

T Square coming up at Knowledge City, Raidurgam

Hyderabad: The west zone in the city will soon get a new added attraction with Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Limited (TGILC) planning to construct a “T Square” at Raidurgam. The “T-Square”, will be a place where people could congregate freely throughout the day. The open plaza would host several events, including impromptu concerts to organized events. The plaza would be a destination for diverse activities duly incorporating the needs of local people.

The HITEC City and Financial District areas located in the west zone of the city are popularly known as Cyberabad. It is home to more than 100 large IT, ITes and BFSI global companies and employs nearly 1 million persons. The Hyderabad Knowledge City developed at Raidurgam is a new landmark in Cyberabad. It is developed in an area spread over 30 acres with over seven million square ft of IGBC Platinum rated IT park. The area is well equipped with public transportation by the TGRTC and Hyderabad Metro Rail (Raidurg Station). However, there is not much provision for public spaces and amenities for the local people, especially the software employees and youth.

Considering all these factors, the TGILC now intends to construct an iconic place, which would serve as a multi-functional plaza. To this effect, the TGILC is inviting architects cum transaction advisors



for taking up the project. The agencies would have to coordinate with TGILC to develop the T Square as a major tourist

destination with vibrant urban spaces, entertainment hub, collaboration zone and commercial intersection and propose concept plans accordingly. They would have

to suggest measures for optimum project structures and assist TGILC in finalizing a suitable structure for project development and other aspects.

KT Rama Rao lashes out over Gopanpally flyover not being open to public



Hyderabad: Former MA&UD minister K.T. Rama Rao criticized the authorities over why the Gopanpally flyover remains inaccessible to the public despite its con-

struction being completed. Stating that the project was initiated by the BRS government, he demanded it to be immediately opened.

In a tweet on Friday, he wrote, “This is what happens when we have an inept government and clueless leadership! The Gopanpally flyover, initiated by the BRS Government to bring relief to residents around Nallagandla, Gopanpally, Tellapur, and Chandanagar, was completed a few months ago. But even today, it is awaiting inauguration because CM is busy shuttling between bosses in Delhi and the houses of BRS legislators.”

Adding that the Congress Government is prioritizing their personal PR over the convenience of the people, he warned that the people might throw it open themselves. This is what happens when we have an inept government and clueless leadership! The Gopanpally flyover, initiated by the BRS Government to bring relief to residents around Nallagandla, Gopanpally, Tellapur, and Chandanagar, was completed a few months ago. But even today, it is... pic.twitter.com/AoFDSAARCO

Sixteen suffer electric shock in swimming pool at farmhouse on outskirts of Hyd

Hyderabad: Sixteen people were injured from an electric shock when they were swimming in the pool at a farm house at Jalpally in Pahadishareef on Thursday. The incident occurred when a group of 56

people from three different families from Aghapura in the old city visited the farmhouse for an outing. In the evening, 16 guests entered into the swimming pool to swim and play water games.

What is the Internet Archive and why is it facing a backlash from book publishers? | Explained

The story so far: Internet Archive, a non-profit that aims to digitise, preserve, lend, and share multi-media content, is embroiled in a major legal challenge as it faces off against traditional publishers accusing it of copyright violations. The free digital library is currently fighting the forced removal of around half a million books from its platform, which it argues functions like a library.

What is the case against Internet Archive?

While a great number of books digitised and uploaded by Internet Archive were already in the public domain - such as historical sources, old classics, etc. - many traditional publishers have alleged that Internet Archive violated their copyrights and illegally made their books available to the public as well, by scanning physical copies and distributing the digital files. In the case Hachette vs Internet Archive that began in 2020, traditional publishers Hachette, HarperCollins, Wiley, and Penguin Random House sued Internet Archive. On March 24 last year, District Judge John G. Koeltl issued an order in favour of the publishers. "IA's Website includes millions of public domain ebooks that users can download for free and read without restrictions," noted the order, adding, "Relevant to this action, however, the Website also includes 3.6 million books protected by valid copyrights, including 33,000 of the Publishers' titles and all of the Works in Suit." In particular, traditional publishers were against IA's temporary 'National Emergency Library' (NEL) initiative that it launched during the COVID-19 pandemic. This was to allow more users to access the e-books in its collection while physical libraries were locked down. "During the NEL, IA lifted the technical controls enforcing its one-to-one owned-to-loaned ratio and allowed up to ten thousand patrons at a time to borrow each ebook on the Website," stated the 2023 order. In general, IA uses a system known as "controlled digital lending" to limit the number of people who can access an e-book. It ended its emergency library system after being hit with the lawsuit. Internet Archive used the doctrine of fair use to defend itself in the case, but this did not hold up. The organisation said it would appeal, but did so after some delay. The case is ongoing, with the oral argument stage of the appeal taking place on June 28.

Why are books being removed from the Internet Archive?

As a result of the lawsuit, IA was forced to remove over half a million books from its database, with the Director of Library Services at Internet Archive, Chris Freeland, calling out the "profoundly negative impact" on users. According to testimonies collected by IA, the mass removal hurt students who could not access books for academic research. While IA identifies itself as a library, it has been compared to a shadow library or a piracy database by traditional publishers, who disagree with its "controlled digital lending" approach. Despite the removal, however, Internet Archive is still home to a rich collection. As of late June, the web archive said it contained 835 billion web pages,



44 million books and texts, 15 million audio recordings, 10.6 million videos, 4.8 million images, and 1 million software programs. Live concerts and television programs also make up part of this collection.

What is Wayback Machine?

While Internet Archive buys physical books, digitises them, lends them to users, or makes them available for download, it has since 1996 also focused on preserving web pages. The platform claims users can explore over 866 billion saved web pages through its own search service. "We began in 1996 by archiving the Internet itself, a medium that was just beginning to grow in use. Like newspapers, the content published on the web was ephemeral - but unlike newspapers, no one was saving it. Today we have 28+ years of web history accessible through the Wayback Machine and we work with 1,200+ library and other partners through our Archive-It program to identify important web pages," noted Internet Archive on its website. Users can help IA archive parts of the internet at no cost, or they can reach out to the platform to make their own work publicly available.

How can one use Wayback Machine?

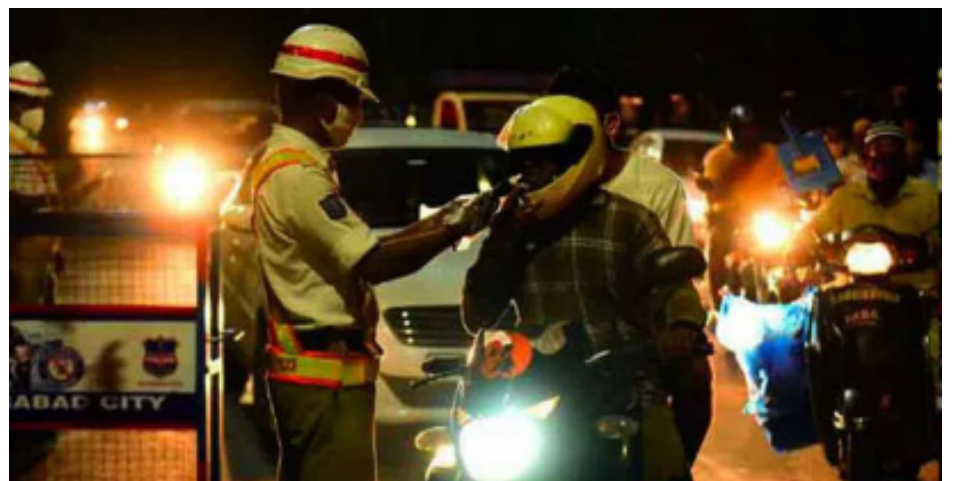
Using Wayback Machine is easy and free of cost, though results are not always guaranteed. To begin, navigate to the Wayback Machine web page, where you will see a bar in which you can enter a URL/keywords relevant to the web page or content you are looking for. Then, hit 'enter' and wait for the results to be shown. If the content was new, rarely viewed, or deleted a very long time ago before being captured for the archive, you may not get many results or any at all. However, you have a good chance of finding content such as old websites that no longer exist today, earlier versions of existing websites, deleted social media posts, archived versions of paywalled articles, and archived ver-

sions of content that is blocked or censored in your jurisdiction. A graphic will show you how many times Internet Archive "crawled" the content in the past months or even years, allowing you to click on the calendar bubbles to pick out "snapshots" of the web content from different periods of time. However, the service can be patchy at times and not all content might have been per-

fectly saved; broken links, missing media, or pages that won't load are often the end result.

While Wayback Machine is useful for personal research or to access information sources, users should be cautious about relying on the data obtained through such sources, as the saved information can sometimes be outdated or inaccurate.

Over 4,000 drunk driving cases registered in last six months in Nizamabad



Nizamabad: Nizamabad district recorded 4,106 cases of drunk driving during the last six months. Last year 8,706 cases of drunk driving were registered in the district. According to Nizamabad traffic police, 58 persons caught driving vehicles under the influence of alcohol multiple times were sent to prison in the district. A majority of the persons caught during the checking were two-wheelers, cars and

auto-rickshaw drivers, a traffic official informed. There had been a notable increase in the number of cases related to drunk driving during the period of January to March, the officials said. However, the number of drunk driving cases decreased significantly in the months of April, May and June due to the enforcement of the code in the wake of the Lok Sabha elections, the officials said.

Monkey Shoulder's Ultimate Bartender Championship crowns Denzil Franklin as the Monkey Rumble winner

After 8 city rounds, over 1300 registrations, and an intense competition, Monkey Shoulder's 'Ultimate Bartender Championship' crowned Denzil Franklin from Sixteen33, Mumbai as the winner. The thrilling finale for the Ultimate Bartender Championship took place at Samskara Resort, Jaipur bringing 20 exceptional finalists from across India, all vying for the prestigious title. The contenders showcased their skills in challenges centered around key bartending talents like ingredients, mixing, pouring, nosing, and perfecting the ultimate serve.

Having proven his exceptional skills and creativity, Denzil Franklin will now attend Camp Monkey, an exclusive annual gathering of Monkey Shoulder Brand Ambassadors and fellow championship winners from around the world at Goa in November 2024. Along with exclusive gifts from Monkey Shoulder, this title grants him unparalleled exposure, networking opportunities, and the chance to hone his craft under the mentorship of industry experts.

The jury members for the finale included Monkey Shoulder's Global Brand Ambassador - Joe Petch, Global Brand Ambassador - Monkey Shoulder, Gagan Saggi - Founder Indulge India, Karan & Avantika - Founders Fola and Upstairs Club. Gaurav Sareen, Indian Brand Ambassador, Monkey Shoulder said, "At Monkey Shoulder, we take immense pride in celebrating the extraordinary artistry and skills of bartenders. This year's Ultimate Bartender Championship has truly showcased the best of mixology talent, providing a dynamic platform for remarkable individuals to shine. It's inspiring to witness the flourishing bartending community in India, and we are committed to supporting them as they strive to meet global standards. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Denzil Franklin from Mumbai on this remarkable achievement and wish him continued success in his promising career."

Sharing his thoughts on the finale, Joe Petch, Global Brand Ambassador and Judge said "The Ultimate Bartender



Championship's legacy continues to ignite incredible talent across India! The creativity and passion within the Indian bartending community are truly inspiring. It was an absolute honor to be on the judging panel and witness this remarkable creativity and dedication firsthand!" "The Ultimate Bar-

tender Championship has seen phenomenal year-on-year growth in participants, showcasing the rising excellence of India's bartending community. The talent and passion on display throughout the competition were truly awe-inspiring. At Monkey Shoulder, we are committed to supporting and uplifting the trade community, and Denzil

Franklin from Mumbai's achievement is a shining example of his expertise and dedication. We celebrate his outstanding performance and extend our heartfelt thanks to all the participants, judges, and guests who made this event a grand success" said Kapila Sethi Kad, Head of Marketing, William Grant & Sons.

The everyman cricket star – what sets Rahul Dravid apart?

Not too long ago, late one night, on the eve of a Test match, the then-Team India computer analyst got a call. On the line was a star batsman from north India, who, in a brusque tone, ordered him to rush to his room. The SOS wasn't about some vital data on a rival bowler, as the support staff member had guessed. It was to download a movie. Arranging Bollywood hits for Indian cricketers at unearthly hours, by the way, has never been part of any IT professional's BCCI contract.

Another time, in the distant past, one Indian team manager, seated with a couple of reporters at the stadium cafe, had barked at a support staff member to fetch tea and snacks. "I got him a raise recently," he would say, justifying the obnoxious behaviour. Waiting tables, too, wasn't part of the job requirement for those hired to help cricketers at net sessions. Indian cricket, despite its giant strides towards modernity, hasn't yet fully shaken off its Raj-era habits. Re-

spect, and also rewards, still depend on your rank. But not on coach Rahul Dravid's watch. In the dugout, he is always seen in the coaching corner and, at nets, he is almost apologetic in his instructions to his non-playing team. And now, typically of the man, he has silently and subtly set an example not by words but through action. Dravid has laid the first brick of a utopian dressing room of equals that has a sliver of economic heterogeneity and where the distribution of wealth isn't ridiculously uneven. First, as the coach of the World Cup-winning India under-19 team and now, after the T20 World Cup title, Dravid has insisted on pay parity with his assistants. Of the Rs 125 crore BCCI windfall to the team, the head coach was to get Rs 5 crore but Dravid reportedly wanted exactly what other coaches were getting— Rs 2.5 crore. Regardless of his riches, a father of two sons yet to go to college, refusing a cheque with seven zeros because of his

beliefs is unheard of in these materialistic times. And in these months of appraisals, with money on most minds, it's a jaw-dropping renouncement. But that's Dravid — the painfully modest, spotlight-phobic compassionate cricketing great.

Back in 2012, on his retirement, Dravid's wife Vijeta wrote a piece that gave a glimpse of the man who had fiercely protected his personal life. Though there were no surprises, it had interesting details. As the world had perceived, the legend who wore his greatness lightly was a man of few needs and necessities. His pursuit was runs, the race to otherworldly possessions was for lesser mortals and less-successful cricketers. Vijeta wrote how her husband "doesn't care for gadgets, and barely registers brands — of watches, cologne or cars". But if his bat weighed a gram less, he would notice in an instant. "I know if I packed only two sets of informal clothes, he would rotate them through an entire

tour... He has used one type of moisturising cream for 20 years," she would write. His mother is an architect and his father worked for the company that produced Kissan jam. Dravid's life was dictated by classic middle-class morals and values. He rose to lofty heights but stayed grounded. He continued to stay in the locality — Indiranagar in Bengaluru — where he grew up, despite gaining celebrity status. Unlike other stars, there are no page 3 stories of him buying mansions or having a garage full of superbikes. The other day, he drove to the polling booth in Bengaluru in a regular-sized car, wearing the most common colour combination preferred by unadventurous middle-aged Indian men — a navy blue T-shirt and lighter shade three-fourth pants. Dravid has tried his best to debunk the "pampered superstars" image that Indian cricketers carry worldwide. It was a futile battle but India's grittiest No. 3, like always, made an earnest attempt.

Cure SMA Foundation to Host 2nd Edition of "Run/Ride for SMA" in Hyd



Cure SMA Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to creating awareness about Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), is all set to host the 2nd Edition of the "Run/Ride for SMA" on 4th August 2024 at the Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad. SMA is a rare and devastating genetic disease that affects the motor nerve cells in the spinal cord, leading to muscle weakness and progressive loss of movement. According to Dr. Ramesh Konanki, Consultant Paediatric Neurologist at Rainbow Hospital, "For every 2 and half hours, one SMA-positive baby is born in India. One SMA carrier is there in 35 to 38 persons, making it a

very rare disease."

Emphasizing the importance of preventive measures, Dr. Tella Sunitha, HOD of Clinical Genetics and Fetal Medicine Specialist at the Institute of Genetics and Hospital for Genetic Diseases, said, "It is crucial for couples to undergo SMA carrier tests before marriage to prevent the occurrence of this debilitating disease." The upcoming "Run/Ride for SMA" event aims to raise awareness about this rare condition and support affected individuals and their families. Sri Lakshmi Nalam, Co-Founder, Trustee, and Director of Patient Advocacy at Cure SMA Foundation of India, said, "Our

NGO is dedicated to providing Family Counselling, Genetic Counselling, SMA Clinics, Financial Support, and Awareness activities to help patients with Spinal Muscular Atrophy."

The event will feature a 5K run and a 10K ride, with participation open to students, youth, and the general public. Commandant N V Rama Rao, a member of the Cure SMA Foundation of India, emphasized the importance of the awareness run, stating, "SMA causes muscle weakness and progressive loss of movement, affecting activities such as crawling, walking, sitting up, moving the head, and swallowing.

This awareness run will help us reach out to the community and garner support for our cause." The organizing team, including P. Satish, Regional Coordinator (Telangana & AP) of Cure SMA Foundation of India, and other members like Mohsin Khan, Abiram, and Noor Mohammed, are working tirelessly to ensure the success of the event. The 2nd Edition of the "Run/Ride for SMA" promises to be an impactful event, bringing together the community to support individuals and families affected by this rare disease. For more information and registration details, please visit the Cure SMA Foundation website.

Australia to bring anti-scam law targeting internet giants this year

Australia plans to introduce a law by the end of the year forcing internet companies to proactively stop hosting scams or face hefty fines, the top consumer regulator said on Friday, potentially setting up another showdown with Big Tech. The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and the treasury department are consulting internet, banking and telecommunications firms about creating a mandatory, enforceable anti-scam code which legally requires them take reasonable steps to protect users, including offering an effective complaint service.

In Australia, cryptocurrency scam advertisements featuring the face of mining billionaire Andrew Forrest have led to Australians losing millions of dollars, according to Forrest. He is suing Facebook owner Meta over the advertisements in California after saying he was unable to force Meta to take action domestically. Currently only telecommunications providers face specific anti-scam regulation in Australia, according to the government. But the amount lost by Australians to scams tripled to A\$2.7 billion (\$1.8 billion) from 2020 to 2023, in line with global trends, as the pandemic sent more people online.

That prompted the ACCC to push for new laws making all participating indus-

tries accountable. Putting legal liability on internet platforms may create a new point of conflict between Australia and an industry that has typically leaned on U.S. laws, which largely exempt them from responsibility. Already, a law designed by the ACCC forcing internet companies to pay media companies licensing fees for links to content has resulted in Meta saying it may block media content on Facebook in Australia. "We are hoping to see them being rolled out in the course of this period to the end of this year," ACCC Chair Gina Cass-Gottlieb said by phone, referring to mandatory anti-scam codes applying to each industry. "We do need, we think, very clear and specific enforceable legal obligations."

Failure to comply with the codes would subject companies to fines of A\$50 million, three times the benefit gained by wrongdoing or 30% of turnover at the time it took place, the treasury department has said. The ACCC is separately suing Meta for what it says is a failure to stop the publication of advertisements for cryptocurrency scams featuring faces of prominent Australians, including Forrest. Meta is defending the case the ACCC filed in March 2022 and which is still at a pre-trial stage. Cass-Gottlieb said a mandatory code would re-



Australia is planning to introduce a law that will force internet companies to proactively stop hosting scams or face hefty fines

duce the need for "backward-looking" and time-consuming court enforcement that involved investigation, preparation and resolution of a lawsuit, plus appeals. Meta declined to comment on the anti-scam code's

timing. The company said in a submission in January it wanted a voluntary code and the planned mandatory code might result in companies prioritising compliance over innovation.

OPPO India launches Reno12 5G series; makes AI phones accessible

The OPPO Reno12 series boasts the highest number of AI features starting at INR 32,999

OPPO India today announced the launch of the Reno12 series, its first step towards accelerating the availability of AI phones in the country. The Reno12 series — “Your Everyday AI Companion”—boasts features such as AI Eraser 2.0, AI Clear Face, AI Best Face, and Smart Image Matting 2.0 for flawless yet fun photos without complex image editing. The devices also pack the AI Toolbox, powered by Google Gemini LLM, that comprises AI Writer, AI Summary, and AI Speak to enhance daily productivity. The Reno12 Pro 5G will be available in two variants: INR 36,999 for the 12GB+256GB model and INR 40,999 for the 12GB+512GB version. The Reno12 5G will be priced at INR 32,999 and come with 8GB RAM and 256GB storage. The Reno12 Pro 5G will go on sale in India starting 18th July, and the Reno12 5G will be available from 25th July on the OPPO e-Store, Flipkart, and across mainline retail outlets.

Speaking at the launch Peter Dohyung Lee, Head of Product Strategy, at OPPO said, “The Reno12 series marks a milestone for OPPO as we pledge to accelerate AI phone adoption. The Reno series, which showcases OPPO’s advanced GenAI capabilities, futuristic fluid design, and unparalleled energy efficiency, reflects our commitment to cutting-edge technology. We envision that AI will make mobile devices more personalised and intuitive to not only enhance smartphone capabilities but also transform the way users interact with their devices.” Stylish, backed by a Durable Design

The Reno12 Pro sports a unique Quad-Micro Curved Infinite View screen with a 43-degree curve for extremely narrow bezels of just 1.69mm and a 93.5% screen-to-body ratio. Both devices come with 6.7-inch FHD+ AMOLED displays with 120Hz refresh rate for smooth browsing



and scrolling; their 1200nits peak HDR brightness ensures legibility even under direct sunlight. The handsets boast 10-bit panels that output 1.07 billion colours to display images with a high dynamic range (HDR) and subtle colour gradations for life-like, immersive pictures. The Reno12 Pro 5G—available in Sunset Gold and Space Brown—sports a Panda Glass back with dual textures: The top half is treated with

anti-glare technology that is smudge-resistant, while the lower glossy area is defined by a smooth ribbon that carries the OPPO branding. The Reno12 5G, on the other hand, has a Gorilla Glass 7i display and comes in Sunset Peach, Matte Brown, and Astro Silver colours. Sunset Peach uses a graphic liquid crystal process for a fresh look, the Astro Silver colour combines OPPO’s Fluid Ripple Texture to create an

illusion of liquid on a smooth surface while Matte Brown offers a rich cocoa hue with a fingerprint-resistant finish. For durability, the Reno12 Series packs an aerospace-grade High-Strength Alloy Framework to protect against bends. OPPO’s All-Round Armour protection—inspired by a sponge—makes these phones resistant to drops and impacts. As a testament to their ruggedness, both devices carry an SGS certification.

U.S. signs agreement with 3 social media giants aimed at preventing distribution of synthetic drugs

The United States signed a memorandum with several of the world’s biggest social media companies on Thursday aimed at preventing the use of their platforms for the distribution of synthetic drugs. U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield told a signing ceremony that “technology companies have a critical role to play in both stopping the illegal manufacturing, trafficking and marketing of synthetic drugs, and just as importantly, educating the public.”

The Alliance to Prevent Drug Harms is a joint effort of the U.S. Mission to the United Nations and Meta which owns Facebook and WhatsApp, X and Snap Inc., the owner of the photo sharing app Snapchat. The U.S. Mission said the signing parties will collaborate to “disrupt” illegal drug activities online and “amplify pub-

lic awareness of the dangers of synthetic drug misuse.”

Thomas-Greenfield said at the ceremony at the U.S. Mission that synthetic drug use is an “international crisis” that “no one government and no one sector can tackle alone.” “These criminals have adeptly used online platforms, social media, e-commerce, search engines and messaging apps to coordinate their illicit activities,” she said. Neither Thomas-Greenfield nor the social media representatives elaborated on the specific actions they will take to reduce online synthetic drug distribution as part of the Prevent Alliance, though Snap global platform safety chief Jacqueline Beauchere detailed the company’s existing efforts. Beauchere said Snap — which reaches 90% of 13- to 24-year-olds in the United States — has

sought to make its platform a “hostile environment” for drug distributors by using technology that can “proactively detect illicit drug content,” making referrals to law enforcement, and “raising awareness” of the risks of drug use with users in the app. Meta trust and safety vice president Nell McCarthy said the company’s platform can help combat the opioid epidemic as a place where families of victims, people in recovery, and organisations fighting stigma can connect. The Prevent Alliance is a result of talks that began at the U.N. General Assembly’s annual gathering of world leaders in September 2023, Thomas-Greenfield said. The U.S. mission said the partnership’s objectives align with the U.S. State Department’s Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats, a multi-lateral effort to prevent illicit synthetic drug

distribution launched by Secretary of State Antony Blinken last July. “Whether it is companies that are involved in production or distribution, marketing or financial networks whose platforms may be abused for the movement of these illicit drugs, everybody has to play a role,” U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Maggie Nardi said Thursday. Delphine Schantz, head of the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime’s New York office, put illicit drug use into a global perspective. According to the 2024 World Drug Report, 292 million people used drugs in 2022 — a 20% increase from the last decade, Schantz said. The report estimated 60 million of those people used opioids. In the same year, nearly 82,000 people died from opioid use in the United States, representing a 24-fold increase since 2010.

The lack of leadership at TISS

The story so far: Over a 100 staff members of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) were in for a shock, after they received termination letters on June 28, and were asked to not report to work come July. Within two days of this development, they were told that the termination letters had been withdrawn and that they could continue working as the Tata Education Trust (TET), which funds their salaries, had now assured to make funds available to support their salaries.

What happened?

A month before the termination letters, up to 55 teachers and 60 non-teaching staff had an inkling that their jobs could be in trouble, because even as the academic year of 2023-24 was winding up in April, there was no clarity from TET on the renewal of funding of their contractual positions. "Some of these staff have been working with TISS for up to fifteen years. Since the last two to three months we have been writing emails to pro-VC Mr. Shankar Das, who is a deputy to the current VC [Vice Chancellor] Manoj Tiwari. We received no reply or clarity from Mr. Das on the situation," a senior faculty member said citing anonymity. TISS is largely funded by the University Grants Commission, but staff salaries, certain courses and funds for maintenance are funded by the TET.

What has been happening at TISS?

From 2004 onwards, TISS had widened its scope of work, and from close to 15 programmes including Masters' and Diplomas, it expanded its offering to over 55 programmes including dual degrees and foreign university collaborations. "Under the directorship of late Prof. S. Parsuraman, TISS was flourishing, with students undertaking enormous field work under the research guidance of teachers," said a TISS senior professor, requesting anonymity. Mr. Parsuraman was the longest serving director of TISS from 2004 to 2018. However, trouble started brewing in TISS from 2016 onwards, when it decided to stop student aid to those belonging to marginalised communities in all of its four campuses in Mumbai, Tuljapur, Hyderabad and Guwahati. "It has been a downward spiral from then on," the professor added. After Mr. Parsuraman's tenure, Prof. Shalini Bharath, a public health researcher who has extensively worked on HIV access issues served as a director for five years.

In 2023, the UGC regulations were changed, which brought appointments in TISS under the central government's purview, as over 50% of its funding is from the Centre. "After Prof. Bharath retired, the director of Indian Institute of Management (Mumbai) Manoj Tiwari, took up the additional charge of an acting director as well as Vice Chancellor, until a full time director is appointed. He was supposed to have interim charge for six months, but his term was extended by another six months after delays were faced in appointing a Director," another professor said. "A social science research institute like TISS should be led by a director who has a relevant background in social sciences. Mr. Tiwari is trained in engineering and management, and it is an incongruity that he is heading the institute."

How has a lack of leadership affected

the institute?

After the tweak of the UGC regulations, administrative bodies of TISS were also supposed to undergo an overhaul. Sources at TISS say that in a classic case of 'mismanagement,' these bodies have not yet been made fully operational. After the central government took over the TISS administration, the erstwhile 'Governing Board,' the highest decision making body of the institute, earlier headed by a nominee of the Tata Group, S. Ramadorai who was also CEO of Tata Consultancy Services, and included two to three faculty members as well as an equal number of external members, stood dissolved. The government decided that this would be replaced by an 'Executive Council,' headed by the VC. "It has been over nine months, but the new council is yet to come into full operation. We are hearing that the Executive Council may have been formulated but it is not yet officially notified. With the top decision making body of the institute being in a limbo, it is not an over reach to say that decisions are being taken in a centralised and in an arbitrary way," a professor quoted above said.

How has this affected students?

After the executive council, the academic council is the second-most important body in TISS. "The academic council is vital to all semester activities in the institute. What is disheartening is that the academic council is yet to convene to approve results for major programmes including Masters, PhD, Diplomas and Certificate courses, thus leaving the students in a lurch," the professor said. While the students were supposed to receive their results in May, this has now been delayed by three months, and their convocation has been pushed to August. "The delay has affected the future of over thousand students who graduate out of TISS every year,

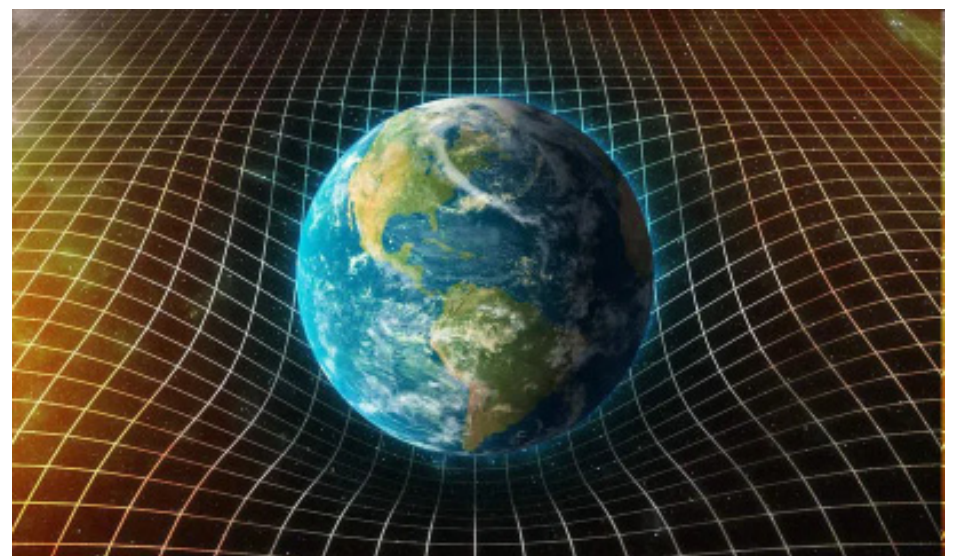


and it affects their future plans of studying abroad or pursuing careers as they have not been awarded their degrees," said the professor.

Why does gravity pull us down and not up?

Hyderabad: Gravity is the reason things with mass or energy are attracted to each other. It is why apples fall toward the ground and planets orbit stars. Gravity pulls us down towards the Earth's centre due to the nature of gravitational force and the mass of the Earth. Gravity is a fundamental force of attraction between objects with mass. According to Isaac Newton's law of universal gravitation, every mass attracts every other mass with a force proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance between their centres.

The Earth is a very massive object, and thus it exerts a significant gravitational force on everything around it. When we stand on the surface of the Earth, the gravitational force between us and the Earth pulls us towards its centre. This force is what we perceive as gravity pulling us down. Since gravity acts as an attractive force between masses, it pulls objects towards each other. On the Earth's surface, this means objects fall towards the ground because the Earth's mass creates a gravitational field that pulls objects towards its



centre.— Gravity is a universal force that affects all objects with mass or energy. It is responsible for keeping planets in orbit around the Sun, moons around planets, and stars within galaxies.— Gravity is the weakest of the four fundamental forces of nature. For example, the electromagnetic force between two electrons is about 10^{36}

times stronger than the gravitational force between them.— Each celestial body has an escape velocity, the speed an object needs to achieve to break free from its gravitational pull and leave its surface without further propulsion. For Earth, this speed is about 11.2 kilometres per second.— Gravity can alter the flow of time.

From the depths of Shahjahanabad | Review of 'A Firestorm in Paradise', debut novel by historian Rana Safvi

The American Civil War was a defining moment in the history of the United States. It has inspired numerous novels by American authors, Gone with the Wind being one example. Similarly, India's First War of Independence in 1857 holds great historical importance. However, the literary exploration of this period, particularly in English fiction by Indian authors, remains limited. While Ruskin Bond's *The Flight of Pigeons* provides an Indian perspective, other notable narratives such as J.G. Farrell's *The Siege of Krishnapur* predominantly reflect British viewpoints. Recent years have seen Indian writers try their hand at fiction set against the backdrop of the 1857 uprising. In 2021, Raza Mir captivated readers with *Murder at the Mushaira*, a period thriller offering a detailed portrayal of Shahjahanabad (modern-day Old Delhi). And now, renowned historian Rana Safvi makes her fiction debut with *A Firestorm in Paradise*, set in the period leading up to 1857.

Safvi introduces Falak Ara, a fictional daughter of Bahadur Shah Zafar, as the central character of her novel. While some characters are real historical figures, most of the minor characters are products of the author's imagination. As for other details, the novel intricately weaves major events and developments of the time into its narrative, providing an authentic backdrop to this historical tale. Falak, distinguished from other princesses, finds herself in a unique position due to her late mother's status as a concubine to the emperor rather than a queen. She does not command the respect and attention that other princesses typically do. Raised by a devoted maid, Falak navigates a complex existence within the fort walls, hidden from her father until a dramatic incident gives her the opportunity to meet him for the first time. Emotions run high during their encounter. Later, her life takes a pleasant turn when she meets a prince and falls in love, promising a brighter future. However, the escalating rebellion against the East India Company and subsequent violence shatter her dream of a happily-ever-after. As we follow Falak's life and delve into her backstory, we encounter numerous characters with their own narratives. Through them, we gain insight into the events unfolding beyond the fort walls, including the brutal suppression of rebellion by the British. The First War of Independence itself becomes a major character in the novel, occupying a significant portion of the book. Additionally, the author meticulously details the social customs, traditions, food, clothing, political administration, social classes, and royal behaviour of the times in an authentic manner.

We thus discover some interesting facts about Indian society back then. For instance, there was no concept of breakfast, and people ate only twice in 24 hours. They believed that breakfast was an alien tradition brought by the British, and this practice continued well into the middle of the 20th century. If you've watched Rajesh Khanna's *Bawarchi*, you might recall one of his dialogues in the movie: "Hum Angrez thode hain ki breakfast karenge. (We are not English people to indulge in break-

fast.)" This is why Hindi/ Urdu has idiomatic phrases like 'do joon ki roti' or 'two square meals'. Even the emperors followed the two-meal formula. Another interesting piece of information is that transpersons were treated with great respect by the Mughals and referred to as 'Khwajasarah', often employed as guards in women's quarters.

More of Falak, please! In contrast to today's Delhi, the novel heartwarmingly portrays Shahjahanabad of 1857 as an oasis of communal harmony. People from different communities worked together for the Badshah, and princes and princesses took pride in their Rajput ancestry passed down through their mothers and grandmothers. The author adeptly handles dialogue, capturing the lilt and melody of the language spoken at the time. One wishes the author had allocated more space to Falak and her stories because she is a lovely character; her innocence is infectious, yet at times, she fades into the backdrop of the political upheaval of the period. We hope Safvi will consider writing another novel that delves deeper into Falak and her mother's stories, possibly a prequel. The novel makes for a compelling read, and there is abundant source mate-



rial for a screen adaptation, though that would be a significant undertaking, to authentically capture 19th-century Delhi for

modern-day viewers. The reviewer is an author, most recently of 'A Man from Motihari'.

Samsung flags better-than-expected profit rise as AI boom lifts chip prices

Samsung Electronics estimated on Friday a more than 15-fold rise in its second-quarter operating profit, as rebounding semiconductor prices driven by the artificial intelligence boom lifted earnings from a low base a year ago. The world's largest memory chip, smartphone and TV maker estimated its operating profit rose to 10.4 trillion won (\$7.54 billion) in the quarter ended June 30, from 670 billion won a year earlier. The profit beat a 8.8 trillion won LSEG SmartEstimate, which is weighted toward forecasts from analysts who are more consistently accurate, and the quarter was its most profitable since the third quarter of 2022. In addition to higher chip prices, the better-than-expected profit likely reflected Samsung reversing its previous inventory writedowns on its books, as the value of its chip inventory has rebounded in accounting terms, analysts said. Revenue likely rose 23% in the second quarter from the same period a year earlier to 74 trillion won, Samsung said. Samsung shares opened up 1.2% after the guidance, versus a 0.4% rise in the wider market. The company is due to release detailed second-quarter earnings on July 31.

Samsung's key semiconductor division likely posted its second consecutive quarterly profit, improving on the first quarter, as memory chip prices keep rising from a mid-2022 to end-2023 trough that was caused by weak post-pandemic demand for gadgets that use the chips. Explosive demand for high-end DRAM chips such as high bandwidth memory (HBM) chips used



in AI chipsets, as well as chips used in data centre servers and gadgets that run AI services have helped buoy chip prices, analysts said. During the second quarter, memory chip prices jumped by about 13% to 18% versus the previous quarter for DRAM chips used in tech devices and 15% to 20% for NAND Flash chips used for data storage, according to data provider TrendForce. But the climb in memory chip prices may slow in third quarter, with TrendForce forecasting a 5% to 10% price hike for both conventional DRAM and NAND Flash chips, as demand for older, legacy chips from the consumer electronics market remains lacklustre. "At the earnings call at the end of the month, we will be

interested in Samsung's outlook on legacy chips, which will be a sign for whether this chip industry recovery can last into next year," said Ko Yeongmin, an analyst at Daol Investment & Securities. AI-driven demand for high-end chips such as HBM and solid-state drives (SSDs) will outperform the rest of the market, analysts said, though Samsung has been lagging behind South Korean rival SK Hynix in the supply of high-end HBM chips to customers like Nvidia. U.S. memory chip rival Micron Technology beat estimates for its latest quarterly revenue last week driven by a demand surge from the AI industry, although its current-quarter forecast disappointed investors who had been even more upbeat.

Inside the radical transformation in Indian sports and the making of a medal-winning champion

Vinesh Phogat is not one to dwell on self-pity. But in August last year, she came close to it. India's most decorated female wrestler — she has medalled at world championships, Asian championships, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games — needed surgery to reconstruct a ligament in her knee. It would mean a minimum of six months off from wrestling. The national championships were five months away. If she did not compete there, she would not get a chance to qualify for the 2024 Paris Olympics, the one medal that has eluded her. (At the 2016 Rio Olympics, Phogat, a medal favourite, ruptured the same ligament during a bout, leaving the competition sobbing and inconsolable.)

There were other things happening in her life around the same time. She was one of the leaders of the group of wrestlers who had taken to the streets in January 2023, protesting against the then Wrestling Federation of India president and Lok Sabha member Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who was accused of sexually abusing women wrestlers. She had spent night after night at New Delhi's Jantar Mantar, sleeping on the pavement, wrestling forgotten, training and diet out of the window. She had been at the receiving end of severe online harassment, and police action that saw the protesters forcibly evicted and locked up. Now, there was this. The thought of an impending surgery naturally compounded her worries. "I had just one question for my surgeon, and for my trainers," says Phogat. "Can I come back on the mat in five months? I was not going to let my Olympic dream slip away." The answer was: maybe; though there was only one other instance of an athlete getting back to the playing field after an ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) procedure — South African rugby captain Siya Kolisi, who did it in under four months in 2023. "I told them, I believe in myself," Phogat says. "I can do it, too." One of the four major ligaments in the knee joint, the ACL is a thick band that runs diagonally through the interior of the knee, joining the thigh bone to the shin bone. Its primary job is to stabilise the rotation of the knee, which is why an ACL tear is the most common major injury in sports such as football, American football, and wrestling. When the ACL is reconstructed using grafts in surgery, the time required for the ligament to regain its full function is between six and nine months. But Phogat was on the mat in five months. She swept the national championship. Then she won a trial to determine which wrestlers would fight in the Olympic qualifiers. She won those too and is headed to Paris for one last shot at that most coveted of sporting medals.

Phogat and Lombard cloistered themselves at Lakshyan Academy of Sports in Bengaluru, a state-of-the-art multi-sport facility, to begin their gruelling journey back to optimal fitness. "The way the body gets stronger is by putting it under more and more stress — heavier loads, more repetitions of an exercise," says Lombard. "The tricky problem in rehabilitation is, how do you get that strength adaptation without putting the injured ligament or joint under

so much stress?" Lombard knew exactly how to get around that problem.

For athletes in India, long used to poor infrastructure, outdated training methods, and little to no input from sports science, a radical transformation has taken place. "During our time, we were lucky if we got a decent wrestling mat," says Sakshi Malik, the only woman wrestler from India to win a medal at the Olympics — a bronze at Rio 2016. "We had bare minimum equipment, and no experts helping us." Slowly, over the last decade, driven by not-for-profit organisations such as Olympic Gold Quest (which sponsored Phogat's surgery and subsequent rehabilitation work with Lombard), Go Sports Foundation, and JSW Sports, as well as private academies and training centres — Lakshyan Academy, the Padukone-Dravid Centre for Sports Excellence, Inspire Institute of Sports, and the Abhinav Bindra Targeting Performance Centres (ABTP) — that aid Olympic athletes, the sporting infrastructure in India is, for the first time, on a par with global standards. The Union sports ministry, on its part, has increased funding for top athletes, thus allowing them to determine their own training programmes with the help of these specialised agencies. The change, says John Gloster, who heads sports science for IPL franchise Rajasthan Royals, as well as for Go Sports, "is enormous". "For India's elite athletes, the problem of infrastructure and expertise does not exist any more. Now it's a question of spreading this more and more at all levels." To be sure, these facilities are far fewer than what's needed for a country the size of India, and available only to top-tier athletes and the few promising youngsters who are on the rosters of the not-for-profit organisations. Most of the expertise is brought in from Europe, the U.S., Australia or South Africa. "Sports science is very new for India, so most of the expertise has to be imported," Gloster says. "The next step is to train and educate aspiring sports scientists in the country." Go Sports Foundation, ABTP, and IIS all conduct courses in sports science for aspiring coaches. Science-based training protocols and the equipment needed to implement them, says Gloster, is "now a necessity in elite sports". "Without this, it is very difficult — nearly impossible — to be competitive." For each athlete sponsored by Go Sports, 12 of whom are headed to the Paris Games, training is a personalised, finely calibrated, data-and-knowledge-driven operation. "What are the energy system demands for a particular athlete in a particular sport, what does it mean for nutrition, for recovery, how are they sleeping... everything is being continuously monitored through wearable devices," adds Gloster. Chameleons in training American strength and conditioning expert Caleb Linn, who has charge of the badminton players under Go Sports, gives an insight into the training of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, the No.1 ranked men's doubles pair in the world. "For badminton players, one of the things that happens with playing the game is that one side of the body becomes much stronger than the other," Linn says. "But that also brings with it injury risks. So,



when we are in the early training phase and building strength, mobility and agility, a lot of my work is to get more symmetry from side to side." One of the ways Linn tests for strength asymmetry is with the help of an isokinetic machine, an exercise device costing around ₹5 lakh, meant for isolated movements using only one arm or one leg. "Every training session is also an assessment session," says Linn. "I am always making observations and managing the loads. For instance, Chirag is naturally lean and responds well to heavy strength training, while Satwik is naturally muscular and needs moderate strength training and more cardiovascular focus." At the elite level, all physical sports have one thing in common: the athlete is pushing her or his body to its limits. Whether that's by biomechanical (the way joints, tendons, ligaments and muscle groups work together to create movement patterns), neuromuscular (the ability to generate force through muscular contraction), aerobic (the ability to use oxygen as fuel), or anaerobic means (using the body's stored source of fuel, glycogen). In other words, an athlete is training not for one thing, but for all things — speed, power, strength, stamina, agility, and mobility. "Before he is a great javelin thrower, he is a great athlete," says Klaus Bartonietz, biomechanical expert from Germany, about his star trainee — Olympics gold medal winner Neeraj Chopra. "Neeraj could have been a great decathlete [a decathlon is made of a 100m sprint, a long jump, a shot-put throw, a pole vault, a 1,500m run, and a javelin throw]." Chopra's training, Bartonietz says, is obsessively planned and monitored, and involves a vast library of exercises. And like most elite athletes, Chopra is a chameleon in training — in the weight room, he squats twice his body weight and does Olympic lifts like the

snatch with 100 kg on the bar. In the gymnastics area, he turns into a gymnast. On the track, he is a sprinter. "That awareness and creativity involved in gymnastics training is what we call 'movement intelligence'," Bartonietz says, "and Neeraj is very good at that. It's what makes him a great thrower." This holistic approach to training applies just as well to Tokyo Games silver medallist Mirabai Chanu, even if her sport, weightlifting, gives the impression of being simply about muscular power. "To be able to lift more than twice her bodyweight in an Olympic lift is an incredibly hard thing to do," says Chandani Parsania, head physiotherapist at Inspire Institute of Sport in Bellary, Karnataka. "If you have any weak links — a small stabiliser muscle that's not firing properly, or a slight lack of mobility in one shoulder — it will immediately prevent you from lifting as heavy as you can." One of the many innovative ways in which Chanu trains to ensure that the small muscles that stabilise or help joints move are in prime condition is by using "earthquake bars". These are made of flexible wood and resin, so, while they can safely hold a huge amount of weight, are not rigid by themselves. Chanu hangs weights using rubber resistance bands on both ends of this bendy bar and performs slow lifts. The hanging weights, the movement of the bands, and the wavering bar make the whole set-up extremely unstable, requiring all of Chanu's strength, especially from the core, to keep things even. Phogat also does a version of this, using a large tube half-filled with water as a weight. As she lifts it above her head and does various exercises, the water sloshes from side to side, forcing her to use her core and other stabilising muscles to keep the weight level. Leveraging technology in team sports like hockey,