One of India's biggest veterinary hospitals coming up in Hyderabad

Hyderabad: Maa Saraswathi, one of the biggest veterinary hospitals in India is coming up in the city. Spread over 5,100 sft with an operation theatre, intensive care unit, a host of diagnostic facilities, and a medical dispensary with specialised doctors, surgeons and paramedical staff, the facility is coming up at Satya Shivam Sundaram Gau Shala at Gaganpahad on the way to the airport.It will be a self-contained one, equipped with modern diagnostics, an X-ray machine, an endoscope, a blood-insulin analyzer and also have an ambulance among other facilities.

Satyan Shivam Sundaram Cow Shelter is well known for sheltering 3,200 cows at Gaganpahad and 2,800 at Burujugadda for the past several years and is said to be the biggest cow shelter in South India.The new facility likely to be inaugurated in the first week of July is a long-felt dream of 85-year-old Dharam Raj Ranka, city's retired jeweller who has been on the mission of saving cows for the past 30 years, a press release said.The state-of-the-art veterinary hospital will not only take care of 6,000 cows sheltered at Satya Shivam Sundaram Gau Shala at Gaganpahad and Burujugadda, but would also serve animals such as sheep, goats, dogs from surrounding areas.

Photography exhibition at State Gallery of Art from June 28 to 30

Aiming to provide a platform for budding photographers to showcase their work, the exhibit showcases the exceptional talent of 50 photographers who have collectively displayed 56 stunning photographs. Further, this exhibition also provides an opportunity for the participants to meet like minded individuals and engage with a broader audience.With free entry for everybody, the exhibition is open to viewers till June 30.SIP Regional Prodigy 2024 Telangana Contest to be held on June 30Hyderabad: The SIP Regional Prodigy 2024 Telangana Contest will be held at Classic Convention, Shamshabad on June 30 from 8 am onwards. The contest will be

Hyderabad: Organized by Momentz Academy of Photography, a photography exhibition has been inaugurated at the State Gallery of Art in Madhapur on Friday. The exhibition is jointly presented by the Department of Language and Culture, Government of Telangana, and affiliated with the State Institute of Vocational Education (S.I.V.E.).Mamidi Hari Krishna, Director of the Department of Language and Culture, Anuradha Reddy, Convenor of INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, and photographers were present during the inauguration.

Major blast in company at Shadnagar kills three, several injured

Hyderabad: Three persons were reportedly killed and at least ten others were injured in a blast which took place in a company at the industrial area in Shadnagar on the city outskirts on Friday.

The compressor glass blast in the furnace section of the company is suspected to have led to the fire.On receiving information, the police and fire department officials reached the spot and took up the rescue operation. The injured were shifted to

a nearby private hospital. The condition of three persons is said to be critical.

An agonising green meltdown in a cold and damp USA

After smashing two successive fours off Arshdeep Singh, Naseem Shah put his head down and dejectedly, reluctantly completed a single, off the last ball of the contest. As he looked up, the tears streaming down his cheeks were visible. A familiar, unwelcome foe – cold, cruel defeat – had wrapped him in its embrace; it was all just too much for Pakistan's express fast bowler.The setting was the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium, but it might well have been SuperSport Park in Centurion or Old Trafford in Manchester, the MCG in Melbourne or the Wanderers in Johannesburg, venues where Pakistan has tilted at Indian windmills in cricket World Cups – of the 50- and 20-over varieties – and come off second best.India holds a perfect 8-0 record in the 50-over format, while last fortnight's six-run heist in New York was its seventh win in eight face-offs in T20 World Cups. Pakistan's sole victory, by a commanding ten wickets in Dubai in October 2021, is an aberration, no matter how comprehensive it might be, no matter that it catalysed the end of the management era of Virat Kohli and Ravi Shastri in a depressing morass of doom and gloom.The New York loss was especially galling for multifarious reasons. Pakistan's target was 120, numerically miniscule but worth several more on a treacherous surface. It was still well within reach of a good batting line-up against an inarguably fantastic bowling attack led expertly by Jasprit Bumrah. No matter the conditions, top teams would expect, and be expected, to get the job done even against other top teams eight times out of ten, if not more. This was one that got away, India's stranglehold that took it home helped along by tameness, timidity and lameness, traits one doesn't always associate with Pakistan cricket.A red, white, and blue humbling

What made the defeat even more depressing, if that was possible, was the tournament context. It was Pakistan's second consecutive loss and, even with two matches still to play, the Men in Green's future was no longer in their own hands. How could it be, when they had allowed their nerves to get the better of them and been schooled by novices United States in their opening fixture?As far as upsets go, this must rank as among the most famous in sporting history. A team of part-timers, as an American with no more than passing interest in cricket put it, felling the former champions. David coming swinging and connecting with hefty punches to send Goliath sprawling. A software engineer coding the impossible, a local talent honed overseas shaking up the established order. It was unforgettable drama staged in the theatre that is the T20 landscape on the greatest stage there is in the cricket world. How could it not exhilarate? How could it not sting?The two Super Overs showcased the best and worst of 20-over cricket. Each was sent down by a left-arm seamer. In the green corner was Mohammad Amir, a former teenage prodigy whose career path took an unexpectedly dark turn owing to indiscretions

that were only partially excused because of his influential age at the time of his infractions. In the red, blue and white corner was Saurabh Netravalkar, an international when also in his teens, but at the junior level. At an age when Amir was counting the damage of his spot-fixing follies, Netravalkar was playing for India's Under-19 side, including under KL Rahul at the World Cup in New Zealand in 2010. After a solitary Ranji Trophy appearance for Mumbai, Netravalkar realised that cricketing ambition might not be matched by commensurate climbs up the ladder, so he made the move west in search of greener professional pastures. Until destiny, and the US, gave him what India couldn't – an international cap.Amir went first in the Super Over after USA had taken 11 off the last three balls of regulation play, delivered by Haris Rauf, to push the match into the decider in Dallas. Amir, experienced Amir, nerveless Amir, incredibly gifted Amir. By the time he was done with an over that seemed to last an eternity, he had conceded 18, but only one boundary, a four. Incredible? Indeed. Seven runs came through wides and overthrow wides. Was this an impostor?United States turned to Netravalkar for a miracle, and he obliged. Without any show of pressure or anxiety. Maybe he didn't feel the pressure because no one expected anything other than a Pakistan victory, but how could he not feel the pressure stemming from pride in performance? In an admirable show of control and courage, he kept Pakistan at bay. Comfortably, at that. No stutter to the crease, no nervy half-tracker, no sweaty palms. This was sensational stuff. Was he an impostor, too?The genesis of Pakistan's first-round elimination from the T20 World Cup lies in that fateful night in Dallas. Now, it's time to apply salve, hope the wounds

heal in quick time, and somehow find the wherewithal and resilience to address and overcome the mental scarring. After all, that will determine how the future unravels.

More ebb than flowSuch has been Pakistan's lot – and yo-yoing performances – over the years that they have forever been adjectivised with 'explosive', 'unpredictable', 'mercurial'. Not all these are used charitably or complimentarily. Pakistan has often been its worst enemy, though the Men in Green have also found ways and means to rouse themselves when it came to the crunch because they were blessed with strong leaders, none more so than the incomparable Imran Khan. Now, there is a massive leadership vacuum, even if Babar Azam is the designated captain.Babar is an exceptional batter, especially in the two longer formats, but he is no inspirational leader or a tactical genius. From all accounts, he is a very nice person, and being nice and aggressive don't have to be mutually exclusive, but he doesn't command attention on the field, he doesn't have the swagger of a general, he doesn't stride around like a colossus. He may not so much be a captain by consensus, and one might be doing him gross disservice by basing assumption on appearances if not for the fact that those closely associated with Pakistan cricket confirm that he isn't the brown trousers sort of leader.It hasn't helped Pakistan's cause, at least at this World Cup, that heading into the competition, the team swapped captains like an ambidextrous shooter switching hands at a circus. Babar made way for Shaheen Shah Afridi made way for Babar in the months leading into the World Cup. The blame for that must lie at the feet of the decision-making group, those that pick and sack captains. It's hardly the most encouraging development when the team's best bowler is stripped of the

captaincy not long before the biggest T20 competition in the universe though to his credit, Afridi has been nothing but the ultimate team man even if he hasn't had the returns to show for his efforts.Wildcard picksPakistan brought Amir and Imad Wasim out of the wilderness for the World Cup because of their exploits in the Caribbean Premier League and their familiarity with the conditions here, perhaps taking safe passage to the Super Eights from Group A for granted. As it turned out, they didn't even make the trip to the Caribbean; their campaign was restricted to Dallas, New York and Fort Lauderdale. Had Amir and Imad delivered in the event of Pakistan progressing deep in the tournament, their recalls would have assumed proportions of a masterstroke. Now, they appear presumptuous and disrespectful of oppositions, even if that wasn't the intention.In the aftermath of their humbling exit, question marks have been raised over other selection calls, including those involving Iftikhar Ahmad and Azam Khan, son of former skipper and wicketkeeper Moin. These are inevitable fallouts of a doomed campaign. Fingers are also being pointed at the conservative approach of Pakistan's batters, not least their openers, Babar and wicketkeeper Mohammad Rizwan. Conveniently overlooked is the fact that with much the same personnel and approach, Pakistan made it to the final of the last edition before losing a tight final to England at the MCG. But public memory is generally short, and nowhere is it shorter than in Pakistan, where a failed campaign is shrouded in an even more diabolical hue when it is accompanied by a loss to India.Insiders whisper about fissures in the unit, but that's nothing new when it comes to Pakistan cricket, is it? At the best of times, they have been a house divided but somehow united in the common pursuit of cricketing glory.

Hyderabad Showcases Design Intelligence at 5th Edition of "IIID Showcase Insider X 2024"

"Architects Play a More Important Role than Builders," Says R&B Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

IIID - Hyderabad Regional Chapter, hosted the Fifth Edition of its prestigious flagship event "IIID Showcase Insider X 2024", with the theme Design Intelligence, from the 28th to 30th June 2022 at Hitex Exhibition Centre. The Exhibition was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Mr. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Roads and Buildings Minister, Government of Telangana, on June 28th 2024. Ms. Harichandana, IAS, R&B Special Secretary, and Ar. Sarosh Wadia, National President, IIID graced the occasion as Guests of honour. At the Fellowship meet in the evening, the keynote session was held by the eminent Architect Peter Rich from Johannesburg, South Africa, and Ar. Siddharth Talwar from Lotus Architects at HICC.Curated by Architects and Interior designers of the Institute of Indian Interior Designers, Hyderabad Chapter, the Expo was specifically crafted for the interior design, architecture and construction industry. It aimed to bring industry professionals and the common man on to a single platform. Spread over three days, the B2B Trade Expo showcased emerging trends and contemporary design solutions.

On this occasion, Mr. Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that they were welcoming the 5th Edition of IIID Showcase Insider X 2024 in the 50 years of IIID history and they were inviting more exhibitions like this as Hyderabad is one of the top metropolitan cities in India. He also stated that the architect's role is more important than builders.IIID-HRC Design Showcase Insider X, Convener and Hon. Treasurer IIID-HRC, Ar. Rakesh Vasu C S, stated that the IIID Hyderabad Chapter hosts the Design Showcase event bi-annually to bring the latest trends, thoughts and innovations in the Design industry to the Hyderabad fraternity. It is a comprehensive forum covering every vertical, offering every element,

from smart devices to turnkey solutions. They wanted to be at the forefront of defining the aspirations of the common man on the one hand and helping with design solutions for their government departments on the other.Ar. Rakesh Vasu C.S also stated that this time, the showcase was based on a Theme- Design Intelligence. While encouraging the Artisans, weavers and craftsmen of the Art & Crafts industry, IIID-HRC had uniquely conducted an edu-

cative workshop Sthapatya Utsav for the Students and mentored by senior Architects.Ar. Praveen Kumar Noone, Chairperson elect, mentioned that the Showcase had some of the best Display of Art & Craft installations designed and crafted by design Students under the able guidance of senior mentors. The Design street was curated by Ar. Yeshwant Ramamuruthy, where top designers had collaborated with Artisans & Craftsmen dis-

playing their products.The timings of the Expo were on 28th and 29th June (Fri & Sat) - Business Hours: 10 am – 5 pm. General: 5 pm – 8 pm and on 30th June: 10 am- 8 pm for both Business visitors and General public.Managing Committee members Ar. Gaurav Pershad, Mrs. Zeenath Hirani, Co opt members Ar. Sushmita Subudhi, Mr. Ramesh Patel, office staff Executive Secretary Mr. Srinath & Accountant Mr. Jabbar were also present at the exhibition.
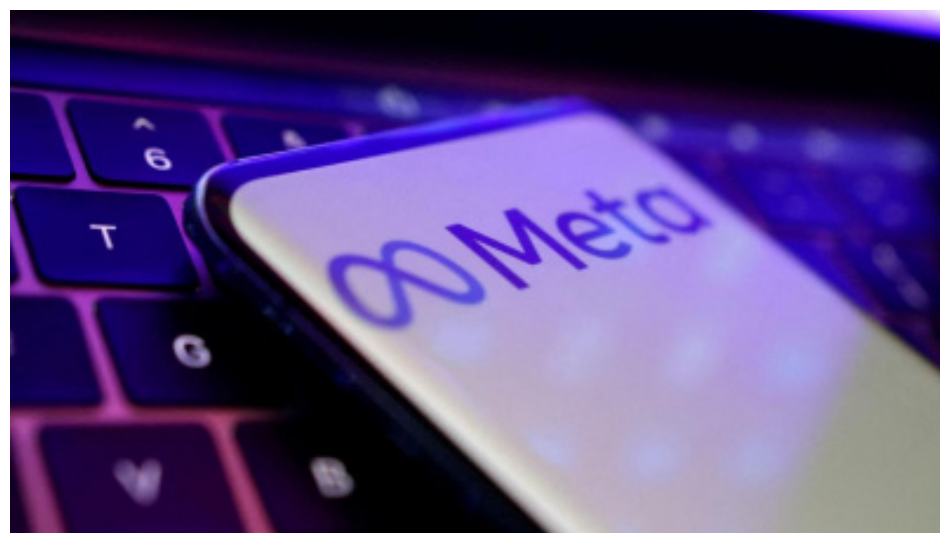
Meta says it may block news from Facebook in Australia

Facebook owner Meta is considering blocking news content from the platform in Australia if the government makes it pay licensing fees, a company representative told a parliamentary hearing on Friday.Meta's regional policy director Mia Garlick told lawmakers "all options are on the table" when asked if the company would block Australians from sharing news content to avoid paying fees."There's a large number of channels that people can get news content from," Garlick told the inquiry.

She said Meta was waiting for Canberra to decide if it would apply an untested 2021 law which gives the government the right to set the fees U.S. tech giants pay media outlets for links.The comments are the strongest indication so far

that Meta would take the same hardline approach in Australia it took in Canada in 2023 when that country introduced similar laws.

Meta struck deals with Australian media firms including News Corp and the Australian Broadcasting Corp when the law was brought in Australia, but has since said it will not renew those arrangements beyond 2024.It now falls on Australia's assistant treasurer to decide whether to step in and force Facebook to pay for news content. The assistant treasurer has said he is still collecting advice but that Meta seems to respect the law only when it suits.Australia's two largest free-to-air television broadcasters, Nine Entertainment and Seven West Media, meanwhile said this week they were cutting jobs,

Shriram Farm Solutions Launches 5 New Generation Crop Protection and Specialty Plant Nutrition products

Shriram Farm Solutions, a division of the DCM Shriram Ltd., launched its new age Crop Protection and Specialty Plant Nutrition products. The event took place at NSR Conventions, Telangana where prominent channel partners from the region convened to witness the electrifying launch of these innovative solutions.

Addressing the challenges associated with weed management and cost elevation due to manual operations, Shriram Farm Solutions introduced SHRIRAM BIKUTA, an early post-emergent selective herbicide designed to combat both broad-leaved and narrow-leaved weeds in cotton crops. This innovative product is formulated with two highly effective, active ingredients and an ME formulation, offering an economical solution for growers.

To strengthen its insecticide portfolio, the company made the announcement of Shriram Saisho, Shriram Chrone, and Shriram Trexter, the result of collaborations with leading global innovators. These powerful insecticides are meticulously engineered with patented technologies to provide enhanced crop protection against prominent sucking and chewing pests in row crops and horticultural crops. Designed to minimize resistance development, these products promote healthier crops and higher yields.In the Specialty Plant Nutrition (SPN) segment, Shriram Farm Solutions introduced Shriram Protobuz+, a revolutionary product devel-

oped by incorporating the patented delivery technology 'Nano Liquid Technology' from the United States. With its remarkable performance, Shriram Protobuz+ ensures speed of action and effectiveness, translating into enhanced profits for growers.

Shriram DripIT Vegetables, a complete nutrition solution for vegetables, was another product which was unveiled and promises to be a game changer.Mr. Sanjay Chabbra, Executive Director & Business Head, states, "As SHRIRAM Farm Solutions

continues to push the boundaries of agricultural innovation, these new product launches align with the company's commitment to empowering growers with cutting-edge solutions that address their evolving needs and drive sustainable agricultural practices".

Climate change giving us sleepless nights, claims new study

New Delhi: With Mumbai seeing the highest changes in nighttime temperatures and India continuing to suffer a severe heatwave, a new analysis on Friday showed climate change added nearly 50 to 80 nights each year where the temperature exceeded 25 degrees C, with serious impacts on sleep and health.Climate change is leading to a rise in nighttime warming, which is impacting sleep quality and human health in India and across the globe, said the analysis by Climate Central and Climate Trends.

Nighttime temperatures have increased even more rapidly than daytime temperatures as the world heats up due to climate change, primarily caused by burning fossil fuels like coal, oil, and gas.As one of the countries most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate crisis, India has experienced a significant rise in minimum nighttime temperatures over the last decade due to climate change.

The national capital on June 18 experienced its warmest night in at least 12 years, with the mercury touching 35.2 degrees C, says the India Meteorological Department. This is the city's highest minimum temperature since 1969.The analysis shows that nearly 50-80 days each year were added above this threshold by climate change in cities across Kerala,

Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Andhra Pradesh between 2018 and 2023.Among the metro cities, Mumbai has seen the highest changes in the nighttime temperatures, with the city experiencing an additional 65 days of warmer nights due to global warming.West Bengal and Assam are the regions that have been most impacted, with cities such as Jalpaiguri, Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh and Siliguri experiencing between 80 and 86 additional days each year above the 25 degrees C threshold due to climate change, on average.Several cities saw between 15 and 50 additional days where the minimum temperatures exceeded 25 degrees due to the influence of climate change, including Jaipur, with an additional 19 hot nights attributable to climate change.Meanwhile, in both observations and in the counterfactual climate, the nighttime summer temperatures across India often exceed 20 degrees C over the entire summer period.The cities that had the largest number of days where the minimum temperature exceeded 20 degrees due to climate change are Gangtok, Darjeeling, Shimla and Mysuru, with an average of 54, 31, 30 and 26 days added by climate change, respectively.Higher nighttime temperatures can cause physiological discomfort and impact human

health by preventing body temperature from cooling off during the night, increasing mortality risks.There is also a growing body of evidence that as nighttime temperatures rise, it is adversely affecting the quality and length of sleep.Poor sleep adversely affects physical and mental health, cognitive functioning and even life expectancy.Hot nights can have disproportionate impacts on vulnerable groups, including the elderly and people, who do not have access to proper cooling mechanisms.These findings come during a week that saw new records for nighttime heat in several Indian cities.

On June 19, Delhi shattered the all-time high minimum temperature record, with the mercury reaching 35.2 degrees C overnight. It recorded almost four numbers of additional nights over 25 degrees between 2018 and 2023, according to the Climate Central analysis.On June 18, Alwar in Rajasthan had a minimum temperature of 37 degrees C, the highest-ever nighttime temperature since records began in 1969. It experienced almost nine additional nights over 25 degrees C that are attributable to climate change between 2018 and 2023.In Uttar Pradesh, Lakhimpur Kheri, Shahjahanpur and Varanasi also witnessed their highest recorded minimum temperatures at 33, 33

and 33.6 degrees C, respectively, this week. Varanasi saw four additional nights over 25 degrees C due to climate change from 2018 to 2023.These increasingly frequent extreme nighttime temperatures are contributing to heat stress, exhaustion and heat-related deaths.The current ongoing heatwave in India has been made hotter, frequent and more likely by climate change, according to scientific studies by World Weather Attribution and ClimaMeter.Roxy Mathew Koll, climate scientist, Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, says: "The urban heat island effect is most visible in the nighttime temperatures. Cities turn into urban heat islands when buildings, roads, and other infrastructure absorb and re-emit heat, causing cities to be several degrees hotter than surrounding rural areas.""During the day, the sun's rays reach as shortwave radiation and heat the earth's surface.

BMW Group India launches its Monsoon Service Campaign.

BMW Group India has announced the launch of Monsoon Service campaign across its dealer network. This special initiative will be held across India and will ensure complete car readiness for the upcoming monsoon season.

Mr. Vikram Pawah, President, BMW Group India said, "BMW Group is committed to ensuring that our customers' vehicles are in peak condition to handle the unique weather challenges. Our Monsoon Service Campaign is tailored to provide thorough inspections, maintenance, and necessary upgrades to enhance the safety and performance of BMW and MINI cars. We understand the importance of reliability and peace of mind for our customers, and this campaign underscores our dedication to providing exceptional service and support. With a dedicated team of trained technicians, specialised workshop technologies and original BMW Parts, we ensure you can enjoy relaxing journeys."

Monsoon Service camp is conceptualized to offer useful information and tips on effective vehicle management, on-time maintenance and overall understanding of BMW and MINI vehicles. The program provides a comprehensive vehicle check and, if required, a basic Condition-Based Service as well, ensuring that the car is in top condition. The service is conducted by cer-

tified BMW and MINI technical experts. Customers can book prior appointments for car servicing at the workshop and be able to check and update their personal details to receive special promotions and offers from their dealer. Following are the Complimentary Services that will be carried under the Monsoon Campaign:

- Windscreen wipers check.
- Function check of washer system.
- Washer fluid level.
- Rain light sensor check for auto wiper and auto headlight operation.
- Check of all front and rear lights.
- Alignment of headlights and fog lights.
- Horn: Function test.
- Micro filters condition check and replace if necessary.
- Weather strips check of doors and trunk lid.
- Sunroof cover seals, drainpipes and trunk lid ventilation check.
- E-Box (Engine control unit box) cleaning.
- Inspection of dummy steering gromet on engine firewall.
- Electrical plug connections in engine compartment and vehicle underbody

check.

- Tyres check tread depth (min. 3mm), damages (e.g. cuts, bulges), irregular wear and correct tire pressure.
- Visually inspecting exhaust system for any leaks or breakage.
- Visual inspection of belt drive and damper pulley for cracks.
- Checking charging cable and high voltage charging socket for damage, corrosion and wear (BEV / PHEV).

- Vehicle underbody incl. all visible parts: Check for damage, correct position, corrosion and tightness (BEV / PHEV).

BMW Group India urges its customers to be cautious while driving during heavy rains and around waterlogged areas. Customers are advised not to attempt to re-start the engine of a stalled vehicle to avoid damage to the engine. Affected customers can call BMW/ MINI Roadside Assistance at 18001032211 or Customer Interaction Centre at 18001022269 for assistance.

Fujifilm once struggled to sell cameras. Now, it can't keep up with demand

For years, Japan's Fujifilm pivoted away from its legacy camera business to focus on healthcare. But thanks in large part to the TikTok crowd, its retro-themed X100 digital cameras are a now a roaring success, boosting its bottom line.Fujifilm is struggling to meet demand for the $1,599 camera, prized by young 20-something social media fans for its looks and high-end functions.

The X100V model was so popular that in the fiscal year ended in March, it was the imaging division, which includes cameras, that was the biggest contributor to the company's record high profit - the unit ac-

counted for 37% of operating profit in fiscal 2023, versus 27% the year before.After it sold out last year, the company increased production in China to double the launch volume for the VI that debuted in March, said Yujiro Igarashi, manager of Fujifilm's professional imaging group. He declined to give details about the production increase, or unit sales."We found that the orders far exceeded our forecast," Igarashi said. "In that sense, I was surprised that although we doubled our preparations, it still came up short."Founded 90 years ago, Fujifilm competed against film industry

leader Kodak for decades before finally overtaking it in sales in 2001. But the triumph proved short-lived, as the film industry soon collapsed and digital cameras became a standard feature in mobile phones.

To survive, Fujifilm tapped its expertise in film chemicals to shift into healthcare applications, a strategy also adopted by domestic competitors Canon and Olympus. Fujifilm didn't give up on its cameras, but it cut 5,000 jobs in its film division and moved most production to China the following year.During the COVID years, Fujifilm doubled down on antiviral pills and vaccine operations, but now the cameras have put it back into the spotlight.

The company projects imaging sales growth to slow to 2.2% in fiscal 2024 from 14.5%, while operating profits in the segment are expected to dip 1.9%, estimates analysts say are conservative at best."We see downside risk to guidance for healthcare and business innovation, but major upside for imaging," wrote Jefferies analyst Masahiro Nakanomyo in June 6 report.Say cheeseThe X100 was born in 2011 in an attempt to rescue Fujifilm's professional grade camera division, but its appeal is rooted in nostalgia, camera enthusiasts say."The look of it was pretty revolutionary, which is ironic, because it's just mimicking a film camera," said Mark Condon, founder of the camera equipment site Shotkit.A key concept in retro tech is "friction", where the user is joined with the
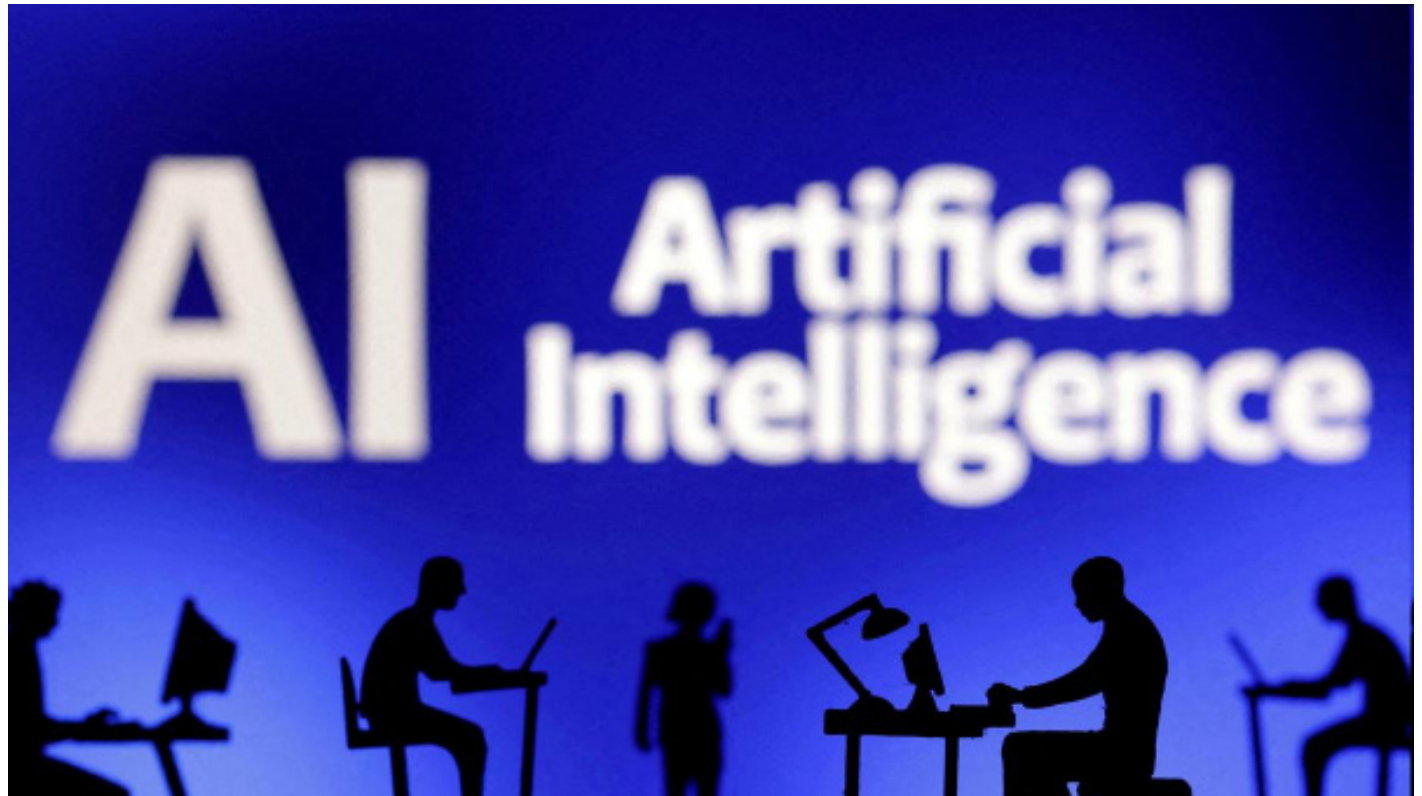
product through physical touch and interaction, according to Tokyo-based culture writer W. David Marx."Smartphones make it so easy to take photos that photos have been devalued," said Marx, author of "Status and Culture"."By having physical cameras again, and having to develop film etc., it adds back friction, which adds back a sense of value to casual photo taking."As travel restarted after the pandemic, demand for cameras shot up, and influencers on Instagram, TikTok and other social media sites turned the X100 into a status symbol."It is important to have a good looking camera that inspires you to want to take it out and shoot with it," said Benjamin Lee, who goes by @itchban on TikTok where he has more than 600,000 followers. "The X100 series is basically a fashion accessory you wear, on top of being a great camera."Availability remains a problem.Second-hand X100s sell for multiples of their list price on auction sites and there are online message boards for fans waiting for orders.Fujifilm chief executive Teiichi Goto hinted last month he was happy to keep supply tight, pointing to Germany's Leica brand cameras as a model for maintaining premium value."It would be quite unfortunate to manufacture too much and lower the price," Goto said at the company's year-end earnings presentation on May 9.But the long waitlists and steep prices may drive customers to competitors, such as Canon's G7X and Ricoh's GR series, influencer Lee said.

Stringent regulations could hinder growth of AI in India: experts

As India grapples with the regulatory landscape for artificial intelligence (AI), a sector which has seen rapid development in recent years, experts opine that strict regulations could stifle the country's burgeoning AI-driven economy.Currently, India does not have specific laws directly addressing generative AI, such as deepfakes. It has instead introduced a series of advisories and guidelines to encourage the responsible development and implementation of AI technologies.After a "deepfake" video clip of actor Rashmika Mandanna went viral on social media platforms last year, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) asked social media intermediaries to take such content down within 36 hours, a requirement outlined in the IIn December 2023, the Delhi High Court asked the Centre to respond to a public interest litigation (PIL) plea against the unregulated use of AI and deepfakes.

Deepfake videos utilise AI to swap the likeness of a person in an existing video with someone else's. Recently, concerns have grown around deepfake technology, as it can produce highly realistic fake videos that may be misused for spreading misinformation, creating fake news, or generating false narratives.

The petition said while technological development was happening by leaps and bounds, the law was moving at a snail's speed. The plea said AI has its own deep-rooted challenges and it was necessary to fill the vacuum caused by the absence of regulations.While the high court is scheduled to hear the petition in July, the MeitY on March 1 issued an advisory saying that all generative AI products, like large language models on the lines of ChatGPT and Google's Gemini, would have to be made available "with [the] explicit permission of the Government of India" if they are "under-testing/ unreliable".The advisory came soon after Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, reacted sharply to Google's Gemini chatbot, whose response to a query, "Is [Prime Minister Narendra] Modi a fascist?" went viral.However, after the advisory came under criticism from experts for being ambiguous and vague, on March 15, 2024, MeitY issued a fresh advisory, dropping the requirement of obtaining "explicit permission" from the government. The latest advisory said under-tested or unreliable AI products should be labelled with a disclaimer indicating that outputs generated by such products may be unreliable.Balancing actJaijit Bhattacharya, president, Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research (C-DEP) said the advisory is, largely, about following the extant regulations, with an additional qualifier that all AI-generated content that can potentially cause disinformation should be clearly labelled as AI generated."This advisory does not really hinder the industry. It stays away from dictating what algorithm to use or hound the start-ups to provide 'explainability' or 'transparency' of their algorithms," Mr. Bhattacharya said.Dr. Amar Patnaik, former MP, noted the Central advisory has remained at the advisory

level."By not giving legislative backing to this advisory as yet, we have adopted a soft touch approach which I think is required in the Indian context given the manifold use cases for India's unique problems and aspirations as a global leader on adoption of public digital infrastructure to drive its economic growth," Mr. Patnaik said.He said India faces the challenge of balancing responsible AI development with fostering innovation. "Strict regulations risk stifling its growing economy led by AI industry, necessitating a nuanced approach," Mr. Patnaik said.

Mishi Choudhary, founder of Software Freedom Law Center (SFLC), suggested the government "should be ready to update existing laws to protect public interest and [guard against] future harm associated with the technology".She advocated for periodic assessment of approach to AI regulation saying regulators must keep up with the rapid advancements in technology. "It must be dynamic to ensure AI principles are embedded in the organisations deploying AI systems," she stressed.

Comparison with other countriesOn India's approach to regulating generative AI compared with that of other major economies like the U.S. and EU, Mr. Bhattacharya said, "India is developing its own approach on the matter but as of now, it is more akin to the U.S. approach, where there are no overarching regulations on AI.""The EU has recently come up with the Artificial Intelligence Act, which is a comprehensive Act that I also believe puts onerous liabilities on the AI industry, which may slow down the growth of AI in Europe," Mr. Bhattacharya said.Mr. Patnaik said, "The country seems to be taking a middle ground between the U.S. and EU models, aiming for responsible AI development without stifling innovation". However, India's main challenge is crafting a clear and

adaptable framework that can keep pace with the rapid evolution of generative AI, he added."In no case should this be left only to companies to self-regulate," Ms Choudhary stressed.Future directionsDhanendra Kumar, the first Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI), said CCI plans to conduct a market study on AI's impact on competition, signaling a proactive stance in

understanding and addressing AI's implications for market practices."It is likely to be commissioned soon. The CCI is in the process of identifying a suitable agency to undertake it and has just extended the deadline for the bidders. CCI is also working on new analytical tools to upgrade its enforcement mechanism to tackle algorithmic collusion and other market practices in digital space impacting competition," he added.

GHMC intensifies anti-mosquito measures to combat dengue, malaria

Hyderabad: Targeting areas with the most dengue cases, GHMC's entomology department is undertaking wide-scale anti-mosquito operations to mitigate vector-borne diseases. Along with a comprehensive plan to eliminate insect breeding areas, around 1,500 persons will be engaged to complete the task across the 30 circles.In the last two weeks, oil balls were released into water bodies as part of the anti-larval operations. Entomology staffers in coordination with the sanitation department cleaned the edges of the ponds and sprayed larvicides. Field assistants also made multiple checks in colonies to identify stagnation points and eliminate them.

Further, under the Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign, awareness is being created on the importance of eliminating water stagnation and discarding waste through proper channels. Called 'Friday Dry Day' these sessions are being conducted at educational institutions, through biology teachers. Women self-help groups (SHGs) are also being engaged to spread the word in areas like Charminar, LB Nagar and others.

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That said, multiple gaps including unchecked roadside potholes, garbage vulnerable points (GVPs), and lack of resolution for long-standing complaints are hindering the accomplishment of the corporation's anti-mosquito drive this monsoon.

How is methanol procured and used as liquor? | Explained

The story so far: The Kallakurichi illicit liquor tragedy that has so far claimed more than 50 lives is entirely familiar in its cause, sequence of events, and aftermath. Such tragedies happen periodically across India in various States. Almost all the post-mortem reports of the victims attribute the cause to methanol consumption.

How are ethanol, methanol made?

Ethanol is legal liquor for consumption. It is produced biologically whereas methanol is produced from fuels such as coal in India. Molasses, which are a by-product of the sugar making process, form the starting material of distilleries that are often located close to sugar factories. They produce rectified spirit which is distilled further to produce edible extra neutral alcohol that in turn goes into making Indian Made Foreign Liquor, a lucrative cash cow for State governments. During ethanol production in responsible distilleries, methanol is also produced but is carefully removed since the processes are highly controlled.Methanol is produced from coal and other fossil fuels. While ethanol can be made edible, methanol is poison. Even very low concentrations of methanol can be toxic, often fatal. However, it is needed to produce a range of products that are highly useful. Paints, for instance, can't be produced without methanol.

Is methanol easy to procure?

Just like ethanol, methanol is a highly controlled substance. Rules in Tamil Nadu ensure the manufacturing, transportation and storage are all licenced, monitored and the quantity and quality audited.In northern Tamil Nadu, much of the methanol used in industries is sourced from Andhra Pradesh. Ground reportage suggests the existence of a lucrative methanol pilferage racket operating enroute and at the end-user side as well.It is possible that methanol formed during the crude distillation process, adopted by the bootleggers at Kallakurichi, wasn't removed, leading to methanol poisoning. However, the widespread nature of contamination and scale of the Kallakurichi tragedy suggests that methanol was procured and supplied separately, either as part of a brew or alone in a diluted form. Given that illicit liquor has been produced and distributed widely here over many months, possibly years, methanol use was not a one-off event that happened only this fateful week at Kallakurichi.

Why is methanol used?

Most of the hooch tragedies in India occur due to methanol contamination in liquor. Street wisdom, or belief rather, may well be that the relatively inexpensive but potent poison that is methanol, if diluted enough, could provide the same effect as ordinary liquor — a state of intoxication or 'kick' for consumers. Prosecutors in the 2015 Malvani, Mumbai hooch tragedy case in which more than 100 people died and some 75 were injured argued that all the accused had entered into a criminal conspiracy, and deliberately procured and supplied poisonous methanol. Lawyers defending the accused argued that their defendants would not knowingly add methanol. It made no business sense. And bootleggers, just like in Kallakurichi, live amidst the community. They provide a service that is much in demand and wouldn't want to kill their own folk. The additional sessions judge S. D. Tawshikar, in the Malvani case, acquitted 10 of the 14 accused but convicted four. The judge did not find anyone guilty of violating the Poisons Act of 1919. The four were convicted of criminal conspiracy, and culpable homicide not amounting to murder.

What needs to be done?

The periodic occurrence of methanol poisoning suggests the need for strong central legislation that can work with State legislation. Various laws such as the Poisons Act that involves State governments can tighten the inter-State methanol supply chain. The implementation of laws holds the key, especially when there are plans to ramp up the production of both ethanol and methanol for use as cheaper, eco-friendly alternatives to petrol and diesel for transportation.The NITI Aayog has talked of ramping up methanol production from two metric tonnes to 20. Keeping methanol and ethanol separate and not allowing any pilferage should be a national priority.

Facial recognition startup Clearview AI settles privacy suit

Facial recognition startup Clearview AI reached a settlement Friday in an Illinois lawsuit alleging its massive photographic collection of faces violated the subjects' privacy rights, a deal that attorneys estimate could be worth more than $50 million.But the unique agreement gives plaintiffs in the federal suit a share of the company's potential value, rather than a traditional payout. Attorneys' fees estimated at $20 million also would come out of the settlement amount.Judge Sharon Johnson Coleman of the Northern District of Illinois, gave preliminary approval to the agreement Friday.

The case consolidated lawsuits from around the U.S. filed against Clearview, which pulled photos from social media and elsewhere on the internet to create a database it sold to businesses, individuals and government entities.The company settled a separate case alleging violation of privacy rights in Illinois in 2022, agreeing to stop selling access to its database to private businesses or individuals. That agreement still allowed Clearview to work with federal agencies and local law enforcement outside Illinois, which has a strict digital privacy law.Clearview does not admit any liability as part of the latest settlement agreement."Clearview AI is pleased to have reached an agreement in this class action settlement," James Thompson, an attorney representing the company in the suit, said in a written statement Friday.The lead plaintiffs' attorney Jon Loevy said the agreement was a "creative solution" necessitated by Clearview's financial status."Clearview did not have anywhere near the cash to pay fair compensation to the class, so we needed to find a creative solution," Loevy said in a statement. "Under the settlement, the victims whose privacy was breached now get to participate in any upside that is ultimately generated, thereby recapturing to the class to some extent the ownership of their biometrics."It's not clear how many people would be eligible to join the settlement. The agreement language is sweeping, including anyone whose images or data are in the company's database and who lived in the U.S. starting in July 1, 2017.A national campaign to notify potential plaintiffs is part of the agreement.The attorneys for Clearview and the plaintiffs worked with Wayne Andersen, a retired federal judge who now mediates legal cases, to develop the settlement. In court filings presenting the agreement, Andersen bluntly writes that the startup could not have paid any legal judgment if the suit went forward."Clearview did not have the funds to pay a multi-million-dollar judgment," he is quoted in the filing. "Indeed, there was great uncertainty as to whether Clearview would even have enough money to make it through to the end of trial, much less fund a judgment."

But some privacy advocates and people pursuing other legal action called the agreement a disappointment that won't change the company's operations.Sejal Zota is an attorney and legal director for Just Futures Law, an organization representing plaintiffs in a California suit against the company. Zota said the agreement "legitimizes" Clearview.

Take it beyond the streets

Streamlined parking as a tool for traffic decongestion is a no-brainer. But the glaring lack of a parking policy, an apparently flawed pay-and-park system, and the ceaseless onslaught of newly registered vehicles in their thousands has left Bengaluru's roads in a chaotic mess. Can a recent High Court directive effect a change?Last month, the Court gave six weeks to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Commissioner to submit a detailed project report on the methodology of implementing the BBMP's Parking Policy 2.0. The much-delayed implementation of the policy has left vast road stretches of the city narrowed down by haphazardly parked two-wheelers and cars, with regulation nowhere in sight.Approved by the state government as early as February 2021, the Parking Policy 2.0 had its objectives clear: To shift from free, chaotic parking to paid, well-organised parking; to streamline the system by strengthening enforcement through robust active management based on demand. To address the issues, the policy prepared an Area Parking Plan (APP) for multiple zones across the city.

A zonal-level comprehensive parking plan, the APP focused on regulation of on-street parking in commercial and residential areas, off-street parking plans, special parking for disabled persons and cyclists, pricing for parking, management of parking and more.To activate this, the plan proposed identifying high parking demand areas, existing parking facilities and their utilization besides gaps in demand and supply. The idea was to achieve a far more efficient use of road space, while boosting sustainable mobility options.The city's parking chaos stems from a major issue: Encroachment of parking lots within commercial, institutional and even residential buildings. As mobility analyst Ashwin Mahesh points out, "All these buildings were given permissions and plan approvals to construct and occupy only on the assumption that the spaces they have indicated for parking will be used for parking."

The BBMP, he says, never imagined that single family homes, Ground +1 and +2 homes, would eventually become triple family homes, with one family on each floor. "Most of those buildings were constructed showing parking space for only one vehicle. Now every family on every floor has one vehicle. It is physically impossible to park there. All have externalized their requirement," he explains.Inevitably, this has meant invading the road space. "There are people who take their car out in the morning and leave it on the street. You can't do that, the street is for other users, not for parking your car, even in front of your house. We have now allowed a situation to develop where the number of violators is close to half a million. Half of the city's cars are parked on the streets. Can you take action against half a million people?"File photo of the first automated pay car park reserved for women drivers displayed by the BBMP on Brigade Road.File photo of the first automated pay car park reserved for women drivers displayed by the BBMP on Brigade Road. unsafe

The 2.0 Policy had acknowledged this problem, when it stated: "Residential streets in neighbourhoods are meant for local

movement and till a decade ago were also safe havens for light recreation by children and the elderly alike. However, today most residential neighbourhood streets are overtaken by on-street parking rendering these streets not only unsafe but also at times inaccessible to ambulances and fire tender vans during an emergency."Lack of any regulation on residential area on-street parking, coupled with violations of the zoning regulations (ZR) of the master plan has resulted in significant increase in on-street parking demand, says the policy note. In a telling comment, the policy adds that "the burden of providing parking space for personal vehicles should be on the vehicle owner and not the civic agency."St. Mark's Road way

Messy on-street parking had left St. Mark's Road in the city's Central Business District (CBD) highly congested. But a total revamp of the road under the TenderSURE project had the footpath widened and a finite number of parking slots neatly earmarked. Owners were not happy, as they had converted their basements into office spaces and left all vehicles on the road. Eventually all had to fall in line.Strict enforcement and smart road design here meant efficient parking and traffic management, particularly beyond the peak school opening and closure hours. "Essentially, the real issue is the BBMP's willingness or unwillingness to enforce whatever the parking policy is. If they do not enforce the rules, it doesn't matter what the policy is," Ashwin notes.Poor regulation and enforcement have left not just the CBD but residential areas also in a mess, says Murali Urs, a software sales director residing in the city's R.T. Nagar. "Permissions given for converting houses to offices have added to the problem in residential areas. The massive shortage of parking slots in the CBD during weekends can be overcome to a great extent if BBMP allows commercial buildings to open their parking space for the public on a chargeable basis," he suggests.Multi-level car parking

Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP) was once pushed as a concrete solution to the problem. But the facility on J.C. Road has poor occupancy at any point in time. Another MLCP is soon to be launched at Freedom Park to cater to vehicle owners in Gandhinagar and surrounding areas. This facility has a capacity to accommodate 600 four-wheelers and 750 two-wheelers.Compulsion is likely to dictate occupancy. The MLCP on K.G. Road has higher occupancy thanks to the no-parking zones demarcated along surrounding streets. At Freedom Park too, the Bengaluru Traffic Police have banned parking on the surrounding Hospital Road, Subedar Chatram Road and Tank Bund Road.Two Wheeler and Car Parking Junction at M.G. Road.

But there is a walkability problem for all parking zones and MLCPs. Once the vehicle owner parks his / her car or two-wheeler at the designated slot, the last-mile walk gets complicated. As Ashwin says, "For every parking spot with a meter, the geography served by it should be walkable on a clear, well-lit, safe and level footpath. Only then you can start penalising people for not using that spot."Now, can a parking policy enable people to shift from private to public transport? "It is possible only if

you are able to control private vehicle usage by clever use of the policy. Whenever you park outside your premises, you are parking on a public road and that cannot be taken for granted. When you park on a road that is not wide enough, you are blocking a whole lane for a dead car that is not moving people," explains urban architect Vijay N.

Parking as disincentiveParking can act as a disincentive for private car ownership. Vijay cites the inner London model, where no building barring a few commer-
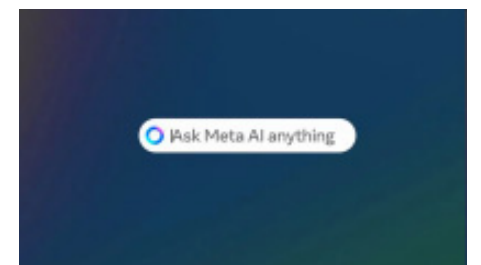
cial outlets has parking slots within. Car owners have to pay and park outside, on the street. Since the parking fare is steep, people are forced to rethink car ownership and even the purchase of a second car.This, says Vijay, "is a very clever way of strategically reducing congestion, private car ownership and increasing public transport use. But we, in Bengaluru, can only gradually reach there. We can't do this blindly without increasing access to public transport with good last-mile connectivity. Maybe we will reach there in 10 years, but a start should be made."

Meta AI launches in India on WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram

New Delhi: Tech giant Meta on Monday announced the availability of its artificial intelligence (AI) assistant in India on WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger, Instagram and meta.ai — that is built with the latest 'Llama 3' large language model (LLM).

Millions of users in the country can apply Meta AI in feed, chats and more across the apps to get things done, create content, and deep dive on topics, without having to leave the app they are using, the company said in a statement."It's starting to roll out in India in English. You can use Meta AI on WhatsApp, Facebook, Messenger, and Instagram to get things done, learn, create and connect with the things that matter to you," said Meta.The company first announced Meta AI at last year's 'Connect' event.

The users in India can ask Meta AI in WhatsApp group chat to recommend restaurants with great views and vegan options for you and your friends to consider."Ask Meta AI to give you ideas of places to stop on a road trip. Cramming for a test? Ask Meta AI on the web to create

Millions of users in India can now use Meta AI in feeds, chats, and more across apps to accomplish tasks, create content, and explore topics without leaving the app, the company announced.

you a multiple choice test," said the company.One can also access Meta AI when scrolling through Facebook Feed."Come across a post you're interested in? You can ask Meta AI for more info right from the post. So if you see a photo of the northern lights in Iceland, you can ask Meta AI what time of year is best to check out the aurora borealis," according to the company.