

Alarming rise of inappropriate content poses risk to childhood innocence

Hyderabad: In recent years, online platforms have witnessed a significant rise in young influencers, some as young as ten years old. Unfortunately, many of these children engage in content that is far from age-appropriate. The content, especially reality shows and short videos, often appeals to the masses but it raises several questions as we see children make ill-suited content. Expressing deep concern over potential impact on kids, clinical child psychologist Aashlesha Kasula, says, "there is a risk that kids who normalise the use of abusive language or perform inappropriate content may grow up to be more offensive in nature." "Parents must play an active role in monitoring what their children are exposed to. Unfortunately, in many cases, it is the parents who manage social media accounts of kids," says Aashlesha.

Some parents refuse to engage in much-needed sex education, but seem comfortable with their children performing inappropriate videos for fame, she adds. A content writer from a leading Telugu TV show, who wishes to remain anonymous,

says that there is constant pressure to deliver what the audience demands, often at the expense of quality. "Our only target is to make the audience laugh. When we write genuine comedy, nobody watches, but when we add vulgarity, TRPs skyrocket. As writers, we feel the pressure to meet targets," he says revealing the complexities of their role. He acknowledges that while they set limits for themselves, the demand for viewership pushes them to cross boundaries. "No director forces us to write inappropriate content, but we do it because we know it is what the audience wants," the writer says. "Directors come to us for edgy skits. They say, 'Do something new,' and we often feel compelled to deliver content that may not align with our values." Mandeep Sai, an MBA student, reflects on this, saying, "Sometimes watching these programs with family feels uncomfortable. Seeing kids perform acts beyond their age is disturbing." Parents too are feeling the burden of keeping track of what their children watch online. Pallavi Naidu, a parent, shares her struggle: "I am always



checking what my kid is watching. I'm not blaming all shows; some are good, but on platforms like Instagram and YouTube, some content is dangerous. It is disturbing to see children imitate these behaviors." As the battle for TRPs and online fame contin-

ues, content becomes increasingly inappropriate for kids who model their behavior based on what they see online. While the entertainment industry may be meeting its viewership goals, the long-term effects on young viewers cannot be ignored.

BRS healthcare initiatives helped people from going bankrupt in Telangana, says NHA report

Hyderabad: The BRS government's numerous patient-focused healthcare initiatives over the past decade have led to significantly reduced out-of-pocket (OOP) expenses for people of Telangana State, which has been instrumental in preventing families from financial ruin and bankruptcy due to medical bills, the latest National Health Accounts (NHA) Estimate for India report released a few days ago by Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), indicated. The NHA report, which analysed health expenditures made by the governments and people from 2013 to 2021, indicated that the Telangana State was the best in South India, when it came to generous government spending for healthcare, thus ensuring families spend less from their pocket to access quality health care. A large portion of the credit for the reduced financial burden on patients was due to the fact that the BRS government (2014-2023) spent Rs 6,563.36 crore to implement the Aarogyasri universal health insurance scheme, which eventually benefitted 15.5 lakh (15,655,613) individuals in Telangana. According to NHA estimates, in 2021-22, per capita out-of-pocket expenditure (OOPE) for each individual in Telangana State was Rs 2,449 while per capita expenditure by the then BRS government was Rs 3,007.

The total healthcare expenditure of Telangana State in 2021-22 was Rs 24,753



crore out of which government healthcare expenditure (which also includes PMJAY) was Rs 11,427 crore while out-of-pocket expenditure by individuals was Rs 9,305 crore. Among the Southern States, the NHA

report indicated that only Karnataka had the lowest out-of-pocket expenditure per individual at Rs 1,933 followed by Telangana at Rs 2,449. The per-capita out-of-pocket expenditure in Andhra Pradesh was on the

higher side at Rs 3,834. The NHA report said "For the first time, Government Health Expenditure (GHE) as a share of total health expenditure has exceeded the share of out-of-pocket expenditure on health."

What is the Samsung workers strike in Chennai about? | Explained

The story so far: About two-thirds of the 1,800 employees at one of South Korean electronics giant Samsung's flagship factories in Chennai, have been striking work for a month now, demanding higher wages, an eight-hour work day, better working conditions and for the recognition of their recently formed labour union — the Samsung India Workers Union, or SIWU.

What were recent developments?

Tamil Nadu's Industries Minister T.R.B. Raja, speaking to the press on October 8, urged striking workmen to return to work, "in the interest of jobs for the youth and employment opportunities for the State." He said Samsung and a "workmen's committee" had reached an "agreement" on a slew of measures, including a monthly ₹5000 "productivity stabilisation incentive" to be paid to workers between October 2024 and March 2025. But striking workers rejected this agreement, accusing the "workmen's committee" of being company backers, and those who did not represent the interests of the majority of employees. While official sources said about 10 union members were arrested past midnight on October 8, leaders of the Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU), the national labour union supporting Samsung India workers said "hundreds" have been arrested.

What is Samsung's union policy?

Samsung is South Korea's largest family-run business whose consolidated revenue in FY2023 was approximately \$198 billion, which is more than one-tenth of that country's \$1.71 trillion GDP for that year. The company runs businesses ranging from smartphones to an array of high-end components for the nation's 5G infrastructure, considered to be one of the best in the world. The firm has deep roots in the government, and often influences economic policies in South Korea. The founding family members have been embroiled in financial crimes, but have received pardons from South Korea's Presidents, as the firm's leadership role in the nation's economy is prioritised. In 2009, Samsung's late chairman Lee Kun-hee was convicted of tax evasion and embezzlement, but received a pardon from the President to allow Mr. Lee to 'lead the campaign by the South Korean city of Pyeong Chang to host the 2018 Winter Olympics.' The company has maintained a 'no union' policy since its inception more than 80 years ago, until July 2021, when Samsung Display workers successfully agreed to a 4.5% wage revision. The next month Samsung Electronics workers won a major collective bargaining agreement that included recognising full-time union members and full pay for working extra hours on union duty. This happened after protracted legal challenges to the company's no-union policy.

Now, several unions represent Samsung workers globally and its workforce worldwide is well over a quarter of a million. Of this 1,25,000 work in South Korea alone. Among the largest unions at Samsung's South Korea facilities is the National Samsung Electronics Union (NSEU) with a membership of over 30,000 workers, or about a fourth of the home country's workforce. The NSEU members



struck work for three days between July 8-10, with similar demands as those of their Chennai colleagues. The NSEU has extended support to the SIWU in Chennai.

Why is SIWU not being recognised?

The 1926 Trade Unions Act governs the registration of workers' unions, laying down the procedure to be followed. Under the Act, the Registrar of Trade Unions or the Labour Commissioner of the State, in this case Tamil Nadu, must consider an application for registration, while also examining objections, if any. In the Court hearing held on October 1, the State's lawyer representing the Labour Commissioner said Samsung's management had objected to SIWU's registration on the ground that the name "Samsung" in SIWU's full form is a trade mark violation. SIWU's lawyer Sivakumar Sankaralingam speaking to The Hindu said, there are judgments and long-established precedence in India, where courts have held that a trademark violation is applicable only when a union indulges in any commercial activity, which in this case would not be possible. The case is to come up for hearing again early next week. A high ranking government official, speaking off the record, said, "we have granted registration to several unions in the past, but we will consider (Samsung) management's objections and accordingly file our affidavit in Court." A registration grants a union legal standing and affords it certain protections under the TU Act. It grants the union immunity from civil and criminal actions during strikes. Registration also grants the union the right to enter collective bargaining discussions and represent members during labour disputes.

What has been the gov't.'s response?

SIWU and CITU have questioned the T.N. government's 'indifferent' response and have accused them of siding with Samsung's management, while the government has denied such accusations. "The government seems to be

in support of the management, there's no doubt at all," said R. Karumalaiyan, National Secretary, CITU. "Unionisation is an investment globally. There are even IMF studies that have shown this... In the Sriperumbudur (where Samsung's factory in Chennai is located) and Oragadam re-

gions of Chennai, we have helped workers in more than 100 factories to unionise in the past decade. There is no empirical data to prove that we are deterring investments, or impeding production. In fact, we have proven that unionising has been beneficial for the companies and for workers.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2024: Protein design and protein structure prediction DeepMind win | Explained

The story so far: The 2024 Nobel Prize for chemistry was jointly awarded to David Baker for his work on computational protein design and to Demis Hassabis and John Jumper for developing technologies to predict the structure of proteins. The Swedish Academy of Royal Sciences announced the winners on October 9.

Why are proteins important?

The chemistry prize concerns two areas in the field of protein research: design and structure. All life (as we know it) requires proteins and all proteins are made of amino acids. While there are many types of amino acids in nature, only 20 of them in different combinations make up all the proteins in the human body and in most life-forms. Amino acids are found in tissues — like muscles, skin, and hair — that provide structural support; they're catalysts in biochemical reactions; move molecules like oxygen across biological membranes; control muscle contraction that lets us move around and have our hearts beat; and help cells communicate with each other to perform their tasks.

What is the protein-folding problem?

A protein has many identities and one

of them depends on the arrangement of its amino acids in the three dimensions of space — in other words, its 3D structure. And scientists have spent decades trying to understand how proteins attain these structures. In 1962, University of Cambridge researchers John Kendrew and Max Perutz won the chemistry Nobel Prize for elucidating the first 3D models of haemoglobin and myoglobin, both proteins, using X-ray crystallography.

(This method reveals a crystal's structure based on how its constituent atoms scatter X-rays. For this the proteins need to be purified and crystallised first.) A year earlier Christian Anfinsen had found that a protein's 3D structure is governed by the sequence of amino acids in the protein, and won the 1972 chemistry prize.

One notable breakthrough arrived in 1969 when scientists found that a protein doesn't try to bend into different shapes before settling into its final one. Instead it somehow knows the shape it needs to have and rapidly folds itself to acquire it. The mysterious nature of this 'knowledge' of the protein is called the protein-folding problem.

In search of Freddie Mercury's Indian roots

It's a warm and humid October morning. But you hardly feel the heat walking on the clean, wide tree-lined roads in Mumbai's Dadar Parsi Colony. This is an oasis of quiet and green in a bustling megapolis. The houses here, not more than three storeys high, feature neo-classical and art deco architectural elements and the Faravahar (a bearded man on a winged disc) symbol at the entrance. They whisper tales of the past. The largest Zoroastrian (Parsi) enclave in the world, the colony was established in the mid-1890s after the bubonic plague. Civil engineer Mancherji Edulji Joshi convinced the British in reserving this space, once a low-lying marshland, for Parsis. His futuristic blueprint included not just an agiary or fire temple (Rustom Faramna agiary), a school, a seminary (madrassa), and a wedding hall but also the tree species to be planted on each street. In a rapidly-changing city, the colony remains special as it quietly strives to hold on to Zoroastrian culture and tradition.

The Dadar Parsi Colony is special for one more reason, especially for rock fans across the globe — Freddie Mercury, the frontman of the hugely popular 1970s British band 'Queen'. A Parsi by birth, Freddie's original name was Farrokh Bulsara, and his roots belong here. He was born in Zanzibar, East Africa, and was sent to India to study in a boarding school at Panchgani, in Maharashtra. Though the family later moved to the UK, Freddie, his mother Jer and father Bomi remained in touch with the extended family. "Whenever they visited Mumbai, they preferred staying with us instead of at a five-star hotel," says Freddie's second cousin Jehangir Bulsara, sitting next to a table with a photograph of Freddie placed on it. "Look at that photograph," he says pointing to the one inside a glass cupboard. "That is very dear to me since it has

Freddie's signature on it. He gave it to me and it's my prized possession. Like many around the world, I too, am a die-hard Queen fan. The combination of ballads, metal, pop, glam rock and blues became the group's signature style. The most amazing thing about Freddie was he constantly reinvented himself," he says.

The rock icon, known for his flamboyant stage presence (remember his military-style sunflower yellow jacket and silver-sequined unitard), songwriting abilities and powerful vocal range, began his music journey at the Panchgani boarding school. "I was told that Freddie's parents sent him to St. Peter's since he was extremely mischievous. During vacations, he would come to stay with us. He discovered his love for music when he became part of the school choir and later, the school band. None of us ever thought this shy boy would one day become an international star. But the family remained simple and humble," says Jehangir.

As the four-member Queen stormed music charts with numbers like 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'We will rock you' and 'We are the champions' and performed to packed stadiums (Queen live at Wembley Stadium had a turnout of more than 70,000), Freddie became one of the most influential and celebrated musicians. The Parsi Colony is one of the first planned settlements of Mumbai and it reflects the collective dream of a community. Though it was exciting to go around the colony to explore Freddie's India connect, the musician actually never openly spoke about his ethnicity or discussed his Parsi heritage. He feared racial prejudice and didn't want to be looked at as an immigrant in the Western music industry. So Farrokh became Freddie, and he took on the surname Mercury after his song 'My Fairy King'.



"Sreemukhi Shines at Rang Ratri Dandiya: A Grand Celebration of Culture and Dance"

Aaurum Events organising A 3-day Rang Ratri Dandiya celebrations at Om Convention, Narsingi, Hyderabad.

The event featured a dazzling array of Dandiya and Garba nights, complete with an exclusive Bathukamma celebration, graced by renowned anchor and film actress Sreemukhi as the chief guest.

Ms. Sreemukhi not only attended the festivities but also engaged actively with participants,

playing Batukamma and Dandiya, creating memorable moments for the audience.

Reflecting on the event's success, Kavitha Shetty, CEO of Aaurum Events, stated,

"We are overjoyed with the response we've received for Rang Ratri Dandiya.

It was wonderful to see a diverse crowd come together to celebrate our rich culture through dance and music. Sreemukhi's participation added an extra layer of excitement, and we are grateful for her involvement."

The three-day celebration was filled with vibrant cultural performances, traditional music, and engaging dance sessions, attracting hundreds of participants eager to immerse themselves in the festive spirit.

For any inquiries, registrations, or bookings, please contact on 9059738459



Dyson WashG1™ Launches in India

Dyson's first dedicated wet floor cleaner

Dyson announces the unveiling of the Dyson WashG1™, its first dedicated cord-free wet floor cleaner. Engineered for hygienic cleaning and maintenance, the Dyson WashG1™ wet floor cleaner tackles wet and dry debris, in one go, for a barefoot clean feel. With a 1-litre clean-water tank, the Dyson WashG1™ uses a combination of hydration, absorption, and extraction technologies to remove wet and dry debris in one go—automatically separating it out, so maintenance is more hygienic. Also, it covers 3100sq ft on a single charge. Charlie Park Vice President of Dyson Home Engineering at Dyson

“Most of us vacuum our homes regularly. But whilst wet cleaning is considered a necessary chore globally, many of us don't know why we do it beyond the vague notion of hygiene. In fact, cleaning with water is essential to rehydrate and remove tough, dried-on stains. Over the years, a vast array of wet floor cleaning formats has emerged to help us tackle this chore yet users' expectations are often left unfulfilled when it comes to stain removal, pick-up performance and floor finish. Dyson engineers solve the problems others ignore and we thrive on the challenge of creating better technology. The Dyson WashG1™ is the result of this; our first dedicated wet machine to wash hard floors, properly and hygienically.” Highly absorbent, counter-rotating rollers. Two individually powered rollers counter-rotate whilst a pulse-modulated pump distributes water evenly across 26 precisely positioned hydration points, along the full width of each roller.

Each roller is made up of a highly absorbent microfibre, with 64,800 filaments per cm². This combination of high density microfibre and consistent application of clean water ensures liquid spills are absorbed, whilst dry dirt, debris, and hair is enveloped by the millions of filaments. By positioning two rollers at the front and back of the machine, Dyson engineers also achieved longer dwell time on stains with each pass, for powerful and fast stain removal. Pioneering separation technology for hygienic maintenance. Dyson's unique separation technology divides debris and dirty water at source, for hygienic, no-touch disposal. Dirty water is extracted from the rollers by durable extraction plates, whilst secondary nylon-bristled inner brush bars remove dirt and debris from the microfibre rollers, flicking it straight into a removeable debris tray. The debris tray has been designed with a 500-micron mesh to separate dirty water from the large debris. Powered by an extraction pump, dirty water is immediately collected in a 0.8 litre capacity dirty water tank, without allowing large debris to pass through the machine. Keeping the dirt and debris in the head of the machine, and the dirty water in a separate tank allows for easy and hygienic disposal. To further support ease-of-maintenance for users, the Dyson Wash G1 has been intricately designed without sharp internal surfaces or crevices, to help lessen dirt or grime build up inside the machine. Both



water tanks have been designed with large openings to allow for easy maintenance and cleaning. After use, the self-cleaning mode saturates both rollers with clean water on the highest boost setting, flushing the entire system in preparation for the next clean.

Cricketer Mohammed Siraj takes charge as DSP in Telangana

Hyderabad: Indian cricketer Mohammed Siraj has officially taken charge as Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) after reporting to the Director General of Police (DGP), Jitender here on Friday. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had earlier announced that Siraj would receive a prestigious Group-I government position. He emphasised the State government's commitment to supporting sports and athletes in the state, with plans to nurture future stars.

In the name of Waqf: a snapshot of situation in Telangana

A wave of Opposition gathered momentum as the Joint Parliamentary Committee met stakeholders in Hyderabad to discuss the controversial Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024. Politicians, Muslim faith leaders, and a host of organisations have rallied tens of thousands of concerned citizens, flooding the committee with e-mails voicing apprehension. When the committee convened a session on September 28, there was a heated debate among members, while tensions simmered outside the meeting hall with occasional sloganeering.

But first, a snapshot of the State of waqf in Telangana: troubling. According to the first Waqf Survey, which was completed in 1989, there were as many as 33,929 properties, encompassing a total of 77,538 acres classified as waqf land. However, according to the Telangana State Waqf Board (TGSWB)'s data, nearly 75% — or 57,420 acres — have been encroached upon. A clear and formal account of the newer waqf properties and the extent of waqf lands is still awaited. Officials say that both the State and the TGSWB are yet to reach an agreement on the data from the second Waqf Survey, which started in 2001 and concluded in late 2016.

“The Survey Commissioner, a government officer, submits a (survey) report to the State government, which then forwards it to the TGSWB for verification. The board reviews the data, adds comments, and sends it back to the government, which makes minor adjustments before finalising the report. The second survey identified around 13,000 more waqf properties, though they are much smaller in size,” explains an official, requesting anonymity. “While the second survey in Telangana was completed in 2016, it is still pending verification,” adds the official. According to the Waqf Assets Management System of India, Hyderabad district has 3,714 immovable waqf properties, while Adilabad has 3,079, Karimnagar 2,710, Khammam 1,405, Mahbubnagar 6,315, Medak 8,429, Nalgonda 4,235, Nizamabad 5,727, Rangareddy 7,235, and Warangal 2,833. These properties range from agricultural land, ashookhanas, and buildings to dargahs, graveyards, houses, eidgahs, and masjids. Despite several plans by successive governments and the State Waqf Board to increase revenue from these properties, efforts in many cases have proved futile. In united Andhra Pradesh, the Minorities Welfare Department had paved the way for developing nearly a dozen properties to generate income for the board, but those plans did not materialise, say senior officials. Similarly, in 2012, the State waqf board in united Andhra Pradesh had announced plans to lease the seven-storey ‘Garden View Mall’ located in Razzack Manzil, Hyderabad, to raise funds. However, as of 2024, the structure remains unfinished, with only slabs and a basement filled with stagnant water.

The issue of tardiness on the part of TGSWB has been raised in the Telangana Legislative Assembly on a couple of occasions. In 2020, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Akbaruddin Owaisi called for a Central Bureau of Investiga-

tion probe or a judicial investigation by a sitting judge of the High Court into alleged corruption within the Board. He also highlighted the high salaries paid to staff members. Recent data obtained through the Right to Information Act in September this year revealed that typists and junior assistants earn over Rs. 69,000 per month, drivers receive more than Rs. 65,000, and office subordinates are paid between Rs. 46,000 and Rs. 55,000. Split among Sufi leaders. Ahead of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) meeting, a split within the Sufi community was laid bare. Among the Muslim faith leaders who met with the JPC was the recently-formed Kul Hind Anjuman-e-Sufi Sajjadagan (KHASS), a group of sajjada nashins or hereditary custodians of Sufi shrines that broke away from the All India Sufi Sajjadanashin Council (AISSC). Unlike the AISSC, which supported the Union government's introduction of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, KHASS members took an opposing stance. Among the prominent dissenters is Fareed Nizami of Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin in New Delhi, who, at a late-night interaction with mediapersons from Hyderabad, claimed that the first signs of resistance to the Bill came from that Sufi shrine. Some members of this splinter group had been active speakers/ attendees at the 2015 World Sufi Forum, attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. That event had led the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) to accuse Modi of trying to divide the Muslim community by ignoring certain interpretations of Islam. The arrival of KHASS members in Hyderabad came shortly after Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi's sharp criticism of faith leaders supporting the Bill. Owaisi referred to them as “jokers who wear rang-birangey (colourful) clothes”, an indirect reference to their religious attire. “We are here to dispel the notion that all those in charge of dargahs support the Bill,” Syed Ghulam Afzal Biyabani, Sajjada Nashin of the Kazipet Dargah in Hanamkonda district, and chairman of the Telangana State Haj Committee, had said during the media interaction. His statement underscored the growing divide between Sufi leaders on the issue. Syed Yadullah Hussaini, from Rouza-e-Khurd in Gulbarga (Karnataka) and former Naib (deputy) Mutawalli of the Dargah Yusufain in Nampally, explains why KHASS diverged from the AISSC. “We felt the AISSC supported the Bill without weighing its pros and cons. This issue required deeper discussion. The formation of KHASS was necessary to represent the concerns of the Sufi fraternity before the government and also to defend it when needed. It was important to clarify that not all Sufis support the Bill; there was a wrong impression being created about Sufis,” says Hussaini. At the heart of the disagreement between the AISSC and KHASS are the omission of waqf by user and clauses 3B and 3C of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill. These clauses require waqf institutions to refile their details within six months of the Act's commencement, and stipulate that any government property identified as waqf before the Act's passage will no longer be considered waqf.

Ratan Naval Tata: A philanthropist who went for the long haul

With the passing of Ratan Tata, we have lost—in addition to an industrial tycoon—a philanthropist who went for the long haul and was a calming influence amidst the turmoil and uncertainties of the everyday. At the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), we saw this in action over decades, beginning in the 1990s. The TIFR was founded by Dr Homi Bhabha and is anchored in a tripartite agreement between the Dorabji Tata Trust, the Government of Maharashtra and the Government of India. The representatives of all three are on its Council of Management, with the chair usually from the Dorabji Tata Trust. Ratan Tata took on this position in the early 1990s, succeeding J. J. Bhabha (who briefly succeeded J. R. D. Tata). The Government of India almost entirely funds the TIFR through the Department of Atomic Energy. Therefore, it is unusual for the Chairmanship of the Council of Management to be assigned to the Tata Trust. This role involves tightrope walking of a kind where one false step can plunge the institution into an abyss of stasis at best, and deep crises at worst. Mr. Tata walked this path astutely for over 30 years, making sure and insisting on compliance with financial and administrative rules on one hand, yet demanding flexibility for science and encouraging ambition on the other. He was personally accessible to the TIFR Directors and Registrars—a requirement of his role—but he was also available on the phone or in-person to those in TIFR centres as they grew. In particular, Professors Govind Swarup (who established the Radio Astronomy programmes), Professor Obaid Siddiqi (who founded the National Centre for Biological Sciences; NCBS) and Professor B.M. Udgaoonkar (who established the Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education) benefited greatly from these interactions. They went into meetings concerned, or even stressed, about a problem and came out reassured and optimistic. Stay calm, do not hurry, and do not waver from what you think is right, was his uniform advice. The TIFR Council meeting held on November 15, 1995 was significant as it approved the creation of a separate faculty for NCBS, allowing it to function more autonomously while adhering to TIFR's rules and bylaws. This meeting was part of the broader development efforts to strengthen NCBS as a research hub in the biological sciences under the TIFR umbrella.

Ratan Tata with K.B.Dadiseth, the then Director of Indian Hotels Company Limited in Mumbai on August 26, 2000. The IHCL is the holding company for Tatas hotel business, which includes flagship Taj and affordable Ginger Hotels. Ratan Tata with former West Bengal Chief Minister and Communist veteran Jyoti Basu on August 30, 2000. The Tatas had big plans to manufacture their affordable car Nano in West Bengal's Singur. However, it failed after massive protests on land acquisition. Tata Nano was eventually rolled out from Sanand in Gujarat, and the Left Front lost power in the State. Ratan Tata with CEO N.srinath, CEO of Tata Internet Services Limited at a press conference to announce the launch of Tata Nova Internet Services



in Mumbai on March 1, 2001. Pioneers in all. The former Union Minister for tourism and culture Ananth Kumar and Ratan Tata, exchanging the MoU signed for the upgradation of facilities at the Taj Mahal in New Delhi on June 21, 2001. Ratan Tata receiving the CSIR Diamond Jubilee Technology Award from the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on September 13, 2004. Ratan Tata had shown his support to government when Manmohan Singh chaired as Prime Minister from 2004 to 2014.

The former Union Minister for Information Technology and Communications Dayanidhi Maran (left), with Ratan Tata, and the Chairman of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) Subodh Bhargava (right), at the TGN - VSNL integration ceremony in New Delhi on July 28, 2005. Former President Pratibha Patil presenting the Padma Vibhushan Award to Ratan Naval Tata during the presentation of Padma Awards at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on May 10, 2008. Ratan Tata, Chairman, Tata Motors, handing over the key of the first Nano car to Ashok Vichare and his family, in Mumbai on July 17, 2009. The Tata Nano, popularly called "1 lakh car", was considered the "cheapest car". It failed to impress the Indians and overall sales did not meet the expected target. Ratan Tata group went in F/A 18 Super Hornet during the AERO INDIA 2011 at Yelahanka Airforce Station in Bangalore on February 10, 2011. Ratan Tata was a trained pilot and he had licenses to fly both jets and helicopters, showing his ever-growing passion towards aviation all his life. Ratan Tata at the unveiling of world's first ever gold jewellery car by Goldplus, a jewellery brand by Titan Industries in Mumbai on September 19, 2011.

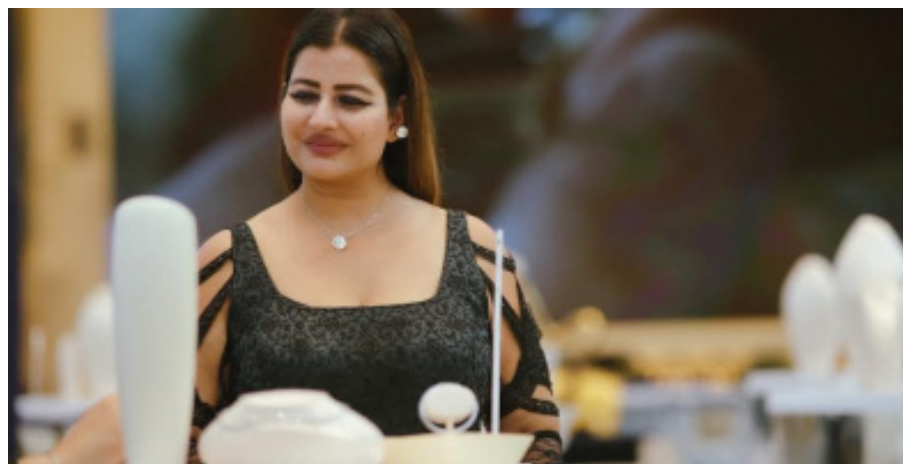
Ratan Tata seen at the Jaguar stall at the Auto Expo 2012, in New Delhi on January 05, 2012. The Tata Group has scripted one of the most fabulous turnarounds in

the auto industry and has been able to position the marquee British brands as formidable entities in the fiercely competitive global car market. Ratan Tata being felicitated by Dr. Harshad Mangaldas Punjani while the Chief of and RSS Chief, Mohan Bhagwat applauds at an event organised by the Nana Palkar Smriti Samiti in Mumbai on August 24, 2018. Tata first visited the RSS headquarters on December 28, 2016, his 79th birthday, while he was locked in a bitter boardroom battle with ousted Tata Group chairman Cyrus Mistry. Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi greets Ratan Tata after his inaugural speech at 8th Global Summit in Gujarat on January 10, 2017. When Mr. Modi took over the rein in 2017, Ratan Tata was one of the business men to support the government. In 2015, Ratan Tata said, "there's a great deal of hope in the inspirational leadership of Modi." Ratan Tata praying to Dwajasthambam at Tirumala temple on August 31, 2018

Indian industrialist Ratan Tata attends an event to receive a Doctor of Literature

Sudha Reddy hosted an exclusive Tiffany & Co. showcase



On 9th October, philanthropist and style icon Sudha Reddy hosted an exclusive Tiffany & Co. showcase at her private residence in Hyderabad. The intimate gathering featured a curated display of Tiffany's luxurious collection, offering guests a rare, personalized experience.

Attended by close friends and family, the evening was a blend of elegance and exclusivity, complemented by gourmet cuisine and a refined ambiance. The event reflected Sudha Reddy's signature style, celebrating timeless craftsmanship and meaningful connections.

Climate change and how hurricane Milton became a Category 5 storm

Hurricane Milton became one of the most rapidly intensifying storms on record as it went from barely hurricane strength to a dangerous Category 5 storm in less than a day on a path across the Gulf of Mexico toward Florida. With sustained winds that reached 180 mph on Oct. 7, 2024, and very low pressure, it also became one of the strongest Atlantic storms. Milton's winds dipped to Category 4 strength early on Oct. 8, but forecasters warned that it would still be an extremely dangerous hurricane at landfall. Less than two weeks after Hurricane Helene's devastating impact, this kind of storm was the last thing Florida wanted to see. Hurricane Milton was expected to make landfall as a major hurricane on Oct. 9 and had already prompted widespread evacuations. So, what exactly is rapid intensification, and what does global climate change have to do with it? We research hurricane behaviour and teach meteorology. Here's what you need to know.

What is rapid intensification? Rapid intensification is defined by the National Weather Service as an increase in a tropical cyclone's maximum sustained wind speed of at least 30 knots – about 35 mph within a 24-hour period. That increase can be enough to escalate a storm from Category 1 to Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale. Milton's wind speed went from 80 mph to 175 mph from 1 p.m. Sunday to 1 p.m. Monday, and its pressure dropped from 988 millibars to 911. Most of that intensification was over just 12 hours. The National Hurricane Center had been warning that Milton was likely to become a major hurricane, but this kind of rapid intensification can catch people off guard, especially when it occurs close to landfall. Hurricane Michael did billions of dollars in damage in 2018 when it rapidly intensified into a Category 5 storm just before hitting near Tyndall Air Force Base in the Florida Panhandle. In 2023, Hurricane Otis' maximum wind speed increased by 100 mph in less than 24 hours before it hit Acapulco, Mexico. Hurricane Ian also rapidly intensified in 2022 before hitting just south of where Milton is projected to cross Florida.

What causes hurricanes to rapidly intensify?

Rapid intensification is difficult to forecast, but there are a few driving forces. Ocean heat: Warm sea surface temperatures, particularly when they extend into deeper layers of warm water, provide the energy necessary for hurricanes to intensify. The deeper the warm water, the more energy a storm can draw upon, enhancing its strength. Low wind shear: Strong vertical wind shear – a rapid change in wind speed or direction with height – can disrupt a storm's organisation, while low wind shear allows hurricanes to grow more rapidly. In Milton's case, the atmospheric conditions were particularly conducive to rapid intensification. Moisture: Higher sea surface temperatures and lower salinity increase the amount of moisture available to storms, fuelling rapid intensification. Warmer waters provide the heat needed for moisture to evaporate, while lower salinity helps trap that heat near the

surface. This allows more sustained heat and moisture to transfer to the storm, driving faster and stronger intensification. Thunderstorm activity: Internal dynamics, such as bursts of intense thunderstorms within a cyclone's rotation, can reorganize a cyclone's circulation and lead to rapid increases in strength, even when the other conditions aren't ideal. Research has found that globally, a majority of hurricanes Category 3 and above tend to undergo rapid intensification within their lifetimes. Young people look at waves crashing against the Malecon promenade in Havana due to the passage of Hurricane Milton on October 9, 2024. Young people look at waves crashing against the Malecon promenade in Havana due to the passage of Hurricane Milton on October 9, 2024. | Photo Credit: AFP

How does global warming influence hurricane strength?

If it seems as though you've been hearing about rapid intensification a lot more in recent years, that's in part because it's happening more often. A 2023 study investigating connections between rapid intensification and climate change found an increase in the number of tropical cyclones experiencing rapid intensification over the past four decades. That includes a significant rise in the number of hurri-



canes that rapidly intensify multiple times during their development. Another analysis comparing trends from 1982 to 2017 with climate model simulations found that natural variability alone could not explain these increases in rapidly intensifying storms, indicating a likely role of human-induced climate change. How future climate change will affect hurricanes is an active area of research. As global temperatures and oceans continue to warm, however,

the frequency of major hurricanes is projected to increase. The extreme hurricanes of recent years, including Beryl in June 2024 and Helene, are already raising alarms about the intensifying impact of warming on tropical cyclone behaviour. Zachary Handlos is atmospheric science educator and Ali Sarhadi is assistant professor of atmospheric science, both at Georgia Institute of Technology. This article is republished from The Conversation.

Australia, New Zealand brace for looming bird flu threat

Australia and New Zealand are bracing for the arrival of a destructive bird flu strain by tightening biosecurity at farms, testing shore birds for disease, vaccinating vulnerable species and war-gaming response plans. Oceania is the last region of the world free of the H5N1 clade 2.3.4.4b avian influenza that has killed hundreds of millions of birds and tens of thousands of mammals since appearing in Asia, Europe and Africa in 2020, littering beaches with corpses and upending the agricultural industry.?

While the region is somewhat protected by its geography - it is off the migration routes of big birds such as geese that spread infection - the virus is close, having reached Indonesia in 2022 and Antarctica last year.

Scientists and officials say there is a higher risk, particularly in Australia, of it arriving with smaller migratory shore birds during the Southern Hemisphere spring-time months from September to November. "It is clearly a threat to our country's ecosystems," said Fiona Fraser, Threatened Species Commissioner at Australia's environment ministry.

"Many of our species are found nowhere else in the world," she said. "Vulnerable species may face long-term popu-

lation setbacks and heightened risk of extinction." Officials fear mass deaths from the avian flu and even the near-extinctions of species including endangered sea lions, black swans and many types of seabird, and the loss of millions of farmed poultry. Over 100 million chickens and turkeys have died or been culled in the United States alone from this H5N1 strain, causing economic losses of up to \$3 billion by the end of last year, according to the Council of Foreign Relations, a U.S. think tank. The virus killed around 50,000 seals and sea lions and more than half a million wild birds as it moved through South America beginning in 2022. It has also infected cattle in the United States and, in rare cases, people. Health officials say the risk to humans is low. New Zealand is also unlikely to avoid the virus long-term, said Mary van Andel, chief veterinary officer for the country's Ministry of Primary Industries. "Geographic isolation has protected us from HPAI (high pathogenicity avian influenza) in the past, but we can't rely on it forever," she said.

Both countries have intensified preparation. Australia created a task force across government departments and stress-tested its preparedness in August and September with a series of exercises simulating an H5N1 outbreak in

wildlife. New Zealand has trialled a vaccine on five endangered native birds and said it could be rolled out to more species. "We're super paranoid about those five species, because the risk to them of losing the breeding population is that we could lose the species," said Kate McInnes, science advisor at New Zealand's Department of Conservation. Australia is also developing options for vaccinating threatened wild birds held in captivity, officials said. The two vaccination schemes are among the only ones for non-farmed animals in the world. Farms are boosting biosecurity measures including limiting contact between poultry and wild birds, monitoring employees' movement, sterilising water and equipment and installing automated systems that detect wild birds and scare them away, industry officials from both countries said. While Australia has had numerous outbreaks of highly pathogenic bird flu strains in poultry flocks, including earlier this year, they were less-virulent strains that did not spread through wild birds. New Zealand has never faced high pathogenicity bird flu. Its poultry industry association has organised trips to both Australia and Britain to learn from farms there. "We've been at peacetime," said Poultry Industry Association New Zealand Executive? Director Michael Brooks. "Frankly, now we're potentially heading to wartime."

Goodfellows, supported by Ratan Tata, connects senior citizens with graduates who do everything a grandkid would

Mumbai-based Mrs. Demellow's grandchild is part of a band. For a while now, she has been wanting to see him perform, but did not know how to. Recently, a "Goodfellow" created an Instagram account for her. The 86-year-old now enjoys watching her grandson's activities on Insta stories. Shantanu Naidu, the founder of Goodfellows, a startup that aims to provide companionship to senior citizens, is a big believer in how much generations can learn from each other. "My relationship with Mr. Tata gave me an insight into how rich inter generational relationship is," says 30-year-old Naidu, who works as a general manager in the office of Ratan Naval Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons. The startup received an undisclosed amount as seed investment from Mr. Tata. The tagline of Goodfellows is "Everything grandkids do" and that's exactly how it works. Senior citizens who subscribe to this platform are paired with graduates in the age group of 18 to 30, who over a course of time form meaningful bonds with them. During the six-month beta phase that began in October last year, the team noticed that the seniors, known as Grandpals and the Goodfellows bonded quickly. "It only took them five sessions of three hours each," says Naidu.

They also understood that companionship means different things to different people. Some of the seniors wanted to play board games, go for a walk, have a conversation, or just sit together and do nothing at all. A few seniors wanted to travel. Goodfellows has now started a research to explore elderly travel projects. Twenty three year-old-Niki Thakur, a graduate in communication and now a Goodfellow says that she never knew what it was like to be with this generation because she does not have grandparents. Through this service she met Mr. Dutta, whom she fondly calls "daadu." Together, they have gone on walks, temple visits, and she has also accompanied him to the hospital for his MRIs and tests. "After every interaction with a Grandpal, I find a change in myself. I feel I have become more patient and it's changed the way I see life," she says. Goodfellows has launched in Mumbai for now with plans to set up services in Pune, Chennai and Bengaluru. It follows a freemium subscription business model where the service is free for the first month, so the seniors can get a feel of it and see if it adds value. It is chargeable from the following months. About 50 senior citizens have signed up for the service in Mumbai. Over the months, the startup received 800 applications from interested graduates. "We have hired 25 so far. And now we have received 300-plus applications from Kolkata, Pune and Bengaluru," says Naidu.

We have a seven-layer recruitment process, he says. This includes three rounds of interviews, physiological tests that help familiarise with the applicant's intent and emotions. They need to have sensitivity. This is followed by police verification, third party check and a month long probation. The team also tries to make sure that the senior gets the same Goodfellow every time. Otherwise there is no meaningful connect, says Naidu. It is a paid role



that requires full-time commitment. On days that they are not with their Grandpals, Goodfellows can work in specific departments of the Goodfellow office. For example, a marketing graduate can be a part of the marketing team, a lawyer can join the legal team, etc. "We initially thought that the only people living alone are the ones who don't have anybody or have their families living abroad. But we found that some people live in the same city as their chil-

dren but don't get to see them. We are not blaming anyone. This is also the byproduct of a fast moving professional culture," says Naidu, who during the research stage of the project realised that 15 million seniors live alone in India. There were a lot of factors that led to Naidu starting this service. During the pandemic he noticed a lot of his neighbours were alone as their children lived in other cities. "This made me realise how important it is to spend time with them,"

he says adding that he has a general fondness for the elderly. "They have wisdom, and the innocence of a child. It is a symbiotic relationship for the generations," he adds. There are also monthly events planned for the Grandpals. The focus is on how to make them less lonely. "During the last event, one of the seniors said: I would put my wedding day second to this day, and that was quite a compliment," says Naidu.

Elon Musk's X is back in Brazil after its suspension, having complied with all judicial demands

The social media platform X began returning to Brazil on Wednesday, after remaining inaccessible for more than a month due to a clash between its owner, Elon Musk, and a justice on the country's highest court. Internet service providers began restoring access to the platform after Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes authorised lifting X's suspension on Tuesday. "TWITTER IS ALIVE," Lucas dos Santos Consoli, known as luscas on X, wrote on the platform to his more than 7 million followers.

"I'm happy that the platform decided to follow the laws of Brazil and finally adapted, after all I've been using the app for almost 15 years so I can't deny that I was missing it," the 31-year-old told The Associated Press. De Moraes ordered the shutdown of X on August 30 after a months-long dispute with Musk over free speech, far-right accounts and misinformation. Musk had disparaged de Moraes, calling him an authoritarian and a censor, although his rulings, including X's nationwide suspension, were repeatedly upheld by his peers.

Musk's company ultimately complied with all of de Moraes' demands. They included blocking certain accounts from the platform, paying outstanding fines and naming a legal representative. Failure to do the latter had triggered the suspension. "This sends a message to the world that the richest person on the planet is subject to local laws and constitutions," said David Nemer, who specialises in the anthropology of technology at the University of Virginia. It could set a precedent as to how other countries that are clashing with Musk — such as Australia — could move forward, as it shows Musk is not unbeatable, he added. Brazil — a highly online country of 213 million people — is one of X's biggest markets, with estimates of its user base ranging from 20 million to 40 million.

"X is proud to return to Brazil," the company said in a statement posted on its Global Government Affairs account. "Giving tens of millions of Brazilians access to our indispensable platform was paramount throughout this entire process. We will continue to defend freedom of speech, within

the boundaries of the law, everywhere we operate." Julia Bahri, an 18-year-old law student, said she was delighted with X's return. She said that losing access to the platform had led to "one of the most desperate feelings I've experienced for a while," adding that she had felt lost with regards to news.

Bahri said she uses X to express herself, whereas Instagram and Snapchat are mostly for posting photos. The August 30 ban came two days after the company said it was removing all its remaining staff in Brazil. X said de Moraes had threatened to arrest its legal representative in the country, Rachel de Oliveira Villa Nova Conceição, if the company did not comply with orders to block accounts. Brazilian law requires foreign companies to have a local legal representative to receive notifications of court decisions and swiftly take any requisite action — particularly, in X's case, the takedown of accounts. Sleeping Giants Brazil, a platform for activism that seeks to combat fake news and hate speech, said the resumption of X's activities in Brazil marked "a significant victory for Brazilian democracy."

Kolkata doctor rape-murder: Junior doctors continue 'fast unto death' amid Durga Puja festivities

The junior doctors, agitating over the rape and murder of their colleague at the R.G. Kar hospital, continued their 'fast unto death' for the fifth day on Thursday (October 10, 2024) amid the Durga Puja festivities across West Bengal. At 9.30 am, the fast by the nine junior doctors of various medical colleges entered its 108th hour. The junior doctors began the fast unto death on Saturday (October 5, 2024) evening at the Dorina Crossing in Dharmatala in the heart of Kolkata after ending the total cease work that had crippled healthcare services. Meanwhile, the State government convened a meeting on Wednesday (October 9, 2024) evening with the protestors but failed to break the deadlock. Following the meeting, which was chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, the protesting doctors alleged that they received nothing concrete from the state except "verbal assurances." "Our friends have been protesting without food for over four days, and the government says it will consider our demands only in the third week of October, after the pujas. We never expected such insensitivity," said Debasish Halder of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front. At the protest site, the doctors also criticised the police for apprehending their colleagues who were demonstrating and distributing leaflets outside some Durga Puja pandals in the city on Wednesday. The protesting doctors emphasised that securing justice for the deceased woman medic remains their foremost priority. They also called for the immediate removal of Health Secretary N.S.



Nigam, alleging administrative incompetence and inaction against corruption in the department.

Other demands include the establishment of a centralised referral system for all hospitals and medical colleges in the state, the implementation of a bed vacancy moni-

toring system, and the formation of task forces to ensure essential provisions for CCTV, on-call rooms, and washrooms at their workplaces. They are also demanding increased police protection in hospitals, recruitment of permanent women police personnel, and swift filling of vacant

positions for doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers. The junior doctors went on to cease work following the rape-murder of a fellow medic at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital on August 9. They ended their stir after 42 days on September 21 following assurances from the state government to look into their demands.

Mental health is a moral and ethical issue

The theme of World Mental Health Day (October 10) this year is about 'prioritising mental health in the workplace'. The critical link between mental health and work is examined in three articles on the Editorial and Opinion pages — two in the print edition and one in the online edition.

Karthik, a driver at a university, was happy when I asked him how he feels on campus. "We are drivers. So, nobody values us, Sir," he replied. "The professors are elitist. They don't even bother to greet us. They only mingle with people at their 'level'". Similarly, while I was alighting from an autorickshaw, the driver, Ajay, told me, "No other customer has talked to me like you did, Sir." I asked him what the reason could be. "Who bothers to talk to a driver, Sir," he replied. It is common to see people at the higher echelons of society cross paths with drivers and security guards and disregard them. To willfully not recognise someone is moral violence.

Even though research has time and again shown that social exclusion, shaming, and invisibilisation are pivotal social reasons for poor mental health, these are seldom spoken about. We often notice mental health awareness campaigns that say, "Depression is the second largest global burden" or "One in every four people suffers from mental illness". These do not account for the inequality, inequity, pov-

erty, stigma, and discrimination based on body image, caste, class gender, sexuality, race, and so on, which perpetuate mental distress every day. Mainstream mental health systems seldom speak against the sociopolitical causes of difficulties and disabilities. Thus, they collide with majoritarian power blocs in reinforcing oppression by framing socio-political problems as mental health problems to be treated with psychopharmaceuticals and individualised psychological therapies. Addressing systemic problems with individual solutions is an invalid approach. It only helps to commodify mental health and create markets for the burgeoning mental health industry.

The theme of World Mental Health Day 2024 is 'Mental Health at Work'. There is little awareness on how discrimination and a toxic work culture can induce mental health issues at the workplace. Recently, Anna Sebastian Perayil, a Chartered Accountant employed at Ernst and Young, died of a cardiac arrest. Her mother alleged in an open letter that stress at the workplace had caused her death. Ernest and Young said that Anna had an employee for only four months. While it is difficult to say what happened in Anna's case, it is true that psychologists are increasingly being recruited by multinational companies and sometimes, they cover up the discriminatory labour policies and toxic cultures of

these companies by looking at mental health as an individual problem that requires individual solutions. They prescribe yoga, meditation, mindfulness, etc. Thus, mental health becomes an amoral, apolitical, and value-neutral issue.

A series of reports presented by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Right to Health at the UN General Assembly emphasised the shift towards rights-based mental health systems from the biomedical model. Power imbalance was cited as the major hindrance in progress towards mental health instead of the oft-quoted chemical imbalance theories of mental health problems. It is important to be cognisant that everyday relationships are healing and the key to good mental health is with each one of us. We can unlock it with small acts of compassion, justice, and respect. According to the acclaimed psychiatrist Van der Kolk, "Being able to feel safe with other people is probably the single-most important aspect of mental health; safe connections are fundamental to meaningful and satisfying lives". Stories of shaming and dehumanisation are potential avenues for understanding lived experiences and reimagining mental health as a moral and ethical issue. For instance, scholars have redefined the social architecture of bullying. It is no longer seen from a dyadic perspective (bully-victim), but instead a triadic perspective (bully-



victim-bystander). Bullying is tied to a lack of empathy, imbalance of power, rejection of differences, and majoritarian dominance that can have fatal consequences. It is crucial how the teachers and institutional administrators respond to bullying as bystanders. The notion of campus psychologists as one-stop centres for campus mental health arises from a very reductionist understanding. Mental health is a collective responsibility and teachers as well as the administration are pivotal stakeholders. Teachers need to be primary responders in preventing the escalation of distress among vulnerable students.