State was no longer keen on using them. Earlier this month, a nine-judge bench of the Supreme Court resolved the anachronism by formally overruling Ranganatha Reddy in Property Owners Association vs State of Maharashtra. Writing for the majority, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud held that some private property could indeed amount to "material resources of the community", but not all private property. CJI Chandrachud also laid down certain indicators to determine when "private property" would meet this test: These were the nature of the resource, its impact on the community, its scarcity, and the consequence of the resource being concentrated in the hands of private players. In an individual case, a court could apply this test to the facts at hand, and determine if Article 31A was attracted or not.

Justice Chandrachud framed his holding as being



based on the premise that the Constitution did not encode any one economic ideology (such as that of socialism). This is no doubt correct. However, it is interesting to note that Justice Krishna Iver's judament went much beyond even what socialist thinkers advocate. The distinction between personal property (such as, say, your toothbrush) and private property that serves as the means of production (such as, say, a factory) was made as far back as The Communist Manifesto. It is therefore unclear what ideology Justice lyer was invoking to hold that all property could be presumptively nationalised, but very evidently, this was an unsustainable position in law — whether or not it would be ever acted upon by the State. At the same time, reporting around the judgment has also tended to overstate its impact. As noted above, Justice Chandrachud was quite clear that certain kinds of private property would fall within the meaning of "material resources". This judgment is not, therefore, a ringing endorsement of a privatised political economy far from it. What remains to be seen now is how future courts will understand and apply the indicators to determine, on a case by case basis, which kind of property can be properly called a "material resource of the community". These might

ChatGPT assists in brownie sensory evaluation, study suggests Al can aid food development

New York: ChatGPT can be used in the sensory evaluation of foods, specifically brownies, according to a study, which offers insights that could streamline development of new products, and possibly enhance recipes.

Researchers from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in the US looked at 15 different brownie recipes, ranging from standard ingredient lists to unusual combinations, including mealworm powder and fish oil.

Study author Damir Torrico, assistant professor in the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, provided ChatGPT with recipe formulas, and asked the AI to describe sensory characteristics of each brownie, including taste, texture, and overall enjoyment. Torrico then categorised the themes of ChatGPT's responses to determine if they were positive, negative or neutral. "Sometimes, relying on human testers can slow down the process, especially when multiple product prototypes need to be evaluated simultaneously. Sensory panels require time and careful coordination, and in some cases, certain ingredients may not be food-grade, making them unsuitable for tasting," said Torrico in the study published in the journal Foods.

That is why large language models such as ChatGPT are being considered for sensory evaluation. It is possible to create models that can replicate certain human responses.Surprisingly, ChatGPT's responses were overwhelmingly positive, even for recipes that included unusual ingredients. This positivity aligns with the psychological phenomenon scientists call "hedonic asymmetry". "Hedonic asymmetry" is the idea that people (and apparently AI) tend to describe things that are beneficial to them in more positive terms. Food serves a role in keeping us full and giving us energy, Torrico explained, causing humans to respond to food in a positive manner. In ChatGPT's attempt to act human, it seemed to display this behaviour. "ChatGPT was trying to always see the good side of things." Torrico said.

Does India need to include the mumps vaccine in its universal immunisation programme?

A resurgence in mumps outbreaks across several States in India from 2023 onwards, has brought forth this question: is the disease now an emerging public health problem that is significant enough to warrant prevention through immunisation? Public health experts are debating this issue.In Kerala for instance, cases of mumps have spiked phenomenally, especially in recent months. From an average of 2,500 cases annually, cases surged to 74,907 in 2024. The trend seems to be continuing, with 16,504 cases already reported this year as of March 25, and of these, over 4,000 cases have been reported this month alone. Public health experts say that as the cohort of susceptible individuals dwindle due to natural immunity acquired through contracting the infection, the outbreaks will peter out over the next few months. However, as the number of cases go up in the community, the number of cases with mumps-related complications are also likely to go up. This, and the fact that over 85 schools and several tribal hostels had to be closed for varying durations in 2024, has prompted Kerala to explore the possibility of introducing the mumps vaccine as part of the immunisation schedule. Mumps is a self-limiting, airborne, viral disease which presents as fever and headache in mostly children and adolescents, with painful swelling of the salivary glands (parotid glands) on both sides of the face. The patient usually recovers with rest and symptomatic management in about two weeks.

Even though mumps is a vaccine-preventable disease, because of its low mortality profile, the mumps vaccine has never been a part of the nation's Universal Immunisation Programme. From a public health perspective, measles, a more infectious and severe disease, has always been considered a priority for elimination. There is no nationally representative data on the incidence of the disease, and very little information on the actual long-term morbidity profile of mumps, even though the disease is known to have some impact on reproductive organs, doctors say. "Mumps may not be as harmless as it is made out to be, especially if it is occurring in epidemic proportions in a previously unvaccinated community. Though we do not have exact figures, there were reports of hospitalisations following known complications like aseptic meningitis, encephalitis and acute pancreatitis from medical college hospitals in Kerala. The point is, when mumps is a vaccinepreventable disease, should we allow the disease a run through the community?", asks I. Riaz, State president of the Kerala chapter of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics.In

disorder is complex but early diagnosis can lead to fulfilling lives

The second phase of India's National Mental Health Survey is currently underway. The first phase identified mood disorders as an important diagnostic category in terms of prevalence in India. March 30 is celebrated worldwide as World Bipolar Day.

Mood disorders are psychiatric disorders characterised by a pathological alteration in one's mood, energy, and activity levels. The two most common mood disorders are major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder. Major depressive disorder is characterised by a persistent and pervasive sadness of mood, anhedonia (disinterestedness in activities that were pleasurable before the onset of the affliction), easy fatigability, cognitive difficulties, hopelessness, worthlessness, inappropriate guilt, and crying spells. More severe forms include suicidal ideas, slowness of bodily movements and thinking, delusions, and hallucinations.

Major depressive disorder is one pole in the gamut of

presentations of bipolar disorder. The other pole, which defines bipolar disorder in a way, is mania. Mania is typified by an elevated, expansive or irritable mood, higher energy levels, inflated self-esteem, decreased need for sleep, pressured speech, subjective experience that thoughts are racing ('flight of ideas'), being easily distracted, increased goal-directed activity, unrestrained buying sprees, and sexual indiscretions. Normal mood fluctuations are specific to situations and last for short durations. For instance, one may feel down for some time after a difficult day at work. But people with mood disorders present with persistent pathological alterations in their mood and energy levels. These perturbations are not transient but last for weeks, months or longer and impair one's socio-occupational functioning. Causes of mood disorders

The genesis of mood disorders is complex and multifactorial. The affliction comes to the fore during development and manifests as individuals mature. Bipolar disorder generally has its clinical onset between the ages of 15 and 30 but its origins go back to early life. An individual's vulnerability to mood disorders is likely to be genetically coded, as is the case with most psychiatric disorders.

That said, genetic vulnerabilities alone don't always suffice. Environmental factors play a crucial role in precipitating the affliction. There is a complex and dynamic interaction between one's genetic vulnerability and the environment. This is why clinicians evaluating people with mood disorders spend time understanding a person's early childhood experiences, developmental history, stressors, and life events. These critical windows during development act as triggers and maintaining factors for mood disorders. It is useful to conceptualise the origins of mood disorders in terms of stress, gene-environment interactions, and circadian functioning. Proximal stressors include adverse childhood experiences such as abuse, loss, neglect, and domestic violence. Distal stressors seen in adulthood include a lifethreatening illness, financial difficulties, unemployment, bereavement, violence, and trauma. Childhood maltreatment is associated with twice higher chances of receiving a psychiatric diagnosis. Studies have even shown abnormalities in the spermatozoa of victims of childhood maltreatment.

In bipolar disorder, negative life events are associated with depressive relapses while goal-attainment life events are associated with manic relapses. Chronic stress is associated with dysregulation of the hypothalamic-pituitaryadrenal (HPA) axis. When a person perceives stress, the hypothalamus releases the corticotropin-releasing hormone (CRH). CRH stimulates the pituitary gland to release the adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH). ACTH moves to the adrenal glands, which then release cortisol, the stress hormone. Cortisol primes the body to respond to stress. Once the stressor abates, the HPA axis shuts down its activity via a negative feedback loop, where cortisol levels signal the hypothalamus and pituitary to reduce CRH and ACTH release. Chronic stress dysregulates the HPA axis such that the negative feedback loop is disrupted. Cortisol keeps getting released even after the stressful event has gone, rendering a chronic low-grade inflammatory state in the brain and the body.

a research paper, 'Is it Right Time to Introduce Mumps Vaccine in India's Universal Immunization Program?', which appeared in the 2016 issue of Indian Paediatrics, authors S.R. Vaidya and V.S. Hamde say that mumps is indeed a significant public health problem in India, but that it does not garner attention due to the absence of a surveillance and documentation system. While the public health significance of mumps-related morbidities is not well documented. paediatricians say that the virus is known to affect the gonads (reproductive hormone glands), causing orchitis (inflammation of the testicles) in males and oophoritis (inflammation of the ovaries) in females. Serious and long-term complications like infertility are considered to be rare, but neither can it be said with certainty that the virus does not cause testicular damage, which could lead to a drop in sperm count in the long run. In the article 'Mumps Orchitis: Clinical Aspects and Mechanisms' by Wu et al., which appeared in Frontiers in Immunology (2021), researchers point out that orchitis is a common complication of mumps and that it occurs in as high as 40% of all mumps cases in young

What is mumps?

Mumps is an acute disease of children and young adults. Humans are the only known host for mumps virus, which is spread via direct contact or by airborne droplets from the upper respiratory tract of infected individuals. Mumps if frequently reported in children aged 5-9 years of age, although both adolescents and adults may be affected. After an incubation period of some 2 to 4 weeks mumps begins with non-specific symptoms such as myalgia, headache, malaise and low-grade fever. Within days, these symptoms are followed by unilateral or bilateral swelling of the parotid salivary glands, with other salivary glands affected in 10% of cases. Normally mumps is a mild, selflimiting disease and disappears without sequelae. However, complications may occur such as encephalitis or sensorineural deafness. Orchitis (a painful inflammation of the testes) occurs in 20% of young adult males who develop mumps.At present, India's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP provides the MR vaccine, which protects against measles and rubella. Under the UIP, the MR vaccine is administered to infants at 9 months and at 18-24 months. A vaccine for mumps has been available for over 50 years however, and, in several countries, as well as in private hospitals in India, it is provided in combination with the MR vaccine, as the Mumps-Measles-Rubella (MMR) vaccine. Following a recent meeting of Kerala's State Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (STAGI), the Additional Chief Secretary (Health) as well as the Director of Health Services had written separate letters to the Union Health Ministry asking for the inclusion of the mumps vaccine in the UIP schedule, through the MMR vaccine, to prevent future mumps outbreaks, Health Department officials said. And its not just Kerala, several States that have been experiencing huge mumps outbreaks since last year have also made similar requests to the Centre, that MMR vaccine be introduced in place of the MR vaccine in the UIP schedule. In December, Tamil Nadu's Health Department also wrote to the Union Health Ministry in this regard: the State records at least 150 cases of mumps per month now."However, introducing a new vaccine in the community is a long process as innumerable factors -- vaccine availability, price, supply and most importantly, the possible side effects of the vaccine -- will have to be studied ahead. This issue is something the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI) will take up soon, we hope, a senior Kerala Health official said. At present, the use of the MMR vaccine is advocated by the IAP and it is included in the IAP's immunisation schedule. Most private hospitals follow the IAP's vaccination schedule. The World Health Organization's official position has been that reaching all children with two doses of the measles vaccine, either alone, or in a measles-rubella (MR), measles-mumps-rubella (MMR), or measles-mumps-rubella-varicella (MMRV) combination, should be the standard for all national immunisation programmes. While there are no studies from India on the effectiveness of the mumps vaccine, globally, the protection from two doses is estimated to be between 70-95%, if the vaccination coverage is high.

What does Kerala plan to do?

In 2014, Kerala had, on its own, replaced the second dose of the measles vaccination in the UIP with the MMR (mumps-measles-rubella) vaccine, as part of a State-level initiative against rubella. But in 2017, when the Union Health Ministry sought to replace the single measles vaccine given at 9 months and 18-24 months with the MR vaccine, Kerala discontinued the MMR vaccine it was giving and adopted the MR vaccine for routine immunisations. In Kerala, most of the mumps cases are seen now in the 5-9 year age group, and hence at least three doses of the vaccine may be needed for full protection, Dr. Riaz said. The IAP advocates a three-dose schedule, at nine months, 18 months



and a booster dose at five years. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. and the WHO recommend a two-dose schedule. Kerala's STAGI's recommendation was that, for the time being, the State retain the MR vaccine at nine months, while the MR dose at 18-24 months is replaced by MMR. This should be followed by a booster dose of MMR at five years. "This involves an estimated additional expenditure of ?15 crores annually and we are exploring the possibility of whether local self-government bodies can find the funds for this or if we should restrict the provision of the free MMR vaccine to just the BPL (below poverty line) category. For Kerala too, this is a big decision to take on its own because these funds will have to be committed so that there is no disruption in vaccine supply," a senior Health official said. Researchers point out that there was a surge in the global incidence of mumps in 2017-19 and that there are concerns about the disease shifting from children to young adults.

There is not much documentation however, on whether mumps contracted in childhood might contribute to infertility or testicular damage later in life. At present, mumps is primarily being reported in un-immunised children and adolescents and hence, improving general immunisation cover is important, say doctors. Isolating patients for three weeks and using face masks can prevent the spread of the disease in the community. Identifying the source of infection may not be easy because the spread occurs before the onset of symptoms. In about 30% of cases, individuals remain asymptomatic. Most importantly, a public awareness campaign on mumps is in order so that people learn to recognise the disease and understand the importance of isolation to prevent community transmission.

The urgent need to tackle heat stress effects — not just heat — this summer



A sweltering April is almost here, and temperatures across India are steadily rising this summer, a year after the hottest recorded year on Earth so far, that also saw heatwaves arrive early and for longer durations. Heat can have a number of effects on the human body. Experts are now calling for close monitoring of the heat stress index in order to frame policies to safeguard public health.

Heat stress happens when the body cannot get rid of excess heat, causing its's core temperature to rise, and the heart rate to increase. High temperatures combined with moisture can make it feel even hotter, as increased humidity makes it harder for the body to cool itself through sweating. A study published in Natural Hazards by T.V. Lakshmi Kumar, who is now with Jawaharlal Nehru University, found that coastal cities in India are more vulnerable to heat stress due to climate change. Cities like Chennai, Nellore, Puducherry, and Kochi are expected to see a drop in work performance in the coming decades. People working in these cities may need longer breaks during work hours to prevent heat-related issues. Heat-related illnesses, a growing public health concern

Experts note that while the India Meteorological Department defines heatwaves based on temperature, there isn't enough focus on heat stress, which involves both temperature and humidity. For instance, the wet-bulb temperature, one of the measures that combines both the air temperature and humidity, provides an indication of heat stress on the human body. While we usually cool down by sweating, when the wet-bulb temperature reaches a certain point, this method no longer works effectively. As a result, our body temperature continues to increase. This marks the threshold beyond which humans cannot adapt to extreme heat. If we can't escape these conditions, our core temperature can rise to dangerous levels, potentially leading to organ failure

Vidhya Venugopal from Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, who studied occupational health risks for outdoor workers, explains that heat stress occurs when the body fails to control its internal temperature. She led a study on salt pan workers from 2017 to 2020, where many workers reported symptoms like heat strain, dehydration, and urinary tract infections, likely caused by excessive sweating, limited water, and no access to toilets during long shifts. The wet-bulb globe temperature often exceeded safe levels in salt pans during summer. Another study on cashew nut workers also revealed that heat stress takes a heavy toll on them. "It is generally thought that heat stress affects only outdoor workers. That is not the case," she said. A recent study by Sustainable Future Collaborative (SFC) included cities like Surat, Mumbai, Delhi, and Bengaluru. The findings highlighted the need for long-term actions focused on the health system to address the growing risk of heatwaves. Improving health system preparedness is vital, but experts argue that more actions are needed to prevent the effects of heatwaves before they become overwhelming. Tamanna Dalal, an author of the SFC study, pointed out that important actions, such as providing cooling systems for homes and workplaces, developing insurance for lost work, and improving fire management and electricity grids during heatwaves, are not being fully implemented. Additionally, some cities are lacking critical measures like local weather stations and mapping ur-

Fatal head injuries are declining with helmet use, but there is still a long way to go, say doctors

March is observed as Brain Injury Awareness Month. For the past several years now, the police have been penalising two-wheeler riders for not wearing helmets, and, of late, have been coming heavily down on pillion riders as well for.In Chennai, neurosurgeons say they have seen a significant drop in the number of head injuries they are treating, as well as a reduction in the severity of injuries. But they also add that many injuries that hospitals treat are among persons who have been driving under the influ-

The Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, Tamil Nadu's largest State healthcare facility, sees around five to six cases of brain injury per day now, as against 12 to 14 earlier, says Dean E. Therani Rajan. Compliance with regard to wearing helmets may have risen but more clearly needs to be done, say doctors.

M. Balamurugan, senior consultant neurosurgeon at Apollo Hospital, said it was necessary to enforce the ruling for pillion riders to also wear helmets. "We have seen a 50% to 60% drop in head injuries. The severity of the injuries has reduced as well. However, most people involved in accidents are in the 20 to 45



phase," he said. K. Selvakumar, senior consultant neurosurgeon at Sri Ramachandra Medical Centre and chairman of telemedicine, said the the severity of injuries has definitely come down. "The number of trauma cases treated at the hospital, however, is almost the same," he pointed out. The hospital now sees people with spinal injuries or long bone injuries, adds the doctor who has been with the hospital for 31 years and a neurosurgeon for 45. It treats patients with fractures and concussion sustained from falls. "We see more facial injuries. Some people wear helmets. for the sake of wearing one," he rues. By purchasing substandard helmets they are only putting themselves at risk, he adds.

Dr. Selvakumar also points out that enforcement

people indulge in drunk driving, a menace that has to be curbed. Senior neurosurgeon K. Ganapathy who has been advocating safe riding and helmet rules for years now, says political will is needed. "The single most important point is the helmet may not prevent a head injury, but makes reversible, an irreversible injury. In Singapore, Taiwan and the United States of America the rule is enforced strictly. You have got to be cruel to be kind," he says. Road traffic accidents in IndiaRoad crashes are the biggest cause of deaths due to unintentional injuries in India, accounting for more than 43 cent of fatalitiesRural areas bear the brunt of road traffic injury (RTI) fatalities, with a staggering 67.8 per cent of

deaths occurring there, com-

pared to 32.2 per cent in ur-

males and 14 per cent for femalesOver-speeding is the leading cause of these deaths, accounting for 75.2 per cent of fatalities. Other major contributing factors include driving on the wrong side of the road (5.8 per cent) and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs (2.5 per cent)Source: National Strategy for Prevention of Unintentional Injury reportDrastic measures such as not dispensing petrol if the rider and the pillion rider are not wearing helmets and cancelling driving licences are necessary. he insists. "For every death that occurs in a road traffic accident there are at least 50 to 60 people who meet with a [non-fatal] accident," he adds. "At least 20 to 30 people have residual head injuries, and it takes 2-5 years to recover. It is not about fatality coming down alone," he says. Section 126 of the Motor Vehicle Act must be enforced strictly, Ganapathy avers.Measures, as in

ban areasThe mortality ratio

of road traffic injuries is ap-

proximately 86 per cent for

Dr. Ganapathy avers. Measures, as in China, where the law makes it compulsory for a survivor of a road traffic accident who rode without a helmet to spend a week in a head injury ward will help too, he adds.

Waiting Room Theatre gives voice to the struggles and strength of persons with mental illness

It's an ordinary Friday morning at the Schizophrenia Research Foundation (SCARF), a mental health institution, and the patients — referred to as "service users" by the organisation — are gathered in the waiting hall of the outpatient block. An unassuming group moves forward and clears some chairs; the "stage" is set. They inform the patients that a short drama will soon be performed to raise awareness on mental health, and the audience can choose the

Sheets are handed out, listing 16 themes, such as involving individuals with mental illness in decision-making, managing medication side-effects, discussing marriage in the lives of patients with mental illness, and encouraging respect for those with mental health issues in homes, work-places, and society. While some in the audience choose not to participate, no one is pressured. After the themes are selected, the group collects the forms, and moves on to discuss the scenes. The group of performers, SCARF service users themselves, belong to a unique initiative called 'Waiting Room Theatre.' It is part of the PIECEs project funded by the UK government's National Institute of Healthcare and Research.

The programme uses the Theatre of the Oppressed methodology to perform skits to spark dialogue and dispel misconceptions about mental health issues. Two dozen service users were trained by Sanjay Ganguly, a practitio-

ner and teacher of the methodology. After about 30 minutes of discussion, the play unfolds. In the first scene, a service user asks a family member for tea, only to be given coffee instead. In the second, she is given a new dress in a colour she dislikes. In both scenarios, she is expected to accept what is offered without questioning, as she is told she is "simply sitting at home" and "of no use." They perform using the forum theatre technique, which encourages and empowers spectators to find solutions by becoming 'actors' who intervene in the scene. As the play concludes, P. Manikandan — a social worker and research assistant at SCARF — who assists the performers, asks the audience what they would change about the scenes. When prompted to enact a role, Vijaya, a caregiver who had brought her daughter for treatment, steps onto the stage and speaks soothingly to the character.

Another audience member, Sara, a person receiving treatment, then portrays the role of someone with a mental illness. She confidently stands her ground when her choices are dismissed. Afterwards, she says: "Words [said to persons with illness] are very important. They hurt."Mr. Manikandan says that over the two years since the launch of the Waiting Room Theatre, many caregivers and patients have gained a deeper understanding of mental illness. "After watching the play, some caregivers realised it's okay for individuals with mental illness to work if their treatment is managed well.

Singapore-based Temasek to acquire stake from Haldiram's existing shareholders

Temasek, Blackstone, Haldiram Snacks Foods, Indian sweets, snacks, initial public offering, Haldiram stake, Indian express business, business news, business articles, current affairsHaldiram's has its headquarters in Noida and boasts manufacturing plants across several locations, including Nagpur, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Hooghly district, Rudrapur and Noida.Haldiram Snacks Food Pvt Ltd has entered into an agreement with a Singapore-based global investment firm Temasek, leveraging it the power to acquire an equity stake from the existing shareholders of the Indian snacks and sweets company. With the agreement, Haldiram's aims to continue its expansion plans both in India and across the world and bolster its presence in an increasingly competitive market.

Commenting on the new agreement, Haldiram group spokesperson said in a statement, "We are thrilled to welcome Temasek as an investor and partner in Haldiram's. We look forward to working with them to harness the value they bring from their experience in the consumer space to accelerate our growth and strengthen our ability to meet evolving consumer demands. We also extend our gratitude to PwC and Khaitan & Co for their dedicated support during this transaction."PwC Investment Banking team acted as the exclusive financial advisor to the transaction and Khaitan and co-served as the legal advisor. Sanjeev Krishan, chairperson, PwC in India, said "At PwC, we take pride in being catalysts of entrepreneurial success—helping businesses transform into global giants. Our decade-long collaboration with the Haldiram's exemplifies this commitment. Over the years, we have advised them on various strategic planning



and decision making.. This transaction is not only the largest private equity consumer deal in India, but also a reflection of domestic businesses that continue to elevate India's positioning on the global stage. We thank the Haldiram's family for trusting us and giving this opportunity."The transaction, which is subject to customary regulatory approvals, is expected to close soon.

Haldiram's, founded in Bikaner in 1937, has a massive product portfolio of over 400 items, including traditional namkeens, western snacks, Indian sweets, cookies, sherbets, pickles and more. Haldiram's has its headquarters in Noida and boasts manufacturing plants across several locations, including Nagpur, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Hooghly district, Rudrapur and Noida. The company's retail presence is significant, with its own chain stores and restaurants in major cities like Pune, Nagpur, Raipur, Kolkata, Noida Mumbai and Delhi

'Must explore fuel cycle options instead of reactor options to step up nuclear capacity, bring thorium into the mix early': Anil Kakodkar

Amid delays in plans for large-scale deployment of Fast Breeder Reactors (FBR) — the vital second stage of India's three-stage atomic energy programme — one of the country's top nuclear scientists has said that a solution could lie in the country's policy makers looking at fuel cycle options instead of reactor options. The delays in FBR deployment is bad news for India's nuclear programme, given that these reactors envisaged the use of recycled fuel while breeding much more fissile fuel. A quick solution to tide over this problem could lie in irradiating thorium — the radioactive metallic element named after the Norse god that has been a long standing hope for India's true energy security - along with a fuel variant called high assay, low enriched uranium (HALEU) in the country's pressurised heavy-water reactors (PHWRs) at scale, Anil Kakodkar, former director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, told The Indian

The used fuel from these PHWRs — the mainstay of India's nuclear power programme — can then be recycled to set up additional power generation capacity, including through the new-age molten salt reactors (MSRs) as part of the third stage of India's three-stage nuclear power development programme.HALEU is defined as uranium enriched to greater than 5 per cent and less than 20 per cent of the uranium-235 (U-235) isotope, which is different from the uranium fuel enriched up to 5 per cent U-235 that is typically used in the current fleet of light water reactors deployed by most western countries.

Applications for HALEU are currently limited to research reactors and it is not yet widely available commercially. This also comes at a time when China is planning to build a nuclear power plant on the edge of the Gobi Desert that would be the first in the world to use molten salt as the fuel carrier and coolant, and the first to use thorium as a fuel source instead of the uranium traditionally used in nuclear reactors. Kakodkar's comments are timely, given the need for baseload nuclear capacity and thermal capacity that is clearly being felt currently in India after a phase of rapid expansion of renewables power generation capacity over the last decade. The absence of energy storage systems to counterbalance the renewable capacity is now resulting in increasing instability in the country's electricity grid. Renewable energy sources such as solar and wind rely on specific atmospheric conditions to generate power, producing electricity only when the sun is shining or the wind is blowing. While nuclear, alongside thermal, is being seen as a solution to ramping up base load capacity, the slow pace of atomic power capacity addition is a big constraint.

According to Kakodkar, while the government's move to acknowledge the inevitable role of nuclear energy in the realisation of its 'Viksit Bharat' goals is positive, the setting up of 100 GWe of nuclear capacity by 2047 would be a challenge."The only way to exponentially increase the rate of nuclear power output, given the supply constraints on uranium, is to start recycling uranium and bringing in thorium into the (generation) mix as early as possible,"



Kakodkar said. Recycled nuclear fuel would then be necessary to sustain the capacity addition growth rate. For that the FBR was seen as crucial, but delays had dogged the large-scale deployment of these reactors. As an improvisation, by using thorium irradiated along with HALEU in the PHWRs at scale, the spent fuel produced can then be recycled to set up additional power generation capacity, including through the molten salt reactors. Kakodkar said that while recycling spent uranium fuel along with plutonium in fast reactors remains a superior option, given the delays in India's FBR project, recycling the HALEU-thorium fuel is perhaps the next best alternative. This would enable India's civil atomic power programme to grow as long as the irradiated fuel feed is available, he said. Kakodkar said that while the government's plans to establish a number of Bharat Small Reactors in a public-private partnership mode make sense, there is no harm in India being open to all available nuclear technologies, including imported light water reactors. While the 700 MWe PHWRs, currently being deployed in fleet mode, can be the main basis for capacity addition, small reactors could "play a supporting role".

HALEU-thorium fuel can be leveraged in both to enable the continuation of capacity addition beyond the time uranium supply constraints, and the continuing delays in the FBR programme. Can the private sector lead India's nuclear power journey? According to Kakodkar, the private sector, while it needs to be mobilised to scale up the programme has, at best, "a secondary role". That is an argument which is countered by other experts, given the inability of the public sector to expedite nuclear capacity addition

"The inability to scale up is a management issue, and not a technology issue," Kakodkar said. He also said that nuclear power today is competitive without any subsidy, and so be given must-run status, and should be backed up by a clean energy fund, just like for renewables. The Department of Atomic Energy's three-stage power programme envisages a pathway to utilising India's abundant thorium reserves — found in coastal sands on the beaches of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, and in the inland riverine sands of Jharkhand and West Bengal — to generate electricity.

"Can y'all chill, our team needs sleep," says OpenAI CEO Sam Altman after Ghibli images take over internet

New Delhi: OpenAl CEO Sam Altman on Sunday urged users to reduce their usage of ChatGPT's latest image generation feature, citing overwhelming demand. In a post on social media platform X, he said: "Can yall please chill on generating images this is insane our team needs sleep (sic)". Despite his appeal, many users were not convinced, with some even suggesting that he should fire his team. Responding to one such post, Altman defended his team, saying they had built one of the biggest websites in the world in just 2.33 years. "No thanks. In addition to building AGI, this team is on trajectory to build the biggest website in the world from a cold start 2.33 years ago," Altman replied to the post.On March 25, OpenAl introduced its newest Al-powered image generator, integrated with ChatGPT's GPT-40 model. This feature allows users to refine images iteratively and maintain consistency across multiple edits.

Since its launch, there has been a surge in user engagement, with many experimenting by transforming images into various artistic styles, including Studio Ghibli. However, the rapid adoption has put a strain on OpenAl's infrastructure. Altman acknowledged the situation, stating: "It's super fun seeing people love images in ChatGPT, but our GPUs are melting." Due to copyright concerns, OpenAl has also restricted the generation of images



in the style of certain living artists and studios like Studio Ghibli. To manage the high demand, OpenAl plans to introduce temporary rate limits. The free version of ChatGPT will soon have a cap of three image generations per day. Altman assured users that these restrictions are temporary and that the company is working to improve efficiency. Unlike earlier Al-generated art that relied on external tools like OpenAl's DALL-E, the new image generation feature is built directly into ChatGPT-4o. Users can create visuals seamlessly using text prompts and even specify details like aspect ratio, colour schemes, and transparent

India-US trade deal: First tranche by Fall, but no relief yet on reciprocal tariffs

THE FOUR-DAY India-US trade talks concluded Saturday with substantial convergence on the contours of a trade deal but without finalising the Terms of Reference (ToR), a document that kickstarts negotiations by defining the scope and objectives of a bilateral trade agreement (BTA), a government official told The Indian Express.In a statement after the talks, India's Commerce and Industry Ministry said the talks ended with a "broad understanding" of the next steps towards a bilateral trade agreement both countries aim to sign by Fall. It, however, did not indicate whether there would be any relaxation on President Donald Trump's decision to impose reciprocal tariffs from April 2 as was expected by the Indian industry.

"Both sides, through four days of discussions in New Delhi, have broadly agreed on the next steps towards a mutually beneficial, multi-sector BTA, aiming to finalise its first tranche by fall 2025. Sectoral expert-level engagements under the BTA will begin virtually in the coming weeks, paving the way for an early in-person negotiating round," the ministry said. Trade experts said the Terms of Reference are usually set before negotiations begin and are often decided at a political level, as seen in the ongoing India-European Union trade talks. Previously, contentious issues such as market access in agriculture and data localisation had stalled efforts for an India-US trade agreement. Without sharing specifics, the Commerce and Industry Ministry said both sides had a "productive exchange" on strengthening bilateral cooperation in "priority areas, including increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, and deepening supply chain integration in a mutually beneficial man-

Uncertainty over reciprocal tariffs remains, despite industry optimism following the announcement of trade talks. On Saturday, Trump said discussions between India and the US were progressing well. Last week, he hinted at a softer stance, stating that "a lot of countries" would receive exemptions on April 2.At a White House press briefing today, Trump said, "India is one of the highest tariffing nations in the world... It's brutal. They're very smart. He (Modi) is a very smart man and a great friend of mine. We had very good talks. I think it's going to work out very well between India and our country."The four-day meeting followed Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal's visit to Washington DC in early March, where he met US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick. "This week's talks served as an icebreaker, with substantive negotiations expected to begin later. Despite the discussions, the US continues to impose additional tariffs on Indian exports such as steel, aluminium,



automobiles, and auto parts. Also, it is not clear if the talks are only about India making unilateral tariff concessions or if the US will also cut its tariffs. While both sides engage in dialogue, Washington's hardline trade stance suggests a disparity in bargaining power," former trade officer and head of think tank GTRI, Ajay Srivastava, said.

The Indian Express reported on Friday that US negotiators focused on market access—an area of US interest—but did not disclose plans for reciprocal tariffs when questioned by Indian negotiators. This has raised concerns among Indian officials that the US could use reciprocal tariffs as leverage to push for an early goods deal. During the talks, US demands centred on greater market access, particularly for automobiles, whisky, and certain agricultural products. Indian negotiators, meanwhile, sought improved access for labour-intensive sectors such as textiles and leather. On digital trade, the US is pressing for greater data access, challenging India's strict data localisation rules, which require Indian data to be stored domestically. During Trump's first term, disputes over data localisation were a major source of friction between the two nations. Trump has already imposed 25 per cent tariffs on steel and aluminium and is set to impose tariffs on automobiles and auto parts from April 3. Indian steel exporters have told the government that US tariffs have affected nearly \$5 billion worth of exports, while auto-component exporters fear selective concessions could threaten India's \$7 billion exports to the US.But the government was hopeful. "The successful conclusion of the discussions reflects progress in efforts to expand India-US bilateral trade and investment relations to promote prosperity, security, and innovation in both countries. These steps aim to unlock new opportunities for businesses, drive bilateral economic integration, and reinforce the economic partnership between India and the United States," the Commerce and Industry Ministry's statement

Key nuclear deal breakthrough: US clears firm to build and design n-reactors in India

TWO decades after it was inked, decks have been cleared to tap the commercial potential of the India-US civil nuclear deal with an unprecedented regulatory clearance from the US Department of Energy (DoE) that will allow a US company to build and design nuclear reactors in India. The March 26 approval from DoE cleared Holtec International's application for specific authorisation with respect to the restrictive regulation that is referred to as "10CFR810". (Part 810 of Title 10, Code of Federal Regulations of the US Atomic Energy Act of 1954).

This authorisation permits Holtec, with conditions, to transfer "unclassified small modular reactor (SMR) technology" to three firms in India: its regional subsidiary Holtec Asia; Tata Consulting Engineers Ltd; and Larsen & Toubro Ltd. Holtec International is promoted by Indian-American Kris P Singh, and has its wholly-owned subsidiary Holtec Asia operating an engineering unit in Pune since 2010 and has a manufacturing unit in Dahej, Gujarat. Holtec's original request included three additional proposed Indian end-users: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), thermal utility NTPC Ltd., and the Atomic Energy Review Board (AERB). But the Government of India did not provide the requisite non-proliferation assurances for these three state-owned entities. As per the approval, Holtec may, in the due course, request to amend this authorisation to add NPCIL, NTPC, and AERB as authorised end users. The latest authorisation has been granted for 10 years from the date of issuance, subject to a review at 5-year intervals. The authorisation is also subject to assurances from the Government of India extended on March 3, 2025 that the three selected private entities — L&T, TCE, and Holtec Asia will use the technology and information transferred from Holtec only for "peaceful nuclear activities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and not for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or for any military purpose".

So far, the regulation, while giving US companies, such as Holtec, the ability to export equipment to countries such as India under strict safeguards, explicitly barred them from manufacturing any nuclear equipment or performing any nuclear design work in India. This provision was a nonstarter from New Delhi's perspective, which wanted to participate in manufacturing SMRs and co-produce the nuclear components for its domestic needs. The March 26 authorisation lists key conditions: that the technology and information or items "derived therefrom" will not be "retransferred to any other entity or end user in India or to other countries except the United States without the prior written consent of the Government of the United States"; and that the "Indian End Users" are authorised by the Government of India to receive the subject Part 810-controlled nuclear technology. Holtec International will also have to file quarterly reports to DoE on the technology and assistance provided to the end users under this authorisation. Importantly, it also requires that Holtec "Part 810-controlled technology" is only used for peaceful nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards and not for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices, and "not for marine or for naval propulsion activities, or any military purpose"; and that it will not provide the Indian partners with access to "enrichment technology or Sensitive Nuclear Technology". This comes weeks after an announcement on renewed nuclear cooperation between the two countries to "fully realise" the US-India 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement, marking a significant diplomatic upside for India.

At a time when the Trump administration has been extremely transactional on the issue of balancing trade deficits and supporting US manufacturing, the commitment to move forward on plans to jointly build US-designed nuclear reactors in India — through large scale localisation and possible technology transfer — is being seen as a significant diplomatic gain for India. The new deal potentially offers a chance for India's nuclear sector to upgrade its reactor specialisation to those in use across much of the world, and scale up capacity addition against the current glacial pace of project development. The plan to leverage private



sector capabilities to get into the niche, but growing, SMR space is also significant. Though India's civil nuclear programme has expertise in manufacturing smaller reactor types – 220MWe PHWRs (pressurised heavy water reactors) and above – the problem for India is its reactor

Based on heavy water and natural Uranium, PHWRs are increasingly out of sync with the pressurised water reactors or PWRs (a light-water nuclear reactor type that constitute the large majority of the world's nuclear power plants) are now the most dominant reactor type across the world. Holtec International, a privately-held company, is billed as one of the world's largest exporters of capital nuclear components and is a leader in the decommissioning sector. With this 810 authorisation, the possibility of India and the US joining forces to compete with China is a possibility when Beijing too is working on an ambitious plan to seize the opportunity of global leadership in the SMR space, unlike large reactors where China has been a latecomer.

Like India, China sees SMRs as a tool of its diplomatic outreach in the Global South that could shake up the SMR industry, just as it has done in the electric vehicle sector. Both India and the US are hamstrung to compete with China on their own, given India's technological constraints and the US being impeded by a relatively high cost of labour and the growing protectionist mood in that country. Holtec has a non-nuclear manufacturing facility in Dahei, Gujarat, and has conveyed that it can double the workforce at that plant in less than a year if the proposed manufacturing plans are cleared. The 123 agreement signed by India and the US way back in July 2007 did, in fact, explicitly aim to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation between the two sides by providing for "full civil nuclear energy cooperation covering nuclear reactors and aspects of the associated nuclear fuel cycle including enrichment and reprocessing" Since then, there has been no progress on the ground and a single investment is yet to come through. On the Indian side, there are legal issues too. The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act, 2010, which sought to create a mechanism for compensating victims from damage caused by a nuclear accident, and allocating liability and specifying procedures for compensation, has been cited as an impediment by foreign players such as GE-Hitachi, Westinghouse and French nuclear company Areva. This is primarily on the grounds that the legislation channelises operators' liability to equipment suppliers, with foreign vendors citing this as a reason for worries about investing in India's nuclear sector due to fear of incurring future liability.

Holtec could explore a collaboration with TCE, one of India's largest consulting engineering firms in power sector, and partner with L&T to make some of the components for the upcoming nuclear plants here. In due course, Holtec said it hopes to work with the two state-owned entities authorised to operate nuclear power plants in India, NPCIL and NTPC, as potential customers and operators of the SMR-300 reactors. Amendments to the Atomic Energy Act 1962 also have to be initiated to enable private companies to enter nuclear generation as operators, which is currently restricted to only state-owned companies. The Indian government has committed to getting this done. This development comes when India is working to get into the manufacturing value chain of small reactors.

Kuldeep Yadav reveals lessons taught by Sunil Narine: 'I believed I could rely solely on my skills...'



GNS News Agency, April 2

Kuldeep Yadav burst onto the scene as a lethal weapon. However, he lost his edge after the first couple of seasons and became predictable. The wrist-spinner recalls Sunil Narine's advice on bowling length and how it has helped immensely. "As a bowler, you must aim to dominate. Players like Jasprit Bumrah and Sunil Narine have done that consistently. I learned a lot from Sunil Narine when I was with KKR. He was ahead of his time. He always emphasized the importance of bowling length," Kuldeep Yadav

said speaking on Jiohotstar. "Back then, I believed I could rely solely on my skills, but now I realize he was absolutely right. Since returning from injury, I've focused a lot on my length, and that has made a significant difference," he added. The scores have been sky-rocketing in the IPL for the last couple of years Kuldeep would also emphasize how difficult it is to maintain the economy. "The IPL is very tough for bowlers — it's highly competitive. You may pick up wickets, but you can't always expect to maintain an economy of just 6 or 7 runs per over. It's a challenging format with highquality players,"

Axar Patel has been made the captain of Delhi Capitals for the upcoming season. "Axar and I have been playing together since our U-17 days, so our understanding is very smooth. We have a very clear-cut communication style. I remember during the U-19 World Cup in 2012, when we won in Australia under Unmukt Chand's captaincy, we were both in standby. We've been together since then, which speaks volumes about our bond," Kuldeep would say. "Our bowling partnership has always been simple. I have always been an attacking bowler, while Axar provides control, which creates pressure on the batsmen," he added.

'Play on flat pitches and back your batters to win it': Aakash Chopra advice to struggling Rajasthan Royals

GNS News Agency, April 2

Former India cricketer and commentator Aakash Chopra advised struggling Rajasthan Royals to stick to flat surfaces and back the batters to win matches. This came after season one champion, Rajasthan lost to Sunrisers Hyderabad and Kolkata Knight Riders in their opening two games. "Saying it again—play on flat pitches and back your batters to win it," Chopra posted on X. In Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag, Dhruv Jurel and Nitish Rana, Rajasthan have gone with an Indian core at the top, with Shimron Hetmyer being the only recognisable hitter in the mix.

The foreign bowling trio of Jofra Archer, Wanindu Hasaranga and Maheesh Theekshana have also been ordinary until now for RR, resulting in Rajasthan's struggling with both bat and ball in the first two matches. Hyderabad scored 286, the second-highest total in IPL history against the Men In Pink, while they could only manage 151 against KKR batting first. Jofra has conceded over a hundred runs in 7 overs without taking a single wicket. There are two options—Fazalhaq and Maphaka. But don't know if that'll make a significant difference to their bowling resources. Their marquee signing, Archer, especially has been taken to the cleaners by batters; and his 4-0-76-0 against SRH was also the most expensive spell by any bowler in IPL history. Chopra remarked that the Englishmen's replacements, Fazalhaq Farooqi and Kwena Maphaka, could hardly make



any difference. "Jofra has conceded over a hundred runs in 7 overs without taking a single wicket. There are two options—Fazalhaq and Maphaka. But don't know if that'll make a significant difference to their bowling resources," Chopra added. "And Hetmyer can't possibly bat at 8 ever again," said Chopra after Hetmyer was demoted to No. 8 against Kolkata, his lowest batting position in T20 cricket. Rajasthan host Chennai Super Kings for their last match at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati. Sanju Samson, who is recovering from a finger injury and playing as an Impact Sub, is likely to be fully fit after his game. This also means that Samson can take over the captaincy duties from Riyan Parag, who was leading RR in his stead in front of his home crowd.

Who is Zeeshan Ansari, former India U19 WC spinner who made IPL debut for SRH vs DC in IPL 2025?

GNS News Agency, April 2

Lucknow-born leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari gained the spotlight on Sunday at the Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium, Visakhapatnam as he made his IPL debut for Sunrisers Hyderabad against the Delhi Capitals. Ansari was drafted in by captain Pat Cummins, replacing his Australia compatriot and leggie Adam Zampa in the SRH XI. Interestingly, Ansari has only played one T20 match for the Uttar Pradesh side in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, returning wicketless while conceding 32 runs on debut.

Prior to his First-Class debut, Ansari had represented in India during the 2016 Under-19 World Cup where they finished runners-up. The all-rounder featured in two games, scoring 35 runs. Unlike most others in India's then Under-19 World Cup squad, Zeeshan didn't represent his state at under-14 or under-16 levels. When Zeeshan didn't make it to the age group teams, his father's patience with his pursuit wore thin. Zeeshan's joint family was 19-strong and an extra hand at work would be of huge help, instead of being



a drain on their finances.Representing the Meerut Mavericks in the UP T20 League, Ansari emerged as the leading wicket-taker of the tournament last year, recording 24 scalps. The 25-year-old late secured a Rs 40 lakh bid from SRH during the IPL 2025 Mega Auction in Jeddah in November 2024.Zeeshan has also represented Uttar Pradesh in five FC games, picking up 17 wickets.

Serial record breaker Gulveer smashes 10,000 m national record by 14.66 whole seconds



Gulveer Singh who has set the early Track & Field Indian season on fire notched up his third record in the 10,000m improving his own previous mark by a stupendous 14 seconds at JSerra Catholic High School track of San Juan Capistrano. The Ten is a World Athletics Continental Tour silver grade meet. Clocking 27:00.22 at The Ten meet in USA where he finished sixth, Gulveer notched Asia's third all time best timing in Asia, though Ishmael Kipkurui has a breathtaking home stretch winning gold with a 26:50.20 for an NCAA record. The tall Gulveer, from Aligarh, is 26 years old, and a Naib Subedar in the Indian Army. He had first set the 5000m Asian record with a 12:58.77 at Boston University becoming the first Asian to go under 13 minutes on the short track. His outdoor 5000m NR is at 13:11.82.Gulveer's 10000m NR was on 27:14.88 that he had set at Hachioji Long Distance, Japan in 2024 and he came pretty close to dipping under 27, as the race pace sped up. The bronze medallist at Asian Games in 2022, holds the national marks in 5000m, 10000m outdoors, plus indoor over 3000m and 5000m. However, Gulveer missed automatic qualification for the World Championship in August by 0.22 seconds. He was well ahead of the Asian Championships qualification standard of 29:33.26, and should make it to Gumi, Korean.Gulveer is now third behind Qatar's Ahmad Hassan Abdullah (Kenya born) and Nicholas Kemboi (also Kenya born) in Asia.

Radical changes proposed in the All India Football Federation draft constitution

Hyderabad: The draft constitution of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) has proposed several radical changes, including the provision for inclusion of at least five former national players in the 14-member Executive Committee and removal of the office bearers through a no-confidence motion. The draft constitution, prepared by retired Justice L Nageswara Rao, has been submitted to the Supreme Court. An SC bench comprising Justices PS Narasimha and Joymalya Bagchi on March 25 commenced final hearing on pleas related to the finalisation of the AIFF Constitution. The matter is likely to be taken up by the bench for further arguments and final disposal on April 2. The draft constitution says that the current elected members of the Executive Committee (after polls in September 2022), "shall stay in power and serve their permitted full term(s) of four years, subsequent to which fresh elections shall be conducted in the manner prescribed in this amended Constitution."But according to officials tracking the development, the election can be called before the end of the term of the current office bearers — which is September 2026 — if the SC gives nod to the new constitution and the AIFF adopts it quickly.

Starc, Kuldeep help Delhi Capitals restrict Sunrisers to 164



GNS News Agency, April 2

Visakhapatnam: Aniket Verma was the surprising batting hero for Sunrisers Hyderabad cracking a brilliant 74 (41b, 5×4, 6×6) as it set up a modest target of 164 for Delhi Capitals in the IPL league match at the ACA-VDCA International Stadium here on Sunday. For Capitals, Australian pace ace and left-armer Mitchell Starc with a five-wicket haul (5/35) and left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav (3/22) were the lead performers. It was a splendid effort by Aniket when the other big name in batting except Heinrich Klaasen failed to get going. In the first over, Abhishek Sharma (1), who was slow to respond for a sharp single from striker Travis Head was stranded and not the kind of start Sunrisers would have hoped for. Then, in the third over, Aussie pace ace Mitchell Starc struck a double blow - forcing southpaw Ishan Kishan (2) slash straight to third man and then local hero Nitish Kumar Reddy moved away to play a mistimed pull stroke for a two-ball duck. Sunrisers was clearly in trouble at 25 for three in 2.3 overs. Starc continued to torment the

batting line-up dismissing the dangerous looking Travis Head (22, 12b, 4×4) as he slashed only to edge to the wicketkeeper to the delight of the Capitals' camp to make it a pathetic 37 for four in 4.1 overs. It was a superb spell by Starc, who mixed his pace with yorkers and widish length giving little away. But, Heinrich Klaasen was in a different mood - pulling nonchalantly over the fence and then essaying an extravagant cover drive to the fence in one over from Starc. Capitals' captain and left-arm spinner Axar Patel would have had Aniket Verma (on 6) with his second ball but Abhishek Porel failed to latch on to the leading edge when the batter played across the line in the sixth over. In the power-play Sunrisers scored a paltry 58 for four. That fielding lapse proved costly as the 23-year-old Aniket from Uttar Pradesh played a brilliant knock which included two massive sixes in one over off Axar - one over square-leg and one straight into the sight screen.

Soon, a superb catch, running back from backward point by Vipraj Nigam to latch on to a leading edge off an intended off-drive by Heinrich Klaasen (32, 19b, 2×4, 2×6) off pacer Mohit Sharma in the 11th over was just the kind of breakthrough Capitals needed badly (114 for five) to come back into the game. This ended the best partnership (77 off 42 balls) between Aniket and Klaasen for the fifth wicket. A couple of quick wickets soon saw Sunrisers slip to 123 for seven in 14 overs. But Aniket continued to toy with the bowlers hitting a four and two huge sixes in one over off Axar in the 15th over. A brilliant catch when Fraser McGurk timed his jump to perfection at deep mid-wicket to hold on to a shot from Aniket off left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav provided the much needed relief to Capitals in the 16th over. Kuleep was once again exceptional with his spell of 4-0-22-3

Indian cricket men team to tour Australia for white-ball games in 2025/26 season, women to play all-format series

GNS News Agency, April 2

New Delhi: The India men's cricket team is all set to tour Australia for a white-ball series in the 2025/26 international cricket season in the country, while the women's side will play an all-format series later. In the schedule unveiled by Cricket Australia (CA) on Sunday, the 2025-26 international season will be the first ever to feature men's internationals in all eight Australian states and territories. Australia will begin their international season by hosting South Africa for three men's T20Is and as many ODIs in Mackay, Darwin, and Cairns in August.

The T20Is between Australia and South Africa in Darwin will see international cricket return to the Northern Territory after a 17-year hiatus. It will be followed by India returning to the country for a white-ball series after losing the five-Test Border-Gavaskar Trophy series 3-1 earlier this year.India and Australia will play three ODIs in Perth, Adelaide and Sydney from October 19-25, while the five T20I will be played in Canberra, Melbourne, Hobart, Gold Coast and Brisbane from October 29 to November 8. The biggest showpiece series of the international season will be the five-match men's Ashes series between Australia and England happening in Perth (November 21-25), Brisbane (December 4-8), Adelaide (December 17-21), Melbourne (December 26-30) and Sydney (January 4-8). After that, the all-format women's series between Australia and India will take centre stage. The Sydney Cricket Ground will host the opening T20I on February 15, followed by matches at Manuka Oval and Adelaide Oval on February 19 and 21, respectively. The three ODIs will be held at Brisbane's Allan Border Field (February 24), Hobart's Bellerive Oval (February 27) and Melbourne's CitiPower Centre (March 1), before the highly awaited one-off Test at the newly redeveloped WACA Ground takes place from March 6-9.

Due to the all-format series, the 2026 season of the



Women's Premier League (WPL) had been shifted to a January-February window as per the new ICC Women's Future Tours Programme. "We are excited to announce the schedule for what will be another incredible international season including the grand history and intense rivalry of the Ashes, the fantastic box office appeal of the India men's and women's teams and a return to some iconic tourist locations in northern Australia for the white ball series against South Africa. "We look forward to bringing international cricket to fans across the country with 11 cities and 14 venues hosting matches throughout the season including matches in every state and territory capital city for the first time in 17 years. "We smashed many records for attendance, viewing audiences and digital engagement last summer and we're confident that this incredible momentum will continue throughout what promises to be an engrossing season. "We are extremely grateful for the cooperation and support of all our government, venue, broadcast and commercial partners who ensure Australia's national sport continues to deliver brilliant experiences in stadiums and drive participation across the country," said Todd Greenberg, the newly-appointed CEO of CA.

IPL is tough for bowlers, says Kuldeep Yadav; Credits Sunil Narine for key lessons

GNS News Agency, April 2

Hyderabad: Delhi Capitals' star spin bowler Kuldeep Yadav days that the IPL is very tough for bowlers—it's highly competitive. "You may pick up wickets, but you can't always expect to maintain an economy of just 6 or 7 runs per over. It's a challenging format with high-quality players," Kuldeep said in a chat with JioStar. "As a bowler, you must aim to dominate. Players like Jasprit Bumrah and Sunil Narine have done that consistently. I learned a lot from Sunil Narine when I was with KKR—he was ahead of his time," Kuldeep said. "He always emphasized the importance of bowling length. Back then, I believed I could rely solely on my skills, but now I realize he was absolutely right. Since returning from injury, I've focused a lot on my length, and that has made a significant difference," he

On his long-standing spin partnership with fellow Delhi Capitals teammate Axar Patel, dating back to their early cricketing days, Kuldeep said Axar and he had been playing together since under-17 days, so their understanding is very smooth. "We have a very clear-cut communication style. I remember during the U-19 World Cup in 2012, when we won in Australia under Unmukt Chand's captaincy, we were both in standby.," he said. "I have always been an attacking bowler, while Axar provides control, which creates



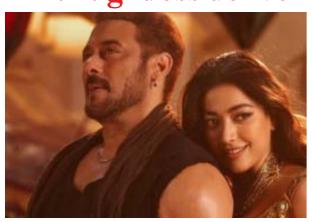
pressure on the batsmen. That pressure often converts into wickets—either for him, for me, or for someone else bowling at the time," Kuldeep said. "The pressure Axar builds in the middle overs is crucial, and our communication is seamless when discussing plans. Like I used to understand Chahal's game, I have the same understanding with Axar. While our bowling styles differ, my mindset remains very clear when bowling alongside him," the star spin bowler said.

'Loved Tilak Varma wicket the most; Sai Kishore staredown with Hardik was fun to watch'

Economical bowling with 4.50 runs per over after coming on rather late wasn't the only thing that made Prasidh Krishna happy about his match turning bowling in the win against Mumbai Indians. The Gujarat Titans Speedster anointed 'Skiddy' was happy he had claimed the dangerous Tilak Verma's wicket just when MI chase was getting back into the groove. "Well, I really loved getting the first wicket," he told GT social media after the 2/18 figures. "For GT, that was great as well. I thought it was going overhead but (Rahul) Tewatia really took a good catch. And of course Surya's was a very important wicket at that point of time," he added. Ashish Nehra, GT coach has put together an impressive all-India Three Towers bowling attack comprising Md Siraj (2/34, and 1.78 metres tall). Prasidh (1.88 m) and

Sai Kishore (1.96 m) with an average of 187 centimetres. However, it was the two pacers – 'Miyan' and 'Skiddy', who polished off the dangerous MI top order, after Siraj (2/34) sent back Rohit Sharma. It was the longest Skiddy had been made to wait to bowl on the black soil wicket. "I was itching to bowl actually," Prasidh said at the post-match presentation. "It was the tenth over. I was just thinking I haven't really waited so long in a game, in a T20 game, before bowling but everything paid off." "When I got the ball in my hand, the first couple of them were not really good but then when I got to know what the pitch was like ... And I think the message was clear from the team to back yourself and to go out there and execute and I'm happy as I have been doing it," he added later to GT SM.

Sikandar movie review: Salman Khan, AR Neha Kakkar's Melbourne concert organisers Murugadoss deliver a lacklustre, dull film



You can see him go through the motions of emotion and action, delivering dialogue, dancing, romancing, shedding tears -yes, he's man enough to cry- but nowhere do you see traces of the one and only Bhai, who has never pretended to be anything other than who he has been in the last thirty years- the star with his very specific style-andswag- the blue bracelet and the bulked-up arms-and-torso akimbo adorning his favourite avatars of the loveable rascal-cum-the desi Robin Hood with the golden heart.

In 2025, when the three Khans turn 60, the struggle to stay relevant has never been as difficult: the world has changed, and Salman hasn't adapted. Nor has AR Murugadoss, who became familiar to Hindi-speaking audiences with Aamir Khan's 'Ghajini', a masala film which found its beats in its star, and his presence. In 'Sikandar', both the director and the star flounder spectacularly, failing to give us anything we haven't seen before. The opening sequence starts with faint promise, with Bhai coming on and schooling an entitled minister ka beta (Prateik Babbar) in the first class cabin of an airplane. After that it's all downhill: you are hard put to see any freshness in the lazy, formulaic writing which pits the Raja of Rajkot against arrogant neta (Sathyaraj), complicit cop (Kishore), and their goons, when he is sharing some softer moments with faithful wife (Rashmika Mandanna).

The other supporting actors revolve around Sikandar, with the talented Sharman Joshi being relegated to the background, literally. A mouthy slum kid named Kamaruddin is quickly reduced to Kamar. Why? Because Muslim references needed to be tamped down?You can see the attempt to make this film 'pan-Indian' by bunging in a South Indian family segment, the traditional 'thaatha' (grandfather) who doesn't want his daughter-in-law (Kajal Aggarwal) to work agreeing meekly to change overnight because the Gujaratispouting Sikandar, who not only owns his tears but is a feminist to boot, gives said grandpa a lecture about how women should be free to do anything they want. But nothing works. In the past, love him or hate him, Bhai has always managed to arouse feelings: his walk-on part in Shah Rukh Khan's 'Pathan', which captured a wry acknowledgement of his advancing years, brought the house down. You can't see any of that in this lacklustre, dull offering, fronted by a distinctly uninterested and uninvolved Salman. In an early moment in the film. Sikandar says. 'I'm done, bro'. That feels, um, prescient. Where has the Bhai who strode on to the screen, agate stone dangling from his wrist, beating up the baddies, making things better, gone? Can someone bring him back? In this iteration, I was bored out of my skull.Sikandar movie cast: Salman Khan, Rashmika Mandanna, Satyaraj, Sharman Joshi, Kishore, Kajal Aggarwal, Prateik Babbar, Jatin SarnaSikandar movie director: AR MurugadossSikandar movie rating: One and a

Ranveer Allahbadia announces podcast 'rebirth' amid controversy, vows to create responsible content: 'Give me one more chance'

Ranveer Allahbadia has shared his first Instagram post and YouTube video following the controversy over his obscene remark on Samay Raina's show India's Got Latent. In the clip, Ranveer announced that his podcast, The Ranveer Show, will soon return with 'better quality'. He said, "We will actually change the country through our content and our work." The YouTuber also apologised to his fans for his remarks on India's Got Latent.

Ranveer began his YouTube video by expressing gratitude to fans who texted and supported him during the ordeal. He also thanked his family and his team for standing by him through the tough phase. He said, "Not a single person in the team resigned through this whole phase." Ranveer also acknowledged the support he received from 'actors, cricketers, bureaucrats, and business professionals' who had been guests on his podcast and reached out to him during the row. In the video, Ranveer Allahbadia promised to create content with more responsibility. He said, "So many people consider me a son, so many people consider me a brother, mainly sorry to all of them. In the next 10, 20, 30 years, as long as I create content, I will create content with more responsibility." Ranveer added, "So many kids also watch our show. Obviously, going forward, I will carry on my work with a lot of responsibility. I have a responsibility towards you."Ranveer announced that his podcast is in the 'restarting phase' and asked his audience for another chance. He said, "Please make space for me in your heart. Give me one more chance. I love content creation a lot, I my job."Lastly, Ranveer admitted that following the uproar over his remarks on India's Got Latent, his 'mental health helped him cope. The YouTuber shared that he wants to cency standards, making it suitable for audiences of all ages.



see this phase as 'a learning and not punishment'. He added, "I consider this phase as a gift from God. Now I am just going to let my work speak." Apart from the video, Ranveer Allahbadia also shared an Instagram post where he was seen posing with his family and team. He wrote, "Thank you to my loved ones ?? Thank you universe ?? A new blessed chapter begins - Rebirth...

On comedian Samay Raina's show India's Got Latent, Ranveer Allahbadia asked a fan whether he would rather watch his parents have sex every day for the rest of his life or join in once and stop it forever. This remark lead to widespread uproar and FIRs against the two comedians our country is my passion. That's what I am doing through mark, saying, "My comment wasn't just inappropriate, it wasn't even funny."On March 3, the Supreme Court lifted ban on Ranveer's podcast but with strict guidelines, asking got so bad' and that only 'meditation, sadhna, and prayer' him to ensure that his podcast adheres to moral and de-

Shreyas Talpade reacts to accusations of involvement in a multi-crore chit fund scam: 'It is deeply unfortunate...'

After actor Shreyas Talpade's name got dragged into a multi-crore chit fund scam, his team issued a statement denying all allegations. According to the statement, even though Shrevas might have attended a few events by the organisers, he has no personal or professional connection beyond that. The statement released on Instagram read, "It is deeply unfortunate that, in today's world, a person's hard-earned reputation appears to be vulnerable to undue tarnishment by unfounded rumours. Recent reports alleging Mr Shreyas Talpade's involvement in fraud or misconduct are completely false, baseless, and devoid of any merit whatsoever."The statement further read, "As a public figure, Mr. Talpade, like many other celebrities, is frequently invited to various corporate and annual events, which he attends as and when possible. Beyond such appearances, he has no association whatsoever with the company in question. Needless to say, Mr. Talpade has no nexus whatsoever with any fraudulent or unlawful acts as are being alleged and/or circulated."The statement concluded, "We urge everyone to verify facts before spreading misinformation and re-



quest that Mr. Talpade's name be kept away from these baseless rumors. Mr. Talpade is a law-abiding citizen who remains committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, honesty, and professionalism in all of

Never liked the way women were in James Bond, says Helen Mirren

Los Angeles: Veteran Hollywood star Helen Mirren said that she never liked 'James Bond' movies and that the whole concept of it is drenched and born out of profound sexism. Mirren will soon reunite with former co-star Pierce Brosnan in Guy Ritchie's MobLand, and though she's a "huge fan of Pierce Brosnan," she deemed the James Bond franchise in which he appears decidedly "not (her) thing" due to its portrayal of women. "I mean, oh my god. Obviously, he's gorgeous and everything, and I think he's fabulous in MobLand, but he also happens to

be one of the nicest people you'll ever have the pleasure to work with. And indeed Daniel Craig, who I've met and know a little bit." "Again, a very lovely gracious person," she told the UK's The Standard in a recent interview, reports deadline.com.However, she added: "The whole series of James Bond, it was not my thing. It really wasn't. I never liked James Bond. I never liked the way women were in James Bond." As a result, the 1923 star said she's opposed to a female actor taking up the mantle as 007 and would rather see retellings of women from history who occupied spy roles.

react to her accusations of mismanagement: 'She should be the one paying us'



Earlier this week, singer Neha Kakkar faced backlash from the audience for arriving three hours late to a concert in Melbourne. After the audience booed the singer and asked her to leave, she broke down on stage. Following the incident, Neha took to social media, accusing the organisers of mismanagement. She alleged that the organisers ran away with her money, and her band was not provided with a hotel, food, or even water. In response to Neha's accusations, the organisers have asserted that her allegations were false.

Stating that their company has incurred a loss, the organisers issued a statement on social media that read,

"We will be back with all the proof and details of what happened with the Neha Kakkar show. We will expose everybody tomorrow, it will be live." Later on a Facebook Live, the event's representative called Neha Kakkar's show a disaster and clarified that all arrangements were in place. They added, "The allegations are completely false. We are in a big debt after the show. She should be the one paying us. It was a mistake having her on board."Later, they took to Instagram to release a list of expenses incurred due to Neha Kakkar's team and wrote, "Here are the expenses, and we are down \$-530,000." The organisers also stated that they were banned by the venue due to the unprofessional and delayed performance. After the concert, Neha Kakkar had shared a note which read, "Do you all know that I performed absolutely free for my Melbourne audience? The organizers ran away with my money and others too. My band was not even given food, a hotel, or even water. My husband and his boys went and provided them with food. Inspite of all this, we still went on stage and did the show without any rest because my fans were waiting for hours for me."She further wrote, "Do you know our sound check got delayed by hours because the sound vendor was not paid and he refused to put the sound on. And when, after so much delay, our sound check started, I could not reach the venue. We didn't even know if the concert was happening because the organizers stopped picking up my manager's calls. After all, they were running away from the sponsors. Though there is a lot to share, I guess this

Aditi Rao Hydari reveals she got married after Heeramandi because there was a 'draught' of offers: 'I thought it's going to be a bauchhaar of interesting stuff'

Aditi Rao Hydari says there was a draught of interesting offers after Heeramandi. Aditi Rao Hydari says there was a draught of interesting offers after Heeramandi. Who can forget the viral Gajgamini walk of Aditi Rao Hydari in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's debut show Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar, a period drama which released on Netflix India last year? Or her stirring patriotic scream in the closing moments of the finale episode? However, these standout moments did little for Aditi on the professional front, as the actor revealed recently. "After Heeramandi, the way everybody went on and on, and how it was loved and I thought now it is going to be a bauchaar (shower) of interesting stuff and then cut to... am like, 'What's going on?' It was really like a drought,' Aditi said, talking to friend and choreographer-filmmaker Farah Khan in an episode of the latter's cookery show on YouTube.A surprised Farah then asked Aditi, "Really? Tabhi tune shaadi kar li (That is why you got married)!" To which, Aditi responded, "Actually! No seriously we had to space it out so that we get could get back from work, get married and then get back to work. But the wedding was a lot of fun." Aditi tied the knot with boyfriend and actor Siddharth in September last year. Aditi and Siddharth had a traditional south Indian wedding which took place at a 400-year-old Sri Ranganayakaswamy Temple, located at Srirangapur in Wanaparthy District, Telangana. The two had their wedding photoshoot at a fort-turned-luxury hotel in Bhishangarh in Rajasthan. Aditi revealed in an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India after their wedding that the feminist in her was "appalled" when



Siddharth proposed to be a stay-at-home dad to their cat and dog. "So now we have to worry about the longevity of my career. Having said that, I'm very content and secure. If you tell me tomorrow that nobody is ever going to make a film with me again, I won't lose sleep over it," Siddharth confessed in the same interview. In Heeramandi, Aditi Rao Hydari played the role of Bibbojaan, a courtesan and a closeted freedom fighter in pre-Independence India set in a locality of Lahore, present-day Pakistan. Heeramandi marked Aditi's second collaboration with Bhansali after Padmaavat (2018), in which she played the wife of Alauddin Khulji, essayed by Ranveer Singh. Meanwhile, Siddharth will be next seen in the Netflix India cricket film Test, also starring R Madhavan and Nayanthara.

Empuraan themes 'pained many who love me': Mohanlal expresses regret as political controversy rages

Actor Mohanlal on Sunday expressed "sincere regret for the mental distress caused to many I hold dear" by some political and social themes in his latest movie, Empuraan, which has caused a political storm in Kerala. The Malayalam movie, which hit screens worldwide on Thursday, has angered several Hindutva organisations and leaders, who accused it of maligning the Hindutva ideology and trying to please "anti-national elements" with its references to the 2002 Gujarat riots and other scenes. BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who had previously expressed his wish to watch the film, changed his stance on Sunday, saying he was disappointed by "this type of movie making" and that he would not be watching it.

Mohanlal on Sunday said in his Facebook post: "Certain political and social themes that have emerged in the making of Empuraan, which is a second part of Lucifer, have pained a large number of people who love me. As an artist, it is my responsibility to make sure that my film does not have any hostility towards any political movement, ideology or religious sect. Hence, I and the team of Empuraan sincerely regret the mental distress caused to those I hold dear. With the realisation that the responsibility for it lies with all of us who worked behind the film, we have decided together to remove such themes from the film."On Satur-



day, the makers of the movie had decided to make voluntary modifications in the movie already on screens. They have decided to approach the regional censor board in Thiruvananthapuram in this regard. Gokulam Gopalan, one of the producers of the movie had said that if any dialogue or scene in the film had hurt anyone, he had told director Prithviraj Sukumaran to make necessary changes. "Certain words have already been muted. There is a protest against certain things in the film. I have asked the director to make necessary changes. We are not involved in any politics," Gopalan told reporters.

How Tom Cruise's simple trick helped Marvel star Hayley Atwell overcome social anxiety: 'If you're scared of something...'

"Social anxiety is something a lot of people talk about these days, and many experience it at some point," Atwell said. "For me, it manifests as overthinking. If you walk into a room and feel the anxieties coming, it makes me want to retreat into myself," she continued. "I start questioning-'Do I look weird? Do I seem awkward?' And then I retreat

Hayley Atwell, who is set to return for the next and possibly last installment of Mission: Impossible, reprising her role as Grace, revealed how Tom Cruise encouraged her to do the opposite of what her anxiety dictated. Instead of withdrawing, he suggested she confront the fear headon. "Tom said, 'Try looking out. Look around the room and find the thing that's making you feel insecure," Atwell recalled. "Where is the thing that I have attached to my insecurity? Is it that person over there that reminds me of my

school bully? That person over there didn't give me a job once? That person over there that I think was mean to me once?"By keeping a tap on the source of anxiety, Atwell found that she could give it a name, making it feel less overwhelming. "If I look at it long enough, I can identify what it actually is," she explained. "Maybe I'm feeling jealous, lonely, or intimidated by someone's confidence. But once I name it, the vague sense of unease disappears. That's when I actually have the power to do something about it." Cruise summed up his prep talk with a simple but effective mantra: "If you're scared of something, just keep looking at it, and it will often give you information about what to do to overcome it."Directed by Christopher McQuarrie, Mission: Impossible Dead Reckoning Part One hit theatres in 2023. However, despite the Tom Cruise factor, the film's box office numbers were underwhelming, grossing just \$571 million worldwide.

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