

Apollo Hospitals Jubilee Hills receives AHA certification for Chest Pain Centre

Hyderabad: Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills, on Friday announced that it has received Comprehensive Chest Pain Center Certification from American Heart Association (AHA). The AHA certification recognises hospitals that demonstrate standards in rapid assessment and treatment of chest pain, particularly for acute and life-threatening heart attacks such as STEMI (ST-Elevation Myocardial Infarction), a press release said. The certification reflects the hospital's ability to ensure patients experiencing acute cardiac conditions receive timely, life-saving interventions, Dr D P Suresh, incoming volunteer co-chair of the AHA's International Committee, said.

Telangana Cabinet reshuffle: Ministers' elevation as in-charge Ministers raises concerns within Congress

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: A day after the Congress government elevated three ministers as in-charge ministers for three erstwhile districts, party leaders expressed concern that the move could further deepen existing rifts within the cabinet. Mines and Geology Minister G Vivek Venkatswamy was appointed in-charge Minister for the erstwhile Medak district. His induction into the cabinet has not gone down well with Mancherla MLA Prem Sagar Rao, who was aspiring for a cabinet berth. Prem Sagar Rao reportedly enjoys the backing of several ministers who had strongly lobbied for his inclusion in the cabinet. However, the state leadership chose to induct Chennur MLA Vivek Venkatswamy, going against the wishes of this group.

"This could have long-term repercussions, especially within the SC wing of the party. Besides being an industrialist, the Mines Minister enjoys strong connections with the AICC. These factors may eventually create friction with some senior SC leaders," a senior leader at Gandhi Bhavan observed. While the elevation of Animal Husbandry Minister T. Srihari as in-charge Minister for Khammam has been hailed by some as a step toward social justice, others see it as a strategic move to curtail influence of disgruntled BC leaders.

It may be recalled that during the Assembly and Parliament elections, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had promised a cabinet berth to Srihari, a leader from the Mudiraj community and a close aide of AICC chief Mallikarjun

KTR dares CM Revanth Reddy for polygraph test over ACB cases

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao rebuked Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy for running the government through deception and diversion under the garb of investigations, to cover up his incompetence in delivering the promises to the people of Telangana. Calling Revanth Reddy a "joker CM", he dared him for a polygraph test in connection with the ACB cases filed against them respectively. Rama Rao who was summoned for questioning in the Formula-E race case, said he will appear before the ACB authorities at their office at 10 AM on Monday and extend his full cooperation in completing the investigation. He stated that the Congress government was resorting to repeated allegations and cases to suppress the voice of the opposition.

"This joker Chief Minister is ordering a new inquiry every day to shift focus from his governance failures. No matter how many notices he sends, this bankrupt Congress government cannot stop us from being the voice of the people of Telangana," he warned. The BRS working president criticised the ACB notices issued to him over the Formula-E race case, pointed out that the Rs 44 crore transferred by HMDA to the Formula-E organisers, was still in the latter's bank account. He said the Congress was unable to get the amount refunded into the government's account and hence, targeting the BRS. "Our money is still

BRS MLA Harish Rao slams Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for political vendetta against KTR



GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: Former Minister and senior BRS MLA T Harish Rao has hit out at the Congress government, terming the fresh ACB notice to BRS working president KT Rama Rao in the Formula-E case a clear act of political vendetta. He accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of misusing investigative agencies against opposition leaders to divert public attention from his government's failures. "The Congress regime is resorting to diversionary tactics to silence those questioning the unfulfilled six guarantees and over 420 electoral promises. This is nothing but a desperate move to malign the BRS and demoralise the party leadership," he said.

Harish Rao asserted that the Formula-E car race enhanced Telangana's global image as an electric vehicle (EV) manufacturing hub and attracted key investments, including from the Amara Raja Group. He noted that the event brought prestige and economic activity to the State. "Are these notices being issued because Rama Rao elevated Telangana's standing on the world stage?" he asked, drawing a contrast with past failed attempts by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and others to host similar events. He also criticised the Congress for hosting beauty pageants, claiming they had no tangible gain and instead harmed the reputation of the State and the nation.



Kharge. Forest Minister Konda Surekha, also from the BC community, previously served as in-charge Minister for Medak, a post now held by Vivek Venkatswamy. Additionally, party leaders are uneasy about the exclusion of senior leaders like Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy from the in-charge roles, fearing discontent among the upper caste communities. These concerns intensified after Bodhan MLA Sudarshan Reddy was denied a cabinet berth. His supporters have demanded that he be accommodated in the cabinet ahead of the upcoming local body elections. Similarly, Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajgopal Reddy and Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malireddy Rangareddy, both of whom had hoped for cabinet berths, have also been left disappointed.



with them, but Revanth Reddy is unable to recover a rupee," he charged. However, Rama Rao questioned lack of progress in the long-pending "Vote-for-Note" case, also being investigated by the ACB, where Revanth Reddy was caught red-handed while attempting to bribe an MLA. He stated that while he was ready to undergo a polygraph test in the Formula-E race case, he challenged Revanth Reddy to undergo similar test in the "Vote-for-Note" test before the judge during live telecast, allowing people of Telangana to decide their credibility. He criticised the Chief Minister over claims of an empty treasury, while wasting public money on political vendettas, in the name of inquiries. "Stop wasting public money on useless investigations," he added.

He vowed that the BRS would continue to expose the Congress government's failures, undeterred by what he called its vendetta politics.

ACB serves fresh notices to KT Rama Rao in Formula-E race case



GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has served fresh notices to BRS working president KT Rama Rao in the Formula-E race case. He has been asked to appear for an inquiry at 10 am on Monday. The ACB had served notices to Rama Rao earlier, on May 26, asking him to appear for questioning on May 28. However, it was postponed at his request due to his pre-scheduled trip to the UK and the USA.

The ACB registered a case against Rama Rao and senior IAS officer Arvind Kumar on allegations of corruption in the Formula-E race case. Upon being summoned, the BRS working president appeared before the authorities twice in January this year.

Woman dies by suicide after husband self-harms in front of her in Hyd

Hyderabad: A young woman died by suicide after allegedly being frightened when her husband attempted to end his life in front of her at Boduppal in Medipally on Thursday. The couple, identified as V. Santosh (21) and Deepika (19), residents of Amberpet, have a one-year-old son named Devaansh. According to the police, Santosh, who is jobless and addicted to alcohol, often quarrelled with Deepika and harassed her. Recently, elders from both families intervened and advised that Deepika stay at her parents' house in Amruthsai Nagar, Boduppal, for a few months. However, Santosh's behaviour reportedly remained unchanged. On Thursday, he went to his in-laws' house in an inebriated state and insisted that Deepika return with him.

Air India flight crash: 'Everything happened in front of my eyes', says Lone survivor of Ahmedabad plane crash

GNS News Agency, June 13

"I don't know how I came out alive", says Vishwash Kumar Ramesh, the lone survivor of the Ahmedabad Air India plane crash, in which over 200 people are believed to have died when the ill-fated London-bound aircraft crashed into a medical college building near the airport minutes after it took off. Mr. Ramesh (40), a British Indian national, was travelling on seat number 11A, situated next to the emergency door. "Everything happened in front of my eyes, a visibly shaken Mr. Ramesh told a reporter from Doordarshan. Yet to come out of the shock, Mr. Ramesh said he managed to come out of the burning aircraft as the emergency door was broken. He said he witnessed a "blast" as soon as he came out. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Mr. Ramesh, who is undergoing treatment in the C7 ward of the civil hospital in Ahmedabad. As many as 25 people injured in the deadly crash are undergoing treatment in the hospital. "The good news is that one person survived the crash..." Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Thursday after meeting Mr. Ramesh and visiting the crash site. Television and social media showed Mr. Ramesh, in bloodstained white t-shirt and dark pants



limping on a street, getting into the ambulance with medical help. The BBC reported that Mr. Ramesh is married and has a son. The details of his brother, who travelled with him in the ill-fated flight is unknown. As many as 241 people on board, including 168 Indians, 53 British, seven Portuguese, and one Canadian national, were killed. Four MBBS students and a doctor's wife were among those killed at the complex of BJ Medical College outside the airport perimeter.

Air India passenger flagged technical faults hours before fatal Dreamliner crash in Ahmedabad

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: A passenger who flew on the same Air India aircraft just hours before it crashed in Ahmedabad on Thursday has claimed the plane had visible technical issues during his journey.

Akash Vatsa, an entrepreneur, posted on X (formerly Twitter) that he had flown from Delhi to Ahmedabad on the same Boeing 787-8 Dreamliner that was later involved in the tragic crash of flight AI171 to London. In his viral post, which has garnered over four million views, Vatsa said the air-conditioning, TV screens, cabin crew call buttons, and lights were not functioning during his flight. "We are about to taxi, but the AC is not working. People are using magazines to fan themselves. Even the call buttons and reading lights are unresponsive," he said in a video recorded onboard.



Just two hours after his flight landed, the same aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport around 1:45 p.m., plummeting into a residential neighbourhood in Meghaninagar. Of the 242 people onboard, only one

PM Modi holds review meeting with senior officials on Air India plane crash



GNS News Agency, June 13

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (June 13, 2025) held a review meeting with top officials of the Gujarat government after visiting the site of the Air India plane crash here. During the meeting, PM Modi was briefed about the series of events that unfolded after the plane crash in which 265 people lost their lives on Thursday, and he also gave

instructions to officials. He visited the crash site and city civil hospital earlier in the day. "We are all devastated by the air tragedy in Ahmedabad. The loss of so many lives in such a sudden and heart-breaking manner is beyond words. Condolences to all the bereaved families. We understand their pain and also know that the void left behind will be felt for years to come. Om Shanti," Modi said in a post on X. Visited the crash site in Ahmedabad today. The scene of devastation is saddening. Met officials and teams working tirelessly in the aftermath. Our thoughts remain with those who lost their loved ones in this unimaginable tragedy. pic.twitter.com/R7PPGGo6LjGujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, Union Jal Shakti Minister and Gujarat BJP chief C R Paatil, and Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu were present at the meeting. A Boeing 787 Dreamliner (AI 171), with 242 people on board, including former Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani, crashed into a medical college complex in the Meghaninagar area moments after taking off from the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport on Thursday afternoon.

New Seed Law Soon to Protect Farmers' Rights and Ensure Quality: Telangana Agriculture Commission...

GNS News Agency, June 13

In a major development aimed at providing long-term relief to farmers facing issues with cotton seeds, Telangana State Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Commission Chairman M. Kodanda Reddy announced that a new Seed Law that ensures control over seed companies and secures farmers' rights will soon be implemented. He emphasized that this law, expected within 15 to 20 days, will offer legal protection to farmers and strict regulation on seed companies. This announcement was made during a consultative meeting held at the IDOC Conference Hall in the Collectorate on Friday under the chairmanship of District Collector B.M. Santhosh. The meeting was convened to discuss problems being faced by farmers related to cotton seed cultivation and to gather suggestions for their resolution. Farmers, their representatives, seed organizers, and company officials shared their views with the Commission.

Kodanda Reddy expressed pride in the cotton crop cultivated in the district, noting its competitiveness not only in the domestic market but also in global markets like China. He highlighted this as a matter of pride for the state and acknowledged the state's efforts through multiple schemes

and new policies to strengthen the agricultural sector. The Commission held the meeting in Gadwal after receiving reports of serious issues with cotton seed failures, leading to high debts and suicides among farmers. He stated that the upcoming Seed Law will provide regulatory oversight on seed companies and safeguard farmers' rights, ensuring accountability. Referring to the past difficulties farmers faced due to the Dharani land registration system, he noted that the newly formed state government has already initiated the Bhubharati Act to resolve land ownership issues. The Seed Law is being designed in a similar manner to benefit farmers comprehensively. He also assured that issues faced by women in agriculture are being addressed and justice would be ensured for women farmers. Referring to how the Commission had resolved issues faced by maize farmers in Mulugu district, he reiterated their commitment to field-level grievance redressal. He recommended that farmers be given direct access to companies without intermediaries to ensure clarity on seed quality, supply, and company responsibilities. Kodanda Reddy also stressed the need for licensed moneylenders to follow RBI regulations, maintain transaction audits, and operate transparently to prevent exploitation. He reaffirmed the government's stand that "Farmers are the backbone of the nation" and that it will always stand by them.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

India vs Japan: Growth in numbers, gaps in development

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its April World Economic Outlook report projected India, which is currently the fifth-largest economy, will become the world's fourth-largest economy in 2025, with an estimated GDP of USD 4.19 trillion. This would place India just ahead of Japan, whose GDP is expected to be USD 4.186 trillion. After achieving this milestone, India will be behind only the United States, China, and Germany. NITI Aayog Member Arvind Virmani commented that while this is still a forecast, he is confident that India will officially achieve this milestone by the end of 2025, once the full-year GDP data is available. This economic rise may inspire policymakers, economists, and citizens' confidence. Yet, as with all proud narratives, it demands a deeper, more critical examination. Can a country truly be called "developed" or even "genuinely growing" just because it has climbed the GDP ranks? The answer requires a thorough examination of the realities beyond GDP, realities defined by health, education, equity, employment, and overall human well-being. Despite the remarkable GDP figures, India's development story remains riddled with contradictions. One of the most pressing issues is poverty. As per the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2024, 234 million Indians continue to live in acute poverty, the highest absolute number in the world. Food insecurity is also a chronic problem, with India ranked 111th out of 125 countries in the Global Hunger Index. The label of a booming economy loses meaning when millions still go to bed hungry. Healthcare remains another weak link in India's development chain. Public expenditure on health is less than 2 per cent of the GDP, resulting in overburdened hospitals, a shortage of medical staff, and high out-of-pocket expenses for patients.

DEO Mandates Completion of Free Educational Material Distribution by June 16



“PS Ashokan” Indian Chronicle, June, 13, “District Educational Officer (DEO) D. Madhavi has issued a directive to ensure the timely and comprehensive distribution of free textbooks, notebooks, and uniforms to all students enrolled in government schools across the district. She emphasized that the process must be completed no later than June 16, in view of the commencement of the academic year.” “In an official statement released on Thursday, the DEO urged all Mandal Educational Officers and Headmasters to expedite the distribution process by taking decisive and coordinated action.” “As per the data provided:” “A total of 1,72,348 textbooks have already been delivered to various schools, of which 50,668 have been successfully distributed to students.” “Out of 2,11,491 notebooks received, 64,458 have reached the hands of beneficiaries.” “With respect to school uniforms, 17,866 pairs have been dispatched to schools, catering to 30,687 students, and 10,281 pairs have been distributed so far.” “The DEO underscored the importance of accelerating the process, ensuring that no student is deprived of essential learning materials at the start of the school year.” “As part of the Prof. Jayashankar Badi Bata initiative, the DEO actively participated in Grandparent-Teacher Interaction Programs held at Pattipaka High School and Peddapalli Boys' High School on Thursday. Additionally, she conducted an inspection at a government school located in Kalvasirampur Mandal Headquarters.” “She further informed that, as of June 12, 1,924 new admissions have been recorded across the district in Classes 1 and 6, reflecting growing parental interest in public education.

BRS MLC K Kavitha urges Telangana Congress government to release Muharram funds

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: Telangana Jagruti president and BRS MLC K Kavitha has demanded that the Congress government release funds for Muharram, a key religious occasion for the Muslim community. Following her request, Minorities Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar responded positively and assured that instructions would be issued to continue the community's traditions during Muharram. Speaking to the Minister over the phone on Friday, Kavitha expressed concern over the Congress government's failure to allocate funds for Muharram since coming to power in December 2023. She pointed out that the previous BRS government had provided funds for the same. She also criticised the Congress government for denying permission for the traditional elephant procession this year, stating that it had hurt the sentiments of the Shia Muslim community. Kavitha urged the government to address the issue and ensure that Muharram is conducted smoothly.



How to Decode Adulteration in Tea: What Every Consumer Should Know



Hyderabad: Tea is more than just a drink; it's a ritual steeped in history and a source of comfort for millions around the world. However, as we sip from our cups, we often take for granted the purity and authenticity of what we're consuming. The issue of adulteration in loose tea has emerged as a significant concern, threatening to undermine the quality of this beloved beverage. Understanding the risks associated with adulteration and learning how to recognize genuine loose tea is crucial for ensuring an authentic and safe tea experience.

Understanding Adulteration in Tea

Adulteration in tea involves the addition of harmful substances to tea leaves, often with the intent to enhance the tea's appearance with respect to color or flavor. This deceptive practice may include the use of unauthorized colors, flavors, or even other plant materials, which may make the tea seem more appealing to the untrained eye or nose.

However, these additives not only undermine the tea's purity but also pose significant health risks. For instance, synthetic colorants like carmine, brilliant blue, sunset yellow, and tartrazine are sometimes added to damaged or lower-quality tea leaves to improve their appearance. These substances, however, are not permitted and can be harmful when consumed.

The Tea Board of India has been proactive in raising awareness about these adulteration practices. The Board has emphasized the dangers posed by chemically colored teas, which have unfortunately gained a foothold in the Indian market. The use of synthetic dyes in tea is strictly prohibited, as per regulations, yet they continue to be a concern. These adulterants are often used to treat tea leaves that have been damaged during processing, making them appear more marketable, despite their lack of nutritional value.

Why Are Colors added to tea?

The primary reason for the use of additives and coloring agents in tea is to treat leaves that have been damaged during the tea-making process. According to the Tea Board of India, these damaged leaves are of low quality, and to make them marketable, additives are added to enhance their color. However, these additives do not add any nutritional value to the tea and are strictly prohibited due to their potential health risks. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has made it clear that the use of coloring substances in tea is not allowed. The treatment of tea with coloring agents falls under the category of adulterants, and such practices have become a matter of serious concern.

Influencers, short-form videos, and messaging are disrupting how offline retailers sell and scale in India

Hyderabad: With social media increasingly playing an important role in guiding purchase decisions, Meta has unveiled key consumer insights from a study on the Retail industry. The Meta-commissioned study by GWI highlights how consumers are increasingly seeking online experiences even in offline purchases, how they are discovering new products and brands online, and relying on online touchpoints such as influencers, short-form video content, and messaging to determine their shopping experience and purchase decisions.

According to the study, which was done with 2,548 internet users aged 16-64 across India, nearly 8 in 10 shoppers discover new products through social media, with 96% of these discoveries happening on Meta platforms, underscoring the role of Facebook and Instagram in today's retail landscape. The influence is so significant that even in-store shoppers are increasingly relying more on online and particularly Meta platforms for discovery and research than just on physical retail displays. "Indian shoppers today are social-first, mobile-first, and video-first irrespective of whether the purchase happens offline or online" said Meghna Apparao, Director, E-commerce and Retail at Meta in India, "With consumers increasingly relying on Reels, messaging, and influencer content to discover and evaluate products, offline retailers have an opportunity to reach their customers across multiple touch points simultaneously and harness the power of our platforms to build unique online and phygital experiences that also move metrics across the funnel."

The study highlights the powerful impact of video content on purchase behavior. Two to three-minute videos and



Reels on Meta platforms are proving highly effective, with nearly a third of surveyed viewers purchasing products featured in the brand videos. This trend is particularly prominent in luxury categories, where visual storytelling through short-form content significantly influences buying decisions. Influencer marketing has emerged as a key driver of retail action across India. The study found that 6 in 10 shoppers follow national influencers, with this category of content creators having the biggest impact on both product discovery and purchase decisions. National influencer recommendations are driving sales both online and in physical stores, demonstrating the cross-channel influence of social media personalities. Meta's messaging platform WhatsApp is also playing a crucial role in the purchase journey. Nearly 60% of users are likely to buy a product after seeing an offer on WhatsApp, highlighting how business messaging leads to tangible retail action and drives store visits.

Mutyalampadu Saibaba Temple Receives Generous Donation of 1,00,000



"June 13, Indian Chronicle, Vijayawada" "The Saibaba Temple in Mutyalampadu, Vijayawada, today received a significant donation of ₹1,00,000 from a devotee's family. The generous contribution was made by Mr. and Mrs. Patharla Pati Sairam, who are currently residing in Germany. "The cheque for one lakh rupees was presented to the Temple Committee Chairman, Mr. Gautam Reddy, by the donor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patharla Pati Divakar, who are local residents of Vijayawada. "In honor of their contribution, Chairman Gautam Reddy formally felicitated Mr.



and Mrs. Divakar at the temple. He extended his special thanks to their son, Mr. Sairam, for his benevolent support towards the temple's activities. "Following the presentation, the Divakar couple organized an 'Annasantarpana' (a sacred offering of food) for all the devotees present at the temple. They later had a darshan of Saibaba to fulfill their vows. The Temple Committee expressed its profound gratitude to the Patharla Pati family for their generous donation, which will support the temple's services and community initiatives.

Hyderabad sees 37 per cent surge in premium home sales in May 2025

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad residential market witnessed a rise in the percentage share of home registrations in the Rs 1 crore and above category from 14 per cent in May 2024 to 19 per cent in May 2025, with sales volume in this segment increasing sharply by 37 per cent YoY. In contrast, homes priced below Rs 50 lakh and those in the Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore range witnessed a decline in volumes, despite continuing to account for 55 per cent and 26 per cent of total sales, respectively.

Revealing this, Knight Frank India in its latest assessment released on Friday pointed out that when viewed through the lens of total transaction value, homes priced above Rs 1 crore contributed a dominant 49 per cent share, underscoring the strong demand for premium properties despite their lower volume share. The majority of the registered properties in Hyderabad were concentrated in the range of 1,000 to 2,000 sq ft, accounting for 67 per cent of all registrations. Units sized >2,000 sq ft accounted for 18 per cent of the total registrations as compared with the 16 per cent registered during May 2024.

According to Knight Frank India's assessment, residential property registrations in Hyderabad rose by 2 per cent year-on-year (YoY) and 5 per cent month-on-month (MoM) in May 2025—the first such increase recorded this year. The total value of homes registered has surged by 14 per cent YoY and 4 per cent MoM. The Hyderabad residen-



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tial market spans across four districts—Hyderabad, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Rangareddy, and Sangareddy—and includes transactions from both the primary and secondary real estate markets. At the district level, the Knight Frank report documents Rangareddy accounting for 48 per cent of property registrations, followed by Medchal-Malkajgiri at 37 per cent and Hyderabad district with 15 per cent of total registrations. Shishir Baijal, Chairman and Managing Director, Knight Frank India, said, "Hyderabad's residential market showed encouraging signs of revival in May 2025, marking the first rise in home registrations this year."

Telangana: A Global Beacon of Growth and Innovation – Minister Sridhar Babu Invites International Collaboration at Global Leaders' Summit 2025.



"PS Ashokan" Indian Chronicle, June, 13, "Hyderabad, June 13, 2025: "Telangana continues to set new benchmarks in development and inclusive growth, emerging as a role model for other Indian states and a magnet for global investors. At the prestigious Global Leaders' Summit 2025, organized by the International Business Collaboration (IBC) at Taj Deccan, Hyderabad, Telangana's Minister for IT and Industries, Sri Duddilla Sridhar Babu, formally invited representatives from 25 countries to partner with the state in its transformative journey. "Inaugurating the summit, the Minister stated that Telangana, once doubted at its inception, has now firmly established itself as "Unstoppable" in both economic growth and innovation. He shared key statistics highlighting the state's remarkable progress: "Telangana's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has reached ₹16.12 lakh crore. "The state recorded a 10.1% growth rate, exceeding the national average of 9.9%. "Per capita income stands at ₹3.79 lakh, 1.8 times higher than the national average. "In just 18 months, over ₹3 lakh crore in investments have been mobilized. "The life sciences sector alone received ₹40,000 crore in investments, generating 2 lakh new jobs. "The services sector contributes 66.3% to the GSDP, significantly above the national share of 55%. "These are not just numbers—they are a testament to Telangana's visionary leadership and dynamic growth," the Minister emphasized. "In Telangana, every partnership is not a mere transaction—it is a step toward meaningful transformation. "Sri Sridhar Babu expressed Telangana's readiness to collaborate with global partners in cutting-edge sectors such as: "Agro-Innovation" "Artificial Intelligence Governance" "Smart Healthcare Systems" "Digital Farming" "Future-Ready Education" "Sustainable Manufacturing" "Clean and Renewable Energy" "He added, "While other states follow trends, Telangana creates them. We invite the world not just to invest but to become active participants in our development story. "The summit drew participation from delegates representing Brazil, Germany, Russia, Cameroon, Malta, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria, Belgium, the UAE, and Dubai, among others. The Minister described their presence

Congress govt omits Balladeer Gaddar's photo in award invite, draws flak



News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: The Congress government is drawing flak for omitting revolutionary singer Balladeer Gaddar's photo in the invite for the awards ceremony named in his honour. The Telangana Gaddar Film Awards ceremony is scheduled to be held at Hitec Exhibition Centre on Saturday. In its invite to the guests, the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC) had incorporated the photographs of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy along with the Corporation chairman and film producer Raju. It also comprised the logos of the State government, the TFDC and even the "Telangana Rising 2047", but no photograph of Gaddar could be found.

Further, Gaddar's photograph was also omitted from the award which is being awarded in his memory. Several netizens criticised the government for what termed as "its gross negligence", and termed it as a dishonour to Gaddar. BRS MLC K Kavitha condemned the Congress government for omitting the revolutionary singer's photograph from the invitation for the film awards named after him. Terming it a grave insult, she questioned how a government that frequently invokes Gaddar's name failed to acknowledge him visually in the event's official invite. She demanded that Gaddar be duly honoured and that his photo be prominently displayed at the award distribution ceremony.

Sri Venkateswara University Begins Certificate Verification for M.P.Ed Admissions via AP PGCET-2025



“ Sri Venkateswara University (SVU) today commenced the certificate verification process for candidates seeking admission to the Master of Physical Education (M.P.Ed) program through the Andhra Pradesh Post Graduate Common Entrance Test (AP PGCET-2025). The AP PGCET-2025 examinations, conducted by SVU on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh State Council of Higher Education (APSCHE), were held from June 9 to June 12, 2025. “The verification process, specifically for M.P.Ed aspirants, was

formally inaugurated at the SVU Department of Physical Education by the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Appa Rao. “Admission to the M.P.Ed program requires candidates to not only clear the AP PGCET entrance test but also submit their sports and games participation certificates. These certificates are evaluated for a total of 100 marks, which are then added to their final score.” Speaking at the inauguration, Vice-Chancellor Professor Appa Rao stated, “Out of 438 candidates who applied for the M.P.Ed program through AP PGCET-2025, 349 appeared for the entrance examination. Their sports and games certificates will now be meticulously verified here at the SVU Physical Education Department on June 13th and 14th to award the appropriate marks.” The Vice-Chancellor also commended the Convener, Professor P. C. Venkateswarlu, for making excellent and seamless arrangements to ensure students arriving from all corners of the state face no inconveniences. “An expert committee has been formed to oversee the verification process, comprising:” * Professor Paul from Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur * Professor Srinivas from Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur * Professor Rama Subba Reddy from Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa * Professor Sivasankar Reddy from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati “The university is committed to ensuring a transparent and rigorous evaluation for all aspiring physical education professionals.

"Congress Neglects Loyal Cadre While Dynasty Reaps the Rewards: Putta Madhukar Lashes Out at Party Leadership"



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani June 13”“In a scathing attack on the Congress party's internal functioning, former Manthani MLA Putta Madhukar questioned the systematic sidelining of dedicated grassroots leaders in favor of dynastic favoritism. Speaking at a press meet held at Rajagruha, Manthani, Madhukar accused the party of ignoring senior leaders who have unwaveringly carried the Congress flag for decades across the Manthani constituency. “Are the countless SC, ST, BC, Minority, and Upper Caste leaders who have given their lives to the party not deserving of recognition?” Madhukar asked pointedly, adding that since the days of Sripadaravu, loyalists have been sacrificed for the political convenience of one family. “Taking direct aim at Duddilla Srinubabu, he remarked, “> “What public struggle or mass movement has he ever been part of? Yet, he’s rewarded with the position of PCC General Secretary while seasoned leaders are pushed into oblivion. “Madhukar lamented that even past

appointees like former MPP Bollankonda Kishtayya, despite being a PCC member, were never honored or promoted meaningfully. “His photograph has never even been displayed by the party,” he noted. “He went on to criticize what he termed as the “culture of celebration” within Congress whenever a Duddilla family member secures a position, stating that the party has been reduced to serving dynastic interests rather than democratic representation. “He further pointed out. “> “For 17 months, the Congress government has failed to appoint a market committee in Manthani, while neighboring constituencies like Peddapalli, Ramagundam, and Bhupalpally have made significant progress in institutional appointments. “Recalling his tenure, Madhukar emphasized that under his leadership, representation was inclusive. “> “Even when we had just one MPTC win in Mutharam, we made that person the MPP. We ensured opportunity and dignity for every loyal worker. “He named several deserving yet overlooked leaders including **Minister

KTR visits BRS MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy in hospital after slip injury

GNS News Agency, June 13
Hyderabad: BRS working president KT Rama Rao called on party MLA Palla Rajeshwar Reddy at Yashoda Hospital, Somajiguda, where the latter is undergoing treatment. The MLA suffered an injury after slipping on the wet floor in a bathroom at former Chief Minister K Chandrashekhara Rao’s residence at Erravalli on Wednesday morning and underwent a surgery. Former Minister and senior MLA Talasani Srinivas Yadav, along with several MLAs, MLCs, and senior BRS leaders, accompanied Rama Rao during the visit. On the occasion, Rama Rao interacted with Rajeshwar Reddy who informed that he is recovering well.



Brazen Plunder of Soil from Reddy Cheruvu in Manthani — Earth Ravaged by Unchecked Mafia Operations.



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani, June 13”“In Manthani region, it is not just the illegal sand mining that is raising alarm—now even fertile soil is being indiscriminately looted. The soil mafia is ruthlessly tearing into the womb of Mother Earth, with not a shred of accountability in sight. The latest epicenter of this environmental assault is Reddy Cheruvu, located within the limits of Surayyapalli, Kakarlapalli, and Gangapur villages in Manthani mandal. “What was once a serene water body is now being degraded beyond recognition, as earthmovers and lorries engage in relentless excavation. The soil is being dug out and transported without pause, often under the guise of possessing official permissions. Shockingly, not a single voice of authority has come forward to challenge these brazen acts, and even concerned citizens are met with silence or deflection. “The situation in Gangapur is particularly alarming. For the past several days, truckloads of soil have been smuggled out with impunity. The movement of these heavy vehicles through narrow village roads has posed serious safety hazards to residents. Disturbed by the risk, local villagers courageously blocked the lorries in protest. Only after this public outcry did officials respond and tem-



porarily seize a few vehicles. “However, the administration’s response has been half-hearted at best. This lack of stringent action has emboldened the perpetrators, who continue to violate environmental norms and time restrictions with utter disregard. Excavations are occurring at odd hours, in complete violation of protocol, stirring deep frustration among local residents. “The people of Surayyapalli, Kakarlapalli, and Gangapur have now come together to demand immediate and decisive intervention. They have appealed to the District Collector to take stern action against this illegal soil mafia and restore ecological balance to the region before further damage is inflicted.

"Beware, Putta Madhu – Mind Your Language": Congress Cadre Fires Back with Fervour in Manthani.



“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“Manthani June, 13”“A powerful rebuttal came today from the Congress leadership of Manthani as they lashed out at former Peddapalli ZP Chairman Putta Madhukar, condemning his baseless allegations and warning him to restrain his rhetoric. “Under the leadership of Mandal Congress President Aili Prasad, a press meet was convened at the MLA camp office, joined by prominent local leaders including former Sarpanch Vodnala Srinivas, PACS Chairman Kotha Srinivas, Working President Budida Shankar, Shashibhushan Kache, former Youth Congress President Erukala Praveen, ex-MPTC Maragoni Shankar Goud, Sripathi Banayya, Azeem Khan, and Narsinga Rao. “They categorically denounced the statements made by Putta Madhukar, asserting that his comments stem from sheer political insecurity triggered by the rising popularity and effective leadership of Shri Sridhar Babu. “The leaders stated that Sridhar Babu has been a beacon of inclusive development in the Manthani constituency, delivering all-round progress and ensuring representation for all communities—SCs, STs, BCs, minorities, and OCs alike. “Sri Sreenu Babu, hailed as a dedicated companion to Sridhar Babu, was praised for his relentless service to the people. Known for resolving public grievances with a single phone call, energizing party cadre, and championing Congress initiatives, his recent appointment as General Secretary of the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee was described as well-earned and inspiring. “> “This is an internal party affair. Yet, Putta Madhukar’s attempt to politicize it is disgraceful,” they remarked. “The Congress leaders posed critical questions to Madhukar, demanding answers for his past silence and bias during his tenure. “Why were no SC, ST, or BC leaders given significant positions when his wife Putta Shailaja was the Sarpanch

and he himself held multiple top posts? “Why was the prestigious Kaleshwaram Mukteshwara Temple Trust Chairmanship awarded to an outsider and a relative of KCR, bypassing deserving local backward class leaders? “They accused him of attaining political power by marginalizing and suppressing weaker sections, adding, “> “For a person like him to preach about representation today is akin to a demon reciting scriptures. “The speakers emphasized that Sridhar Babu’s leadership stands in sharp contrast—promoting equality, empowering grassroots leaders, and giving voice to the marginalized. “They further revealed that even disgruntled members of Madhukar’s own party are now embracing the Congress ideology under Sridhar Babu’s dynamic guidance. “> “Put your own house in order before casting stones at others,” they advised. “Issuing a stern warning, they concluded, “> “If Putta Madhukar dares to speak against Sridhar Babu or Sreenu Babu again, Congress workers will not remain silent. “Leaders and activists who attended the press conference include: “Municipal Congress President Polu Shiva, Mandal Youth President Sadula Srikanth, Single Window Director Ravikanti Satish, District General Secretary Koodudula Venkanna, RTA Member Manthani Suresh, former councillors Sripathi Banayya, VK Ravi, Nookala Banayya, Kura Lingayya, and key party members Peravena Lingayya, Ram Rajashekar, Chandru Rayamalla, Akkapaka Sadayya, and Sandeep. Also present were former Sarpanches B. Srinivas, SC Cell President Manthani Rakesh, BC Cell President Aili Srinivas, District Social Media In-Charge Arelli Kiran, and Youth Congress leaders Arla Nagaraju, Arelli Varun, Kranti Kumar, Pendru Vijay, Road Rajeshwar Rao, Uthla Anil, Bhugonda Ravi—along with a large contingent of Congress supporters and cadre.

Peddapalli Gears Up for Progress: Ministers Lay Foundation for 4.2 Crore Integrated Market.

“PS Ashokan“Indian Chronicle“June, 13”“In a major stride toward urban infrastructure development, Telangana Housing, Revenue, and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, along with IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, laid the foundation stone for a state-of-the-art Integrated Market in Peddapalli on Friday. The market is being constructed at an estimated cost of ₹24.20 crore, aimed at streamlining trade and benefiting local vendors and farmers. “Earlier in the day, the ministers inaugurated a newly established police station in Eligedu Mandal, symbolizing the government’s commitment to enhancing law and order in rural areas. “At the Peddapalli Integrated Collectorate complex, the dignitaries also unveiled: “A Traffic Police Station” “A Rural Police Station” “A Women Police Station located near the Agricultural Market Yard” “These developments are part of a broader plan to modernize civic amenities and strengthen policing infrastructure in the district. “The event witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities, including: “Karimnagar Sudha Chairman K. Narender Reddy” “District Collector Koya Sri Harsha” “MLAs Chintakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao and



Makan Singh Raj Thakur “MLC Bhanu Prasad Rao” “Ramagundam Police Commissioner Amber Kishore” “DCP Karunakar” “Additional Collectors D. Venu and J. Arunasri” “Revenue Division Officer B. Gangayya” “District Library Chairman Annayya Goud”.

In a first, blue sheep at the Himalayan Nature Park in Kufri gives birth to offspring



GNS News Agency, June 13The Himalayan Nature Park in Kufri, about 18 km from Shimla, has achieved a significant milestone in wildlife conservation with the successful breeding of the blue sheep, locally known as bharal (*Pseudois nayaur*), for the first time on Saturday. The Park authorities are yet to ascertain the gender of the newly born lamb. In a collaborative effort with the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park in Darjeeling, the park received three bharals under a wildlife exchange programme in 2023. These animals were quarantined and acclimatised to their new environment before being introduced into their designated enclosures.

“The successful breeding of the bharal is a testament to the park’s effective conservation strategies. Bharals are vital to the Himalayan ecosystem, serving as a primary prey species for the endangered snow leopard. Maintaining a healthy population of bharals is crucial for the survival of these apex predators. The park’s breeding programme aligns with broader conservation efforts in the region,” Shahnawaz Ahmed Bhat, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Wildlife), said. He added that these initiatives aim to ensure

the long-term viability of the species and their role in maintaining the ecological balance of the Himalayas. The gestation period of a female blue sheep is approximately 150 to 160 days, and a female typically gives birth to a single lamb, usually between May and early July. Building on the success of the bharal breeding programme, the park plans to expand its conservation efforts by introducing additional species and enhancing its educational outreach. Although the blue sheep is categorized as “Least Concern” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the population faces threats such as poaching for meat and competition with livestock. However, poaching is relatively uncommon due to the inhospitable nature of the bharal’s habitat. Similarly, livestock seldom venture into the mountainous regions where bharals are found, and even when they do coexist, no significant detrimental impact on the bharal population has been observed. A senior officer said, “The introduction of bharals to the Himalayan Nature Park enhances its appeal as an ecotourism destination. Visitors now have the opportunity to observe these elusive animals in an environment that closely mirrors their natural habitat.” Situated at an altitude of over 2,600 metres, the Himalayan Nature Park spans 13.73 hectares of temperate vegetation, providing a natural habitat for various high-altitude species. The park’s ecosystem — characterised by deodar, fir, spruce, and oak forests — offers an ideal environment for the bharal, which thrives in the region’s rugged terrain. The park’s serene environment, coupled with its diverse wildlife, offers an enriching experience for nature enthusiasts and contributes to the region’s sustainable tourism initiatives. Through continued collaboration with national and international wildlife bodies, the Himalayan Nature Park aims to play a pivotal role in preserving the unique biodiversity of the Western Himalayas.

Congress announces Kabil Uddin Sheikh as candidate for Kaliganj bypoll; Left Front to support



GNS News Agency, June 13
After a series of talks, the Left Front and the Congress have agreed to jointly fight the Kaliganj Assembly bypoll in West Bengal which is slated to be held on June 19. On Saturday, the Congress announced Kabil Uddin Sheikh as its candidate for the seat. Earlier, CPI(M) state secretary Mohammed Salim had said that the party did well in the area in the previous Lok Sabha election and hence it will put up a candidate in Kaliganj, which is a traditional Congress bastion.

Besides the Congress, Left ally RSP has won the seat four times during the Left Front’s rule. In 2016, the Congress — which was in an alliance with the Left — won the Assembly seat, but its winning candidate later joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC). TMC’s Nasiruddin Ahmed won from Kaliganj in 2011 but lost in 2016. He again regained the seat in 2021. After his demise in February this year, the

seat has been vacant. During the Left Front meeting on Friday, allies of the CPI(M) said that the seat should ideally go to the RSP, but for the sake of the alliance, it should be given to the Congress. The CPI(M) leadership agreed. A senior CPI(M) leader said, “It was decided in the Left Front meeting that the RSP may fight in the 2026 Assembly election, but now the seat can be given to the Congress. The TMC had earlier announced that it will field Nasiruddin Ahmed’s daughter Alifa Ahmed, 38, in the seat. A BTech graduate, she works at a renowned IT company. Salim had said earlier, “We fought the panchayat and Lok Sabha election there (Kaliganj) and did well. In the 2016 Assembly election, the Congress won the seat but their MLA joined the TMC. So, we think if we can file a candidate there and fight unitedly, we can defeat the BJP and TMC there.” During the 2011 Assembly election, the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC was in alliance with the Congress. They also formed a government with the Congress.

But within one year, the alliance broke, following which the Congress never tied up with the TMC at the state level or in any other election. The CPI(M)-led Left Front first had an official alliance with the Congress in the 2016 polls. The Congress won 44 seats, Left Front 30, the BJP three and the TMC won 211 out of the 294 seats in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. However, just after the Assembly election, the alliance broke. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, no alliance was formed between the Left Front and Congress. The Congress won two seats, BJP 18, and the TMC 22 seats out of the 42 Lok Sabha seats in the state. The Left Front failed to open its account. In the 2021 Assembly election, the Left Front, Congress and the Indian Secular Front (ISF) were in alliance. The Left Front and the Congress failed to open their accounts, while the ISF won a seat. The TMC won 213 and the BJP won 77 seats. During the 2024 Lok Sabha election, even though the TMC joined the Congress and Left parties under the INDIA bloc at the national level, they had no alliance with either party in the state. The Congress, however, tied up with the Left Front and won a seat. Left parties other than the CPI(M) again failed to make a mark. In the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the 2023 panchayat election, the Left Front-Congress alliance did well.

After 350% surge in cyber crimes and poor detection rate of 12%, the headless Mumbai Cyber Police finally gets a DCP after 2-years

GNS News Agency, June 13
In 2024 alone, Mumbai recorded cyber fraud cases worth around Rs 1,200 crore and a poor recovery rate of 12%, but its cyber police department had been headless since May 29, 2023. Finally, on Friday, in an internal shuffle where 13 DCPs got new postings, a full-time DCP was appointed for the long-vacant DCP Cyber post. As per the order signed by joint commissioner of police, EOW, Nishith Mishra (holding additional charge of Jt. CP Administration), Purushottam Narayan Karhad has been entrusted with the responsibility of DCP Cyber police under the crime branch. Karhad was previously posted with the Special Branch, the intelligence branch of the city police force. The Indian Express in its December 24, 2024, report had highlighted the issue of how the state home department and (then) Mumbai police commissioner, amid rapidly growing cyber crimes, have failed to depute a full-time DCP (deputy commissioner of police) for the cyber police department for a long time. DCP Balsingh Rajput served as the last full-time DCP Cyber till May 29, 2023. Since then various DCPs from the crime branch have been temporarily holding additional charge of the office of DCP Cyber for the past 24 months. DCP (detection) Datta Nalawde was last holding the additional charge of DCP Cyber. On Friday he was transferred back to zone 10. DCP Cyber supervises the functioning of five regional cyber police stations in the city that deal with all the major, important and sensitive cyber crime cases involving more than Rs 10 lakh. Underlining the significance of having a full-time DCP Cyber, a police officer requesting anonymity said, “When an IPS officer or senior police officer is entrusted with the full-time job of this key post, then the performance of the five police stations improves.”

The cyber police department is a specialised crime branch wing, which is expected to deliver results beyond just detecting cases involving more than Rs 10 lakhs and not focusing on planning and executing major crackdowns on bigger cyber crime syndicates,” a former cyber crime officer said. The senior officer is expected to look into possible solutions and formulate policies for long-term goals,

anticipating and identifying major cybercrime trends, potential threats and their root causes and plugging them with possible remedies to prevent future crimes, the officer added. A full-time senior officer can also work with other cybercrime-combating agencies to conceptualise and introduce mechanisms for the prevention of stealing of data, which far more plays a very crucial role in most of the financial cybercrimes. The stolen data are rampantly used by fraud gangs for profiling and enlisting their potential victims to be targeted. The officer further added, “To crack well-oiled professional gangs and rackets operating in other states or outside the country through trained professional cyber criminals, the planning, forming of policy and guidelines, and making strategies and subsequent execution of operations have to come from the upper brass of the police department and not from the lower rank officers.”

A city like Mumbai needs to always have a dedicated senior police officer for the cyber department, as the cybercrime world is different from traditional crimes. It’s a rapidly evolving crime world. Every six months we see a new cybercrime method trending, with new gangs and new technology. By the time the police force understands, analyses, and trains police officers and prepares a strategy or method to tackle them, the fraud gangs have already looted many people and destroyed many lives. If the branch has a full-time DCP, then he/she could work on finding quick solutions and prompt executions. An officer holding an additional charge of this department would preferably focus on his primary posting’s work,” another former cyber police station official said. On Friday 13 DCPs were transferred in an internal shuffle. DCPs Krishnkant Upadhyay, Datta Nalawde and Mahesh Chimte have been transferred to zones 3, 10 and 12, respectively. DCP Rajtilak Roushan has been given charge of DCP detection. Officers Navnath Dhavale, Vijaykhanth Sagar, Sameer Shaikh and Rakesh Ola have been appointed DCPs of Anti-Narcotics Cell, Port, zone 6 and zone 7, respectively. DCPs Prashant Pardeshi, Nimith Goyal, Dattatray Kambale and Sachin Gunjal have been transferred to Traffic (south), Quick Response Team, Special Branch-1 and Prevention.

Partners should understand India’s zero tolerance for terror policy, not put India and Pakistan on par, says Jaishankar



GNS News Agency, June 13
India expects its partners to understand its “policy of zero tolerance” on terrorism, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar told visiting British Foreign Secretary David Lammy, adding that the country cannot “countenance” equating “perpetrators of evil” with their victims. The stern statement from the External Affairs Minister came at the beginning of talks during Mr. Lammy’s one day visit to Delhi on Saturday (June 7, 2025), and follows a few weeks after Mr. Lammy’s visit to Pakistan where he said that the US and UK are working with India and Pakistan to ensure “an enduring ceasefire”, dialogue and Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) between India and Pakistan. The comments, in an interview to Reuters in Islamabad on May 17 had ruffled feathers in New Delhi as it has repeatedly denied any third country’s role in the India-Pakistan 4-day conflict after the Pahalgam terror attacks.

“We practice a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and expect our partners to understand it, and we will never countenance perpetrators of evil being put at par with its victims,” Mr. Jaishankar told Mr. Lammy, while thanking the Government of the United Kingdom for its condemnation of the Pahalgam terror attack and support for India’s fight against terrorism. In a statement ahead of the visit, the UK High Commission said that Mr. Lammy would address the “recent escalation in tensions following the Pahalgam terrorist attack and how the welcomed sustained period of peace can be best supported in the interests of stability in the region”. “Zero Tolerance for Terror”: Jaishankar sends strong message to UK | Video Credit: The HinduMr. Jaishankar’s strong words are part of a diplomatic pushback by the government against other countries over what is seen as “hyphenation” with Pakistan in the aftermath of Opera-

tion Sindoor, where many countries expressed concerns and offered to help stop the military escalation during the 4-day conflict. The government has faced criticism from the opposition over US President Donald Trump’s claim that he mediated the crisis, a claim seemingly bolstered by Russian Presidential Aide Ushakov and Mr. Lammy in their respective statements. In addition, the opposition has claimed that the government has failed diplomatically to stop Pakistan, that is a non-permanent member of the UNSC, from becoming the chair of the Taliban Sanctions Committee and the vice-chair of the Counter Terrorism Committee for the year, despite India’s ties with permanent members US, UK, France and Russia and others on the council.

Official sources said that “India will be working closely with its friends” in the UNSC to keep a watch on Pakistan’s activities on the council, given that Pakistan will also assume the Presidency of the UNSC in July. The sources said that Pakistan had requested Chairpersonship of four committee dealing with terrorism, and had only been nominated to the top of two and Co-chair of some informal working groups (IWG) due to a move by the Council to “reign in Pakistan”. They added that at least 50 of 343 individuals and entities that have been designated by the UNSC as terrorists are linked to or reside in Pakistan, and many globally wanted terrorists including Osama Bin Laden had lived and trained there. The MEA did not respond to requests for a comment on whether the issue of Pakistan’s role in the UNSC terror committees had been discussed between Mr. Jaishankar and Mr. Lammy. Mr. Lammy met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday morning, the second time he was accorded the meeting, after his last visit in July 2024. He is also meeting Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to take forward discussions on the India-UK Free Trade Agreement, that was finalised last month, and discussions over signing could be held between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and UK PM Keith Starmer when they meet at the G-7 summit side-lines in Canada in mid-June, where India is a special invitee. In his opening remarks, Mr. Jaishankar also referred to the India-UK FTA, as a “milestone” in ties, and the potential of other bilateral agreements including the Technology Security Initiative (TSI) for AI, and the Strategic Exports and Technology Cooperation Dialogue to “propel” ties forward. “Signing a free trade agreement is just the start of our ambitions - we’re building a modern partnership with India for a new global era,” Mr. Lammy said in a statement ahead of his visit to India, pointing to cooperation in growth, technology, tackling the climate crisis, delivering “migration priorities” and on security issues.

NIA files chargesheet against Goldy Brar, 4 others in Gurgaon clubs bombing case



GNS News Agency, June 13
NIA chargesheet Goldy Brar, Gurgaon club bomb blasts 2024, Warehouse Club bomb attack, Human Club Gurugram explosion, The NIA added that it had “found the accused to be involved in conspiracy to target Warehouse Club and Human Club in Sector 29, Gurugram with bombs. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against five accused, including the designated individual terrorist Goldy Brar, in a 2024 case relating to bomb attacks at two clubs in Gurgaon.

‘We look to the future, not past’: Sanjay Raut amid Sena (UBT)-MNS alliance buzz



GNS News Agency, June 13
sanjay raut, mumbai news, indian express Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Sanjay Raut told reporters in Mumbai, urging MNS leaders to forget rifts in the past and look at the future of the two parties.. (Source: ANI Photo) Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said Saturday that his party is focused on building the future, not dwelling on past differences, amid growing speculation of a possible alliance with the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS). “Those who wish to take positive steps do not look back. We look to the future. How long are you going to dwell on the past?” Raut told reporters in Mumbai, urging MNS leaders to forget rifts in the past and look at the future of the two parties. The MP’s comments come on the heels of Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray’s recent admission that informal talks are underway with the Raj Thackeray-led MNS, a statement that has revived hopes of a political rapprochement nearly two decades after they split. Meanwhile, the Sena (UBT)’s mouthpiece Saamana on Saturday carried photographs of Uddhav and Raj Thackeray together on its front page—an image not seen in party media for years. This came even as posters featuring the two leaders together, calling for unity, were spotted in parts of Mumbai and Thane. Party workers from both sides are reportedly behind the campaign, urging the cousins to “unite for the Marathi cause.” One of the posters put up at Girgaon has a message, in Marathi, stating that the two brothers must come together for the cause of eight crore Marathi people, and the people of Girgaon are eagerly waiting for their reconciliation. “Please come together and save Marathi manoes before the outsiders’ plan to capture Maharashtra succeeds,” it reads. Raut’s statement came after MNS leaders

said on Friday that the Sena (UBT) should send a proposal to their party president and pointed out that they were met with a cold response when they attempted to form an alliance with the undivided Shiv Sena in 2014 and 2017 and during the Covid period. “Maybe the leaders have already spoken on phone calls, who knows? Once the process is completed, you will see the fruits. There is positivity among workers of both parties,” Raut had said on Friday, hinting that the talks could be well advanced. Earlier, Uddhav had told reporters at his residence, Matoshree, “There is no confusion in my mind or that of my Shiv Sainiks. Even MNS workers are in touch with us, and there is no confusion in their minds either.” He added, “... what is in the hearts of the people of Maharashtra—that will happen.” Meanwhile, Raj Thackeray has reportedly been holding marathon meetings with party office-bearers and leaders in Mumbai amid the possible alliance with Sena (UBT).

Drunk man attacks neighbour mistaking her for his wife

GNS News Agency, June 13
Hyderabad: An inebriated man mistook a woman who stays in his neighbourhood to be his wife and attacked her with lethal weapons resulting in life threatening injuries to the victim at Mailardevpally. According to the police, Saleem, a daily wager, stayed along with his wife Noorjahan, in Uddamgadda in Mailardevpally. The couple are natives of Nanded district in Maharashtra. Beside Saleem’s room, a woman named Abida stayed with family. For some weeks, some issues were going on between Saleem and his wife following which the man was raging in anger. “On Friday night, Saleem consumed liquor and in an inebriated condition came to the house. Instead of going into his room Saleem went into the neighbour’s room where Abida was asleep. He mistook the woman to be his wife and attacked her with a sharp object,” said Maiardevpally Inspector, P Narendar. The woman coming under attack shouted for help. The neighbours caught hold of Saleem and thrashed him while Abida was shifted to hospital where she is undergoing treatment. Her condition was stated to be critical. The Mailardevpally police registered a case and are investigating.

Quantum education in United States: A launchpad for Indian innovation



GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: Quantum technology is no longer a far-fetched concept from science fiction or an abstract branch of theoretical physics. It is actively shaping a new era — one defined by revolutionary computational capabilities, ultra-secure communication networks, and precision sensing technologies. For Indian students, this represents an invaluable opportunity to train at the frontier of scientific and technological progress and return equipped to drive transformative innovation back home. Quantum computers leverage qubits — quantum bits that can exist in multiple states at once — enabling massive parallel processing. Problems once deemed computationally impossible for classical systems can now be solved in a fraction of the time.

- **Drug Discovery:** By simulating complex molecular interactions at the quantum level, pharmaceutical research can significantly accelerate the development of life-saving medications.
- **Artificial Intelligence:** Quantum-enhanced machine learning models can improve diagnostics, robotic operations and natural language processing through superior speed and accuracy.
- **Quantum Communication:** Next-Generation Security Quantum communication offers virtually unbreakable encryption, as any interference during data transmission is immediately detectable.
- **National Security:** Defence agencies are actively exploring quantum cryptographic methods to secure vital data.
- **Cybersecurity:** Quantum Key Distribution (QKD), a method based on entangled particles, enables secure information sharing. If a third party (often dubbed “Eve”) attempts to intercept the communication, the disturbance is instantly noticeable to both sender (Alice) and receiver (Bob).
- **Quantum Internet:** Looking ahead, a global quantum internet built on QKD promises a new era of ultra-secure communication. Quantum Sensing: Unparalleled Precision

Quantum sensors exploit subtle quantum phenomena to detect extremely minute changes in physical environments.

- **Healthcare:** Quantum sensors may detect diseases like Parkinson’s or arrhythmias by identifying tiny magnetic fluctuations within human cells.
- **Climate Monitoring:** Applications include locating underground water, detecting oil deposits and monitoring environmental changes with high accuracy
- **Superconductors and Batteries:** More efficient energy storage and transfer technologies could support the

global shift toward renewable energy. Quantum algorithms enable the rapid simulation of thousands of financial scenarios, improving risk assessment and enabling smarter fraud detection. Space Exploration

- **Quantum Gyroscopes:** Essential for spacecraft navigating deep space without relying on GPS.
- **Quantum Telescopes:** These could vastly improve resolution in observing distant celestial objects, such as galaxies and black holes. The United States leads in quantum research and education, offering diverse programs that blend physics, computer science, mathematics and engineering. For Indian students, this multi-disciplinary approach creates a comprehensive pathway into the quantum field. At Undergraduate level, students explore essential subjects like Quantum information theory, Mathematics of qubits and logic gates, Programming on platforms such as IBM Qiskit or Google Cirq. Master’s and PhD students engage deeply in Quantum algorithm design, Error correction techniques, Quantum hardware construction using trapped ions, photonics, or superconductors. Many students participate in groundbreaking research through university labs, federally funded centres, or collaborations with leading tech firms such as IBM, Intel, and Google. Interdisciplinary course highlights in US Programs include concepts like entanglement and superposition, key algorithms like Grover’s and Shor’s, development of robust, noise-resistant systems, hands-on quantum computing through cloud platforms, practical applications of post-quantum security models, building medical, defence, and exploratory sensors and research into graphene, quantum dots and novel substances for energy and computing. Ideal candidates will have backgrounds in physics and mathematics, including quantum mechanics, linear algebra, and differential equations, proficiency in programming, especially Python, and experience with tools like Qiskit, Cirq or PennyLane, lab experience in fields like quantum optics, solid-state physics, or nanotechnology. Students from computer science, electrical engineering or mathematics can transition through bridge programs or interdisciplinary degrees in quantum computing or engineering. India’s National Quantum Mission (NQM) marks a significant step toward establishing indigenous capabilities. Yet, a key hurdle remains: the shortage of trained talent. US-educated Indian students can bridge this gap: Filling the Talent Gap: Graduates with global exposure can advance India’s universities, national labs, and research centres. Academic Leadership: Returnees can help shape curricula and mentor students at institutions like IITs, IISERs, and major universities. Boosting Startups and Industrial Innovation: With experience from quantum-rich environments, students can launch startups or drive innovation in sectors like logistics, health tech and finance.

Enhancing National Security: Quantum-savvy experts are crucial in building secure communication systems for government and defense sectors. Roadmap to the Future Quantum technology is at the cusp of triggering a new wave of scientific and industrial revolutions. The demand for quantum-trained scientists, engineers, and developers is poised to surge in the coming decade. EducationUSA is the US Department of State’s official resource for accurate, free, and up-to-date information about studying in the United States. Students can download the EducationUSA India app, available for free on iOS and Android devices, for the latest information about the college application process. Or visit <https://educationusa.in/>

Monthly GST payment form 3B is to become non-editable from July tax period



GNS News Agency, June 13

New Delhi: GST Network (GSTN) on Saturday said the monthly GST payment form GSTR-3B will become non-editable from the July 2025 tax period. In an advisory, GSTN said taxpayers can make changes in declared outward supplies in GSTR-1A before filing their GSTR-3B in the same return period. Such changes will be auto-populated in tax payment form GSTR-3B. “From the July 2025 tax period

for which form GSTR-3B will be furnished in August 2025, such auto populated liability will become non-editable. “Thus, taxpayers will be allowed to amend their auto-populated liability by making amendments through form GSTR 1A, which can be filed for the same tax period before filing of GSTR-3B,” GSTN said. GSTR-3B, a summary statement and monthly GST payment form, is filed in a staggered manner between the 20th, 22nd and 24th of every month for different categories of taxpayers. Currently, the GST Portal provides a pre-filled GSTR-3B, where the tax liability gets auto-populated based on the outward supplies declared in GSTR-1/GSTR-1A/ IFF. As of now, taxpayers can edit such auto-populated values in form GSTR-3B itself.

AMRG & Associates Senior Partner Rajat Mohan said the move to make GSTR-3B non-editable aims to tighten data consistency between GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B and curb revenue leakages. However, the availability of GSTR-1A for corrections before filing GSTR-3B is a welcome safeguard. “Taxpayers must now ensure real-time reconciliation and error correction before the return is filed. This places greater responsibility on businesses to enhance internal controls and avoid last-minute adjustments,” Mohan added.

Specialist doctors will be ‘on call’ in Haryana government hospitals: Health minister Arti Singh Rao



GNS News Agency, June 13

Specialist doctors will now be available in Haryana’s government hospitals under an ‘on-call’ system, a pilot project initiated to make health services more robust and accessible to people, Health and Family Welfare Minister Arti Singh Rao said on Saturday. Initially, the service will be made available in five districts—Hisar, Jind, Mewat, Sonapat and Kaithal. The details of the scheme are yet to be announced. “With this initiative, specialist medical services will be made available even in rural and remote areas. Specialist doctors will attend to patients ‘on-call’ in hospitals. Specialist doctors will be available for services like anaesthesia, surgery, radiology, gynaecology and paediatrics,” Rao said. “This is a pilot project, which will later be expanded to the entire state. This scheme will not only provide high-quality medical facilities to patients, it will also reduce the need for a referral system at the district level,” Rao

added. The state government’s aim is to provide timely, quality and accessible health services to every citizen, she said, adding that this new initiative was “a strong and positive effort in that direction”. Rao also noted that the initiative is part of the government’s “broader effort to strengthen health services through technology, decentralisation, and innovation”. “Our government is committed to providing accessible, affordable, and quality healthcare. This is not just a policy shift—it is a people-centric reform aimed at saving lives and improving health outcomes,” Rao added.

Union Minister visits Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad

Hyderabad: Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, visited the Military College of Electronics & Mechanical Engineering on Friday. He was briefed by the Commandant, Lt Gen Neeraj Varshney, about the training activities at the institution. The Minister interacted with the soldiers and visited the new Drone Training Lab, “Drone Alaya,” and discussed ways and means to develop indigenous anti-drone systems to prevent Kamikaze attacks.

Mithi River desilting scam: Actor Dino Morea, others summoned by ED next week for questioning



GNS News Agency, June 13

A day after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted searches at several locations in Mumbai, including actor Dino Morea’s residence, the agency on Saturday summoned him and seven others for questioning next week in the Mithi River desilting scam case. The ED searches were held at more than 15 locations, including the residences and offices of the 13 BMC officers, contractors, and middlemen named as accused in the FIR filed by the Economic

Offences Wing (EOW) of the Mumbai police last month. Searches were also held at the Bandra (West) residence of Morea, a close friend of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray. Morea was questioned twice last month by the EOW Special Investigation Team (SIT).

The EOW had booked the 13 accused for allegedly causing wrongful loss to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) worth more than Rs 65.54 crore. Based on the EOW’s predicate offence, the ED last month registered an Enforcement Case Information Report and began a money laundering investigation. The Mithi River is an 18.64-km seasonal river with residential slum pockets and industrial patches alongside it. It plays the role of a natural stormwater drainage channel for Mumbai, carrying excess water during the monsoon. But, over the years, it has been used by residents to dump garbage, sewage, and industrial waste, polluting it to a significant level. After the 2005 Mumbai floods, the authorities realised the issues with the Mithi River, and the government put in efforts to clean the sludge from the riverbed to ensure uninterrupted water flow. It has been alleged that massive corruption occurred in the desilting work sanctioned and carried out by the BMC.

Relationship that started in Nepal ends in murder in Hyderabad, woman’s body found in suitcase

GNS News Agency, June 13

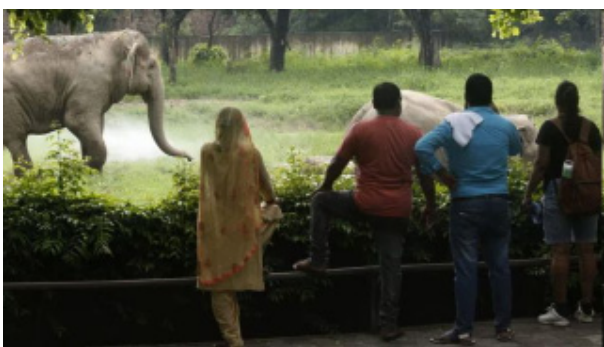
Hyderabad suitcase murder case, Nepal woman murdered in Hyderabad, Vijay Thapa murder case. According to police, while the woman cut off all contact with her family back in Nepal, the couple fought because Vijay was not prepared to marry her. A relationship that started in a remote village in Nepal’s Baglung district ended in murder in Hyderabad, with a woman’s body being found stuffed in a trolley suitcase outside a residential colony on the outskirts of the capital. A special investigation team of Bachupally police station under the Cyberabad police cracked the murder mystery after finding the decomposed body on June 4.

Inspector J Upender Rao said that the woman has been identified as a 33-year-old from Baglung. “She was strangled to death by her partner, Vijay Thapa, who belongs to the same village in Nepal,” Rao said. Vijay, 30, and the woman first met on social media a year ago, when she was living in Baglung and he was working at a restaurant in Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad. She was already married with two children. When Vijay visited his village last year, they met and professed love to each other, police said, adding that once he returned to Hyderabad, their long-distance relationship continued. On April 15, she left her home and travelled to Hyderabad with Vijay, and the two started living in a slum in Jubilee Hills. According to police, Vijay got a job as a chef at a restaurant in Bachupally, and the couple moved to a small house in Indiramma Colony in Borampet. According to police, while the woman cut off all



contact with her family back in Nepal, the couple fought because Vijay was not prepared to marry her. According to the police, on May 23, the couple fought because Vijay was allegedly forcing her to undergo an abortion. “In a fit of rage, Vijay strangled her with the nylon strap of a bag. After leaving the body in the house for a day, Vijay visited a bag store and purchased a large trolley suitcase in which he stuffed her body and carried it to a colony located in Bachupally, where he dumped it in the bushes. He went back home and also reported to work. On June 4, a watchman alerted residents to a foul smell coming from the bushes and located the suitcase. Balanagar Zone DCP K Suresh Kumar formed an SIT, which went through CCTV footage from various cameras and identified Vijay carrying the suitcase. Cops also verified footage from the shop where he purchased it. Police then traced him to the house.

Finally, Kolkata’s Alipore Zoo to introduce cloakroom facility for visitors



GNS News Agency, June 13

To enhance visitor convenience and streamline guest experience, the Alipore Zoological Garden in Kolkata is set to introduce a dedicated cloakroom facility within its premises. The much-awaited initiative will be installed ahead of the upcoming Durga Puja season. West Bengal Zoo Authority has approved the implementation of a cloakroom service in response to longstanding concerns raised by both and local visitors, who have often faced difficulties managing their personal belongings during their time at the zoo.

According to Arun Mukherjee, director of the Zoological Garden, the cloakroom will be located adjacent to the

main ticket counter for maximum accessibility. “The facility will house around 1,000 cabinets and will be available free of charge. We are aiming to have it fully operational before the upcoming Durga Puja to better serve the festive crowd,” said Mukherjee. Established in 1876, Alipore Zoo holds the distinction of being India’s oldest zoological park and remains one of the most popular recreational destinations in the city. With an annual footfall of approximately three million, the zoo continues to attract visitors from across the country. However, despite its widespread popularity, the absence of a cloakroom has been a significant shortcoming in its public service infrastructure. Carrying backpacks, food baskets, and other large items has often caused inconvenience to guests, particularly during weekends, holidays, and the peak winter season. Until now, the zoo’s official website had advised visitors to avoid bringing excess baggage, clearly stating that no storage facility was available on site. This cloakroom facility is in line with the zoo’s ongoing efforts to modernize infrastructure and improve the quality of services offered to the public. It is expected to ease congestion at entry points and allow visitors to enjoy the zoo’s offerings more comfortably. In recent years, the zoo has introduced several upgrades, including purified drinking water stations, improved restroom facilities, sanitary napkin vending machines, breastfeeding rooms, battery-operated carts, and wheelchairs for the elderly and differently-abled.

Gangster Shivam Andekar arrested for extorting money from fish vendor in Pune



GNS News Agency, June 13

Shivam was arrested after an FIR in the case was lodged at the Faraskhana police station on Friday following a complaint by a 38-year-old man who runs a fish stall in the Nana Peth market area. Shivam was arrested after an FIR in the case was lodged at the Faraskhana police station on Friday following a complaint by a 38-year-old man who runs a fish stall in the Nana Peth market area. (FB) The Pune city police on Friday arrested gangster Shivam Udaykant Andekar, 29, the leader of the notorious Andekar gang, and his aide for allegedly extorting money from a fish vendor. The police are now on the lookout for his other accomplices.

Shivam was arrested after an FIR in the case was lodged at the Faraskhana police station on Friday following a complaint by a 38-year-old man who runs a fish stall in the Nana Peth market area. According to a press release issued by Senior Police Inspector Prashant Bhame of the Faraskhana police station on Saturday, since 2016, Shivam had allegedly been extorting Rs 50,000 per month from the complainant through his gang member Akash Pardeshi, 28, by threatening to kill him and shut his business. Pardeshi, who is from Lohiya Nagar, has also been arrested. Till April 2025, the accused allegedly extorted about Rs 48 lakh from the complainant, in cash and through online transactions, the police said. But from May, due to financial constraints, the complainant refused to pay the extortion money. According to the police, Shivam, a resident of Doka Talim area in Nana Peth, and his aides allegedly threatened to kill the complainant and ransacked his fish stall. The accused allegedly threw away material worth Rs 90,000 from the complainant’s fish stall, the police said.

Two youths killed in road accident in Ghatkesar

Hyderabad: In a tragic incident, two youths were killed and another was seriously injured after the car they were traveling went out of control and crashed into an electric pole at Edulabad in Ghatkesar on city outskirts on Saturday early hours. A rash and negligent driving is suspected to be the reason for the accident. As per available information, the victims Bhargav Yadav, Varshit along with their friends Praveen .

Russian drone, missile strike kill 3, 21 injured in Ukraine’s Kharkiv



GNS News Agency, June 13

Kyiv: A large Russian drone-and-missile attack targeted eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Saturday, killing at least three people and injuring 21, local officials said. The barrage — the latest in near daily wide scale attacks — included aerial glide bombs that have become part of a fierce Russian onslaught in the three-year war. The intensity of the Russian attacks on Ukraine over the past weeks has further dampened hopes that the warring sides could reach a peace deal anytime soon — especially after Kyiv recently embarrassed the Kremlin with a surprising drone attack on military airfields deep inside Russia. According to Ukraine’s Air Force, Russia struck with 215 missiles and drones overnight. Ukrainian air defences shot down and neutralized 87 drones and seven missiles. Several other

areas in Ukraine were also hit, including the regions of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, and the city of Ternopil, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said in a post on X.

“To put an end to Russia’s killing and destruction, more pressure on Moscow is required, as are more steps to strengthen Ukraine,” he said. There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the latest attack. Kharkiv’s mayor Ihor Terekhov said the strikes also damaged 18 apartment buildings and 13 private homes. Terekhov said it was “the most powerful attack” on the city since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Kharkiv’s regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said two districts in the city were struck with three missiles, five aerial glide bombs and 48 drones. Among the injured were two children, a month and a half old boy and a 14-year old girl, he added.

The attack on Kharkiv came just a day after Russia launched one of its fiercest barrages on Ukraine, striking six Ukrainian territories and killing at least six people and injuring around 80. The dead included three emergency responders in Kyiv, one person in Lutsk and two in Chernihiv. US President Donald Trump said this week that his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, told him Moscow would respond to Ukraine’s attack on Russian military airfields last Sunday. Trump also said that it might be better to let Ukraine and Russia “fight for a while” before initiating peace efforts. Trump’s comments were a remarkable detour from his often-stated appeals to stop the war and signaled he may be giving up on recent peace efforts.

192 Venezuelans flown back from US amid worsening diplomatic row

GNS News Agency, June 13

Caracas: A flight carrying 192 Venezuelan migrants deported from the United States arrived at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, which serves the capital Caracas area the Ministry of Interior, Justice and Peace of Venezuela reported. According to a press release on Friday, the flight, operated by a US-registered aircraft, carried 156 men, 26 women, and 10 minors. The returned migrants were attended to under established medical, legal, and social protocols. Since February, Venezuela has been receiving two to three flights per week of individuals deported by US authorities, including those relocated from Mexico and Honduras, reports Xinhua news agency. So far in 2025, a total of 5,475 deported migrants have been processed under the government’s Plan Vuelta a la Patria, designed to facilitate their return, official figures indicate.

Earlier on Thursday, the South American country said that the United States government is carrying out a new campaign of “stigmatisation and criminalisation” against Venezuelans. The “stigmatisation” campaign is evident in a “new attack that restricts the issuance and validity of visas for Venezuelan citizens, without any justification and with obvious political purposes,” Venezuela’s Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a statement. “This operation has been promoted by the current Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, an



official marked by his well-known hatred of the Venezuelan people,” the ministry added. Venezuela’s government reiterated its “unwavering commitment to defending the rights and interests of Venezuelans in any part of the world.” The ministry also ratified a maximum travel alert for citizens planning to travel to the United States or residing in the United States. “What happened is not an isolated incident, but rather a new demonstration of the visceral hatred for the Venezuelan people that drives those who currently conduct Washington’s foreign policy,” it added. The US government announced it was restricting visas to nationals from several countries, including Venezuela.

Road repairs delayed as contractors stay away from tenders in Telangana

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: Even as the monsoon has set in across the State, motorists continue to endure the ordeal of driving on bad roads in several districts, with repair works delayed this year due to poor response from contractors. Typically, the Roads and Buildings (R&B) department identifies damaged stretches well in advance and prepares an action plan to take up repairs before the onset of the monsoon. Tenders are floated accordingly, with emphasis on completing the works during summer. This year, however, though the department had identified over 2,500 km of roads for repair under short-term measures, the works could not be taken up due to a lack of response from contractors. Despite recalling the tenders four times, participation remained poor for reasons yet to be determined, a senior department official said. A similar situation prevails with several Panchayat Raj and Rural Development (PRRD) roads.

It may be recalled that members of the Telangana Civil Contractors Welfare Association staged a protest at the chambers of Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka in the Secretariat on March 7, demanding clearance of long-pending bills. The contractors alleged that the R&B department owed dues to the tune of Rs. 100 crore, while PRRD department bills amounted to nearly Rs. 65 crore. Most of these were minor contracts worth less than Rs. 10 lakh. To overcome the impasse, the State government is planning to implement the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) scheme, under which road laying and maintenance of 5,190 km of R&B roads and 7,947 km of PRRD roads will be taken up.



The proposed expenditure includes Rs. 16,414 crore for R&B roads and Rs. 16,780 crore for PRRD roads. Under the HAM scheme, the State government will pay 40 percent of the estimated project cost within 2.5 years, while contractors will bear the remaining 60 percent. Following the defect liability period of 2.5 years, the government will repay the contractors’ share in instalments over 15 years. In view of the lacklustre response to short-term tenders, officials plan to hold meetings with contractors later this month to explain the HAM model and address any concerns. While a few other States have implemented the scheme, it remains a new concept in Telangana. There may be apprehensions among contractors regarding repayment terms and other modalities, which the department intends to clarify during the upcoming interactions, the official added.

Hyderabad identified as over-exploited district in India

GNS News Agency, June 13

Hyderabad: In terms of groundwater resources, Hyderabad district has been identified as an over-exploited (OE) district by the Ministry of Jal Shakti. The Ministry declared over-exploited results for the year 2023-24 in India in May and Hyderabad district is one among them. Of the 16 mandals in the district, 11 have been categorised as ‘over-exploited’, four as ‘critical’ districts while one mandal has been identified as ‘semi-critical’.

According to the results, the over-exploited areas are mostly observed in the eastern part of Hyderabad. Of all 16 mandals in these parts, the Charminar mandal stood top with 117.1 per cent in groundwater over-exploitation while Tirumalagiri mandal in Secunderabad secured the least in the district with 75.5 per cent in exploitation. The survey on groundwater exploitation was carried out in Hyderabad district based on the instructions of the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and certain parameters fixed for the purpose, a senior GWD official said. During the survey, it was observed that private rigs were extracting the groundwater indiscriminately, violating the Water, Land and Trees Act (WALTA). Apart from this, massive constructions in all areas of the district continue round the year leading to indiscriminate withdrawal of groundwater operations, the Ground Water Department official explained. “With Hyderabad identified as the OE district, the Ministry instructed us to draw a



special action plan for the preservation and augmentation of groundwater sources”, the official said. The district’s groundwater levels have reached critical status, and thus, efforts were being made to address the issue and implement sustainable water management practices. The Ministry of Jal Shakti also advised the GWD to implement the Ground Water Extraction rules in the Hyderabad district so that every groundwater user would pay a cess and extraction charges to the government. Till the end of May 2025, Hyderabad district received 828.4 mm rainfall against the normal rainfall of 1099.6 mm, which is 24.6 per cent less than normal rainfall, according to the latest reports on the groundwater table measured in May.

Ukrainian attack damaged 10% of Russia's strategic bombers, Germany says



GNS News Agency, June 13

BERLIN, June 7 (Reuters) - A Ukrainian drone attack last weekend likely damaged around 10% of Russia’s strategic bomber fleet and hit some of the aircraft as they were being prepared for strikes on Ukraine, a senior German military official said. “According to our assessment, more than a dozen aircraft were damaged, TU-95 and TU-22 strategic bombers as well as A-50 surveillance planes,” German Major General Christian Freuding said in a YouTube podcast reviewed by Reuters ahead of its publication later on Saturday. The Reuters Daily Briefing newsletter provides all the news you need to start your day. Sign up here.

The affected A-50s, which function similarly to NATO’s AWACS planes by providing aerial situational awareness, were likely non-operational when they were hit, said the general who coordinates Berlin’s military aid to Kyiv and is

in close touch with the Ukrainian defence ministry. “We believe that they can no longer be used for spare parts. This is a loss, as only a handful of these aircraft exist,” he said. “As for the long-range bomber fleet, 10% of it has been damaged in the attack according to our assessment.” The United States estimates that Ukraine’s audacious drone attack hit as many as 20 Russian warplanes, destroying around 10 of them, two U.S. officials told Reuters, and experts say Moscow will take years to replace the affected planes.

Despite the losses, Freuding does not see any immediate reduction of Russian strikes against Ukraine, noting that Moscow still retains 90% of its strategic bombers which can launch ballistic and cruise missiles in addition to dropping bombs. “But there is, of course, an indirect effect as the remaining planes will need to fly more sorties, meaning they will be worn out faster, and, most importantly, there is a huge psychological impact.” Freuding said Russia had felt safe in its vast territory, which also explained why there was little protection for the aircraft. “After this successful operation, this no longer holds true. Russia will need to ramp up the security measures.” According to Freuding, Ukraine attacked two air fields around 100 kilometres (62 miles) from Moscow, as well as the Olenya air field in the Murmansk region and the Belaya air field, with drones trained with the help of artificial intelligence. A fifth attack on the Ukrainka air field near the Chinese border failed, he said. The bombers that were hit were part of Russia’s so-called nuclear triad which enables nuclear weapons deployment by air, sea and ground, he added.

Trump says he has no plans to speak to Musk as feud persists

WASHINGTON, GNS News Agency, June 13 U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday that he has no plans to speak with Elon Musk, signaling the president and his former ally might not resolve their feud over a sweeping tax-cut bill any time soon. Addressing reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump said he wasn’t “thinking about” the Tesla CEO. However, Trump said a review of Musk’s extensive contracts with the federal government was in order. “We’ll take look at everything,” the president said. “It’s a lot of money.” Trump may get rid of the red Tesla Model S that he bought in March after showcasing Musk’s electric cars on the White House lawn, a White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Musk, for his part, did not directly address Trump but kept up his criticism of the massive Republican tax and spending bill that contains much of Trump’s domestic agenda.

On his social-media platform X, Musk amplified remarks made by others that Trump’s “big beautiful bill” would hurt Republicans politically and add to the nation’s \$36.2 trillion debt. He replied “exactly” to a post by another X user that said Musk had criticized Congress and Trump had responded by criticizing Musk personally. Musk also declared it was time for a new political party in the United States “to represent the 80% in the middle!” People who have spoken to Musk said his anger has begun to recede and they think he will want to repair his relationship with Trump, according to one person who has spoken to Musk’s entourage. The White House statements came one day after the two men battled openly in an extraordinary display of hostilities that marked a stark end to a close alliance.

rose on Friday, clawing back some losses from Thursday’s session, when it dropped 14% and lost \$150 billion in value, the largest single-day decline in the company’s history. Musk’s high-profile allies have largely stayed silent during the feud. But one, investor James Fishback, called on Musk to apologize. “President Trump has shown grace and patience at a time when Elon’s behavior is disappointing and frankly downright disturbing,” Fishback said in a statement. Musk, the world’s richest man, bankrolled a large part of Trump’s 2024 presidential campaign. Trump named Musk to head a controversial effort to downsize the federal workforce and slash spending. Trump feted Musk at the White House a week ago as he wrapped up his role as head of the Department of Government Efficiency. Musk cut only about half of 1% of total spending, far short of his brash plans to axe \$2 trillion from the federal budget. Item 1 of 7 U.S. President Donald Trump and Elon Musk attend a press conference in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., Since then, Musk has denounced Trump’s tax-cut and spending bill as a “disgusting abomination.” His opposition is complicating efforts to pass the bill in Congress where Republicans hold a slim majority. Trump’s bill narrowly passed the House of Representatives last month and is now before the Senate, where Republicans say they will make further changes. Nonpartisan analysts say the measure would add \$2.4 trillion in debt over 10 years. House Speaker Mike Johnson said he has



been texting with Musk and hopes the dispute is resolved quickly. “I don’t argue with him about how to build rockets and I wish he wouldn’t argue with me about how to craft legislation and pass it,” Johnson said on CNBC. Trump had initially stayed quiet while Musk campaigned to torpedo the bill, but broke his silence on Thursday, telling reporters he was “very disappointed” in Musk. Musk, who spent nearly \$300 million in last year’s elections, said Trump would have lost without his support and suggested he should be impeached. Trump suggested he would terminate government contracts with Musk’s businesses, which include rocket company SpaceX and its satellite unit Starlink.

The billionaire then threatened to decommission SpaceX’s Dragon spacecraft, the only U.S. spacecraft capable of sending astronauts to the International Space Station. Musk later backed off that threat. Musk had been angered when Trump over the weekend revoked his nomination of Musk ally Jared Isaacman to head the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Two sources with direct knowledge of the dispute said White House personnel director Sergio Gor had helped turn Trump against Isaacman by highlighting his past donations to Democrats. Musk and Gor had been at odds since the billionaire criticized Gor’s pace of hiring at a March cabinet meeting, the two sources said. A White House spokesperson, Steven Cheung, praised Gor’s efforts to staff the administration but did not address his relationship with Musk.

A prolonged feud could make it harder for Republicans to keep control of Congress in next year’s midterm elections if Musk withholds financial support or other major Silicon Valley business leaders distance themselves from Trump. Musk had already said he planned to curtail his political spending, and on Tuesday he called for “all politicians who betrayed the American people” to be fired next year. His involvement with the Trump administration has provoked widespread protests at Tesla sites, driving down sales while investors fretted that Musk’s attention was too divided. Additional reporting by Susan Heavey, Alexandra Ulmer and Jarrett Renshaw Writing by Andy Sullivan and James Oliphant Editing by Scott Malone, Frances Kerry, David Gregorio and Diane Craft

Israel recovers body of Thai hostage kidnapped by Hamas



GNS News Agency, June 13

Tel Aviv: Israel says it has retrieved the body of a Thai hostage who was kidnapped into Gaza on Oct 7, 2023. The Prime Minister’s office said on Saturday that the body of Thai citizen Nattapong Pinta was returned to Israel in a special military operation. Pinta was abducted from Kibbutz Nir Oz and was killed in captivity early in the war according to the government. Thai nationals were the largest group of foreign workers held captive by Hamas militants. The recovery comes just two days after the bodies of two Israeli-American hostages were retrieved.

Fifty-five hostages are still believed to be held in Gaza, of whom Israel says more than half are dead. The Defence Minister said on Saturday that Pinta’s body was recovered from the Rafah area. He had come to Israel from Thailand to work in agriculture. On Thursday, Israel retrieved the bodies of Judith Weinstein and Gad Haggai, both of whom held dual Israeli and US citizenship. The recovery operation took

place as Israel continues its military offensive in Gaza. At least 22 people were reportedly killed by Israeli air strikes overnight from Friday into Saturday.

MoS Defence Sanjay Seth pledges Centre’s support to AVNL facility

GNS News Agency, June 13

Sangareddy: Union Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth said the government will extend all support to the Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL) to produce diverse vehicles, focusing on research and development.

Speaking after his visit to Ordnance Factory (ODF) at Yeddumailaram in Sangareddy district on Thursday, the Union Minister said that the government will also support the AVNL in achieving self-sustenance.

The Minister and Medak MP Raghunandan Rao were taken on a tour of the ODF and were briefed about the vehicles being manufactured at the facility.

The Union Minister even rode on a war tank. Chairman and Managing Director AVNL, Sanjay Dwivedi and Director of Operations, Satyabrata Mukherje, guided the Minister through the ODF. They also planted saplings on the factory premises to mark World Environment Day. Seth also joined them in planting saplings at the facility.

Noida ‘honour killing’: A blue dupatta for a wedding and a strangulation



Neha Rathore, 23, wrote her father’s and her name on the blue plastic entry door to their home, drawing flowers around it with chalk. A few weeks later, Neha was killed inside the house located in Bhangi mohalla (neighbourhood) of Uttar Pradesh’s Greater Noida, allegedly by her father, Bhanu Rathore, 40; and her brother Himanshu, 19. On March 12, around 5.30 a.m., her family hurriedly cremated her, allegedly burning all the clothes she owned.The day before her death, she had married her boyfriend Suraj at an Arya Samaj temple. Neha was from the Teli community; her husband of a few hours was from the Jat community — an inter-caste marriage often frowned upon across India. She was strangled with the same blue dupatta she had worn for her wedding.

The Uttar Pradesh police have registered a case at Bisrakh police station under BNS sections 103 (murder) and 238 (destruction of evidence). Across north India, ‘honour killings’ are a subset of the crime against couples who choose to break with the tradition of marrying within their caste. Earlier in March this year, Balram, 20, and Srishti, 19, were allegedly killed by Srishti’s parents in Baghpat in 2025, because they were from different communities. In 2024, a man allegedly murdered his 18-year-old daughter right outside their house with an axe in Bahraich, because he felt she had ruined his reputation. In Gurugram, Haryana, Anjali, 22, was allegedly strangled to death by her parents and brother, for marrying a man from another caste, against her family’s wishes in 2023.A house in the back lanes

The houses in Bhangi mohalla, in Chipiyana Buzurg village, are surrounded by upscale neighbourhoods with towering gated communities. The mohalla itself has houses that stick to each other for lack of space.Neha’s house is quiet. It smells of dampness and cow dung. The walls are chipped and grey, covered with photographs of Hindu gods: Ram, Lakshman, Sita. Her sister-in-law carries her toddler around the house. Neha’s mother, Nirmala, her head covered with a thick dupatta, fills a few containers with water. She has two sons and another daughter. At first, the women are hesitant to speak. “Whatever happened, happened. We don’t care; she’s dead and I feel bad. I wasn’t at home; I had gone to graze my cows. When I returned, she was dead,” Nirmala says. At first she says Neha had a fever that led to her death, then that she had a thyroid problem which caused her to die, then that Neha was weak. Finally, she blames it on “bad luck.” She does not believe her husband and son killed Neha. “I remember my last conversation with her. She told me she was going to Lal Kuan to buy lining fabric. She even returned with a packet. I don’t know what happened after that,” Nirmala says. “We had to cremate her quickly because you know, people have theories. Whatever happened, happened.” Nirmala isn’t sure of her daughter’s interests or what she did in her free time.What remains of Neha in her family home is only her name on the door.She stitched her life togetherIn Bhangi mohalla, where the lanes are so narrow only two people can walk side by side, residents stand in front of their doors, gossiping about what went wrong. She was full of life, her neighbours say. She made Instagram reels on the narrow street outside her house. Bhanu’s food cart, just outside the house, stands empty and still. Anju Devi introduces her caste before she introduces herself. She is a Yadav, she says, adding that she is not from Neha’s caste. She remembers Neha as being tall and underweight. “She liked watching TV serials, dancing, and stitching clothes. She would dance on Janmashtami (the day Krishna is believed to have been born).” Anju points to her red, rose-printed kurta, saying that Neha had stitched it. “But she never took money for it.” This is a neighbourhood where most do not earn a minimum wage. Tulsi Chaudhary, who tries overhearing the conversation, too knew Neha and her mother well. “Neha wanted to study, but when her family returned to Noida from Hapur (where Bhanu had taken the family when he got a job), they stopped her studies for four years. She really wanted a job and wanted to take up stitching as a profession, but she never got the help and support she needed. She even wanted to become a police officer,” Tulsi says, afraid Neha’s family will know of this conversation.Neha Rathore’s name in chalk on the entrance of the house, written by her with a flower drawn next to it.Suraj is tired and feels helpless, even as he continues working. He recalls when he met Neha in a Hapur school

when they were about 16. Both families had found it difficult to make ends meet. While Suraj’s father, Devender, worked as a farm labourer, Neha’s father worked at a mill. He remembers her whispered calls, deleted messages, so her family would not find out they were in love. After school, Suraj found a job as a pick-up truck driver in Hapur, where he lives. He is rarely home, because his job demands that he’s on the road.Suraj says he wanted Neha to study, to get a job, to make a life, to make things better for their family when they married. She had graduated from class 12, and he says she was a good student. She entrusted all her education documents to him, so he could pay her fees at a Ghaziabad college for BA in Sanskrit.“We took care of each other. Nobody in her family bothered to check if she had had food. I did. She told me we’d have a beautiful life together, that we’d travel. Now, she’s just a contact in my phone, and a memory for me,” Suraj says.When Suraj told his parents he wanted to marry Neha, he had just turned 25. A few weeks before March 11, the two decided to get married at an Arya Samaj temple, where the rituals are few. Suraj’s family — his father and brother — rode on motorcycles to Ghaziabad. They picked Neha up from Chipiyana Buzurg village.Neha covered her face with a blue dupatta and reached the Ghaziabad court, to register their marriage. Suraj says, “We tried getting the registration done quickly, but we sensed somebody from Neha’s family recognised her in the blue salwar-kameez. I remember Neha was sweating; she was terrified. Quickly, Hari (his brother) dropped her back at her village,” Suraj adds.The last conversation he had with her was at 10.30 that night. He video called her and asked her if things were okay. “She told me everything was fine. I told her she shouldn’t have gone back, but she told me she wanted her family to send her off with all rituals. She wanted to bid them one last goodbye, but look what happened. They bid her goodbye, not with a doli, but with an arthi,” Suraj says, his voice softening.A sky-blue dupatta and the deadly night

While many residents of Chipiyana Buzurg village say they found out about the alleged murder only from Facebook videos, Jyoti, a neighbour, had a firsthand experience. She woke up early in the morning on March 12, she saw people crying on the street. People gathered and sat on plastic chairs. She recalls, “It was strange because there were some people crying, others standing like nothing had happened. When we asked, we were told Neha had died by suicide. Then some others said she was sick. Another story said an attacker had killed her. Her cremation happened quickly.”The deputy commissioner of police (DCP, Central Noida) Shakti Avasthy who investigated the matter says the police got an anonymous call. “The caller suspected Neha was killed. Teams were dispatched and Bhanu and Himanshu were investigated. Their statements didn’t match, and had too many holes. They ended up confessing to the murder. They said they had strangled her at night, when people in the colony were asleep, and she couldn’t raise an alarm,” she says.During the interrogation, the DCP says Bhanu and Himanshu revealed they killed her in a fit of rage. “They were angry because Neha got married without their permission and they did not like Suraj. They wanted to look for somebody with better economic prospects,” she adds.With the body cremated, the police say they must work harder to collect evidence. “We have CCTV footage of the accused taking the body to another spot. We have also collected forensic evidence, which includes ash and pieces of bones,” she says, adding that the blue dupatta has been recovered.

For the newly wed bride and groomForty-seven kilometres away, in Bachlota village in Hapur, Suman Singh, 45, and Devender Singh, 60, are sleeping on a charpoy, inside a bricked three-bedroom house that smells of fresh hay and dried straw. The Singhs have kept for cattle, and this is their fodder. The house of exposed-brick and cement has just openings for doors and windows.

Suraj’s father looks back at pictures from Suraj and Neha’s wedding at the Arya Samaj temple.Suraj’s father looks back at pictures from Suraj and Neha’s wedding at the Arya Samaj temple. | Photo Credit: Sabika SyedDevender remembers Bhanu as a neighbour from four years ago. “Bhanu got angry, because we are from different castes,” he says. The Singhs loved Neha. She was happy and felt heard with Suraj, they say. As Suman moves around with the hay, Devender sits down with a bag full of Neha’s documents, including her 10th and 12th standard marksheet and her BA admission document. He says, “The family didn’t support her enough. They were throwing the school certificates.”He cleans each document with his shirt. In this polybag, there are photos of Neha and Suraj, on the day of their wedding. Neha wore a blue and white salwar kameez, and over her blue dupatta wore the red chunni of a bride. Suraj wore a checkered shirt with a cream-and-golden pagdi (turban). In each photo, Neha is smiling.Suman had planned on welcoming her daughter-in-law with silver anklets and a lehenga. She says, “I was able to save enough to buy her these. She was my daughter.

Travel on co-branded credit cards



A post-COVID surge along with rising aspiration to travel have fuelled the growing demand for travel-centric credit cards offering benefits like accelerated rewards/air miles and discounted flights among others. While most benefits are bundled into premium credit cards, stringent eligibility criteria and high annual fee makes them less accessible to a sizeable part of the population. As a result, many travellers turn to co-branded travel credit cards.Credit cards co-branded with airlines or hotels offer value-back in the form of air miles or loyalty points that can be used at the brand’s portal for direct travel bookings.Most airline/hotel co-branded cards offer complimentary membership to the associated brand’s loyalty programme.

Apart from airline/hotel co-branded cards, some travel cards are co-branded with popular travel portals like MakeMyTrip, EaseMyTrip, Ixigo and Yatra, and offer discount on flights and hotel bookings made through their respective platforms.However, co-branded travel credit cards come with their own set of drawbacks. Since rewards are offered in partner miles/loyalty points, redemption options are restricted. Some of these cards may also lack broader travel benefits around lounge access, forex mark-up fee, etc. Travellers, confused whether a co-branded travel card

Ola Electric’s lay-offs rattle India’s growing EV job market



India’s electric vehicle (EV) job market, where active EV start-ups employ over 1, 10,000 people across different parts of the talent pyramid, seems suddenly caught in a quagmire as an unexpected juxtaposition of events hit the market recently.In mid February, Elon Musk-led EV manufacturer Tesla listed several open positions, including customer facing roles, engagement managers, delivery specialists, and service technicians in Maharashtra, between Mumbai and Pune, to kick start its India story. According to a Business India report, while the EV major announced 13 jobs on LinkedIn, there were reports elsewhere saying the company had 20 positions for India, 15 of which were in Mumbai while the other five were in Pune.

On March 3, Reuters reported that India’s top electric two-wheeler maker, Ola Electric would lay-off over 1000 employees as the company sought ‘operational efficiency and profitability’.An email to Ola Electric by The Hindu seeking comments for this story did not yield a response.

Many people have lost their jobs at Ola Electric. Some of us are still waiting for our final settlement even as we continue our search for other positions,” an employee who was laid-off said, not wishing to be identified to avoid scuttling his chances of a better severance. All employees The Hindu spoke to for this story who were laid-off, did not want to be identified for similar reasons.Tesla’s announcement, although it doesn’t include large scale hiring, comes as a boost to the Indian EV industry in general and job market in particular, observed industry players. However, Ola’s retrenchment plans dampened the spirit of the market and killed the enthusiasm of job aspirants too, they said.B.S. Murthy, CEO of Leadership Capital, a third-party hiring firm focused on CXO hiring, said, “Multiple rounds of firing of employees has put Ola on the caution list of potential employees. No employee wants to join a hire and fire company. It will be difficult for Ola to hire the best talent for their tech and innovation areas if this hire and fire trend continues. Whatever the reason, the company needs to manage its people policy better.”No amount of PR will give confidence to good talent to join a company which keeps firing their employees regularly. None of the two-wheeler majors like Bajaj, Hero, TVS, Honda fire their key talent, Mr. Murthy added.

would be the right fit for them, should keep the following things in mind:The key factor in choosing a travel credit card is rewards programme. When comparing an airline co-branded card to an airline-agnostic travel card, it is essential to evaluate the total value you get for spending.For example, On KrisFlyer SBI Card, yearly spends of ₹10 Lakh earn 25,000 KrisFlyer Miles, enough for 1 economy-class ticket from Delhi to Singapore on Singapore Airlines. However, the same spend earns 50,000 EDGE Miles on Axis Atlas, transferable in 1:2 ratio to KrisFlyer Miles, resulting in 1 lakh miles —enough for four economy tickets on the same route.Hence, airline agnostic travel cards like Axis Atlas or Axis Horizon could offer greater overall value. However, they might come at higher annual fee and more stringent conditions.Many co-branded travel cards extend more benefits like complimentary lounge access, significantly enhancing their utility for frequent travellers. It is important to check these benefits and see how they fit in your travel routine.

Consumers who are loyal to a particular airline or hotel can consider getting a card co-branded with preferred airline/hotel. While such cards would offer higher value-back on the associated brands, the redemption would be limited to their own ecosystem.Travellers who do not want to limit the benefits to an airline or hotel can consider cards co-branded with popular travel portals such as Standard Chartered EaseMyTrip Credit Card, Ixigo AU Credit Card and MakeMyTrip ICICI Credit Card.In conclusion, co-branded travel credit cards can be a good option for brand-loyal travellers who frequently book with a particular airline, hotel chain or travel platform. However, those looking for a single credit card to cover all travel needs may need to choose cards that offer benefits with preferred brands without sacrificing broader benefits. Redemption flexibility, spending limits and overall value proposition are the key things to consider when choosing a card.

“I currently work with a small EV firm in Bengaluru and I aspire to join a bigger player. It was exciting to hear about Tesla’s hiring plans in India, but news about Ola Electric’s layoffs came as a scare for many of us in the EV space,” Ranganath Shetty, a young engineer, said.According to Kamal Karanth, co-founder, Xpheno, a specialist staffing company, the EV space, while remaining high potential, also has low entry barriers for SMEs and the flipside of this is the fact that an estimated over 300 companies have wound up in the past decade. “Will the mainstream acceptance and success of EVs reverse this negative trend is yet to be seen,” he added.

India currently has a little over 1,500 companies associated with the EV space in different capacities and at different parts of the value chain. While over 400 of the active companies have been funded over the years, entities with active headcounts and engaged talent add up to about 300 in number. These 300 entities collectively employ over 1,10,000 people across different parts of the talent pyramid, as per data shared by Xpheno.Despite the volatility in the EV sector, the industry is gearing up to grow and create five million jobs by 2030, the government think tank NITI Aayog wagered in 2023. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship also anticipates that EV companies in India will generate about one crore direct and five crore indirect jobs by 2030.

One of the defining features in the EV sector is the creation of jobs that require higher educational degrees, more than those that have been traditionally associated with the internal combustion engines. These jobs are expected to be created in charging infrastructure, battery management systems, manufacturing, charging station installation, maintenance and support, engineering, and R&D skills. A sizeable chunk would be software related, such as UI, UX engineers, embedded electronics, EV software managers, model-based algorithm experts and Ionic developers. The EV industry is also expected to see increased focus on electrification, autonomous vehicles, AI, Internet of Things, machine learning, cloud computing and data analytics etc/ This would again would make the industry hire talent with deep-tech skills.A 2022 report by NITI Aayog, in partnership with Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) India, predicts that India could realise EV sales penetration of 30% for private cars, 70% for commercial cars, 40% for buses and 80% for two and three-wheelers by 2030, if Government programmes to promote EV adoption are successful.Despite the firings at Ola, those tracking the industry say, the collective headcount has nearly doubled in the last five years. Nearly one-third of the active 300 entities have been founded in the last five years and about 80% in the last decade. “The headcount growth in the last few years has also been driven by the entry of large brand OEMs in the commercial EV space and a whole host of small and medium EV players entering the fray,” Mr. Karanth said.

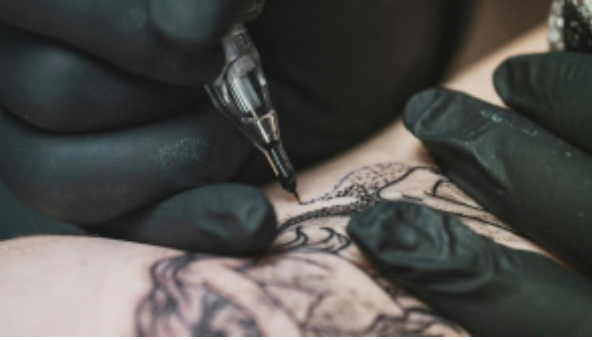
Why do people get tattoos? Twin study says it’s nurture, not nature

Researchers from the University of Southern Denmark in Odense recently addressed these questions. Their findings, reported in February in the journal Behavior Genetics, showed that differences in an individual’s propensity to get tattooed were not due to nature but because of nurture. ‘Nature’ here refers to an intrinsic, genetically-determined predisposition that affects one’s behaviour. ‘Nurture’ denotes extrinsic factors such as one’s education, culture, family, and peers.

A tattoo is an indelible design registered on the skin by injecting inks and dyes into a skin layer called the dermis. There, the pigment particles become engulfed and subsequently kept in place by cells of the body’s immune system, making them permanent.In 1991, hikers stumbled on the naturally mummified remains of a man since named Ötzi the Iceman in northern Italy. Scientists found that he lived more than 5,000 years ago and had tattoos. Today, many sports and entertainment celebrities also sport tattoos — as do their fans, and indeed anyone who wishes to bear symbols they consider important or significant to themselves on their person. Since adding any foreign substance to one’s body is a health risk from a medical viewpoint, studying the long-term effects of tattooing on public health has been an important research focus.Sorting nature from nurtureIf two offspring are born from the same pregnancy, they are called twins. The offspring can be genetically identical or non-identical. Identical twins share all of their genes while non-identical twins share on average only 50% of their genes.After the father’s sperm fertilises the mother’s egg,

the unified cell that is formed is called the zygote. The zygote then develops into an embryo that in turn grows into the baby.Sometimes two sperm can simultaneously fertilise two eggs to produce two zygotes, and the zygotes can go on to form non-identical twins. On the other hand, identical twins are formed when an embryo from a single zygote splits at an early stage to become two embryos, and each then grows to become a baby.For this reason, identical twins are also known as monozygotic twins and non-identical twins are called dizygotic twins. Monozygotic twins are always of the same biological sex, whereas dizygotic twins — like any other pair of siblings — can be either of the same or of different sexes.If both members of a twin pair sport a tattoo, they are further said to be concordant. They are also concordant if both don’t. But if one twin has a tattoo and the other doesn’t, they are said to be discordant.The researchers behind the new study were curious as to whether there was a ‘greater’ concordance at work in monozygotic twins than in dizygotic twins of the same sex. Their search came up empty, i.e. there was no greater concordance, even despite the fact that monozygotic twins share twice as many genes as dizygotic ones.The finding suggested that genetic differences have little, if anything, to do with an individual wanting to get tattooed.The Danish Twin Register (DTR) is a database with details of more than 175,000 twins born between 1870 and 2009. The researchers mailed out a questionnaire to twins recorded in the DTR. They received responses from 4,790 individuals, including from both twins of 1,327 twin pairs.Of these respondents, 1,058 (22%) were

monozygotic, 3,501 (73%) were dizygotic, and the zygosity was unknown for 231 (4.8%). The researchers sorted the twins into three cohorts based on their birth years: oldest (1925-1960), middle (1961-1980), and youngest (1981-2004).Finally, the researchers asked the respondents if their co-twin also had a tattoo, about the tattoos’ colours and sizes, and the age at which they were first tattooed. The responses revealed that 22% had at least one tattoo. In the 1,327 pairs for which both twins responded, the self-reported tattoo status matched the information provided by the co-twin in 98.5% of the cases.The researchers reported a marked increase from the oldest to the youngest cohorts, from below 6% to above 30%, in terms of the propensity for getting a tattoo. Evidently tattooing has become increasingly popular in recent times.The researchers also asked the respondents about their lifestyle factors such as education, smoking, amount of physical exercise, and alcohol consumption. They could correlate tattooing strongly only with smoking. But they also acknowledged limitations in their ability to correlate with alcohol consumption and exercise “because the age at first tattoo and age at which the questionnaire was answered may vary up to several decades”.More concordance for some defectsIn 2021, researchers from the Seoul National University College of Medicine in South Korea reported in the journal BJOG the concordance rates for several different birth defects found in 3,386 monozygotic and dizygotic twin pairs born between 2001 and 2019.Birth defects affecting the nervous system, the circulatory system, cleft lip/palate, and the urinary sys-



A tattoo is an indelible design registered on the skin by injecting inks and dyes into a skin layer called the dermis. There, the pigment particles become engulfed and subsequently kept in place by cells of the body’s immune system, making them permanent

tem were found to be significantly more concordant in monozygotic than in dizygotic twins. The implication was that aberrant biological development in these systems is primarily due to one’s genes.On the other hand, the concordance rates did not significantly differ for malformations of the eye, ear, face or neck, the genital organs, and the musculoskeletal system, meaning that for these disorders, extrinsic aspects of the uterine environment, such as maternal nutrition, physiology, smoking, and infections, played a more significant role.

Russian drone, missile strike kill 3, 21 injured in Ukraine’s Kharkiv



Kyiv: A large Russian drone-and-missile attack targeted eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv on Saturday, killing at least three people and injuring 21, local officials said. The barrage — the latest in near daily wide scale attacks — included aerial glide bombs that have become part of a fierce Russian onslaught in the three-year war. The intensity of the Russian attacks on Ukraine over the past weeks has further dampened hopes that the warring sides could reach a peace deal anytime soon — especially after Kyiv recently embarrassed the Kremlin with a surprising drone attack on military airfields deep inside Russia.

According to Ukraine’s Air Force, Russia struck with 215 missiles and drones overnight. Ukrainian air defences shot down and neutralized 87 drones and seven missiles.

Spinal muscular atrophy patients welcome development of generic drug; call for government intervention to ensure access



A generic version of Risdiplam, a medicine used to treat spinal muscular atrophy (SMA), could soon be available in India at \$183.47 dollars per bottle, a sharp 97% drop from the current rate of \$7,150. The news has been welcomed by healthcare activists and patients as a significant development. Government intervention at this juncture is critical, says K.M. Gopakumar, a legal researcher who works in the area of access to medicines. “Even with this possible cost cut, the drug will remain expensive and out of reach for a large proportion of patients. The Central government can intervene, procure these medicines and reduce the price in a manner that is more affordable. They can also invoke Section 100 of the Patents Act, 1970 that would allow the manufacture of the generic version of the drug and ensure procurement of medicine for all SMA patients,” he said.

Indian generic manufacturer Natco Pharma announced that it could commercialise a generic version of Risdiplam at 15,900, equivalent to \$183.47. Natco released this information within the context of its legal battle with Roche Pharma, the current patent holder for the drug. The Delhi High Court has rejected Roche's plea for an interim injunction against Natco for alleged infringement of its patent. Patients and their families are all waiting for an af-

The link between leprosy and climate-change that we did not know about: an Indian story

When Sharadindu Ghosh* was young, he was taught not to speak about his father’s leprosy. He, like many others, grew up in the lanes of Jamuria Leprosy Colony, in West Bengal, facing stigma and discrimination. Today, years after his father’s passing and an endless struggle through poverty, Ghosh is an electrical supervisor and a mentor to local children. “Among the uneducated population in India, people believe that this disease is given by God,” said Mervyn Basil, communications specialist at NGO Until No Leprosy Remains-India (NLR-India). Leprosy was eliminated as a public health problem in India as per the World Health Organization’s criteria of less than 1 case per 10,000 population, at the national level, in 2005. However now, experts say, it is quietly resurfacing, particularly in climate stressed States including West Bengal and Bihar. Floods, displacement and overcrowding have become frequent, leading to these States seeing the disease re-emerge in pockets. India reported total 1,03,819 new leprosy cases for the year 2022-23 out of which grade 2 disability (G2D) cases were 2,363 (2.28%), amounting to 25% of the new G2D cases of the world, as per a statement given in the Lok Sabha in February 2024. Extreme weather events do not affect all communities equally, and people affected by leprosy often face risks far beyond those encountered by the general population. Research presented by James Pender at the 21st International Leprosy Congress in 2022 highlighted how climate -induced disasters disproportionately affect leprosy-affected communities. Floods cause the loss of homes, crops and in some cases even access to shelters. Those with leprosy-related disabilities are often left behind in evacuation efforts and many face discrimination at relief camps. In Bangladesh, for instance, over 4,000 people affected by leprosy were impacted by severe flooding in 2017 and many were denied basic disaster relief. India is ranked amongst the most climate-vulnerable nations globally and the intersection of disease, climate change and economic deprivation can further deepen the gaps. According to a report by the Leprosy Mission Trust India, States including Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha and Chhattisgarh are also home to the largest proportion of people living in multidimensional poverty, meaning poverty that goes beyond money and wealth. “Leprosy is a tropical disease and in tropical areas, there is a higher chance of this bacteria multiplying at a very rapid pace, and it’s quite possible that it will multiply quickly,” said Mr. Basil.

Eight districts across Bihar, West Bengal, Odisha and Maharashtra report a high climate vulnerability, widespread multidimensional poverty and endemic levels of leprosy prevalence. According to Bihar’s State Water Resources department, 68.80 lakh hectares or over 76% of north and

Several other areas in Ukraine were also hit, including the regions of Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Odesa, and the city of Ternopil, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha said in a post on X. “To put an end to Russia’s killing and destruction, more pressure on Moscow is required, as are more steps to strengthen Ukraine,” he said. There was no immediate comment from Moscow on the latest attack. Kharkiv’s mayor Ihor Terekhov said the strikes also damaged 18 apartment buildings and 13 private homes. Terekhov said it was “the most powerful attack” on the city since Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Kharkiv’s regional governor Oleh Syniehubov said two districts in the city were struck with three missiles, five aerial glide bombs and 48 drones. Among the injured were two children, a month and a half old boy and a 14-year old girl, he added.

The attack on Kharkiv came just a day after Russia launched one of its fiercest barrages on Ukraine, striking six Ukrainian territories and killing at least six people and injuring around 80. The dead included three emergency responders in Kyiv, one person in Lutsk and two in Chernihiv. US President Donald Trump said this week that his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, told him Moscow would respond to Ukraine’s attack on Russian military airfields last Sunday. Trump also said that it might be better to let Ukraine and Russia “fight for a while” before initiating peace efforts. Trump’s comments were a remarkable detour from his often-stated appeals to stop the war and signaled he may be giving up on recent peace efforts.

fordable treatment option, says Saifullah Khalidi, an SMA patient representative and disability rights advocate. “SMA is a lifelong condition and Roche’s drug improves quality of life. Currently, the drug costs upwards of ₹70 lakh annually for an adult patient. This makes sustained access to the drug an impossible task. As of now, we don’t have any idea about when production would start or when the generic medicines would be available for patients. However, we welcome the possibility of having multiple companies making the generic version of the medicines and bringing down the cost to a point that it becomes affordable for all SMA patients,” he said.

Mr. Khalidi added that, without treatment, SMA patients struggle with reduced mobility, encounter respiratory challenges, and typically have a shortened lifespan. “This medicine is critical for ensuring quality of life for SMA patients,” he emphasised. SMA is a genetic disorder that causes weakness and wasting, or atrophy, of the muscles used for movement. It is caused by a loss of motor neurons, the specialised nerve cells in the spinal cord that control muscle movement. Symptoms vary depending on the type of SMA, but can include muscle weakness, difficulty with movement, breathing problems, swallowing difficulties, and scoliosis. There is currently no cure for SMA, but treatments can help manage symptoms and improve quality of life, with some therapies. Evrysdi (Risdiplam), a small molecule oral medication, is the first and only approved treatment for SMA in India, manufactured by Roche.

Additionally, Nusinersen (Spinraza), another disease-modifying therapy, is available in India through a special program for select children. “Access to medicines means improved quality of life. I was able to raise ₹61 lakh through crowd-funding in 2022 which gave me access to Roche’s medicine for close to a year. However, I have been without this medicine due to the high cost ever since. An easily accessible generic medicine would ensure a better life for people living with SMA,” said writer and SMA patient Sarmista, who hails from Assam.

73% of south Bihar are regularly affected by floods. A total of 28 of the State’s 38 districts are declared flood-prone.

In Odisha, the situation may be worse: it remains one of India’s most climate disrupted states. According to the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, 26 districts in Odisha are exposed to extreme climate events. The State has witnessed an increase in cyclonic events of late, with Koraput routinely facing floods that disrupt agricultural productivity and impact village residents who are primarily agricultural workers. With high risks of flood and drought, the State has a leprosy prevalence rate of 0.89. Chhattisgarh is also emerging as a key hotspot, with multiple districts like Bijapur, Kabirdham and Mahasamund having high prevalence rates of leprosy and deep rooted poverty. Kishanganj in Bihar, Raigarh in Chhattisgarh and Nuapada in Odisha have reported leprosy prevalence rates above 3% coexisting with poverty levels that exceed 60% in some cases. Even in relatively better-off states like Maharashtra and West Bengal, vulnerability in clusters exists especially in tribal areas like Nandurbar and Jhargram. Shubhojit Goswami, senior programme manager at Leprosy Mission Trust India said: “Our report does not claim or suggest that changes in climate patterns lead to leprosy transmission. But extreme climate events like floods, cyclones and droughts increase risk factors like malnutrition, limit access to clean water and poor hygiene which are known to contribute to leprosy spread” Displacement emerges as another key concern. When residents of rural areas face climate shocks like floods or droughts, they tend to migrate to urban areas. “Many can only afford to live in overcrowded slums and high population density increases the transmission risk,” said Mr. Goswami. He cites the example of Shravasti district in Uttar Pradesh, where heavy floods in October 2022 came just months after a drought had already devastated agriculture. “This kind of back-to-back climate shock is becoming the new normal,” he pointed out. Shravasti is a high-endemic district for leprosy where more than 70% of the population lives in multidimensional poverty. The need for interventions Urgent interventions by government and NGOs are needed. Three steps that Mr. Goswami states as urgent are: building community resilience alongside awareness programmes on climate-adaptive health behaviour; strengthening health systems in leprosy endemic districts to mitigate climate shocks as well as hyper-local climate and health risk assessments. A total of 30 districts across India are at the risk of ‘triple jeopardy’ i.e. the disease, climate change and poverty coexisting. “These triple burdens often affect specific districts and not entire States,” said Mr. Goswami. Muzaffarpur in Bihar for instance, suffers from co-endemic diseases like leprosy and filariasis, and it floods every year.

Telemedicine guidance on WhatsApp helps govt. doctors bridge cardiac care gaps in Tamil Nadu



. Can telemedicine guidance on a messaging platform like WhatsApp help doctors improve treatment outcomes in patients presenting with major heart attacks? The Tamil Nadu Government Heart Attack Management Programme - operationalised in a hub-and-spoke model networking 18 government medical college hospitals and 188 district/taluk government hospitals - has the answer. A study analysing the five-year experience (2019-2023) of the programme has found that it has demonstrated that WhatsApp groups are a cost-effective way of networking larger and smaller hospitals in a hub-and-spoke model to provide telemedicine guidance for early diagnosis and treatment of major heart attacks (STEMI-ST-segment elevation myocardial infarction). Through this, cardiologists in larger hub hospitals offered telemedicine guidance to smaller spoke units. Additionally, these groups were used to coordinate patient transfers between hospitals and to monitor the entire process.

Putting out the key findings in an article published recently in the Indian Journal of Medical Research - ‘Impact of telemedicine in STEMI care system: A five-year experience from Tamil Nadu, India’ - government cardiologists and health officials reported that the government-sponsored STEMI care system in a hub-and-spoke model, guided by telemedicine via WhatsApp groups, significantly improved guideline-directed treatment for STEMI care in a resource-limited setting. Talking about the implementation of the initiative, G. Justin Paul, professor of cardiology, Madras Medical College, and the programme’s nodal officer, explained that the 18 government medical college hospitals in T.N. were equipped with cardiac catheterisation labo-

When Parkinson’s strikes early

Parkinson’s disease, often viewed as an ailment of the elderly, is manifesting with alarming frequency among younger individuals in India. This shift not only challenges existing clinical perceptions of the disease but also poses significant socio-economic and public healthcare implications for the nation. The tremors, stiffness, and slow movement commonly associated with the disease in old age are increasingly observed even in adults in their twenties, thirties and forties — at the prime of their lives. This unsettling trend demands more than just clinical attention; it calls for a systemic recalibration of how we understand, detect, and treat the second-most recurring neurodegenerative disorder in the world. The question is how can India redefine its healthcare strategies to include proper palliative care for Parkinson’s without compromising on its younger demographic, which is leading the country’s charge?

India is facing what can only be described as a dual burden — the expected increase of Parkinson’s disease in older adults and a growing tide of early-onset Parkinson’s disease. Compared with the global average age of diagnosis at around 60, India’s average is 51 — nearly a decade earlier. What is even more startling is that recent cohort studies in the Parkinsonism & Related Disorder Journal show that nearly 45% of patients develop symptoms between the ages of 22 and 49, a statistic that should trigger national concern. It means that India will have the highest absolute number of people with early-onset Parkinson’s disease, given its status as the most populous country. The younger patients experience the disease differently. They are more likely to suffer from dystonia (abnormal muscle contractions), early onset of levodopa-induced dyskinesias (involuntary movements), and psychiatric complications such as depression and anxiety. Because they are younger, they face longer disease durations, years of medication adjustments, employment disruptions, and emotional strain. In short, they are neurologically compromised while still economically and socially active, making the ripple effect of the early onset far wider than it appears.

Despite these shifts, community-level data in India remain sparse, particularly from rural areas where access to care is limited. A 2021 Lancet Global Health review noted the need for comprehensive neuroepidemiology surveys in India, particularly those that factor in region-specific exposures and lifestyles.

Patients often go through years of misdiagnosis or dismissal, partly because physicians themselves are conditioned to rule out Parkinson’s in younger individuals. In women, symptoms are even more likely to be misattributed to stress or hormonal changes. This results in delayed intervention, missed therapeutic windows, and irreversible neurological damage. To address this, India needs structured rehabilitation models and public health messaging around Parkinson’s, especially for young patients.

Strengthening early detection India’s expanding network of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (erstwhile HWCs aka SHC) under the Ayushman Bharat programme offers an important opportunity to bring neurological screening closer to communities. Training primary care providers to recognise early signs of Parkinson’s, especially in younger individuals, can help improve early diagnosis and referral. Simple clinical checklists, community health worker sensitisation, and public awareness drives can reduce the delay in care-seeking and improve outcomes.

From a clinical standpoint, India presents a different biological profile. A recent paper on npj Parkinson’s Disease observed that genetic mutations common in Western patients (such as LRRK2 and SNCA) are rare among Indians, which suggests that environmental triggers such as pesticide exposure (notably paraquat), industrial pollutants, and air pollution could play a more significant role in this context. Yet these hypotheses remain underexplored due to the lack of large-scale, India-specific studies.

It is equally important to recognise that early-onset Parkinson’s often remains undiagnosed in rural and underserved populations, where access to specialised neurological care is limited. Women, in particular, face a higher risk of misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis. Addressing these inequities requires focused public health messaging, telemedicine outreach, and mobile diagnostic camps in remote areas. Ensuring that Parkinson’s care reaches every corner of the country must be considered a public health priority. Shifting the paradigm

India is driving a mixed approach towards tackling Parkinson’s disease, which relies on broad-based government health schemes and healthcare efforts made by private hospitals. However, the growing challenges, especially

ratories to offer Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI), thereby serving as hub hospitals. Additionally, 188 district and taluk-level government hospitals lacking PCI capacity were enabled to administer clot busting medicines and were linked to these 18 hubs as spoke hospitals. Eighteen STEMI clusters were established by networking 10-15 spoke hospitals with each hub based on geographical proximity and transport logistics.

The networking was done in two phases - 12 hubs linked to 154 spokes to form 12 clusters in phase I (2017-2018) and six hubs linked to 34 spokes to create six more clusters in phase II (2019-2020). The authors noted that 18 WhatsApp groups - one for each cluster - were created to facilitate case-specific management of persons with suspected heart attacks. These groups enabled seamless communication between cardiologists at hub hospitals and teams at spoke hospitals. In total, 71,907 individuals with STEMI were treated over the five years. There was a 67% annual increase in the total number of individuals treated for STEMI. The proportion of individuals receiving pharmacoinvasive therapy increased from 7.9 to 31.7%. There was a 68% increase in the number of individuals receiving primary PCI. The number of individuals who did not receive guideline-directed treatment decreased by 20%.

The analysis found that there was a 6.7-fold rise in the individuals referred from spoke to hub hospitals for catheter-based revascularisation. The overall mortality showed a marginal decrease from 8.7 to 8.3%; phase-II hubs achieved a 68% reduction from 8.5% to 5.8% aligning with a rise in guideline-directed treatment. Dr. Paul said that in developed nations, STEMI care was centred on timely primary PCI, which must be done within 90-120 minutes by a specialist team in a cath lab. But this set up requiring 24x7 infrastructure and trained interventional cardiologists was not feasible in many developing nations including India. “The current study highlights that any timely treatment to restore blood flow is lifesaving, even if limited to fibrinolysis. Any form of revascularisation is definitely better than no revascularisation at all. Healthcare systems in developing nations must focus on early heart attack and at least start with fibrinolysis. This forms the foundation in which a pharmacoinvasive system can be built, as healthcare capabilities expand,” he added.



those related to young-onset and early-onset Parkinson’s disease, require a targeted response. The National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly is strengthening geriatric care. Yet, these schemes must be broadened to address the growing complexity of the disease arising from inconsistent implementation and a lack of disease-specific strategies. Promising models, such as Himachal Pradesh’s telestroke programme, demonstrate how telemedicine can bridge access gaps and could be adapted to enable remote Parkinson’s disease care and follow-ups.

India can explore integrating patient-specific registries into the National Health Mission, expanding centres of excellence, and forging public-private partnerships to scale comprehensive, multidisciplinary care. The country should include Parkinson’s under Ayushman Bharat for insurance coverage, neurological diagnostics, and medications. Subsidising advanced therapies, such as deep brain stimulation, and supporting gene therapy trials can help India leverage its biotech capabilities while furthering advancements. Comprehensive strategy

India has already recognised brain health as part of the expanded National Mental Health Programme, a welcome step. However, there is a strong need to operationalise and strengthen services for neurological disorders such as Parkinson’s disease within this framework. Tackling the dual burden of Parkinson’s calls for better integration under existing non-communicable disease initiatives, expansion of insurance coverage under PM-JAY to include neurological care, and building stronger referral systems from primary to tertiary care. Public-private partnerships, multidisciplinary care models, and investments in research and national registries will help India move from reactive care to proactive, equitable management of Parkinson’s and related conditions. With a focused approach to genomics, gene therapy, early detection, de-stigmatisation.

All you need to know about: Eating disorders

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), eating disorders can lead to severe health complications and even death if untreated. The most common types include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder. What are eating disorders?

Eating disorders are mental and behavioral conditions involving persistent disturbances in eating behavior, often stemming from an obsession with food, body weight, or shape. The six main types of eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge eating disorder (BED), pica, rumination disorder, and avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID). These are complex mental health conditions that can have severe physical and emotional consequences. Anorexia nervosa, for instance, involves restrictive eating, an intense fear of gaining weight, and a distorted body image. This condition has two subtypes: the restricting type and the binge eating/purging type. Bulimia nervosa is characterised by recurring episodes of binge eating followed by purging behaviors, such as vomiting, laxative use, or excessive exercise. These behaviors can lead to side effects like an inflamed throat, swollen salivary glands, and tooth decay. Binge eating disorder (BED) involves consuming large amounts of food rapidly and secretly, often accompanied by feelings of distress and guilt. In contrast, pica involves eating non-food substances, which can result in poisoning, infections, and nutritional deficiencies. Rumination disorder is marked by regurgitating food, re-chewing, and re-swallowing or spitting it out, potentially leading to weight loss and severe malnutrition. Avoidant/restrictive food intake disorder (ARFID) is characterised by a lack of interest in eating or a distaste for certain foods, resulting in restrictive eating habits and potential nutritional deficiencies.

‘Land-holding farmers doing non-farming activities improve labour efficiency’



Land-holding farmers who engage in non-farming activity tend to improve labour efficiency on their farms, a recent study has found. The study aimed to understand the impact of multiple job holding on farm labour use efficiency. The researchers used data from the International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) of farmers from States such as Odisha, Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh for the period between 2010 and 2014. "This is important as participation in non-farm activities alters farmers' labour allocation decisions between farm and non-farm activities," the researchers said in their paper.

The data came from the Village Dynamics in South Asia Project. The researchers adopted data envelopment analysis to estimate labour use efficiency. This is a mathematical technique that compares the efficiency of multiple workers doing the same kind of task without having to get into exactly how they do it. Anviksha Drall, assistant professor of economics at the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru and Sabuj Kumar Mandal, associate professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT-Madras, conducted the study. Their article 'Does

multiple job holding raise labour use efficiency of the farm operators? Evidence from rural India?', was published in the peer-reviewed journal Applied Economics. The researchers found that when farmers migrated, either within their State or outside, they gained new knowledge about farm practices that they applied to their farms when they returned. Often, farmers had time on their hands after sowing seeds. In the intervening months, their family carried on the agricultural work. Large farmers with financial wherewithal hired labour to work in their absence, Mr. Mandal said.

Ms. Drall said, "The study recommends promoting structured non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas to maximise positive spillover effects on farming." Mr. Mandal added: "Farming is becoming riskier because of climatic shock and price fluctuation. Farmers are diversifying into non-farm activities, either by starting a family occupation such as carpentry; craftsmanship or a saloon, or they migrate. When they migrate, they learn how farmers in other states are doing their farming activities and use of technology." The migration and multiple job holding help in two ways: to invest in new farming practices and improve labour efficiency. "We argue that instead of concentrating only on farming you can diversify into non-farming activities," Mr. Mandal explained.

"But to start a business you need money. Farmers face credit constraints. Therefore, we suggest that governments should come in and help farmers to diversify in non-farming activity," he added. The researchers said they deliberately selected data from villages from semi-arid and humid tropics in the country. Households were chosen randomly based on village listing in each selected village. The States encompassed semi-arid tropics and eastern regions vulnerable to drastic agro-climatic fluctuations, prompting them to undertake multiple jobs for income smoothing. A total of 1,415 households were considered in the study.

Day temperatures in Telangana likely to rise and reach a peak in May

If you are already sweating due to the summer heat now-a-days just wait, it is going to get hotter by next week with the weather forecasters expecting a two-three degrees rise in temperatures in the capital region and across Telangana. The maximum or the day temperatures, which are now hovering around 38-39 degree C in the twin cities and up to 42 degree C in the North Telangana region of Adilabad, Kumaram Bheem Asifabad, Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Kamareddy, and others, could soon see a rise of up to three degrees above normal. "From about April 15-18, we can expect the day temperatures to rise and this will reach the peak in May. This is also the period when the hot Northerly winds will pick up momentum over the prevailing Easterlies," explained Telangana Development Planning Society (TGPS) senior weather consultant Y. V. Rama Rao.

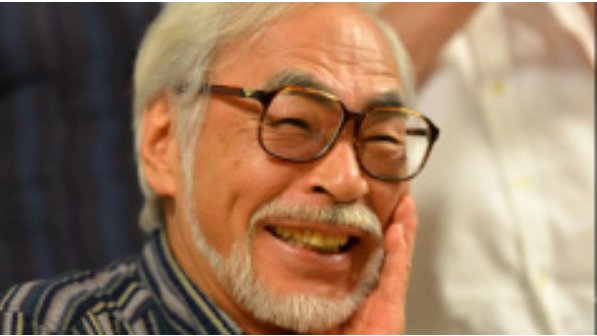
The hot climate could also lead to 'heat waves' and citizens have been cautioned not to venture out between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. plus also protect themselves from the searing heat during the day. Mr. Rama Rao said that, so far, the region has been experiencing 'normal' summer with the day temperatures hovering between 37-39 degrees C in most places with spikes here and there in the capital region. In the districts, it has been in the range of 39-42 degree C, with a some places in North Telangana recording above normal temperatures on a slightly higher side. "We have also been experiencing the Easterlies from the Bay of Bengal bringing in a lot of moisture and dominating the North-erlies. This climatic phenomenon coupled with the local heating of the atmosphere has been resulting in light rain and thunderstorms towards the evening, of late," explained the senior weather forecaster. Soon, these climatic conditions will change and the maximum temperatures are likely to reach up to 41 degree C or more in the twin cities.



Whereas in the districts it will be a couple of notches more and hover around 42-43 degree C. In the North Telangana region, the maximum temperatures are likely to reach up to 44 degree C or even go further up to 46 degree C later in some places. And, this is going to have an effect on the minimum temperatures or the night time temperatures as well.

The minimum temperatures currently moving between 18-21 degree C in the capital region could rise up to 22-23 degree C. In the districts, the minimum temperatures are likely to rise up to 24-25 degree C. "Since we are still in the beginning of the summer season, we cannot yet say how this is going to pan out this year. Yet, till date it has been a normal summer season with a few places especially in North Telangana recording above normal temperatures," Mr. Rama Rao said. Overall, 14 districts reported 'excess' rainfall during this period and rest 'normal' rainfall. This year, total rainfall has been 107.1 cm (2024-2025, from June 2024) against the normal of about 88 cm or 22% in excess. Last year total rainfall has been 92.1 cm, as per TGDPS data.

Is OpenAI's Studio Ghibli-style AI image generator undermining copyright law?



Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki's anime fantasy films have enthralled generations of children both within Japan and internationally. These movies instilled in countless viewers a lifelong opposition to war, militarisation, and all forms of violence, regardless of their political affiliation. Across Studio Ghibli films like Princess Mononoke, Howl's Moving Castle, and Castle in the Sky, soldiers are portrayed as misled fighters at best and sexual predators at worst. This is why there was widespread shock when the official Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) account on X shared images reminiscent of Studio Ghibli's style. The IDF's collage was prompted by OpenAI's late March update to the GPT4o model. This update enabled users to simply type text prompts into ChatGPT to generate images imitating Studio Ghibli's iconic animation style. While most people initially used ChatGPT's new image update to transform themselves or their family portraits into adorable, Studio Ghibli-inspired images, others ventured further. They created anime stills from photos of the 9/11 terror attacks and the assassination of John F. Kennedy. Users shared Studio Ghibli-style pornography, "Ghibli-fied" stills from Bollywood films, and even a short video clip reimagining Christopher Nolan's Interstellar as a Studio Ghibli film. What's more, the irony of Nolan's Oppenheimer being turned into a Studio Ghibli-style image was lost on far too many. One AI anime image that gained widespread attention in India depicted the destruction of the historic Babri Masjid in 1992 by Hindutva rioters. This image, rendered in a distorted Studio Ghibli style, featured anime figures waving flags atop the mosque's dome, cheering in celebration. Another viral image was shared by the US White House. This picture, in a childish anime style, mocked a foreign citizen accused of drug trafficking who was visibly distraught as she was taken into custody. Screenshot of the US White House using the Studio Ghibli anime trend to make fun of an arrested person Screenshot of the US White House using the Studio Ghibli anime trend to make fun of an arrested person | Photo Credit: The US White House on X The IDF account on X

also joined the trend, sharing anime images of soldiers using communication devices and flying planes. Professor David Leslie, Director of Ethics and Responsible Innovation Research at The Alan Turing Institute, highlighted the ethical concerns surrounding the misappropriation of a man's life work in "troubling ways." "Miyazaki has always been a person who takes a lot of care to present the ideas that are passionate to him in his works, and here you've got just an operationalisation of the patterns or the styles of those work[s], now being easily re-appropriated in any context, right? So you've got the IDF of Israel producing Miyazaki-style images," said Leslie.

He described the Japanese artist as "one of the great pacifists of his generation." Leslie acknowledged that Studio Ghibli's media would likely be part of the OpenAI model's training data set. However, he stressed the need for a more evidence-based approach to explore the extent of its presence. He also highlighted OpenAI's lack of transparency as a potential complication in this process. Screenshot of OpenAI CEO Sam Altman reacting to the Indian government's use of the Studio Ghibli trend Screenshot of OpenAI CEO Sam Altman reacting to the Indian government's use of the Studio Ghibli trend | Photo Credit: MyGovIndia on XMiyazaki's ardent fans have resurfaced an old video where the Japanese director expressed disgust when introduced to AI-generated motion animation. In the video, Miyazaki referred to AI art as an "insult to life itself." Last year, OpenAI championed the fair use defence, which allows copyrighted works to be used in specific circumstances. The company claimed this usage was "fair to creators, necessary for innovators, and crucial for US competitiveness." However, Leslie urged the public to consider a broader perspective beyond fair use regulations. He questioned whether OpenAI's actions were advancing the shareholder value of itself and Microsoft, or if they were aligned with the public interest. Diving into the legal intricacies, Geoffrey McGovern, Director of Intellectual Property and Senior Political Scientist at the RAND non-profit organisation, clarified that while specific creative products or works enjoy copyright protection, this is not the case for concepts and ideas. McGovern explained, "For instance, if Georges Braque, the French painter, sought to copyright Still Life with Metronome and the style that became known as Cubism, the painting's image would theoretically be copyrightable. It's an image that can be reproduced, and the rights to that reproduction would vest in Braque. However, the 'Cubist style' is an idea. US law does not permit the ownership of ideas. It becomes IP-protected only once those ideas are manifested in some form, such as a photograph, poem, recipe, film, composition, and so on." McGovern elaborated,

Are existing mechanisms effective in combating judicial corruption?



Last month, unaccounted cash was reportedly recovered from the official residence of former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Yashwant Varma. In response, Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna initiated an in-house inquiry into the matter. Justice Varma has since been repatriated to his parent High Court in Allahabad and will not be assigned any judicial work until the Supreme Court-mandated inquiry is completed. Are existing mechanisms effective in combating judicial corruption? Sanjay Hegde and Alok Prasanna Kumar discuss the question in a conversation moderated by Aaratrika Bhaumik. Edited excerpts:

Is impeachment an effective mechanism for judicial accountability, given its reliance on political consensus?

Sanjay Hegde: Far from being a mechanism for accountability, the process of impeachment is designed to shield judges. Unless a motion garners the support of two-thirds of the members present and voting, as well as an absolute majority in each House of Parliament, the judges cannot be removed. To assume that the threat of impeachment acts as a deterrent is misguided, given how rarely such proceedings succeed. What is needed instead is an internal mechanism within the judiciary to transparently address serious misconduct. Such a system would go a long way in reinforcing public confidence in the institution. Alok Prasanna Kumar: Impeachment upholds judicial independence by insulating judges from political retaliation. To this end, the process is intentionally rigorous, requiring both a detailed parliamentary procedure and proof of 'misbehaviour or incapacity.' These high thresholds are meant to deter the executive from using impeachment to remove judges who are seen as inconvenient. We also tend to assume that judicial independence has always existed, but it is a relatively modern concept. Historically, judges served to deliver the monarch's justice, not to check state power or protect individual rights. This began to change with the rise of constitutional democracies.

Are legislative reforms required in the Supreme Court's in-house procedure for addressing judicial misconduct?

Sanjay Hegde: The in-house procedure was established to prevent the misuse of legal processes against the judiciary, especially when judicial decisions displease the executive. A key precedent is Delhi Judicial Service Association v. State of Gujarat (1991), where the Supreme Court intervened after the Chief Judicial Magistrate of Nadiad was mistreated by Gujarat police officials, and issued guidelines for arresting judicial officers. To guard against misuse, the judiciary introduced an internal inquiry mechanism before allowing prosecution. Nonetheless, this framework could benefit from legislative intervention.

Alok Prasanna Kumar: Corruption cases are particularly difficult to prosecute in a country like ours, where enforcement institutions are weak, the capacity to secure convictions is limited, and judges enjoy a degree of institutional protection. A striking example is the recent acquittal of former Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Nirmal Yadav, nearly 15 years after a Supreme Court-mandated inquiry committee found sufficient evidence to prosecute her. That said, I agree with Sanjay that there is certainly scope for strengthening the in-house procedure.

Should inquiry reports under this mechanism be made public?

Alok Prasanna Kumar: Yes. We have seen a welcome shift towards transparency in the Supreme Court's handling of the Justice Yashwant Varma case. In an age where judicial conduct is closely scrutinised through social and mass media, opacity in cases of alleged judicial corruption is no longer viable. However, such transparency cannot remain an ad hoc response to crises; it must be institutionalised. At the same time, it is essential that the inquiry process

upholds the principles of natural justice and safeguards the rights of the accused. While rigid procedural rules may not be feasible, a balanced framework is necessary — one that commands the confidence of all stakeholders and prevents the inquiry process from becoming the subject of further litigation.

Sanjay Hegde: I agree that increased transparency in the functioning of inquiry committees is welcome. However, in this particular case, the Court's decision appears to have been shaped by the extraordinary level of public speculation. By proactively releasing the video purportedly showing the recovery of unaccounted cash, the Court pre-empted any perception that it was shielding a member of the higher judiciary. Had the footage surfaced through other unofficial channels, it could have severely undermined institutional credibility. That said, such decisions must be made with caution and evaluated on a case-by-case basis, ensuring that the accused's right to a fair trial remains fully protected. The Court could also benefit from appointing dedicated communications personnel to prevent misinformation and bolster public confidence.

The Justice Varma case has renewed calls to revive the National Judicial Appointments Commission. Should the government have a say in judicial appointments? Sanjay Hegde: The government already holds a seat at the table. The real question is whether it should wield a blank cheque. Even before the collegium finalises its recommendations, informal consultations with the executive are often undertaken. After the names are forwarded, the government retains the power to flag Intelligence Bureau inputs for the collegium's reconsideration. There have also been several instances where the government has stalled appointments by simply sitting on the recommendations. This de facto executive veto has prevented many deserving judges from reaching the Supreme Court.

Alok Prasanna Kumar: We should no longer call it the collegium system; it now resembles a search-and-selection committee. While the High Court and Supreme Court collegium recommend names, the Union government follows a pick-and-choose approach. This has dissuaded many deserving candidates from subjecting themselves to an opaque and often humiliating process. Ultimately, it does not matter whether judges are appointed by the government, the judiciary, or a combination of the two. What matters is transparency. The D.Y. Chandrachud-led collegium made progress on this front by publishing resolutions that detailed the rationale behind each recommendation. Regrettably, the practice has been discontinued.

Should the Judicial Standards and Accountability Bill, 2010, be reconsidered?

Alok Prasanna Kumar: I don't think so. It fails to address several critical gaps. What we need is a more calibrated and institutional response. The first step should be to define clear, enforceable judicial standards. Consider the issue of familial ties in the judiciary — every judge should be mandated to disclose relatives practising in the same court. Once disclosed, either the judge must be transferred or the relative barred from appearing before that court. Merely setting up more oversight bodies is not the solution. These institutions would inevitably be staffed by retired judges, thereby perpetuating the same structural flaws we seek to remedy. Sanjay Hegde: More than legislative reform, we need to focus on the fact that the legal profession already operates through an informal system of peer review. Long before a judge becomes entangled in a corruption scandal, there are usually murmurs within the corridors of the court. A meaningful step forward would be to institutionalise this peer review process by systematically incorporating inputs from bar associations and fellow judges. This would strengthen internal accountability.

Should contempt of court laws be liberalised to permit greater public scrutiny of judicial conduct?

Alok Prasanna Kumar: We can liberalise contempt of court laws, but unless there are consequences for judges who invoke them arbitrarily, such reforms will have little impact. It is also important to assess the context in which contempt is initiated — does it stem from a judge's anger or fear, or is it a measured institutional response to someone deliberately spreading falsehoods to undermine public trust in the judiciary? That said, there must be space for good-faith discourse on judicial corruption without the spectre of criminal contempt looming over those who voice legitimate concerns.

BJP Vs Congress | How do they fuel their election campaigns?

Story so far: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which has been re-elected to power for the third time in June 2024, albeit with the support of other parties, was armed with 88% of the donations received by political parties in 2023-24. Analysis of the income and expenditure reports, including donations above ₹20,000 declared by the major national parties show that BJP had an income of ₹4340 crore, including ₹2243 crore in individual donations. Of these BJP only spent ₹2211 crore (50.96%) of its income, noted Association for Democratic Reform (ADR). The latest set of income and expenditure declarations are the first since the Supreme Court scrapped the Centre's electoral bonds scheme which had collected ₹16,518 crore in 30 tranches since 2018. Here's a look at the political contributions and expenditures of India's top two national parties.

Contributions to the BJP stand at ₹3967 crore for 2023-24. Of these 'voluntary contributions', ₹2243 crore come from 8358 donations over ₹20,000, including ₹856 crore via six electoral trusts. Apart from contributions, BJP's income also includes ₹369 crore in interest and ₹2.7 crore in fees and subscription. BJP has received ₹2064 crore from corporate houses in donations while individual donors contributed ₹169 crore. The party also received donations from unions/party units worth ₹1.09 crore, while ₹9.147 crore were from undeclared donors. Also, BJP received ₹1685 crore came from electoral bonds — which constitute 38.84% of the party's total income. A month-wise analysis of the contributions by ADR found that September 2023 and March 2024 were when BJP received its maximum contributions. However, BJP's declared dates of donations barely amount to ₹85 crore, while dates of 7996 donations worth ₹2158 crore are unknown. The above-mentioned donations are payments made via cheque/DD or bank transfers. The top donations to BJP were ₹723 crore from Prudent Electoral Trust and ₹127 crore from Triumph Electoral Trust. While which company donated to the BJP via electoral trusts is not known, the top donors to electoral trusts are Arcelormittal Nippon Steel India Ltd (₹100 crore), DLF (100 crore), Maatha Projects (75 crore), CESC Ltd (60 crore) and Maruti Suzuki India (60 crore). BJP also saw a leap in electoral trust contributions from 265 crore in 2022-23 to ₹723.785 in 2023-24, coinciding with the Lok Sabha election year.



Expenses and unspent funds The BJP's income increased by 83.85% from ₹2360.844 crore during 2022-23 to ₹4340.473 crore in 2023-24. Similarly, its expenses also increased from ₹1361 crore in 2022-23 to ₹2211.7 crore in 2023-24. In both years, 80% of its expenses went to election and general propaganda. In 2022-23, BJP spent ₹1092 crore on its election campaign, while in 2023-24 it spent ₹1754 crore — a 64% increase in expenses. BJP's poll campaign expenditure in the previous Lok Sabha poll cycle too shows that the party spent ₹792 crores in 2018-19 — a 40% increase from 2017-18 when they spent ₹567 crore. Currently, BJP has an unspent ₹2128 crore in its kitty — amounting to 49% of its total income. In the previous year too, BJP had not spent around ₹1000 crore — 42% of its income of ₹2360 crore. BJP's unspent funds have steadily increased over the past two Lok Sabha cycles. In 2012-2013 — a year prior to the Lok Sabha polls — BJP had unspent funds of ₹101 crore — 31% of its total income of ₹324 crore. This was the last year when BJP's coffers was lower than the Congress, which had 111 crore's worth of unspent funds. However, the following year (2013-14), BJP's income bloomed to ₹673 crore, surpassing Congress, which declared ₹598 crore as its income. Incidentally, electoral trusts had been instituted in January 2013, paving the way for corporate funding of political campaigns. By the end of the Lok Sabha elections, BJP had spent 328 crore, leaving 345 crore left in its kitty. Similarly, in 2017-18, BJP had an excess of ₹268.87 crore — 26% of total income of 1027 crore. A year later, in 2018-19, the Modi government instituted the electoral bonds scheme.

‘It’s almost decided that I will not take part at the FIFA Club World Cup’: Cristiano Ronaldo



GNS News Agency, June 13

Cristiano Ronaldo Club World Cup Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo gestures during the Nations League semifinal soccer match between Portugal and Germany at the Munich Football Arena, in Munich, Germany,

Cristiano Ronaldo on Saturday ruled out the possibility of taking part in the upcoming Club World Cup with the 40-year-old saying that ‘it’s almost decided’. Last month, FIFA president Gianni Infantino had said that there were discussions on Ronaldo playing the Club World Cup. “There are discussions with some clubs, so if any club is watching and is interested in hiring Ronaldo for the Club World Cup...who knows, who knows,” he had said. But the Portu-

guese superstar, set to play Spain in the Nations League final on Sunday, appeared to put all speculations to rest.

“It’s almost decided that I will not take part at the FIFA Club World Cup, despite receiving many invitations and proposals. There have been talks, contacts...but you have to think about short, medium and long-term,” Ronaldo said on Saturday in a press conference as per Goal.com. Last week, Ronaldo had hinted about his Al-Nassr exit after the team’s defeat in the Saudi Premier League (SPL) 2024-25 season-ending match to Al-Fateh. Despite notching up his record 800th club goal of his career, the five-time Ballon d’Or winner could not prevent a 2-3 loss for his side, ending hopes of their Asian Champions League Elite qualification. With 70 points, Al Nassr finished third on the SPL standings, 13 behind league winners Al-Ittihad and five behind second-placed Al-Hilal. Ronaldo, who joined the Saudi side in 2022 after his second stint with Manchester United, has his contract with the club run out this summer. “This chapter is over,” Ronaldo wrote on social media after the loss. “The story? Still being written. Grateful to all,” the former Real Madrid and Juventus forward added. Despite Al-Nassr’s underwhelming finish, Ronaldo topped the Golden Boot race in the SPL with 24 goals, with his overall tally sitting at 99 goals in 111 appearances for the team. But with reports of a new contract being offered to him by the Saudi club might have changed things.

Marnus Labuschagne says India, Australia and England are carrying load of Test cricket: ‘Want to see all the countries keep producing great players’

South Africa, who are in the final of the World Test Championship, which will be played on June 11 at Lord’s, will not play a home Test match this year. Such has been the predicament of the sides when it comes to red-ball cricket outside India, England, and Australia. The countries, due to the economic health of their boards, luring offers for players from franchises across the globe, and to accommodate their own franchise leagues, have struggled to maintain the balance of playing enough red-ball and franchise cricket, which generate revenues to sustain the domestic models in their cricketing seasons. However, India, England and Australia, by their boards being economically in a healthy state, have been able to maintain that balance and have also struck a happy medium of Test cricket and franchise cricket.

Australian cricketer Marnus Labuschagne said it is important that other nations outside the big three also produce better cricketers for the health of Test cricket. “Every time Test cricket is on, people want to watch it. India, Australia, and England are probably carrying a bit of the load of Test cricket, but we really want to see all the countries keep producing great players and being part of upholding such an amazing tradition of Test cricket,” he said, speaking on the ICC.

Australia, who are the defending champions of the WTC, are the opponents of South Africa. “It is an exciting



tournament. It means every Test you play has something on it, it brings all the countries into play, and anyone can make the final,” Labuschagne said on WTC. “It’s exciting to play in, you’re playing for a trophy at the end of a two-year cycle. I think it has worked great. Two years ago, when we beat India, it was awesome,” he added. “South Africa have been a very good team in this cycle, on paper it’s a well-balanced side and they have some really nice players,” Labuschagne told ICC. “It will be a good challenge for us, and we are going to have to be on our game. Playing at Lord’s is always special with the history and what is involved with playing there. It’s going to be an awesome week and another great match,” Labuschagne added.

‘It’s going to be different challenge’: Australia’s Nathan Lyon on WTC final clash with South Africa

GNS News Agency, June 13

Nathan Lyon Australia's Nathan Lyon chews gum as he walks to his fielding position during the day one of the second cricket test match between Australia and India at the Adelaide Oval in Adelaide, Australia. (AP) Australian spinner Nathan Lyon said that it’ll be a challenge for the defending champions against South Africa at Lord’s for the World Test Championship final due to the foreign conditions and the use of Dukes balls. The current Australian side is jam-packed with talent that were a part of the 2015 and 2023 ODI World Cup winning team as well as the 2021 T20 World Cup winning side.

“Having the experience of the guys who have won three (50-over) World Cups and T20 World Cups and obviously the World Test Championship final a couple of years ago, that experience and that pressure in those higher games, it’s going to be, it’s on our side, isn’t it, but it doesn’t mean anything when you come to the game. South Africa have got some world class batters and obviously they’ve got some unbelievable bowlers there as well so it’s going to be a good challenge and obviously it’s a one-off Test match,” Lyon said to ICC. “It’s going to be a different challenge and with foreign conditions and the Dukes ball. It’s going to be two best bowling attacks going at each other which is another exciting thing so it’s going to be a good challenge for all batters,” he added.



The premier tweaker also said that he has followed the progress of the South African batters in recent days. “I’m a cricket nuffie, so I’ve watched a fair amount of cricket and even tuned into their (South Africa’s tour) game at the moment against Zimbabwe. They’ve got some class players as I said with the likes of Aiden Markram, Ricketon at the top of the order there, they’re class players, there’s no point in hiding behind that fact either.” “I played against (David) Bedingham last year here in County cricket and he’s a special player, so at the end of the day it’s going to be guys who do the basics...and enjoy the pressure moments,” the right-arm off-spinner said.

‘Unprecedented crisis’: After shock loss, Italy fear missing third straight World Cup

GNS News Agency, June 13

Italy, who have failed to qualify for the last two FIFA World Cups, are already fretting over the ignominy of missing the third after a 3-0 loss to Norway on Friday night. First half goals from Alexander Sorloth, Antonio Nusa and Erling Haaland were enough for Norway to inflict another defeat on Italy, who found themselves in a precarious position, in the European World Cup qualifiers.

Italy, yet to earn a point, are fourth in Group I, although they have played two games fewer than the teams above them because of their involvement in the Nations League. Norway are the table-toppers with nine points followed by Israel with six and Estonia are placed third with three points. Group winners directly qualify for the 2026 World Cup while the runners-up progress to the play-offs. The defeat has sparked fears in Italy of the former champions completing the dubious hat-trick of missing the World Cup, having missed the 2018 and 2022 editions as well.

Leading Italian sports daily, Gazzetta Dello Sport, called the situation an ‘unprecedented crisis.’ “Let’s prepare for yet another torture in the playoffs, assuming we grab second place. The national team seen yesterday in Oslo was embarrassing and it is legitimate to doubt everything, to expect the worst of the worst. This is who we are, and we are poor, empty,” the newspaper noted. Italy’s under-



fire coach Luciano Spalletti took responsibility for Friday’s defeat and told Sky Sport Italia that it was a ‘difficult moment’. “There are always worries, because after a performance like that, you clearly have to ask yourself questions and realise there are problems, but you have to face them, because there is no other possibility,” Spalletti said. Italy captain Gianluigi Donnarumma, too, was downcast, saying he had ‘no explanation’ for the loss. Our supporters don’t deserve this kind of match,” Donnarumma, who won the Champions League with Paris St-Germain last Saturday, said. “We need to do some soul-searching. It’s unacceptable.”

Andre Agassi explains why Carlos Alcaraz’s backhand has more power, control and deception



GNS News Agency, June 13

Tennis legend Andre Agassi believes a tiny technical tweak in the way Carlos Alcaraz hit a backhand shot has had a profound impact on his game. Agassi, analysing Alcaraz’s game on American network TNT following the Spaniard’s win over Lorenzo Musetti in the French Open semifinals, said the change has made him hit a return with ‘more power, more control, and more deception.’ His final, against Jannik Sinner, will be played on Sunday.

The 1999 French Open champion compared Alcaraz’s backhand shot to last year, when ‘he was taking the ball up higher’. “His right arm’s a little bent, so the racket head’s going up long before it comes down. He’s taking it up pretty

darn high. Now he has to drop it, get underneath, pull through with the right hand and finish,” Agassi said. “The dude is so fast twitched that really what he has in his backhand there is just a variable that he doesn’t need to deal with.” This year, Agassi added, it has been different. “He takes it back with the straight right arm. His left is way under control. Like a golf swing, right? You get to the top of your swing. You have that pause and you drop in the slot and then you let it go. “He’s getting himself to that slot right away. And that’s what I love about it. Because that not only gives him the option to sort of settle down some misfires, but he can hold the ball longer. Because of what he’s doing, see his racket face is already closed. That ball can travel deeper. That ball travels deeper in the strike zone.” The control gives Alcaraz a chance to add deception to his shots, Agassi said, and added that most of his opponents at Roland Garros have been guessing the direction of his shots. “They don’t know if he’s going to hold, pull it across, or if he’s going to hold and just go inside off line. And he can just leave his opponent with their jockstrap on the ground.” The guy can go either direction with it because in tennis power and control comes from time spent on racket with the ball. I don’t care how you swing. If you swing like Nadal, if you swing through, you can keep that ball in the racket a split second longer. We’re talking about nuances. You’ve got more power, you’ve got more control, and you’ve got more deception. So you’re talking about a guy who’s crazy athletic.”

Aakash Chopra’s captaincy advice to Shubman Gill: ‘You can take inspiration from Virat Kohli’s success, his hunger for runs, his leadership’

GNS News Agency, June 13

When Virat Kohli took over the Test captaincy in 2014 in Adelaide, the side was filled with youngsters. It was a period of transition and required someone to come in and give the identity for the next decade with grooming players at disposal, and that’s exactly what Kohli did and succeeded. Statistically, he is the best Indian captain in the format, and through his tenure, India has won some remarkable series both home and away. However, 11 years later, the side is in a similar conundrum with the retirement of veterans Kohli and Rohit Sharma. Shubman Gill has been given the responsibility to create his mark on the team for the next few years with a lot of youngsters.

“You can take inspiration from Virat Kohli’s success, his hunger for runs, his leadership—but not necessarily his batting number,” said Aakash Chopra, speaking on JioStar. With Kohli not present, who will take the number four slot is up for debate. “That’s a very individual choice. Similarly, Shubman should play where he contributes best,” said Chopra after few experts rooting for Shubman to take the number four slot for the future. “Batting position isn’t about copying someone—it’s about where you fit in the team and how it benefits the side. Learn from Kohli’s mindset, play with an extra bowler if needed. That’s what leaders do—make sacrifices for the team,” Chopra further stated.



Chopra also suggested that India should form a leadership group. “Form a leadership group—bring 4-5 players together and build a core. Include Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Jasprit Bumrah, and Mohammed Siraj. Create a pack of wolves. These are the guys who’ll be with you today, in six months, and five years down the line.” “With a young team, it’s important that the captain grows with the group. Seniors and juniors often have different routines and circles—but with this new-look team, you have a chance to build a collective culture. It’s a rare opportunity to create a bond and a story that the entire nation will be proud of,” he added.

‘I hope you lose..’: Ricky Ponting’s cheeky message to Marco Jansen before PBKS pacer left IPL 2025 for WTC final preps

GNS News Agency, June 13

Jansen had to leave an in-form Punjab Kings side shortly before the IPL 2025 Playoffs for WTC final preps in England. (BCCI) Jansen had to leave an in-form Punjab Kings side shortly before the IPL 2025 Playoffs for WTC final preps in England. (BCCI)

Marco Jansen has been at the heart of South Africa’s rise to their first ICC World Test Championship final in the 2023-25 cycle. Despite featuring in only six Tests this edition, the towering Proteas pacer racked up 29 wickets, his 33.17 strike rate bettered only by India’s Jasprit Bumrah among bowlers who have managed at least as many scalps as him. With South Africa demanding the return of their WTC-final-bound players ahead of the IPL 2025 Playoffs late last month, Jansen had to leave an in-form Punjab Kings shortly before they made their bid for a maiden title. The left-arm seamer was integral to Punjab’s middle and death-overs bowling plans, finishing as the second-highest wicket-taker with 16 scalps in 14 games.

Jansen recently opened up on the bond that he created with head coach Ricky Ponting at Punjab and the former Aussie captain’s cheeky message for him as he prepared to leave India for Lord’s to take on the defending Test champs, Australia, starting June 11. “Before I left (India), he (Ponting) just said ‘good luck, I hope you do well, but I hope you lose,’” the 25-year-old Jansen told ICC



Digital. Jansen, however, thanked Ponting for firming him up with a wave of confidence ahead of a momentous summit clash as South Africa aim to end a long ICC title drought. “I learnt a lot from him, especially from a mental point of view. He is always positive, and he always sees the good stuff instead of the bad stuff, if it makes sense,” he said. “And I think that’s why he’s a legend of the game, because you always lean towards what could happen instead of what could go wrong. For me personally in the IPL, he’s helped a lot in that regard, because he always reminds you what could be, what you can do and what could happen instead of what couldn’t happen,” he added.

‘This kid is a superstar’: Michael Clarke backs Sai Sudharsan’s Test debut at No 3 for India vs England

GNS News Agency, June 13

India vs England: Michael Clarke has backed Sai Sudharsan to take over the No. 3 spot. (BCCI) India vs England: Michael Clarke has backed Sai Sudharsan to take over the No. 3 spot. (BCCI) With India embracing a Test transition from the forthcoming five-match series in England onwards, former Australia captain Michael Clarke has made his pick for India’s key No. 3 position as skipper Shubman Gill is slated to take over the No. 4 position vacated after Virat Kohli’s retirement.

Clarke has picked Tamil Nadu sensation Sai Sudharsan to be drafted directly to take over the slot when Gill slides one spot down from No. 3 starting June 20 in Hedingley. “To me, this kid is a superstar, Sai Sudharsan. I think he is a number three in Test cricket. I think he is probably going to open the batting in time in India’s T20I and ODI team. He is in their Test squad. He gets his first opportunity in England,” Clarke said on the Beyond23 Cricket podcast.

The left-handed Sudharsan had a dream IPL season with the Gujarat Titans. Outsourcing his captain Gill, Sudharsan topped the batting charts in the league, winning the Orange Cap after slamming 759 runs in 15 matches. Averaging 54.21 with a strike rate of 156.17, Sudharsan notched up a century and six fifties as the Titans finished fourth in the Playoffs. Despite holding a sub-40 average in First-Class cricket, Clarke has backed Sudharsan to fit in



well at number three for India.

“I think he can walk in straight to bat at number three. I think technically he’s very good, he’s got all the shots and mentally, he’s ready. He really impressed me and he’s a good looking player as well,” Clarke said.

Sudharsan won the Emerging Player of the Season award in the IPL 2025 edition and has previously appeared in two County stints with Surrey between 2023-24. In his last outing for the side, Sudharsan cracked his maiden First-Class century in English conditions while batting at No. 6. Overall, the 23-year-old averages 39.93 for 1957 runs in 29 FC outings since his debut in 2022

Varun Grover’s short film Kiss may be uneven and overly constructed, but it dares to gesture towards the transcendental power of cinema



It begins when the lights fade in a theatre. That hush before the image shivers to life, somehow we believe we are simple observers, seated in the dark, watching a story unfold that belongs to someone else. We think it’s their lives, their heartbreak, their triumph, their small glances loaded with unsaid things. We imagine them unaware of us, as if we are invisible voyeurs, granted the privilege of watching without being watched. There’s a strange thrill in that: to see without consequence, to peer into the private, the sacred, and call it fiction. But what if that silence isn’t anonymity? What if what plays out on screen isn’t theirs but yours? What if you’re not just looking, but being looked at? And not by others, but by yourself. What if the theatre was a mirror, and the film, your life? What if you are both the watcher and the watched? Both audience and actor. And the story, no matter how far it strays, always finds its way back to you.

That’s what cinema dares to do. Not to show you the world, but to hold a mirror up to your face when you least expect it. It doesn’t speak in answers. It doesn’t beg to be understood. It draws blood from the places you buried too deep to name. It makes you ache for the things you did, the things you didn’t do. It drags you through memory and regret and tenderness like a reel spinning towards a frame you can’t unsee. And somehow, it gives you something resembling closure. Not the kind that ties things neatly but the kind that lets you exhale. That’s why cinema matters. Not because it tells a story. But because it listens to yours.

You might wonder whether Kiss, Varun Grover’s directorial debut, stirs any of these deep, disquieting emotions, the kind cinema, at its best, can summon. But it largely doesn’t. The film feels too manufactured, too self-conscious in its construction to allow for real pathos. Emotion doesn’t land when every beat feels premeditated, every gesture aimed too directly at meaning. What we witness instead is the unmistakable imprint of a first-time filmmaker, or perhaps even an accomplished screenwriter, trying a little too hard to make a point. And so expectedly we’re given a provocatively high-concept premise: a young filmmaker, Sam

(Adarsh Gourav) (mocked later in the film as “Kurosawa ka najayaz aulad”) sits before a censor board, hoping for a clean certificate. But the gatekeepers, particularly Chahaun (Shubhrajyoti Barat) and Saili (Swanand Kirkire), take issue with a kissing scene. They can’t seem to stomach it. What follows is an absurd and strangely bureaucratic ritual: the three men watch and rewatch the scene, each trying to clock the exact duration of the kiss. One says 28 seconds. Another says over two minutes. Each time, the number shifts. No one can explain it. Time bends. The kiss stretches and contracts. Something about it escapes measurement, and with it, meaning.

But then, right at the midpoint, around the seven-minute mark, the film shifts. Almost subtly, it changes shape, as if slipping into another register altogether. What follows is, undeniably, an inventive turn: bold in structure, unconventional in its rhythm. And yet, the fingerprints of a first-time director remain visible. You sense the hesitation. The subtext doesn’t simmer, it’s spoken out loud. The dialogue carries weight it shouldn’t have to. Characters are held in place so tightly by the concept that they barely get a chance to breathe, let alone live. Still, that’s not to say Kiss lacks merit. While it may not strike with emotional force, it does provoke thought. There’s an intellectual current running beneath the unevenness. An intent that’s clear, even when the execution falters. This isn’t the kind of work that announces Grover’s mastery. But perhaps that’s precisely the point. Kiss doesn’t show us what Grover is capable of at his best. It shows us what he still manages to pull off on an uncertain day. On a day when most of mainstream Hindi cinema struggles to find either a spine or a spark.It’s to Grover’s credit that, even within the uneven contours of Kiss, he imagines a world that feels almost Imtiaz Ali-esque. A realm suspended beyond binaries, where right and wrong dissolve, where the mind’s machinery and the heart’s fragility blur into something more elemental. It is a world unmoored from ideological poles, where censors and creators, in some strange alchemy, find themselves facing the same screen, fighting the same battles. A place where rage gives way to warmth, where the noise of offense is overtaken by empathy. And no surprise, that place is a movie theatre. No wonder, at the outset, Sam asks, “How can an artiste explain why?” But that, in fact, is the very question cinema keeps circling back to. The interrogation has never been of what is shown, but why it is shown. The why is the wound. The why is the origin. Every frame holds a reckoning between the artiste and the world, between the fiction onscreen and the reality it refuses to escape. It is to Grover’s credit that, even on an off day, in an odd and imperfect film, he manages to articulate that. He reminds us that cinema is still where all our hopes collect. After all, life begins when the lights fade in a theatre.

‘His wife was found begging at railway station’: Forgotten composer who launched Lata Mangeshkar and Kishore Kumar died penniless

Veteran lyricist-writer Javed Akhtar has long endorsed the practice of paying royalties to writers, composers, and other artistes involved in the creation of songs. He put his might behind the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2010, and cited the example of composer Khemchand Prakash as one of the many industry figures who slipped through the cracks because there were no systems in place to protect them and their families. His wife was found begging at a railway station after his death. There are innumerable stories of yesteryear Bollywood personalities who found themselves penniless because they didn’t have the foresight to invest their money and secure their future.

One of them was Khemchand Prakash, who remains best known as the person who mentored the likes of Lata Mangeshkar, Kishore Kumar, Naushad, and Manna Dey. In fact, he was the one who gave Lata a break with the film Mahal, after she was famously rejected by producer Chandu Lal Shah. He stood up for the young singer, and predicted that she will go on to achieve greatness in her career. He hired her to sing a song in the film Ziddi (1948). But their second collaboration, the song “Aayega Aane Wala,” made Lata a household name. Unfortunately, Khemchand Prakash died of liver cirrhosis at the young age of 42 in 1950, and didn’t experience the success of Mahal.His wife and daughter, Sri devi and daughter Chandrakala, reportedly didn’t get the support of the industry, and had to struggle with poverty. In his Rajya Sabha speech in 2012, Javed Akhtar mentioned their plight, as he voiced support for the Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2010. He said, “Ayega ek din, ayega. Bahut mashoor geet hai, 60 saal pehle likha gaya tha... This song was composed by Khemchand Prakash, a deeply admired musician of his time... When they tried to locate him to pay Rs 13,000 owed to him, it was found that his wife was begging in Malad. This is not surprising. There are many stories like this.”He said in a follow-up interview with The Times of India, “The law is supposed to protect the rights of the vulnerable. Nobody cares for the families of creators of evergreen songs — the story of Khemchand Prakash, a singer of the golden era who composed songs like ‘Aayega Aane Wala’ is a case in point. Sometime ago, his wife was found begging at Mumbai’s Malad station. If Prakash’s family had received adequate royalty from his music, it would not have met such a fate.” Khemchand Prakash’s family stood to earn Rs 50 lakh in royalties for “Ayega Aane Wala” alone, a report by journalist Abhilasha Ojha noted.

Read more – Bollywood’s greatest character actor died in abject poverty, was ‘banned’ by Shiv Sena, funeral went unattended by big Bollywood starsAccording to The Quint, Khemchand Prakash was born in 1907. His father Goverdhan Das was a Dhrupad singer and Kathak dancer in the royal court of Madho Singh II. He reportedly composed two songs in the 1935 adaptation of Devdas — “Dukh ke din ab...” and “Baalam aan baso...” — but he was not credited for them. He got his first break in 1939, with the film Meri Aankhei. In 1948, he gave Kishore Kumar a break with the song “Marne ki duaen kyun maangu...”Khemchand’s short career was marked by successful ventures such as Ziddi, Tansen, and Mahal. He composed songs that were picturised on stars such as KL Saigal, Kamini Kaushal, Noorjehan, Shamshad Begum and Ashok Kumar. The song “Ayega Aane Wala” was one of the first Hindi compositions that compelled the record company HMV to include the singer’s name in the credits.In an



interview with Nasreen Munni Kabir, published in the Mumbai Mirror in 2020, Lata Mangeshkar recalled her first interaction with Kishore Kumar on her way to Khemchand’s studio. “I would take the train from Grant Road to Malad and one day Kishoreda got on at the next stop. I thought he looked very familiar and wondered who he was. We both got off at Malad. Bombay Talkies studio was a long way from the station and that day I decided to take a taanga. And Kishoreda hired one too. We rode along and finally we both entered the studio. I thought to myself, ‘Something strange is going on here. This fellow is following me.’ I asked Khemchandji: ‘Uncle, who is this boy? He’s following me.’ He laughed and said: ‘He’s Kishore. Ashok Kumar’s brother.’ That day we recorded our first duet ‘Ye Kaun Aya Re Karke Sola Singar.’”

Dhanush sets the internet on fire with his Air Force officer look

Mumbai: Actor Dhanush is presently shooting for Aanand L Rai’s much-anticipated drama, “Tere Ishk Mein”.

It seems like Dhanush will be seen as an Air Force officer in his next. ‘Housefull 5’ delivers double the madness, double the fun: A blockbuster rollercoaster with two endings!Now, adding to the hype, a new set of photos from the shoot have surfaced on social media.

In the photos, Dhanush is seen in a completely new avatar posing in a sharp Indian Air Force uniform, with short hair and a steely moustache.

This look of the actor is in complete contrast to his first look from “Tere Ishk Mein” with long hair and a full beard, most likely from the grittier phase of his character.The primary teaser of the drama featured Dhanush setting a wall on fire with the words, “From the world of Raanjhanaa”. We could also hear in the backdrop, “Pichli baar to Kundan tha, maan gaya par iss baar Shankar ko kaise roko?” (Last time it was Kundan, he accepted it, but how will you stop Shankar this time?).For the unversed, Dhanush entered Bollywood with the spiritual prequel of “Tere Ishk Mein” – “Raanjhanaa”, which was also helmed by Aanand L Rai.Now, more than a decade later, he is all set to once again deliver another cinematic gem with the filmmaker.Dhanush will be seen sharing screen space with Kriti Sanon in the film, who will essay the role of Mukti. The storyline of the movie has been kept under wraps for now.

Deepika Padukone joins Allu Arjun and Atlee’s pan-India epic 'AA22 x A6'



Chennai: The makers of Telugu Star Allu Arjun’s upcoming film with director Atlee, being tentatively referred to as AA22 X A6, on Saturday welcomed actress Deepika Padukone onboard the film’s unit.Taking to its X timeline, Sun Pictures, the production house producing the film, wrote, “The Queen marches to conquer! Welcome onboard @deepikapadukone #TheFacesOfAA22xA6. #AA22xA6 – A Magnum Opus from Sun Pictures. @alluarjun @Atlee_dir #SunPictures #AA22 #A6”The production house shared a video of Atlee meeting Deepika Padukone and narrating the script to her. The clip also gives a glimpse of Deepika Padukone’s motion capture portions in the film. The visuals give the impression that Deepika Padukone plays a queen, who rides a horse and wields a sword in the film.

The film, which has already triggered huge expectations as it is believed that it will be like no other film that has ever been done before, will have world class experts working on it. It may be recalled that Sun Pictures had

released an announcement video about the film some time back. In the announcement video, a number of world-class technicians who are to work on the film, shared their thoughts about the script.Well known VFX supervisor James Madigan, who is known for having worked in films like ‘Iron Man 2’ and ‘Transformers: Rise of the Beasts’, had said, “I just got done reading the script and I got to say, my head is still spinning.”The clip also had Allu Arjun talking to Mike Elizalde, the president of Spectral Motion and asking him what he thought of the script. Mike Elizalde was seen replying, “The script is seriously unlike anything I’ve ever read. It is the best of the best of what I would ever want to create.”Academy award winner and Fractured FX artistic director and CEO Justin Raleigh for his part, said,“Reading through it (the script), very excited about all the creature potential.All the different character potential.”William Write Anderson, who is the co-owner of Lola VFX, said, “I cannot wait to be a part of this. I can’t wait to see what his vision does. The story is unbelievable.” The makers are claiming the film to be a film that will have universal appeal.

Arjun Das praises Pawan Kalyan as 'They Call Him OG' locks September 25 release

Chennai: One of Tamil cinema’s fastest rising stars Arjun Das has now penned a heartfelt post of appreciation for actor Pawan Kalyan, saying that he would cherish every single day he worked with him.Arjun Das has been working with Pawan Kalyan in director Sujeeth’s eagerly awaited action extravaganza ‘They Call Him OG’. Taking to his X timeline, Arjun Das wrote, “It has been an absolute honour @PawanKalyan Garu. Will cherish every single day of working with you. Thank you for taking time out whenever we shot, to sit down & talk to me despite your extremely busy schedule. Will forever cherish our conversations. I truly hope I get to collaborate with you again Sir.”

The actor also posted a couple of pictures of himself with the power star. Produced by DVV Entertainment, action extravaganza ‘They Call Him OG’ is scheduled to hit screens worldwide on September 25 this year.Only recently, sources close to the unit had confirmed that shooting of the film had resumed. Shooting for the film resumed with an adrenaline-pumping action sequence being shot in Hyderabad.The makers released a striking new picture from the set, offering fans a glimpse into the film’s moody, intense visual palette. The image ignited buzz across social media, amplifying excitement for what’s to come.The much-awaited gangster action drama, headlined by Power Star Pawan Kalyan, is being produced by DVV Danayya and Kalyan Dasari under the prestigious DVV Entertainments banner. The film, which is a gangster drama, has Priyanka Arul Mohan playing the female lead.Touted as “a feast of a massacre,” OG promises a gripping blend of stylized action and raw emotion. The latest schedule sets the tone with a power-packed sequence that sets the stage for the high-stakes drama ahead.Adding to the intrigue, acclaimed Bollywood actor Emraan Hashmi also plays a pivotal role, bringing a formidable layer of conflict to the narrative.The ensemble also features Sriya Reddy in a commanding role and veteran actor Prakash Raj, further elevating the film’s dramatic depth.The film has triggered huge interest as fans



believe it will have Pawan Kalyan wielding a Katana again.

Music for the film is being composed by S Thaman and its story is by Sujeeth. Cinematography for the film is by one of the country’s finest cinematographers, Ravi K Chandran.The film, which is expected to be high on action, was originally slated to hit screens worldwide on September 27 last year. However, its release was pushed because of shooting getting delayed. Now, it seems the film is all set to hit screens almost a year later on September 25 this year.

Aamir Khan replaced Amole Gupte as Taare Zameen Par director after 2 days of shoot, says Darsheel Safary: ‘Forget who is the director’

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan was tagged a ‘perfectionist’ early in his career, but the label also invited criticism — with many accusing him of ‘ghost directing’ films and sidelining directors. While Aamir denied such claims in an interview with Galatta Plus, Darsheel Safary recently shared that Aamir, in fact, took over the direction of Taare Zameen Par from the film’s original writer and creative director, Amole Gupte.

In a recent interaction with Vicky Lalwani, Darsheel Safary recalled how Aamir completely reshoot a scene in Taare Zameen Par, despite Amole Gupte being present on the set. He said, “He told us forget everything that we just shot. I am going to direct it. Amole sir is right here and he is going to be on the set



as a creative director. It is his film, I will make it, we all will make it together. Forget who is the director.”Darsheel also shared that Amole shot for the film for just 2-3 days before Aamir took over the director’s chair. When

asked how the transition was for him, Darsheel said, “I was scared of Aamir sir. Amole sir and I were actually friends. He had spotted me at Shiamak Davar’s classes.” He added, “Amole sir and I had great friendship. His son and I are also good friends. We have done a lot of masti to-

gether.” Darsheel also admitted to Aamir giving inputs to Amole while shooting the film. “I remember them talking about what works and what not. I remember very clearly him (Aamir) giving inputs.”Defending himself, Aamir said in the interview with Galatta Plus, “