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Canadian Education Fair

Hyderabad, April 7 (NSS):Canadian Universities and colleges Admissions Fair and workshop will be held at Canam office , Somajiguda, V V Vintage Boulevard, 305, third floor, from,11am to 5 pm on April 9, for September 2025 and January 2026 intakes.

Aspiring Candidates can meet officials from 55 plus Canadian Universities and colleges at the exhibition. Entry free. University of Ottawa, University of Canada west, university of Niagara falls, University of Windsor, Alexander college, Columbia College, Georgian College are among the participating institutes.

Interested candidates can register at www.canamgroup.com, phone 77430 03087,76749 75007

Spectacular celebration of Lord Rama's Pattabhishekam at Bhadradri

Kothagudem: The 'Pattabhishekam' (Coronation) ceremony of Lord Rama was performed in a spectacular manner at Bhadrachalam's Sri Seetha Ramachandra Swamy Devasthanam, popularly known as 'Dakshina Ayodhya' on MondayThe ceremony took place at Mithila Stadium in the main temple premises. The priests brought festival deities from the main temple to the stadium amid chanting of Vedic mantras and performed the coronation rituals according to the temple traditions.The rituals were performed by chief priests Amaravadi Vijayaraghavan and Koti Ramaswaropa Raghavacharyulu, archaka Brahma Amaravadi Srinivasa Ramajunam under the guidance of sthanacharyulu KE Sthalasai.

HC adjourns HCU land case to April 24



Hyderabad, April 7 The hearing on the HCU land dispute in the High Court was postponed to April 24. The division bench stated this matter was within the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The High Court ordered that the counter and report in this case be submitted by the April 24. The Supreme Court and the High Court are hearing the HCU land disputes. The High Court ordered the State government and the police to file a counter before the April 24. The lawyer on behalf of the Central government also made his arguments that the government should be directed to file a status report in the issue. With this, the Gachibowli police have already registered a case on the fake videos and forest burning videos circulated on social mediaThe High Court adjourned the next hearing to April 24 after the government's lawyer told the court that the police would file a counter about the investigation report regarding the issue.

Will transform Telangana's youth into a skilled human resource powerhouse: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad, April 7 : Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has stated that the State government is committed to equipping the youth of Telangana with top-tier skills to align with the evolving needs of various industries.Sridhar Babu visited the campus of the Young India Skills University at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI) in Gachibowli on Monday. Following a review meeting with university officials, the Minister outlined a strategic vision aimed at making Telangana a hub for highly skilled human resources.He emphasised that Telangana's youth possess immense potential, and with targeted training aligned to market demands, they can be transformed into globally competitive professional Sridhar Babu advocated for continuous collaboration with industry stakeholders in designing curriculum, ensuring that courses reflect real-world demands. Special attention should be given to high-demand skill areas and candidates from rural backgrounds should receive focused training in soft skills, he saidThe Minister stressed that students should be industry-ready upon completion of their courses. He also directed the university to coordinate closely with key state institutions including premier educational and research centers, TASK, and the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET), to strengthen the ecosystem.The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Deputy Secretary Bhavesh Mishra, Vice Chancellor of the Skill University Subba Rao, OSD Chaman Mehta and other dignitaries.

Seven newly elected MLCs take oath



Seven newly elected Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) were sworn in at the Telangana State Legislative Council on Monday.

Hyderabad, April 7 : Seven newly elected Members of the Legislative Council (MLCs) were sworn in at the Telangana State Legislative Council on Monday.In the recent MLC elections, a total of eight members were elected under the Graduate, Teacher, and MLA quotas. However, on this occasion, only seven MLCs took their oaths, while sources from the BRS party indicated that Dasuju Shravan, who was elected as an MLC under the MLA quota, will take the oath on a later date.The oath-taking ceremony was conducted by Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy.

Among those sworn in were Congress leaders Vijayashanti, Addanki Dayakar, and Shankar Nayak, along with CPI leader Nellikanti Satyam, all of whom were elected unanimously under the MLA quotaSimilarly, BJP's Anji Reddy, elected from the Karimnagar Graduate quota, Malka Komaraiah from the Teacher quota, and PRTU candidate Sripal Reddy, who won the Khammam Teacher MLC seat, also took their oathsMinisters Sridhar Babu and Uttam Kumar Reddy, Union Minister Kishan Reddy, Rajya Sabha Member Dr. Laxman, MP Raghunandan Rao, former minister Jana Reddy and others legislators attended the oath taking ceremony.

None of the letters I receive are signed in Tamil: PM Modi

GNS News Agency, April 7

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a pointed dig at Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Sunday amid the ongoing debate over the three-language policy.Addressing a public gathering in Rameswaram after inaugurating the New Pamban Railway Bridge, the Prime Minister remarked that although he regularly receives letters from Tamil Nadu leaders but none of them are signed in Tamil."Sometimes, I am surprised when I receive letters from some leaders of Tamil Nadu — none of them are signed in Tamil. If we are truly proud of Tamil, then I would request everyone to at least sign their names in Tamil," PM Modi said, emphasising the importance of embracing and promoting one's native language.

The Prime Minister also



highlighted the efforts of the Central government in promoting the Tamil language and culture globally."We are working continuously to ensure that Tamil language and Tamil heritage reach every corner of the world," he added.The remarks come amid a prolonged war of words between the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the Centre, with the state accusing the BJP government of attempting to impose Hindi and undermine Tamil language and

culture.Earlier in the day, PM Modi inaugurated the New Pamban Railway Bridge in Rameswaram, located in Tamil Nadu's Ramanathapuram district.

The event marked a significant milestone in India's infrastructure development.The Prime Minister remotely operated the vertical lift span of the bridge to allow a Coast Guard ship to pass beneath — showcasing a significant achievement in indigenous engineering.The new

Pamban Bridge is India's first vertical lift railway sea bridge, symbolising a leap forward in modern railway infrastructure.During the event, PM Modi also flagged off a new train service between Rameswaram and Tambaram in Chennai, aimed at improving regional connectivity and easing travel for commuters and pilgrims.Although Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was absent due to prior engagements in the Nilgiris, the event witnessed the participation of several dignitaries.Present at the function were Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi, Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, Tamil Nadu Minister Thangam Annamalai, BNP leaders K. Annamalai, Sudhakar Reddy, H. Raja, and Nainar Nagenthiran, along with Ramanathapuram District Collector Simranjeet Singh Kahlon.

Kavitha to stage day-long fast at Dharna Chowk, Indira Park

Hyderabad, April 7 : Telangana Jagruthi President & BRS MLC K. Kavitha to stage day-long hunger strike at Dharna Chowk, Indira Park, on April 8, demanding the immediate installation of a statue of social reformer Jyotirao Phule in the Telangana Assembly. Leaders from Telangana Jagruthi and the United Phule Front inspected the arrangements at the protest site earlier today.Kavitha had earlier urged the Speaker and demanded that the State government ensure installation of the statue ahead of Phule's birth anniversary on April 11. With no action taken so far, she is set to lead the protest to honour Phule's legacy and his contributions to social justice. She will begin the hunger strike tomorrow at Indira Park, Hyderabad, from 11 am to 5 pm.As part of a sustained political campaign spanning over 14

SCR registers highest-ever revenue of Rs 20,452 crore

Hyderabad, April 7: South Central Railway has been consistently performing well during the last three financial years and has registered the best figures in terms of Revenue by achieving the highest ever Gross Originating Revenue of Rs 20,452 crore, backed by the excellent performance in both freight and passenger segments. This is also Rs 117 Crores more than the previous best of Rs 20,335 Cr achieved in 2023-24, followed by Rs 18,973 Cr registered during 2022-23

One of the major factors for this achievement is the major thrust given by the Zone towards freight segment. Giving a special focus on the enhancement of freight services, the Zone intensifies its efforts on diversifying the traffic streams and improving the existing commodity baskets through customer-centric initiatives. This included the development of freight infrastructure, ensuring the availability of wagons, monitoring the path and movement of freight trains, improving the work atmosphere in goods sheds etc. These efforts combined with policy initiatives introduced time to time culminated in SCR achieving its highest-ever Originating loading of 144.10 Million Tonnes and highest ever freight revenue of Rs 13,825 Crore, representing a historic milestone for the Zone. This is 2% higher than the previous best figures of 141.120 MTs and Rs 13,620 crores registered during 2023-24.Another significant factor contributing to the record Originating Earnings was the big push given to passenger segment. The Zone adopted the strategy of continuous monitoring of passenger demand across various directions so as to introduce new trains, special trains wherever necessary and also augment the existing trains having demand by attaching extra coaches etc. During FY 2024-25, around 3,500 special trains were run, more than 10, 000 extra coaches were attached to different express trains to meet higher passenger demand.These initiatives led to the Zone achieving Rs 5,710 Crores of Originating Passenger revenue. The Zone has carried 263.2 millions of Originating Passengers during 2024-25 compared to 262.5 millions during 2023-24. South Central Railway has also attained its best-ever revenue of Rs 513.6 crore in other coaching segment during the year 2024-25. This includes parcel Revenue, Ticket Checking Revenue etc. The zone has also registered Rs. 402.7 crores in Sundry earnings like Parking, Catering and Advertisements etc.Arun Kumar Jain, General Manager, South Central Railway commended the efforts of his team of Officers and Staff for this stupendous achievement. He expressed utmost satisfaction and stated that it is a very happy moment for the SCR team to achieve the best ever Revenue in the financial year 2024 -25 and this adds more onus on us and the Zone is committed to deliver the results in same manner in the coming days also.



roundtable meetings across Telangana, Kavitha has launched and led an unprecedented movement for BC (Backward Classes) rights. She has conducted extensive consultations across districts in Telangana to amplify BC concerns and demanded the implementation of the Kamareddy BC Declaration made by the Congress party during the assembly elections.Additionally, MLC Kavitha has been at the forefront of demanding the implementation of 42% reservations for BCs in the State. Due to her constant efforts and pressure, the State government introduced two separate bills in the Assembly to provide 42% reservations for BCs in politics, employment, and education.

RTC unions to go on complete strike from May 6



GNS News Agency, April 7

Hyderabad: The unions of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) on Monday announced state-wide strike from May 6. The RTC workers submitted the strike notice to the Labour Commissioner and the Corporation's Managing Director, VC Sajjanar at Bus Bhavan on Monday.The JAC (Joint Action Committee) of RTC workers stated that the RTC staff will boycott duties from May 7, if their demands are not accepted.Vexed over the State government's apathy towards RTC employees, the TGSRTC union members said that none of their demands have been met so far by the State government. This is the first time after five years that the RTC unions are resorting to strike. Earlier, too, they had issued strike notices to the government and the corporation management.The union leaders had expressed dissatisfaction over the State government's inaction on promises made to the Corporation employees, despite being in power for over 16 months. No wage revisions and nonpayment of dues are forcing the workers to protest.The union leaders accuse the State government of neglecting their promises made during the election campaign, including those of the TGSRTC's merger with the government, removal of restrictions on trade unions and immediate implementation of wage hikes. Additionally, they alleged that their salaries are also not being creditedThey lamented that deploying electric buses as part of RTC is putting thousands of jobs at risk. These buses, they allege are maintained by private operators. The union leaders have warned the State government of intensifying their protests Statewide if their demands are not met.

Govt's goal is to train two lakh AI engineers: Sridhar Babu.

Hyderabad, April 7 : The government of Telangana has set an ambitious objective to train two lakh engineers in Artificial Intelligence (AI), said Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu. A delegation from Singapore, headed by Consul General Edgar Pang, visited Sridhar Babu at the Secretariat on Monday. During their discussion, the Minister highlighted the efforts being made to establish Telangana as a center for emerging technologies.He stressed the state's dedication to preparing its youth with the necessary skills to take advantage of job opportunities in this expanding field. Sridhar Babu also provided insights into the development of the 'Future City' project, which aims to meet global standards, as well as the establishment of an AI University within that initiative.

PROUDLY PRESENTS

MISS & MRS

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Fight not over yet

The Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025, has sparked a storm of protest from Muslim organisations across the country. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has called the Act unconstitutional, vowing to challenge it legally in the Supreme Court and launch a nationwide agitation to seek a repeal of the Act. At the heart of the opposition lies the inclusion of non-Muslim members in Waqf boards and the Central Waqf Council — seen as a dilution of Muslim control over religious endowments. More troubling, however, is the provision empowering the government to determine the ownership of Waqf properties in the absence of documents, raising fears of arbitrary takeover of historical religious sites.

The board is especially critical of political parties like the JD(U), TDP and LJP (Ramvilas), which, despite their secular claims, voted for the Bill. The AIMPLB also sees the legislation as a deliberate move to weaken Muslim institutions under the guise of reform. It plans to fight it legally and politically, through street-level campaigns and democratic mobilisation. A phased agitation will involve outreach to minority bodies, jurists, Opposition parties and the public at large. However, the government maintains the changes are aimed at transparency and curbing corruption. Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has defended the move as necessary reform. But many in the Muslim community fear it is part of a broader strategy to erode autonomy of their religious affairs. With Muslims forming 14 per cent of the population, the law has struck a nerve, potentially stoking communal resentment. If the government does not engage in inclusive dialogue, the confrontation could deepen societal divides.

MGIT launches Bootcamp on IoT in collaboration with NIELIT, Aurangabad



Hyderabad, April 7 (NSS): The Department of Information Technology, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Technology (MGIT), inaugurated a one-week Boot Camp on the Internet of Things (IoT) on Monday, as part of its academic-industry collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), Aurangabad.

The inaugural session was graced by Prof. G. ChandraMohan Reddy, Principal, MGIT, who emphasized the importance of hands-on training and industry exposure in shaping the next generation of engineers. Dr. D. Vijaya Lakshmi, Professor and Head of the Department of Information Technology, who is also the Convener of the Bootcamp, addressed the participants and encouraged them to leverage the opportunity to gain deep insights into real-time IoT applications.

Prof. M. Rudra Kumar, Dr. Ch. Premkumar, and B. Lokesh from the Department of IT are coordinating the event as Faculty Coordinators, ensuring seamless execution of the sessions and hands-on labs. The Bootcamp features expert sessions by Mr. Vinay Vanish, and Mr. Rishi Das from NIELIT, Aurangabad, renowned for their expertise in embedded systems and IoT-based industrial applications. The first day included foundational modules on IoT architecture, sensor integration, and embedded hardware, offering participants an engaging blend of theory and practice. On the first day, students were introduced to the basics of IoT, including its architecture, sensor systems, and embedded hardware, with practical demonstrations. Students from both the Computer Science and Business Systems (CSB) and Information Technology (IT) departments are actively participating in the camp to gain hands-on experience and industry-relevant skills. This Boot Camp is part of the initiatives under the recently signed MoU between MGIT and NIELIT, aimed at promoting technical training, internships, and faculty development programs.

CARE Hospitals launch exclusive patient membership card

Hyderabad, April 7 (NSS): On the occasion of World Health Day, CARE Hospitals launched its exclusive patient membership card, 'SANGHAM,' reinforcing its dedication to accessible and assessable, personalised healthcare. The event was flagged off simultaneously across all hospitals in Hyderabad, with Varun Khanna, Group Managing Director, Quality CARE India Ltd., at the Banjara Hills unit, while Vishal Maheshwari, Group CFO; Jasdeep Singh, Group CEO; Shalabh Dang, Group Chief Sales and Marketing Officer; Dr Nikhil Mathur, Group Chief of Medical Services; Dr Amit Singh, CHRO and Dr R S V Badrinath, Ex DCP, Telangana & Secretary General, United Federation Of Resident Welfare Associations Hyderabad joined other senior leadership team presided over the launches at respective hospitals. Hospital heads and medical teams joined in to commemorate this significant step toward patient-first healthcare. 'SANGHAM' aims to provide enhanced healthcare experiences by offering a range of benefits, including priority assistance, emergency services, and special discounts on medical treatments. The card will be available across all CARE Hospitals units in Hyderabad, including Hitech City, Banjara Hills, Nampally, Musheerabad, and Malakpet. Senior doctors and patient attendance participated in the launch event, highlighting the significance of community-driven healthcare initiatives.



Venuganalankaram at Vontimitta, Sri Rama brahmotsavam



April 7, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator""The Venuganalankaram guise of Sri Kodandarama impresses devotees at Vontimitta Brahmotsavams. "On the second morning on Monday, the

Procession of pearls held in grand manner



"DISTRIBUTION OF FINE RICE BRINGS FESTIVITIES TO POOR FAMILIES".

"P. S. ASHOKAN "INDIAN-CHRONICLE "8-4-2025.""Today, in the village of Eklapur in Manthani Mandal, under the leadership of the Village Branch President, Mr. Boddu Srinivas, the Telangana State Government initiated a prestigious fine rice distribution program, which is unprecedented in the history of the country.""Speaking at the event, Manthani Division SC Cell President, Mr. Manthani Sathya, expressed his gratitude and mentioned the introduction of the fine rice distribution scheme, as promised by the Chief Minister of Telangana, Mr. Revanth Reddy, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Mr. Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Minister Mr. Duddilla Sridhar Babu. They were honored with a ceremonial milk bath as a token of appreciation.""The event was attended by several dignitaries, including: Senior Congress Leaders Peravena Lingayya, MPTC Pendli Chaitanya Prabhakar Reddy, Former Market Committee Chairman Azeem Khan, SC Cell Mandal Vice President Arlanarayana, Kisan Cell Mandal President Arthan Sadi, NSUI Mandal President Janjarla Shailender, Youth Congress President

Tumburu Theertha Mukkoti on April 12

"April 7, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator""The most important torrent festivals in Tirumala, the Tumburu Theertha Mukkoti will be observed on April 12. Thousands of devotees trek the route and take holy bath on the auspicious day in the Theertham which is located in the deep forests. "TTD officials and devotees take part in the torrent fest.



Fatal road accident... Deputy Collector dead on the spot...

April 7, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator""A fatal road accident took place on Monday at Yarraguntla in Sambepalli mandal of Annamaya district. The accident occurred when two cars coming from opposite directions collided. In this accident, Handrineeva Canal, Peeleru Unit-2 Special Deputy Collector Rama (50) died on the spot. The accident took place when She was on his way after PGRS program duty at the Rayachoti Collectorate. On receiving information, the police rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to the Rayachoti GH. District Collector Sridhar, who came to know about the matter, visited the victims undergoing treatment at the hospital. The body of Deputy Collector Rama has been sent for postmortem and the police have registered a case and are investigating. The deceased Deputy Collector is working as a Grievance Coordinator in the Annamayya District Collectorate, his native place. The Deputy Collector hails from Kalyanadurgam in Anantapur district.



utsava deity of Sri Rama as Krishna blessed His devotees. "The procession was led by colourful paraphernalia and dance troupes. "Later at 11am, Snapana Tirumanjanam takes place. "DyEO Sri Natesh Babu and others participated.



"April 7, Indian Chronicle, Rayalaseema co-ordinator""A grand procession of pearls was held at Tirupati to commemorate the celestial marriage of Sri Sitarama at Sri Kodandaramalayam on Monday morning. "Initially, the officials performed special pujas to the pearls in the treasury section of the TTD administration building. "Later, the pearls were brought in a procession to Sri Kodandaramalayam and handed over to the Chief Priest of the Temple, Anandakumar Deekshitulu. "The procession reached the temple through Tirtha Katta Street, Gandhi Road, Sri Govindarajaswamy Temple in South Mada Street, and Bazaar Street of Tirupati. "

"These pearls will be used in the marriage of Sri Sitarama on Monday evening. "Temple Deputy EO Nagaratna, AEO Ravi, Temple Inspector Suresh, and others participated in this program.



Radarapu Nitesh, Manthani Srinivas, Ward Members Nalla Shekhar, Kisan Cell Village President Nampalli Sathish, Social Media Coordinator Panchika Devender, Youth Congress Leaders Budida Ramesh, Bandhi Mahesh Narayana Reddy, along with the village people and others.

GenS Life redefines senior care with affordable, tailored insurance offerings



Hyderabad: GenS Life, the app for your 60+ life, announces the launch of its unique insurance offerings designed to meet the specific needs of India's senior citizens, providing financial security and peace of mind in their golden years.

GenS Life, developed by GenSxty Tribe, is a vibrant, tech-enabled platform dedicated to empowering the 60+ to live life to the fullest. With a mission to challenge conventional narratives around aging, GenS Life envisions a movement that celebrates the 60+ as a time of newfound freedom, growth, and opportunity. The platform addresses the socio-personal challenges faced by seniors, such as loneliness, stigma, and a perceived loss of influence, by fostering community, purpose, and holistic well-being.

"GenS Life is more than just an app; it's a movement to redefine aging in India," says Meenakshi Menon, Founder, GenS Life. "We believe that 60+ is a time for living life on your own terms, and our insurance offerings are designed to empower seniors with the financial security they need to do just that. We are committed to building a holistic ecosystem that caters to their emotional, financial, lifestyle, and social needs."

In India, senior citizens are often underinsured, leaving them vulnerable to financial strain during health crises and other emergencies. This lack of adequate coverage is a critical concern, especially considering the increased importance of health and financial security with advancing age. When we look at the numbers, according to the India Ageing Report, India's seniors, currently numbering approximately 149 million are projected to increase to 347 million by 2050. Despite this significant demographic shift, a staggering 98% seniors remain without health insurance coverage. Compounding this issue, more than 40% of India's seniors are in the poorest wealth quintile, with approximately 18.7% living without any income. This economic hardship further limits their access to necessary healthcare services, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive insurance solutions tailored to this demographic. ?

GenS Life aims to bridge this gap by providing access to affordable and seamless insurance solutions tailored to the unique requirements of this demographic. Here's a look at the plans and benefits:

- Silver Plan
 - At just INR 990, this plan offers personal accident life insurance coverage of 2.5 lakhs and 50K cash on hospitalisation due to an accident.
 - Exclusive discounts (from 15% to 60%) across curated services
 - Safety Circle feature for emergencies
 - Daily live online events
 - Access to interest-based communities
 - Original content for concerns of the 60+
 - Health Insurance top ups and critical illness cover up to 10 lakhs at special rates

Urban Cruiser Hyryder Elevates Mobility Experience with Advanced Feature Enhancements



Widely celebrated and embraced as India's first Self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric SUV, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder has already crossed the milestone of 1 lakh sales.

Hyderabad: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced that it has introduced feature upgrades in the Urban Cruiser Hyryder that redefine safety, comfort, and convenience. The latest enhancements underscore Toyota's commitment to customer-centric innovation, seamlessly incorporating valuable feedback and evolving market trends to elevate the driving experience.

Widely celebrated and embraced as India's first Self-charging Strong Hybrid Electric SUV, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder has already crossed the milestone of 1 lakh sales. It continues to win hearts with its innovative technology, exceptional fuel economy, dynamic performance, and premium driving experience. Speaking on the introduction of the Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President, Sales-Service-Used Car Business, said, "As the SUV segment evolves, we continue to refresh and elevate our lineup to stay ahead of the curve. The latest Urban Cruiser Hyryder is a testament to our commitment for best-in-segment technology, advanced safety, and superior comfort. Crafted for modern SUV buyers, it seamlessly blends Toyota's legendary quality, sustainability, and driving pleasure. With these latest upgrades, we are confident that the Hyryder will appeal to an even broader audience, further solidifying its position as one of India's bestselling SUVs. More than just enhanced performance and efficiency, this refined SUV sets new benchmarks,

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN
I, **Sompalli Sanjay Bhargav**, S/O Sompalli Nagaraja Kumar, Indian Hindu, aged about 26 years, residing at Door No. 3-49/4, Srinivasapuram, TNR Road, Tirupati Rural Mandal, Tirupati District, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows: I submit that my father by name **SOMPALLI NAGARAJA KUMAR**, it is clearly shows in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 4054 3914 0026 and in my educational records my father name mentioned as **S NAGARAJU KUMAR**. So, **SOMPALLI NAGARAJA KUMAR** and **S NAGARAJU KUMAR**, both names belongs to one and same person that refers to my father names only.

"SRI SITA RAMA KALYANA MAHOTSAVAM: A FEAST FO THE EYE".



““P. S. ASHOKAN “INDIAN-CHRONICLE“7-4-2025."MANTHANI."“On Sunday, the 9th day of the Shukla Paksha in the year of Sri Vishwvasu, the Sri Sita Rama Kalyana celebrations were held as a visual feast for the devotees. Devotees from all over gathered in large numbers to witness the divine wedding of Sri Sita and Rama and were spiritually uplifted. The temple festivities were held in all the villages in the Manthani constituency. The Kalyana celebrations of Sri Sita Rama are traditionally held on Chaitra Shuddha Navami. On this occasion, devotees participated in large numbers. The celebrations began at an auspicious time in the morning, conducted by Vedic scholars in a ritualistic manner. The ceremony began with special daily prayers, abhishekams (ritual baths), archanas (offerings), aarati, and mantra pushpams. From 9:30 AM, the Kalyana ceremony of Sri Sita Rama was held at various locations. The celebrations took place at Sri Kodanda Rama Temple on the banks of the Godavari River in Manthani town, at the Shri Shirdi Sai Baba temple, at the Ramalayam in Sri Ram Nagar, at the newly constructed Sri Ramalayam in Khammampelli village, and at the Sri Anjaneya Swamy



temple in Eglaspur village, along with many other villages. Afterward, the devotees were served Panakam (a traditional drink) and Vadapappu (deep-fried lentil fritters) as prasad (holy offerings). Devotees who participated in large numbers also received the prasadam during the Anna Daan (free food distribution) ceremony after the Kalyana celebrations.““Significance of the Sri Sita Rama Kalyanam.““The Kalyana celebrations of Sri Rama, a symbol of truth, justice, and dharma, are traditionally held in villages across the country. This is why people yearn for the reign of Ram Rajya. Sita Devi is revered for her devotion, and Sri Rama for his dedication to his father's words and the governance of righteousness. The divine story of Lord Rama was eulogized by the great sage Valmiki. Through the Ramayana, the highest ideals of human life and spiritual living are taught. Hence, all Indians worship Sri Rama as their supreme deity. Sri Rama, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, was born on Chaitra Shuddha Navami, during the Punarvasu Nakshatra.““It is believed that chanting the name of Sri Rama brings prosperity and happiness. Sri Rama, born in Ayodhya, led the people of Ayodhya to righteousness and well-being.

Services of Yalamanchi Uday Kiran Charitable Trust in Miyapur Division“



““Miyapur April 7 Congress Party General Secretary Yalamanchi Uday Kiran in Miyapur Division is working hard for the development of the division and is keeping Miyapur Division in the forefront. He is very close to the people with services through the trust. The people of the division are hoping that Uday Kiran will emerge victorious in the corporator elections this time. Born into a middle-class farmer family, Uday Kiran, a young man who was born into a good higher education, obtained an M.Tech gold medal, got a software job in a multinational MNC, and was comfortable with a small family. He should serve the society, be transparent, and serve people as much as he can.““ Social Service Through the Yalamanchi Uday Kiran Charitable Trust, he is providing financial assistance to old age homes in various areas of Miyapur, Hydernagar, so that no one should suffer from hunger. Yalamanchi Uday Kiran Charitable Trust organized a free mega medical camp. Height, weight, eye, dental, blood pressure, sugar, pulse, ECG, BMD (Ortho)



related tests were conducted in the camp. Uday Kiran said that such services will be organized through the trust.““Uday Kiran, who is a student studying in a government school in Miyapur division, gave priority to education and said that he will continue his services for the students by providing them with bedsheets, books, medicines, pens and pencils every year.““Uday Kiran, politically, organizes many party programs as the Secretary of Miyapur Division. He is always available to the people and activists and is working hard to ensure that the party schemes reach everyone, including ration cards, Indiramma houses, and six guarantees. He is constantly among the people in coordination with GHMC officials to provide basic facilities in many colonies in Miyapur Division. He is doing many programs in the division through the Yalamanchi Uday Kiran Charitable Trust.““With the blessings of Serilingampalli Constituency In-charge Jagadishwar Goud and Kukatpally Congress In-charge Bandi Ramesh, and MBC Corporation Chairman Jeripati Jaipal,“Yalamanchi Uday Kiran received the Best Achievement Award from the Press Wings Club for various service activities. This young leader is trending on social media, moving forward is the way, service is the goal”.

"INSPIRATION FROM COMRADE B. T RANADIVE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKERS STATE."“



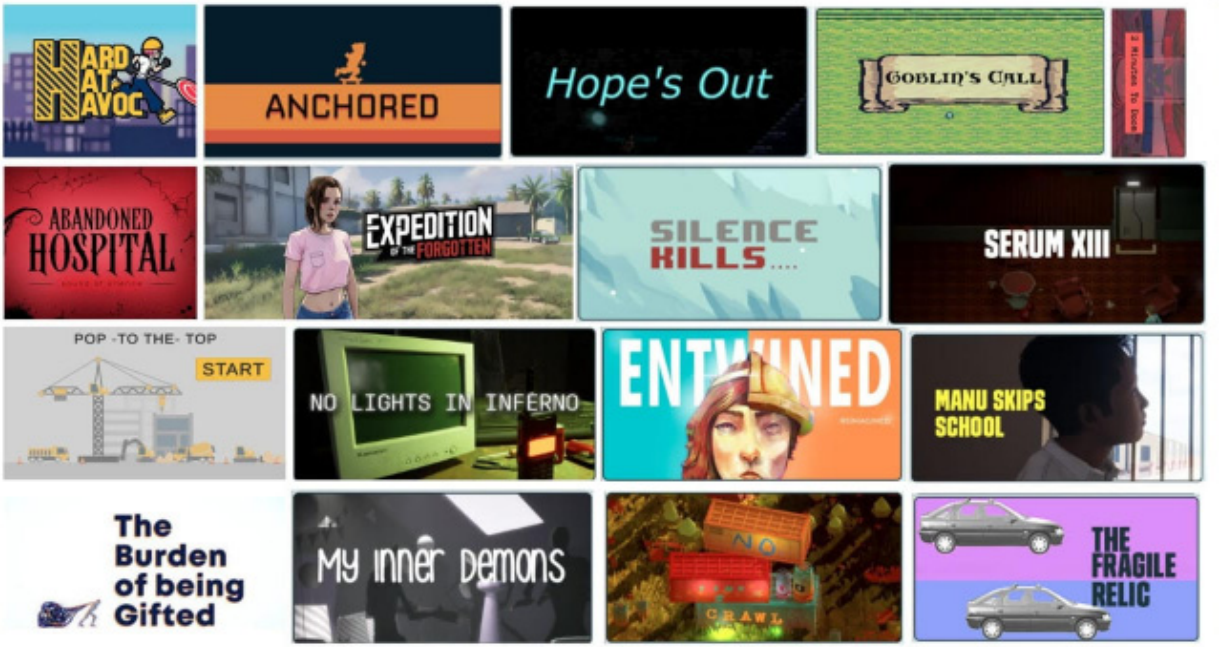
“Today, the Comrade B.T. Ranadive death anniversary was commemorated in a grand manner at the Manthani Students' Youth Office under the leadership of CITU. The

program was presided over by CITU District President Velpula Kumar Swamy. Addressing the event, CITU District General Secretary Erravelli Muthyamma Rao spoke about Comrade B.T. Ranadive, a pioneer of the Indian workers' movement. He participated in the freedom struggle and fought relentlessly for the rights of working-class people. He mentioned that Comrade Ranadive played a key role in establishing the revolutionary trade union, CITU, which became the central force for workers' unions in the country. Along with the economic struggle, he stressed the importance of conducting large-scale social struggles for workers. Drawing inspiration from Comrade Ranadive, the fight for establishing a workers' state in this country would continue.““The program was attended by CITU District Vice President N. Bikshapathi, Sipelli Ravinder, Assistant Secretary G. Jyothi, District Committee members Budida Ganesh, and leaders Arla Sandeep and G. Suresh.

Telangana officials object to Banakacherla project at GRMB meeting

Hyderabad, April 7 : The Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) meeting saw intense debates among the irrigation officials from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. Chaired by AK Pradhan, the meeting took place at Jal Soudha on Monday and lasted over three hours, focusing on water distribution and projects related to the Godavari River. During the session, the Telangana representatives raised their concerns regarding the Banakacherla and Godavari interlinking initiatives. Telangana's irrigation officials accused the Andhra Pradesh government of withholding critical information about the Godavari-Banakacherla project. Telangana's Principal Secretary for Irrigation, Rahul Bojja, along with Engineer-in-Chief Anil, voiced their objections to the Banakacherla project. They highlighted that it has been five months since the GRMB received correspondence from the Union government, yet no updates have been provided.Telangana officials have claimed that Andhra Pradesh is proceeding with the Banakacherla project without the necessary authorisation. They have requested the

Board to furnish comprehensive information about the project, including its effects on Telangana. In response, officials from Andhra Pradesh clarified that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Banakacherla project is still in the planning stages and has not been finalised. The meeting also discussed the modernisation efforts for the Pedavagu project, where it was agreed to initiate urgent repairs at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 crore.During the meeting, Telangana officials raised concerns about the conduct of GRMB Secretary Ajageshan, asserting that board meetings are being conducted without adequate consultation with the states. They further expressed grievances regarding the treatment of officers from both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana who are on deputation at GRMB, citing harassment and inappropriate language directed at female employees.Representing Andhra Pradesh, Engineer-in-Chief Venkateswara Rao from the Water Resources department, along with other officials, took part in the meeting.



Top 10 Games Selected at Game Developer Association of India (GDIA) “Road to Game Jam” to be showcased at WAVESThe first edition of Game Jam Received Over 5500+ Registrations from over 1650 colleges

Posted On: 07 APR 2025 5:19PM by PIB Hyderabad

The Game Developer Association of India (GDIA), in collaboration with KGeN, has successfully concluded the Road to Game Jam, a flagship challenge under the Create in India Challenge: Season 1, as part of the Government of India's World Audio-Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES). The top 10 shortlisted games will be announced on April 12 which will then be showcased at the upcoming WAVES event scheduled to be held in Mumbai between May 1-5, 2025. With an overwhelming 5,500 registrations from over 1,650 colleges across 453 cities and towns in India, this exclusive Game Jam marks a significant milestone in nurturing young game development talent in the country. Staying true to GDIA's mission of upskilling the

nation's gaming ecosystem, the initiative featured AMA and knowledge-sharing sessions led by industry leaders, equipping participants with valuable insights into game development and the business of gaming. After multiple rounds of elimination, 175+ teams submitted their games, which were rigorously reviewed by a jury of industry experts over 10 days. From these, 20 standout games were shortlisted and are currently under review by a panel of Indian and international studio representatives. Themed around "Everything Falls Apart," "Stuck Together," "Handle with Care," "Invisible Connections," and "The Sound of Silence," the Game Jam challenged participants to bring their creativity and technical skills to life.

From the top 20 shortlisted, the final 10 will be announced on April 12, 2025 and will receive an all-expense-paid trip to WAVES to present their games and pitch to an elite industry jury. This platform will provide unparalleled exposure and a chance to propel their creations into the global spotlight.

Gram Panchayat Meeting Halls for conducting Community Mediation

Hyderabad, GNS News Agency, April 7 : As per the instructions of Collector, Kamareddy, the District Panchayat Officer of Kamareddy district permitted to use the Gram Panchayat Meeting Halls for conducting the Community Mediation by the Community Mediation Volunteers, who were trained by the Telangana State Legal Services Authority. Today, Justice Sujoy Paul, Acting Chief Justice, High Court for the State of Telangana & Patron-in-Chief and Executive Chairman, Telangana State Legal Services Authority and Justice Pulla Karthik, Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana and Administrative Judge of Kamareddy District, have virtually inaugurated the 12 Community Mediation Centres set up in the Gram Panchayat Meeting Halls for resolving the minor disputes. On the occasion, Justice P. Karthik, Judge, High Court for the State of Telangana, addressed the volunteers that establishing the Community Mediation Centres is a step towards resolving the disputes at the grass root level which will be benefited to the litigant people. Justice P. Karthik congratulated the Community Mediation Volunteers for establishing the Community Mediation Centres. Justice Sujoy Paul, Acting Chief Justice & Patron-In-Chief, and Executive Chairman, TLSA, congratulated the Community Mediation Volunteers for establishing the 12 Community Mediation Centres at various places of Kamareddy District. His Lordship have also addressed that these Community Mediation Centres can be utilised for resolving the matrimonial disputes, other minor disputes and the issues pertaining to the Senior Citizens

which are increasing day by day and by using the services of the Community Mediation Volunteers in the Community Mediation Centres, settle the matrimonial disputes, the issues pertaining to the senior citizens and other disputes. The District Administration i.e. the Collector of Kamareddy, Superintendent of Police, Kamareddy and DPO, have shown their interest in setting up of the Community Mediation Centres and they have taken a pro-active role in establishment of Community Mediation Centres in Kamareddy District, which is a good gesture and It shows their interest in resolving the disputes at the initial stage itself. If the Centres function effectively, this may be a gain changer and will be useful for the litigant public in resolving their disputes. On the occasion, the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority have also congratulated the Community Mediation Volunteers who have come forward to serve the society voluntarily without expecting anything. Ch. V.R.R. Prasad, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Kamareddy, Ch. Panchakshari, Member Secretary, Telangana State Legal Services Authority, Ashish Sangwan, District Collector and District Magistrate, Kamareddy and the Additional Superintendent of Police, Kamareddy, the District Panchayat Officer, Kamareddy, and Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Kamareddy and the Community Mediation Volunteers, public participated and witnessed the virtual inauguration of the Community Mediation Centres. The Registrars of the High Court have also participated in the virtual inauguration.

Shabbir Ali distributes fine rice, shares meal with Dalit family in Kamareddy



Kamareddy, April 7: Telangana Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Monday took part in three significant programmes in Machareddy village of Kamareddy district, highlighting his commitment to welfare, social justice, and farmers' rights. As part of the Praja Palana initiative, Shabbir Ali participated in the distribution of free fine rice to poor families. Accompanied by government officials and elected representatives, he personally handed over fine rice to beneficiaries and later joined a Dalit family for a community meal. Calling the moment "deeply satisfying," he said dining at a beneficiary's home in his native village felt like eating in his own house. This scheme brings quality rice to poor families and ensures food security to all those living below the poverty line. Over 80% of the beneficiaries are from economically weaker sections including Dalits, Adivasis, and minorities," he said. He praised the government's decision to allocate Rs 13,000 crore to distribute 30 lakh tonnes of fine rice, calling it a historic initiative. He stressed the importance of transparency and accountability in the supply and distribution of rice. "No irregularities should be tolerated in the process—from godown transportation to ration shop delivery. If any dealer or official is found guilty of malpractice, strict action will be taken," he warned.

Shabbir Ali also noted that the distribution of new ration cards and enrolment of eligible beneficiaries was underway to ensure that no deserving family is left out. Kamareddy Additional Collector Victor, along with RDO, MRO, MPDO, Congress leaders, and several party workers were present at the event. Earlier in the day, Shabbir Ali launched the 'Jai Babu, Jai Bhim, Jai Samvidhan' campaign with a Constitution Protection Padayatra in Machareddy. The march culminated in a public meeting at the Shabbir Ali Function Hall, where Kamareddy in-charge Kathi Venkataswamy also participated. Speaking at the meeting, Shabbir Ali said the Congress party had initiated this nationwide campaign in protest against Union Home Minister Amit Shah's derogatory remarks on Dr B.R. Ambedkar in Parliament. "This movement aims to expose how BJP and RSS are disrespecting Ambedkar and undermining the

Constitution," he said. Carrying portraits of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr Ambedkar, and the Indian Constitution, the padayatra moved door-to-door, raising awareness on constitutional values. "Only by protecting the Constitution can India remain a true democracy. The BJP is trying to replace it with a Manusmriti-driven agenda," he alleged. He appealed to the public to counter religious fundamentalism through peaceful protests and Gandhian methods and urged for continued awareness campaigns in every village. Pamphlets were distributed during the march and all participants took a pledge to uphold Ambedkar's ideals and defend the Constitution. In another key engagement, Shabbir Ali inaugurated a paddy procurement centre at the Machareddy Agricultural Market Committee. Addressing farmers, he urged them to utilise the procurement centres set up by the government and avoid falling prey to middlemen. The Congress government is committed to purchasing every grain produced by farmers. The State has also announced a Rs 500 bonus for fine rice varieties," he said. He directed officials to ensure there were no problems in the functioning of the procurement centres and assured that the government would prevent any shortage of gunny bags or other logistical issues. These centres have been established purely for the benefit of farmers, and we will continue to work towards their welfare," he stated.

Police issue notice to Manne Krishank

On the other hand, the Gachibowli police have registered cases for circulating on some social media using AI on Kancha Gachibowli lands. As part of this, the police have given notices to BRS leader Manne Krishank. The police have served notices to Krishank for posting the fake videos on social media by using AI on the Kancha Gachibowli lands. The police have stated in the notices that he should come to the Gachibowli police station for questioning on the 9th, 10th and 11th of this month.

Ponugoti donates his ancestral property

Hyderabad, April 7 (NSS): Ponugoti Chokka Rao, Vice President, All India Confederation of the Blind, Hyderabad and General Secretary, Development and Welfare Association of the Blind, Hyderabad shared about formal donating and handing over of his ancestral property in his native village Venkatadripalem, Tipparthi Mandal to the Village Panchayat through Village Secretary Prasanna Laxmi.

Symptom-Based Healthcare is not the only indicator of a country’s health: A New Era of Preventive Care is Emerging, says Apollo Hospitals’ Health of the Nation 2025 Report

~ Apollo ProHealth Preventive Health Checks have gone up by almost 150% in 5 Years~
~ Shows increase in fatty liver, menopause-linked risks, nutritional deficiencies, childhood obesity and other NCDs amongst the people screened across the Apollo ecosystem ~

Telangana, April 7, 2025: Apollo Hospitals today launched the fifth edition of its *Health of the Nation 2025* (HoN-2025) report with a clear message: “Don’t wait for symptoms—make preventive health your priority.” Based on health screenings from over **2.5 million** individuals across the Apollo ecosystem in India, the report reveals a silent epidemic—millions are living with undiagnosed chronic conditions despite showing no visible symptoms. Notably, **26% were found hypertensive** and **23% diabetic** despite being asymptomatic, underlining that a symptom-led healthcare model is no longer viable.Preventive health checks have grown exponentially as recorded by Apollo Hospitals, rising from **1 million in 2019 to over 2.5 million in 2024** — a **150% increase** in just five years. This reflects a growing shift in public awareness and proactive engagement with preventive healthcare.The insights in *HoN 2025* are drawn from de-identified electronic medical records (EMRs of preventive health checks), structured clinical evaluations, and AI-driven risk stratification across Apollo’s hospitals, clinics, diagnostics labs, and wellness centers.The report zeroes in on three urgent health challenges: **fatty liver disease, post-menopausal health decline, and childhood obesity**, emphasizing the need for early personalized interventions and lifestyle-based care models.**Dr. Prathap Reddy, Chairman, Apollo Hospitals said**, “India must rise to the opportunity of creating healthy, happy families by placing health at the heart of every household. Preventive healthcare is no longer a future ambition—it is the cornerstone of a nation’s well-being today. This report affirms our collective responsibility to act early, screen deeply, and empower every citizen with knowledge and access. It is time to integrate preventive care into every educational curriculum, corporate benefits, and family routines. Only then, can we shift from treating illness to preserving health and ensure a resilient, healthier India for generations to come.”**Dr. Suneeta Reddy, Managing Director, Apollo Hospitals added**, “The Health of the Nation Report reaffirms Apollo’s long-standing philosophy that the future of healthcare is early, data-led, and personalized. When 66% of people screened have fatty liver, 85% of them being non-alcoholic; it signals the urgency for new diagnostics and early detection at scale. Traditional screening is no longer enough. Apollo’s ProHealth program is not just empowering individuals to take control of their health; it is laying the foundation for scalable and predictive healthcare. The results from ProHealth show that with consistent follow-up and nudges and real-time data, we can create measurable population-level impact. Prevention is India’s most scalable healthcare solution and Apollo’s mission is to democratize preventive health.”

Key Findings at a Glance	
Category	Key Insight
Fatty Liver	65% of 257,199 screened had fatty liver; 85% were non-alcoholic
Silent Heart Risks	46% of asymptomatic individuals had signs of early atherosclerosis
Post-Menopausal Health	Diabetes jumped from 14% to 40%; Obesity rose from 76% to 86%
Children & Students	28% of college students overweight or obese; 19% are pre-hypertensive
Hypertension	Found in 26% of over 4,50,000 individuals
Nutrient Deficiencies	77% of women and 82% of men had Vitamin D deficiency
Mental Health	6% of 47,424 individuals screened showed signs of depression
Sleep Disorders (OSA)	24% of 53,000 screened were at high risk of Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)
ProHealth Program Outcomes	59% reduction in chronic conditions

duced HbA1C (diabetes marker), 51% reduced BP, 47% lost weight through behavioral nudgingHidden Disease, Visible Numbers: Fatty Liver as India’s New Metabolic Signal

Once seen as a concern only for those who consumed alcohol, fatty liver appears to emerge as an important health issue linked to obesity, diabetes, and hypertension. Of the 257,199 individuals screened, a staggering 65% had fatty liver, and 85% of those were non-alcoholic. More than half had normal blood tests—meaning traditional diagnostics alone are not enough for a thorough evaluation.

Women’s Health: A Critical Turning Point Post-Menopause

The HoN 2025 report highlights a dramatic escalation in health risks for women post-menopause. Diabetes rates spike from 14% pre-menopause to 40% post-menopause, obesity climbs sharply from 76% to 86%, and fatty liver prevalence rises from 54% to 70%. These significant shifts underline hormonal changes’ profound impact on women’s long-term health, emphasizing the necessity for proactive, personalized health strategies for women as they approach menopause.

Rising Cases of Obesity in Kids’: The Truth We Can’t Ignore Anymore!

Obesity among students is rising rapidly, posing serious long-term health threats. The report found that 8% of primary school students were already overweight or obese—an early indicator. This prevalence increases significantly through adolescence, reaching 28% among college students, highlighting the compounding impact of lifestyle and dietary changes. Additionally, 19% of college students were found to be pre-hypertensive, showing that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are taking root much earlier than previously recognized.**Dr. Preetha Reddy, Executive Vice Chairperson, Apollo Hospitals said**, “The Health of the Nation 2025 report highlights the critical issues that we must address, particularly regarding women’s health and childhood obesity. The rise in metabolic risks post-menopause is a clear indicator that we need more than just routine screenings. It is essential to have age-appropriate, gender-sensitive protocols that can truly address the unique needs of women. At Apollo, we are committed to integrating these findings into a life-stage-based care model, offering support for women at every phase of their health journey. The report also underscores the increasing rates of obesity and pre-hypertension among children, which is deeply concerning. These are not just statistics but signs that we must act swiftly. As a pioneering institution, Apollo is determined to make a difference in the lives of individuals and communities across the nation.”

Beyond the Obvious: A Deeper Look at India’s Evolving Health Landscape

Hypertension: A Quiet but Persistent Risk
Screening around 450,000 individuals in 2024 revealed that **26% were hypertensive**, often without any symptoms. Hypertension continues to be a key contributor to India’s cardiovascular burden and remains underdiagnosed and undertreated. The report calls for standardized blood pressure monitoring and public health campaigns that make BP check a routine part of wellness.**Heart Disease Hiding in Plain Sight**

Among asymptomatic individuals who underwent coronary calcium scoring, **46% had calcium deposits, which are early signs of atherosclerosis. Of these, 25% had obstructive coronary artery disease (CAD).** Even more striking, **2.5% of those with calcium deposits were under the age of 40.** These figures reinforce the importance of advanced imaging techniques like calcium scoring and CT angiography for detecting early risk.**Mental Health: A Growing but Under-Recognized Challenge**

Mental health has long lingered in the shadows of India’s public health conversation, but the latest data shines a much-needed spotlight. Of the 47,424 individuals screened for depression using the PHQ-9 scale, 7% of women and 5% of men exhibited signs of clinical depression, with the burden peaking in the middle-age bracket (40–55). These figures highlight not just a growing prevalence but also the



deep societal stigma that continues to hinder early intervention. Apollo Hospitals is advocating for integrated mental health assessments in routine check-ups, wider use of digital mental health platforms, and community-level awareness to foster openness and timely care.

Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA): The Sleep Disorder India Can’t Ignore

The Health of the Nation 2025 report reveals a startling trend: **1 in 4 Indians are at high risk for Obstructive Sleep Apnea (OSA)**—a disorder closely linked to obesity, cardiovascular disease, and daytime fatigue. Based on screenings of **53,000 individuals, 33% of men and 10% of women** were identified as high-risk. Risk levels rise sharply with age, affecting **68% of men and 22% of women over 55.** Despite its high prevalence, OSA remains underdiagnosed, often mistaken for general fatigue or stress. Apollo is calling for **routine sleep risk assessments in metabolic screenings**, stronger public awareness about OSA symptoms, and workplace wellness programs that address sleep hygiene as a core pillar of preventive care.**Cancer Detection: Age Trends Offer New Insights**In 2024, the **median age for cervical cancer diagnosis was 49**, for **breast cancer 57**, and **lung cancer 61**—a full decade earlier than global averages. The report advocates lowering the age threshold for routine screening and driving awareness in urban and rural populations alike.**Micronutrient Deficiencies: A Foundation Health Issue**Anemia affected 45% of women and 26% of men, while Vitamin D deficiency impacted 77% of women and 82% of men. Vitamin B12 deficiency was also significant, with 38% of men and 27% of women showing low levels. Among those under 40, the deficiency was even more pronounced—49% of men and 35% of women were vitamin B12 deficient. These gaps, if left unaddressed, can impair energy, cognition, and metabolic function. Apollo recommends widespread education as an essential first step towards improving national nutrition and long-term health.**Obesity and Metabolic Dysfunction: The Cascade Continues**The report highlights that **61% of individuals screened were obese**, with another **18% overweight.** Obesity continues to act as the root cause of a range of NCDs. Apollo supports expanding physical literacy in schools and workplaces and making BMI and metabolic screenings part of every annual health check.

Aim Toward a Preventive, Data-Led Healthcare System

Apollo Hospitals’ ProHealth program aims to advocate for a paradigm shift in India’s healthcare approach—from curative to preventive, and from symptom-led to data-driven. The organization’s ProHealth program has been setting the precedence and proven its effectiveness by integrating advanced diagnostics, expert doctor driven path to wellness, AI-powered predictive risk scores, personalized health nudges, and early interventions. The program tracks key health metrics in real time and provides actionable recommendations tailored to each individual, enabling proactive

management of chronic conditions.

59% of diabetics reduced HbA1C levels
51% of hypertensive participants lowered their blood pressure**47% of overweight participants achieved weight loss**By addressing health risks early and guiding individuals with personalized interventions, the program aims to reduce the progression of diseases before they require complex treatment. Overall, the findings of HoN-2025 build a strong case for embedding preventive healthcare into public health policy, health insurance coverage, and workplace wellness. The way forward lies in early risk identification, lifestyle modification, and equitable access to diagnostics.**State-wise microcosm representation based on screenings conducted across Apollo Hospitals over the past year.**

AP + Telangana
24% of individuals were found to have hypertension. A combined **82% of the screened population is overweight or obese****81% were Vitamin D deficient**Nearly **1 in 2 individuals (47%)** showed signs of **Grade I fatty liver**, an early-stage condition tied to obesity and metabolic imbalances**27% screened were found to be anaemic**, pointing to nutritional gaps, especially in iron-rich foodsA staggering **83%** of people screened were found to have **reduced flexibility**, showing how physical inactivity is impacting everyday quality of life. About Health of Nation:The Health of the Nation by Apollo Hospitals offers insights into the prevalence and risk factors of NCDs, putting the spotlight on diseases and risk factors that need immediate attention. The report draws inferences and insights from data based on the people engaged through the Apollo Hospitals system and the medical ecosystem at large. This report’s aim is to recognise problem areas and identify tangible solutions that have the potential to improve disease prevention and enhance the accuracy of diagnoses that will, in turn, lead to a more personalized and patient-centric treatment approach. The majority of the data shared through the Health of the Nation is based on Apollo Hospitals’ de-identified hospital information systems and EMR, and other studies as part of the Apollo Group, as well as publicly available information.

About Apollo Hospitals:
Apollo revolutionized healthcare when Dr Prathap Reddy opened the first hospital in Chennai in 1983. Today Apollo is the world’s largest integrated healthcare platform with over 10,000 beds across 71 hospitals, nearly 6000 pharmacies and over 200 clinics and diagnostic centers as well as 150 telemedicine centers. It is one of the world’s leading cardiac centers with over 3,00,000 angioplasties and 2,00,000 surgeries. Apollo continues to invest in research to bring the most cutting-edge technologies, equipment and treatment protocols to ensure patients have the best available care in the world. Apollo’s 100,000 family members are dedicated to bringing you the best care and leaving the world better than we found it.

Politics, Power, Passion. Racharikam-A Telugu political thriller starring Apsara Rani & Varun Sandesh, premieres this April 11 on Lionsgate Play

Hyderabad:Loyalties will be tested. Alliances will crumble. And only the strongest will survive. Prepare to be immersed in a gripping saga of ambition, power, and ruthless politics with Racharikam, a high stakes Telugu political drama streaming this April 11 on Lionsgate Play. Directed by Suresh Lankalapalli, the film stars Vijay Shankar, Varun Sandesh, and Apsara Rani in a riveting tale set against the backdrop of the 1980s Rachakonda. Racharikam delves into the lives of siblings Bhargavi Reddy (Apsara Rani) and Vivek Reddy (Varun Sandesh), as they battle to carve their political legacy, while navigating a world where power comes at a price. Will they rise to the top, or will their ambitions tear them apart? Enjoy this thrilling Telugu political masterpiece exclusively on Lionsgate Play!

Reflecting on her role, Apsara Rani shared, “Playing Bhargavi Reddy was an intense and rewarding experience. She’s not just a woman fighting for a place in a male-dominated political world—she’s someone who refuses to be sidelined, no matter the cost. Bhargavi is ambitious and fearless, but she’s also torn between love, family, and the pursuit of power. That inner conflict made her one of the most layered characters I’ve ever portrayed.”Adding further she said, “What drew me to Bhargavi was how multi-dimensional she is. She isn’t just defined by her love story or her political ambitions—she’s someone who constantly pushes boundaries, challenges expectations, and makes bold choices, even when they come with consequences. She’s strong, but also vulnerable, and I think audiences will connect with her journey as she fights to shape her own destiny.. The love we’ve received so far has been incredible, here’s hoping the digital premiere gets the same unstoppable energy.”

Lionsgate Play recently released Rewind, Dhakshina and also feature refreshing flavors from the South with exciting Telugu titles like Nene Na (starring Regina Cassandra & Akshara Gowda), Sabari (Varalaxmi Sarathkumar, Mime Gopi, & Ganesh Venkatraman), Virajji (Varun Sandesh & Pramodhini), Satyabhama (Kajal Aggarwal, Naveen Chandra, & Prakash Raj), and Atharva (Karthik Raju, Simran Choudhary & Arvind Krishna) amongst others alongside the newest Hollywood premieres.April 11 brings Racharikam exclusively to Lionsgate Play!

Synopsis: Set in the 1980s, Racharikam revolves

around love and political turmoil in the crime infested Rachakonda. The plot follows Bhargavi Reddy who is an aspiring politician and Shiva who is a youth leader from the Mana Sakthi Party. Bhargavi’s and her brother, Vivek Reddy’s political ambitions get tangled with her father’s opposition to her and Shiva’s love story. Political motivations are shown intertwining with personal relationships, as tensions arise.

Pakistan stock exchange plunges over 8,000 points

GNS News Agency, April 7
Karachi: Trading was suspended at the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) for an hour as the benchmark KSE-100 index plummeted by more than 8,000 points on Monday.

Financial analysts blamed the fear of a global recession for the massive fall in the stock exchange. Even after a cooling period of one hour, the PSX lost another 2,000 points when trading resumed, resulting in a record 8,600 points drop in intraday trade.

The index closed at 114,909.48, down by 3,882.18 or 3.27 per cent, from the last close. Uzma Khan, financial analyst at Arif Habib Securities, said the automatic circuit breakers are designed to prevent panic selling and provide investors time to reassess during extreme market volatility.

She said that investors are worried about a global recession due to the tariff hikes by the United States and retaliatory measures from other global economies.

The benchmark KSE-100 index initially declined by 6,287.22 points, or 5.29 per cent by 11:58 am, before trading was halted. Shortly after reopening, it declined by a cumulative 8,687.69, or 7.31 per cent, from the last close to stand at 110,103.97 at 1:15 pm. At 2:02 pm, the index stood at 113,154.63, down by 5,637.03 or 4.75 per cent from the last close.

Will transform Telangana’s youth into a skilled human resource powerhouse: Sridhar Babu



Hyderabad, April 7 : Minister for IT and Industries Duddilla Sridhar Babu has stated that the State government is committed to equipping the youth of Telangana with top-tier skills to align with the evolving needs of various industries.Sridhar Babu visited the campus of the Young India Skills University at the Engineering Staff College of

India (ESCI) in Gachibowli on Monday. Following a review meeting with university officials, the Minister outlined a strategic vision aimed at making Telangana a hub for highly skilled human resources.He emphasised that Telangana’s youth possess immense potential, and with targeted training aligned to market demands, they can be transformed into globally competitive professionals.Sridhar Babu advocated for continuous collaboration with industry stakeholders in designing curriculum, ensuring that courses reflect real-world demands.Special attention should be given to high-demand skill areas and candidates from rural backgrounds should receive focused training in soft skills, he said.The Minister stressed that students should be industry-ready upon completion of their courses. He also directed the university to coordinate closely with key state institutions including premier educational and research centers, TASK, and the Digital Employment Exchange of Telangana (DEET), to strengthen the ecosystem.The meeting was attended by Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan, Deputy Secretary Bhavesh Mishra, Vice Chancellor of the Skill University Subba Rao, OSD Chaman Mehta and other dignitaries.

Rs. One crore donation to TTD Trust

April 7, Indian Chronicle, R a y a l a s e e m a coordinator”““Rs. One crore was donated to various Trusts run by TTD on Monday.Shivam Kandev Private Limited from Odisha donated Rs. 20 lakhs to SV Pranadana Trust, Rs. 20 lakhs to SV Gosamrakshana Trust, Rs. 20 lakhs to SVIMS Trust, Rs. 10 lakhs to SV Sarva Shreyas Trust, and Rs. 10 lakhs to SV Anna Prasadam Trust.Balabhadra Developers Private Limited from the same state donated Rs. 10 lakhs to SV Gosamrakshana Trust and Rs. 10 lakhs to SV Anna Prasadam Trust.”To this end, the representative of the companies, Y. Raghavendra



Vishwakarma, handed over the donation DDs to TTD Additional EO Ch

Venkaiah Chowdary through the MLA of Kadiri Kandikunta Venkata Prasad

at the Ranga Nayakuka Mandapam in the Srivari Temple.

Israel’s PM Benjamin Netanyahu in Budapest despite international arrest warrant as Hungary says it will quit ICC



GNS News Agency, April 7

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Hungary’s capital early on Thursday (April 3, 2025) to red carpet treatment despite a warrant for his arrest issued by the world’s top war crimes court.It was only the second foreign trip Mr. Netanyahu has made since the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued the warrant against him in November.As Mr. Netanyahu arrived in Budapest, Hungary said it will begin the procedure of withdrawing from the ICC.Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban (left) participate in a welcoming ceremony with a guard of honor at Buda Castle in Budapest, Hungary on April 3, 2025.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right) and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban (left) participate in a welcoming ceremony with a guard of honor at Buda Castle in Budapest, Hungary on April 3, 2025. | Photo Credit: AP“Hungary will withdraw from the International Criminal Court,” Gergely Gulyás — Prime Minister Viktor Orban chief of staff — wrote in a brief statement. “The government will initiate the withdrawal procedure on Thursday, in accordance

with the constitutional and international legal framework.”Mr. Netanyahu was greeted with full military honours in the Castle District of the capital Budapest, where he stood alongside Mr. Orbán as a military band played and processions of soldiers on horseback and carrying swords and bayoneted rifles passed by.The two leaders were set to hold talks later on Thursday (April 3). Mr. Netanyahu will spend several days in Hungary before departing on Sunday (April 6).The ICC, based in The Hague, Netherlands, said there was reason to believe Mr. Netanyahu and former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant used “starvation as a method of warfare” by restricting humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, and intentionally targeted civilians in Israel’s campaign against Hamas — charges that Israeli officials deny.Member countries of the ICC, such as Hungary, are required to arrest suspects facing a warrant if they set foot on their soil, but the court has no way to enforce that and relies on states to comply.After the ICC issued the warrant in November, Mr. Orbán accused the world’s only permanent global tribunal for war crimes and genocide of “interfering in an on-going conflict for political purposes”, saying the move undermined international law and escalated tensions.

His invitation to Mr. Netanyahu was in open defiance of the court’s ruling. Hungary joined the court in 2001 during Orbán’s first term as prime minister.Mr. Netanyahu in February met U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington, where Mr. Trump suggested that displaced Palestinians in Gaza be permanently resettled outside the war-torn territory and proposed the U.S. take “ownership” in redeveloping the area into “the Riviera of the Middle East”. Neither the United States or Israel are signatories to the ICC. Mr. Trump in February issued sanctions against the court for its investigations into Israel’s conduct of the war in Gaza which has killed tens of thousands of Palestinians, many of them children.

China vows 'countermeasures' to sweeping new U.S. tariffs

GNS News Agency, April 7

China on Thursday (April 3, 2025) said it "firmly opposes" sweeping new US tariffs on its exports, vowing "countermeasures" to protect its rights and interests.U.S. President Donald Trump has ignited a potentially ruinous global trade war after imposing 10% levies on imports from around the world and harsh extra duties on key trading partners.Mr. Trump unveiled particularly stinging tariffs of 34% on China, one of its largest trading partners.The commerce ministry in Beijing said in a statement that those tariffs "do not comply with international trade rules and seriously harm the legitimate rights and interests of the relevant parties".It urged Washington to "immediately cancel" them, warning they "endanger global economic development", hurting U.S. interests and international supply chains.It also accused the United States of a "typical unilateral bullying practice".The tariffs come on top of a 20% rate imposed last month.

At a weekly briefing Thursday, the Commerce Ministry slammed Washington’s "protectionism and bullying".But it also said that the two sides were "maintaining communication" over sources of contention in trade and economic issues.Beijing’s Foreign Ministry also warned the United States that protectionism has no "exit ramp" and noted the broad international opposition to the measures.China previously responded to U.S. tariffs with levies of up to 15% on a range of U.S. agricultural goods including soybeans, pork and chicken.Chen Wenling, chief economist at the China Center for International Economic Exchanges in Beijing, told AFP that Beijing could potentially impose export controls of critical and rare minerals to the United States in response."The United States has become a high-tariff nation, and its status as the flagbearer of free trade has diminished," Mr. Chen said.U.S. duties have threatened to harm China’s fragile economic recovery as it struggles with a long-



running debt crisis in the property sector and persistently low consumption.'No winner in a trade war'An intensified trade war will likely mean China cannot peg its hopes for strong economic growth this year on its exports, which reached record highs in 2024.Mr. Trump labelled Wednesday’s measures "reciprocal" but many experts say his administration’s estimates for levies placed on U.S. imports by other countries are wildly exaggerated.

"The U.S. claims to have suffered losses in international trade, using so-called 'reciprocity' as an excuse to raise tariffs on all trade partners," Beijing said."This approach disregards the balance of interests achieved through years of multilateral trade negotiations and ignores the fact that the US has long profited significantly from international trade," it added.It instead called for "dialogue" to resolve the dispute."There is no winner in a trade war, and there is no way out for protectionism," it said, adding that "history has proven that raising tariffs does not solve the U.S.’s own problems".The U.S. has also imposed tariffs of 25% on steel and aluminium imports.China is the world’s leading steel manufacturer, though not a major exporter of the product to the United States.

Order book of BHEL crosses 1.80 lakh crore



Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), a premier Central Public Sector Enterprises, has geared up to meet its commitment on delivering high pressure boilers to various State-owned power corporations and private entities for their thermal power plants.

GNS News Agency, April 7

Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL), a premier Central Public Sector Enterprises, has geared up to meet its commitment on delivering high pressure boilers to various State-owned power corporations and private entities for their thermal power plants.According to sources, BHEL, which was struggling with dwindling orders for a few years until recently due to various factors, has made a significant turnaround in terms of securing some big ticket orders from various domestic companies for producing boilers to erect thermal power plants in recent months.

As on December 31, 2024, BHEL reported a total order book worth ₹1,60,157 crore. Of it, the power segment alone constituted ₹1,21,413 crore, which is 76% of the total order book. The industry segment constituted ₹35,063 crore and the value of export order stood at ₹3,682 crore. The company has further received orders to the tune of over ₹20,000 crore during the last three months, thereby increas-

ing the total order book value to 1.80 lakh crore.

It has 39 boilers in its order book so far. Of them, Adani Power stands first in placing the maximum number of boilers with an installed capacity of 800 MW producing thermal power plants. The private company has placed 14 boilers followed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) with 11 boilers. The State-owned companies from Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Maharashtra have also placed orders for boilers. The number of boiler orders placed by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) stands at three and four respectively. Of the 39 boilers, 31 were for 800 MW each and eight were for 660 MW each.Buoyed by the pouring orders, the company has put in place the maximum utilisation of its installed capacity and all its resources to fulfil its order commitment to various companies within the stipulated time, says sources.The volume of order, which is unprecedented in recent years, is said to have energised BHEL, which has a High Pressure Boiler Plant in Tiruchi and a Power Plant Piping Unit at Thirumayam in Tamil Nadu.

Sources added that a systematic plan had been put in place at the Tiruchi plant and BHEL’s other plants across the country to execute the orders. Going by the present orders and the upcoming big ticket orders, which were on the pipeline, BHEL had jobs for the next five to 10 years. While focusing on maximum utilisation of its installed capacity, the company had taken steps to make use of its ancillary units in Tiruchi and other parts of the country. It had already placed orders to its number of vendors to produce various components of boilers.The CPSE major hopes that the heavy order book will open up avenues for the revival of ancillary industries in Tiruverumbur, Thuvakudi, Mathur, Ariyamangalam, Kattur and others. BHEL has begun the process of expanding its vendor base to outsource various job works so as to meet its order commitment. It has conducted vendors’ meet in Pune, Bhilai and others to add more vendors in the list of vendors.

The company is believed to be in touch with Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to facilitate loans to the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Tiruchi, Coimbatore, Madurai and Chennai to produce necessary components of boilers.

Trump’s reciprocal tariff: All you need to know with full list of targeted countries



GNS News Agency, April 7

U.S. President Donald Trump announced a sweeping new set of tariffs on Wednesday (April 2, 2025), escalating tensions with allies and adversaries alike in a bid to bolster U.S. manufacturing. Mr. Trump listed the high tariffs charged by India on American products as he announced reciprocal tariffs on countries across the board, declaring a 26% “discounted reciprocal tariff” on India.“This is Liberation Day, a long-awaited moment. 2nd April 2025 will forever be remembered as the day American industry was reborn, the day America’s destiny was reclaimed, and the day that we began to make America wealthy again. We are going to make it wealthy, good, and wealthy,” Mr. Trump said on Wednes-

day (April 2, 2025) in remarks from the Rose Garden at the White House as he announced the closely watched reciprocal tariffs on countries that impose levies on American goods.If the infographic isn’t visible or is incomplete, click here to exit AMP modeAs he announced the tariffs, he held up a chart that showed the tariffs that countries such as India, China, the U.K., and the European Union charge, along with the reciprocal tariffs that these countries will now have to pay.The chart indicated that India charged 52% tariffs “including currency manipulation and trade barriers,” and America would now charge India a “discounted reciprocal tariff” of 26%.Earlier, a senior White House official had told reporters that the president would impose a “baseline” tariff on all imports to the U.S. That rate is set at 10% and will go into effect on April 5. Some countries will only face the base rate. These include: United Kingdom, Singapore, Chile, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand, Türkiye, Colombia, Argentina, El Salvador, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, among others.White House officials also said that they would impose what they describe as custom reciprocal tariffs on roughly 60 of the “worst offenders”. These will go into effect on April 9. The key trading partners subject to these customised tariff rates include:The reciprocal tariffs will not apply to specific goods such as copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, lumber, bullion, energy, and “certain minerals that are not available in the United States”, according to a White House fact sheet.

Trump’s tariffs target tiny Australian islands, including some with no people

GNS News Agency, April 7

Australia’s remote, uninhabited islands in the Antarctic and a tiny territory with barely any exports found themselves caught up alongside global heavyweights in U.S. President Donald Trump’s sweeping tariff regime, leaving locals and officials baffled.Richard Cottle, owner of a concrete-mixing business on Norfolk Island, said on Thursday (April 3, 2025) there was only one explanation when Trump unveiled a hefty 29% tariff on the tiny territory about 600 miles off eastern Australia: “it was just a mistake”.Though the rugged volcanic island in the southern Pacific does ship a modest amount of Kentia palm seeds abroad, typically worth less than \$1 million a year, mostly to Europe, news of the unusually steep tariff passed through its 2,188 residents on Thursday with a mixture of amusement and confusion."Norfolk Island is a little dot in the world," said Mr. Cottle by phone. "We don't export anything."

Norfolk Island was among dozens of tiny territories which appeared on the same list as China and the European Union as recipients of Mr. Trump’s highly anticipated tariff regime, even though they do not have a real manufacturing or export industry.No humans on Heard, McDonald IslandsSome, like the Heard and McDonald Islands in the Antarctic, which like Norfolk Island is overseen by Australia, did not even have human inhabitants. No matter — as of Thursday, they faced a 10% tariff for exports to the U.S.Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, on the campaign trail ahead of an election in a month, told the media his country did better than most with a tariff of 10% — half of what the EU was hit with and one-third of what China got — but he had no explanation for Norfolk Island."Last time I looked, Norfolk Island was a part of Australia," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corp. The separate, higher tariff "was somewhat unexpected and a bit strange", he added.According to U.S. government data, the U.S. has



recorded trade deficits with Norfolk Island for the past three years. The island exported \$300,000 worth of goods to the U.S. in 2022, \$700,000 in 2023 and \$200,000 in 2024. Its imports from the U.S. stayed at \$100,000 in those years.

Norfolk Island’s imports from the U.S. peaked at \$11.7 million in 2020, when no exports were recorded. The data did not specify what goods were traded.Other Norfolk Island business owners who spoke with Reuters could think of no manufacturing industry on the island, and added that its main industry by far was tourism. One pest control business owner, who asked not to be named, said that although they did not export to the U.S., they imported some rodent bait from the U.S. via Australia."Products from Norfolk Island are going to have a 29% tariff? Well, there is no product, so it's not going to have an effect," said Gye Duncan, who owns a tax consultancy on the island.Miles Howe, a retired Australian public servant and former Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce president, who lives on the island, said he did not think the tariffs worried Norfolk Island’s people.I think everyone’s rather amused by the idea that we’d even register on the radar of somebody like Donald Trump."

E.U. chief says bloc ‘prepared to respond’ to Trump tariffs, but keeps door open for negotiations

GNS News Agency, April 7

Hours after U.S. President Donald Trump announced tariffs on America’s trade partners, including 20% on E.U. goods, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc was “prepared to respond”, even as she appeared to keep the door open for negotiations.

"I deeply regret this choice," she said, referring to Mr. Trump’s tariffs, as she delivered a video broadcast on Thursday morning. The U.S. President had announced a baseline tariff of 10% on all goods coming into the U.S., with some countries and entities facing higher tariffs, roughly at half the average tariff rate charged by them for U.S. goods, as per Mr. Trump. The U.S. would charge China 34%, India 26% and Vietnam 46%. Non-EU European countries were taxed at different rates: the U.K. at 10% and Switzerland at 31%.Tariffs would hurt people across the world, Ms. Von der Leyen said, adding that there was no clear path through the uncertainty."And what is more, there seems to be no order in the disorder. No clear path through the complexity and chaos that is being created as all U.S. trading partners are hit," she said.The E.U. had already announced last month h that it was preparing to respond to Mr. Trump’s tariffs on steel and aluminium. Ms. Von der Leyen confirmed that process was underway.

"And we are now preparing for further countermeasures, to protect our interests and our businesses if negotiations fail," Ms. Von der Leyen added. The bloc’s executive head also said that the E.U. was watching for indirect



impacts on Mr. Trump’s announcement , i.e., in terms of the dumping of cheap goods by third countries, whose exports were originally intended for the U.S.Ms. Von der Leyen appeared to offer an off-ramp though saying there are “others” taking advantage of the trading system and that she was ready to assist in making the international trading system “fit for the realities” of a global economy."But I also want to be clear: Reaching for tariffs as your first and last tool will not fix it," she added.Earlier this week , Ms. Von der Leyen said the E.U. would be looking at removing bureaucratic and regulatory challenges to trade within its borders as part of the strategy to counter Mr. Trump’s moves. On Thursday, she told Europeans who were feeling let down by their “oldest ally” that with a strength of 450 million, the European Single Market was their “safe harbour” in difficult times.

First legacy widebody aircraft of Air India gets new feel and look

GNS News Agency, April 7

The first of Air India’s (AI) 13 legacy Boeing 777 widebodies rolled back from Singapore on Wednesday sporting a revamped passenger cabin — new seat covers, fresh carpeting and a sharp interior lift. The aircraft, registered as VT-ALK, returned from Singapore where its interiors underwent “colour, material and finish (CMF)” rework for 52 days to give passengers a new feel and look.This is only an interim enhancement programme for aircraft interiors and includes new upholstery for passenger seats, new carpeting and curtains, and fresh coat of paint on the cabin panels as well as lavatories, said a senior official of the airline. The interiors now sport the airline’s new colour scheme for seats.AI aims at concluding the heavy cabin refresh programme for the 13 widebody aircraft used for flying some of the most profitable ultra long-haul routes to the U.S. and Europe by December this year.However, a more thorough makeover for these planes such as replacement of seats as well as the dysfunctional in-flight entertainment screens on the back of the seats, is now delayed until 2026 after

being originally scheduled to start in 2023.A “retrofit” which includes seat and IFE replacement on the Boeing 787 will roll-out this month with the first of these 27 aircraft set to rejoin service in October, following which two to three B787s will be inducted per month until all of them have been upgraded. A similar exercise for the 27 legacy Boeing 787s will roll out this month as well. The retrofit for the narrowbodies has already take off, with the first of the 27 A320 neos completing the process last month. Works on four such planes is said to have concluded and the airline aims to finish the process for all 27 aircraft by the third quarter of 2025.



APAAR ID explained: Centralised student records, privacy concerns and digital integration



GNS News Agency, April 7

The APAAR ID is a government-sanctioned digital identifier designed to centralise and verify academic records for students across institutions. In an exclusive Q&A with The Hindu, Apar Gupta, Advocate and Founder Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF), delves into the implications of APAAR ID. Aimed at centralising academic records and streamlining student transfers, APAAR ID promises benefits such as enhanced authenticity and digital storage. However, Mr. Gupta raises important concerns about privacy, data security, and equitable access, particularly for students in rural or underprivileged areas.

How does APAAR ID enhance the authenticity of academic records and prevent duplication or fraudulent documentation?

APAAR ID purports to provide a single, government-sanctioned source of verified academic documentation, building on the concept of “One Nation, One Student ID.” By centralising verification – and requiring institutions to upload academic documents to an official repository – it ostensibly reduces forgeries. The Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) which stores the credit course documents of the students will not directly accept them from the students and will only consider them if it’s provided by the appropriate, registered academic institutes. However, it’s also worth noting that centralisation itself may generate new points of failure. If an institution wrongly inputs data — or if access controls are inadequate — a single error or breach can proliferate across the system.

In what ways does APAAR ID eliminate the risk of losing academic documents by securely storing them digitally, reducing paperwork and hassle for students?

The immediate advantage of APAAR ID is digitisation via DigiLocker which is integrated within APAAR which prevents paper certificates from getting lost or destroyed. The Ministry of Education has long touted paperless solutions to reduce administrative burden. Nonetheless, the claim of “secure” digital storage is only as strong as the platform’s technical safeguards. The Terms of Service repeatedly references the Ministry’s adherence to “industry-standard security measures”. However, it does not outline concrete encryption protocols, access logs, or independent audits. Without robust and transparent security measures — and regular scrutiny by cybersecurity experts — digitisation can lull users into a false sense of security. A data breach in a central repository can be more catastrophic than losing a single paper record, especially when minors’ personal details are at stake.

What are the key changes proposed in the new Waqf Bill? | Explained

GNS News Agency, April 7

Initially introduced in Parliament last year, the Bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) chaired by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal for scrutiny. The committee submitted its report on February 13, 2025, receiving the Union Cabinet’s approval six days later. However, Opposition MPs on the panel objected to the rejection of their proposed amendments and alleged that their dissenting notes had been redacted from the report without their consent. The new Bill, which was tabled along with repealing the 2024 version, seeks to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, which governs the administration of waqf properties in India. It proposes sweeping reforms that would expand the government’s role in regulating waqf properties and adjudicating disputes related to them. A look at the key changes proposed in the revised Bill: Retention of ‘waqf by user’ doctrine The original version of the Bill abolished the concept of “waqf by user” — a doctrine rooted in Islamic legal traditions that recognised properties as religious or charitable endowments based on their uninterrupted communal use, even in the absence of formal documentation. Historically, numerous mosques, graveyards, shrines, and other religious sites were established through oral declarations or customary practices, with their waqf status legitimised by continuous public usage over generations. The JPC report cautioned that dismantling this doctrine could destabilise the legal standing of such properties, many of which have been informally managed by local communities for decades.

Accordingly, the revised Bill now clarifies that “waqf by user” properties registered on or before the law’s enactment will retain their status unless they are disputed or identified as government land. In effect, the government has retained the doctrine for historical cases while prohibiting its application to future land claims. Nevertheless, apprehensions persist regarding a provision mandating that individuals must “show or demonstrate that [they have] been practicing Islam for at least five years” to establish a waqf. Critics have argued that this requirement arbitrarily excludes potential donors, particularly recent converts who may wish to endow property for religious or charitable purposes.

The new Bill retains provisions allowing non-Muslims to be appointed to key waqf institutions, including the Central Waqf Council, State Waqf Boards, and waqf tribunals. It mandates that both the Central Waqf Council and State Waqf Boards include at least two non-Muslim members. Additionally, the requirement that a waqf board’s chief executive officer must be a Muslim has been removed. In line with a recommendation from the JPC, the Bill now stipulates that the State government representative on the Waqf Board must be a Joint Secretary-level officer “dealing with waqf matters.” Notably, non-Muslims will remain a minority in both the Council and the Waqf Boards.

The composition of waqf tribunals has also been revised, expanding them from a two-member to a three-member body. Each tribunal will now include a district judge, a joint secretary-level officer from the State government, and an expert in Muslim law and jurisprudence. The Bill also clarifies that tribunals constituted before the law’s enactment will continue to function until the tenure of their chairperson and members expires.

How does APAAR ID simplify student transfers across schools, colleges, and universities? Does it make accessing academic records easier for students?

Centrally-stored credentials can be retrieved by any authorised institution, purportedly enabling seamless transfers. As per the scope of services section, APAAR ID is a “lifelong academic passport”, hinting at continuous portability. Students, theoretically, no longer need to physically shuttle documents across institutions. In practice, the success depends on institutional adoption and digital literacy. Rural schools often lack stable internet connectivity. When trying to implement APAAR ID, if the system experiences downtime or if staff are insufficiently trained, transfers could still be delayed.

With APAAR ID providing verified academic credentials, how will it help future employers make informed hiring decisions based on a candidate’s cumulative academic performance?

Employers frequently struggle to confirm the authenticity of an applicant’s degrees and certificates. A verified APAAR record could save time and resources, permitting legitimate validation of educational attainment. That said, privacy concerns arise when we discuss employers accessing a student’s entire history — especially minors’ details. The terms do not appear to address granular, consent-based data sharing beyond a binary approach (either you share your APAAR or you don’t).

A nuanced structure where the student can share limited or relevant academic data would better align with privacy best practices. Also, while it’s beneficial for employers, it might inadvertently expand employer data collection, raising questions about data minimisation and potential discrimination if old academic records (like primary and middle-school performance) are accessible. Apar Gupta, Advocate and Founder Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF) Apar Gupta, Advocate and Founder Director of the Internet Freedom Foundation (IFF)

Is there a genuine need to centralize student data through the APAAR ID for improved academic management, or is this part of a broader government plan to centralise all data?

Centralisation can streamline academic management, but it also aligns with the government’s general trajectory of “One Nation, One X” (e.g., Ration Card, Health ID). The APAAR terms do not explicitly limit data usage to academic purposes alone. For instance, it states the Ministry can “modify or discontinue... Services” and may share user data to comply with law enforcement requests, hinting at data usage beyond purely educational contexts. Such function creep is inherent to ID programmes such as Aadhaar. When data collected for one stated goal is gradually repurposed.

What are the potential implications of government access to students’ personal data, such as academic credits, scorecards, mark sheets, diplomas, certificates, training details, and co-curricular accomplishments?

Significant personal data consolidation invariably raises surveillance concerns, particularly involving minors. The Privacy Policy references that the Ministry can collect, process, and store academic data but lacks detail on

How cinema and the internet shape the modern male malaise



There is an old truism that the most dangerous thing in the world is a bored young man. In the 21st century, we have discovered that the second most dangerous thing is a bored young man with an Internet connection. And so it begins with a boy, a laptop, and the algorithm. In Netflix’s smash hit limited series Adolescence, a lonely teenager seems to find solace on the internet, only to be lured towards vitriolic rhetoric, conspiracy-laden “truths,” and a digital brotherhood that preys on his insecurities. In its brilliant third episode, we witness his temperament spiral deeper into this ‘manosphere’ — a loosely connected network of misogynistic influencers, incel forums, and self-proclaimed alpha males — watching on with mounting dread as his perception of reality is warped beyond recognition.

Adolescence is crafted as both a psychological thriller and a cautionary tale, tracing the way online extremism seeps into impressionable minds. Creators Jack Thorne and Stephen Graham explore the mechanics of radicalisation and the unnerving ease with which a child can become a soldier in a digital war against women, or the ‘others’. The themes explored in Adolescence echo a long tradition of cinema examining the radicalisation of the young and the vulnerable. Shane Meadows’ This Is England looks at how a rudderless youth, yearning for belonging, is seduced by the allure of camaraderie before realising too late that he’s been recruited into something far uglier. Justin Kurzel’s Snowtown paints an even bleaker picture — how abuse, poverty, and unchecked nihilism turn a boy into a monster. These films unpack this gradual metamorphosis for what it is: an entrapment, a corrosion of innocence. Gus Van Sant’s Elephant and Lynne Ramsay’s We Need to Talk About Kevin have burrowed into the psychology of troubled teens, depicting the slow boil and accumulation of resentment that eventually erupts in indiscriminate carnage. Yet, for some, these films have served as a kind of grim wish-fulfillment, a fantasy of ultimate retribution against a world that has failed to acknowledge them.

Perhaps the most unsettling realisation is also that this cycle of radicalisation is self-sustaining. A film like Fran Kranz’s Mass, which grapples with the aftermath of school shootings by focusing on the parents of both the victim and the perpetrator, should serve as an antidote to the glorification of these figures. Instead, it’s drowned out by more easily digestible, memeable content — Travis Bickle looking into the mirror, flexing his gun; the Joker dancing on the stairs; Patrick Bateman adjusting his tie.

As internet subcultures mutate, metastasising across YouTube recommendation algorithms and Discord servers, a certain brand of alienated, violently repressed mas-

culinity has found its icons in a peculiar set of films. The “sigma male” idea of the antihero has innocuously taken root, its gospel (very un-ironically) preached through hyper-saturated Instagram Reel edits and Twitter threads rife with Nietzschean self-mythologising. The sociopathic narcissism of American Psycho’s Patrick Bateman is aspirational, Travis Bickle’s psychotic unraveling in Taxi Driver is framed as a righteous crusade, and the grinning nihilism of Joker is a blueprint for emancipation rather than anything cautionary. The Internet’s most jaded corners have idiotically reverse-engineered these films, turning critiques of masculinity into role models, and spawned a generation of disaffected men marinating in grievance, convinced the world owes them something and that the only way to claim it is through brute force. Cinema has become an inadvertent tool for recruitment. David Fincher’s Fight Club remains one of the most misinterpreted films of all time, a satire of toxic masculinity that has instead become a Bible for men who mistake Tyler Durden’s nihilistic manifesto for genuine wisdom. Martin Scorsese’s The Wolf of Wall Street is another entry in the club. These films were meant to expose the grotesqueness of unchecked ego and ambition, yet they have been reclaimed by the very demographic they sought to critique. What makes Adolescence especially relevant, however, is its focus on the internet as the primary vehicle for indoctrination. Jamie’s transformation isn’t driven by a singular, Svengali-like figure or a shadowy cabal of internet misogynists whispering poison into his ear. Once a boy like Jamie shows interest in a single video about “sigma male grindsets” or the “truth about modern dating,” the algorithm takes the wheel, steering him into darker, more radical waters.

Platforms like Reddit, 4Chan, and QAnon operate as incubators for antipathy, where every perceived social slight — rejection, loneliness, lack of success — is reframed as proof of a grand conspiracy against men. The pipeline is seamless: a lost teen stumbles onto a self-improvement forum, then drifts toward “red pill” ideology, then finds himself watching hour-long rants from self-styled masculinity gurus who peddle a cocktail of misogyny, nihilism, and barely disguised fascism. Whether they brand themselves as “sigma males,” pickup artists, or political revolutionaries, these figures operate with the same cynical playbook: stoke resentment, validate insecurity, and then offer a solution that involves total emotional detachment and the rejection of all women as either obstacles or rewards. The rhetoric is deceptively empowering — “Take control of your life!” “Be the top dog!” — but the message is rotten at its core.

What are the potential concerns regarding the implementation of APAAR ID without statutory backing, and how might this affect the protection of personal data and compliance with privacy standards?

A fundamental principle from Puttaswamy (2017) is that any significant data-gathering exercise must have a legislative basis. APAAR currently operates via the terms and policy, which is an executive or administrative framework, not an Act of Parliament. That’s a glaring gap. The terms do say that users consent to data collection and usage, but “consent” here is questionable — particularly for minors — and does not equate to a robust statutory mechanism. Without legislative oversight, rules around data retention, data sharing, and accountability measures can remain vague.

One sees disclaimers about not being responsible for “Force Majeure” events and about indefinite modifications of service, but no robust mention of data erasure rights, independent audits, or statutory penalties for misuse. Such a key initiative, if truly in the public interest, demands parliamentary scrutiny and an explicit legal framework to ensure compliance with the Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDPA), 2023. Can you elaborate on the risks associated

whether the data might be shared interdepartmentally without consent. Especially worrisome is the statement about “requests by law enforcement or other government agencies” leading to possible account suspension or data usage. Such broad wording fosters genuine apprehension on overreach and the creation of lifelong “profiles” on citizens starting from childhood. This can shape educational trajectories in ways that infringe upon autonomy.

With the introduction of APAAR ID and its hard-linking to Aadhaar, the Ministry of Education appears to have created a back-door or proxy mandate for capturing students’ Aadhaar. Constitutionally speaking, Aadhaar is optional for school enrollment, as upheld by the Supreme Court’s ruling in Justice (Retd.) K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India. What is your perspective on this?

From a constitutional standpoint, any intrusion into privacy must be legally justified, narrowly tailored, and proportionate to the goal (Puttaswamy, 2017). By linking your Aadhaar number to your APAAR account, you grant APAAR permission to use your unique identifier. While it may say it’s “voluntary,” the actual practice can still result in coercion, as local education offices push for 100% enrollment. This contravenes the Supreme Court’s directive that the right to education for children in the ages of 6 - 14, is a constitutional right, and availing it cannot be curtailed by the Aadhaar Act, 2016 (Puttaswamy, 2019).

By making Aadhaar linkage a prerequisite for an APAAR ID — especially when APAAR is becoming the default repository for academic records — this effectively forces parents to surrender Aadhaar data. It’s a textbook instance of the government circumventing a judicial ruling through administrative means. I see strong constitutional grounds to challenge this. The terms also give minimal insight into alternative ID acceptance, or an opt out. If Aadhaar is truly optional, the policy must provide a comparable method for non-Aadhaar holders to create APAAR IDs and also not be forced to take APAAR IDs itself, something that is conspicuously missing in the official documentation.

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U.S. Sends Warplanes, Ships to the Middle East in Warning to Iran

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon is rapidly expanding its forces in the Middle East as the U.S. military continues airstrikes against Houthi militants in Yemen and steps up its pressure on Iran, the Pentagon said President Trump has threatened in recent days to bomb Iran if Tehran doesn’t make a deal to roll back its nuclear program. But two officials said that the aim of the current deployment is to bolster the U.S. campaign in Yemen and deter Iran. The deployments aren’t preparation for an imminent Iran attack, the officials said.

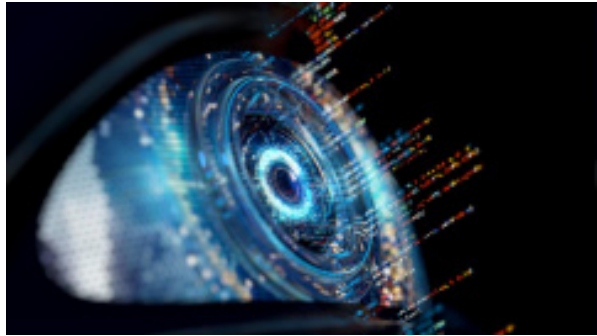
The buildup includes F-35 combat jets, which are joining B-2 bombers and Predator drones in the region, according to U.S. officials familiar with the planning. The U.S. will soon have two carrier strike groups in the region—the USS Harry S. Truman, which has been operating in the Middle East since last fall, and USS Carl Vinson, which is usually assigned to Asia and is expected to arrive within two weeks.

Along with the carriers, the strike groups include cruise missile-carrying destroyers and other warships. The U.S. also has sent Patriot antimissile batteries to defend U.S. air bases and nearby allies, the officials said. The Trump administration launched an air campaign against the Houthis on March 15 and has continued daily strikes around the Yemeni capital of San’a and other locations, targeting the group’s leaders and military assets.

On Tuesday, the Houthis said they shot down a U.S. MQ-9 Reaper drone amid ongoing U.S. strikes in Yemen. The Pentagon was aware of the claim but declined to comment. Earlier this week, the Houthis launched missiles toward Israel, which were intercepted. In addition to threatening Iran with bombing if it doesn’t negotiate a nuclear agreement, the White House has warned it will hold Tehran accountable if the Houthis fire at U.S. forces. Iran has provided arms and training to the Houthis. Talks between the U.S. and Iran on Tehran’s nuclear program have yet to be arranged.

“The United States and its partners...are prepared to respond to any state or nonstate actor seeking to broaden or escalate conflict in the region,” Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said in a statement Tuesday. “Should Iran or its proxies threaten American personnel and interests in the region, the United States will take decisive action to defend our people.” Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Qalibaf on Friday said Iran would retaliate against any U.S. strike on Iran by attacking American interests in the Middle East. “If the Americans attack the sanctity of Iran, the entire region will blow up like a spark in an ammunition dump,” Qalibaf said in a speech in Tehran. An Iranian official said the response would be focused on U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf. “Each American soldier will be an individual target,” he said. Some experts believe that Iran is wary of initiating a major conflict with Trump, who ordered the killing of Qassem Soleimani, the commander of the paramilitary Quds Force, in a January 2020 airstrike near the Baghdad airport. Army Gen. Michael “Erik” Kurilla, the head of the U.S. Central Command, which is responsible for military operations in the Middle East, has long advocated for a more forceful U.S. response to Houthi attacks on ships transiting the Red Sea and nearby sea lanes, which began shortly after Israel’s war in Gaza began in 2023. The Houthis, who control large swaths of Yemen, stopped their attacks earlier this year after a brief cease-fire in Gaza, but said they would resume them once the deal collapsed and Israel relaunched its military operation.

Digital child abuse, the danger of AI-based exploitation



Recently, the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology of the British Government, along with the AI Safety Institute (now called the AI Security Institute), released the first-ever International AI Safety Report 2025 (updated February 18, 2025). It flags the imminent risk of the generation, the possession, and the dissemination of child sexual abuse material (CSAM) with the help of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools. Additionally, the United Kingdom is making the first legislative attempt to target the threats posed by AI tools that can generate CSAM. CSAM refers to material (audio, video, and images) that depicts a sexually explicit portrayal of a child. In a similar vein, the World Economic Forum, in a 2023 paper, highlighted how generative AI can create life-like images, especially of children. Moreover, the Internet Watch Foundation, in its report released in October 2024, underscored the proliferation of CSAM on the open web. The Government of India must amend existing laws to address the emerging threats and ensure long-term effectiveness.

The upcoming U.K. legislation will make it illegal to possess, create, or distribute AI tools that can generate CSAM. Moreover, it will be illegal to possess paedophile manuals that may guide individuals in using AI tools to generate CSAM. This marks a progressive shift from an ‘accused-centric’ and ‘act-centric’ to a ‘tool-centric’ approach in dealing with these abhorrent crimes. The existing laws focus entirely on ‘who’ has done ‘what’, placing less or no emphasis on the ‘tool/medium’ used to commit the said ‘act.’ For instance, the Protection of Children Act 1978 criminalises taking, distributing, and possessing an indecent photograph or pseudo-photograph of a child. Furthermore, the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 criminalises the possession of a prohibited image of a child, including non-photographic materials. In contrast, the proposed law outlaws even the possession and use of such AI tools, making it deterrent and holistic. Second, it will enable enforcement authorities to apprehend offenders at the preparation stage itself. Third, it can curb the initial rippling effect caused by the spread of CSAM on the mental health of children. Fourth, it addresses the legislative gap concerning CSAM generated as purely

AI imagery, which was previously restricted to the images of an ‘actual child.’ On whether India is future readyAccording to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) Report 2022, cybercrimes against children have substantially increased compared to the previous year’s statistics. Moreover, the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP), under the aegis of the Cyber Crime Prevention against Women and Children (CCPWC) scheme, recorded 1.94 lakh child pornography incidents as of April 2024. In 2019, the NCRB signed a memorandum of understanding with the National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), USA to receive tip-line reports on CSAM. As of March 2024, 69.05 lakh cyber tip-line reports have been shared with the States and Union Territories concerned. The statistics underscore the gravity of CSAM as a serious threat to a child’s right to life and dignity in India.Presently, Section 67B of the IT Act 2000 punishes those who publish or transmit material in electronic form depicting children in sexually explicit acts. Furthermore, Sections 13, 14, and 15 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 (POCSO) prohibit using children for pornographic purposes, storing child pornography in any form, and using a child for sexual gratification. Additionally, Section 294 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita penalises the sale, distribution, or public exhibition of obscene materials, while Section 295 makes it illegal to sell, distribute, or exhibit such obscene objects to children. However, the existing legislative framework lacks adequate safeguards to deal with the AI-generated CSAM.

The existing legislative and policy framework in India needs to adapt to futuristic challenges, by making suitable changes. First, as proposed by the NHRC Advisory in October 2023, the definition of ‘child pornography’ under the POCSO Act must be replaced with the phrase ‘CSAM’ to make it expansive. Second, the term ‘sexually explicit’ under Section 67B of the IT Act must be defined to enable the real-time identification and blocking of CSAM. Third, the definition of ‘intermediary’ under the IT Act must expressly include Virtual Private Networks, Virtual Private Servers, and Cloud Services to impose statutory liability on them to comply with the CSAM-related provisions in Indian laws. Fourth, statutory amendments are needed to integrate the risks arising from emerging technological advancements. Fifth, the Government of India must pursue the adoption of the UN Draft Convention on ‘Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technology for Criminal Purposes’ by the UN General Assembly. Notably, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology proposed the Digital India Act 2023, currently in pipeline, to replace the two-decade-old IT Act. Therefore, and lastly, the proposed Digital India Act must draw inspiration from the U.K.’s upcoming legislation to include the provisions specifically targeting AI-generated CSAM.

The reciprocal tariff dilemma

Under the ‘Fair and Reciprocal Plan,’ the Donald Trump administration is countering “non-reciprocal trading arrangements with trading partners by determining the equivalent of a reciprocal tariff with respect to each foreign trading partner”. The non-reciprocal trading relationship is assessed based on tariffs, discriminatory taxes, non-tariff barriers (including subsidies and restrictive regulations), exchange rate manipulations, and any other practice deemed to limit U.S. market access or impede American firms from competing.

In 2010, countries across the world sent 12% of their total merchandise exports to American shores. By 2019, one year before the pandemic, the U.S. share of world exports had only risen to 13%. The share stood at 13.4% in 2022, the latest year for which internationally comparable data on merchandise exports are available for the largest sample of the world’s trading economies. Thus, roughly 87% of global merchandise exports are currently traded among countries that do not include the U.S.

Of course, there are variations around this average. For instance, the Cayman Islands and Bermuda in the Caribbean export almost 85% of their goods to America. The U.S. also accounts for over 75% of Canadian and Mexican merchandise exports. At the opposite end of the spectrum, 81 out of 160 countries, for which data were available from UN Comtrade for 2022, exported less than 5% of their total goods to the U.S. For 26 of these 81 countries (many from Africa), the U.S. share was less than 1%. The average U.S. share across the 160 countries was 11.4%, while the median was much lower at 4.7%. Less than a fifth of Indian, Chinese, and EU merchandise exports (18%, 16%, and 19%, respectively, in 2022) were destined for the U.S.

Now, let us look at the tariff picture and compare U.S. tariffs on partner exports vis-à-vis partner tariffs on U.S. exports. The latest tariff data available for this comparison are from UNCTAD TRAINS for 157 trading partners of the U.S., mostly for the year 2022. The European Union is considered a single partner given its common external tariff. The average import-weighted tariffs on U.S. exports in 27 partner countries are lower than the corresponding U.S. tariffs. Technically, the concept of reciprocal tariffs works as a threat and a bargaining tool only when U.S. tariffs are lower than those in the partner country.Considering only tariffs, this simple analysis thus rules out almost a fifth of all countries for which comparable tariff data are available from the ‘Fair and Reciprocal Plan.’ These countries include Canada, the EU, Japan, and the U.K. — among America’s largest trading partners, which together accounted for half of total U.S. merchandise exports in 2022. In fact, U.S. commercial interests could be harmed if these countries imposed reciprocal tariffs on American merchandise exports instead.

Of the remaining 130 countries where the Trump administration perceives a tariff disadvantage, the magnitude of the tariff increase needed to nullify the disadvantage is less than 5% in 57 countries, including China and India. Moreover, in 15 of these 57 countries, the U.S. needs to increase its import-weighted tariffs by less than 1% to restore parity with partner tariffs. Thus, the threat of reciprocal tariffs may be more credible in the remaining 73 countries worldwide, where U.S. bilateral tariffs need to be raised by more than 5%.

Interestingly, however, the magnitude of the tariff hikes in these cases is positively correlated with the U.S. export shares in the partner countries. Put simply, pursuing the policy of reciprocal tariffs against partners where there is a significant tariff differential results in raising average import duties on exports from countries for whom the U.S. is an important destination market. There is extensive commentary on how tariffs are a self-defeating policy. The correlation above only compounds the self-inflicted harm that a policy of reciprocal tariffs brings to the U.S.This simple analysis is at the aggregate level, and more detailed product-level bilateral tariff and U.S. export share comparisons might be more revealing. However, based on this simple analysis, could partner countries be tempted to divert their exports to other countries in response to large reciprocal tariffs? After all, even today, 87% of global merchandise

The class 1 age criteria: Impact on parents, schools and policy explained



The Kerala government recently announced that the age criteria for Class 1 admissions is raised from five to six years. In Karnataka, where the six-year age criterion was to be implemented 2025-26 academic year onwards, parents are waiting for the final announcement from the government even as school admissions have begun. A section of parents in Karnataka are demanding relaxation on this criterion.The Union Government in line with the NEP has been sending yearly reminders to all the States/UTs to ensure that the age of admission to Class one is six plus years. Currently, disparities exist in the prescribed age limit for school admission across and within states.

Parents often demand relaxation from the six-year criterion so their child can stay ahead in the race of competitive exams, government jobs, and promotions. Experts including child psychiatrists, educationists, and policy-makers however, warn of the negative impact of this rush towards early admissions.The Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 (RTE Act-2009) and the Rules, 2012, prescribes the age limit for enrolling a child to Class 1 as having compulsorily completed six years as of June 1. The National Education Policy (NEP-2020) has also mandated that the minimum age limit for admission to Class 1 should be six years as of June 1.Earlier, children in the age group of three to six were not covered in the 10+2 structure, as Class 1 began at age six. In the new 5+3+3+4 structure, a strong base of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) from age three is also included, which is aimed at promoting better overall learning, development, and well-being. The NEP says that over 85% of a child’s cumulative brain development occurs prior to the age of six, indicating the critical importance of appropriate care and stimulation of the brain in the early years to ensure healthy brain development and growth.Picture in different statesWhile the majority of State governments have agreed to align the admission age criteria to be at par with the NEP, some still allow Class 1 admissions at five years old. States trying to implement the six-year rule, however, face backlash from parents every year demanding relaxationIn Karnataka, the Department of School Education and Literacy made the rule mandatory from the 2023-24 academic year and issued an order on July 26, 2022. However, it created confusion and anxiety among parents, after which the Karnataka government gave a relaxation for two academic years. An amended order was issued by DSEL on November 15, 2022, stating that the six-year age completion rule will be implemented from the 2025-26 academic year.

This year, however, parents have demanded relaxation on the rule yet again. A letter by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) states, “As a result of admitting children to pre-KG (Kindergarten) as per the previous rules, this year, around five to six lakh students are facing difficulty in enrolling in Class 1 after completing UKG. Parents have requested to relax the age limit set for admitting children to Class 1 from the academic year of 2025-26”.In Kerala, the Minister for General Education, V. Sivankutty, recently announced that the minimum age for Class 1 admission has been raised from five to six years. During the announcement, the Minister said, “Scientific studies suggest children are better prepared for formal education after turning six. That is why all countries with well-developed education systems set the age of entry for formal education at six years or above”.In Maharashtra, the Early Childhood Association (ECA) complained of disparity in age criterion in school admissions last year. It stated that children are admitted to nursery schools when they are just two and a half years old. Mukund Kirdat, Aam Aadmi Party Parents union says that most parents in Maharashtra enroll their ward in Class one only once they turn six. Under RTE admissions, all the forms are now filled out online so no one can seek admission below the age of six years old. “For both SSC and CBSE boards, the Maharashtra act is in place, which requires age verification for school admission”, he says.

Why do parents wish to enroll early? Parents are afraid that their children will fall behind by a year in the race for education, jobs, promotions, and more. In the current scenario race for competitive exams like UPSC begins early on. Parents wish their children to be at the forefront. Earlier, parents used to tweak the birthdays of the children on birth certificates, so they could grab a government job earlier in life, serve a longer employment period, get more promotion opportunities and more pensions.Early enrolment also gets a push by factors like conflicting admission criteria of private unorganised pre-

schools. Maalathi K R, Founder and CEO, Auro Education Services says that in Tamil Nadu earlier preschool education would start at two years of age - Pre-KG at two years, LKG at three years, UKG at four years, and Class 1 at five. But this has further shifted recently.The pre-schools now take admissions for playgroup at 1.5 years, Pre-KG at 2.5 years, LKG at 3.5 years, UKG at 4.5 years, and Class 1 at 5.5 years. “If Class 1 criteria are set at six years, there is a six-month gap and parents find it challenging to enroll their ward in mainstream schools”, she said.

What is the right age for enrolment? Experts say that even though every child has their own pace of growing and achieving key developmental milestones, there is still a need to standardise appropriate age for school admissions.The book, ‘Winning strategies for parents: Helping your child excel at home and school’, by author and educationist, Gayatri Kalra Sehgal, talks about preschool readiness. It states that between ages three and five children acquire skills necessary for readiness for preschool.As attention span, memory, and language skills develop they become increasingly ready for preschool. However, few understand that academic abilities are not the primary requisites for pre-schoolers. Childhood preschool readiness is individual personality and temperament and a combination of mental, physical, and emotional traits.Ms. Sehgal talks about around 15 developmental milestones, which include: physical development; personal social and emotional development; communications like listening and speaking development; pre-writing development; sensory development; self-help development; cognitive development; mathematical development, and more.Ms. Sehgal says that six is the appropriate age for certain development milestones that a child needs before entering Class 1. If the child is not ready even at the age of six, they get to develop at their own pace. If some of the 15 development milestones are not developed well, parents and teachers can use the strengths of a child to help them cope in areas they lack. “There is a lot of science behind why the Indian government is insistent on this age criteria. By the age of six a lot of children come at par to take on what is needed for school”, said Ms. Sehgal.Bhooshan Shukla, a child psychiatrist said that some children can achieve developmental goals before they are six, but some may not. There is, however, a need to standardise age criteria for school admissions, like we have drawn a line for adulthood at 18.Mr. Shukla explains that when students are in Class 6, they are expected to sit in class for six hours with one short break, listen to their subject teachers, write, answer questions, and do homework. The education system depends a lot on cognitive abilities - understanding by listening, reading, doing things, logic, and more. “Most of the stuff required isn’t achieved before six years. Children shouldn’t start their Class 1 before their sixth birthday”, said Mr. Shukla.

Mr. Shukla says that enrolling a child early can negatively impact them in the long run. He says that if the youngest child in the class is five or five and a half years old, they are more likely to be labelled with psychiatric and behavioral problems like ADHD, and learning difficulties. “At that age, the difference of nine months of one year is 50% of a lifetime, it is like a 30-year-old working with a 40-year-old. There shouldn’t be much gap”, he says.Herambh Kulkarni, Director, Council for Creative Education, says earlier pre-primary education was not consolidated into primary education. But now that it has been incorporated, things should change for the better, since the curriculum is designed for each stage keeping in mind the one before. “Some pre-schools, though, teach Class 1 syllabus, instead of just conducting activities, which should not happen”, he says.Ms. Maalathi says that five years is the right age for Class 1 admissions, it can be called the foundational stage. The six-year rule is from the time of RTE, preschool was not recognised at that time. “Brain development now happens in children at a much younger age, so it is okay to start at five”, she said.The way forward

B. Chandrasekharan, a former consultant to the Union Planning Commission says the gap lies in untimely communication with stakeholders especially the school administration and the parents, it takes away from a smooth admission process.

Mr. Chandrasekharan says some states follow two systems, for the state board system they admit wards aged 5 or 5.5 years old for Class 1 and for the CBSE system, they admit wards aged six years old. These two systems may cause confusion among parents, especially new parents who are admitting first time their ward with the school education system.

Mr. Chandrasekharan says this can be resolved if the state government’s education department can chalk out well-thought-out outreach activities well in advance to create awareness among stakeholders, especially among parents and schools for school admission especially early childhood care and education. Every year, millions of first-time wards are entering into school education. The decision-making process delayed by either the state education department or the expert committee would affect the prospects of parents and their ward in getting school admission and the parents may not make the right choice for their ward.

Chandrayaan’s ChaSTE scores a first after taking moon’s temperature

As the Vikram lander of Chandrayaan-3 touched down on the moon on August 23, 2023, a thermal probe tucked snugly in its panels, slowly worked itself free and stretched its arms. Its motors started to whirl, sending the little probe into the soil. Once the probe reached its intended depth, it clicked in place with a latch. This is Chandra’s Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChaSTE) — the first instrument to measure temperatures in situ near the moon’s south pole. Scientists used this data to report that water ice is more prevalent on the moon than expectedChaSTE also became the first mission to successfully penetrate the soil of a celestial body to deploy a thermal probe after two previous missions had fallen short. The ChaSTE probe features 10 temperature sensors spaced about 1 cm apart along its length, near the nose-tip. It uses a rotation-based deployment mechanism.When its motor rotates, ChaSTE’s probe needle pushes down until its tip touches the moon’s surface. By monitoring the temperature from the sensor at the end of the probe, scientists can identify if it has touched the surface. As the probe continues to pierce, the soil offers more and more resistance. This requires the motor to exert greater force. That is how scientists confirm how far the probe has descended.ChaSTE tunnelled into the soil to a final depth of 10 cm, then collected measurements throughout the Chandrayaan-3 mission, until September 2, 2023.

In November 12, 2014, the European Space Agency’s

Philae lander, hitchhiking on the Rosetta spacecraft, landed on comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. But it bounced — twice. Its Multi-Purpose Sensors for Surface and Sub-surface Science (MUPUS) instrument onboard was designed to measure temperature by digging into the terrain. However, scientists couldn’t deploy it due to the awkward landing position Philae found itself in on that desolate icy rock, 500 million km away.The German-Polish team behind MUPUS got another chance when NASA’s InSight robotic spacecraft landed on Mars on November 26, 2018. It carried a temperature-sensing instrument called the Heat Flow and Physical Properties Package (HP3). It consisted of a self-hammering nail, nicknamed “The Mole”, designed to penetrate 5 m below Mars’s surface.But the friction between the probe and the sand was too low for the mole to hammer itself down more than a few centimetres. After more than a year’s action-packed struggle, the 35-cm Mole had finally descended fully into the Martian sand. But scientists couldn’t get any temperature data. This was because HP3’s temperature sensors were not on the mole. They were attached to a tether that was supposed to trail The Mole as it burrowed through the sand.“While both the instruments [MUPUS and HP3] used a hammering device, the ChaSTE probe was pushed into the soil by a rotating device,” Durga Prasad K., principal investigator of ChaSTE from the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, said. It was the secret sauce that made all the difference.

A childbirth education class can help you

Why are cancer cases rising in India?



New Delhi: Pregnancy is joyful and a blessing. Women experience many changes in their body during the course of a pregnancy. Morning sickness, lathery, vomiting, fatigue, gradual weight gain, swelling on their feet, ache and pains on muscles and joints. Things which one could do easily do without any help before becoming pregnant, can become a difficult task post pregnancy, this changes gives a lot of stress to a pregnant women.

Stress can be brought on by things like submitting reports before deadline, organising the household, job changes, financial burden etc. these can become overwhelming during pregnancy.

- Pregnancy related stress can be due to:
- Physical body changes due to pregnancy
- Dealing their pregnancy with complication like bleeding in the 1st Trimester, severe hyperemesis, need for bed rest during early pregnancy
- Previous miscarriage
- Fear for miscarriage
- Worried about Baby's wellbeing inside the womb
- Fear of Childbirth and worried if she can take good care of baby
- Previously anxiety or Depression issues
- Effect of Stress during Pregnancy on a Woman and her unborn child:

Stress during Pregnancy can have a lot of unwanted effects on a mother and baby. Maternal stress is also associated with maternal high blood pressure, fetal Low Birth weight and Preterm birth. Lilliecreutz, C., Laren, J., Sydsjo, G. et al. Effect of maternal stress during pregnancy on the risk for preterm birth. Concluded that Approximately 20 per cent of the preterm birth in the study were estimated to be due to maternal stress exposure during pregnancy as an attributed risk. Identifying the stressor or the cause of stress is important to reduce stress during pregnancy.

Overall simple things which can help reduce stress are as follows :

Attending regular antenatal exercise session: Regular antenatal exercise helps in maintaining healthy weight gain,

stronger muscles, gives you more confidence, reduces pregnancy related musculoskeletal complains. Exercise improve your mood due to secretion of hormone called Endorphin, it induces relaxation and helps you sleep better

Having a good support system, family or close friends where you can share your doubts and fear.

Attend Childbirth Education Classes with your childbirth partner – A childbirth partner can be your best friend, sister, mother or your husband. Childbirth Education helps pregnant women to approach Pregnancy, Childbirth, post-delivery and new born care with confidence with the information and support given on Childbirth Education Classes

Try new hobbies or engage in your favourite activity: By starting new hobbies like sewing, cross-stitch, crochet, baking, reading, writing etc will also help you more connected with your baby and new hobbies are good distraction from your stress and worries.

Attending Antenatal Childbirth Education class helps a Women by reducing stress and dealing with pregnancy:

Lamaze childbirth Education is one of the renowned and widely appreciated worldwide. Lamaze has been in this world for 6 decades. Evolving with latest evidence base research. The goal of Lamaze is to give women confidence on their ability to give birth naturally.

Why attending Lamaze childbirth Education class is important:

In Lamaze Class you will learn new interesting things about pregnancy, labor and post-delivery care. Learning how to connect with your baby and partner.

Helps you understand, learn and discover the simple way to cope labor, techniques like positioning, relaxation, movements, massage, breathing, tension release, visualization and use of simple tools.

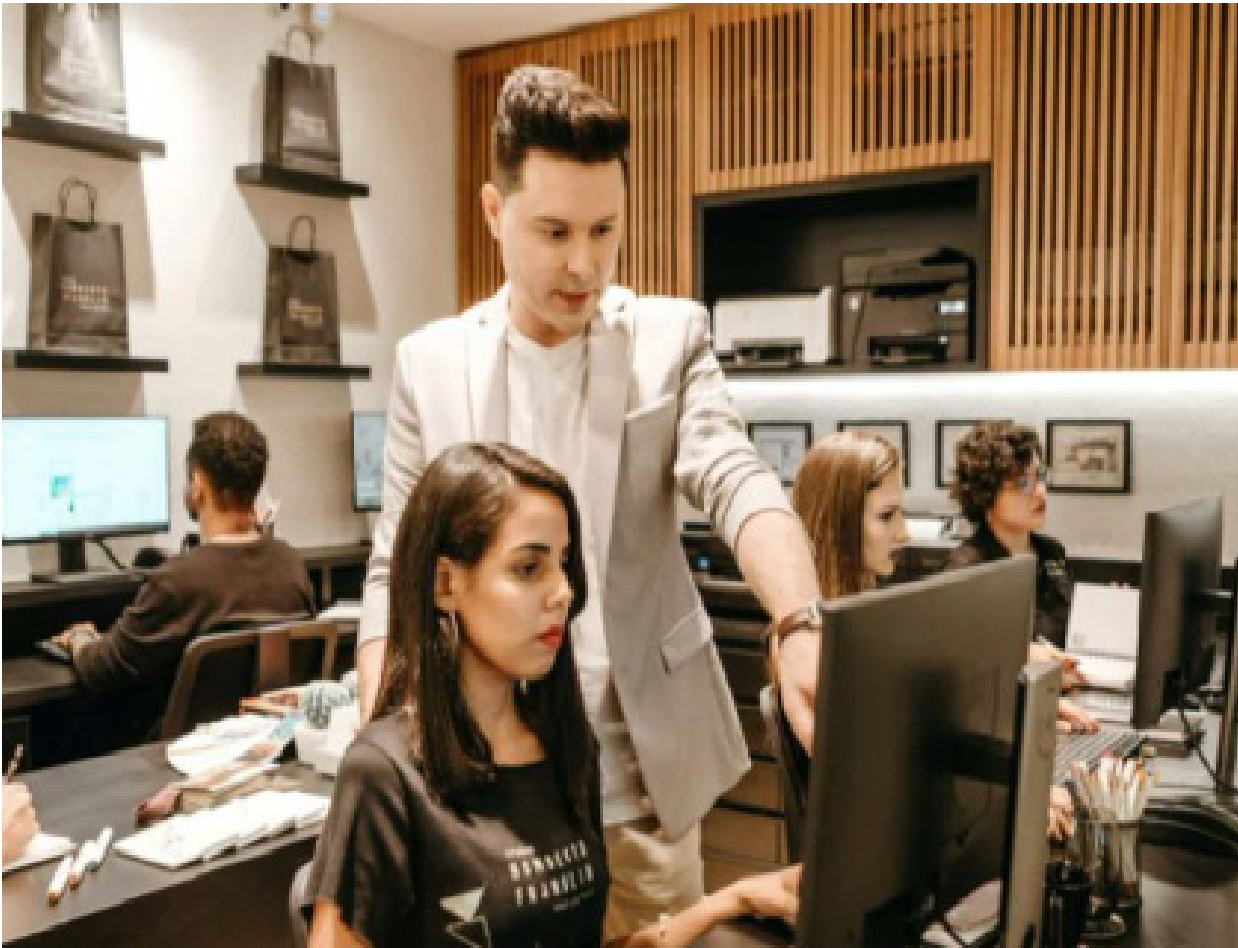
Lamaze class gives you time to address and discuss the different types fear and concerns – addressing fear and anxiety during the class aids in understanding. A childbirth educator will answer with evidence based research findings .They have been trained on how to address your fears and doubts. Women who discuss their fears and concern have more confidence during pregnancy and their labour.

Fun learning about new born care and the role of partner after the delivery for better bonding with your baby and debunking myths about pregnancy and childbirth are all collectively discussed.

Lamaze Childbirth education class can be in a group, individualized session, off line or online interactive class. Class can be 1-2 hrs, once in a week or twice in a week, for a month. It can be 6 hours of 2 days class. Childbirth Education is encouraged in the third trimester, but it's wise to attend the sessions from the 2nd Trimester.

With all the information and interactive sessions a pregnant women can address her worries and learn how to relax for a healthy pregnancy.

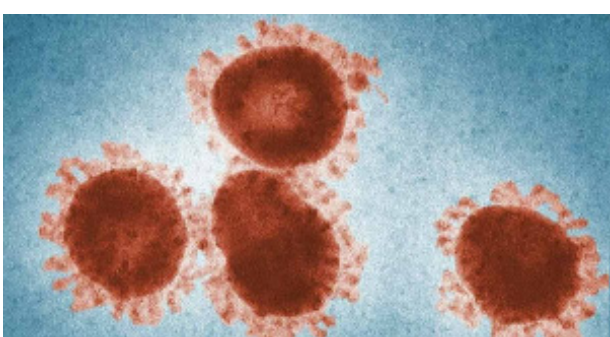
Study finds women are more reluctant than men to ask for deadline extensions



Washington: A new research has found that women are less likely than men to ask for more time to complete projects with adjustable deadlines at work or school.The findings of the study were published in the journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences'. Compared to men, women were more concerned that they would be burdening others by asking for an extension, and that they would be seen as incompetent, the study showed.

Prior research has shown that women feel more time stress than men do, and feeling uncomfortable about asking for more time to complete projects may be one important reason why, said Grant Donnelly, co-author of the study and assistant professor of marketing at The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business."Women understandably feel like they have too many things to do and not enough time to do them. We found that not asking for more time to complete tasks undermines women's well-being and also their performance. But we also found a possible solution: Women were as likely to ask for deadline extensions as men when organisations had formal policies on making deadline extension requests," Donnelly said.Donnelly conducted the research with Ashley Whillans, Jaewon Yoon and Aurora Turek of the Harvard Business School.The research involved nine studies with more than 5,000 participants, including online panels of working adults and undergraduate students.Donnelly said that for him, one of the most compelling of the nine studies was one conducted in his own class.He assigned a discussion paper that was worth 20 per cent of the grade to 103 students in an undergraduate business course. All students were given one week to submit the paper but were told they could email Donnelly to request an extension without penalty.Male students were

more than twice as likely as female students to request an extension for the assignment (15 per cent of female vs. 36 per cent of male students).Not asking for an extension could hurt students, the findings showed. A teaching assistant who rated the papers gave better scores to those who had asked for an extension. (The assistant did not know who wrote the papers and whether they asked for extensions or the purpose of the study.) "What we found is that when students requested an extension, they made good use of that time and performed better on the task. Women may hurt themselves by not requesting additional time," Donnelly said.Several other of the nine studies by the researchers involving working adults showed that women's focus on other people and their needs played a big role in why they were uncomfortable asking for deadline extensions.In these studies, participants imagined they were assigned to submit a proposal for an upcoming event that was due the next day but needed more time. In this scenario, they could ask for an extension from their supervisor.Participants were asked a variety of questions about how asking for an extension might affect themselves and their team, and how it might affect how they were viewed by others.Results showed that women believed they would be seen as less competent if they asked for an extension. But that wasn't the main reason that women were reluctant to request more time."It was their concern about burdening their team and manager with more work that most strongly predicted women's discomfort with asking for more time on adjustable deadlines. Perceived burden and emotions like shame, embarrassment and guilt explained why women experienced more discomfort with asking for extensions than men did," Donnelly said.And these feelings have real-life implications.



New Delhi: Although India has, for a long time, battled the incidence of cancer, latest estimates pegs them to be rising at significantly higher rate. Once thought of as an old age disease, cancer is now a cause of concern also among the youth and children.National Cancer Awareness Day is observed every year on November 7 in India, to increase awareness about cancer prevention and the need for its early detection.

According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there will be an estimated 12 per cent rise in cancer cases in India in the next five years.

Longer life expectancy is a major contributor to the overall cancer incidence. As people grow old, their bodies have longer time to allow faults to build up and the body accumulates more of these faults in the genes, considerably increasing the risk of cancer.

"Larger proportion of older individuals is the first cause of increased cancer numbers. The higher the proportion of older age in the population, the higher is the chance of cancer," Wesley M Jose, Clinical Associate Professor, Medical Oncology, Amrita Hospital, Kochi, told IANS.

Further, males (52.4 per cent) are more prone to the risk of all cancer cases compared to females (47.4 per cent). Tobacco use is the major reason — comprising 48.7 per cent of cancers among males and 16.5 per cent among females.A recent report states that the number of cancers associated with tobacco use in 2025 would be 4,27,273 — contributing to 27.2 per cent of India's total projected cancer cases. Initiation of tobacco, known to contain at least 69 cancer-causing agents, in the youth is a contributory factor

New method for detecting adulterants in milk



New Delhi: Researchers at the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc)have developed a low-cost and effective method to detect adulterants in milk, by merelyanalysing the deposition patterns after evaporation. The team used the method to test forthe presence of urea and water, the most common adulterants, and suggest that thetechnique can be extended to other adulterants also.Adulteration of milk is a pressing concern in developing countries like India, where a

significant portion of supplied milk fails to comply with the standards set by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India. Water is frequently added to increase the volume of milk, along with urea, which makes the watered-down version whiter and foamier – this can potentially endanger the normal functioning of the liver, heart, and kidneys.In their study, the researchers looked at evaporative deposition patterns – those thatmerge when a liquid mixture like milk completely evaporates, causing volatile components to dissipate and solids or non-volatile components to arrange themselves in distinctive patterns. Milk with and without water or urea showed very different evaporative patterns.In unadulterated milk, the evaporative pattern consisted of a central, irregular blob-likepattern. Water was found to cause distortion or complete loss of this distinctive pattern,depending on how much of it is added. Urea also completely erases the central pattern.Being a non-volatile substance, it does not evaporate but instead crystallises, starting at the interior of the milk drop and extending along

Examining the power of modern interventions in alleviating symptoms of Parkinson's disease

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects the areas in the brain that primarily regulate and fine-tune discrete movements. The motor system is affected in the initial stage of the disease, and as it advances, it also causes non-motor symptoms like reduced attention and cognitive problems. There is no cure for the disease, and all treatments only aim to reduce symptoms and improve the quality of life.

Affected patients have symptoms including tremors, slowness of activities, stiffness of limbs, walking difficulties, and postural instability. The exact etiology is unknown and believed to be multi-factorial in origin, involving the interplay of genetic factors, environmental toxins, and other unknown mechanisms. The disease causes a decrease in the population of dopamine-producing neurons in the brain circuits (Nigro-striatal pathway) that control body movements. Hence, other unwanted signals are not filtered, which disturbs intended body movements.

While pharmacological treatments like Levodopa are initially effective for some years in managing motor symptoms, their long-term use is associated with diminishing efficacy, increased dosage requirements, and side effects. As the drug's effect wanes, symptoms reappear immediately; this is called the 'on and off' phenomenon. Quality of life decreases, and patients become increasingly dependent on drugs. As the disease progresses, patients often experience motor fluctuations, dyskinesias, and wearing-off effects, necessitating more frequent and higher doses of medication. This can lead to a complex balance between symptom control and medication-induced side effects, significantly impacting the patient's quality of life.Surgical interventions have emerged as effective alternatives, particu-

to the increased burden of cancers associated with tobacco use in India."Tobacco cessation will reduce the cancer burden by about 25 per cent. The major contributing factor being tobacco and ghutka consumption that directly accounts for 27 per cent of cancers in India," Murad E. Lala, Oncologist at P.D. Hinduja Hospital & MRC, Mahim, Mumbai, told IANS."We all know that oral and lung cancer that affects our male population to the maximum can be prevented by curbing smoking and tobacco consumption. We need to start thinking of some unhealthy foods similar to what we think about tobacco — unnecessary, addictive, and harmful," said Anil Heroor, Director-Advanced OncoSurgery Unit, Fortis Hospitals Mumbai.Apart from tobacco, alcohol, obesity, a sedentary lifestyle and environmental factors also contribute to the increase in cancers.

"The overall living circumstances of the Indian population have improved and that have also led to a larger sedentary workforce, which has access to a high-calorie diet. These factors indirectly have affected the rise in numbers," Jose said."Nearly six types of cancers are linked to obesity and are slowly on the rise among people under 50. These are cancers of the colon or rectal, pancreas, kidney, gallbladder, uterine (also called endometrial cancer), and multiple myeloma. These Cancers are often not discovered in younger people until the disease is advanced and harder to treat," Heroor said.Childhood cancer is also seeing an increasing trend, mainly of leukemia and lymphomas. Childhood (0-14 years) cancers constitute 7.9 per cent of all cancers, according to ICMR.

"The common types of cancers in children are leukemias, lymphomas, CNS tumours, retinoblastomas and Wilm's tumours. While most of the childhood cancers are curable if detected early and treated appropriately, children in India have limited access to tertiary centres that treat childhood cancers. This delay in treatment causes the survival rate to drop," Jose said.The cancer burden in the country can be reduced by strengthening the government health systems, making universal health coverage, health education, treatment compliance, and early detection centres at the community level.Besides, vaccination for virus-related cancer like liver and cervix, and improved physical activity, stricter tobacco and alcohol laws can also help, the experts suggested.

the periphery.

Current techniques such as lactometers look for changes in the freezing point of milk todetect the presence of water, but they have certain limitations. For instance, the freezingpoint technique can detect water only up to 3.5% of the total milk concentration. Inaddition, although biosensors with high sensitivity are available to test for urea, they areexpensive, and their accuracy tends to decrease with time. The IISc team, on the otherhand, was able to detect water concentrations as high as 30% and urea concentrations indiluted milk as low as 0.4% using pattern analysis.The technique was designed by Dr. Virkeshwar Kumar, a postdoctoral researcher, and

Susmita Dash, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the

Institute. They have published a report on their work in the journal ACS Omega.The test does not require a laboratory or any other specialised process. "It can be done inany place. It can be easily adapted for use even in remote areas and rural places," said Dr Kumar.He and Dr. Dash believe that this technique can potentially be extended to test foradulterants in other beverages and products too. "The pattern that you get is highlysensitive to what is added to it. So, I think this method can be used to detect impurities in volatile liquids. It will be interesting to take this method forward for products such as honey, which is often adulterated", Dr. Dash said.They noted that the simplicity of this method may also lend itself to easy automation, once the patterns for adulterants and their combinations are standardised. These could be fed into image analysis software, for example, which would compare a photo – even one taken with a mobile phone – of the sample's evaporative pattern with other standard patterns to accurately detect the adulterants present."The next step that we are looking at is to test for adulterants, such as oil and detergents that form an emulsion resembling milk. We plan to continue work in this direction, creating a repository of patterns corresponding to various concentrations of different adulterants," Dr Dash said.

larly for patients with advanced disease stages or medication-resistant symptoms. These procedures aim to modulate the abnormal neural activity in the basal ganglia-thalamocortical circuit, which is implicated in the pathophysiology of Parkinson's disease. Deep brain stimulation (DBS), introduced in the 1990s, has become a cornerstone in surgical treatment, offering superior control of motor symptoms without the motor fluctuations or on-and-off phenomena as seen with medications.DBS involves the precise placement of electrodes in specific brain regions, such as the subthalamic nucleus, globus pallidus interna, or ventral intermediate nucleus (VIM) of the thalamus. As the technology advanced in recent decades, it allows the surgeon to place the electrodes precisely, deep inside the brain, with sub-millimeter accuracy. This is feasible because of advancements in neuroimaging, navigation tools, and robotic technologies. The electrodes are connected to a pulse generator implanted subcutaneously, which delivers continuous electrical stimulation to the target area, effectively modulating neural activity and improving motor function. Advancements in battery technology allow its lifespan to extend up to 15 years, and it can be recharged wirelessly.Other surgical options include minimally invasive techniques like stereotaxic-guided or navigation-guided lesioning procedures such as radiofrequency ablation (RFA), laser interstitial thermal therapy (LITT), and non-invasive techniques like MRI-guided focused ultrasound (MRgFUS). These procedures create small, precise lesions in specific brain regions to disrupt abnormal neural activity associated with Parkinson's symptoms. Radiofrequency ablation uses heat generated by radio waves to create lesions, while LITT employs laser energy delivered through a small probe. MRgFUS, on the other hand,

Trump Tariffs Aim to Bring Down Curtain on Era of Globalisation



President Trump’s biggest tariff blitz yet sends a clear message to U.S. and foreign companies alike: The era of globalization is over.A Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing fabrication plant under construction in Phoenix,

A Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing fabrication plant under construction in Phoenix, Ariz., in March.Trump’s “Liberation Day” plan to impose sweeping new duties on trillions of dollars in imports shows that the White House wants goods sold to American consumers to be built in American factories—bringing down the curtain on U.S. support for the turbocharged globalization that powered the world economy for decades.

The new tariffs include a baseline duty of 10% on foreign imports and larger so-called reciprocal tariffs, with China facing total duties of 54%, Vietnam 46% and the European Union 20%.“Jobs and factories will come roaring back into our country, and you see it happening already,” Trump said in a Rose Garden ceremony Wednesday. To any company or country that complains, he said: “If you want your tariff rate to be zero, then you build your product right here in America.”Trump’s Made-in-America ambitions mean that a gusher of investment that in recent years showered low-cost manufacturing destinations such as Vietnam, as well as U.S. allies such as South Korea and Japan, is set to dry up. Firms are reconsidering their options for where best to spend their investment dollars.

“The U.S. has been at the center of globalization,” said Andre Sapir, a former EU official who is now economics professor at the Free University of Brussels. “Now the U.S., the center, wants to pull away.”In the weeks since Trump took office, a flurry of new announcements by companies including iPhone maker Apple, South Korean car maker Hyundai and drug makers Johnson & Johnson and Eli Lilly signal that multinationals are gearing up to expand operations in the U.S. in response to Trump’s tariffs.

Yet untangling the world’s supply chains and relocating to the U.S. in the way Trump wants is a daunting task, given the costs involved. There is also the risk that Trump will lower tariffs if he can use them to wring concessions on trade from other countries, executives say. Economists warn the world could face a growth-sapping investment crunch as companies sit on the sidelines until the trade-war fog clears.“Shifting things around is going to be quite complicated,” said Derrick Kam, Asia economist at Morgan Stanley. That process will be slow, expensive and challenging, he said.

What is the controversy over the Bodh Gaya temple? | Explained

GNS News Agency, April 7

The story so far: Beginning February, nearly 100 Buddhist monks under the All India Buddhist Forum (AIBF) have been protesting, first at the Bodh Gaya’s Mahabodhi Temple or Mahavihara, and later a little down the road, demanding a repeal of the Bodh Gaya Temple Act (BTA), 1949. The AIBF has support from prominent Buddhist bodies, and has submitted a memorandum to the Bihar government. The Bodh Gaya is one of the four sacred sites of Buddhism; the other three being Buddha’s birthplace Lumbini, Sarnath where he gave his first sermon and Kusunagar where he attained parinirvana.Have there been protests before?

In November 2023, Buddhist monks held a rally in Gaya and submitted a memorandum to the Central and State governments. As it failed to have the desired effect, the monks scaled up the protest and held a rally in Patna last year to press for repealing the Act. Back in 2012, monks had filed a writ petition before the Supreme Court to repeal the Act. The petition is yet to be heard.

What is the Act?

The BTA established an eight-member management committee having equal number of Buddhists and Hindus. The Act made the local district magistrate an ex-officio chairperson of the committee. As the district magistrate hailed from the majority community, it translated to a Hindu majority on the committee, something which was resented by Buddhist bodies. Ever since then, various Buddhist bodies have been raising their voice intermittently for gaining autonomy over the Bodh Gaya temple, which they call the Bodh Gaya Mahavihara.

What do the annals say?

Noted poet Edwin Arnold in his well-known poem, ‘The Light of Asia’ talks about Gautam Siddharth’s enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. Bodh Gaya was then described as the Mecca of Buddhism, and in many ways popularised Buddhism in the West. However, Bodh Gaya’s claim to fame goes much further back in time. In the third century, Mauryan Emperor Ashoka worshipped the Bodhi tree and built the temple there. From the time of Ashoka to the Palas, the Bodhi temple continued to be a Buddhist place of worship and a site of pilgrimage. Chinese traveller Hiuen Tsang visited it in 629 AD during the reign of Harshavardhana. Incidentally, Hiuen Tsang called it a Buddhist site, and is said to have found only Buddhist relics here save for a statue of Avaloktishvara.Things changed with the invasion of Bakhtiyar Khilji in the 13th century. The invasion ended the Pala rule, and thus began the decline of Buddhism. During Akbar’s reign, in 1590, a Hindu monk established the Bodh Gaya mutt. With this the temple lapsed into the hands of the Hindu community. Following Independence, the Bihar Assembly passed the BTA in 1949 and control of the temple was transferred from the Hindu head to the new management committee.

How has the government intervened?

The BTA was passed by the Bihar government to resolve a festering dispute between the Buddhist and Hindu heads of the Mahabodhi temple for control over the same. The Buddhist side was unhappy at the stipulation that the district magistrate, who was the ex-officio chairman, could only assume leadership if he was from the Hindu community. It changed in 2013 after the State government amended the rule and inserted a provision for the ex-officio chairman to be of any faith.

The president’s hope is that high tariff walls will usher in a golden age of plentiful manufacturing jobs and widespread prosperity as industrial production blossoms across the U.S. He blames predatory trade practices by China, the European Union and other American trade partners for sucking jobs and industries overseas, which he now wants to bring back.

The U.S.’s two largest trading partners, Mexico and Canada, were spared new tariffs Wednesday, with any goods compliant with their free-trade agreement still subject to no duties. But both countries still face 25% duties that Trump imposed on a large share of their exports not covered by the agreement, as well as the ongoing threat that the president could blow up the deal over non-trade issues such as drugs and migration.On Wednesday, Trump singled out China. It was the biggest beneficiary of the offshoring trend, over decades building out factories that started with toys and clothes and today make high-tech cars, machinery and electronics. Today, it dominates global manufacturing, with a trade surplus last year of \$1 trillion.A new 34% tariff on China announced Wednesday will be additive to previous duties imposed by the Trump administration, like the 20% tariff that Trump imposed over its role in the fentanyl trade. That means the base tariff rate on Chinese imports will be 54% after April 9.Job aspirants talking with a hiring agent outside the Foxconn factory, where workers assemble iPhones for Apple, in Sriperumbudur, India, last year.If Trump ends up imposing additional 25% tariffs on China for purchasing Venezuelan oil, then the tariff rate would bump up to 79%.

Driven by growing geopolitical tensions between Washington and Beijing and the trauma of the pandemic, multinationals have added new production bases outside of China to keep their operations running smoothly in the event of disruption from shipping delays, natural disasters, economic sanctions or conflict. Apple, for instance, began making some iPhones in India.At the same time, Chinese companies have built out their own overseas production facilities, in part to escape brutal competition in their cut-throat domestic market but also to keep serving multinational clients and to sidestep U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports. Mexico and Vietnam have been popular destinations, thanks to low costs and, in Mexico’s case, tariff-free access to the U.S. market.For the U.S., the result has been a fall in the share of its imports coming from China but widening deficits with Vietnam, Mexico and other countries. The overall U.S. current-account deficit, a broad measure of trade and income from overseas, in 2024 reached \$1.1 trillion, underscoring to Trump and his allies the need to revamp global trade.

With his return to the White House, Trump has taken his trade war to adversaries and allies alike, whom he accuses of taking advantage of the global trading system the U.S. nurtured after World War II by pushing exports and restricting imports. Some analysts say such policies do indeed drive U.S. trade deficits, though most mainstream economists cite the U.S.’s persistent budget deficits and

low savings rate as the principal drivers of the yawning trade gap.There are signs Trump’s strategy is having an effect. Around half of German engineering businesses want to boost U.S. investment, both as a result of the tariffs and the size of the market, according to a November survey by the German Mechanical Engineering Industry Association, or VDMA, a lobby group. Most members “look to the U.S. as a growth opportunity,” said Andrew Adair, a VDMA official.

German engineering giant Siemens said last month it would increase by \$10 billion its investments in the U.S., its largest market. That includes new manufacturing facilities for electrical products in Fort Worth, Texas, and Pomona, Calif., creating over 900 skilled manufacturing jobs, the company said.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing said last month that it plans to invest at least \$100 billion more in chip-manufacturing plants in the U.S. over the next several years. On Wednesday, Trump said Taiwan would face 32% tariffs, though semiconductors would be exempted.“We must be able to build the chips and semiconductors that we need right here in American factories with American skill and American labor, and that’s exactly what we’re doing,” Trump said when announcing the deal alongside TSMC Chief Executive C.C. Wei in the White House.Taiwanese electronics companies Foxconn, Compal and Inventec have said they are seeking new investments in Texas, looking to secure land for AI-server manufacturing that could eventually rival the scale of their existing operations in Mexico.Mexico became a hub for manufacturing the servers needed by large U.S. tech companies to power artificial intelligence, with around 70% of the U.S. server imports arriving from the country and another 20% coming from Taiwan, according to a report by Taiwan’s Ministry of Economic Affairs.

Yet, despite these pockets of activity, measures of business investment intentions published by the Federal Reserve suggest that across the economy corporate spending plans are being scaled back against the backdrop of tariff uncertainty.Another problem: U.S. manufacturing is geared towards advanced technology and doesn’t have ready domestic supplies of basic materials and components that can be much more cheaply produced overseas. Already, U.S. manufacturers are struggling with the rising cost of screws, nuts and bolts, highlighting the need for easy access to global supply chains.

“You can’t just put on tariffs and flip a switch and all of a sudden America is an industrial nation again,” said Dan Digre, president and chief executive of Misco Speakers, a St. Paul, Minn.-based manufacturer of audio systems used in amusement parks, medical devices and spacecraft.Around half of Misco’s production is in the U.S., but the company still depends on overseas factories for vibrating cones, copper voice coils and other essential loud-speaker components, many of them in China.Digre, who said his business has spent around \$14 million paying tariffs since 2018, said he has been scouring Vietnam and other parts of Asia for alternative suppliers. But with these sweeping new tariffs coming down the pike, “it’s very hard to know what to do,” he said. “There’s no place that’s safe.”

New data keeps search for rare subatomic mystery going



thorium-227 nucleus. Th-227 also isn’t stable and decays further, but since the beta decay process releases energy, the nucleus is better off than it was before.

In nature, beta decay is a common way for an unstable nucleus to decay. It can happen in one of two forms depending on whether a nucleus has too many neutrons or too many protons. In the first case, a neutron is converted to a proton and releases an electron and an anti-neutrino. In the second, a proton is converted to a neutron and releases a positron and a neutrino. A third form exists where two beta decays happen simultaneously, i.e. two neutrons are simultaneously converted to two protons, emitting two electrons and two anti-neutrinos. The conversion ability stems from the weak interaction, which is one of the four ways in which subatomic particles can interact with each other. (The others are the strong, electromagnetic, and gravitational interactions.) The weak interaction is characterised by the appearance of particles called W or Z bosons. For example, during the Ac-227 beta decay, a neutron emits a W– boson and turns into a proton, and the W– boson decays to an electron and an anti-neutrino.A sign in the differenceAs common as beta decay is, scientists are currently on the hunt for an extremely rare variant: 0νββ. It may not even exist, but just in case it does, it would prove neutrinos are Majorana particles.In 0νββ, a nucleus emits two electrons instead of an electron and an anti-neutrino. This can happen only when the neutrino emitted by one neutron is absorbed as an anti-neutrino by the other neutron, which in turn can only happen if neutrinos and anti-neutrinos are the same thing. Each of the emitted electrons also has more energy because it ‘includes’ the energy of the missing anti-neutrino. Experiments looking for evidence of 0νββ can thus use this energy difference to tell whether a nucleus has undergone beta decay or 0νββ.This is precisely what the AMoRE experiment in South Korea has been doing, with sensitive particle detectors pointed at a crystal containing 3 kg of molybdenum-100 nuclei, cooled to fractions above absolute zero. Mo-100 nuclei are known to undergo double beta decay.In a paper published in Physical Review Letters on February 27, the AMoRE team reported it hadn’t observed evidence of 0νββ. Because the process is already hypothesised to be rare, not observing it could just as easily mean we didn’t look long enough. This is why the team reported in the paper that a population of Mo-100 nuclei would decay to half their number through 0νββ in no less than 1024 years. It could also mean 0νββ might show itself in a larger sample. In a future iteration of AMoRE, the physicists plan to look for it in 100 kg of Mo-100.Meanwhile, they’ve also estimated the mass of each neutrino would have to be lower than 0.22-0.65 billionths of a proton. This is an extremely low mass ceiling, but it’s not the same as saying the neutrinos have zero mass. The distinction is crucial. The current theory of all subatomic particles, called the Standard Model of particle physics, says neutrinos should be massless.

U.S. bans government personnel in China from having romantic or sexual relations with Chinese citizens



The U.S. Government has banned its personnel in China, as well as family members and contractors with security clearances, from any romantic or sexual relationships with Chinese citizens. The Associated Press has learned.Four people with direct knowledge of the matter told the AP about the policy, which was put into effect by departing U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Burns in January shortly before he left China. The people would speak only on condition of anonymity to discuss details of a confidential new directive.

Though some U.S. agencies already had strict rules on such relationships, a blanket “non-fraternisation” policy, as it is known, has been unheard of publicly since the Cold War. It’s not uncommon for American diplomats in other countries to date locals and even marry them.A more limited version of the policy was enacted last summer prohibiting U.S. personnel from “romantic and sexual relations” with Chinese citizens working as guards and other support staff at the U.S. Embassy and five consulates in China. But Burns, the departing Ambassador, broadened it to a blanket ban on such relations with any Chinese citizen in China in January, days before President Donald Trump took office. The AP was unable to determine exactly how the policy defined the phrase “romantic or sexual relationship.”

Two of the people with knowledge of the ban told the AP the new policy was first discussed last summer after members of Congress contacted Mr. Burns to express concern that restrictions on such relationships were not stringent enough. The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party did not respond to a request for comment.The new policy covers U.S. missions in mainland China, including the embassy in Beijing and consulates in Guangzhou, Shanghai, Shenyang and Wuhan, as well as the American consulate in the semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong. It does not apply to U.S. personnel stationed outside China.“The only exception to the policy is U.S. personnel with pre-existing relations with Chinese citizens; they can apply for exemptions. If the exemption is denied, they must end the relationship or leave their position,” the people said. Anyone who violates the policy will be ordered to leave China immediately.

The policy was communicated verbally and electronically to American personnel in China in January, but has not been publicly announced.The State Department said it does not comment on internal matters. The National Security Council referred questions to the State Department. Mr. Burns, the former Ambassador, did not reply to an AP request sent to his email address at The Cohen Group, a consultancy that he rejoined as vice chair in February.Intelligence services across the world have long used attractive men and women to obtain sensitive information, famously during the Cold War. The State Department and other agencies with offices in China have long had stringent reporting requirements on personal relationships for American personnel stationed there, as well as rivals considered high intelligence threats such as Russia or CubaDeclassified State Department documents show that in 1987, the U.S. Government barred personnel stationed in the Soviet bloc and China from befriending, dating or having sex with locals after a U.S. Marine in Moscow was seduced by a Soviet spy. Such restrictions were relaxed after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, according to news reports at the time.In China, a blanket ban on such relations has not been in effect for many years. Until the new ban in January, U.S. personnel in China were required to report any intimate contact with Chinese citizens to their supervisors, but were not explicitly forbidden from sexual or romantic relationships.U.S. diplomats and intelligence experts say that Beijing continues to aggressively use so-called honeypots to access American secrets. In presentations before being stationed in China, U.S. personnel are briefed on case studies where Chinese intelligence services sent attractive women to seduce American diplomats, and warned that dozens of Chinese state security agents can be assigned to monitor any individual diplomat of interest.Little is known about the U.S. Government’s non-fraternisation policies elsewhere, as they are considered classified. It is unknown how restrictive such policies are in other countries. In recent years, tensions between Washington and Beijing have escalated over trade, technology and geopolitical competition.

Peter Mattis, a former CIA analyst and president of The Jamestown Foundation, a Washington-based think tank, said there were at least two publicised cases in which Chinese agents seduced American diplomats stationed in China, though he hasn’t heard of such a case in recent years.Mr. Mattis added that another issue is that Chinese state security doesn’t gather intelligence just through spies, but also by pressing ordinary Chinese people for information, often through threats or intimidation. That, Mr. Mattis said, means any Chinese citizen who dates an American diplomat could be vulnerable to coercion.“The MSS is willing to leverage any human connection that a target has to collect intelligence,” Mr. Mattis said, using an acronym referring to China’s Ministry of State Security. “This rule change suggests the MSS has gotten a lot more aggressive at trying to access the embassy and U.S. Government.”The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not comment on the ban, saying in a faxed statement that it was “more appropriate to ask the U.S. about this question.”

China also has been tightening already strict controls on its personnel overseas, according to Chinese regulations, news reports and four people familiar with China’s bureaucracy who spoke on condition of anonymity so they could discuss a sensitive topic. In recent years, Beijing began strictly enforcing regulations that bar promotions for Chinese civil servants with spouses who acquired foreign citizenship and restrict diplomats from spending an extended period of time in one country, forcing some to return to China.China’s Foreign Ministry and many other government bodies bar their officials and staff from sexual or romantic relations with foreign citizens, while members of the Chinese military or police are generally barred from leaving China altogether without express approval from their supervisors.

PCB chief Mohsin Naqvi elected chairman of Asian Cricket Council (ACC)



GNS News Agency, April 7

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chief Mohsin Naqvi has been elected as the chairman of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) for a term of two years. He succeeds Shammi Silva, the head of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). The change of the ACC leadership was confirmed through the annual general meeting of the members of the continental body, which was held virtually on Thursday afternoon.

"In accordance with the decision of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), Pakistan has officially taken over the presidency from Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). Effective immediately,

Pakistan will lead the Council in its mission to promote and expand cricket across the Asian continent. With Pakistan at the helm, the ACC is poised to further strengthen and expand cricket's presence across Asia, fostering growth and unity within the sport," a media release stated. Naqvi has been the PCB's chairman since the first quarter of 2024. Under him, the PCB renovated three home stadiums and hosted the 2025 Champions Trophy in a hybrid model. His administrative experience extends beyond cricket, for he also holds office in the Ministry of Interior in Pakistan and has been a caretaker Chief Minister of the Punjab province. "I am deeply honored to assume the presidency of the Asian Cricket Council," Naqvi said in a statement.

"Asia remains the heartbeat of world cricket, and I am committed to working with all member boards to accelerate the game's growth and global influence. Together, we will unlock new opportunities, foster greater collaboration, and take Asian cricket to unprecedented heights. I also extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing ACC President for his leadership and contributions to the ACC during his tenure." The biggest test for Naqvi is holding the Asia Cup, scheduled for September. Originally allotted to India, the Asia Cup will be held in a neutral country, considering the India-Pakistan tensions.

Gujarat Titans' Kagiso Rabada returns home due to 'personal reasons'

GNS News Agency, April 7

Gujarat Titans ace pacer Kagiso Rabada has returned home due to "personal reasons." The pacer did miss Titans' last game against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru due to the same. Having played for the Punjab Kings franchise in the previous season Titans have purchased the player for whooping 10.75 crores in the auction held in November last year in Saudi Arabia.

"Gujarat Titans pacer Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa from the ongoing season of the IPL due to some personal reasons. The South Africa international was a part of Gujarat Titans' first two matches of the IPL 2025. Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa to deal with an important personal matter," Gujarat Titans said in a statement. In the absence of Rabada, GT could be relying on his South African teammate Gerald Coetzee or Afghanistan all-rounder Karim Janat.

Speaking to the Indian Express Rabada would tell about the Titans' pace attack. "The players have been given the freedom, and everything is well organized and chilled out to be honest, but there's a lot of hard work being done behind the scenes. I'm really enjoying working with Ashish (Nehra). It's a great bunch of lads with a nice bowling attack, with



good pace, which will suit the Ahmedabad conditions." "Using saliva and sweat are two different aspects... they have different textures, though I can't explain scientifically how it affects the ball. Let's see how this IPL goes with saliva being used again. It's definitely interesting," Rabada would give his view about letting the fielding team apply saliva on the ball and if needed another ball can be taken in the second innings after 10 overs if there were to be any dew after the authorization of umpires.

'The Bradmans from one to six were in single digits': Basit Ali slams Pakistan after performance against New Zealand

GNS News Agency, April 7

Chasing 293 runs Pakistan was reduced to 32/5 on Wednesday. It was Tayyab Tahir who would come in at eight and would score 13 which would be the first double-digit contribution for Men in Green in the chase. Throughout the tour of New Zealand Pakistan's batting would collapse time and again meekly handing over the T20I series 4-1 and ODI series the hosts are already 2-0 with a game to go. "The Bradmans from one to six were in single digits apart from Tayyab Tahir. I feel that instead of playing the third match, Pakistan should say, 'You win, so let us go back to our home; we are homesick.' This is New Zealand's C team. I am surprised Naseem Shah didn't play. Pakistan shouldn't have scored 200-plus; we should have packed at 140," said Basit Ali on his YouTube channel. "Pakistan team has betrayed us. I don't know what era of cricket we are playing. Pakistan made a strong comeback after Mitchell's dismissal but poor captaincy. This is not a Pakistan team; that's all I can say," he added. Ben Sears takes five

Mitchell Hay just missed out on a hundred before Ben Sears took five wickets as New Zealand beat Pakistan by 84 runs in their second one-day international in Hamilton. Wicketkeeper-batsman Hay reigned New



Zealand after a lull midway through their innings, smashing 22 runs in the final over bowled by Mohammad Wasim with two sixes and two fours to finish on 99 not out off 78 balls. It was the 24-year-old's highest score and his pyrotechnics late on guided New Zealand to 292-8, with Muhammad Abbas scoring 41, after the top-order batsmen all got good starts but failed to make significant scores. Pakistan then struggled in windy, overcast conditions during their innings and lost five wickets for 32 runs as pace bowlers Sears (5-59), Jacob Duffy (3-35) and Will O'Rourke (1-19) extracted plenty of bounce from the wicket.

Lionel Messi plays for 90 minutes but is held goalless as Inter Miami get stunned in CONCACAF Champions Cup



Lionel Messi and Co suffered their first defeat under new boss Javier Mascherano as the men in pink found it difficult to overcome a blistering start from 21-year-old Nathan Ordaz in the early minutes of the second half. The goal-scorer nearly got sent off in the first half for a heated scuffle with Maxi Falcón, following which the match official let him off the hook with a yellow. Reacting to the same, LA head coach Steve Cherundolo said, "I applaud the decision not to send guys off the field, and I would say the same thing if it was the reverse."

Despite suffering from an adductor injury in recent games, which also saw the Argentine miss out on World Cup qualifiers last month, Messi played the whole 90 minutes on Thursday. The World Cup winner however, was restricted to three free-kicks, of which two failed to hit the target. Big names like NBA star Stephen Curry and Jimmy Butler were in attendance for the clash as Messi found it difficult to wriggle his way past the LA defense on several occasions, constantly lingering on his tail. "I think (Messi)

always had a black jersey in front of him, and that's the point," LAFC coach Steve Cherundolo said after the win. "It was a game that we expected. Obviously, we didn't have the best night tonight, but in the end, it's the first leg," said Miami boss Mascherano as he set his sights on the second leg scheduled for the 9th of this month. Fort Lauderdale will be the venue as two sides will go again for a spot in the semi-final. Miami's Argentine boss also said that his side has what it takes to go through. The winner on aggregate next Wednesday will face the winners of MLS' Vancouver Whitecaps or Liga MX's Pumas.

Tilak Varma will play for Hyderabad domestic cricket only, says HCA Secretary

Hyderabad: Hyderabad Cricket Association (HCA) Secretary R. Devraj said that star batter Tilak Varma will continue to play for Hyderabad only in domestic cricket. In a statement on Thursday, Devraj said he spoke to Tilak, now playing for Mumbai Indians in the IPL, and said that all rumours were being spread about him moving over to Goa. It may be mentioned here that India opener and Mumbai's Yashasvi Jaiswal has decided to represent Goa next season on being promised leadership. "I have spoken with Tilak Varma this morning, and can confirm that these rumours are completely baseless and untrue. Tilak Varma remains committed to representing his home state, Hyderabad, and takes immense pride in doing so," Devraj said

Nicholas Pooran's incredible tale: from six months in wheelchair after traumatic car accident to smashing sixes in the IPL



When Rishabh Pant was battling physical pain and mental demons on his hospital bed after a near-fatal car accident two years ago, his Lucknow Supergiants colleague Nicholas Pooran would regularly text him with comforting messages. He was not his teammate then, but he could fully relate to the wars waging in Pant's head. "It's very challenging. It's one where no one understands. You go into a place where you're very depressed, and frustrated," Pooran would empathise with Pant. Years ago, on the highway near his home, Pooran, LSG's leading light this season, saw death screaming in front of his eyes like Pant did. Just 19, the buzz around him bubbling after a prolific Under-19 World Cup, he was driving home to Couva, from the training centre in Balmain, when he pulled away to the side so that a car by his side could overtake another and crashed into a sand heap.

He dragged the car back onto the road, before another car knocked him down. "I woke up with the car smashed. Then the ambulance came. I was in so much pain, I just wanted them to knock me out," he recollected the ordeal to Daily Mail years later. When he regained consciousness, he was in the hospital. He tried moving his legs. He could not. They were wrapped in heavy casts. "They were numb. I couldn't feel them at all. I was on painkillers throughout the 12 days I was in hospital," he said. Day, he asked a doctor whether he could play cricket again. He found his answer in the doctor's grim face. He asked whether he would run again. "Maybe," the answer came. His heart sinking, he asked whether he could walk again. "Yes," the doctor said, "but without being able to bend the left leg fully." Any act in the game would require bending, he knows, and he was a wicket-keeper too (modelled on his idol MS Dhoni). His world crumbled.

As much as the bone-crushing pain on his legs—he had ruptured the patellar tendon on his left and fractured his right ankle—he worried about his future. His career was just blossoming, whispers were abound that he was in the mind of the national team's selectors, and T20 talent-hunters were scouting him. Twice he went under the surgeon's knife. A fortnight later he was discharged from the hospital on a wheelchair, his friend for six months. "It was the most difficult six months of life, but it made me a better person," he admitted. The phase taught him about the fickle nature of life. "I learned to take setbacks with the same composure as success, to take nothing in life for granted," he would tell Trinidad Guardian. It made him value his girlfriend, Alyssa, whom he later married, even more. It made him god-fearing. "I started to pray a little bit more, started to believe a little bit more, asking for the strength to get through each day." Towards the end of his recovery period, he learned to be self-reliant too. One morning, the board suddenly stopped funding his treatment, though they provided him with the physiotherapist. Then like an "angel", Kieron Pollard walked into his life. The celebrated all-rounder too was rehabbing from a knee injury and bonded over on the

treatment table. Once they were good enough to stand on both feet, they started going for long walks together, before running and gymming as their bodies healed. Pollard later introduced him to one of the most powerful sports agents around, Eddie Tolchard at Insignia Sports. A year after the accident, he was playing in the Bangladesh Premier League. The cricket board slapped a six-month ban. But Pooran's convictions remained firm. "You have to believe in your talents, and keep working," he kept telling himself. He has so much faith in his virtues that he sounds borderline arrogant when he talks about talent. The night he walloped SRH's bowlers for a 26-ball 70, he said his lightning bat speed was purely "down to his incredible talent", a natural than acquired gift nurtured over time. Maybe, it was lost in articulation, but the bat-speed has something natural about him.

Bat speed, accentuated by supersonic hands, is a stamp of most great stroke-makers from the Caribbean, including Brian Lara and Viv Richards, two of their greatest. Richie Richardson, before the reflexes slowed him down, had the fastest blade in the country. Pooran carries their off-side grace, a blend of elegance and flamboyance. Watch him cover drive, the unlocking of wrists as he opens the bat face to route the ball through the right side of the cover fielder, the forward glide of his front-foot, the bat's velcro touch on the ball at the last possible second, he is paying a homage to Carl Hooper and pals. The next ball, he could transform to a muscled-hitter in the Pollard mould, by taking his front leg out and clumping the bowler through cow corner with a flat brutal swipe. A short, slender man, he generates immense power with his bat swing and transfer of weight, always getting under the ball when smashing the sixes, which he could all-park around. He shuttles between the classical and modern schools of Caribbean batting, gleaming elements from both. In his hands, the bat is both a shovel and paintbrush. Like all of the aforementioned legends, he is a happy six-hitter, the gift that had made him one of the most sought-after names in franchise cricket. This edition, no one has smoked as many sixes as him (15). None has struck the maximums so frequently either (once every 5.5 balls). Only Travis Head has found more fours than Pooran's 17. That is, he has found the fence or beyond once in every three balls (2.65). Last year, he was the highest six-hitter in T20s (170 in 74 innings) by a huge distance (next was Heinrich Klaassen (105 in 54)). He humbly explains the six-smearing mantra: "I just try my best to get in good positions and if it's there, just time the ball nicely." In Pant, he has found a captain who gives him freedom to bat the way he likes too. "The thought was to give freedom to him," Pant said. "We know what damage he can do down the order. I like that freedom too, but you have got to give someone that charge to go and express yourself." Pant could say Pooran has always been by his side in tough times. When he was dealing with the trauma of the accident as well as the pressures of leading an underachieving franchise.

What skills does SRH all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy want to pick from MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma?



Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy revealed the two skills he would want to pick from former IPL captains MS Dhoni (Chennai Super Kings) and Rohit Sharma (Mumbai Indians). Both have been the most successful captains in the history of the franchise. Nitish said he would like to imbibe Dhoni's captaincy skill into his game but as per Rohit, it would be his ability to play pull shot. "From Dhoni, I would love to have his captaincy skills. And from Rohit, I would love to master his pull shot it's simply outstanding," said Nitish on JioStar. "I admire Kohli's aggression and passion for the game," he would. Nitish after having an impressive season for the SRH last year has been picking for the Indian national side and also participated in the Border Gavaskar Trophy later that year. Rohit and Virat are golden assets. Nitish speaking in the show would also hail Rohit, Virat Kohli, and Jasprit Bumrah as golden assets of Indian cricket. While Rohit and Kohli have been prolific with their run-scoring Bumrah has been lethal with the ball. "This generation of Indian cricket has been shaped by legends like Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and others. They have taken Indian cricket to new heights, and we aspire to carry forward their legacy. Players like Jasprit, Rohit and Virat are truly golden assets to India," Nitish said.

"I would be grateful for the challenge. He is one of the

best bowlers in the world right now, and facing him would be an exciting contest. If I manage to score some runs against him, I will be very happy. Competing against top bowlers like Bumrah is what makes the game exciting," he added.

Siraj - the sentimental fast bowler is back with a bang

Hyderabad: For the sentimental fast bowler, Mohammed Siraj of Gujarat Titans, it has been a truly brilliant comeback in the IPL 2025 what with rattling the stumps of India's best white-ball batter and Indian captain Rohit Sharma and his opening partner Ryan Rickelton in Ahmedabad (4-0-34-2) and then 'paying back the compliment' to Royal Challengers Bengaluru with a spell of 4-0-19-3 in front of his former 'home crowd' to play a significant role in his team's thumping win in Bengaluru on Wednesday night. It is never easy for any fast bowler to see the batter (Phil Salt) hit you for the biggest six of the season (105 m) and then have him bowled the next ball! But, that may be symbolic of the fighter Siraj has been over the years.

Given the humble background he had come from the by-lanes of Hyderabad, for the 31-year-old Siraj fighting adversity may not be new. Sometimes he is pretty expensive and looks ordinary, but he has developed that uncanny knack of coming back strongly every time he is being pushed to the sidelines. For someone who is one of the vital cogs in India's pace attack in Test cricket, the Hyderabad has slipped out of the radar for the white-ball format and not picked for the Champions Trophy which India won in Dubai recently. There is no doubt that his evolution into one of the premier pace bowlers was thanks to that stint with RCB for whom he picked 83 wickets in 87 games and more importantly where Virat Kohli had a special liking for him.

‘Katrina Kaif didn’t have rhythm, had a big built,’ recalls Terence Lewis as he appreciates her transformation: ‘She was not a dancer’



Katrina Kaif has established herself as a great dancer in the movies but in the early days, she really struggled with the art form. In a recent interview, choreographer Terence Lewis recalled the time when he met Katrina after her debut film Boom and did not find her to be a great dancer but when saw her in the Race song “Zara Zara Touch Me”, he was shocked. He also added that Katrina worked on her body and dancing skills excessively to deliver some of the best songs of her career. “After Boom, I did a show with her. She didn’t have that figure. And she couldn’t dance the way... When she

did ‘Zara Zara Touch Me’, I called up Bosco (Martis, choreographer) and said, ‘Is this the same girl, with that figure?’ One of the most hardworking actors, Katrina Kaif. Because she was not a dancer. She wasn’t trained as a dancer. And she was very tall and statuesque, a big built. How she’s worked on her body! How she’s worked on her dance! Commendable,” said Terence.

In the interview with Pinkvilla, Terence recalled how he had a very different experience when he worked with her after Boom. “I remember her coming to my studio way back when Boom had just released. She was doing a diamond jewellery show. We were trying to teach her. She was also very young, fresh to India, very like ‘What am I supposed to do?’ And it wasn’t very Bollywood, we kept it more Western, but still, she was struggling with the dance steps. Rhythm was not there,” said Terence. In an earlier interview with Bollywood Bubble, Katrina recalled her initial struggles with dance and said, “I could not dance. It’s not that they said that about me. No, I couldn’t dance. That was a fact. They were just stating the very obvious fact that was in front of them. I’ve said it many times before.” She credited Bosco with her success with dance and said, “Bosco was the first person to... I don’t why or what he saw. Bosco was the first person to explain to me or talk to me. Because I was convinced that I was not a good dancer and I was never going to be a good dancer and I couldn’t dance and that was coming across. Bosco told me that you are a good dancer. You have it in you but you have things to work on.”

Vijay Deverakonda predicts filmmakers from outside Mumbai will revive Hindi cinema; says Telugu industry fought for recognition

Many actors and filmmakers have spoken about the struggles of the Hindi film industry and its recent box office failures. Telugu actor Vijay Deverakonda recently weighed in on the topic, offering his perspective on why the South film industry is having a ‘dream run’ and predicting a resurgence in Hindi cinema with a new generation of filmmakers.

Speaking to News9, Vijay emphasised that the current phase of Hindi cinema is part of a larger cycle and not a cause for concern. “South film industry is having a dream run. It’s a cycle. There was a time when you knew nothing about us. There was a time when India cinema was making solid noise and money, it had opened up international audience. It’s a cycle. Now is the time when South cinema is being loved and watched. Five or 10 years later there will be some other changes,” he said. Vijay predicted that Hindi cinema will undergo a creative reboot, with fresh storytellers emerging to steer it in a new direction. He said, “From this vacuum surely a new breed of filmmakers will emerge who wants to fix this. Hindi cinema will find big directors and new storytellers very soon and they will probably be from outside Mumbai. It is my prediction. They would probably be from heartland and they will start coming from other sections of Hindi-speaking areas. They will start making films in a different way and maybe even different from what South is making.” Citing Baahubali as an example, the Arjun Reddy actor highlighted how director SS Rajamouli took a massive risk with the film, which ultimately put Telugu cinema on the global map. “Telugu cinema had to fight its way for bigger audience. For instance, when SS Rajamouli made



Baahubali. They spent so much on two actors that Hindi film industry might not have known and they went ahead and made such a big film. If it wouldn’t have worked, it would have ended so many careers. The producers would have been in a lot of trouble. And the actors solely gave 5 years just for that one film. So the stakes were high for everyone. So you need to fight for your place, attention and love. I think they (Hindi film industry) will find their ways. It is part of life,” he shared.

R Madhavan ‘offended’ Mani Ratnam when he rejected Siddharth’s role in Aayitha Ezhuthu: ‘I shaved my head, got tanned, looked unrecognisable for Inba’

Some of actor-filmmaker Madhavan’s most memorable roles came in the films of his mentor and acclaimed filmmaker Mani Ratnam. The duo share a warm sense of camaraderie that always comes through when they talk about each other. Mani Ratnam introduced Madhavan as a lead actor in the Tamil film, Alaipayuthey. The film, which was released in 2000, went on to establish Madhavan as a romantic hero, and it determined the course of his brand of films. Even though he tried to shift tracks, and star in action films like Run, it was Mani Ratnam, who, once again, gave Madhavan’s career a course correction of sorts. Talking to India TV about Aayitha Ezhuthu, his third consecutive collaboration with Mani Ratnam, Madhavan spoke about how the course correction was something of his own doing. Revealing that Mani Ratnam wanted him to play the role essayed by Siddharth, Madhavan said that he outrightly rejected the part because he didn’t want to play a lover boy all over again. “I heard the story, and I told him that I wanted to play the role of Inba. When asked why I chose the character, I candidly told him that it was the best role in the story, and the others would be forgotten. He was offended by my statement,” said Madhavan, who added that the filmmaker wasn’t interested to make him play Inba.

Madhavan revealed that he asked for a month’s time to convince the filmmaker that he had it in him to play the role, which was being essayed by Abhishek Bachchan in the Hindi version of the film, titled Yuva. “I shaved my hair off, played golf without sunscreen to get super tanned, and I had become utterly recognisable. In that look, I went to his office, and was stopped by his security because they didn’t recognise me,” said Madhavan, who said that once they recognised him, they brought him in to meet the Raavan filmmaker. “The security people told him that someone he knew had come to meet him. Mani sir was upset that someone came home unannounced, and saw me standing there. He didn’t realise it was me till I started smiling unable to hold in my laughter,” said Madhavan, adding that Mani Ratnam just looked at him for a while, and asked if he indeed wanted to play the part. “I said yes, and just asked him the backstory of Inba. Mani sir just said that Inba is a tough guy with a bad childhood, and is almost like an animal.”



Madhavan revealed that he asked for a month’s time to convince Mani Ratnam that he had it in him to play the role, which was being essayed by Abhishek Bachchan in the Hindi version of the film

Explaining how he got into the skin of the character, Madhavan said that he found inspiration from National Geographic Channel. “I saw a pack of lions chasing down a deer. Even when they were chasing, pouncing, choking the throat of the deer, and tearing it apart, the lions never showed anger. Despite being a violent act, it was just another lunch for the lion. There was no anger, wrath, excitement. The lion had absolute peace in his eyes. That’s when I got what Mani sir wanted from Inba,” said Madhavan, who has worked with Mani Ratnam in a couple of other films like Kannathil Muthamittaala, and Guru. “It is this synergy with him that pushed me as an actor. After Guru, we decided to take a break. Since most of my successful films were attributed to Mani sir, I wanted to create a path of my own... find my own route.” Madhavan, who recently starred in the Zee5 film, Hisaab Barabar, has an interesting 2025 lined up, kickstarting with Netflix’s Test, which also stars Siddharth, Meera Jasmine, and Nayanthara. He will also be seen playing a pivotal role in Kesari Chapter 2, which is expected to hit screens on April 18.

When John Cena supported Triple-H after entire RAW roster walked out in protest: ‘You’re not my best friend, you are my boss’



WWE has found a new platform on Netflix, and things have never been more different. Cody Rhodes, who was once a mid-card superstar, is currently the WWE champion; the Rock has become the evil incarnate as the ‘final boss’, and to everyone’s surprise and horror, John Cena has turned ‘heel’. All this is happening under the purview of Chief Content Officer Paul Michael Levesque aka Triple H. While things have taken a surprising turn, everyone is impressed by the job Triple H is doing, but there was a time when the WWE superstars had no faith in him.

Back in 2011, The Miz and R-Truth started creating havoc during live shows of WWE. They attacked superstars outside of facilities, interrupted matches and even attacked officials and commentators. During the ‘Hell in a Cell’ pay-per-view, the two superstars were arrested for attacking Cena, the officials and the cameramen. In a fit of rage, Triple H attacked his own talent, taking the fight to both Truth and Miz.

Akshay Kumar confirms Kesari 3, reveals it will be based on General Hari Singh Nalwa: ‘Subah hi baat chal rahi thi...’

Actor Akshay Kumar has confirmed the third installment of the Kesari franchise, revealing who the protagonist will be. While interacting with the press during the trailer launch of Kesari Chapter 2 in Delhi on Thursday, the actor shared that the next film in the franchise will be about Hari Singh Nalwa, who was the first commander-in-chief of the Sikh Khalsa Fauji, the army of the Sikh Empire. During the event, Akshay said, “We have to prepare for Kesari 3 now. Aaj subah hi baat karahe the iss baare mein. We are thinking of making it on Hari Singh Nalwa, what do you guys say? Punjab ka roop dikhaayenge sabko.”

Hari Singh Nalwa was a Sikh commander in Maharaja Ranjit Singh’s army. He served as the Governor of Kashmir, Hazara and Peshawar and gained popularity for his triumphs against the Afghans. In fact, Nalwa played a significant role in blocking Afghan attacks on Punjab through the Khyber Pass. He also played a major role in the battles of Kasur, Sialkot, Attock, Multan, Kashmir, Peshawar, and Jamrud.

During the trailer release event, Akshay Kumar also addressed using the ‘F word’ in Kesari 2, and said, “Yes, I used this word. I am amazed to see that you noticed this, but the phrase ‘you are still a slave’ didn’t grab your attention. Wasn’t it a big gaali for you? Usse badi gaali aur kuch nahi ho sakti. I would have been happy if you would have said that they used the word ‘slave’ rather than you talking about ‘F you’. Aise time par, agar unhone goli bhi maar di hoti toh bhi chotta rehta.” The original 2019 film



Kesari was based on the true story of the Battle of Saragarhi in 1897, where 21 Sikh soldiers of the British Indian Army fought against 10,000 Afghan tribesmen. Meanwhile, besides Akshay Kumar, Kesari 2 also features R Madhavan and Ananya Panday in pivotal roles. The film is based on the aftermath of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the courtroom battle led by lawyer C Sankaran Nair. Directed by Karan Singh Tyagi, it is set to hit the big screen on April 18.

Dia Mirza defends Nadaniyaan stars Ibrahim Ali Khan and Khushi Kapoor against backlash, blames ‘eat the privilege’ culture



Actor Dia Mirza was last seen in the Netflix film Nadaaniyan, in which she played the mother of debutant Ibrahim Ali Khan’s character. Since its release, the film received scathing reviews from critics and audiences alike, and both lead actors, Ibrahim and Khushi Kapoor, found themselves being targeted. Dia defended Ibrahim and said that she was concerned for him. In an interview with the Bombay Times, Dia addresses the negativity around the film, and the attacks directed at Ibrahim and Khushi. “I don’t agree with targeting someone on a personal level. I understand that everyone is entitled to their opinion, but a line

should be drawn if it starts to affect the mental health of the people involved. They are young actors, and this trend of attacking those who come from privilege is not right.”

Dia isn’t the first Bollywood personality to defend Ibrahim and Khushi in the aftermath of the backlash. Many people, like Hansal Mehta, Vikram Bhatt and Nadaaniyan producer Karan Johar, have come to the defence of the young actors and have pointed out that things got out of hand. Jugal Hansraj, who played the husband of Dia’s character in the film, also gave his two cents about the situation. He said that social media should be a platform for ‘constructive criticism’ and not ‘personal attacks’ and how things were different when we were starting out in the industry. “In the ‘80s, many actors started off new with their first films, but there was no social media, so they were given space and time to grow and improve. There was equal awkwardness in all of us when we started off, but because of the lack of social media, there wasn’t this unfair scrutiny,” the actor said in an interview with India Today.

Siddhu Jonnalagadda’s ‘Jack’ trailer unveiled

Hyderabad: Siddhu Jonnalagadda’s most-anticipated film Jack’s trailer is out now. While this action-comedy is directed by Bommarillu Bhaskar, Vaishnavi Chaitanya is playing the lead actress.

The film follows Jack, a private agency agent on a covert mission to eliminate four terrorists. Meanwhile, another officer played by Prakash Raj, is also after the same targets. The story grips when their paths cross, adding intensity to the chase. The trailer hints at suspense surrounding Vaishnavi Chaitanya’s character and her possible connection to the mission.